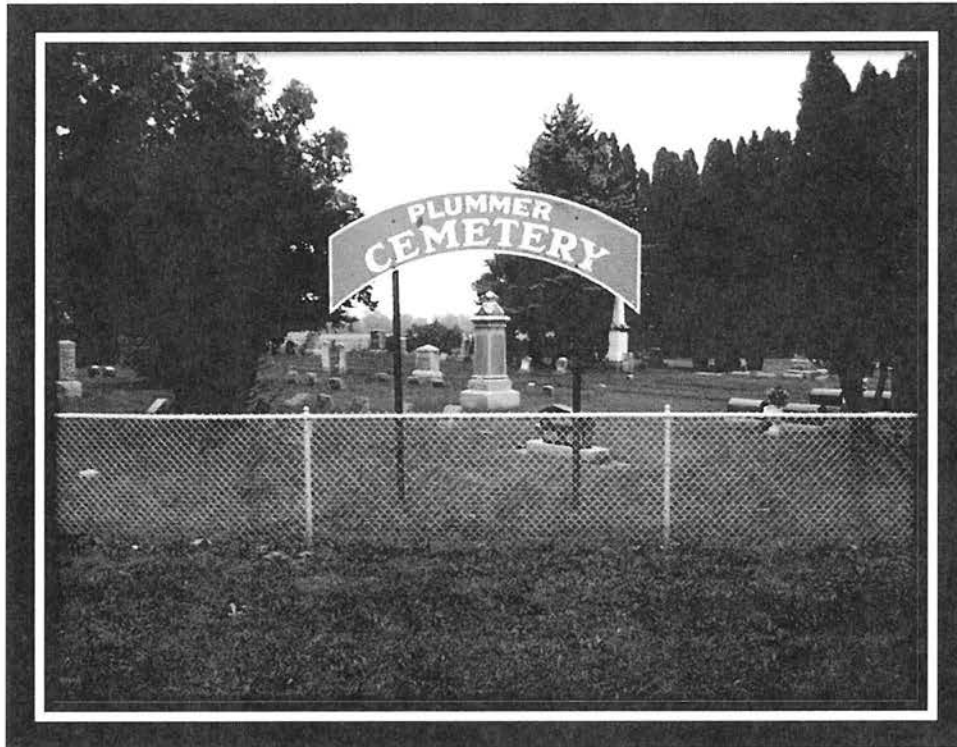


PLUMMER CEMETERY WALK

*Sponsored by
The Butte des Morts Historical Preservation Society*



Plummer Cemetery
4723 County Road S
Oshkosh Township, Winnebago County, WI

Saturday,
September 17, 2022
1pm

Presented by:
Janet (Ihrig-Fuhs) Eiler
& Maribeth Gabert

BRIEF HISTORY OF PLUMMER CEMETERY

Like most country cemeteries, this quaint little cemetery started out as a family burial ground on the Mark & Louisa (Barker) Plummer farm when they lost their 5-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, who died on Dec 1, 1848.

Most farm family cemeteries ended up being taken over by an association at some point. Plummer was never managed by an association though. On June 26, 1869, Mark & Louisa (Barker) Plummer and Cyrus & Malona (Doolittle) Pride each gave ½ acre of land to the Town of Oshkosh to be used as a cemetery. This cemetery has been known by a couple different names: Pride, Pride/Plummer and finally Plummer Cemetery has been declared the final official name.

There were 14 burials before this was formally established and deeded as a cemetery in 1869:

- 1848 – Mary Ann Plummer (child)
- 1852 – Mary (Shaw) Pride
- 1855 – Minnie Bogk, Catherine Pride, Cyrus E. Pride (baby)
- 1856 – Samuel Putnam, Elizabeth Plummer (child)
- 1858 – Roswell Putnam, Wm Grundy
- 1860 – James Sheldon
- 1863 – Amos B. Doughty (Civil War Vet), Alice L. Putnam (child)
- 1864 – Julia Putnam
- 1865 – Alvin Pride

An addition to the cemetery grounds was made on June 29, 1926 by Levi & Lucy (Cowham) Pride when they donated another acre to the Town of Oshkosh to be used for cemetery purposes.

Finally, on Dec 23, 1999, Patricia H. Stearns, E.C. Leach Jr., and Lucy J. Leach deeded another full acre to the Town of Oshkosh for future cemetery expansion, which will extend the cemetery grounds to the west.

On April 26, 1971, Walter Weideman ceased being the sexton for Plummer Cemetery. We don't know for sure how long he maintained this position. On May 19, 1971 Jacob "Jake" Behringer was hired as the sexton for \$75 per year. On May 13, 1985, his son, Bill Behringer, took over as sexton for \$125 per year and is still currently the sexton today. Bill said when he first started out, he was paid \$75 per mowing, today it's \$175.

Some consider cemeteries to be morbid but they are actually peaceful and comforting places to visit. Having a place to grieve our loved ones helps us get through the loss. They are our links to the past, links to our history....and, history is always being made!!

By Maribeth Gabert

***** Thank you to Pat Plummer for the use of all the Plummer & Pride photos! *****

LOOKING FORWARD

A Word from the Sexton

by Bill Behringer

My name is Bill Behringer and I have been the Sexton for Plummer Cemetery, some 37 years. For the most part, this cemetery walk is all about the past. I would like to share a few insights into the future, reflecting upon the past.

Until the recent placement of that double mausoleum, Section D was vacant. Years ago, Warren Plummer used to make hay from the grass. While it had been designated for future burial plots, the expense of regular mowing was an unnecessary burden upon Town of Oshkosh resources. At times I simply brush cut once or twice a year for weed control, I also made hay for my horses. For a few years, I even fenced it off, to pasture those horses. The nice young oak trees you now see there, are a direct result from that.

When the fence came down and the horses were gone, those little saplings remained. With yearly cutting that would not have been possible. That was also only possible because Levi Plummer looked to the future in turning over that acre parcel.

Now, I will call attention to another one-acre parcel. Rex Stearns and his wife Patricia Leach, turned over the entire field you see to the west, and other parcels as well, to the Town of Oshkosh, for the Leach Stearns Conservancy. I thought, why not see if a portion could be annexed for future cemetery use.

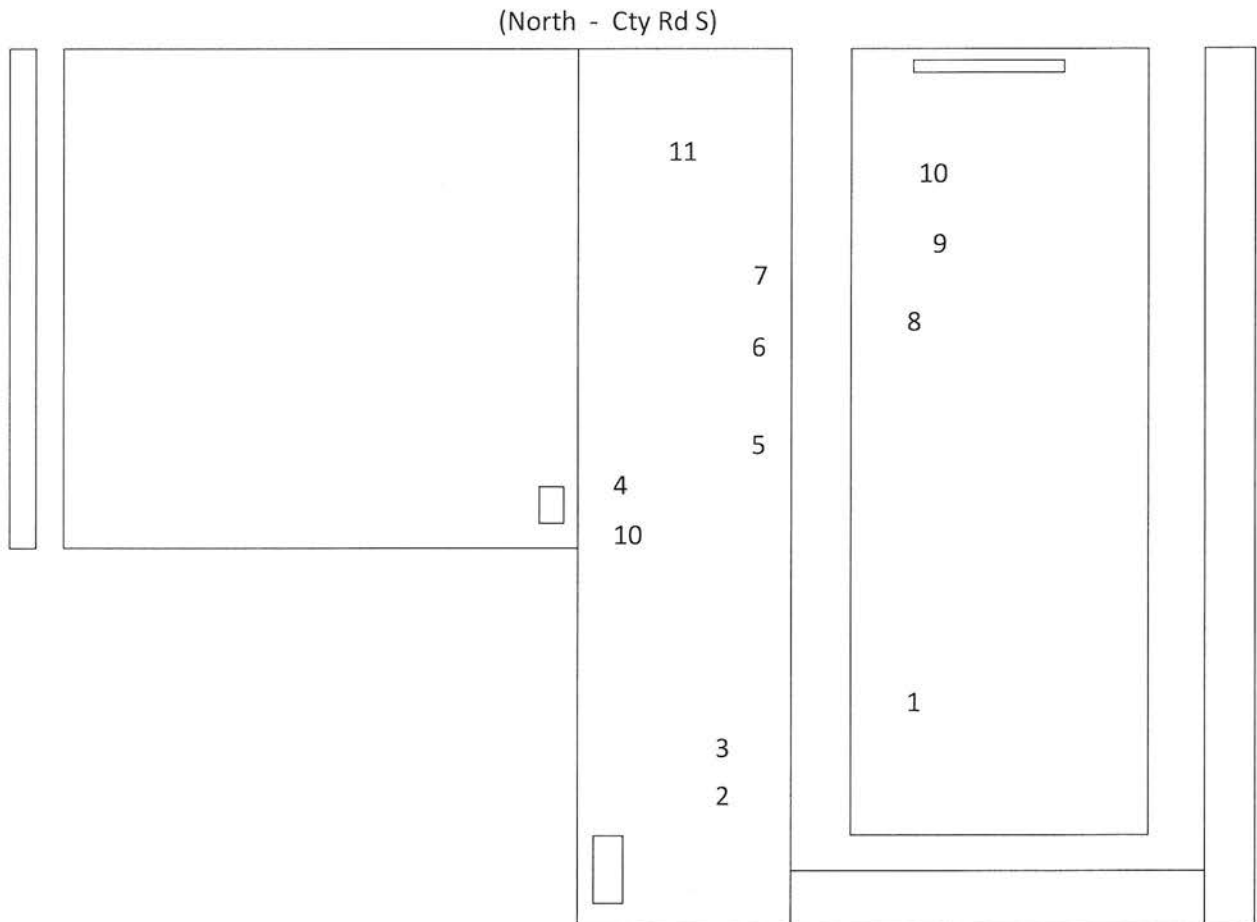
The original idea was let it be farmed until some future need arose. Plans changed, and hopefully next year at this time a variety of wild flowers will be blooming in that acre. Currently, others and myself are working out the details, but the overall idea is to incorporate burial methods that will be compatible with such a natural landscape.

Instead of large monuments and plastic flowers in a grass desert, smaller markers among beautiful wildflowers will prevail. For those seeking the traditional type lots and burial, many are still available in Section D. The large family monuments you will see during the tour, have mostly become a thing of the past. Replaced by husband/wife or individual stones. Both types require intense "perpetual care", instead of mowing and trimming every week or two during the summer, the wildflower habit will only require some spot control of undesirable weeds. Perhaps, a controlled burn every 3 to 5 years, or localized cutting or spraying. The end goal for that acre is to have an environmentally friendly use that will also keep down the costs of perpetual care in the future. Hopefully there will also be some new oak and hickory trees upon that parcel as well.

Thank you,
Bill Behringer

SKETCHES

1. Cyrus Pride
2. Peter Peterson & John Boe
3. Johann Christian Fredrich Bogk
4. John & Charles Wright
5. Henry Allan Doty
6. Mark Plummer
7. George Overton
8. Thomas Petford
9. Samuel March
10. David & Walter Courtney & Earl Morris
Plummer
11. Leo Fuhs





1862



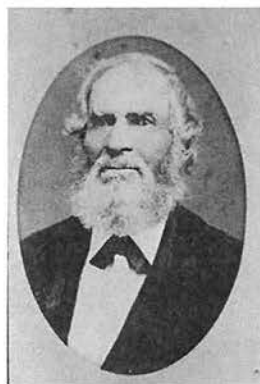
1889



1909

CYRUS PRIDE

(East Side, Row 7)



Cyrus Pride

Born in Maine in 1803, Cyrus Pride was one of the early settlers here in the Town of Oshkosh, settling here about 1848. He married 3 times, with his first 2 wives dying prematurely. First, he married Mary Shaw on 29 Dec 1831 in Concord, NH. They had three children together: Nelson, Calvin and Sarah Francis Pride. Second, he married Catherine Jenkins on May 13, 1854 here in Winnebago County. In 1855, Catherine and the baby, Cyrus E., both died during childbirth. His third marriage was to Malona Doolittle on Oct 26, 1856. She actually outlived Cyrus and lived to a ripe age of 87 years. They had only one child together, Mary Louisa Pride.



Malona (Doolittle) Pride

On Friday, 22 Jun 1878, Cyrus was his usual self and was engaged in planning some visits to family and friends he intended to do in the near future. In the evening he retired but the family heard him to be breathing quite heavily and checked on him. Cyrus told them nothing was wrong and would call for them if he needed anything. Later in the evening someone went to check on him and found him gasping. Cyrus expired in just a few moments after that, without speaking another word.

His funeral was attended by a large gathering of old settlers that traveled considerable distances to attend. His death was noted in several newspapers around the state from The Superior Times to the WI State Journal in Madison. Cyrus lies here in this grave yard that once adjoined his own premises.

Upon Cyrus' death, the will was contested in probate. Cyrus left the farm to his son, Calvin, but apparently people felt the need for a guardian, even though he was forty-five years old. The probate article called it *non compos mentis*, which is defined as 'not sane', or, 'not in one's right mind.' Stephen Benedict, who married Calvin's sister, Sarah Pride in 1865, also a daughter from Cyrus' 1st marriage to Mary "Polly" Shaw, was appointed Calvin's guardian.

I am not 100% sure what the outcome was but I am assuming Calvin lost the battle because he passed away in Jan 1892 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Clay Co, MN. Stephen & Sarah (Pride) Benedict moved to MN and I can only assume because he was Calvin's guardian, they took Calvin with them.

From his 3rd marriage, Mary Louisa Pride was born, married and spent her entire life on the Pride farm, later becoming part of the Plummer farm. That house was located just down the road where that big house is that is divided into rentals now. Another house was next to it and was moved to 20 N 7th Ave, Winneconne in 1953 when the little ranch house was built in its place.



George & Mary Louisa (Pride) Plummer

Mary Louisa is the one that connected the Pride and Plummer families together when she married George Washington Plummer on 2 Oct 1879. George & Mary had 8 children together: Jennie L. (Plummer) Schroeder, Esther (Plummer) Erickson, Arthur Plummer, Mabel L. (Plummer) Frisbie, George E. Plummer, Edna M. (Plummer) Ross & Earl M. Plummer.



Pride home locations on County Rd S



Pride Home from County Rd S (where the one-level ranch house now sits.)

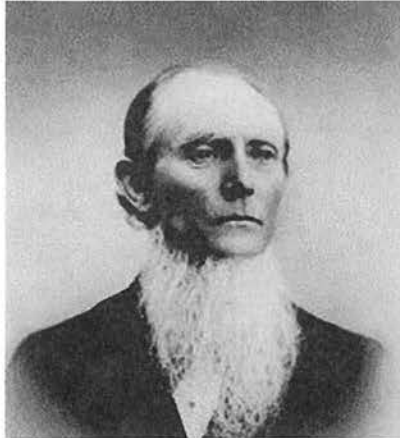
This house is where Babe Plummer and his brothers grew up.

Harold Kietz bought it and moved it to Winneconne in 1953.

The center 2-story section was the original part of the house. The front room was added on after the move. The rear room was added in about 1969. (info provided by Ken Helmer & Bill Behringer)

PETER PETERSON & JOHN BOE

(West Side, Row 2)



Peter Cornelius Peterson
(photo courtesy of Lucius Donkle III –
great grandson of Peter Peterson)

Peter Cornelius Peterson was born out of wedlock in Norway on 31 Dec 1829, the son of Peter Larson & Karen Christensdatter. On 30 Jan 1876 he married Bertha Bogk and she was born 18 July 1853 in Rossia, Germany, the daughter of Johann Christian Fredrich & Friederiche (Bachrodt) Bogk, who we will cover in a different sketch. Together they had 2 children: Percival and Francis.

If you aren't familiar with Norwegian naming practices, the child's last name is the first name of the father with 'son' attached (Peter + son = Peterson). The same practice was used with the girls except they used datter meaning daughter. Karen's father's first name was Christen. This custom wasn't continued once they arrived in America though.

Peter was said to have known six different languages (English, Norwegian, German, French plus the Fox and Winnebago Indian languages). These languages were a necessity in those days in order to successfully run a store or trading post. He received his mercantile training in Norway, probably with his father who was a successful liquor maker. The family is pretty sure Peter got some financial backing from his father to make his new start in America.

When Peterson was about 19 years old in 1848, he came to America and went to either CA or NV first operating a general store there, selling to the miners of the gold rush. I'm not sure which state as I found different articles that mention one state, then another article mentioning the other state.

By 1850 he was back in Butte des Morts working in the sawmill. He made a 2-year trip back out to NV around 1862 only to return to Butte des Morts once again. Peter officially purchased the Grignon Hotel for himself on 16 April 1867 and operated a general store on the first floor of the Grignon Hotel for 33 years and was postmaster for about 25 years or more. The second floor housed the hotel rooms while the third floor's purpose remains a mystery. Speculation and rumors lead to a possible Underground Railroad involvement with a latch and peep hole on the inside of the door up there.

Steamboat and dock activity was a daily occurrence in Butte des Morts during the era following the Civil War. Regular steamboat lines to Berlin, New London and Tustin landed in Butte des Morts carrying freight and passengers on a daily basis!

Peterson had also owned a farm on the edge of Butte des Morts. It was a Queen Anne style farmhouse along with 13 other structures that eventually were considered to be historic. The house was still in good condition when a field survey was done in 1992 but the other buildings were decaying badly. This farm was located near, if not actually next to the Overton Archeological District. Peter's farm once consisted of 200 acres and housed a small cheese factory, two poultry barns, a hog barn, a large barn with a gambrel roof and a wooden silo, a board and batten granary, a corn crib with a metal roof ventilator, 2 machine sheds, a privy, a milk house and a garage. All the buildings dated from 1875 – 1925.



*Peterson/Rueteler house and buildings – 1992
(photos courtesy of WI Historical Society)*

Peterson died on 28 May 1900. He fell down in a field and expired before medical assistance could be brought in. He was about 70 years old and his funeral was largely attended. Dying of heart disease and without a will, his estate was divided up equally between Bertha, Percival and Francis. The estate was valued at \$34,580.20, which calculates to \$1,205,327.45 today.



1890

(photo courtesy of Lucius Donkle III – great grandson of Peter & Bettha (Bogk) Peterson)

After his father's death, Percival bought several hundred thousand acres of ranching land in either southern California or northern Mexico. Tragically, the land was seized by force and most of the family fortune was lost and he was reluctant to return home to Butte des Morts.

A couple years went by and Percival did return to Butte des Morts to finally face his family. He threw stones at his sister's window to wake her one night. When they greeted him at the door, they both

welcomed him back home as they were simply thrilled to see him once again! The loss of the California property was never brought up or discussed.

In later years, Percival, Peter's son, gave the community of Butte des Morts land in the center of town and it was made into a park and is still there today.

John Boe (pronounced Bay) was also born in Norway on 7 Feb 1870, arrived in Butte des Morts in 1898 and became employed as a clerk for Peterson in his store. Boe was also known to be a kind and soft-spoken man.

Bertha didn't know much about running the business and relied heavily on her clerk, and after Peter's death, rumor has it that John and Bertha came to some kind of an arrangement because he married Peterson's widow on 30 Sept 1902. Because of their age difference, it was said to be a marriage of convenience. No children were born of this union but Peter's kids admired and respected him. Percival was already an adult and never had any children but Frances was only 4 years old when her father died and her children called him Grandpa.

John continued with the same enterprise as those before him and successfully operated the store and hotel on top of the hill in Butte des Morts. It was a continuation of the old Grignon-Porlier business that operated as a hotel first, with a store added to the hotel in 1855.

Boe carried a wide variety of dry goods and some food. It was a well-known gathering place for people to socialize. There was a cast iron pot belly stove in the middle of the store on the wooden floor. In the 1920s upon arrival of the automobile, he had a gas pump out in front of the store. He also housed a small telephone exchange in the store, like a circuit board. When the calling party lifted the receiver, the local



*John Boe
(photo courtesy of Lucius
Donkle III – great grandson of
Peter Peterson)*

loop current lit a signal lamp near the jack. The operator inserted the answering cord into the caller's jack and asked for the number they were calling. If it was a local call, the operator inserted the ringing cord into the other party's local jack and that started the ringing cycle. If it was long distance, the cord was plugged into a trunk circuit to connect to another operator in another bank of boards. About the time Boe had this telephone exchange, it could take 15 minutes to connect someone to their long distant call.



*Bertha (Bogk) Peterson Boe
(photo courtesy of Lucius
Donkle III – great grandson
of Peter Peterson)*

Boe also served as postmaster, retiring in 1940. Very few firms in Winnebago County could boast of a record of being in the same line of business for 103 years. John retired from being a merchant in 1951, ending that record.

Bertha died on 11 July 1932 but enjoyed having her daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Lucius & Francis Donkle of Chicago, come to visit. The Donkle's built a summer/weekend home behind the Peterson/Boe store in the 1920s. George Kontos stated he thought the house was brought in on a barge from somewhere else. The Donkle's kept this home until the 1970s when it was sold to George Kontos.

John died on 16 Aug 1952 and his only immediate survivors were his two step children and one nephew in Oslo, Norway. The hotel and store was sold to Miss Emma Strauss about 1953. Emma operated an Antique Store on the bottom floor until she and her husband, George P. Nevitt whom she married in Mar, 1960, gifted the building to the Winnebago County Archeological Historical Society (WCHAS) in 1976. WCHAS accepted the gift but then also received the Morgan House in Oshkosh shortly after receiving the Grignon Hotel. They had to make a decision as to which building to keep and restore. They could not afford to restore both buildings. The WI State Historical Society had the right of first refusal and did refuse it. About 1984, the Grignon Hotel was sold to a private owner, who still owns it today. The new owner and WCHAS were supposed to meet every five years to discuss any "issues" with the building. The only obligation was to make sure any improvements met with historical landmark regulations (example: no aluminum siding). This was not followed through by either party and therefore is unenforceable today.



*John Boe's Store
(notice the gas pump at the corner of the building?)
(photo courtesy of the Pearl (Huntington) Benedict
Collection)*

JOHANN CHRISTIAN FREDRICH BOGK

(West Side, Row 2)

Johann Christian Fredrich "Fritz" Bogk was born 1819 in Rossla, Landkreis Mansfeld-Sudharz, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany. He married Friederiche Dorothee Hermine Ernestine Bachrodt on 7 Jun 1843 at a Lutheran Church in Bad Frankenhausen, Germany.

At Rossla, Germany, Fred was a local innkeeper and brewer. He left Germany to avoid military service. Fred, Hermina and their four children arrived in NYC on 30 Sept 1853. Their children were: Minnie, Edward, Gustav and Bertha. This Bertha is from a previous sketch, married to Peter Peterson & John Boe, and was only 17 weeks old when her parents immigrated. After they arrived in America they had one more child, Frederick.

History refers to Johann as Fred so we will call him Fred from here on out. Fred's parents and a brother, Gustavus, preceded him to America. Fred & Gustavus's first adventure was purchasing a lot immediately to the south of what is now Tilly's Too in 1863 but they lost this property to foreclosure in 1864.

Prior to the Civil War, a brewery was established on the bank of the river. A great vault used for aging beer was dug into the side of the hill. This first brewery burned but later was rebuilt. Louis Schwalm, who later organized a large brewery in Oshkosh, was one of the early proprietors of this brewery in Butte des Morts. On 13 Dec 1865 Fred bought the Butte des Morts brewery from Schwalm. His brother ended up going to Oshkosh and operated a successful bakery there. The Bogk family lived at the brewery, raising six children. The boys spent their formative years working with their father and also learned the trade.

Fred operated this brewery successfully for many years and carried on an extensive traffic in beer. He expanded the brewery by purchasing two more lots. At the close of 1866, the brewery ground covered half of Block 13 and was worth \$3,000 by 1870. This property was considered the most valuable property in Butte des Morts. Sam O'Dell was his neighbor and operated a general good store on Main St (where the motel/apartments are currently). Bogk's big red building was a landmark for many years and could be seen for miles from up or down the river.

Fred's success was due to his German skills and methods. He used four basic ingredients: water, malted barley, hops and yeast. It would've been considered a local beer in the truest sense with the ingredients being supplied from nearby farms. He malted the local barley himself and created a dark lager with a firm, bitter finish.

Like most breweries across Wisconsin, most of the beer coming out of these breweries was consumed within a few miles of where it had been brewed. Post-Civil War was when things changed with Winnebago County growing at a rapid pace, the brewery business included. By 1867 there were 11 breweries with some taking a more industrial approach to beer making. Oshkosh and Menasha were looking to expand their reach because the rail service and shipping rates improved. The brewery in Winneconne even became a threat. Theodore Yager launched the brewery in Winneconne and didn't waste any time pushing into Butte des Morts.

By 1878, Rahr in Oshkosh "tied" the NE corner of Main and Adams. When a brewery "tied" a tavern it meant the brewery offered a low-interest mortgage rate but a clause was attached to that mortgage. The saloon keeper agreed to sell no other beer other than that of the brewery it was "tied" to. This eliminated competition real fast.

In the 1880s, Rahr “tied” a second saloon in Butte des Morts on the SE corner of Main and Adams (currently the White House Inn).

By 1872, Bogk only produced 82 barrels of beer and was doomed! He supplemented his income by producing a malt vinegar in addition to his beer. The malt vinegar became his main product by the end of the 1870s and by 1882, his business was only the vinegar. Bogk managed to hold on until his death on May 4, 1886.

The brewery property stayed in the Bogk family until 1896 when they sold it and most of it was demolished not long after the sale. Fred’s sons, Charles and Edward, soon realized money was to be made selling, not making the beer. Edward purchased the Rahr-owned saloon on the SE corner of Main & Adams. In 1885 his wife, Mary, purchased the other Rahr-owned saloon across the street on the NE corner.



*(photo courtesy of the Pearl
(Huntington) Benedict Collection)*

In 1900, Edward took partial ownership of the saloon on the SW corner. That was also a “tied” saloon backed by the Oshkosh Brewing Company. Eventually Charles took over the saloon on the west side of Main St, one door south of Adams and it was known as Charles Bogk Sample Room and the Moose Buffet.

The day of the out-of-town breweries tormenting the Bogk brothers was over! The brothers benefited by playing the breweries against each other.

The 1920s brought on a whole different blow to the industry: PROHIBITION and they never fully recovered from that. Edward’s son, Joe, wasn’t willing to throw in the towel just yet, he learned a lot from his father. Joe bought the building on the NW corner of Main and Adams and licensed it as a soft drink parlor but was really operating a speakeasy. Butte des Morts didn’t feel the pinch of the authorities much because the Feds were always heading to Oshkosh. BUT, Joe was arrested in 1923 and again in 1924 for selling moonshine. He did hard labor for about 6 months and he was certain he would not get caught a third time!



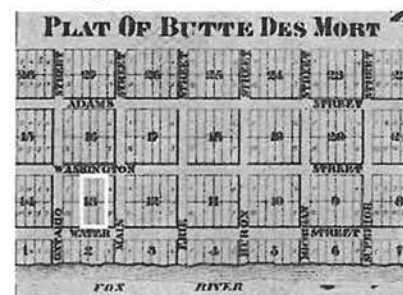
*Joe Bogk’s Tavern
(photo courtesy of WI Historical
Society)*

In 1927, Butte des Morts was free! It was the first time since 1878 they didn’t have a “tied” saloon. About this time, Chris Kontos bought the White House and Joe Bogk bought out Pabst.

In 1933, Prohibition was over and Joe Bogk was the last to survive! “Tied” saloons were now illegal too! In 1938, Joe remodeled his tavern and held a grand re-opening as Butte des Morts oldest bar. Joe, and his wife, Etta Janke Bogk, operated this tavern into the 1960s, with Etta selling it in 1972.



*Location of where
the brewery was.*



CHARLES B. WRIGHT

(West Side, Row 5)

Charles B. Wright was born in 1847 in England and died on 18 April 1925 in Oshkosh. In England, he married Harriet Worth on Dec 25, 1867 and they had two children, Charlotte and John. Charles immigrated to America first in 1876 and a year later, Harriet, Charlotte and John joined him. After the family was living here, their family grew with three more children, Edward, George and Walter. George died young at the age of 5 years.

The children were educated in the country schools and then in the public schools when the family moved to Main & Tennessee in Oshkosh. Charles was also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America for 33 years.

Although the Wrights weren't residents of the area, they provided the citizens with a valued service. When vehicles were powered by horses rather than an engine, stagecoaches were one of the major means of transportation. Charles owned 12 teams of horses and he and his son, John, started a stagecoach business by 1899. They operated a line between Oshkosh to Omro, Oshkosh to Winneconne and Oshkosh to Waukau, and were a very popular choice of transportation.

A trip to Winneconne or Omro would cost 25 cents. If the passenger had parcels, they were charged a minimum of 10 cents, depending on size. The fare to Waukau would cost \$1.25. They also carried freight and mail on their stagecoaches, carrying the mail for 25 years and were one of the first to carry both mail and passengers between Oshkosh and the surrounding towns.

They made two round-trips daily carrying passengers, freight and mail. In the winter when the highways were blocked by snow, they would go for miles over farm fields. One way or another, they made the trips and they never failed to make those scheduled trips.

I also found a couple newspaper accounts where they would occasionally use their wagons for hayrides for various events in the area for gatherings of influential people around town. A popular place for hayrides was out at Stoney Beach, south of Oshkosh.

In 1909 Charles retired from the government service and moved to a farm near Allenville but moved back to Oshkosh in 1917. His son, John, carried on the business after Charles retired.

When the automobile replaced horses around 1920, John continued on the transportation field and drove a bus between Oshkosh and Winneconne until 1928 when he retired.

Charles died on 18 April 1925. Harriet died on 22 May 1923 and John died 22 Oct 1937.

In the picture on the next page, dated about 1915, it shows John in the stagecoach on the left, Charles at the reins of the other stagecoach, Edward is sitting in the door of the stagecoach and Harriet is standing in the doorway of their house.



John Wright – driving the stagecoach on the left; Charles – driving the stagecoach in center with his son, Edward, sitting in the door of the stagecoach; Mrs. Charles Wright in the doorway of the house.

*Photo was taken in front of their home on North Main St & Tennessee Ave, Oshkosh.
(photo courtesy of Oshkosh Public Museum)*

HENRY ALLAN DOTY

(West Side, Row 2)

Henry Allan Doty was born 22 Jan 1854 on the Ashby Farm located about 4 miles east of Winneconne. The Ashby farm was located where Hwys 110 & 116 intersected and was originally called Ashby's Corners and later Teela's Corners.

Henry was the son of Shadrach Baldwin & Samantha (Rhoades) Doty (buried in Winneconne Village Cemetery). He married twice. He married his first wife, Evalyn B. Hughes on Dec 9, 1875 and had six children: Della P., Orra, Celia, Jason, Mabel, and Maude.

Evalyn died in 1890 of la grippe, a contagious form of the flu. Her services were held in the church in Butte des Morts, which we covered in our history book, if you want to know more about the churches in Butte des Morts!



Second, Henry married Mrs. Ellen Darling. They didn't have any children together but she had a son, Edward Darling from her first marriage.

Henry and Ellen moved to Oshkosh in 1924. Ellen died Sept 1933 and Henry passed away on 4 March 1934 at his daughter, Mabel's house.

Henry didn't create any significant local history but I thought I would like to mention his connection to a couple of known people. His grandfather was a first cousin to James Duane Doty, the first Territorial Governor of WI and he is also a Mayflower descendant, his ancestor being Edward Doty.

MARK & LOUISA PLUMMER

(West Side, Row 2)

Mark Plummer was born on 20 Sept 1820 in Norwick, England, the son of William & Ann Plummer. His parents, along with 5 children immigrated from Liverpool, England and landed at New York, NY on 28 May 1832. William & Ann's other children were Charles, William Jr, Allen, Mark and Emma.

In 1841 Mark moved to Illinois briefly before settling in Winnebago County in 1846. While in Racine, WI, Mark married Louisa Barker on Aug 27, 1844. Louisa was born 7 April 1822 in Norfolk England, the daughter of James & Elizabeth Barker. Together Mark and Louisa had ten children: Mary Ann (d. 1848), Elizabeth (d. 1856), James W. (1849-1931), Mary Ann (1853-1941), Charles M. (1855-1921), George W. (1856-1949), Levi G. (1858-1939), Eli M. (1860-1936), Josephine (1862-1946), and Emma L. Plummer (1865-1936).

They lost their first two daughters young. Mary Ann was the first person interned here in 1848. And yes, they had another daughter they also named Mary Ann. As mentioned in the Pride sketch, George Washington Plummer married Mary Louisa Pride on Oct 2, 1879, connecting these two families.



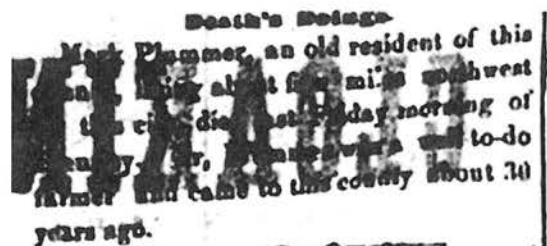
Louisa (Barker) Plummer

When Mark arrived in Winnebago County, he worked for Webster Stanley as a ferryman, but didn't do that for long. In 1847 Mark was buying land in the Township of Oshkosh when it was a wilderness and just about all the settlers were building their log houses. Neighbors were about 1-2 miles apart, with a plentiful supply of Indian wigwams. Mark became one of the leading farmers of this county owning 400 acres. His farmland extended south from State Hwy 110 (current Cty Rd S) to the shores of Lake Butte des Morts and other farmland nearby in the Town of Vinland. Their farm was widely known on the Winneconne Road (Cty Rd S) at the upper end of Lake Butte des Morts. The Plummer family-owned farms in this vicinity into the 1940s and still hold a presence in this area today! The 1870 Census listed Mark's property value to be \$29,000 and his personal estate valued at \$2,933.

Louisa's parents, James & Elizabeth Barker, are also buried here. Emigrating from England in 1822, the Barker family first settled in Oswego, NY.

On 29 Aug 1852, Mark & Louisa were received in the Allenville Baptist Church by baptism. Louisa was described as having a pleasing personality, blessed with excellent health and a vigorous mind. She was acquainted with many residents of the area and was highly esteemed. She lived to a nice age of 91 years old, dying in 1913.

When the Civil War was still active, Mark had to fill out a draft registration card and it was dated 1 July 1865. He was a 43-year-old farmer, born in England and had a health ailment listed "trouble with phthisic" (pronounced tissick or thissick) which translates into having a wasting disease of the lungs, more commonly associated with tuberculosis.



*Oshkosh Weekly Northwestern
Thurs, 10 Dec 1874, Pg 3, Col 1*

Mark passed away on Fri, Dec 4, 1874 and his obit states he died from pleurisy, which is usually a result of a viral infection, commonly a complication from pneumonia, and is an inflammation of the lung's outer lining.

Louisa lived to a nice ripe age of 91 years, dying on Tues, May 6, 1913. She lived a long healthy life almost to the time of her death. Her obituary states: *She was a woman of pleasing personality. Blessed with excellent health and vigorous mind, her sphere of activity was not curtailed to any great extent, until a brief period before her demise, when complications incident to old age set in and brought an end to a happy and useful life.*

The picture below is from the 1880 Harney History of Winnebago County, WI labeling this fine home as: Mrs. Mark Plummer, the residence of the late Mark Plummer, Section 29, Town of Oshkosh. Today, this fine house still stands and is located down the road, across from Westward Ho Ballroom at the intersection of Cty Rd S, Plummer Point Rd and Leach Rd.



GEORGE OVERTON

(West Side, Row 2)



*George Overton
(photo courtesy of the Pearl
(Huntington) Benedict Collection)*

George Overton was born 18 Jun 1870 the son of Benjamin & Mary Jane (Clark) Overton. He grew up down the road on what is still the Overton farm, the site of Augustin Grignon's trading post and homestead. He was described as a born student and an enthusiast in educational matters.

He was a highly respected young man and a graduate of the Oshkosh Normal School, now UW-Oshkosh. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and one of the best rifle and revolver shots in the state.

George had his hands in a lot of different areas. In 1900, he won the election for County Superintendent of Schools. He had to work hard for that victory because his name was left off the ballot due to the fact he filed his papers in Madison instead of the county clerk.

After his victory, he went straight to work and believed in the importance of teaching agriculture in the public schools. He focused on teaching the "why" rather than relying on luck or chance. He felt the farmer could be more successful if he was taught about the formation of soils, proper composition of good soil, seed germination, tillage, noxious weeds, the feeding of the animals and the economic marketing of produce. He knew the importance of crop rotation and to train the young boy to use this information and to see it as a science, just like any other profession.

Overton was a rigid disciplinarian and believed in a uniform course of study and system of reports. He wanted the schools to keep records in book form keeping regular reports of the work done by each pupil. He believed in keeping records of attendance and wanted all these reports at the end of each term.

While making his rounds at all the schools in the county, Overton met Emma Dorothy Dietz, the daughter of Wm & Anna Dietz of Neenah. Emma was an 1899 Neenah High School graduate and was also considered an estimable young lady with a large circle of friends in Neenah and Menasha. She sought out a position in a country school and was hired on at Lake School in the Town of Menasha in September, 1903.

George & Emma privately married in January 1904 in Menominee, MI and kept it a secret. Their immediate family members knew within days of their return but didn't reveal their marriage to the public until July 1904. Why might you ask? Emma would've had to resign from her teaching position upon her marriage.

Their marriage produced two children: George Jr and Dorothy, but tragedy struck the Overton family. On 11 Jun 1907, Emma died of heart failure at the young age of 25 years. The next year, their daughter, Dorothy, died from spinal meningitis at only 9 months old.

Overton married a second time on June 18, 1917 to Matilda Bahrke and together they had seven more children: Mary Jane (1918-2008), Thomas (1920-2006), William H. (1920-?), Elizabeth L. (1922-2019),

James B. (1925- 1991), John E. (1927 - 5 days old) & Paul (1933-45), the last two dying young also. Their son James lived a long life but was almost cut short when he was serving in the Navy. He was shot down, receiving second and third-degree burns. He was rescued by a helicopter and flown to a hospital in Japan and recovered enough to be brought back to California.

George was also an avid archaeologist his whole life and was considered an authority on Indian cooking stones. He began studying excavations in his youth and passed that ambition on to his children as well as his wife. Mathilda would prepare his papers on his findings and speeches. Along with collecting arrowheads, Overton also learned the craft of carving arrowheads using only the Indian tool, a deer antler and a stone. Sometimes it was hard to tell his work from the real thing! He was also associated with Arthur Kannenberg and the excavation of Augustin Grignon family remains on the Overton Farm. To know about that story, we feature a very well written chapter written by Randy Domer in our book. It's quite the story, you will definitely want to read that!



Makes Arrowheads

Overton was also involved with public speaking and historical preservation. In 1929, a monument was erected on the Overton Farm depicting it to be the site of the first permanent fur trading post in Winnebago County. In 1936, he was instrumental with organizing and was the main speaker for the two-day centennial celebration in Butte des Morts. One of the items during the celebration was the marker designating the village as the site of the first county seat. That marker was in the parking lot of the current Butte des Morts Supper Club and was moved to the park in 2018.



*1929 – Dedication of the Grignon-Porlier Trading Post
(photo courtesy of the Pearl (Huntington) Benedict
Collection)*

George's involvement in the community didn't stop there. He was also a Red Cross volunteer, a member of the Old Settler's Club. He was a member and officer of the Power Boat Club and handed out the trophies and cups at the Regatta races (boat races) that were held on the lake. He was also a board member of the Association for the Relief of High Water, which was in control of deciding the location of flood control dams, power dams, and locks around the state.

On April 17, 1947, George Overton passed away after suffering from failing health for about a year.

THOMAS BOLDING PETFORD, JR

(East Side, Row 8)

Thomas Petford, Jr was born 31 Oct 1824 in Worcester, England, the son of Thomas Sr & Susanna (Barnes) Petford, Sr. He married Ann Hughes in England on 11 March 1845 and they set sail to America the very same day.

Thomas Jr. and Ann landed in New Orleans after a long and slow voyage. His father, stepmother and brothers, Henry and John followed later, arriving in Dec 1845. His brother Henry settled in Erie, PA and John in Topeka, KS. His father, Thomas Sr. came to WI too but died in Winneconne in 1850.



*Thomas & Ann (Hughes) Petford
(photos courtesy of the Pearl (Huntington)
Benedict Collection)*

Thomas Jr and Ann had just two children: Thomas Petford, III and Mary Ann (Petford) Oleson.

Petford first settled in St. Louis for a year or two then moved to Milwaukee for 3 years where he owned a farm right in the middle of present-day Milwaukee. Imagine the big city of Milwaukee having thick woods! It did! Thomas Petford, III was born there on 18 Jan 1852 and remembered his father herding cows to keep them from getting lost in the thick woods. Eventually the Petford family made their final move to Winnebago County.

Thomas Jr. was described as a man of many marked characteristics and was well-known to a large number of Winnebago County residents. He was strong in his likes and dislikes and was a man of sterling integrity.

Thomas Jr started out his career by working as a clerk at Robert Grignon's trading post, 1 ½ miles northeast of Omro, on the Fox River. He then went to Butt des Morts and leased the Augustin Grignon hotel from 1855-1859. In partnership with Tonneson and Nielsen they opened a store on the ground floor of the Grignon Hotel.

A store was maintained in the Grignon Hotel until about 1951, when John Boe retired. The hotel having only 4 different owners for over 120 years! (Grignon, Petford, Peterson/Boe, Strauss/Nevitt). Strauss/Nevitt used the ground floor as an antique shop until 1975 when she gave ownership to the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society (WCHAS).

Petford Jr was also a Justice of the Peace in the Town of Winneconne and served as a clerk on the school district board, so he was obviously a busy man.

In 1859, he decided to purchase his own land and built his own hotel and tavern. It was a 2-story structure similar to the Grignon Hotel with the rooms on the 2nd floor and a restaurant and tavern on the 1st floor. His restaurant was famous for its cuisine in the mid to late 1800s with the most popular entrees being game and fish dinners. It was a favorite destination for the Oshkosh folks to take an excursion, but also attracted people from various parts of the state.

Thomas Jr. retired in 1907, passing the business onto his son, Thomas, III and he continued to operate the business until he sold in 1927 to Frank & Viola Tilly.

Thomas Jr. died on 27 Apr 1908 in Oshkosh at his daughter's house. She was married to Capt. Ole Oleson and newspaper accounts referred to her as an invalid. Thomas died of dropsy and old age and suffered from seizures in his last year of life.

Thomas III donated quite a few items to the Oshkosh Public Museum. One item is a red coat worn by his grandfather, Thomas Sr, during his British military service during the War of 1812, serving in the 29th Regiment of Foot (also known as the Worcestershire Regiment).

I found a newspaper article from 1932 in the Sheboygan Press stating Petford also donated an old recipe book dating back to 1792 to the Oshkosh Public Museum and it was considered to be one of their more valued possessions. This recipe book was used in the old Petford Hotel in the pioneer days so if you want to take a peek at some of those famous recipes, contact Oshkosh Public Museum!

I tried to get pictures of the coat and recipe book but was told due to their age and delicate condition, it would be difficult to provide pictures of them.



Petford Hotel – Site of Tilly's Too Tavern



*Thomas Petford House in 1992
(photo courtesy of WI Historical Society)*

SAMUEL A. MARCH

(East Side, Row 2 & 3)

Samuel Austin March was born on 1 June 1822 at Millbury, Mass the son of Austin & Zoa (Park) March. Samuel was a descendant of some influential people on both his father and mother's side. His ancestors were of Puritan stock and men of prominence in their professions and in their public lives. Hugh March was born in England in 1620 and immigrated to America in 1653, settling in Newbury, Mass. Hugh's son, John, was a distinguished soldier in the colonial army. Samuel's father and grandfather were owners of much of the 1910 town of Millbury and of the land adjacent. His Uncle Alden March was a surgeon of exceptional skill, before the days of anesthetics. His cousin, Dr. Francis A. March, was one of the world's eminent philologists. The family always had members in foreign missions as well. Dr. Frederick William March was a professor at the Beirut College in Syria.

March's mother was a relative of Cyrus Hamlin, who founded and was the 1st president of Roberts College. He was also related to Hannibal Hamlin who served the state of Maine in the US Senate and as Governor. Hannibal gave up his Senate seat to be Vice-President during Lincoln's 1st administration; later he was appointed minister to Spain by President Garfield.

Samuel's siblings also carried on in esteemed positions. His brother Andrus was a manufacturer and served on the Massachusetts Legislature; his brother, Walter, held a successful career on the bar and the bench and was a judge in Muncie, IN; another brother, Rev. Daniel March held pastorates in NH, Philadelphia and Massachusetts. He also traveled extensively in western Asia, China, India and Egypt and was the author of several works.

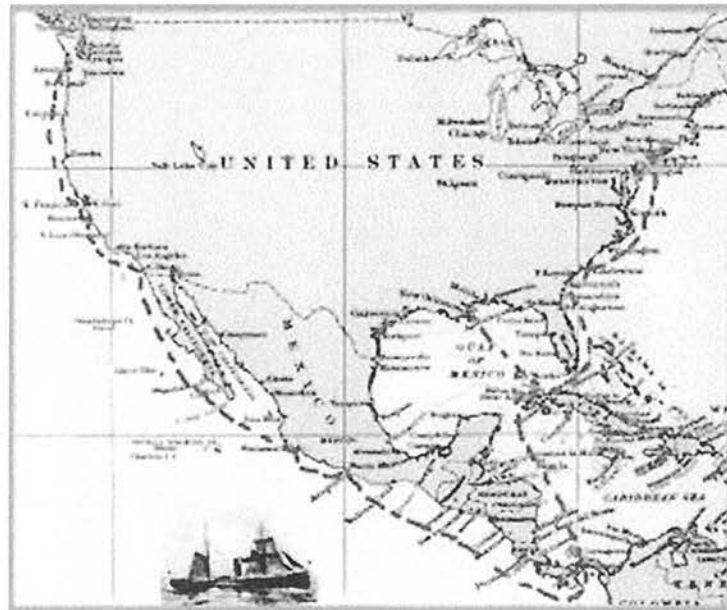
Samuel himself prepared for Amherst College and upon completion of his studies he was given money for a college course, but he chose to take the money and go west at the time of the discovery of gold in CA. He was one of those that went to the gold fields early, taking the Isthmus of Panama route. He chose this route due to the fact it only took eight weeks, compared to six months to cross the plains and Rocky Mountains. This wasn't an easy trip though. Once he made it to the Isthmus of Panama, he had to cross it! It was 75 miles up the Chagres River, then 25 miles by mule to Panama City. Once he arrived in Panama City, the lack of ships was a harsh reality and many travelers were stuck there for weeks, if not months. Fortunately for Samuel, he made it and found himself some gold!

On his way back from California, March purchased land in Kansas and then later bought land in the Town of Vinland. He married Harriet Linn of Marion, OH who was a woman of great strength and gentleness of character and of taste. She also possessed a wide range of intelligence. She was a strong abolitionist as a result of her childhood home being on the line of the Underground Railroad. She also obtained an education at Oberlin College when it was the storm center of the abolition movement.

Samuel March was a man of learning, a man of sterling character, upright and punctilious in all his business matters. He retired from business with a comfortable competence and he chose to secure the education that comes from business activity rather than that obtained by attending college. He had a keen appreciation of good literature and enjoyed the classics and could employ an apt Latin quotation whenever he chose to do so. His country life did not abate his love for Shakespeare, Milton and the Latin writers. March was somewhat reserved and preferred to listen rather than talk. Although, on occasion, he was a genial and animated conversationalist, expressing his thoughts readily in terse and lucid English.

After his wife died, he returned to California, to the land that delighted him in his youth. He resided in San Jose for a spell but his last 10 years were in San Diego.

In the autumn of 1909, his daughter, Orra Linn (March) Johnson spent two months visiting him in California. She was married to Emory R. Johnson, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Samuel March died shortly after her visit on 30 March 1910 in San Diego. His body was brought home to Plummer Cemetery for burial via the Chicago, Milwaukee & St Paul train.



DAVID & WALTER COURTNEY & EARL M. PLUMMER

(East Side, Row 7 & 8 & West Side, Row 4)

David Robert "Jim" Courtney was born 13 Oct 1899 in the Town of Oshkosh, the son of Walter & Jeannette (Smillie) Courtney. He married Marie Helen Benedict, daughter of Robert Percival & Sophia (Flarity) Benedict, on 21 July 1936. They had two children: David, Jr & Gwendolyn. Marie passed away on 8 April 1970 and Jim married second to Ruth Fritsch on 3 Nov 1982 in Michigan.

Walter Roger Courtney "Nip" was born 11 May 1895 also the son of Walter & Jeanette (Smillie) Courtney. He married Clara Jacobson, daughter of Hans & Katie (Stutzman) Jacobson, on 30 May 1917 in Menominee, MI. Nip served in WWI and worked on the Fred Boss farm. Nip and Clara had only one child, Pearl.

Earl Morris Plummer was born 19 June 1899 in the Town of Oshkosh, the son of George Washington & Mary Louise (Pride) Plummer (his grave is over by the water pump, next to the Wright family). He married Mary Schuster, daughter of Frank & Theresa (Stockinger) Schuster, on 13 Sept 1923. They had five children: James, Charles, William, Thomas & Robert "Babe" Plummer. Earl's maternal grandparents were Cyrus & Malona (Doolittle) Pride and his paternal grandparents were Mark & Louise (Barker) Plummer.



*(photo courtesy of
Daryl & Gwen (Courtney)
Jensen)*

David "Jim" bought his first dump truck in 1922. The following year, he was joined by his brother, Walter "Nip", and a lifelong friend, Earl Morris Plummer. The three of them formed a partnership which grew to be known as Courtney & Plummer, Inc and became pioneers in the road construction industry. In 1937, the headquarters was moved to Neenah with a Ready-Mix operation that began in 1938. The business was formally incorporated on 29 June 1946. The three men also developed Twin City Concrete and David "Jim" served as the president of Courtney Plummer, Inc until his retirement.

In 1961, a new plant on Midway Rd, Town of Menasha was opened. Jim designed some of the first portable crushing plants in the US. This

plant was part of the central mix turbine plant, the only one of its kind in the state. It was a turbine type machine rather than the drum type that was in operation at the firm's plant in Neenah. The turbine mixer operated somewhat on the principle of machines used in manufacturing cheese. An elaborate panel of controls regulates the correct amount of aggregate, water and sand needed. The firm crushed its own stone hauled from a number of quarries around Winnebago and Outagamie Counties. The stone was crushed to the correct sizes, washed and piled at the Neenah site. Through its development, the Japanese even became interested and toured the Courtney Plummer facilities to further their own knowledge in aggregate production.



*(photo courtesy of
Daryl & Gwen (Courtney) Jensen)*

Another big addition to the Courtney Plummer firm in 1961 was the use of two Oshkosh four-wheel drive trucks, manufactured by Oshkosh Motor Truck, Inc in Oshkosh. Each truck could legally carry seven yards of concrete.



*Left to Right: Harold Mulvey, unknown, O.B. Zimmerman, Jim Courtney, unknown, Earl Plummer
(photo courtesy of Daryl & Gwen (Courtney))*

Jim also initiated the development of the Ready-Mix Concrete Association of WI with his fellow colleagues throughout the state and served as its first president. He was also a member of the Wisconsin Road Builders Association.

Jim's community activities included: fundraising for Theda Clark Hospital; Board of Directors of the Power Boat Club and of the Neenah West National Bank; a board member of Goodwill Industries; he was also involved in the Junior Achievement Program, Oshkosh Power Boat Club and the Ridgeway Country Club. David passed away on 18 Aug 1994 at his home in Winneconne.



*(photo courtesy of
Daryl & Gwen (Courtney) Jensen)*

Nip was a member of the Hawley-Diekhoff American Legion Post No. 33 in Neenah for 61 years and was a life member of the Winnebago Archer's Club. Nip passed away on 9 Sept 1978.

Earl Plummer was on the board of directors of the Central Paving Corp; Vice-President of Twin City Concrete Corp; very active on conservation efforts and had served as a delegate to the State Conservation Congress. Earl was the President of Courtney Plummer at the time of his death on 25 Mar 1971.

The 1st generation (Earl, Walter & David) held interest in Courtney Plummer and in Twin City Concrete Corp. The 2nd generation (children of the three men) owned and controlled a partnership known as Inland Trucking Company. Inland leased dump trucks and various other property to Courtney & Plummer. In 1963, Inland bought 50% interest in Green Lake Ready-Mix and also acquired control and ownership of the Waupun Ready-Mix and the Randolph Ready-Mix. In 1965, Inland & Meilahn established the Oshkosh Ready-Mix in Oshkosh.

The second generation ended up filing a Chapter 11 and Courtney Plummer merged with 4X on 10 May 1982. Eventually Michels bought everything except for the Ready-Mix and the Twin City Concrete. 4X eventually sold out to Murphy in Black Creek.



*Left to Right: David "Jim" Courtney,
Walter "Nip" Courtney, &
Earl M. Plummer
(photos courtesy of
Daryl & Gwen (Courtney) Jensen &
Pearl (Huntington) Benedict)*

LEO FUHS

(West Side, Row 5)

Leo Fuhs was born 23 Feb 1889 here in Winnebago County, the son of August & Margaret (Schindelholz) Fuhs. They owned a farm referred to as the Fuhs Hill Farm, which is where M. Schettl Freight Sales is now located, before that it was owned by the Plummer family.

Leo's siblings were: Karl, Lillian and Flora. Neither of the boys married or had children and the girls married but neither of them had children so this Fuhs branch ends here.

On 27 May 1912, Leo went out hunting crows. He made a stop in town and was seen by other people. That night he never returned home so an account was made of his whereabouts and a search was underway. Ambrose Clark, who lived on the Overton farm, found Leo dead in his small hunting skiff on Daggett's Creek. He was shot through the heart, lying flat on his back in the bottom of his skiff, which was partially drawn upon land. The gun was found lying on the ground just outside his skiff.

Leo was a Deputy Warden for the Fox River Hunting & Fishing and was fully deputized. Was his death an accident, suicide or was foul play involved? We have the story of Leo Fuhs in our new History book – Butte des Morts, WI: Its People and Its History. Get your hands on a copy and read all about it!!



Leo Fuhs in his skiff
(photo courtesy of Howard Fuhs)