



Neighborhood News

The Newsletter of The Old Third Ward Association, Inc.
Winter - 2000

Dear Neighbors,

Since the last newsletter, an initial River Development study has been released by the City of Appleton. Contained in this study were enough plans for Water Street between Jackman and South Oneida to turn our neighborhood into a traffic magnet. Nothing has been acted upon and the study is just that and nothing more. We will be discussing ways in which we can become involved in the process and the preliminaries at the Old Third Ward Annual Meeting to be held on January 16 at St. Joseph's Great Hall. Alderman Richard Thompson has agreed to attend to discuss what is known of the City's plans. We also will be electing three new Board Members, discussing Historic Preservation for individual homes and as a district. Come and enjoy the company and a shared meal with our neighbors. There will also be time for you to address any concerns you might have.

For those of you who have not seen the January issue of the *Scene*, the Old Third Ward is the cover story. Editor Jim Meyer has written an excellent article about our neighborhood and the Jackson Street neighborhood in Oshkosh. Jim Meyer worked as the City Reporter for the *Post Crescent* during the years we were fighting off the County and so he is acutely aware of the evolution of our organization. If it were not for Jim Meyer and also Don Castonia (the County reporter for the *PC* at the same time), we would have had a much tougher time. They both gave credence to our point of view and listened and cared.

Speaking of newspapers, this fall the town of Grand Chute celebrated its sesquicentennial. Newspaper ran articles about the history of Grand Chute noting that at one time Grand Chute extended to the River and began in the area south and west of the Courthouse. The name, of course, came from the large rapids on the River. Our neighborhood was once Grand Chute and the early history being celebrated is the beginnings of the Old Third Ward.

Linda Muldoon, Editor, *Neighborhood News*, 739-5762

Engine Company No. 2

No hint now remains, but at one time, Fire Department #2 was housed on the NW corner of Eighth and State Streets, across from St. Mary's Church. State Street was a major street at that time and was the street car line as well.

Early firefighting in Appleton had a checkered past. Not only were fires common



Appleton Fire Dept. Number Two in 1899, located at Eighth and State. The black and white team on the right was the pride of the Department.

occurrences in a community with cedar roofing shingles and heat supplied by coal and/or wood, but the interest in firefighting seemed to be lackadaisical. In 1863 The Lawrence Fire Company was founded and appears by all reports to have been ill-equipped. Commentary of the day indicate that businesses took out insurance and then took their chances.

By 1873, a second fire company, the Grand Chute Engine Co. No. 2 had been formed. The Grand Chute Engine Co. called its engine the Anson Ballard, who was then Chief. The Lawrence Co. named their engine the Amos Story after the City's first mayor. Each fire company at that time was composed of twenty men and each company was allowed \$200 a year by the City.

"Friction and factionalism resulted in the disbanding of the Grand Chute Engine Co. in January, 1878." The

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downfall seems to be a fire on January 7, 1878 when most of a downtown block, the Bertschy Block, was destroyed. "At this remote date, the fire assumes characteristics of a comedy of errors. The city had two companies. The one located closer to the fire arrived promptly, but couldn't find the flames between the walls of one of the buildings for the greater part of an hour. The second company was ready to start, when some person informed the firemen that they were responding to a false alarm. So they stayed in their quarters. Some even went home. Then the marshal came along and told them there was a fire, and the laggard company responded. And, if that were not enough, a hose burst at the fire."

The following month, Badger Fire Engine Co. #2 was organized and took control of the equipment. "Strife was not eliminated for several years afterward. In the spring of 1880 the council disbanded the two companies and took possession of the property. The old Lawrence Company resulted and a second unit was organized in the Third Ward. Three years later, in March, 1883, after newspapers and citizens had heaped criticism on the department, all members, including the chief, resigned. The Council glossed ruffled feelings and prevailed upon all to withdraw their resignations, pending organization under the water works system." Water was pumped by the new city system in April, 1883 but did not approach a reasonable degree of efficiency until 1886.

Company Number 2 moved to the central fire station in 1920. Currently 88 years old, Hyacinth Dagen has many memories of growing up on Eighth Street. Some of the most vivid memories include running to the corner when a fire alarm sounded. Neighborhood children delighted in seeing the horses readied to charge to the fire. She recounts how the harness was in a rig in the air which was then lowered onto the horses. In one obviously strong memory, Hyacinth says that one Halloween, some youngsters called in a false alarm from the vicinity of Jackman and Water Streets. They had stretched a rope across Jackman and, yes, the horses hit the rope in their run down the hill. One horse had to be destroyed.

Material in quotations has been taken from *The Appleton Post Crescent*, April 30, 1932.

Encounters along the River

The following episodes are taken from *Outagamie County Pioneers*, a record of meetings, memories and biographies of the early settlers. A copy is available in the Local History Section of the Appleton Library.

Lieut. James Madison Boyd

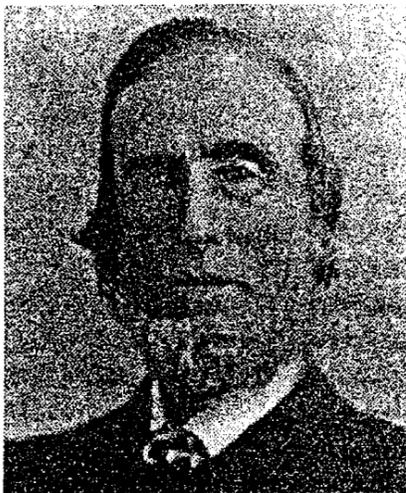
James Madison Boyd's mother was the sister of John Quincy Adams' and the daughter of the first U.S. Consul at London. His father was appointed Indian Agent in Green Bay. When only 16, Boyd took part in the Black Hawk Wars. On his return he acted as interpreter for his father and he married Maria Lawe, daughter of Judge John Lawe. In 1837, Boyd had several encounters in Appleton with Native Americans. The following is the story:

"In 1837, several thousand Menominee Indians congregated at the Grand Chute for the annual payment. Although it was strictly forbidden to take liquor into the Indian agent, the noise and disturbance in the camp indicated that the most of them were on the verge of a big spree. About 9 o'clock at night while the officers were lying about the camp fire, resting from the labors of the day, a great commotion was heard on the hill and an Indian came running down, saying another Indian had just killed a couple of women. James Boyd and A. Grignon ran up the hill to arrest him, armed only with a heavy cane. The murderer was located in one of the tents and as Mr. Boyd and Grignon rushed in, he stood over one of his victims, brandishing his bloody knife. Mr. Grignon stumbled over a log and fell quite close to him before the Indian could strike him with his knife as he attempted to do, Mr. Boyd felled him with a well-directed blow with his club, and together they tied his arms and dragged him down to the camp and tied him to a tree. The Indians, furious at the murder of the women, soon surrounded the camp and demanded the

captive be returned to them to be dealt with according to Indian law and justice. Col. Boyd refused for a time until he saw that the soldiers and traders had sought places of safety in flight and the chief said he could not restrain his young braves, and he feared harm might come to the officers, Lieut. Boyd was there upon given orders to turn the Indian over to them. With a rush the drunken savages threw the murderer with his arms and legs tied right out to the large camp fire. With a sizzle his breech clout and hair disappeared and he straightened up and said in his Indian tongue, "I am a brave man," before he could be pulled out he was so badly burned that he died in a few hours.

The next morning on the return to Green Bay, while walking along the bank of the river alone, Lieut. Boyd met a powerful savage in war paint who enquired if he knew, which one of the officers it was who captured his friend last night. Mr. Boyd said he did and asked how much he would give to find out, drawing nearer as the Indian replied, he suddenly struck him a fearful blow, knocking the Indian down and telling him he was the man and that if he ever laid eyes on him again he would kill him. The Indian, knowing that he had met his match, rapidly got away. This all took place near where the Roger's residence stands to-day in Appleton.

The Rogers' residence is what we now call Hearthstone.



Lieut. James Madison Boyd

OLD THIRD WARD HOME TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS

Wow! The Old Third Ward was the place to be Friday evening and Saturday the 17th and 18th of September. Over 1,200 people in nine hours visited our neighborhood as 100 guides treated them to the history of the tour homes and stories of the "Old Third." Mother nature provided tourists with great "root beer drinking" weather as they strolled the streets with their Walking Tour maps and stood in line waiting to enter the homes—yes, STOOD IN LINE! What a response!

On behalf of the Home Tour Committee I want to thank all of the tour participants:

Home Owners—

- Patti and Dan Coenen
- Jayne and Pat McCormick
- Dave Bluma and Brad Morrison
- The rest of the Sagers—Kris and Ken-Joe Johnson for making the yard and community signs
- Bill Anderson for helping letter the signs, distribute, and retrieve them

Debbie Koller for designing the ticket and poster

Dan Hulbert for the great publicity
Pete and Dan Hulbert for selling the root beer

Linda Muldoon and all the folks at Coventry Glassworks for selling tickets and answering telephone questions

Linda Muldoon for publishing a special newsletter for the occasion

All of the volunteers on tour day—guides and ticket sellers—who gave their time and talents to make the Old Third Ward Home Tour a success

Ron Degroot for being official photographer

Everyone who distributed fliers and posters and just "talked it up"

Appleton Downtown, Inc. folks who sold tickets and supported us by helping with advertising AND

All of the neighbors who put a little extra effort into making their yards look nice for our visitors.

We could not pull off something of this magnitude without enthusiastic volunteers who care about the Old Third Ward. Everyone had a great time and the visitors were very appreciative of the effort that went into the tour. They were thrilled to come.

It appears that the millennium will

bring yet another tour of the Old Third Ward—our third annual. We have four committed and enthusiastic home owners who have agreed to participate in September. If you have volunteered in the past to help, please say yes again; if you haven't been involved, please step forward. We need your help and guarantee that you will have fun.

Thank you,

**Ann Sager
and The 1999 Home Tour Committee**

Barb Hulbert

Judy Worachek

Jayne McCormick

Jeanne Degroot

Kris Sager

Sally Johnson

Old Third Ward Board

Jim Rader - Pres.	738-1933
Bill Anderson - V.P.	734-7484
Patti Coenen - Treas.	954-0293
Gerald Sosalla	730-0518
Bruce Ladewig	739-0644
Brad Koller	738-0339
Ann Sager	733-2370
Brad Garvey	739-4669
Jayne McCormick	735-1601

Become a Supporting Member of the Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association, Incorporated

Voting memberships are open to residents, both homeowner and tenant, and non-resident property owners. "Friends" are non-resident, non-voting members who wish to support the purpose of the association financially.

Membership Categories

Friend	\$10 or more	Sponsor	\$100 or more
Resident/Property Owner	\$15 "	Sustain	\$250 "
Family	\$25 "	Benefactor	\$500 "
Patron	\$50 "		

Name: _____

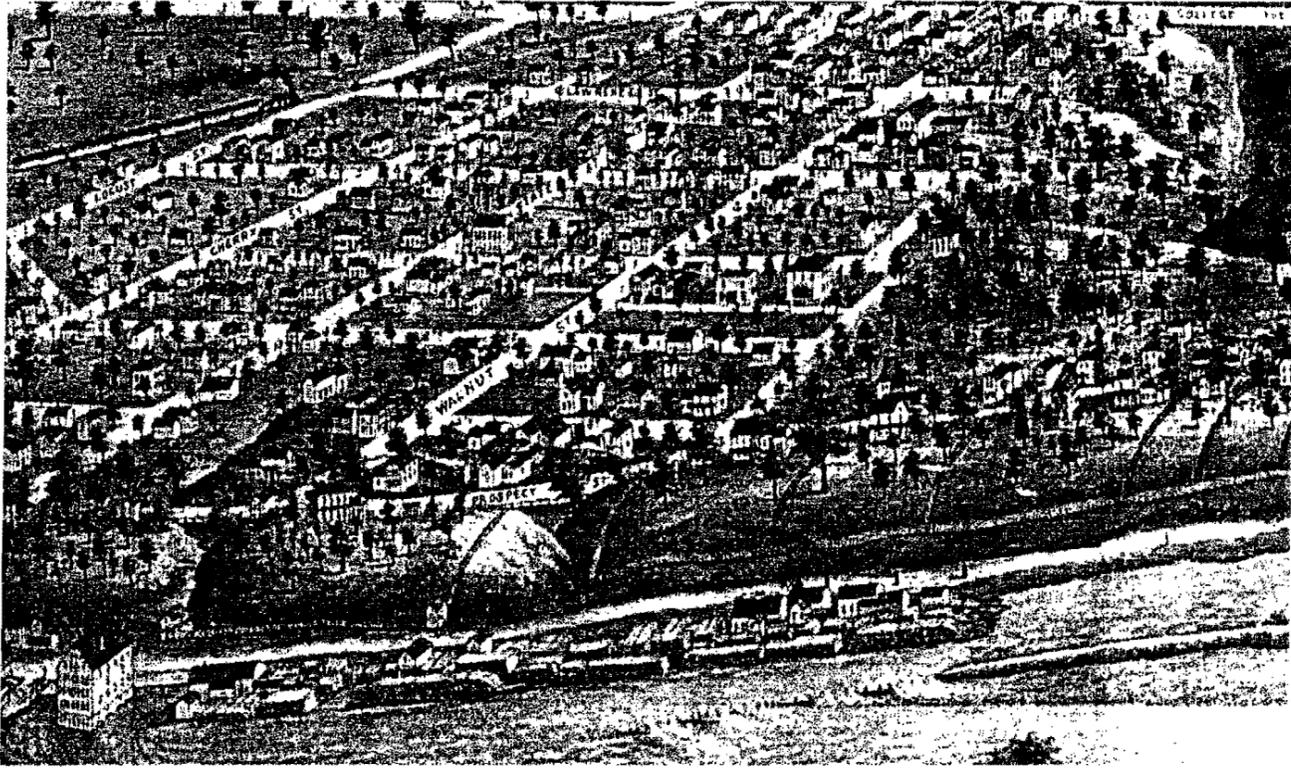
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

A/C & Phone: _____

I would like to volunteer _____ (state your interest)

Address checks and correspondence to: Old Third Ward, P. O. Box 2574, Appleton, Wisconsin 54913-2574



A view of the Old Third Ward in 1874.

**Old Third Ward
P. O. Box 2574
Appleton, Wisconsin 54913-2574**