

Hearthstone will be the site of Murder Most Foul February 12, 13, 19 and 20, 2016. Dress in your finest masquerade attire and join Sound Decision Acting Troupe for an evening of hilarity and mayhem. Tickets for this Hearthstone fundraiser are \$110 per person and can only be purchased online at: <http://www.hearthstonemuseum.org/mystery.html>

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Mystery at the Mansion</h2> <p style="font-size: small;">Lord and Lady Moon cordially invite you to a Moonlight Masquerade Hearthstone Mansion, 625 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton</p>	<p>Friday, Feb. 12; Saturday Feb. 13 Friday, Feb. 19; Saturday Feb. 20 6-9pm</p> <p>\$110 per person <i>(includes appetizers, wine, soda, coffee & dessert)</i></p>
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Congratulations to Old Third Ward resident Ben Vogel, Assistant Superintendent of School/Student Services for the Appleton Area School District, who won this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Educator Award. He has been an advocate on social injustice issues in schools and in the community and worked with African Heritage Inc. to create the first African Heritage Emerging Student Leaders Institute for black high school and college students. Ben was presented with his award on January 18, 2016 at Appleton's 25th annual community celebration of MLK's life and legacy.

The Old Third Ward has lost a great friend. Deacon Roy J. Baumruk passed away on Friday, October 30, 2015. Roy and Ginny's house can be seen in the Old Third Ward logo on the heading of this newsletter. Their home, surrounded by the Outagamie County campus, is a symbol of an agreement between the neighborhood and County to spare historic homes. Roy's obituary can be read at www.legacy.com.

A Hair-Breadth Escape

Appleton Post, January, 1891: "A party of boys who went coasting Sunday came near meeting with a sad accident. Had the double runner upon which they sat passed the railroad track a moment later the result would have been too horrible to relate. For some time past children have made a practice of coasting on Prospect Street in front of Edward West's where the sleds pass down the long slope onto Pearl Street between the two flour mills. It was at this point where the party had its narrow escape from being run over by a locomotive which grazed the rear boy's clothing as it sped by."

Edward West lived at 213 W. Prospect, and Pearl St. was near where Appleton St. is now, running from Lawrence St. to the river. The two mills are most likely the Fox River Mills.

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Neighborhood News</h1> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">The Newsletter of the Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association, Inc.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Winter – 2016</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Antoinette Powell and Linda Muldoon, editors</p>
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After the Wedding: The Conkey/Reid Story Continues



905 S. Memorial Dr.

The fall newsletter took the Conkey family through the January 1875 wedding of Alice Conkey and Alexander Reid. Alice and Alex moved to what is now 905 S. Memorial Drive (NW corner of Front St.) to start their lives together. The house is currently owned by Eric and Tammy Beaudry. The exterior of the house had been covered with grey and black aluminum siding which the Beaudry's returned to wood and repainted it in appropriate 1875 colors. The interior is still being renovated. Although they are fully aware of the early residents and their story, the Beaudry's have not found many clues to the early décor. They hope to acknowledge Alex and Alice in their own fashion.

The early years of their marriage saw Alex's printing business flourish. Alice reportedly "entertained the city's social lions and at the same time regularly delivered baskets of food to the sick and poor." In 1889 Alex was chosen to be the U.S. Consul to Ireland.

Mr. G. F. Peabody arranged a send-off dinner for Alex. According to the Appleton Post from July 1889: "The dinner consisted of eight courses, and was probably the most exquisite ever served in Appleton. The menu was printed upon cards, each of which bore a pen and ink sketch executed by the artistic hand of Miss Lura Ryan."

While in Ireland, Alice and Alex loved the natural beauty of the countryside and scoured the second-hand bookstores of Europe to add to their collection of "rare and scholarly volumes." In 1891 the Reids returned to Appleton for a summer vacation. Although seemingly happy, Alice "confessed to her friends that the damp climate in Ireland did not agree with her and she had often been ill."

By fall "Mary Stansbury reported the news from Dublin were 'brief messages that came, like drops of distilled heartbreak, across the sea – and then the end.'" Alice had died of inflammatory rheumatism at age 42. Her tombstone reads: "Lie lightly on her, gentle earth; Her step was light on thee."

Alex resigned the consulate and moved into their summer home – a log cabin in the woods on the west side of Appleton overlooking the river. He kept Alice's tradition of helping the needy and "for 18 years, except for a time of service in the Spanish American War, he visited Alice's grave once or twice a day." He studied the books he and Alice had collected and when he eventually returned to writing, his editorials had "a style which was peculiarly his own, pure, clean, elegant, and finished." "As an editorial writer he had no superior and few equals in Wisconsin. He was a man of profound human sympathy and the sufferings of his fellow men appealed to him most keenly. His charities towards the poor were numerous and unceasing; but he performed them so... they were known by very few outside himself and the recipients of his gifts."

Alex died of pernicious anemia in 1910 and in his will he gave their summer home and about 12 acres to the people of Appleton. He called it Alicia Park to honor his "beloved wife," and asked that a bed of plants be established in the park to write out the name Alice each summer. Alex is buried next to Alice in Riverside Cemetery.

Sources: *Inside the Fox Cities*, Feb. 1991, Carolyn Kellogg; *Fox Cities Magazine*, Feb. 1999, Mary Jo Netzer; *History of Outagamie County*, sourced by Margaret de Jonge

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The OTW and Black History

Currently the History Museum at the Castle is exhibiting *A Stone of Hope: Black Experiences in the Fox Cities*, a traveling pop-up exhibit about the history of Blacks in Appleton and the surrounding area. The exhibit won an award from the American Association of State and Local History in 2015. This newsletter will publish ongoing articles about African Americans in the Old Third Ward. See the exhibit's stops: <http://www.myhistorymuseum.org/a-stone-of-hope.html>

Lucretia H. Newman Coleman



THE AUTHOR.

Frontispiece from Lucretia H. Newman Coleman's novel *Poor Ben: A Story of Real Life*

Lucretia H. Newman Coleman lived in Appleton for only a short time, from about 1867 to about 1876. She was the half-sister of Charles Edgar Newman (OTW newsletter, Spring, 2015.) The Newmans moved to Appleton from Cincinnati after the death of the family's patriarch Rev. William P. Newman in 1866. Lucretia's step-mother, Sarah Cleggett Newman, was the sister of William S. Cleggett (OTW newsletter, Fall, 2015) and the family's relocation to Appleton was likely a move to be closer to the Cleggett family. Sarah was admitted to the First Baptist Church in Appleton July 31, 1868.

The Newman family settled in a home on the "n. e. cor 6th and Cherry" (now S. Memorial Dr.) just about a block away from the Cleggett home. Lucretia entered Lawrence University as a freshman in September, 1872, enrolling in the Scientific Course and staying for about two years. She was one of the earliest African American students to enroll at Lawrence. Some biographies state she graduated from Lawrence, but the University Archives has no record of her being awarded a degree.

Lucretia was born in Dresden, Ontario, Canada around 1854. Her family moved from Canada to the West Indies, then back to Cincinnati and finally to Appleton. She married Robert J. Coleman in Des Moines, Iowa in 1884 and soon moved to Minneapolis where her daughter Roberta was born. Eventually she and Roberta moved to Chicago where her entry in 1920 census listed her occupation as dressmaker.

She had a distinguished career as an author in the 1880s and into the 1890s, writing articles published primarily in African-American journals such as *Our Women and Children* and the *A.M.E. Review*, in addition to a biographical novel and poetry. In *The Afro-American Press and Its Editors* (1891), Irvine Penn states that her writings were "rich in minute comparisons, philosophic terms, and scientific principles." Martin Dann writes in *The Black Press 1827-1890: The Quest for National Identity* (1971) that her poem "Lucille of Montana" (1883) was praised at the time as being "full of ardor, eloquence and noble thought." A contemporary account in the journal *The American Baptist* said "As a writer, her fame is spreading, not only in one or two states, but throughout the United States. Should she continue with the same success in the past, she will be equal to Harriet Ward Beecher Stowe, if not her superior." And in *Noted Negro Women, Their Triumphs and Activities* (1893), Monroe Alphas Majors writes she contributed to black journals with her "usual fascination for saying things in her own way."

Do you have a Facebook account? Do have some information you think would be of interest to the neighborhood? Here are some ideas:

- A favorite recipe
- Gardening tips (it WILL get warmer)
- Mystery photos ("Which house has this turret?")
- Historic photos
- Questions about neighborhood/city/county projects
- Something just for fun

Join the **Appleton Old Third Ward** Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/39288947086/>



Contact your **Neighborhood PRO**
with any Real Estate question!

Donald Elston

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We Need You!

The Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association has a lot going on. To carry out our mission to inform and preserve our neighborhood we need enthusiastic volunteers. Here are some things you can do:

- ▶ Plan the neighborhood picnic in the fall
- ▶ Help with the annual dinner in the spring
- ▶ Hand-distribute quarterly newsletters
- ▶ Contribute your plans for walking tour distributions boxes
- ▶ Serve on the Pioneer Park Celebration Committee (Spring)

To volunteer, or if you have other ideas on how to make our neighborhood an even greater place to live, please contact OTW Neighborhood Association President Brian DeGroot at brew9541@gmail.com. Are you interested in participating in a Neighborhood Watch Program? Contact Brian DeGroot.

Keep in Touch With Your Elected Officials

Our representative on City Council is Patti Coenen, City of Appleton Alderperson, District 11, patti.coenen@gmail.com, (920) 378-8429

Our County Supervisor is Katrin Patience, District 4, katrin.patience@gmail.com, (920) 202-3767