

R-089

This folder contains the following:

- ❖ **A history of the Campbellsport area
by Mrs. Yankow, 1964**
- ❖ **A news clipping, quoting the Wisconsin State
Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1888-1889**
- ❖ **A history of Campbellsport, by Catherine Weld,
1955**

Data entered on computer, March 16, 2005

By Cheryl Callahan

The Yankow Account:

The story of the people of Campbellsport as I knew them.

In 1899 my family moved to Campbellsport. My father opened a saloon (tavern) in the lower (east) end of the village. I can still remember two or three older men who came every afternoon to play euchre and maybe drink two or three glasses of beer – at 5 cents a glass – during the three hours of card playing. Seems impossible.

Across the street, John Naughton ran another saloon and boarding house. A general store operated by F.M. Findeisen and his very fine wife, was full of all sorts of merchandise from groceries, hardware, etc. to dry goods, hats and shoes. Mrs. Findeisen's sisters, Mrs. Krembs, with her beautiful red hair in braids and wound around her head in sort of a coronet, and a twinkle in her eye; the other sister, Charlotte Schulten, was a very dignified woman with a wealth of black hair. They made hats for all of us and told us how to wear them. During the busy seasons, Miss Mary Guepe assisted them. (This store is now the locker plant.)

The Guepe family lived in a neat brick house at the foot of the hill. Their garden was so beautiful all summer long with flowers and vegetables. In the fall their grape vines were heavy with lovely blue grapes and their fruit trees loaded with all varieties of fruit. When an apple or a plum fell from a tree, we children would very carefully pick it up and take it into the house. I think that un-

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consciously we knew that Mr. or Mrs. Guepe would tell us to eat it.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Poole operated the general store. I can still see the showcase covered with glass and filled with penny candies. Mr. Poole would usually give us an extra piece of broken candy. Mrs. Poole with her wavy parted hair was not always in evidence. We were happy to see her if for nothing else than to hear her call her husband, "William", as everyone else said, "Billy Poole". Their store and home are now the Schill apartments on East Main Street.

Charles Glass and his wife, Margaret, ran a barber shop and a harness shop in what is now occupied by Bud's Cleaners (Carpenter). Mr. Glass had a great sense of humor. Even though he was a very busy man, lie to him was a joy. His specialty was imitating cats, dogs and bird calls to the joy and excitement of the children and many adults.

Hugo Kuel was one of the town's tailors and took care of outfitting every man needing his talent.

On a side street, Jacob Schneider worked in his "cooperage" where he made barrels of all shapes and sizes (wooden).

I am told that Arthur J. Kraemer now of Fond du Lac lived in this part of town where his father, James Kraemer, operated a shoe store and repaired all leather articles: shoes, harnesses, etc.

The carpenter trade was well taken care of by Jacob Schlaefer, Frank Gremminger and a Mr. Rusch with their crews of men.

Frank Haskins was our glove maker. His shop was in a

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building that stood where Dick Johnson's tavern is now located. His daughter, "Libby", now Mrs. R. L. Raymond and Belle Cobler were his helpers.

It seems that most everyone had some sort of nickname by which they were affectionately known. We never really knew why, but there it was.

Leo Husting, who helped his father handle the distribution of West Bend beer and after he discontinued the brewing of that beverage, was called, "Brewer" or "Gloomy".

Mr. John Schmidt, who lived in a home located on the site of the present insurance building (Campbellsport Mutual) was always called "Penny" Schmidt. He was a small, active man, always very busy. One of his daughters married a Baptist minister, a Mr. Wells; another became the wife of M. E. Helmer, who operated a grocery store for many years. They were the parents of our own Wayland Helmer and the late Mrs. Lewis Hendricks.

Next in line were Henry Schimmelpfennig and Philip Damm, who owned taverns. In between their buildings, Jos. Meixensperger operated a meat market.

Martin Boeckler, who at one time was the local baggage master, retired from that position and opened a hardware store at the present Romayko location. Later, his son-in-law, the late Charles Behnke, and his daughter, Lilyan, ran the business for him.

Platt Durand, a genial druggist, opened a drug store. Some-

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time later John H. Paas became his partner. Herman Paas is now owner of the store. (the present Heldt Store)

The name of Peck will never disappear from the history of our town. E.L. Peck and his family lived where M. Campagna and his family now live. Three of his sons settled in Canada and one owned a livery barn on Fond du Lac Avenue and later moved to Milwaukee.

Dr. P.A. Hoffmann and his wife built their home which is now occupied by his son, Dr. Leo A. Hoffmann.

The late Dr. H.J. Weld came here from Canada and became one of our country doctors. He was married to Mamie Durand who died a few years later. Quite some time after that, Dr. Weld married Catherine Fellenz, who with her son, Henry, live in the home he built on E. Main Street.

Two of the older doctors who may be remembered by the older generation are Dr. Ed Eidemiller and Dr. Zimmermann. After Dr. Weld retired because of illness, a native son, Dr. O.F. Guenther, settled here with his family. He is now a resident of Oshkosh. (Died)

About 90% of our business and professional men are either sons or grandsons of pioneer residents. We had several blacksmiths, horse shoers and wagon makers.

The first one I remember was August Hafner, across the bridge in "lower" town (East). Then there was Mr. Wicker whose shop was just north of Louie Heltemes filling station (Beck's). Leland Rhodes ran his shop in the building where Barnes Appliances shop is now.

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Later, Mike Jaeger had a blacksmith shop there. Mr. Utke's shop was located where I.J. Klotz erected a garage (now Pattern Works). Then down on Main street, Adam Pesch had a shop. This later became Pesch and Beisbier's garage (present Thelen-Janous). James Barnes also owned and operated one of these shops in the building now B&J

Grocery. The Post Office was in the Durand building with Mr. Durand as Postmaster for Campbellsport and William Poole as Postmaster for New Cassel.

The McCullough family is very instrumental in the development of our town. They owned a farm at what is now the junction of Hwys. 67 and 45. This farm was managed by Thomas McCullough. The general store (now housing Koenigs/Schills) was managed by Michael McCullough and his two sisters, Mary Jane and Ella. Isabelle was the homemaker. There were two other sisters who lived in this area, Mrs. Pat Flynn and Mrs. Thomas Curran.

Another general store was operated by Seaman, Loeb and Knickel. The firm was reorganized later and Mr. Seaman retired. Then Jacob Loeb and William (Bill) Knickel carried on until a fire destroyed the buildings and contents. Mr. Knickel built the store, now the IGA; a bank was built and organized on the property and Mr. Loeb became its first cashier. Mr. Loeb died and a new cashier, Mr. Ellis, took over. There has been a succession of cashiers: E.C. Bacon, Albert Schwandt, Byron Glass and Frank Thiel.

The next building known then as the Degenhart building, be-

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came a furniture store and funeral home with John Becklinger in charge. Several changes have been made through the ages: John Wenzel; Leonard Hall, Jas. P. Gilboy, Jos. Smith, Arthur Berge and now David Twohig.

There were several taverns in town. Chas. Ebert, Philip Guenther, Jos. Bauer, Henry Brown, George Bauer, Jac Schoofs, Jac Degenhardt, Barthol Jaeger, Arnold Berg, Frank Becker and Walter Luedtke.

Lawrence Kohler was our shoe man, although several general stores carried a line of shoes. I can still see him – he was a very heavy set man – sitting on a bench in front of his store, smoking his pipe. There was a large shade tree in the street and when the first cement walk was built, the roots of this tree raised the cement to such a degree that it had to be cut down. (now occupied by the News Office)

Ignatius Klotz familiarly known as “Nod” Klotz, was one of our distinguished citizens. He lived where the Kleinhans Implement store now is located. He was an active Democrat and served as assemblyman in 1880 to 1884 and in the Senate for one term. He then retired.

You can't write about our town in any way without mentioning Stuart Campbell. I remember him as a kindly white-haired old gentleman. When he settled here, he bought land from the late Fred Martin who was proprietor of the lumber yard. When there was a probability of the railroad, Mr. Campbell donated three acres of land for the

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right-of-way and depot. This was a deciding factor in having the depot and railroad where it is.

Another distinguished citizen was H.A. Wrucke. Mr. Wrucke was a teacher and later became secretary of the local insurance company. He also served as assemblyman.

C.R. Van De Zande served in the assembly and in later years, his son, Alfred, served there too; and then as senator until his death. He was chairman of the State Insurance Commission.

There may have been many more important people who have at some time or another, made Campbellsport their home; but my story, not history, has been almost entirely from memory and in my own mind, is quite accurate. It really is a part of the growth of this village that never gets into a history, as such.

Written Feb. 12, 1960



**Clipping from Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Vol. 6, 1888-1889,
dated July 20, 1872**

(83 years ago)

Campbellsport: 1888; a post village on the C&NW Ry. In Fond du Lac County, 16 miles SE of Fond du Lac, the county seat.

Settled in 1873, it contains a church, a district school and a steam planing mill. Mail, daily; Population 350. J. McCullough, Postmaster.

Businesses listed:

Baecker, Jacob; wagonmaker
Becklinger, Lydia; milliner
Degenhardt, Jacob; Hotel, Hay and Grain
Druand and Paas; drugs and stationery
Enfelt, Nicholas; saloon
Findeisen, F.M; grain elevator
Hafner, August; wagonmaker
Hansom, C.C; Justice of Peace
Hoffman, P; physician
Kierig, Christ; meat market
Kohler, Lorenz; shoemaker
Lepper, Van; painter
McCullough, James; General Store and Elevator
Martin, E. F.& Co; lumber & planing mill
Matteson, S.C; lawyer
Moore & Galloway; lumber
Nauman, L.C; General store
Piehl, Fred; tailor and barber
Rohdes, Leland; pump mnfr.
Richter Bros; harnessmakers
Saeman, Loeb & Knickel; General store
Schlaefer, Joseph; jeweler
Schmidt, John C; musical instruments
Schoofs, Gerhart; hotel
Van Dezande, Charles; photographer
Wedde, Wm; hardware
Wicker, Trueman; blacksmith

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The Weld Account:

Data collected by Catherine Weld, 1955

Data entered on the computer March 19, 2005

By Cheryl Callahan

History of Campbellsport

The history of our village is rather unique because of the fact that for a number of years there were actually two small villages within the same area – the division having been made by the town line between Ashford and Auburn. Each had its own Post Office for a number of years and the first newspaper edited by a Mr. Johnson was named “The Twin-village News”.

The first group of pioneers settled in the eastern part of the town of Auburn near the river in 1843. They named their little village “Crouchville” in honor of Ludlam Crouch, one of their leaders. This group had come from the East and were of Yankee origin.

A few years later, in 1849 and 1850, a group of German immigrants, including the Breymans, settled there. They came from Kassel, Germany and they changed the name of Crouchville to New Cassel in memory of their former home in the “vater landt”. Mr. Breyman built the dam in 1863 and erected a grist mill to be run by water power. After his death, J. H. Reysen became owner of the mill who enlarged it to meet the demand for flour and feed. Later on, Mr. Colburn became its owner who with his sons, Al and Will, operated it successfully for many years. In the meantime, young men interested in farming came from the East and immigrants from Ireland, Germany and many other European countries settled in this area. They purchased land from the government and immediately began clearing it. They cut down the trees to build log cabins for their families and shelters for their stock. They broke up the sod and planted crops and, because of their hard work, the land became more fertile and yielded better crops year after year.

This added to the growth and prosperity of New Cassel which, during the next twenty years that followed the first settlement, had

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grown into a thriving little village. During these twenty years, three churches with parsonages were built – the Reformed, the Baptist, and the Catholic Church. The Catholic congregation also built a parochial school which was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis,

who a few years later built the original convent which also served as the girls' boarding school where the Sisters taught music, art and needlework.

The one room public school was a stone building located on Forest Street. One of the first business places was the New Cassel Brewery built and operated by John P. Husting. Directly opposite the brewery, Casper Schneider planted a vineyard, modeling it after the vineyards of his hometown in Germany. He and his brother, John, were coopers by trade.

The most imposing structure on Main Street was the "Adam's House", a hotel conducted by Adam Holzhauer. The upper story contained a hall and ballroom which was the scene of all social activities, not only of the village, but surrounding country as well. Next to this the Findeisen General Store was located which also housed the Krembs and Schulten Millinery "Shop. Then came the Martin Herbest Boot and Shoe Shop, and at the corner, James Kremer (notary public and realtor) conducted a harness shop as a sideline.

On the northern side of Main Street, a meat market, a tailor shop, the Paul Tillack Hardware Store, and the Pool and Harter General Store were located. The New Cassel Post Office was in this building at all times except during Cleveland's second administration when J.P. Husting was appointed Postmaster and moved the office across the street into the original Husting building.

Beyond the bridge, Orson Raymond conducted a blacksmith and wagonmaker shop; and W.R. Folts, a veterinarian, had his office

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and livery stable there also.

New Cassel's first doctor was Rudolph Zimmerman, who after his retirement was succeeded by a young graduate of a Chicago medical school, Dr. Louis Eidemiller, whose spacious home on upper Main Street, which contained both office and living rooms, was considered the show place of the town for many years.

Shortly after the Civil War had ended, there were rumors that a railroad would soon be built in this area; and New Cassel had dreams of becoming a large city some time in the future. Building a railroad those days was an arduous task for most of the work had to be done by hand, with pick and shovel. After months of waiting, the Railroad Company finally reached this area, but by this time, they decided to route their road on the west side of Lake Winnebago to go through Fond du Lac and Oshkosh. This meant that right here the road would be located one mile to the west of where it was originally planned to go, and New Cassel was passed by.

The Railroad Company purchased the land for its right of way and the location for the depot from Stuart Campbell who laid out plans for the future village which was named Campbellsport in his honor. Mr. Campbell was born in North Ireland in 1818 and at the

age of 23 he sailed for America and located in Orange County, New York. There he married Julia Southern in 1848, and in 1850 the young couple came to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in the town of Ashford.

While the railroad was under construction, many young farmers sought employment with the company. Among them was James McCullough, son of Michael and Ann McCullough, natives of Ireland, who after living in Dutchess County, New York, immigrated to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in the town of Auburn in 1849. While

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working for the railroad, James met with a serious accident while unloading timbers. One of them fell on his leg, breaking the bones and injuring the flesh to such an extent that amputation was necessary. After his recovery he decided that he would not be able to continue farming so he broke the first sod and established the first business in Campbellsport. In 1873 he opened a grocery store on a small scale, but with his natural thrift and close attention to business, he soon had an extensive trade. In 1882 his younger brother Michael, joined him as salesman and bookkeeper, after which James devoted most of his time to operating the large grain elevator which he had built near the depot. He was Campbellsport's postmaster during both of the Cleveland administrations. He was born in Dutchess County, New York in 1848 and died here in his home in 1910.

The railroad no doubt contributed much toward the development of Campbellsport for soon trains were running north and south, loaded with freight, grain and cattle; sheep and hogs were being sent to the stockyards in Chicago. Daily passenger trains were soon added to accommodate transients and pleasure-seeking travelers. The first station agent was T.M. Johnson and Martin Boeckler was the first baggage man. S.L. Marsden was the first doctor in the new village. He was succeeded by Dr. S.S. Stack, the founder of Sacred Heart Sanatorium in Milwaukee. When he left to study in European universities, Dr. P.A. Hoffmann took over, who with two of his sons, practiced medicine here for many years. He lived to celebrate his 50th anniversary as organist of St. Matthew Church.

As time went on, new places of business sprung into existence. On Main Street, the first place of business was next to the depot, the Jacob Degenhart saloon and hotel; then the Kohler Shoe Store, the Wedde Hardware and Tinshop, the drug store operated by Platt Durand, who was also postmaster. At the corner, Jacob Schlaefer,

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Senior, had a jewelry store and also did watch and clock repairing. The First National Bank occupied the corner rooms in this building. Diagonally, across the street, a Mr. Ziegelbauer owned and operated a large hotel which was destroyed by fire in the eighties. The two lots were vacant until 1894 when the McCullough Brothers built a two-story brick store, one side of which was used for groceries; and the other, for dry goods.

There were a number of blacksmiths, wagon makers and harness makers in Campbellsport at this time. The Loeb and Knickels General Store, the Helmer Grocery Store, the C.R. Vande Zande Insurance Agency, the Boeckler Hardware Store, two meat markets, the Durand and Paas Drug Store, the Becklinger Furniture Store and the E.F. Martin Lumber Company were doing business in the new village. In 1901, the Brittingham and Hixon Lumber Company bought the Martin property and has conducted a lumber yard there continuously.

In 1875, the Methodist Church was erected on land donated by Stuart Campbell. The Good Templers Hall was built on the corner of Main and Poplar Streets where the Weld home now stands. The Odd Fellows Hall, located on Main Street, was destroyed by fire in the early winter of 1911. The Odd Fellows rebuilt the hall and the first floor has been continually occupied by the Postal Department. Due to their small membership, the top floor has been remodeled into two apartments.

In 1902, the two villages decided to unite and as a result they incorporated as one under the name of "Campbellsport". Since the incorporation, Campbellsport has progressed in many ways. The population at the present time is about 1250. Cement walks have replaced the old wood sidewalks and electric lights have been installed on every street. Recently, all of the village streets have been blacktopped and most of them have curb and gutters. Sewer and waterworks were constructed in 1935 and 1936. The Wisconsin

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Telephone Company installed a new dial system in 1953.

A new Methodist Church was constructed on the old site under the direction of Rev. A.N. Henne in 1904. The Immanuel Lutheran congregation was organized in 1918, but their church was not built until 1942. It is located on the corner of Forest and Elm Streets and on December 20, 1942, it was dedicated with three special services. In 1900, the Rev. B. July became pastor of St. Matthew Catholic congregation and during his long pastorate, the present church and a new parsonage were built.

In 1932, the Sisters of St. Francis built the new five-story home for retired Sisters of their order on property they purchased from the Reformed Church congregation and the Husting estate. On Jan. 6, 1933, the first sisters moved into their beautiful new home. The convent, with its landscaped grounds and well-kept gardens, is one of the beauty spots of our town.

After the old Reformed Church had been razed, the congregation united with the Elmore congregation and together they built a new church and rectory on Forest Street. The church was dedicated in November, 1932.

There was no public school in Campbellsport so the children of school age, who lived in the township of Ashford, had to attend the district school located on the Fellenz farm one mile west of the village. This building was destroyed the 2nd of July in a wind storm in 1882. It was replaced by a gray frame building east of the railroad tracks, which was remodeled into a home in 1895, when a new 4-room grade school was built. In 1907, the first high school classes were organized in that building by George Ritter, who was the first high school principal. Classes were discontinued in this building in 1936 and begun in the new high and grade school in the fall of 1937. A course in agriculture and shop was added with Lyle Viney as teacher.

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In 1949, several districts consolidated and formed the Campbellsport Union Free High School district. A new additional was built and the home economics course was added with Miss Mildred Sackett as teacher. We now have a modern, up-to-date high school with a large gymnasium and classrooms for all courses. There are four grade teachers, each teaching two grades. In high school there are eight teachers besides Mr. Leo Lang, the principal. About 250 students are enrolled in the high school this fall.

Many beautiful new homes, modern in every detail, have been built and new business places have been constructed. The old time smithies have been replaced by auto show rooms and modern garages. The modern Bauer Hotel stands on the site of the former Schoof's Saloon. The hostel has become famous throughout the state because of its culinary art and its genial host, Ed M. Bauer. The Campbellsport News, owned by Harlow Roate, occupies the former Kohler building which has been rebuilt to contain three modern apartments besides the print shop. In 1903, on April 9th, William Warden established the pop factory near the bridge, which at the age of 84, his is still operating.

The Campbellsport cheese factory originally owned by Sam Grossen, maker of American cheese, was sold to the Stella Cheese Company in 1927. The Castiglianos enlarged, rebuilt and remodeled the factory to suit their purposes for the manufacture of Italian cheese with markets all over the United States. In 1950, L.D. Schreiber, Inc., became the new owners of the company. Dante Camilli is the manager.

The First State Bank replaced the former First National Bank about 1908. A new building was erected on the site of Loeb's and Knickel's store which had been destroyed by one of Campbellsport's

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worst fires. The bank was completely remodeled in 1952 and now is one of the most modern bank buildings in the state. Loeb's and Knickel erected a new building on S. Fond du Lac Avenue. The building now houses the spacious Guenther IGA Supermarket. A

funeral home was added to the Smith Furniture store in 1937. Later, Arthur E. Berge purchased this business place and its present owner is David Twohig.

Some of our later industries include the Elwing Broom Factory, the Time and Jewel Shop, established by Herber Wehner, Hensen's modern store and tin shop built in 1940, the Gilbert Shoe Factory, the Campo Theatre, established by Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Fisher, the Campo Grill, Melody Inn, Raymond's Grocery and the Locker plant; also Know-Mahl Grocery, Barnes Appliance Shop. The Thoma Bakery and the Howard Variety Store are located in the Frank J. Bauer building, and an apparel store and sports' shop are located in the Schill Building, corner of E. Main and S. Fond du Lac Avenue.

Campbellsport's most recent recreation spot is the King Pin bowling alleys built in 1949 by the Salajas. Socially, the men have their Lion's Club, which was organized in 1931. They devoted their early efforts to promoting the installation of waterworks and sewage in the village. For many years they have sponsored Halloween and Christmas parties for the children and have contributed to the swimming program in the summers. The Mother's Club was organized in 1927. Their object was primarily to promote child welfare in the community and to bring closer relationship between the home and school. They sponsor the public library and contribute to many charitable institutions. Since joining the Federation of Women's Clubs, their name has been changed to the Campbellsport Woman's Club.

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The village's latest public improvement is the new municipal building which was completed this year. It is located on the corner of Main and Poplar Streets and contains the clerk's office, councilroom and library. It also houses the fire department engines, the village trucks and ambulance.

The fire department has done much to beautify the village with its park at the west limits. They have added slides and swings and other playground equipment for the children and sponsored the building of the Boy Scout cabin.