

Photos From Wisconsin's Past

by

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Foreword

In the last several years, pictures from Wisconsin's Past have been accumulating in my files and boxes, many of them gifts from friends, others I have been allowed to copy from private collections, nearly all unpublished.

After considerable procrastination, I finally decided to do another "photo album" lest these precious reminders from the past be lost or misplaced.

When the decision was made to go ahead, I remembered the collection of glass plates taken by Andrew Larson Dahl, a young immigrant from Norway to Dane County, which the State Historical Society of Wisconsin had finally acquired by an accident of history, much like many of the Mathew Brady's plates were recovered from an old hay barn in Pennsylvania. Dahl's pictures, taken in the 1870s, do not have the dramatic scenes of death and destruction to record that Brady had, but he had a unique opportunity to record a remarkable series of pictures of family life, most of them elaborately posed to emphasize the new-found status of Norwegian immigrants in this "promised land" called America. I selected more than twenty of the Dahl plates.

In addition, I searched through more than a hundred glass plates taken in the years from 1900 to 1904 by Walter Barnsdale Sr. of Plover, Wisconsin. These are given preferential treatment in a chapter devoted to the Barnsdale collection.

The chapter on Wisconsin barnstormers is not meant to be a history of aviation in Wisconsin, but the opportunity came to interview two original barnstormers, both in their mid-eighties, and rather than lose this precious information, their stories have been included in the parade of figures from Wisconsin's Past. In addition, David Janoski of Stanley introduced me to Anne Kyle who loaned me the aviator's log book kept by her late husband, Emmett Kyle, for the years 1930-34. This is described in the same chapter.

The last chapter on logging and lumbering includes a few pictures in addition to a glossary of logging terms and a list of "firsts" in the logging industry covering a period of more than one hundred years. These pictures have accumulated since I wrote *The Wisconsin Logging Book and Lumbermen on the Chippewa*.

The young lady on the cover could be Wisconsin's rendition of the Gibson Girl. She is Lillian Maud Anderson, born in Scandinavia (Waupaca County), 1884, the daughter of Charles and Ida Anderson. The portrait was taken in 1906 by a transient cameraman who set up a tent on Main Street in the newly-founded village of Rosholt and stayed for a couple of days taking "studio" pictures. In 1907 Lillian Anderson married Milton Rosholt.

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