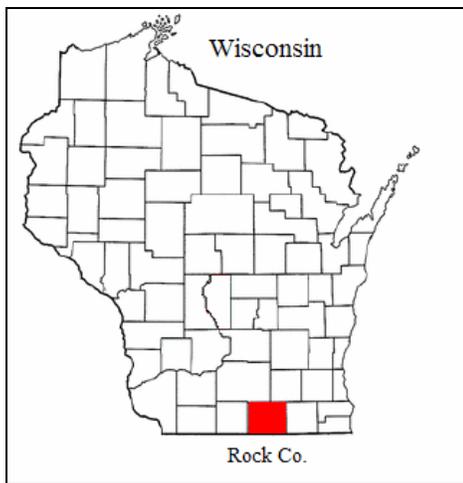# Turtle Township Guide

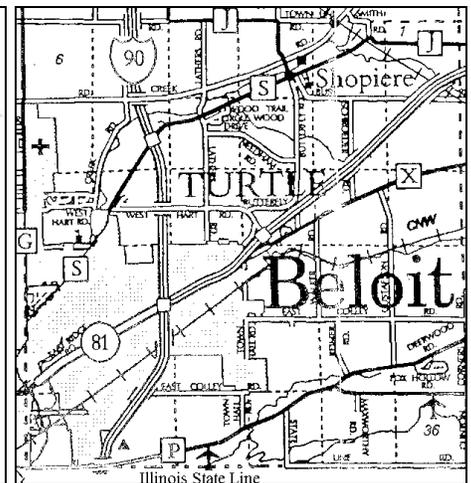## Published by the Rock County Genealogical Society

This guide contains the eighth township in a series of twenty township resource guides. It is intended to be of use to those doing genealogical or historical research in Turtle Township, Rock County, Wisconsin. Besides being published here, the resource materials collected for each Rock County township will be placed on file in the RCGS Library located at the Wilson King Stone House on the grounds of the Lincoln-Tallman House Museum. Additions and corrections to this information are welcome and should be sent to the Rock County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 711, Janesville, WI 53547. These additions and corrections will be put on file and added before final publication of the compendium of Rock County Township Guides in the future. These materials will be available and much-used by RCGS research volunteers and individual genealogists and historians. Copyright 2005 RCGS. See more general resources relevant to all Rock County Townships at:
http://www.rootsweb.com/~wircgs/rock_twps.html

Town of Turtle – Location, Features and Transportation

The latitude of Turtle is 42-32-31 N. The longitude is 88-56-27 W. In the terminology of land plats, the town of Turtle is described as Town 1 N. of range 13 E. The town of Turtle is located on the southern boundary of Rock County. Turtle is bordered by Beloit to the west, the town of LaPrairie to the North, the town of Clinton to the east and the Illinois state line to the South. Today the city of Beloit lies partially within the town of Turtle. Interstate 39-90 runs north to south and intersects with Interstate 43 which runs SW to NE through the town of Turtle.

Place Names of the Town of Turtle

- Porter Junction was located in section 20
- Shopiere was originally named Waterloo and was settled in the 1840's. Shopiere is located in section 3

- Shopiere Station was located in section 2 and became Tiffany in 1921
- Tiffany is located in section 2 and was formerly called Shopiere Station
- Turtleville was located in section 4 near current intersection of Lathers and Creek Roads
- Waterloo see Shopiere

Physical Features

- Turtle Creek
- Spring Brook
- Dry Creek
- LATHERS Gravel and Sand Section 16
- MANN Brothers Gravel Pit Section 6
- Prairie Avenue Concrete Sand and Gravel Section 6

History of the Town of Turtle

The town of Turtle is bordered by Beloit to the west, the town of LaPrairie to the North, and the town of Clinton to the east and the Illinois state line to the South. The township was named for the Turtle Indians, a Winnebago tribe of Native Americans, whose totem was the Turtle. In 1832 Abraham LINCOLN camped along the Turtle Creek in what later became the town of Turtle while scouting for Chief Black Hawk under Captain Jacob EARLY. While the earliest titles to land in the town of Turtle are dated February 18, 1839, the official date that the Town of Turtle was organized is February 2, 1846. The town was made up of what had been part of Beloit, Clinton and some of LaPrairie. The first town meeting was held April 7, 1846. In 1866 Township supervisors asked the railroad, which later became the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, to make the road leading from Shopiere east, to run under the track not over it. After over two years of planning, the railroad built the bridge at Tiffany across the Turtle Creek Valley. The Tiffany Five Arched Bridge was modeled after a bridge in France. It was designed by Mr. VAN MEINEN and built by John WATSON and Henry CRANE. It was made from limestone quarried from near Green Bay and Waupun. Each of the arches has a 50 foot span and a radius of about 26 feet. The famous bridge is still in use today looking much the same at when it was built in 1869. In 1856 the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad line was opened. When the right of way was planned Philo PORTER gave some land for a station which was named after him, "Porter's Station". It was basically a switch track, a home and a creamery also operated there. Porter's station was located near the former Turtle Town Hall on what is currently called Turtle Town hall Road.

Annexations of land to the City of Beloit and two major interstate highways, I-43 and I-39/ 90 have covered or divided much of the land of the town of Turtle. It has remained a progressive independent community with its own police department and volunteer fire department. There is an extensive List of Town of Turtle Firsts. Since farming has had such a major role in the history of Turtle, there are active Turtle Grange and 4-H organizations. The last farm with a milking herd was the MaCABE farm on County Road P. We must recognize that the history of the town of Turtle is closely tied to that of Clinton, Bradford and LaPrairie townships, the city of Beloit and the village of Clinton, since early school districts, churches and community organizations were shared by neighboring townships and villages. Also see our List of Current Businesses & Current Uses Historic Sites.

Evidences of Indian occupation have been numerous through out history. In Turtleville on the south bank of Turtle Creek was evidence of a small village site. When the first settlers came a small band of Indians were living there. Additional Campsites reported were BALDEZAR-Section 4, PORTER-Section 9, HOPKINS-Section 3, KLINGBIEL-Section 2, SPICER-Section 2. In 1895-1896 several skeletons were disinterred at a Spring Brook Burial Site. Evidence of Indian Mounds has also been found but because of urban sprawl and lack of knowledge of preserving history most have been destroyed.

Early Settlers

The record on exactly who was the first pioneer to arrive in what would become the town of Turtle differs according to various written histories. Most of the early settlers came west from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York.   It is agreed that Nathan ALLYN and James CHAMBERLAIN arrived in Turtle Township area around 1835. They are both buried in Shopiere Cemetery. In 1839 Caleb CULVER settled in Turtle Township. The Earliest Recorded Landowners (1835-1843) consists of 113 names. Some of the names of other early settlers are Hudson CASE, Horace RICE, Richard DOLE, Samuel COLLEY, Caleb BLODGETT, John and Abel LEWIS, William SMITH, Silvy KIDDER, John HACKETT, John BENEDICT, Milton WARNER, Charles and Chauncey TUTTLE, John HOPKINS, D.B. EGERY and Corydon FARR. The 1873 Landowner List shows 207 landowners. The 1936 Landowners List includes 420 landowners. The first seat of government in Turtle was the little settlement of Turtleville, which was west of Shopiere, in section 4 by the Turtle Creek near the intersections of what is now, Shopiere, Lathers, and Creek Roads.   Land for the first Town Hall was donated in 1883 by Amos REIGART. The Township Chairman at that time was Samuel SLAYMAKER. That building burned in 1923 and was rebuilt that same year under the direction of William J. LATHERS who was Chairman at that time. This building still exists today and served as Turtle Town Hall (c.1936) until the opening of the New Community Center in 2001.

Some of the early farm families in Turtle were the Merritt BOSTWICK family, Diantha NASH and family, the Michael MURPHY family, the Samuel HART family, the Harmon CHRISTMAN family, the James JACK family, the Chauncey ROSS family, the Jacob FLOREY family, John H. POOLE, Daniel EGERY, William MAXWORTHY, Thomas CROSBY family, John and William HAMMOND, Philo PORTER, Simon C. MARSTON, Henry McLENEGAN family and the E. J. CARPENTER family.

Turtleville
Today all that remains of the once vital little village is an iron bridge and a cemetery. John and Abel LEWIS were some of the original settlers, arriving from Pennsylvania in 1838.They erected a timber house at Turtleville, even before they received title to the land. In 1839, they with William SMITH and Selvy KIDDER took title to Section 9 of what would later become Turtle Township. There they built a water powered saw mill, opened a store, built a stone schoolhouse and founded the first Baptist Church Society. Early Turtleville also had a blacksmith shop. Its location along a stream and Turtle Creek made it an ideal milling site. Other early settlers named in Turtleville history include Horace RICE, Hudson CASE, Thomas PATRICK, George FERN [sic, FEIRN] and John W. LATHERS. In 1850 William HODSON arrived in the area and built a flouring bill and distillery (The Hodson Site). It was a large operation employing many people. On the site overlooking his distillery, HODSON built a mansion on the banks of the Turtle Creek on the NE corner of Lathers and Shopiere Road, which stood until 1979. The house was Greek revival in style and had 17 rooms with 12 foot ceilings and several fireplaces. In the cellar, arched vaults were built to store the "spirits". Because he was

sympathetic to the south during the Civil War he refused to put U. S Government stamps on his whiskey as was required by the government, and shipped barrels of liquor hidden under loads of potatoes to conceal them. When one of his hired hands turned out to be a government agent, the government took action against HODSON and seized everything he owned. When he failed to pay some $98,000 in taxes his property was transferred to the U.S. Government. It was sold on June 30th, 1876 on the courthouse steps in Janesville for the sum of just $3,000.00. Just west of the HODSON mansion site, is the historic Turtleville Iron Bridge. It was built on Lathers Road in 1887 by Milwaukee Bridge and Iron Company. The bridge is still in use in 2007. According to an April 1929 Janesville Gazette article, "Turtleville became a deserted village after the Civil War. The "boys", Will WHEELER, John BARKHAUFF, Richard SPENCER, Truman, William and Orlon HARVEY, George MERRY, Nelson WHEELER, and Chauncey VAN ALLEN were no longer interested in farming or the life of the small community, when they returned from the war".

Shopiere
East of Turtleville is the settlement of what is now Shopiere. One of the first men to the area of Shopiere was Caleb E CULVER. He built the first log house, followed by Jarad RANDALL who built the first farm house. The settlement was originally named Waterloo. Early township lore tells us that the name resulted from a hayfield battle between factions of settlers, thus the battle of Waterloo! When it was discovered that Wisconsin had another Waterloo, James BUCKLEY, John HOPKINS and Louis HARVEY were chosen to elect a new name. They decided on Shopiere (French words shaux, (sho) meaning "lime" and piere meaning "stone"). In 1849 Louis P. HARVEY became postmaster of Shopiere. The Shopiere post office was discontinued in 1919 at which time most of its patrons received their mail out of Clinton. Mr. HARVEY also purchased the general store. That Shopiere General Store building is still in use today as a coffee shop and restaurant. In 1853, as an early member of the Republican Party, HARVEY was elected to the Wisconsin senate. In 1859 he moved to Madison with his wife Cordelia PERRINE HARVEY. In 1861 he was elected Governor of Wisconsin. His term was short-lived. During the early part of the civil war, hearing that Wisconsin troops were badly in need of hospital supplies, he traveled with the supplies he had gathered and a party of surgeons to the battle fields. On April 19, 1862, during the return trip he lost his footing while changing boats, fell into the Tennessee River and drowned. When his body was recovered on May 3, 1862 he was laid to rest in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison Wisconsin. His wife Cordelia continued to serve as a war angel by presenting President Abraham LINCOLN a petition with 8,000 signatures seeking his aid in establishing convalescent hospitals in the north to receive sick and wounded Union soldiers from southern battlefields. The Louis HARVEY home still exists in Shopiere. Known as the Harvey House, it is recognized by a Wisconsin State Historical Marker. In the lawn of this historic home stands the Corporal Lester BUTLER Shopiere Memorial Clock. Dedicated in 1919 the clock originally stood in the center of the intersection of Shopiere Road and County J but was moved to the current site after it was knocked down by a team of runaway horses coming down Butterfly road killing one of the horses.

Other early names in Shopiere and Waterloo history are Alden Isaac BENNETT, John VANSCOY, James Scott PARKER, Thomas HOLMES, William ANDRE (treasurer of the town of Turtle from 1864-1865, Benjamin, Charles, and A. F. MACK. Early businesses in Shopiere included a wool carding business owned by Aaron BRIGGS and William SCHENCK, a millinery shop owned by Mrs. BUNDY, a cooper shop belonging to Mr. Artimus SMITH and a cheese factory built in 1872 or 1873 by Frank PARKER. In 1848-1849 a four story mill was built by Louis HARVEY, Jacob DOCKSTADER, and Jarad RANDALL at the water-power site of the damn, located on Turtle Creek, in what later became

the Sweet Allyn Park. In 1866 George SEARS acquired a half-interest in it and became the sole proprietor in 1873. The dam was removed by order of the DNR in 2000. The Original Shopiere Mill burned and was replaced by the structure that is now in 2007 a private residence.

A point of interest to researchers is some of the former street names in the Shopiere:
- Creek Road was known as Turtle Street.
- The current section of County Rd J and Butterfly Road that runs North-South through Shopiere was called Bridge Street.
- The current section of County Rd J and Shopiere Road that runs East- West through Shopiere was called Main Street.
- BUSS Road was called School Street
- PETTER Road was called Forest Street

Tiffany
Northeast of Shopiere was the settlement of Tiffany. That settlement began in 1840 when the CHAMBERLAIN family homesteaded the area. A tavern site became a stagecoach stop. George TIFFANY operated the stage lines out of Milwaukee and also served as deputy postmaster. While Mr. Tiffany acquired land, money and influence he never lived in the village that became his namesake. Tiffany was originally called Shopiere Station. On March 6, 1857 a post office was established at the Shopiere station of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway with Mr. Peter SMITH as Postmaster. At some unknown date the post office and station were changed to Tiffany and it remained a post office until 1978 under the direction of the last postmistress Diane TOWNSEND. In 1887 the Milwaukee Bridge and Iron Company built an iron bridge like the one in Turtleville, on SMITH Road east of Tiffany and that historic bridge, known as Smith Road Bridge, is still in use today.

The Turtle Grange
The Turtle Grange #655 was officially chartered in May 20, 1920 with 63 members. Meetings were held in the Turtle Town Hall or in the homes of members. The first slate of officers elected was Mr. & Mrs. Elmer BARTH, J. Wm. WESTBY, Mrs. Cora PECK, Mrs. Gertrude HIGGINS, Mrs. Frank JOHNSON, Edward ZICKERT, Rev. W. J. DOGAN, S. K. BLODGETT, Mrs. Nellie BLODGETT, Mrs. Floyd BUMSTED, Mrs. Annie HIGGINS, M. A. PECK, Frank JOHNSON, and George HIGGINS. The first action taken by the Turtle Grange was the adoption of a resolution which was sent to the Beloit Chamber of Commerce, stating that the organization would "co-operate in anything which would be of benefit to the community." When the Turtle Town Hall burned in 1923 the Grange co-operated in the building of the new town hall. The Grange solicited funds and supplied labor to build a basement with kitchen and dining facilities and the township would build the hall. Many grangers donated work on the hall also. The new hall was dedicated on November 1, 1923. Others who have served as officers of Turtle Grange are Edwin DRESSER, J. M HALDERSON, Lyle DANIELS, Charles MAXWORTHY, Fred WALLACE, Albert MARSTON, Edwin SOMMERS, Lester WALLACE, Ray LANG, Milton BUMSTED, Edwin BUMSTED, James GILBANK, Phil HOLMES, Edwin HAHN, Willis WATSON, Berl WILDERMUTH, and Burton BEALS.

The Grange still meets once a month during the summer months. The membership is mostly seniors and because of the lack of perspective members, the membership is shrinking. During the 2005-2006 school year, Turtle Grange gave four-$500 scholarships to graduates of Clinton High School.

Town of Turtle Volunteer Fire Department

In November 7, 1955 the Turtle Town Board rejected the contract for fire protection from the city of Beloit. A special meeting was arranged to be held at 8:00 PM on November 25, 1955 to discuss the possibility of a Turtle Volunteer Fire Department. Request for the special meeting was filed and the undersigned qualified voters of Turtle Township were Chester GEMPLER, Dan REESE, Wm. J. PRESS, Wayne L. SCOTT, Bertha PRESS, Elsie SCOTT, Ralph G. HOWARD, Frieda HOWARD, Fred KLENZ, Florence CARLSON, Terry SMITH, and Bertha CHAMBERS. The first meeting of the Original 1955 Turtle Volunteer Fire Department Members took place on December 16th 1955. The volunteer fire department is still active in 2007. The current location on the Fire Station is on the corner of Creek Road and County J.

Town of Turtle – General Resources

Government
Current Turtle Township government mailing address:
Town of Turtle Community Center
6916 S. County Road J
Beloit, WI 53511
Phone # 608-362- 0655
Fax # 608-364-1151
Email: townofturtle@charterinternet.com
Website: www.tn.turtle.wi.gov

Town of Turtle – Population Census Tallies

1860	1870	1880	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910
1,411	1,275	1,133	933	1,087	1,076	1,027	1,032

1930	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
1,076	2,290	3,632	2,532	2,703	2,456	2,444

The 1870 census report specified (666 male and 609 female).
The 1880 census report specified that Shopiere Village population was approximately 201.

Earliest Vital Records

These data come from the RCGS Index titled, *Rock Co., Wisconsin, Earliest Vital Records*, Uncapher, Wendy, Origins, Janesville, WI, 2005. Early Birth Records, and from web site:
www.rootsweb.com/~wircgs/earliest_rock_records_table.html

Town of Turtle Parks

- Lindale Park located on the corner of E. Bradley & S. Monroe Street in Section 19
- McMahon Park on the corner of Easy and Claremont Streets in Section 18
- Sweet Allyn Park on County Rd J in Shopiere Section 3. It became a park in 1945 and was named for Spencer SWEET and Mary ALLYN who became his wife in 1866
- Andrew HALDERSON Memorial Park and Playground at the Turtle Community Center on County Rd J Section 3

Railroads in Town of Turtle

In 2007 the tracks in the town of Turtle are property of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. The tracks out of Clinton were Milwaukee Road and are used by Union Pacific when going to Beloit. Through the years there have been numerous name changes for the Railroads.

Town of Turtle – Newspapers

Town of Turtle news is currently reported in The Clinton Topper, The Beloit Daily News at www.beloitdailynews.com and the Janesville Gazette, www.gazetteextra.com.

Town of Turtle – Churches

First recorded church in the Town of Turtle was located in Turtleville at the crossroads and was founded by Baptists who came to Clinton in 1838. They were the Deacon Abel F. LEWIS, Deacon John F. LEWIS, Deacon Stephen BARRETT, and William SMITH. On September 1, 1839 six met at the home of William SMITH and formed a covenant. Beginning January 1840 regular services were held. May 10, 1840 seven were baptized in the Turtle Creek at Turtleville. They built a small frame structure on the right side of the road, near the top of the hill as one crosses the Turtleville Bridge going west and above it stood a stone schoolhouse. The church was called 'ELLENWOOD Church' after Mr. ELLENWOOD the blacksmith of Turtleville. He is buried in Turtleville Cemetery. After a time the church building was dismantled and the lumber was purchased by the Orfordville Baptist Congregation. Elder BAILEY, one of the first ministers came from Beloit each Sunday, receiving $1.00 for his service. In the years 1849-1850 the Baptist Church was built at Clinton Corners, it was moved to its present site in Clinton in 1857 using 40 oxen. The women drove the oxen and the men moved the logs that the church was moved on.

The second recorded church in the Town of Turtle was the Shopiere Congregational Church (The Church on the Hill). A resolution was passed on April 27, 1844: "It was expedient to form a church". The charter members were Deacon Calvin OLDS, Mrs. Hepzibah OLDS, Benjamin OLDS, Mary Barrett CHAMBERLAIN, Mrs. Lucinda RANDALL, Deacon John HOPKINS, Mrs. Sarah HOPKINS, Daniel SMITH, Mrs. Eda SMITH, Caleb Eliakim CULVER, Mrs. Abigail CULVER, Mrs. Maria SWINGLE, and Mrs. Rebecca RICE. Rev. PEET was chosen moderator and the Rev. Dexter CLARY, secretary. The next Sunday Rev. CLARY preached and gave communion. Early services were held in a log schoolhouse which stood by the present church. Rev. Stephen PEET of the Beloit Church helped found this church when he was a circuit rider through the Wisconsin Territory. October 6, 1850 the Congregational Society placed on record a resolution to build a church. Adam BELL, came in 1848, a carpenter by trade, and built the Church Chapel. From 1851-1857 the Chapel was also used for school purposes during the week days. 1844-48 Rev. S. H. THOMPSON from Oberlin had a salary of $400 per year. In about 1859 a house and lot was added to church property for a parsonage. The official name of the church was Congregational Society of Shopiere and was changed to Shopiere Congregational Church on November 9, 1953. In 1956 a lighted cross was added on the top of the bell tower as a memorial to Gladys JOHNSON. The Church was added to the National Historical Society Register in 1976. Address: 5328 E. Church in Shopiere Section 11. Leave a message at 608-362-2942 and someone will be in contact.

The third recorded church in the Town of Turtle was the Shopiere Methodist Church. The [Shopiere Methodist Church](#) was founded in 1855 by John KEMMERER, Jeremiah HAWLEY, Jared DUNN, John RICE and Andrew CROMWELL. In 1857 the structure which included a basement of stone and a frame upstairs was built and cost $900. Until the summer of 1857, services were held in the Congregational Church Chapel. The first ministers were Revd. CHAMBERLAIN (1856), Revd. FRINK (1857), Revd. CRANDALL (1858) and Thomas WILCOX (1860). The belfry of the church contains the original bell of the Congregational Church. The cyclone of 1880 took off the roof. During 1858-9 a parsonage was added to the church property. Membership slowly declined in the late 1980's and it was decided to join with the Clinton Methodist Church and in 1996 to close the building in Shopiere. On Dec 28, 2000 the church building was sold to J. HOFSTROM from Clinton and became the new home for "Vining". The Clinton Methodist Church was a satellite of the New Hope Methodist Church, in Beloit.

Possible evidence of a fourth church was found while doing this research. In the spring of 1878 voters of Town of Turtle voted to build a Town Hall. In the fall of 1878 the first Town Hall of the Town of Turtle was built and dedicated. It was decided to begin meetings of church worship in the new Town Hall. Services were held on Sunday afternoons, these efforts were nondenominational. In the spring of 1879 the Rev`d. W. J. WILSON of the Shopiere Methodist Church conducted the first service, and alternated with the Revd. W. D. WEBB of the Shopiere Congregational Church. A vigorous church, with many activities, and with the aid of Beloit pastors, and the College continued for many years. To meet all expenses, the Turtle Mite Society was organized on July 3, 1879 and it was decided to hold a monthly 'social' to help provide the minister's fund. It became customary to pay each minister $3.00 per Sunday. No further evidence of how long this church continued was found.

Town of Turtle Cemeteries

- **Eastlawn Cemetery**, 2200 Milwaukee Road (Hwy 81) Beloit, WI -now in the city of Beloit
- **Jack Family Cemetery**-exact location in Section 33 unknown
- **Murray Settlement Cemetery**-exact location in Section 24 unknown
- **Mt. Thabor Cemetery**, 2222 Shopiere Road, Beloit, WI-now considered in city of Beloit
- **Shopiere Cemetery (Bethel Cemetery)** on Butterfly Road in Shopiere, WI. The Shopiere Cemetery has 3 sections, North, Central and South. The Central section is the oldest dating back to the early 1800's. The North section has a plot devoted to the Unknown Soldier. There is a [List of Bethel Veteran Graves](#). For information contact: TownofTurtle@CharterInternet.com. The current sexton is Mike BIRKHOLTZ.
- **Turtleville Cemetery** on Creek Road between Lathers Road and I-90. Earliest record to a burial in the cemetery is in 1810. There is an extensive [List of Turtleville Veteran Graves](#). For information contact TownofTurtle@CharterInternet.com. Current Sexton Mike BIRKHOLTZ.
- **Oakwood Cemetery,** 1221 Clary St., Beloit WI, originally in Turtle Township now in City of Beloit. Names from early Turtle Township history can also be found here.

Town of Turtle – Schools

Early town records state that a school was built in Turtleville around 1848 and it is a matter of record that the first town meeting of the Town of Turtle was held at the stone schoolhouse in the Village of Turtle on April 7 1846.There is also public record of a Town meeting held in April 6, 1847 at a

schoolhouse in Waterloo. In 1847 nine school districts were established near well known settler homesteads or groups.

- No. 1 - CHAMBERLAIN's School, joint with Bradford Twp.
- No. 2 - Waterloo School, most likely became Shopiere School
- No. 3 - Turtleville School in Section 4 on Lathers Road between E. Creek Road and Turtle Creek. It is not listed on the 1917 of school
- No. 4 - Name unknown-later named HART School.
- No. 5 - Joel MINER School on Milwaukee Road
- No. 6 - E. P. LACY School
- No. 7 - D. D. EGERY School later named ZILLEY School
- No. 8 - Name Unknown in section 1 built in 1867 - later named MURRAY School
- No. 9 - Hiram RAYMOND School

A 1917 record lists these schools in the Town of Turtle: NOTE: road names are modern road names:
- Clinton-Turtle joint district school (Northeast corner of Section 1) built in 1867 by 11 farm families in the town of Turtle. Families who attended school there were HAHN, BRUCE, GILBERT, MILNER, KEMMERER, EDDY, SMITH AND WAITE.
- Shopiere School (in Section 3 on E. Buss Road south of Church Street, in Shopiere). Shopiere School was originally held in a building that housed the Congregational Church in one half of the building. A two room school house was built in 1856. When it burned in 1927 it was replaced by the current brick building which served as the Shopiere School. It was consolidated into the Clinton School District in 1961 and remained a school until it closed in 1982 and all students were bussed into Clinton Elementary School. It is currently (in 2007) a private residence.
- Name Unknown (in Section 14 on County X just east of Walker Road), most likely was Maple Lawn School which closed in 1954
- Hart School (in Section 17) from 1845-1957. Later a new building was built on MURPHY Woods Road and it became SCHUSTER School until 1957 when it was discontinued and divided with some students going to Beloit and some to Clinton.
- *Name* Unknown (in Section 20 Hwy 81 west of I-90) Possibly MORGAN School Farm which covered parts of Sections 20,21,28,29.
- Murray School (Section 25 County P west of Clinton Corners Road) Building still exists as private residence.
- Name Unknown (Section 32 Colley Road-between I-90 and Spring Creek)
- Name Unknown (Section 34 Stateline Road and County P-SE side of intersection) most likely was Zilley School. The last school building on this site was built in 1869 and closed when it consolidated with Clinton in the 1950's.
- Clinton Corners School, a Clinton-Turtle joint district school (Section 7 just west of County J) Most of the above school consolidated with Clinton in the 1950's. Shopiere was consolidated with Clinton in 1961

The school districts that exist within the Town of Turtle in 2007 are: Clinton Community School District, School District of Beloit, School District of Beloit Turner and Blackhawk Technical College.

There were many "Joint School Districts". The implication for genealogists seeking school records of ancestors is that their ancestor's school records may not be found in the archives of the township in

which their ancestors resided, but rather in neighboring townships which, for reasons of distance and economy, opened their schools to families of border farms from adjoining townships.

Town of Turtle - Funeral Homes

There is no Funeral Home Located in the Town of Turtle.

SCHOENFELD Funeral Home, 504 Milwaukee Rd., Clinton, WI 53525-9403 608-676-4464

SCHOENFELD Funeral Home, 1000 E. Inman Parkway Beloit, WI 53511 608-362-2000

DALEY-MURPHY-WISCH & Associates, Beloit, WI, www.daleymurphywisch.com

HANSEN-GRAVITT Funeral Home, Beloit, WI, www.hansengravitt.com

ROSMAN-UEHLING-KINZER Funeral Home, 1125 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI 608-364-4477

Repository Resources about the Town of Turtle

Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545

- History of Rock County, Wisconsin, 1879, Western Historical Co., 1879 (call no., 977.5 HISTO)
- Index to History of Rock County, 1879, Kroehler, Marjorie. Rock County Historical Society, 1975 (call no., J. Room-977.5 WISCO 1879)
- Know Rock County, 1848-1948 Becker, Ethel, and others. Rock County Board of Supervisors, 1948 (call no., 977.5 KNOW)
- Beloit, Wisconsin Newspaper: Death, Marriage, Birth and Misc. Event Index, 1848-1915. Davis, Elsie E. Rock County Genealogical Society, 1994 (call no., J. Room 929.3775 DAVIS)
- Early Birth, Marriage and Death Records from Rock County Court House. Rock County Genealogical Society, 1983 (call no., 929.3775 EARLY)
- Index to Marriage Registrations Rock County. State Historical Society, 1998 (call no., MICROFORM 929.3775 ROCK)
- Index to Rock County, Wisconsin Probate Records: Prior to 1909-10, Davis, Donald S. Rock County Genealogical Society, 1984 (call no., 929.377587 DAVIS)
- Rock County Atlases and Plat books. Library has editions from 1873 to date. (Call No. 912.7758), Room J.
- Wisconsin Blue Books from 1860 to present

Clinton Public Library, 214 Mill Street, Clinton, WI 53525

- Newspapers
    - *The Clinton Herald* – bound copies (Dec 1895 – Nov 1896)
    - *Clinton Times Observer* – bound copies (1923 – 1929)
    - *Clinton Topper* – (1942, 1955 – 2004).
- *Rock County Schools. Wisconsin: 1964-1965.* Pictures and brief summaries about the country schools. (call no.: REF Wis Roc)
- *Rock County, Wisconsin, 2003 plat. Book.*[S.1.]: Janesville, WI: Farm & Home Publishers; Distributed by Rock County Register of Deeds Office, [c2005] (call no.: Wis 912.7 Roc)
- *Member Newsletter of the Rock County Genealogical Society. [Janesville, Wis.] : The Society, December 2006/January/February 2007. Resources for Clinton Township, Rock County, Wisconsin. Rock County's Townships with surrounding counties and townships.* (call no.; Wis Ref 929.1 Roc)

- *Town of Turtle Fire Department: 50th anniversary book, 1955-2005*. Town of Turtle (Wis.): Wildermuth, Anita. Town of Turtle Fire Dept., c2005. (call no.: WISC 628. 92 TOWN)
- *There Stands "Old Rock":* Rock County, Wisconsin and the war to preserve the union. This volume attempts to personalize and humanize an event whose sweep and magnitude have caused it to be recorded largely in terms of armies and battles. It is a piece of micro history that concentrates on a small segment of the total Union war effort and a small piece of territory in the United States. Walterman, Thomas, Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 2001. (call no.: WISC 973.7 WAL)
- *Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory Farmers and Breeders,* Rock County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Prairie Farmer Publishing Co., c1919 (call no.: WISC 977.5 But)
- *Centennial History of the Town of Turtle, Rock County, Wisconsin, 1836-1936*[S.1.:s.n., 1936] McLenegan, Annie S. (call no., WISC 977.588 CEN)
- *Combination Atlas Map of Rock County*, Everts, Baskin & Stewart
- *We Were Here*, Rock County Historical Society (call no., WISC 630.38 WE)
- *Wisconsin Heroes*, Balousek, Marv (call no., WISC 973 Bal)
- *History of Clinton Wisconsin 1837-1987*, Clinton Sesquicentennial Book Committee (call no., Wis Ref 977.5 Clinton)
- *Souvenir Program. Community History Notes for Clinton Wisconsin 125th Anniversary, 1837-1962*.
- *Clinton Bicentennial, 1976.* Edited by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Sommers & Helen Newhouse.

Rock County Genealogical Society Library/Rock County Historical Society Archives, corner of Mineral Point Ave. and N. Jackson St., Janesville, WI
- School Records: Annual reports, census, clerk record books, treasurer's records, Teacher records, attendance reports for several Clinton and Turtle township rural schools (Jefferson Prairie, Summerville, Clinton Corners, Conley, Maple Grove, Hofto, Murray, Northrup) and the Clinton Community School District. Years and types of records and materials vary by school.

Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706
- Microfilm of the following newspapers (some titles have years and issues missing):
  - *Rock County Banner* (1888-1925--some years missing)
  - *Clinton Herald (Rock Co. Republican)* (1875-1881, 1882-1907 also to 1942) Vol. 1-35
  - *Clinton Times-Observer* (1923-1941)
  - *Clinton Topper* (1938 forward)

Beloit Public Library, 409 Pleasant Street, Beloit, WI 53511
- Beloit newspapers 1848 forward on microfilm
- Windows To Our Past-Beloit Area Postcards, Patrick, John (call no.: 977.587 Patrick)
- A Postcard History of Rock County, Swanson, Bob (call no.: 977.587 P845)
- First Ladies of Wisconsin, Williams, Nancy Greenwood 1991 (call no.: 977.5 W674f)
- Cemetery Locations in Wisconsin, Herrick, Linda M. & Uncapher, Wendy K. 1998 (call no.: GEN 929.3775 H434c)
- Shopiere Cemetery-Rock Co. Wisconsin, Widdecome, Ruth 1987 (call no.: GEN 929.5775 W633s)

- Early Birth, Marriage & Death Records from Rock County Court House, Book One 1983, compiled by members of Rock Co. Genealogical Society (call no.: GEN 929.3775 E976)
- Wisconsin Women in the War, Hurn, B.A., Ethel Alice 1911 (call no.: GEN 973.9 W75h)
- Rock County Historic Sites & Buildings, Rock County Bicentennial Commission 1976 (call no.: GEN 977.587 D74)
- History of Rock Co. a history of its cities, villages, towns, citizens and varied interests,
- From the earliest times, up to date. Vol. 1/Vol. 2, Brown M.A., D.D., William Fiske 1908 (call no.: GEN 977.587 B81)
- History of Rock County & Transactions of the Rock County Agricultural & Mechanics Institute, Guernsey, Orrin & Willard, Josiah F. 1856 (call no.: GEN 977.587 G93)
- East of Beloit - A Guide, Hartung, Daniel A. Rock County Historical Society 1983 (call no.: GEN 977.587 H258)
- Rock County, Wisconsin-Rural Resident Directory 1983 (call no.: GEN 927.587 R59)
- Atlas & Plat Book, Rock County Wisconsin 1973 & 1976 (call no.: GEN 977.587 R590)
- Plat Book & Farmer's Directory of Rock County Wisconsin, 1955 & 1981 & 1986 (call no.: GEN 977.587 R590)
- Rock County, Wisconsin Farm Directory 1928 (call no.: GEN 977.587 R59ro)
- The Turtle Creek Flood-April 21, 1973, Vols. 1, 2, 3 (call no.: GEN 977.587 T869)
- City of Beloit Directories 1857-2006 (call no.: GEN 977.588 +year #)

Clinton Community Historical Society
- http://www.rootsweb.com/~wicchs/Index.html.The society has artifacts and written material on the history of the Clinton area.

Rock County Genealogical and Historical Society Library/Archives
- School Records: Annual reports, census, clerk record books, treasurer's records, Teacher records, attendance reports for several Clinton township rural schools (Jefferson Prairie, Summerville, Clinton Corners, Conley, Maple Grove, Hofto, Murray, Northrup) and the Clinton Community School District. Years and types of records and materials vary by school.
- Record of Living Residents of the Town of Turtle, Rock County who are descendants of Pioneers
- Original Grantor to Grantee land records for Turtle Township
- Rock County Directories for various years

Beloit College Library (Native American Town of Turtle history)
- The Wisconsin Archaeologist, The Wisconsin Archeological Society June 1970 (call no. 970.76 426e)
- The Wisconsin Archaeologist Vol. 12, No 1, June 1913 (call number BLTNA 970.76 W753t)
- The Beloit Archaeological Survey: Report of the 2004 Field Session, Pfannkuche, Sarah-Project Supervision, Green, Dr. William-Principal Investigator

Sources used for Town of Turtle History
1. Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545

2. Clinton Community Historical Society Archives www.rootsweb.com/~wicchs/Index.html
3. Clinton Public Library, 214 Mill Street Clinton, WI 53525
4. *History of Clinton, WI 1837-1987, 150 Years A Sesquicentennial Edition,* 1987 by the Clinton Sesquicentennial Book Committee, pages 50-52, 59,65-67, 81- 91, 109-110.
5. *Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings 1976*, The Rock County Bicentennial Commission, Rock County Historical Society and the Planning Dept. of the County of Rock 1976 pages 179-181.
6. *The Book of Beloit 1836-1936,* Published by the Beloit Daily News 1936, Pages 21-23, 100,
7. *The Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, WI, 1889, Pages 1022-1023*
8. http://www.rootsweb.com/~wirock/School
9. *Turtle Fire Department 50th Anniversary Book 1955-2005* by Anita Wildermuth 2005
10. *Wisconsin Blue Books 1860-Present*
11. *Centennial History of the Town of Turtle 1836-1936 by Annie S. McLenegan*
12. *Rock County Wisconsin by William Fiske Brown, M.A., D.D. Beloit WI Vol.II-1908*
13. www.rootsweb.com/~wirock/Cems/T4-sur.html
14. Logan Museum- www.beloit.edu/~museum/logan/index.html
15. Beloit College Archives- www.beloit.edu/~libhome/Archives/intex.shtm

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