

Brief Excerpts from David Kalland's tour with Stoughton Historical Society members, February 10th, 2025

The Clock Tower during World War II was used by the Defense Volunteers looking for enemy airplanes. This area was vulnerable because of Madison's Truax Field and 60 miles up the road, we had the largest ammunition plant in the world.

Mandt Steam Whistle: T.G. Mandt was down along the Ohio River promoting and selling his wagons and buggies. A Paddle Wheeler coming into a dock there and blew the whistle and T.G. liked the sound of it. So he went to the captain and asked if he could buy it. Well, of course the captain said no. And TG really wanted it, so he talked some more, and I guess he must have raised the price up, because TG came back to Stoughton with that whistle from a Paddle Wheeler and it was mounted in the air up, up, high at the wagon works. And there was one fella in charge of blowing that every morning and start of work at noon and at the end of the work day, and even when Mandt had the fire in 1886, this fellow stood by his post and blew that whistle.

In 1906, Stoughton had 23 tobacco warehouses. And of course, Edgerton was a big tobacco city also.

The City finally bought the Depot from the D.O.T. for \$10,700. The Historical Society led by Pud Kulland stepped up to the plate to see that it was restored. There was no city funding. There was a big hole in the floor in the waiting room, about a ten by 12 hole. Pud and the three other guys went in the store near the library where they removed the flooring because it matched this. We moved the wood for the doors and electrical wiring to be used here, so everything matches up. The shades on the windows are the type of shades that would have been here when it was a depot. Same color. Everything is original color inside and out of the building.

The "Stoughton" sign is the original sign of the depot that was in the waiting room.

The bench is the original waiting bench that was in this room. It once was outside between the pillars, but it got vandalized too often and was moved inside. It's been repaired a couple of times.

Corn Planters. You would go up and down the field planting corn kernels, one kernel at a time. And right below that one says wrench on it. That's a buggy wrench to take the nuts off the wheels on the buggies here.

Shoulder yoke which you put on your shoulder and carry buckets of feed or water

The cobbler shoe repair. You put the shoe on the end and the cobbler would repair it.

Fence Stretcher. Hook it up to the barbed wire fence and stretch it while you're putting up a fence. (was that also called a Come Along?)

Ox Yoke that was Luke Stoughton's.

The tobacco axes. Many kids all through grade school and high school worked in the tobacco fields. You would go start at one end of the field, bend over and cut each plant and lay it down until you got to the end of the row. You'd then turn around and walk back and go the same direction so all the plants were laying in the same direction. Then after the leaves, the plants wilted a little bit. It was a kid's job to come along and put those plants in a pile. I would hop on my bike when I was in grade school, and go around to the farmers to see if they needed help. I'd get paid \$0.25 an hour. And of course, the adults got a break in mid-morning or afternoon, but those kids did not. We had to keep piling before the plants got burnt by the sun.

Giving school tours here in the Depot, I would ask the kids, do you know what this is? Yeah, it's a hammer. Giving tours at the Depot I would ask if the kids could hold the nail with the curved handle? They said they didn't know and so I said, well, this is for pounding nails around the corner (teasing). This is made from a handle of a walking plow and a friend of Dave's made it. This is a made-up tool and a made-up story intending use to nail around a corner.

We have a Fanning Mill for separating old grain from the chaff.

Two-man saw.

Tobacco Box for stripping tobacco. You put the clamp and the holder on the wall and pull the leaves off and put them in the box. When it got fully filled and pressed it could hold about a 30 pound bundle.

Mandt's sales trunk. He would take when he traveled, filled with samples. You can hardly lift the box when it's empty, don't know how anyone lifted it filled with supplies or samples.

News Panels: Way on the right there, says Ford. Model T was \$580. That was from Oscar's Ford garage. His father had the garage at the time, I believe his name was Thomas Oscar. Those panels are kind of special filled with a little history.

Clothes dryer against the wagon. Of course, you didn't have central heat in the house. You would put that clothes dryer next to the space heater and hang clothes on it to dry after you wash them.

We have a corn sheller, a corn cob. Put it in there, crank it and get the kernels off the cob.

We have the electric space heater invented in Stoughton by Clark. He also invented electric hot water heater. His brother was an actor who was a central life insurance agent in town. Clark lived just north of Christ Lutheran Church on Skyline Drive.

Corn Knife. You would strap it to your leg and would cut the corn stalks in the field. Mainly used to open up the field so you could get in there with the corn picker, which was a one row picker.

The Drills there with the wooden handles on it. That would be used for putting wooden pegs into barns. They used to peg the beams together so they would drill a hole with that, with these drills and the wooden peg ends up in the corner.

Those five steel things above the window. Those are shoes for horses if they're working in a marsh. Also in the back corner, we have marsh shoes for ox.

Milking stool. Matt Johnson made it when he was in shop class at high school.

Williams Carriage House, which became part of the Lake Kegonsa State Park, halfway between the locks and the bend of the road where Henry Sticklestad once lived. (hanging on the wall) was a blueprint of it. There were no support posts on the first level. The second level floor was supported by steel rods from the rafters. You could bring the buggy in there and spin it right around without any obstruction.

Babcock milk tester, testing the butter fat of the milk.

Slide Projector: (was on the filing cabinet) came from West Side School. It's a glass slide projector found in the attic.

Street Light: one of the street lights hung on a cable over the intersection of Main Street and Division Street. In order to replace the bulb using the cable it would be lowered to the street level. Similar to the chandeliers in the opera house. They were lowered to replace the bulbs.

City hall: originally was built in 1900, opened in 1901. Had the city government offices, library, meeting room, sitting room, police department and the fire station. Plus 3 jail cells in the basement.

Excerpts transcribed from tour given by Dave Kalland, February 2025.