



# History of the Town of Winfield

1852 – 2024 (172 years)

## Table of Contents

Item	Page	Item	Page
Our Beginning	1	Churches	13
Interesting Items	2	Roads and Bridges	13
Coronavirus Pandemic	8	ATV & UTV Routes	16
4-H Club	9	400 State Trail	16
Homemakers	9	Population	17
Lake Redstone	9	Town Board Officials	18
Reedsburg Outdoor Club	10	Century/Sesquicentennial Farms	24
Dell Creek Watershed	10	Services & Utilities	25
Schools	10	References	26

## From the Beginning...

The boundaries of Sauk County were established by the State of Wisconsin in 1849. At that time, six townships were created. They were called: Baraboo, Eagle, Honey Creek, Prairie du Sac, Brooklyn, and Kingston. At one time, this area was known as the Upper Baraboo Valley and Hay Creek Valley. Over the next few years, further divisions were made in Sauk County. In November 1852, the Town of Winfield was named in honor of Winfield Scott.

Winfield Scott (1786 – 1866) was a US army general and presidential candidate of the Whig party in 1852. He commanded forces in several wars and served on active duty as a general for 50 years.

According to area history books, in 1849, Alexander Locke and his family moved from Reedsburg to the wilderness where he built a log house, the first structure in the town. This was close to the southern town line. The first person born here was his daughter, Harriet Locke in 1850. Another daughter, Phoebe Locke, was the first death in the town also in 1850; she is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Reedsburg. Within a few years, many settlers of many nationalities and religions lived here. Winnebago Indians also occupied this area. The first crop was supposedly planted in June 1849. The first hop roots were planted in 1852.

A Town of Winfield resident, Jesse Cottington, introduced hop roots to this area on a farm along Skinner Road. Hops are used to brew beer. When others saw how successful the hops were, many farmers started growing them. The best years were 1866 and 1867. The hops allowed many farmers and merchants to prosper until the crash of the business in 1868.

## **Interesting Items**

Interesting items mentioned in town board records include the following:

The town board paid individuals \$5 a year to maintain public watering troughs in the late 1890s.

A major expense for the town in the late 1890s was constructing bridges. Two bridges were mentioned costing \$400 each with Sauk County paying half the cost.

In the late 1890s, town residents recorded with the town board the “mark” or “brand” they used on their animals, including turkeys.

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, town residents reported to the town board when they found stray pigs on their property and when they kept them.

In 1901, the town board instructed its chairman to vote “no” to building a new Sauk County courthouse.

In 1911, the State of Wisconsin started a program in which a portion of state income tax was returned to the local governments. This program evolved into the Shared Revenue Program in 1973. Shared revenue funds are the state’s fourth largest general fund program, a program which provides town residents with property tax relief. The program is now called Municipal Aid. In 2024, this amounted to over \$60,000 for the town.

In the 1930s, the town board started paying the Reedsburg Public Library a fee (\$30) so town residents could use the library in the City of Reedsburg.

Electricity was put in at the town hall in 1941.

In 1943, the Town of Winfield voted to join with four other towns to purchase a fire truck.

Starting in 1945, town officers were elected to two year terms instead of one which is still the practice at present.

From 1958 through 1967, the town paid residents a tax bounty for every fox caught, usually \$2.50 for each fox. Some residents remember being paid for moles also.

In 1972, the Town of Winfield purchased the Hay Creek School building and its furnishings for \$400 from the School District of Reedsburg.

In 2016 and 2017, the town board sold the old school desks, benches, book cases, and other items from the basement of the town hall. Most of the items were removed from the town hall basement and the area was cleaned, repaired, and painted. Lexan glass was installed over the current basement windows and a fan was installed to control the moisture in the basement.

The Town of Winfield adopted the Sauk County zoning ordinances in 1963.

In 1966, the town held a referendum to issue liquor licenses in the town which passed.

In 1969, the Town of Winfield paid the City of Reedsburg to use the Reedsburg city dump; residents hauled their own garbage to the dump. The Reedsburg Municipal Airport is now built over the city dump.

In 1970, the Reedsburg Extraterritorial District was established.

Lighthouse Rock Campground operated in the 1970s - 2006 along County Road V. This site is currently Lighthouse Rock Subdivision.

In 1972, the town board decided to sell its first town hall at the intersection of County Road F and Old Town Hall Road. The decision was made to move to a bigger building that was in better condition and had room for parking. Gordon Craker's bid was accepted for \$1,170 and the building was sold.



*First Town Hall*

In 1972, the town board made a motion to move its voting booths to the Hay Creek School from the first town hall.

In 1973, the Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service started serving our area along with several other municipalities. In 2010, the Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service Commission was organized. Sixteen municipalities participated in this service. This commission was dissolved on December 31, 2023. The City of Reedsburg now controls the ambulance service. Effective January 1, 2024, the Town of Winfield contracts for emergency services through the city.

In 1974, the town board voted to construct a room in the town hall basement to be used for storage of town records. The room proved to be too damp and mold became a problem. In 2010, the room was cleaned out and sanitized. Many of the old records were duplicates or unneeded, and were destroyed.

Also in 1974, the town board voted to construct a new outdoor restroom which was built in 1976 at an approximate cost of \$2,700. The inside was painted again in 2014 after an incident of vandalism.

A fence was removed from around the town hall in 1976.

The Town of Winfield joined the Wisconsin Towns Association in 1976. This association consists of town and village governments to support local control of government and protect the interests of towns. The association provides legislative lobbying efforts, educational programs, and legal information. The town joined the Town Advocacy Council in 2019; a group that further provides legislative advocacy to support towns.

In 2006, a Comprehensive Plan was developed to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law. The plan addressed several areas to define and maintain the quality of life in the town. The plan has been updated throughout the years.

The outside of the town hall was painted in 1977, 1988, 1993, and again in 2012.

The inside of the town hall was painted again in 2016 for \$975.

A gutter was added to the east side of the building in 2016; gutters were installed on the other sides in 2017.

The town hall roof was replaced in 2009 at a cost of \$7,900. Three layers of old shingles were removed, the chimney removed, and most of the soffit and fascia were replaced.

A new furnace was purchased in 2009 for \$2,334 and again in 2022 for \$4,537. A portable air conditioner was purchased in 2022 for \$399.

Insulation was added to the town hall ceiling in 2010, along with putting in a new drop ceiling in the town hall entry. The project cost \$1,310.

Blinds were added to the town hall windows in 2012.



The faded wooden town hall sign was replaced in 2013 with a two sided aluminum sign for \$250.

New chairs were purchased for the town hall in 2013.

The original exit lights over the doors were replaced in 2024 at a cost of \$79.

A new flag pole was installed in 2015.

In 2014, the State of Wisconsin placed a dangerous person in a home on County Road WD. Several residents were concerned about the safety of the community. Several well-attended meetings were held to discuss this situation, as well as several news stories on Madison TV stations. The town paid over \$3,000 to explore the town's legal options in this matter. The person was legally placed in the home despite objections raised. Due to the dangerous person's actions, he was removed from the home in 2018.

In 2007, the Town of Winfield worked with the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department on a drinking water testing program; 25 wells were tested. The same program was offered again in 2014 when 36 wells were tested, and again in 2024 when 32 wells were tested.

In 2001, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors changed its supervisory districts. The Town of Winfield was changed from one supervisory zone to two. Ward 1 included County Supervisory District #3 for residents located east of County Road KK, south of County Road F, east and south of Farber Road, east of County Road V, and east of Hirst Road. Ward 2 included County Supervisory District #4 for residents located west of County Road KK, north of County Road F, west and north of Farber Road, west of County Road V, and west of Hirst Road.

In 2011, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors changed its supervisory districts again. The boundaries were changed to: Ward 1 included County Supervisory District #3 for residents located east of Hirst Road to County Road KK to County Road F to County Road K to the southern town line. Ward 2 included County Supervisory District #4 for residents located west of Hirst Road to County Road KK to County Road F to County Road K to the southern town line.

In 2021, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors changed its supervisory districts again, returning all the township to one ward.

The Meister Subdivision was started in 1980. Later in 1980, discussions were held on allowing no more subdivisions in the town. However, the Rolling Meadows Estates Subdivision was started in 1995, the Pelton Subdivision in 1998, Redstone Ranch Estates in 2006, and Lighthouse Rock Subdivision in 2008.

Papers ballots were used at elections until 1984 when a punch card voting system was purchased. We switched from the punch card voting system to electronic voting in 2000. Accessible voting equipment was used for the first time in 2006. Sauk County updated its election equipment in 2015. Voter registration was also started in 2006. The town switched from the caucus system of finding board members to using nomination papers in 1994. From the 1850s through the 1970s, the town paid seven election workers at each election; the town board reduced the number of workers at each election to three in the 1980s.

In 2015, a closet was built at the town hall to accommodate the new election equipment which could now be stored at the town hall instead of the clerk's home (\$529).

In 2017, Duane (Dewey) Mittelstaedt built a top to put on the old ballot box to use with our election equipment. In 2018, James Dennis Hanger built a “crowd control barrier” to put in front of the election table.

In 2020, the Wisconsin Elections Commission provided \$1,200 in grant money through the Elections Security Subgrant to upgrade election security. A new computer was purchased along with contracting with Sauk County for information technology services. This grant money was again awarded in 2022 to upgrade our computer system.

A copy machine was donated for use at the town hall in 2015; the town purchased its own copier in 2018.

WRDB radio station erected a radio tower around Old Town Hall Road in 1990.

The town’s mower was sold in 2016; all mowing will be done by the contracted vendor instead of the town owning the equipment.

In 2016, a company asked permission to install a communication tower off Ekes Drive to provide wireless voice and internet services. Due to strong opposition from area residents and an issue with public access, the permit was declined.

In 2020, a company asked permission to install a communication tower off County Road F which was approved with no opposition.

According to town board meeting minutes, the town board met in School District #3 into the early 1900s. The town board paid the school district for the use of its building. Into the early 1920s, the town board continued to meet in School District #3, at a bank in Reedsburg, and at the homes of town board members. The first town hall was built on the corner of Old Town Hall Road and County Road F; this building still stands today. In 1972, town board meetings were moved to the current Winfield Town Hall.

The following family names have been in the town since the 1800s until the present: Biesek, Churchill, Craker, Farber, Fish, Fuller, Greenwood, Hawkins, Horkan, Jackson, Leonard, Mittelstaedt, Pelton, Schyvinck, Strutz, Wachholtz, Wagner, and Ziech. It should be noted, we have not traced the family genealogy, but are just noting that these family names of our first settlers are still around in 2024.

The center of the town is close to St. Patrick’s Cemetery at the intersection of County Roads K and KK. There is a survey point in the ditch along the cemetery which marks the center of the town.



*Survey Point Marking Center of Town*

The boundaries of the town stayed the same until 2000 when a parcel along County Road K was annexed into the City of Reedsburg. From 2005 through 2009, more land was annexed along County Road K and Mittlesteadt Drive into the City of Reedsburg. In 2020, two parcels along County Road V were annexed into the City of Reedsburg.

The town purchased its first computer in 1998. A town newsletter has been published annually since 1994. A mandatory recycling program was started in 1992. The town's web site was started in 2009.

In 2018, the town board voted to contract for its own building inspection services rather than have the state appoint someone to do our inspections. The state requires all one and two family dwellings be inspected.

In 2024, the town board voted to require building inspections on additions to homes that change the square footage.

In the United States, there are cities and towns in several states with the name of Winfield, including: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. In 2021, the town board decided to honor our town board chairmen by creating a display of their pictures in the town hall. Pictures of past chairmen were sought from past chairmen themselves or their family members.

In 2021 and 2022, the town received over \$96,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act as part of the covid relief package. The money was used to give the election workers premium pay and for road maintenance.

The town applied for its first bank loan in 2023. The town's share of an addition to the ambulance building was over \$85,000. The town borrowed \$80,000 from Community First Bank at an interest rate of 3.9 percent. However, due to changes in the Reedsburg Area Ambulance Commission, the amount paid for the building was returned to the town.

Land surveys have been conducted in Wisconsin since the 1800s. A certified survey map (CSM) is usually done to divide a single parcel of land into multiple parcels. Once a certified surveyor has completed a survey, the CSM is presented to the town's Plan Commission and Town Board for approval. It is then recorded at the county level. In

2024, the town board established a fee of \$75 for the Plan Commission and Town Board to review and approve the CSM. The fee was to cover the cost of the Plan Commission members to review the CSM (5 commission members at \$15 per meeting).

In 2014, the Plan Commission and Town Board required a driveway permit be obtained for each new or updated driveway on a town road. Starting in 2024, to cover the cost of the Plan Commission and Town Board to review the permit, a fee of \$75 was charged.

In 2024, the State of Wisconsin required an inventory of all small bridges and culverts between 6 feet and 20 feet be completed. The town hired a private firm to complete the inventory; the cost fully funded by the state.

## **Coronavirus Pandemic – COVID-19**

A pandemic was declared in 2020. This infectious disease was caused by the coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in China in December 2019. The pandemic affected many countries globally. People were catching COVID-19 from others. The disease spread primarily from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, which are expelled when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Health officials urged people to wear masks, observe social distancing, and to wash hands frequently.

The pandemic generated much fear of the unknown for the April 2020 election. Election workers wore masks, gloves, and face shields. Polycarbonate barriers were built to keep a distance between workers and voters. (Barriers were built by Kurt Mead.) All voting surfaces were sanitized between each voter, each voter was given their own pen, a portable sink was rented for each voter to sanitize their hands before entering the polling place, voters were encouraged to wear masks, and social distancing (six feet apart) was enforced. In April 2020, due to a shortage of election workers, the National Guard members were assigned to work elections. Due to fear and the unknown, the number of voters voting by absentee ballot increased by over 90 percent!

Congress passed the federal stimulus package Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act. The town was able to recoup the extra expenses generated by COVID-19, such as the barrier walls, cleaning supplies, and the cost of the increased absentee ballots.





## **Jolly Beavers 4-H Club**

The Town of Winfield is home to the Jolly Beavers 4-H Club. They held their meetings in the town hall starting in 1944. The original club disbanded during World War II, but started again in 1949 due the efforts of Arlow Giles, Bertha Schyvinck, and Vinton Craker. The history of 4-H dates back to the Morrill Act of 1862 (also known as the Land Grant College Act) which established institutions in each state to educate people in agriculture, home economics, mechanical arts, and other professions that were practical at the time. Then the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 is a federal law that directed all 4-H clubs to become an official function of the US Department of Agriculture directed through the land grant college system. This system was set up to inform people about the current developments in agriculture and home. The four Hs stand for head, heart, hands, and health. The 4-H pledge is “I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.” The 4-H motto is “to make the best better.” Many residents of the town have been members of the Jolly Beavers as members, officers, leaders, and general leaders.

## **Homemaker Clubs**

Over the years, the town has had three homemaker clubs. The Winfield Progressives started in 1948 and disbanded in 201\_. The Lucky 69ers started in 1969 and disbanded in 1996. The Hay Creek Honeybees started in 1981 and disbanded in the early 1990s. The clubs were started to give women a chance to see their neighbors and friends, to give them a little time away from their small children, and to share lessons presented by the county extension office.

## **Lake Redstone**

Lake Redstone, a man-made lake, was started in 1964. The Lake Redstone Property Owners Association was started in 1969 to promote the health, welfare, and safety of the property owners. The Lake Redstone Protection District was formed to help fund needed improvements to the lake. Although the lake itself is in the Town of LaValle, some parcels of land in the Town of Winfield are included in the Lake Redstone area.

In 2008, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submitted a dam safety report to the Sauk County Land Conservation Department. This report required a dam failure analysis to be completed. In 2009, the Natural Resources Conservation Service submitted to the Sauk County Land Conservation Department the failure study completed on the Lake Redstone Dam.

In January 2010, the DNR approved a dam failure analysis. The analysis indicated that certain areas that were previously not subject to potential flooding during a 100 year storm event were now subject to flooding should the dam fail during such a storm event. Adopting the dam failure analysis would put in place certain land use controls. This would prevent additional homes being built in the hydraulic shadow (dam breach). Also, additions to homes and structures would be limited to 50 percent of the equalized assessed value. The analysis changed the floodway district boundaries. This area

includes eight existing homes; five of these homes were already in the floodplain, but the boundary change added three more homes. The homes are located in the Town of Winfield, Town of LaValle, and Town of Reedsburg.

In March 2011, the Natural Resource Conservation Service submitted a revised floodplain map. The dam was assigned a hazard rating of “high hazard” which means if the dam fails, it may cause loss of life and serious damage to homes or other structures regardless of the likelihood of failure. Wisconsin state statutes required that the new information be adopted into Sauk County’s Floodplain Zoning Ordinance.

In December 2011, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors rejected the amendment after strong opposition was expressed by town residents. However, the state then had the authority to adopt the ordinance if the county would not.

In March 2012, Sauk County approved a temporary moratorium on the development of land affected by the dam breach analysis.

### **Reedsburg Outdoor Club**

In 1969, the Reedsburg Outdoor Club moved their club grounds from the east side of Reedsburg to the Town of Winfield. The club purchased 28 acres of pasture, swamp, and woods along Luedtke Road. The Reedsburg Outdoor Club was formed to promote sound conservation practices and set a good example for others enjoying the outdoors. In the 1940s and 1950s, the club raised trout in a spring-fed pond next to a rock known as Lighthouse Rock (now the site of Lighthouse Rock Subdivision along County Road V). The trout were then planted in area streams. In the 1940s through the late 1960s, the club raised pheasants and released about a thousand pheasants each year into area fields. The original 20’ x 30’ club house was expanded in 1976 to a 40’ x 60’ club house. The outdoor club includes lighted trap fields, a field course, a hunting course, and indoor and outdoor archery. The club sponsors an archery and trap shoot event with individual and team competitions annually around the fourth of July. The club sponsors a couple annual smelt feeds to raise funds. The Reedsburg Outdoor Club sponsors hunter safety programs and a fishing clinic for kids. The club grounds have grown to 44 acres and the club has a current membership of around 300 members.

### **Dell Creek Watershed**

The Town of Winfield is part of the Dell Creek Watershed. The watershed is a drainage basin for rain and melting snow draining into a body of water. The purpose of the watershed project is to protect and enhance the surface and groundwater resources.

### **Rural Schools**

According to town records, in the 1850s, there were seven schools located in the Town of Winfield and four schools that were located in other towns, but jointly run with the Town of Winfield. Each school district had its own school board. These schools served students through the eighth grade. Area history books differ a little bit from town records about the school districts, but the following is what we have gathered.

District No. 1 – the Hay Creek School started in the home of Alexander Locke. A 16' x 16' framed building was built in 1852. In 1867, a 20' x 30' framed building was built along County Road K across the road from the current town hall. The new school cost \$850. After strong opposition, a new 28' x 40' school was built in 1917 for \$3,000; this land was given to the school district to use by Spencer C. Fish. This building remained a school until 1962 when the Hay Creek School integrated into the Reedsburg school system. The town board bought the building from the school district for \$400. Because the land was donated for school use only, the land was reverted back to the Fish family when the school closed. After the town board bought the school building, they approached descendants of the Fish family and the family agreed to quit claim deed the land to the town. The building is currently used as the town hall at the intersection of County Roads K and F. In 2017, a town social was held to celebrate the town hall building being 100 years old.



A reunion was held at the Hay Creek School in 1994 to reminisce about the days of the one room school. At the reunion, a special presentation was made to Elderene Halvensleben Hasz who started her teaching career at the Hay Creek School in 1952 after graduating from the Sauk County Normal School. In 1952, her first students included: Richard Bass, Hubert Churchill, Ray Cooper, Danny Dorow, Janice Dorow, Jim Dorow, Gary Fish, Lewis Fish, Mark Fish, Patsy Fish, Philip Fish, Robert Fish, Alice Mislevicsek, Jim Mislevicsek, John Mittlesteadt, Joice Mittlesteadt, Judy Mittlesteadt, Tom Mittlesteadt, Beverly Oleson, and John Oleson.



Front: Elderene Hasz

First Row: Gary Fish, Judy Bloss, Philip Fish, Richard Bass

Top Row: John Oleson, Tom Mittlesteadt, John Mittlesteadt, Joice Meyer, Janice Bass



Elderene Hasz reenacting her 1952 classroom.



District No. 2 – the Pleasant Knoll School was also organized in 1852 on County Road WD. A new building was built in 1875. District No. 8 joined this district in 1942. In 1948, this school district joined with the Town of Dellona and became joint District #3. The school closed in 1959.



District No. 3 – the Kelly School was organized in 1853 in the County Road KK area. A new building was put up in 1872; electricity was put in in 1942. It closed in 1959; the material was used to build a house.

District No. 4 – the Pleasant View School was started in 1856 along County Road V. This school was also called the Whitty School, Manion School, and Westerwald School. New buildings were erected in 1868 and 1916. This school became a joint school with the Town of LaValle in 1898. The school closed in 1962.

District No. 6 – the Sand Hill School was organized in 1866 on Hoff Road. It was also called the Horkan School and Bennett School. New buildings were put up in 1880 and 1922. This school closed in 1957. The school house was moved to the Lighthouse Rock Campground which is now the Lighthouse Rock Subdivision on County Road V and was used as a home. In 2012, the building was purchased by the Amish and moved to Tuckertown Road, Loganville.

District No. 7 was started in 1887 and may have been on Menchoff Road. Area history books mention this as a “ghost district,” but town records list it as a school district.

District No. 8 – the Curtain Lot School was started in 1861 along County Road K. New buildings were built in 1877 and 1909. This school district joined with District No. 2 in 1942. The school building is currently used as a home at S570 County Road K.

District No. 10 was a joint school with the Town of LaValle.

District No. 11 – the Glen Valley School was started in 1860 along County Road H. It was also known as the Pelton School. A new school was built in 1862. The school closed in 1955. This was a joint school with the Town of Dellona.

## **Churches and Monasteries**

The Town of Winfield has been home to a few churches and monasteries. St. Patrick’s Catholic Church formed in 1867 on land donated by Martin Conway. In 1885, the church became a mission church of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Reedsburg. In 1935, St. Patrick’s Catholic Church consolidated with All Saints Church in Dellona and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burials are still conducted at St. Patrick’s Cemetery at the intersection of County Roads K and KK. For a list of those buried at this cemetery, please visit [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net).

In the 1850s, the school in School District No. 2 was also used as a Congregational Mission church. In 1960, a Bible Baptist Church owned land in the town.

A Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witness was located at E6881 North Dewey Avenue from 1983 to 2006. This building is currently Swim Reedsburg which started in 2007.

The Korinji Foundation built a Buddhist monastery on Hirst Road in 2010.



## **Roads and Bridges**

According to town board meeting minutes, there are some interesting facts about the roads in the Town of Winfield. In the 1860s, the town was divided into 26 road districts. Each district had a “road overseer.” In 1900, the road districts were reorganized into 16 road districts. In 1914 and 1915, there were motions made and defeated to develop

permanent roads throughout the town. In 1943, the town board hired Sauk County to maintain its roads. In 1959, the town board approved the motion to start blacktopping some roads. In 1975, discussions started on having fire numbers and road signs; fire signs were put up throughout the town in 1976. Road name signs were put up in 1979. In 1982, a new fire and road sign system was implemented. In 1982, the town still had 12 miles of gravel roads. In 1983, the roads in the northern end of the town were black topped. Green Road was the last road in the town to be black topped in 2000.

Town board meeting minutes reveal some facts about the roads in our town such as:

- In 1937, a special election was held to vote on improving town roads and county highways by adding gravel and grading. The vote was approved.
- In 1942, Patrick and Harold Welch requested a town road be laid out.
- 1952, the board voted to build a road in Section 25.
- In 1956, Arlow Giles petitioned the board for relocation of a road in Section 34 which was granted.
- In 1958, William Daniels petitioned the board to close a portion of a road located in Section 17 which was granted.
- In 1959, the town board voted to start black topping town roads.
- Churchill Road was the first road to be black topped in 1959. Bass Road was the second road to be black topped.
- In 1960, the road was changed in Section 16 between Harry Horkan's and Robert Greenwood's.
- In 1963, the board spent \$7,000 to finish black topping Old Town Hall Road.
- In 1964, the board finished black topping Gavin Road.
- In 1967, Skinner Road was black topped along with part of Farber Road.
- In 1969, Oleson Road (currently Dore Road) was black topped.
- In 1973, O'Connor Road (currently North Dewey Avenue) and part of Giles Road were black topped.
- In 1982, Hoff Road was black topped.
- In April 2009 (after a year-long process of research), an encroachment in right of way ordinance was approved to address the issue of unsafe objects in the road right of way. Due to the strong opposition of town residents, the ordinance was repealed in September 2009.
- When Willow Creek Road was developed in the 1970s it was considered a private road. The courts legally declared Willow Creek Road a town road in 2018.

According to town board minutes, the Town of Winfield has had the following roads. We are not sure when some of these roads were first named or disbanded. As far as we can figure, most of the roads were named after people that lived on the road at the time. Road names printed in all capital letters are current roads in 2024.

Alb. Hirst Road	Krug Road (currently Pine Rock Road)
Albert Hawkins Road (currently Heidrich Road)	LAVALLE ROAD
BASS ROAD	LONGVIEW DRIVE (used to be Welch Road)
Bennett Road	LUEDTKE ROAD (used to be Marsh Road)
Bergeman Road	Macadam Road
BIESEK ROAD	Marsh Road (currently Luedtke Road)
Bill Daniels Road (closed in 1980)	MEADOWVIEW ROAD (accepted as road in 1978)
Birdsill Drive (became Glen Valley Dr. in 1990)	MENCHOFF ROAD
CAYUSE TRAIL (accepted as road in 2006)	Mittlesteadt Drive (black topped in 2001, annexed into City of Reedsburg in 2014)
CHADWICK ROAD	Montgomery Road
Charles Farber Road	NORTH DEWEY AVENUE (designated a Class "B" highway in 2014)
Charles Wacholtz Road	O'Connor Road (currently North Dewey Avenue)
CHURCHILL ROAD (designated a Class "B" highway in 2018)	OLD TOWN HALL ROAD
COUNTY ROAD F	Oleson Road (became Dore Road)
COUNTY RD H (formerly Reedsburg-Kilbouorn Road)	Pat Walsh Road (may have been Welch Road)
COUNTY ROAD K	Pelton Road
CO RD KK (formerly School Section Hill Road)	PINE ROCK ROAD (used to be Krug Road)
COUNTY ROAD V	Reedsburg-Kilbouorn Road (currently County Rd H)
COUNTY ROAD WD	Ridge Road
D&W ROAD	Road District No. 1
DORE ROAD (used to be Oleson Road)	School Section Hill Road (currently County Road KK)
DROVERS PASS (accepted as road in 2001)	SEAMANS ROAD
East Haycreek Road	SEEP ROAD (accepted as road in 1940)
EAST REDSTONE DRIVE	Seep's Road
EGGBRECHT ROAD (accepted as road in 1989)	SKINNER ROAD
EKES ROAD	Spark's Road (currently Katuin Road)
Ernest Halvensleben Road	STATE ROAD 33
FARBER ROAD	THEINHART ROAD
FRISKE DRIVE	Timberline Drive (currently Meadowview Road)
FULLER ROAD	Town Hall Road
GAVIN ROAD	Vickers Road
Geffert Hill Road	Wacholtz Road
GILES ROAD (designated Class "B" Highway in 2020)	WADLEIGH ROAD
GLEN VALLEY DRIVE	Walsh Road (may have been Welch Road)
GREEN ROAD (black topped in 2000)	WEGNER ROAD
Greenwood Road	Welch Road (currently Longview Drive)
H. E. Powell Road	West Church Road
Harrington Road	West Haycreek Road
Hawkins Rd. (became Heidrich Rd sometime after 1966)	Whitty Road
HEIDRICH ROAD (used to be Hawkins Road)	WIESE ROAD
HIRST ROAD (used to be Huebner Road)	WILLOW CREEK ROAD (declared a town road in 2018)
HOFF ROAD	WOEFL ROAD
HORKAN ROAD	Zieck Road
Huebner Road (currently Hirst Road)	
J. Hurley Road	
Joe Winkler Road	
KATUIN ROAD	
KEENAN COURT (accepted as road in 2005)	
KELLEY DRIVE	
Kelley Road	
KOSCH ROAD	

The following bridge names are mentioned in the town board meeting minutes: Dan's Bridge (1900), E. Powell Bridge (1905), Ed Kelly Bridge (1899), Fisher Bridge (1934), Fuller Bridge (1948), Gates Bridge (1938), Hirst Bridge (1932), Menchoff Bridge (1934), Mittlesteadt Bridge (1937), Rathman Bridge (1934), Spring Creek Bridge (1900), and Ziech Bridge (1925).

In 2024, our current bridge names are: Bass Road Bridge (built in 1930), Churchill Road Bridge (built in 1929 and rebuilt in 2005), and Skinner Road Bridge (built in 1924 and rebuilt in 2010).



*Skinner Road Bridge built in 1924*

### **All-Terrain Vehicle & Utility Terrain Vehicle Routes**

In 2011, the town approved some of its roads being used as all-terrain vehicle routes. The cost of putting up the signs and maintaining the routes is the responsibility of the Sauk Ridge Runners ATV Club. Roads included are: Biesek Road, Dore Road, Fuller Road, Gavin Road, Hirst Road, Longview Drive, Pine Rock Road, Seamans Road, Wadleigh Road, Wiese Road, and Woefl Road. In 2012, the ordinance was revised to include utility terrain vehicles. In 2013, these roads were also designated as ATV/UTV routes: Eggbrecht Road, Ekes Drive, Farber Road, Green Road, Heidrich Road, Hoff Road, Katuin Road, Kelley Drive, Kosch Road, LaValle Road, Luedtke Road, Menchoff Road, Old Townhall Road, Seep Road, and Wegner Road. In 2016, the following roads were added: Bass Road, Chadwick Road, Giles Road, Golf Course Road (from County Road H to the southern town line), Meadowview Road (from North Dewey Avenue to Chadwick Road), and North Dewey Avenue (from Giles Road to County Road H). In 2017, all town roads were designated as ATV/UTV routes.

### **The 400 State Trail**

The 400 State Trail goes through the southwest corner of the Town of Winfield. In June 1993, the 400 State Trail was opened. It was developed on an abandoned Chicago-Northwestern Railroad bed that ran between Chicago and the Twin Cities. The 400 State Trail was named for the Chicago - Northwestern passenger train that traveled the 400 miles between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul in 400 minutes.



## Population

Year	Population		Year	Population
1940	666		1990	649
1950	685		2000	696
1960	590		2010	857
1970	608		2018	865
1980	624		2024	895

## Town Board Officials



*April 6, 1973: Robert Horkan has been clerk of the Town of Winfield for 31 years. Last Friday evening, he swore in his son, Pat, as the new town clerk. Other officers of the Town of Winfield are from the left: Supervisor William Luedtke, Treasurer Charles Bass (seated), Supervisor Harold Hirst, and Chairman Dale Farber.*

According to the town board meeting minutes, the following people served as town board members. We are missing the minutes from 1852 through 1867, and 1902 through 1913. The first section is by position and in chronological order. The second list is an alphabetical list. The first women to serve on the town board were Teresa Bass as clerk in 1989, followed by Linda Schommer as supervisor in 1995, and Pauline Brown as supervisor in 1999.

### Chairmen

Gregory, Ezra, 1852  
 Greenwood, Robert Jr., 1868-1869  
 Rossiter, Nicholas, 1870  
 Hawkins, Albert Alan, 1874  
 Hawkins, Albert Jr., 1891  
 Cottington, Amos, 1871, 1875-1878, 1880-1885, 1887-1888, 1891, 1893  
 Conway, Martin, 1883  
 Daly, Patrick, 1886  
 Rossiter, M. S., 1887, 1892, 1896  
 Fish, E. W., 1889-1890  
 Kelley, William, 1889  
 Joyce, Martin, 1894-1895  
 Wadleigh, John E., 1894, 1897-1899, 1901-1902  
 Skinner, Samuel, 1866, 1899-1901  
 Horkan, Peter J., 1914-1935  
 Healy, F. F., 1929-1930  
 Churchill, Clinton, 1935-1953  
 Pelton, Nye H., 1953-1967  
 Fish, Milton, 1967-1969

Greenwood, Virgil, 1969-1972  
Churchill, Ronald, 1972–1973, 2011-2020  
Farber, Dale, 1973–1975  
Luedtke, William, 1975–1981  
Craker, Philip E., 1981-1991, 1999-2007  
Hirst, Harold, 1991  
Pelton, Keith R., 1991-1999  
Rasmussen, Paul G., 2007-2011  
Mead, Kurt, 2020-present

### *Supervisors*

Raymond, William H., 1868  
Welch, Samuel, 1869  
Gregory, John B., 1869  
Fish, L. N., 1870  
O'Connor, Martin, 1870  
Kleeber, Augustus, 1871  
Montgomery, L. B., 1871  
Houghton, S., 1872  
Fish, Silas, 1872  
O'Connor, Owen, 1872  
Byrne, Patrick, 1873-1874  
Sainsbury, James, 1873, 1881, 1883  
McCray, John, 1874, 1885, 1894, 1897  
Hemingway, Edward, 1875-1876  
Fish, E. W., 1875-1876, 1878-1879, 1886-1887, 1899-1902  
Wright, William, 1877  
Mittelsteadt, F?, 1877  
Ray, A. J., 1879  
Brooks, T., 1880  
Hawkins, Albert, 1880-1881, 1883  
Cottingham, A., 1882  
Swetland, W. T., 1883  
Greenwood, Miles, 1884, 1886-1887  
Lawson, George J., 1884  
Mcintosh, L., 1885  
Zieck, Fred, 1887-1888, 1893, 1898-1902  
Kelley, J., 1888  
Elsesser, Charles, 1889-1890, 1892  
Conway, John, 1889-1890, 1892, 1894, 1896  
Kutz, Charles, 1891, 1894  
O'Brien, John, 1891  
Krug, William, 1893-1894, 1899  
Dorow, Herman, 1895-1896, 1899-1900  
Hart, Michael, 1895  
Healy, Patrick "Patsy" F., 1898-1899, 1918, 1920, 1922-1930  
Skinner, W. H., 1916  
Fisher, Frank J., 1917, 1921, 1927, 1931  
Powell, Ed W., 1918  
Radloff, Charles, 1922-1924  
Greenwood, Joseph H., 1925-1926

Montgomery, John, 1921  
Lyckberg, Charles, 1921  
Wagner, William, 1931-1933  
Greenwood, Robert J., 1932, 1936-1943  
Harvey, Leon, 1933-1953  
Schroeder, Henry, 1933-1936  
Pelton, Nye H., 1943-1951  
Harvey, Marvin, 1953-1961  
Dorow, Walter, 1953-1958  
Craker, Philip E., 1959-1961, 1991-1999  
Greenwood, Dean, 1961-1964  
Fish, Milton, 1963-1966, 1969  
Greenwood, Virgil, 1965-1967  
Churchill, Ronald, 1969-1972  
Farber, Dale, 1969-1979, 1981-1983  
Hirst, Harold, 1971-1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985-1991  
Luedtke, William, 1971, 1973-1974  
Craker, Marlan, 1977-1978  
Ziech, Harvin, 1985-1991  
Pelton, Keith R., 1991  
Farber, Walter, 1991-1993  
Schommer, Linda, 1995-2011  
Brown, Pauline J., 1999-2011  
Mead, Kurt, 2011-2020  
Dorow, Jason, 2011-2021  
Moll, Gerald, 2020-present  
Jeremy Schyvinck, 2021-present

### Clerks

Pelton, Hiram, 1852  
Darrow, Nathaniel, 1868-1877  
Sweeney, Michael, 1877-1882  
Lawton, A. F., 1883  
Daly, Patrick, 1883-1885, 1890, 1892-1894  
Kleeber, Leonard, 1886-1889  
Kelley, William, 1889  
Daly, Francis, 1890-1891  
Pelton, S. A., 1894, 1896, 1898-1900  
Gahagan, John, 1894-1897  
Welch, James T., 1900-1902  
Farber, Emil C., 1903  
Greenwood, Ben H., 1915-1917  
Pelton, Nye H., 1917-1920  
Fish, Spencer C., 1920-1930, 1935-1942  
Churchill, Clinton, 1930-1935  
Cottingham, Arlan A., 1942-1943  
Horkan, Robert P., 1943-1973  
Horkan, Patrick, 1973-1980  
Whitty, Michael, 1980-1989  
Bass, Teresa M., 1989–current

### **Treasurers**

Darrow, Henry A. Jr., 1868  
Fuller, A. C., 1881-1882, 1884  
Greenwood, Robert, 1883  
Kelley, L., 1886-1892  
Stillick, Gordon, 1893-1894  
Hirst, Robert, 1895-1897  
Houghton, Frank T., 1898-1901  
Greenwood, Robert J., 1916  
Skinner, N. H., 1917  
Montgomery, John, 1918  
Greenwood, J. H., 1919  
Hirst, James, 1920-1921  
Greenwood, George, 1921-1922  
Kelley, Joseph, 1923-1930  
Bennett, David, 1931-1933  
O'Connor, Roland E., 1934-1939, 1941-1955  
Kelley, Clinton, 1940  
Bass, Charles G., 1955-2001  
Craker, Robin E., 2001-current

### **Assessors**

Montgomery, L. B., 1868  
Kelley, E. R., 1869, 1881  
Whitty, Patrick, 1870, 1872-1873  
Stillick, Nathaniel, 1871, 1875-1877, 1884  
Greenwood, K., 1879  
Greenwood, Robert Jr., 1879-1882, 1885, 1896  
Hirst, Robert, 1883  
Kelley, L., 1885, 1895, 1900-1901  
Hart, Michael, 1886, 1892  
Hawkins, Albert, 1887-1890, 1893  
Rossiter, M. S., 1890  
Kelley, S. M., 1894  
Bennett, David J., 1916-1917  
Kelley, James H., 1918-1920, 1922-1927  
Johnson, Frank, 1921  
Montgomery, John, 1928-1938  
Stando, Albert, 1939-1941, 1945-1951  
Craker, Vinton, 1942  
Fuller, J. D., 1943-1944  
Biesek, Francis, 1951-1954  
Horkan, Thomas P., 1955-1956  
Fish, Milton, 1956-1960  
Wolff, Frank, 1961-1962  
Halvensleben, Ernest, 1963-1973  
Halvensleben, Robert, 1973-1975  
Kuhs, Jack, 1975-1978  
Craker, Robin E., 1978-1993  
Ballweg, June, 1994-2007  
Holloway Appraisal Services, 2008-current

**Alphabetical List of Town Board Members:**

Ballweg, June, Assessor 1994-2007  
Bass, Charles G., Treasurer 1955-2001 (father-in-law of Teresa Bass)  
Bass, Teresa M., Clerk 1989–current (daughter-in-law of Charles G. Bass) (sister of Pauline J. Brown)  
Bennett, David J., Assessor 1916-1917  
Bennett, David, Treasurer 1931-1933  
Biesek, Francis, Assessor 1951-1954  
Brooks, T., Supervisor 1880  
Brown, Pauline J., Supervisor 1999-2011 (sister of Teresa M. Bass)  
Byrne, Patrick, Supervisor 1873-1874  
Churchill, Clinton, Chairman, 1935-1953 (father of Ronald Churchill)  
Churchill, Clinton, Clerk 1930-1935 (father of Ronald Churchill)  
Churchill, Ronald, Chairman 1972–1973, 2011-2020 (son of Clinton Churchill)  
Churchill, Ronald, Supervisor 1969-1972 (son of Clinton Churchill)  
Conway, John, Supervisor 1889-1890, 1892, 1894, 1896  
Conway, Martin, Chairman 1883  
Cottingham, A., Supervisor 1882  
Cottington, Amos, Chairman 1871, 1875-1878, 1880-1885, 1887-1888, 1891, 1893  
Cottington, Arlan A., Clerk 1942-1943  
Craker, Marlan, Supervisor 1977-1978 (son of Vinton Craker)  
Craker, Philip E., Chairman 1981-1991, 1999-2003 (father of Robin E. Craker)  
Craker, Philip E., Supervisor 1959-1961, 1991-1999 (father of Robin E. Craker)  
Craker, Robin E., Treasurer 2001-current (son of Philip E. Craker)  
Craker, Robin E., Assessor 1978-1993 (son of Philip E. Craker)  
Craker, Vinton, Assessor 1942 (father of Marlan Craker)  
Daly, Francis, Clerk 1890-1891  
Daly, Patrick, Chairman 1886  
Daly, Patrick, Clerk 1883-1885, 1890, 1892-1894  
Darrow, Henry A. Jr., Treasurer, 1868  
Darrow, Nathaniel, Clerk 1868-1877 (son of Henry A. Darrow Jr.)  
Dorow, Herman, Supervisor 1895-1896, 1899-1900  
Dorow, Jason, Supervisor 2011-2021  
Dorow, Walter, Supervisor 1953-1958  
Elsesser, Charles, Supervisor 1889-1890, 1892  
Farber, Dale, Chairman 1973–1975  
Farber, Dale, Supervisor 1969-1979, 1981-1983  
Farber, Emil C., Clerk, 1903  
Farber, Walter, Supervisor, 1991-1993  
Fish, E. W., Chairman 1889-1890  
Fish, E. W., Supervisor 1875-1876, 1878-1879, 1886-1887, 1899-1902  
Fish, L. N., Supervisor 1870  
Fish, Milton, Assessor 1956-1960  
Fish, Milton, Chairman 1967- 1969  
Fish, Milton, Supervisor 1963-1966, 1969  
Fish, Silas, Supervisor 1872 (father of Spencer Fish)  
Fish, Spencer C., Clerk 1920-1930, 1935-1942 (son of Silas Fish)  
Fisher, Frank J., Supervisor 1917, 1921, 1927, 1931  
Fuller, A. C., Treasurer, 1881-1882, 1884  
Fuller, J. D., Assessor 1943-1944  
Gahagan, John, Clerk 1894-1897  
Greenwood, Ben H., Clerk 1915-1917

Greenwood, Dean, Supervisor 1961-1964  
 Greenwood, George, Treasurer 1921-1922  
 Greenwood, J. H., Treasurer 1919  
 Greenwood, Joseph H., Supervisor 1925-1926  
 Greenwood, K., Assessor 1879  
 Greenwood, Miles, Supervisor 1884, 1886-1887  
 Greenwood, Robert J., Supervisor 1932, 1936-1943  
 Greenwood, Robert J., Treasurer 1916  
 Greenwood, Robert Jr., Assessor 1879-1882, 1885, 1896  
 Greenwood, Robert Jr., Chairman 1868-1869  
 Greenwood, Robert, Treasurer, 1883  
 Greenwood, Virgil, Chairman 1969-1972  
 Greenwood, Virgil, Supervisor 1965-1967  
 Gregory, Ezra, Chairman 1852  
 Gregory, John B., Supervisor 1869  
 Halvensleben, Ernest, Assessor 1963-1973  
 Halvensleben, Robert, Assessor 1973-1975  
 Hart, Michael, Assessor 1886, 1892  
 Hart, Michael, Supervisor 1895  
 Harvey, Leon, Supervisor 1933-1953  
 Harvey, Marvin, Supervisor 1953-1961  
 Hawkins, Albert, Assessor 1887-1890, 1893  
 Hawkins, Albert Alan, Chairman 1874 (father of Albert Hawkins Jr.)  
 Hawkins, Albert, Supervisor 1880-1881, 1883  
 Hawkins, Albert Jr., Chairman 1891 (son of Albert Alan Hawkins)  
 Healy, F. F., Chairman 1929-1930  
 Healy, Patrick "Patsy" F., Supervisor 1898-1899, 1918, 1920, 1922-1930  
 Hemingway, Edward, Supervisor 1875-1876  
 Hirst, Harold, Chairman 1991  
 Hirst, Harold, Supervisor 1971-1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985-1991  
 Hirst, James, Treasurer 1920-1921  
 Hirst, Robert, Assessor 1883  
 Hirst, Robert, Treasurer 1895-1897  
 Horkan, Patrick, Clerk 1973-1980 (son of Robert P. Horkan)  
 Horkan, Peter J., Chairman 1914-1935  
 Horkan, Robert P., Clerk 1943-1973 (father of Patrick Horkan)  
 Horkan, Thomas P., Assessor 1955-1956  
 Houghton, Frank T., Treasurer 1898-1901 (son of Solomon Houghton)  
 Houghton, Solomon, Supervisor 1872 (father of Frank T. Houghton)  
 Johnson, Frank, Assessor 1921  
 Joyce, Martin, Chairman 1894-1895  
 Kelley, Clinton, Treasurer 1940  
 Kelley, E. R., Assessor 1869, 1881  
 Kelley, James H., Assessor 1918-1920, 1922-1927  
 Kelley, Joseph, Treasurer 1923-1930  
 Kelley, L., Assessor 1885, 1895, 1900-1901  
 Kelley, L., Treasurer, 1886-1892  
 Kelley, S. M., Assessor 1894  
 Kelley, William, Chairman 1889  
 Kelley, William, Clerk 1889  
 Kelley, J. Supervisor 1888

Kleeber, Augustus, Supervisor 1871  
 Kleeber, Leonard, Clerk 1886-1889  
 Krug, William, Supervisor 1893-1894, 1899  
 Kuhs, Jack, Assessor 1975-1978  
 Kutz, Charles, Supervisor 1891, 1894  
 Lawson, George J., Supervisor 1884  
 Lawton, A. F., Clerk 1883  
 Luedtke, William, Chairman 1975–1981  
 Luedtke, William, Supervisor 1971, 1973-1974  
 Lyckberg, Charles, Supervisor 1921  
 McCray, John, Supervisor 1874, 1885, 1894, 1897  
 Mcintosh, L., Supervisor 1885  
 Mead, Kurt, Supervisor 2011-2020  
 Mead, Kurt, Chairman 2020-current  
 Mittelsteadt, F.?, Supervisor 1877  
 Moll, Gerald, Supervisor 2020-current  
 Montgomery, John, Assessor 1928-1938  
 Montgomery, John, Supervisor 1921  
 Montgomery, John, Treasurer 1918  
 Montgomery, L. B., Assessor 1868  
 Montgomery, L. B., Supervisor 1871  
 O'Brien, John, Supervisor 1891  
 O'Connor, Martin, Supervisor 1870  
 O'Connor, Owen, Supervisor 1872  
 O'Connor, Roland E., Treasurer 1934-1939, 1941-1955  
 Pelton, Hiram, Clerk 1852  
 Pelton, Keith R., Chairman 1991-1999 (son of Nye H. Pelton)  
 Pelton, Keith R., Supervisor 1991 (son of Nye H. Pelton)  
 Pelton, Nye H., Chairman 1953-1967 (father of Keith R. Pelton)  
 Pelton, Nye H., Clerk 1917-1920 (father of Keith R. Pelton)  
 Pelton, Nye H., Supervisor 1943-1951 (father of Keith R. Pelton)  
 Pelton, S. A., Clerk 1894, 1896, 1898-1900  
 Powell, Ed W., Supervisor 1918  
 Radloff, Charles, Supervisor 1922-1924  
 Rasmussen, Paul G., Chairman 2007-2011  
 Ray, A. J., Supervisor 1879  
 Raymond, William H., Supervisor 1868  
 Rossiter, M. S., Assessor 1890  
 Rossiter, M. S., Chairman 1887, 1892, 1896  
 Rossiter, Nicholas, Chairman 1870  
 Sainsbury, James, Supervisor 1873, 1881, 1883  
 Schommer, Linda, Supervisor 1995-2011  
 Schroeder, Henry, Supervisor 1933-1936  
 Schyvinck, Jeremy, Supervisor 2021-present  
 Skinner, N. H., Treasurer, 1917  
 Skinner, S., Chairman 1866, 1899-1901  
 Skinner, W. H., Supervisor 1916  
 Stando, Albert, Assessor 1939-1941, 1945-1951  
 Stillick, Gordon, Treasurer, 1893-1894  
 Stillick, Nathaniel, Assessor 1871, 1875-1877, 1884  
 Sweeney, Michael, Clerk 1877-1882

Swetland, William T., Supervisor 1883  
 Wadleigh, John E., Chairman 1894, 1897-1899, 1901-1902  
 Wagner, William, Supervisor 1931-1933  
 Welch, James T., Clerk 1900-1902  
 Welch, Samuel, Supervisor 1869  
 Whitty, Michael, Clerk, 1980-1989  
 Whitty, Patrick, Assessor 1870, 1872-1873  
 Wolff, Frank, Assessor 1961-1962  
 Wright, William, Supervisor 1877  
 Ziech, Harvin, Supervisor 1985-1991  
 Zieck, Fred, Supervisor 1887-1888, 1893, 1898-1902

The residents who spent the longest time in each position were:

Chairman: Peter J. Horkan, 22 years	Treasurer: Charles G. Bass, 48 years
Supervisor: Philip E. Craker, 18 years	Assessor: Robin E. Craker, 18 years
Clerk: Teresa M. Bass, 35 years	

### Century and Sesquicentennial Farms

The Town of Winfield is home to 11 century farms. The Century Farms and Home Program is an honorary awards program started in 1948 in conjunction with the state's centennial celebration. To qualify for the award, the property must be in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years. Some of these farms are no longer owned by the same family, but they were at one time.

Family	Location	Year Settled	Year Awarded
Melvin & Jean (Giles) Albers	S2204 County Road K	1848	1989
James Pelton	Sections 35 & 36	1851	1970
Janet (Fish) Hutchinson Schuster	Sections 4, 13, & 24	1855	1998
Robert Cassity	Sections 12, 13, & 24	1856	1962
David & Marilyn Hawkins	S1569 Heidrich Road	1859	1971
Philip & Gloria Craker	Section 14	1876	2002
Dale Farber	Section 17	1882	1986
Martin & Gwen Biesek	E6408 Biesek Road	1903	2003
Ervin Wagner	S360 Hirst Road	1906	2009
Kevin & Sandra Churchill	E6266 Churchill Road	1906	2012
Larry & Nancy Schyvinck	S1253 County Road K	1917	2017



The Sesquicentennial Program (property in continuous family ownership for at least 150 years) similarly originated in 1998 as part of the state’s sesquicentennial celebration. The town has the following honorees:

Family	Location	Year Settled	Year Awarded
Janet (Fish) Hutchinson Schuster	Sections 4, 13, & 24	1855	2006
Loretta (Hawkins) & Tom Roetz	S1569 Heidrich Road	1859	2009
Mark & Shaun Pelton			2009

### Services and Utilities

For many years, the closest post office was in Baraboo and mail was delivered between Baraboo and Reedsburg once a week usually by foot. By 1854, the stage coach delivered mail between Reedsburg and Baraboo three times a week. In 1857, the railroad came as far as Wisconsin Dells, where the mail then came by stage coach to Reedsburg six times a week. In 1871, the railroad was extended to Baraboo and mail again came from Baraboo via stage. In 1872, the railroad came to Reedsburg bringing the mail directly to Reedsburg. The rural delivery of mail to the Town of Winfield began in 1900. The town is currently served by post offices in Reedsburg, LaValle, and Lyndon Station.

We know the telephone was invented in 1876. It is reported that the first phone to be installed in the town was in 1899. The Town of Winfield made payments to Reedsburg Telephone Company in the 1930s, but we are not sure for what purpose. We do know that this company was purchased by a Reedsburg resident in 1898. In the 1940s, the town made payments to a company called Commonwealth Telephone Company. To this date, there is no phone service at the town hall. Town residents recall that our town had phone service before we had electricity.

In 2007, the American Transmission Company installed fiber optic lines for internet, telephone, and video service along Meadowview Road and Chadwick Road. In 2009, the LaValle Telephone Company installed fiber optic lines along roads in the northwestern part of the town.

In 2010, the Reedsburg Utility Commission was awarded a grant to extend fiber optic service throughout the town. The Broadband Initiative Program Grant is a federal program to expand broadband service to rural areas. Services include high speed Internet, telephone, and cable TV. In 2024, most parts of the town have fiber optic service.

In 2011, the Reedsburg Utility Commission obtained a 15’x15’ utility easement to install a fiber optics cabinet on the corner of the town hall property.

In 2010, the American Transmission Company proposed to build an electrical transmission line from the LaCrosse area to the Dane County area; the line through the Town of Winfield was not pursued.

In 2013, Alliant Energy presented plans to install a natural gas line along North Dewey Avenue, Meadowview Road, Chadwick Road, and County Road H. Later that year, Wisconsin Power and Light Company was granted permission to provide natural gas service.

In 1935, the federal government established the Rural Electrification Administration to bring electricity to rural America. We know that the Oakdale Electric Cooperative was incorporated in 1937 to provide affordable electricity. According to Oakdale Electric Cooperative's history, area residents petitioned, educated, and organized residents in order to bring electricity to rural areas. Interested residents secured signatures of those wanting electricity and obtained pledges of land for power lines to be located. Their history also indicates that area residents helped clear the right of ways and put up the power lines. Records indicate the first residence to have an electric lighting system was installed in 1913. In 1941, the majority of town residents were receiving power from Oakdale Electric Cooperative. The town also made payments to Dairyland Power Cooperative starting in 1955.

### **And From This Day Forward...**

We hope you have enjoyed this history of the Town of Winfield. It was a very interesting project to work on. Many thanks are extended to the residents who shared information for this project. If you have other items you would like to include, please contact any member of the town board.

### **References**

- Good Old Golden Rule Days, A History of Sauk County Wisconsin Country Schools. 1994.
- History of Reedsburg and the Upper Baraboo Valley. Krug, Merton Edwin. February 1929.
- Reedsburg Remembers 150 Years. 1997.
- The History of Churches – Sauk County, Wisconsin Featuring “Ghost Churches.” Bittner, Bernadette Durben. 1977.
- A Brief Look at the Reedsburg Outdoor Club by Bill Friede written in 1980, and submitted by Don Lampke.
- Town of Winfield Board Meeting Minutes.
- Information provided by: Marlan Craker, Ronald Churchill, Philip E. Craker, Keith R. Pelton, John Horkan, Marilyn Hawkins, Loretta (Hawkins) Roetz, Alice Roloff, Mary Jean Biesek Symak, Judy Gurgel, and Karyn Driessen (niece of Merton Krug).
- Photos provided by Bill Bass.
- Kelly School photo provided by Don Schrank.

- Drawing of the town hall on the front page was done by Lucy Schonfeld.
- Pictures of the 1994 reunion at Hay Creek School provided by Joice Mittlesteadt Meyer.

Teresa Bass

Clerk

2010

Updated December 2024