

SELHS NEWS

The newsletter of the Sterling Eureka and Laketown Historical Society

Volume 7, No. 4

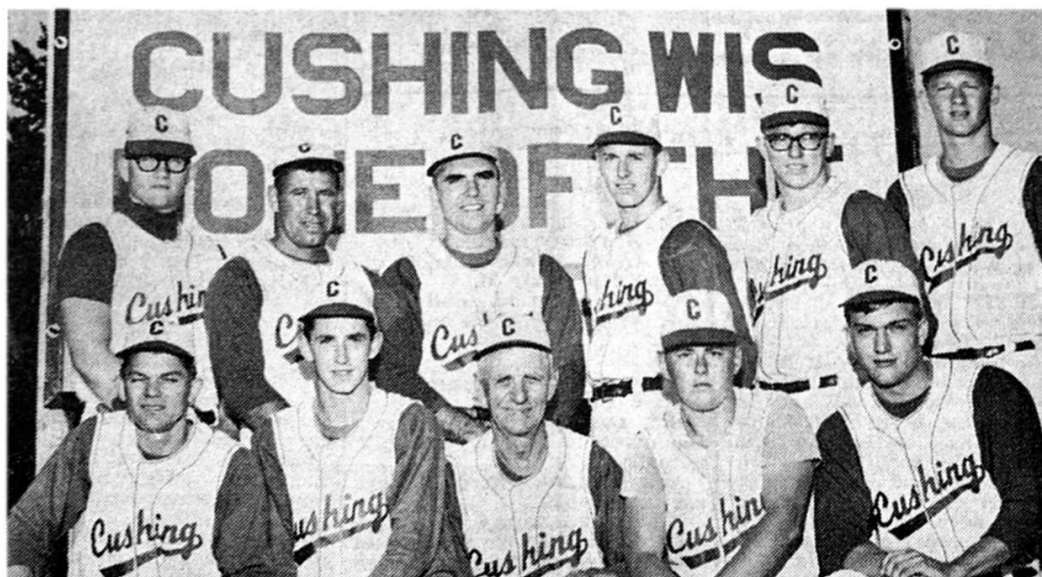
July, August 2007

****History of Cushing Slide Show 10am & 2pm Saturday Aug 18 – Fun Days Open House at Community Center 9 AM – 6 PM Visit the SELHS Memory Room East Entrance (upstairs) ****

Cushing Tigers Reunion: Sat Sept 1, Cushing Community Center 2:00pm



1970-Front Brian Ogilvie, Jon Lindahl, Buzz Carlson, Marlin Olson, Steve Jensen Back: Gary Burnstad, Larry Berg, Dave Olson, Dennis Olson, Greg Lunsman, Stan Peer



The 1965 Cushing Tigers, Northwest Champions, are: back row, left to right, Terry Lundgren, Al Peer, Jim Engelhardt, Roger Hoiby, Dave Berg and Dave Olson. Front row: Buzz Carlson, Bob Carey, Manager Vern Schill, Randy Hall and Terry Berg. Not present when the picture was taken were Stan Peer, Jr. Hoiby, John Schlintz and Larry Dombrock.

Cushing Fun Days Aug 18th History of Cushing – Back entrance to the Community Center
Cushing Memory Room: SELHS is using an upstairs classroom in the Community Center for a Memory Room. We are collecting old pictures, documents and items from the local area to preserve for the future. **Stop in on Saturday, Aug 18th to visit. There will be two History of Cushing Slide Shows presented by Russ Hanson, 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.**

The River Road Hwy 87 Ramble is scheduled for Saturday Septebmer 22. We invite the people to take a tour of the River Road and Hwy 87 loop from St Croix Falls to the County line and back. Last year, our first try, we had hundreds of people take the tour. Local businesses, churches, and people are invited to schedule their open house, garage sale, farmers market, art/craft show, historical open house etc to make it a fun event for the tourists and visitors. To be put on the tour map and list you should call 715-488-2776 (\$5.00 cost).

Danes Come to Cushing Area --Russ Hanson

There were two settlements of Danish immigrants to the Cushing area. One group settled on the east side of what became Cushing; the other in North Valley. There are differing accounts of each.

In trying to reconcile the two accounts we need to know that Nels Gullickson, a Norwegian, was already living on what became the SW side of Cushing main street, and another Norwegian family, Ola Brune (he was also called Brown or Brunelund) about 2 miles south of Cushing.

In the River Road Ramblings Inter-County Leader article by Carol Brenholt Medchill a few weeks ago where the history of Cushing Danish settlement is told, the following statement is made: *A group of Danes arrived in New York May 1, 1870. From there they traveled by train to Madison, Wisconsin. They went to a land office in Madison and bought land located near the present site of Cushing. After purchasing cows, horses, and oxen they started in immigrant wagons on the long hard trip to their new home. The roads from Madison to St Croix Falls were very poor. North of St Croix Falls there was nothing but a trail to follow and that ended within two miles of Cushing. Here the Danish settlers found a kind Norwegian family by the name of Brune who offered them shelter until the men should have made their way through the heavy timbers to their farms and built shacks for their families.*

I found another account in the Standard Press written by Walter Dahl as part 2 of a history of Eureka Township in about 1970. Walter lived

near Wolf Creek and collected local history. His story goes:

In the spring of 1869, the Nels Gullickson family arrived in Eureka, settling on the farm now owned by LaVern Larson (this seems to be the wrong family, as Nels Gullickson settled on the west side of what became mainstreet in Cushing. I think it was the same Brune Family mentioned in the Brenholt story). Later in the early fall, three families, the Johannes Gudmunson's, Ole Larson's and Tosten Johnson's came in a group, fourteen of them. For the first few weeks they lived with the Gullickson's (probably the Brunnes) until a cabin could be built for them on the place owned now by Joe Smith. Here they all lived the first winter until log homes were made for the Larson's and Johnson's in the land in Section 10 bought from the government for \$1.25 per acre. You may remember Gust Gudmunson who lived at the corner of County Trunk G and 87 where his son Clifford now lives. He was only 8 months when he came there with his parents. The Johnson's had four small boys, John, Gust, Anton, and Carl.

Walter collected stories from previously written articles or histories as well as interviewing people. It is likely that some settlers stayed with Gullickson and some with Brune.

The 1870 census shows some in Cushing, some in North Valley and the Frederickson family(who settled near Cushing) staying in the home of an A. Brown (Brune) in June of 1870.

The River Road Ramble

Start at St Croix Falls then loop north up the River Road on River Rd (4 miles beyond the top of this map to the Grettum flowage then east to highway 87 and south again down Hwy 87. Maps and info at Wolf Creek Church and St Croix Falls Wild River Headquarters and Garage Sale

The River Road followed old Indian Trails. It was in use in as a "tote road" to the white pine logging areas by the 1840s. It is the oldest road in our area.

- V. Sherwood Forest Garage sale
- U. Clippity Cuts Hair Salon
- T. Birds and Brambles Ceramics
- S. Two Rivers Tree Farm

R. Rogers Stopping Place 1854 – 1914
Sterling First Meeting 1855

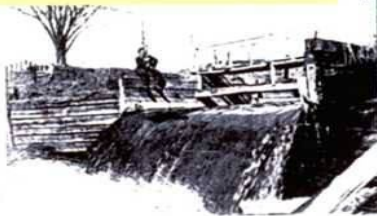
- R. Garage Sale
- Q. Sand Country Party Supplies
- Q. Hanson Garage Sale
- P. Horse and Buggy days and sale

- P. Ives Cemetery
- P. Ives Stopping Place (1855)

- O. Wolf Creek Church (old School)
- O. Wolf Creek Cemetery (1859)
- N. Site of 1890 Church

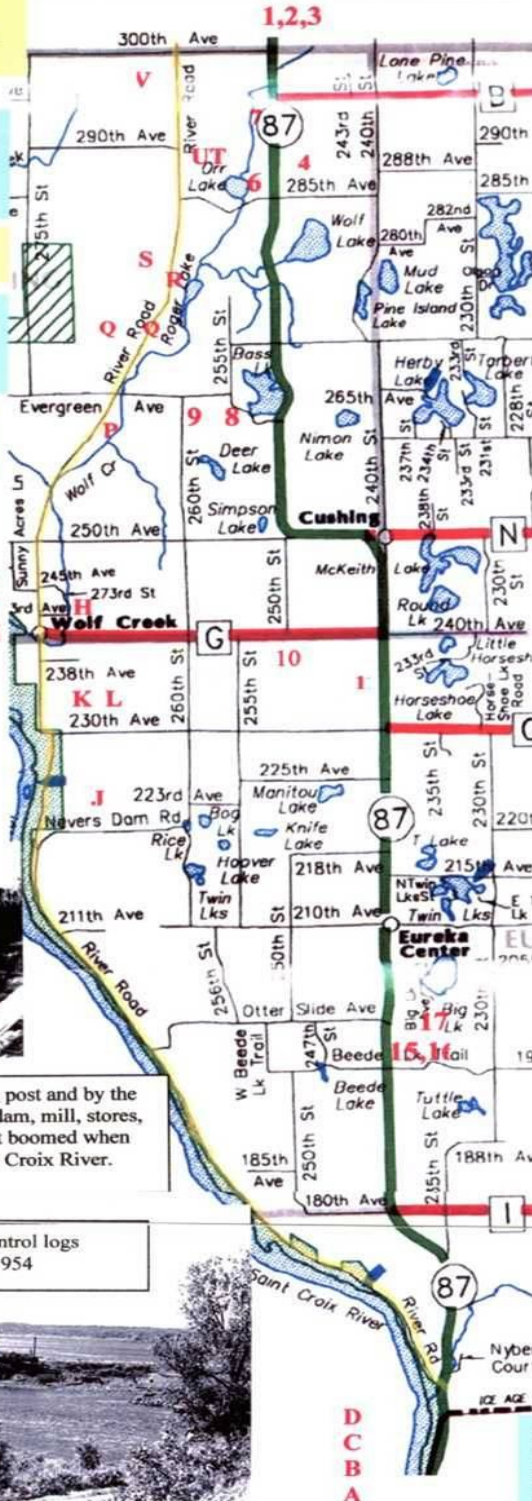
- H. Home and Garden Party Plan
- M. Wolf Creek Bar
- L. Riverside Auto Open House 10-3
- K. The cabins overlooked Nevers flowage

- J. Nevers Dam Site—Logging Dam



Wolf Creek started in 1832 as a trading post and by the 1890's was a small community with a dam, mill, stores, school, church, doctor and cemetery. It boomed when Nevers Dam was built nearby on the St Croix River.

Nevers Dam was built to control logs floating down river. 1889-1954



- 1 Hwy 48 Grettum
- 2. Trade River School
- 3 Trade River church and cemetery
- Trade River
- 4. Kapp Art Studio

- 6. Orr School
- 7. Bass Lake School

- 8. Evergreen Avenue
- 9. Hanson's Orchard U-Pick

Cushing:1890
C Sky Studio and Gallery
Verns Market, Jack's Tap, US Bank, Louie's Auto, Jensen's Auto, Jensen's Hardware, Coop Feeds, Sportsman's Bar, Kevin's Heating, Stop-a-Sec Gas, Community Center, Post Office, Dummies Auto, Ball Park, Lutheran Church and more!

- 10. Penny Lane—collectibles, crafts, thrift, eclectic Shop
- 11. Lilly's Place open house

Eureka Center
Eureka Townhall (8-5 open)
Eureka Baptist Church 125 years
KJ's Restaurant and Tavern

- 15 Pleasant Hill Cemetery
- 16 Harper Methodist Church (now a house)

- 17. Chateau Winery and Vineyard

- D. 3 miles north of St Croix Falls turn left on River Road for the Ramble!
- C. Lions Club Park and Indian Battle marker
- B. Ice Age trail across WI

- A. St Croix Falls
Stop at the new St Croix Wild River Headquarters for map and info on the River Road Ramble

Last Year's River Road Ramble Map. We are working on this years right now! Plan Your Event!

1905 Tigers
The team started by 1903 as best
we can tell.



MOST ENTHUSIASTIC fan in the stands was Wallace Thompson ("Of course I'm from Cushing! Is there anyplace else?"). With him during a semifinal game against Milltown was Mrs. Thompson, who is an employee at the Cushing cooperative and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Blair of Cushing.

—Midland photos by Tom Young

Fall of 1964



*Front row Chester Claesson, Frank Burgess, Don Hill
 Richard Hacker, Roger Sorstrom, Glenn Luckin
 Elmer Berg.
 Back Clayton Jensen, Bob Beattie, Hugo Lair,
 Elmo Wilson, Harlan Nelson, Norman Nelson*

Cushing History Project!

We are collecting stories, pictures, documents and artifacts for our Cushing History Project for our next book. Share your information and get a free book! Russ Hanson 715-488-2776

Cushing looking east below. Thomas Hansen's store at the top of the hill and Jensen's hardware at the bottom. Both buildings are still there. The house between them is gone.



<p>SELHS Membership Form</p> <p><i>Send completed form and check Made to SELHS to SELHS P.O. BOX 731 Cushing, Wi 54006</i></p> <p>Membership Levels <i>Individual Life</i> <i>\$10.00 \$100.00</i></p> <p><i>All memberships in excess of \$10 as well as any additional donations to the Sterling Eureka and Laketown Historical Society are fully deductible.</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> </div>	<p>Local History Books and booklets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-Stories of the Trade River Valley \$15</i> <i>-Stories of the St Croix Valley \$15</i> <i>-Doc Squirt \$5</i> <i>-HenningsFamily \$3</i> <i>-Wolf Creek School \$5</i> <i>-Sunrise Ferry \$5</i> <i>-Early History of the St Croix Valley \$5</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Coming in 2008 – History of Cushing Help us with stories and get a free copy</p>
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History in the Neighborhood

Thursday August 16, 6:pm SELHS business meeting

Saturday Aug 18 Cushing Fun Days

Open house at the SEL Memory Room

History of Cushing Presentations 10:00 and 2:00

Saturday Sept 1, Cushing Tigers Reunion

2:00 pm at the Cushing Community Center. The Tigers played from 1904 for 70 years.

Saturday September 22, the 2nd annual River Road – Hwy 87 Ramble

A do-it-yourself celebration of the River road-Hwy 87 loop from St Croix Falls to the County line and back. Business open houses, historical stops, garage sales, etc.



Mainstreet Cushing

The Sterling Eureka and Laketown Historical Society is a Non-Profit organization chartered under the Polk County Historical Society and the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Contributions are tax free. Donations are deductible. Our goal is to preserve local history. We welcome your attendance at meetings, membership, your ideas, contributions and help! The group began meeting in 2000. Our projects for 2007 include: History of Trade River Valley book; Memorial Day cemetery walks; regular meetings with programs of interest to the local area; Cushing History project; Cushing Tigers Reunion, the River Road Hwy 87 Ramble, and sponsorship of other local history activities.

Bergstroms and Don Eckland share early history of Alabama and Cushing at the Polk Co Fair with SELHS



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