

Isora's Doll Moves to the Octagon House Museum

One of the Historical Society's most recent donations has an unusual connection to Hudson's founder, Louis Massey. The donor is Mrs. Isora Johnson of Hudson, WI. Mrs. Johnson grew up as Isora Barkaloo on a farm in Pierce County; later married and raised her family on a farm near Roberts before relocating in Hudson. While recently considering a move to a senior housing facility, Isora decided to part with her beloved doll and homemade doll bed (made by her uncle, Lewis Barkaloo) by donating them to the SCCHS. Along with the donation Mrs. Johnson provided the background stories of her treasures. The doll bed was made by her favorite uncle, Lou, who was married to Julia Cronk, and Julia just happened to be the great granddaughter of Hudson's founder, Louis Massey. The doll was a gift from her fellow school classmates at Drake rural school, who donated their pennies to purchase this doll for Isora (and another identical one for Isora's sister) after she & her family lost everything in a house fire in 1929. Mrs. Johnson was 6 years old at the time and has kept this precious gift for nearly 80 years. While the doll was very inexpensive at the time it was priceless to Isora.



Isora Johnson poses with her childhood doll and homemade doll bed which she recently donated to the St. Croix County Historical Society

Perhaps because of this experience and her love for her only childhood doll, Isora came to enjoy dolls so much that after retirement she took up doll making as a hobby and now has an extensive collection of modern dolls.

We at the Historical Society are delighted to have these special treasures from Mrs. Johnson and will take care to preserve both the doll & doll bed for future generations to enjoy.

Another recent acquisition is a collection of souvenir plates donated by Hudson Memorial Hospital, Healing Arts Division. The collection includes two 1957 Hudson Centennial plates, a 1911 Birkmose-Wiberg Calendar Plate, a Burkhardt Willow River Memorial plate and an Elks Club dinner plate. Several souvenir demitasse spoons and a copy of the 1957 Hudson Centennial booklet accompanied the collection. We are very grateful for these donations.

If you have any treasures that you or your family no longer wishes to store, we encourage you to consider a donation to the SCCHS. Items with a connection to people or places in St. Croix County are of particular interest to the Historical Society. Call 715-386-2654 or email us at octagonhousemuseum@juno.com.