

# Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00  
or by appointment**



## History of Gravesville WI By Debbie Barany

Leroy Graves built a saw mill in 1849 along the Manitowoc River and other settlers soon followed. The settlement was known as Lodi, from about 1857 to 1859, and on August 6, 1859, it became Gravesville.



Gravesville Plat 1893

Graves campaigned hard in 1852 to make Gravesville the county seat but eventually Chilton won that honor. Under the leadership of Mr. Graves, the little village continued to grow. In 1881 it was one of the largest communities in the county, it had over 400 residents.

The Whittier school was built in 1854 and was expanded in 1892. Classes continued at the little school house until 1962. The school was located on the corner of Irish Rd and Breed Street. The Norbert Mallmann residence now sits in that location.

The Calumet County Fair was held in Gravesville from 1860 thru 1865 at a building site known as the Little Red Hen.

A Post office was established on October 11, 1860. Stephen H. Duryly, as its first Post Master. The Post office was closed on September 15, 1904 with William Chesebro being the last Post Master.

A Methodist church was built in 1868 and was disbanded and torn down in 1919

At one time Gravesville had three hotels, two sawmills, four general merchandise stores, a doctor, a pop factory, millenary store, newspaper, blacksmith shop and all the amenities of a thriving village.



Whittier School



Old Ren Hen Building - site of County Fair  
1860-1865

In 1906, a cold storage plant was built on the site of the present day Milk Products. In 1911, the Carnation Company purchased the cold storage building, enlarged the facility and manufac-

tured evaporated milk, providing a market for milk of the local farmers and providing employment to many people residing in Gravesville and Chilton.

Over the years, the businesses died off, and with the closing of the school, the village regressed. The village of Gravesville was annexed into the City of Chilton in 1984, due to the fact that the Town of Charlestown was unable to provide much needed utilities to service the community.



American House - Hotel, Blacksmith shop in the Basement.

Gravesville – 1940'S



This is one of the first residences in Gravesville, built by Dr. Edward Dean, sold to Joseph Stephenson in 1885. This was built in the style where the Barn and home were in the same building