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**Rural schools of Waupaca County**

**subject of presentation at Iola Historical Society**

While she did not teach at one during her teaching career, local resident Joan Paulson did attend grades 1-8 at the Dow School, located at Highway 161 and County Trunk E, just east of Iola – one of many such schools that dot Waupaca County.

Paulson will be talking about the history of the rural schools, why people started the schools, how teachers were found, and other school history at the August 26 meeting of the Iola Historical Society, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Society’s newly remodeled museum at 210 Depot Street, just off Main Street.

“I was originally from the Iola area,” she stated.  “I lived in the Dow School school area and finished grades 1-8 there.  I graduated from Iola High School, received my B.S. Degree from then Central State Teachers College with majors in English and history, and my M.S. Degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.”

“Almost all my teaching life was spent teaching English in Clintonville Senior High School. I also taught in Tigerton and Green Bay.”

“I did not teach in a rural school, but had a family of relatives who did at one time in their lives.  When I went to school in Stevens Point, there was still a rural school department there. I believe it was a good one, “she recalled.

Paulson is well-versed in the history of rural schools, as she is the coauthor (along with Don Hanson) of *Rural Schools Of Waupaca County*, published by the Waupaca County Area Historical Society.

There is no charge to attend the presentation, although goodwill offerings to help the Iola Historical Society’s efforts are always welcome. The presentation is part of an ongoing series sponsored by the Iola Historical Society. For more information, go to [www.iolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety.org).

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