DEDICATION

As chairman of Mount Vernon's Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1996, I am honored to have been nominated for this position. The community spirit backing this historic celebration promises to make all of the events a huge success. Together, the residents of Mt. Vernon have worked hard to create a lasting remembrance of our rich heritage.

Although many of the people who helped to celebrate our 125th anniversary will not be with us to celebrate this year, we will remember them as we honor the past. In the future, our children will reflect upon this observance and appreciate our efforts to preserve Mount Vernon's history.

To my friends, neighbors and family who have worked diligently to make this celebration one to be remembered for many years to come, I thank you. Especially, let us not forget our good friends John Beutler and Margaret Lee, who have so recently been taken away from us, and will not be able to see our celebration completed.

God Bless,

Ben T. Goebler, Chairman

YOU'RE HISTORY, MOUNT VERNON!

Today, Mount Vernon, like the rest of America, seems transient to those of us experiencing today's fast paced world. We expect everything quick, convenient, mobile and private. Houses are built cheaply, communication is in micro bytes and neighbors are those people next door we hardly ever meet. Because of this, when celebrating an anniversary like Mt. Vernon's 150th, people not born in the area can feel excluded from the very history they are celebrating. What such people don't realize is that they are the new immigrants, and they are being recorded into the forever growing local history.

Likewise, when George Patchin brought his family and pregnant wife from Ohio to the Wilderness in 1846, they did not set out to make history, nor did they imagine that they would be forever remembered as the first settlers of the area. Others who soon followed, like the deceitful, land shark Byam brothers, would be remembered for their highjinks, and some, like John Donald and Robert La Follette, made history through state and local politics, and still others are remembered for the tragedies that befell them. Not all who came to Mt. Vernon dedicated their entire lives to building the community either. When the railroad bypassed the village in favor of Mt. Horeb in 1881, for example, many business owners moved to where the action was. The vast majority of Mt. Vernon's people, however, have given their names for plat maps, businesses, census records, cemetery monuments, tax rolls, sporting events, newspapers, church bulletins or telephone directories. Thus, all have made history, no matter how long they resided in town or how influential they became.

True, common folk seldom wind up on the pages of history textbooks, but it is the everyday records, in fact, which record the past more objectively and portray society most accurately. It is in these archival sources that sociologists and historians search for information, novelists look for inspiration, and genealogists find their own roots. So, all people of Mount Vernon today are still making history. A 150th anniversary reminds us to celebrate this.

Brian J. Bigler, President
Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society, Inc.