

**2010 SUMMER HERITAGE EXHIBIT — 19<sup>th</sup> Century Photography Of Gerhard Gesell  
Introduction To A Series Of Back Stories On Gesell's Photography**

For over 30 years the Alma Historical Society has worked to recapture the small river town atmosphere of early Alma, Wisconsin. Gerhard Gesell and his photographs are a large part of preserving Alma's history and many residents of Alma and Buffalo County are proud of the Gesell photos of their ancestors. The most famous Gesell work is his collage of 150 Buffalo County pioneers that hangs today in the Buffalo County courthouse.



In 1979 the historical society sponsored an exhibit of the 19<sup>th</sup> century photography of Gerhard Gesell. **Town Across The River** was reintroduced at the Wings Over Alma Nature & Art Center in Alma Wisconsin on June 22, 2010 through October 5, 2010. An additional twenty photographs were added to the original exhibit from the Gesell collection at the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

This free exhibit was open to the public and over 5,000 visitors enjoyed the wonderful 19<sup>th</sup> century photography of Gerhard Gesell. The exhibition date was extended twice to accommodate the people who wanted to attend.

It was a pleasure to offer the works of Gesell to the people of Alma and Buffalo County once again and the Alma Historical Society is grateful to all who contributed to the exhibits success.

<b>Exhibit Name</b>	<b>Town Across The River</b>
<b>Artist</b>	Gerhard Gesell, 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Photographer
<b>Exhibit Dates</b>	June 22, 2010 through October 5, 2010, 10am to 5pm
<b>Exhibit Sponsor</b>	Alma Historical Society
<b>Exhibit Location</b>	Wings Over Alma Nature & Art Center, Alma, Wisconsin



Gerhard Gesell, an immigrant and pioneer, arrived in Reads Landing, Minnesota from Floresheim, Germany in the 1860s. He began his photographic career at Reads Landing in 1873 and three years later moved to Alma, Wisconsin where he established an art & stationery store with a photography studio on the second floor. He remained in Alma photographing the everyday life of the local residents of the county and events of his time until his death in 1906.

For more information on Gerhard Gesell visit the historical society's website at [www.almahistory.org](http://www.almahistory.org).