

# *German POWs housed at Green Lake in 1944*

*June-October 1944, the U.S. government rented William Carey Barn by the front gates and some cottages as a temporary camp for German prisoners of war. Approximately 400 POWs were housed there and worked at nearby canning factories. The following memories were shared with us about that time in our history.*

**“I saw the German prisoners of war in 1944 (who were housed in William Carey) when my brother, John, was a lifeguard at Roger Williams Inn swimming pool. I was only 12 years old at the time and the soldiers looked huge.” ~ Dick Murdock**

**“The German prisoners were housed in the Abbey. Several decades ago Laurena checked out her memories with Larry Janssen. Larry confirmed there were Germans on the grounds when we bought the property. Laurena remembers no fences, but visitors were told to stay away from there. She believes they worked at local farms. I vaguely remember hearing that they did some work on the roads/walls on Green Lake grounds.” ~ Bob Fisher**

**“Germans were at the concrete exercise yard around the Abbey, and behind barbed wire fence. I read in a history book about the Lawson era that the state requested housing POWs in the Guernsey barn area, and paid a per diem, which helped the Assembly get some cash. That cash flow was needed to help get ready for summer conferences, a real worry! Yeah, some income! The men were trucked to the nearby Green Giant cannery to work. Maybe they picked the product too, since there was a shortage of menfolk in 1944.” ~ Laura Smith Germer**

