



# THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXIII, No. 3

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

December, 2009

## President's Message:

As another year draws to a close, I want to once again thank everyone who has made 2009 a great success for PCHS and the Old Courthouse Museum!...especially our regular Tuesday volunteers (Judy Schwellenbach, Irma Bauer, Pat Ulwelling and Julie Rinholen), plus our Board members, Summer Intern Jill York, Jacy Mesch, Bernard Brantner and Joyce Haigh for the work they've done this year. Of course, we also need to say "Thank You" to those of you who served as Volunteer Hosts during the year.

We had some excellent speakers this year for our quarterly education events, including the "Dutch Boys", Renee Berends and Luuck Sanders, during the Spring and Gary Schlosstein at the Summer Picnic. We were also very pleased with the reception given to Brian and Evan Gabriel this past October; more than 100 people turned out to hear their presentation about the Chippewa River. Thank you all for your support of our efforts to bring history to you. Your support will encourage us to continue these events in the future.

During 2010 PCHS will celebrate its Silver Anniversary...25 years of preserving the history and traditions of Pepin County. Several of our board members have been charged with planning an observance of this special occasion.

If you haven't visited the museum during the past year or two, you will be surprised at how much has changed. The Museum is not simply an old building full of old stuff...it is a vibrant artifact telling important and exciting stories of Pepin County's past. You'll be surprised how much there is to see and to learn.

Finally, this is your official **notice to renew your membership for 2010!!** Please take the time right now (*be sure to first read the items on page three*) to fill out and return the membership renewal form on the back page of this newsletter. It would be wonderful if you upgrade your membership or simply send in an extra donation. We are tax exempt and you can deduct your donation for income tax purposes. Without you we wouldn't be able to do what we do!

- Kim Wagenbach

## ELIZABETH CLARKE HARDY

"Mother To All The Wisconsin Agriculturalist Family"

During the last 18 years of her life, Elizabeth Clarke Hardy was the Household Editor for the "Wisconsin Agriculturalist" and each week during those years her columns brought hope and good cheer to thousands of Wisconsin farm women.

Hardy was a popular writer of prose and poetry, contributing to many of the leading magazines of the time, including "Woman's Home Companion" and "Harpers Magazine". One poem, "When the Tide is Low", was read at the state funerals for both Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding.

A 25 year resident of the City of Durand, Elizabeth Clarke was born in New York State in 1849 and developed a love of writing early in her life. She eventually married Joseph Hardy of Durand in 1871. They farmed near Red Cedar for many years and their farm, Sunny Brook, became well known around the state for its planning and efficiency. Visitors to the farm likely included journalists, who may have noticed Elizabeth's writing skills and brought her to the attention of a variety of publishers.

At her funeral services on September 8, 1929, she was eulogized with the following quote: "The world will move on, the memory of this noble woman will grow dim with the passing years, but ...those who have known her...will live better through the years. ...that is why I do not want to say we have paid the last tribute to the departed, for I feel, if we do not, some later generation will sometime bring fuller tribute to her goodness and her genius."

The Old Courthouse Museum has begun an effort to "...bring fuller tribute..." to this remarkable lady. We have the Vern Pinkowski Research, Elizabeth Clarke Hardy - Wife, Writer, Farmer, Poet and Editor, for sale. We are also looking for additional photographs and documents related to her life.

Find us on the Internet! [www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org](http://www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org)

## MUSEUM / SOCIETY NEWS & NOTES

Another successful season at the Old Courthouse Museum came to a close in mid-October. Attendance was up by nearly 8% during 2009 compared to 2008, with a total of 879 visitors shown in the Museum's registry. That exceeds our previous record set in 1999 (850). The busiest weekend of '09 occurred during the Spring Fresh Art Tour (May 8, 9, 10) and the busiest day was May 10 (again the Art Tour) with 95 registered visitors.

The Museum continued its tradition of hosting the 3rd and 5th graders from area schools for tours during early May, plus the Cub Scouts and Brownies; all of which totaled more than 200 kids, teachers and parents.

PCHS can also credit increasing attendance to the internship program it has established with the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire History Department's Public History Master's Degree Program. This is the second year PCHS has participated in the program.

This year PCHS hired Jill York as the Museum Operations Intern, which allowed the Museum to be open five hours per day / four days per week. This internship program has cost PCHS around \$3000 per year, but the benefits include: increased attendance due to the expanded hours, new displays, enhancement of existing exhibits, improvements to the Museum website, etc.

(see bottom of next page for more...)

### From PCHS Gift Shop

Dime Novel Desperadoes - The Notorious Maxwell Brothers, by John Hallwas, 2008, published by University of Illinois Press; winner - "Best Biography from the Midwest" by the Society of Midland Authors, \$32.00

Brothers in Blood, by Les Kruger, 2008 - \$20.00

Durand 1881, compiled by Vera Slabey, published by PCHS, 1987 - \$3.00

Steamboat Navigation on the Chippewa River, by Peter A. Adler, published by PCHS, 2004 - \$10.00

Mary Plummer Clemenceau - Sweetheart of Pepin County, by Vern Pinkowski, published by PCHS, 1997 - \$10.00

Helen Parkhurst - Educator, by Vern Pinkowski, published by PCHS, 1999 - \$10.00

Elizabeth Clarke Hardy - Wife, Writer, Farmer, Poet and Editor, by Vern Pinkowski, published by PCHS, 2001 - \$10.00

A Pathway to Pepin County's Stone Age People, by Vern Pinkowski, published by PCHS, 2003 - \$10.00

A Vanished Community - The Waubeek Saw Mill Settlement, by Vern Pinkowski, published by PCHS, 2004 - \$10.00

Phil Scheckel - The Man & The River He Loved, by Don Rahman, published by PCHS, 2006 - \$10.00

A Twisted Pig's Tale, by Vern Pinkowski, 2008 - \$10.00

Your purchase will help support the PCHS mission of "preserving the history and traditions of Pepin County."

## Memorials received:

For:	From:
EIDonna Wenger Wittig	Lee E. Grippen

## OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM & PCHS SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

The Old Courthouse Museum first opened its doors during Durand's Funfest weekend in June, 1985. Earlier that year, on January 14, the newly organized Pepin County Historical Society approved its Bylaws. Thus, 2010 is the Museum's and PCHS's Silver Anniversaries.

For those of us who are sticklers for historical accuracy, Wisconsin Secretary of State Douglas La Follette had formally certified the Society's Articles of Incorporation on October 11, 1984, and its first officers were elected on October 29, 1984. Elected were: Richard Slabey - President; Joe Riedner - Vice President; Pat Blair-Secretary; Gerald Sundstrom - Treasurer.

PCHS could have celebrated its 25th anniversary during 2009, but rather than confuse the issue with two silver anniversaries, the current PCHS Board of Directors has pulled these two important events together. A special committee has been assigned the task of planning an observance of the Society's & Museum's 25th Anniversaries. Planning Committee members include Rita Conlin, Dick Schlosser and Lynn Coulson and they are very interested in any ideas you might have to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

## Happy Birthday, PCHS!!

### Pepin County Historical Society

#### Officers:

President: Kim Wagenbach  
Vice-Pres.: Lynn Coulson  
Secretary: Roberta Stuart  
Treasurer: Galen Radle

#### Directors:

Rita Conlin, John Solie, Lois Laehn,  
Jean Kannel, Dick Schlosser

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Editor: Terry J. Mesch

## HIS GIRL IN OVERALLS

by - Elizabeth Clarke Hardy (1918)

Well, yes, the kid's enlisted,  
We expected that, you know;  
When he heard the call to colors  
Of course he'd want to go.  
An' we're proud, an' glad an' sorry,  
For the lad's our pride and joy,  
An' his mother - well you know mothers,  
An' he was our only boy.  
An' I - well there's no denying,  
I depended on the lad,  
For he's always been a sight of help  
An' comfort to his dad;  
But I never fully realized  
How much I'd miss the scamp  
Till I started for the barn alone,  
The mornin' he left for camp.  
I was feelin' pretty lonesome,  
An' somehow my eyes were dim,  
When I saw someone a standin' there,  
I really thought was Jim;  
But before I'd time to speculate,  
My little daughter calls,  
"Say, Dad, how do you like me  
In my brand new overalls?"  
She had the team all harnessed  
An' had hitched them to the plow;  
"I've tried to do it, Dad," she said  
"Just as Jamie showed me how.  
I'm not needed for the house you know,  
For Mother she has Sue,  
An' so I'm goin' to do my bit,  
Out in the field with you.  
We've got to send our boys to war,  
An' feed the people, too,  
An' it's up to Uncle Samuel's girls  
To show what they can do."  
Then she climbed up on the tractor  
An' drove away on that -  
My little gal in overalls an'  
Jamie's old straw hat.  
An', Sir, you'd be surprised to see  
The things that gal can do,  
An' how she works with might an' main  
To help put things through;  
An' I guess we needn't worry, Sir,  
When Uncle Samuel calls,  
He can trust his boys in khaki,  
An' his girls in overalls.



This is Fannie B. Hussey's gravestone, which is believed to have been paid for by her husband, Alonzo Maxwell; one of the notorious outlaw brothers involved in the 1881 shootings of Charles and Milton Coleman. This gravestone stands in the Waubeek Cemetery located at the intersection of Pepin County Roads D and DC 4½ miles northwest of Durand. The top third of the gravestone has broken off, but still legible is:

The inscription at the bottom of the gravestone is only partly legible. It starts out: "Dear Fannie" but is mostly undecipherable after that. It could be a Bible quote or other well known saying from the time ... or, it could be an original statement by Alonzo. Fannie's and Alonzo's love story is intriguing and was likely the cause for the shooting in July, 1881. Efforts are still being made to determine just what the inscription says. If you can figure it out, let us know.

### More "News & Notes"...

The Museum has also been fortunate this year to receive many volunteer hours from Jacy Mesch. A year 2000 graduate of Durand High School and 2005 graduate of UW-Madison, Jacy has taught English as a second language in Apopka, Florida and in Kiev, Ukraine. She returned temporarily to Wisconsin this Fall and has been filling her time volunteering at the Museum. She has brought new ideas and insights and a "new look" to the Museum. She has redesigned exhibits, catalogued artifacts, and researched past residents (especially Elizabeth Clarke Hardy and Fannie Maxwell).

Pepin County Historical Society  
OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM  
Washington Square  
315 W. Madison St.  
Durand, WI 54736



Mother To All The Wisconsin Agriculturalists Family

Elizabeth Clarke Hardy  
caption under photo:  
"Mother To All The Wisconsin  
Agriculturalist Family"  
*see front page*

**THIS IS YOUR 2010  
OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL REMINDER**

*Pass this newsletter on  
to a friend & encourage  
him/her to join PCHS!*

**RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!**

**RENEW YOUR PCHS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010 TODAY!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Individual         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Business/Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$8 Family             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friends of Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Lifetime        |   |

And, here's my extra donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_