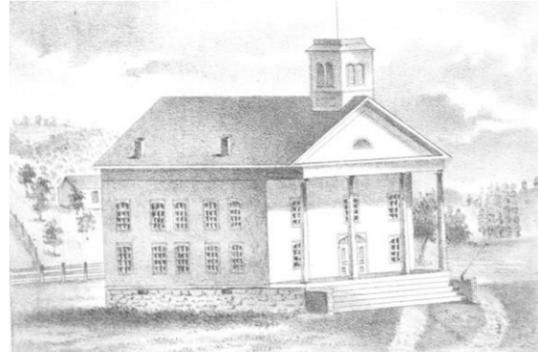


Pepin County Historical Society
 OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM
 Washington Square
 315 W. Madison St.
 Durand, WI 54736



Pepin County Courthouse at Durand, Wis. lithograph from "Illustrated Historical Atlas of Buffalo and Pepin Counties - 1878"

Find us on the Internet!
www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org

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

NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY _____
 STATE/ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIPS:

- \$8 Individual
- \$12 Family
- \$25 Friends of Museum
- \$25 Business/Professional
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$1000 Lifetime

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



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

June, 2014

GREETINGS! from your PCHS president!

God Bless...

- Kim Wagenbach, PCHS President

PCHS SUMMER POTLUCK & EDUCATION EVENT

Thursday, July 17, 2014

at Durand Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria

Educational event featuring
"The Sea Wing Disaster"

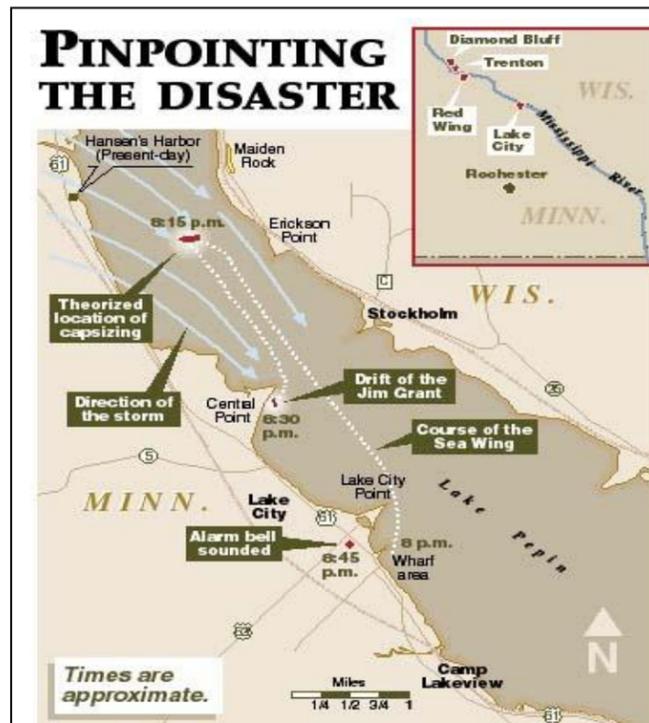
presented by
Frederick Johnson

The Pepin County Historical Society will hold its annual Summer Potluck and Education Event on Thursday, July 17 in the cafeteria of the Durand Junior-Senior High School. Award-winning journalist and author of nine books about Minnesota history Frederick Johnson will talk about his new book, "The Sea Wing Disaster: Tragedy on Lake Pepin".

The Sea Wing was an excursion boat out of Red Wing, Minnesota that capsized in high winds on Lake Pepin at around 8:15 in the evening on July 13, 1890. Johnson has researched deep into the history of this tragic event and has recently published an expanded and updated version of his first book on the subject which was published in 1986. The new edition contains hundreds of photographs, maps, letters, documents, etc., plus annotated endnotes and index.

Johnson is a native of Red Wing and taught for 34 years (1967-2001) in schools in St. Paul. He is a two time recipient of the Minnesota Historical Society's Excellence in Teaching History Award and was twice named first-place award winner for reporting by Minnesota Newspaper Association. He has had nine books about Minnesota history published and has had articles published numerous magazines including *Minnesota History*, *Aviation History*, *Minnesota Genealogist* and others.

Johnson's presentation will be preceded by a potluck supper. The evening's program will be 5:30 to gather, 6:15 meal with presentation to follow. **Attendees at the PCHS Summer Potluck are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own beverages, plates, cups and eating utensils.** Coffee and water will be available.



Sources: Thomas A. Hodgson from *Minnesota History*, Vol. 52 and "The Sea Wing Disaster"

"Sea Wing Disaster" - July 13, 1890

Author and award-winning journalist, Frederick Johnson will discuss his new book "The Sea Wing Disaster: Tragedy on Lake Pepin" at PCHS Summer Potluck July 17th.

MUSEUM & SOCIETY NEWS

The Museum co-sponsored with Accola Gallery the "Fresh Paint" Pleine Aire (outdoor) Art event May 18-24. The week long painting competition attracted two dozen talented artists who set up their easels at different locations in and around Durand and submitted their works to compete for cash prizes. The PCHS Board approved making a purchase award of up to \$350 for the most historically significant painting. PCHS was able to purchase two paintings of historical significance; both are on display in the Museum - "On Watch" by Tom Dimock of Minneapolis and "View from Bill's Cabin" (a hilltop view of the bridge at Durand and Waubeek Mound) by Donna Hooker Miles of Durand.

Durand Funfest weekend was busier than usual with whirlwind tours for three separate groups of third graders from Arkansaw Middle School and a bus tour group from Eau Claire. Museum volunteers also developed a temporary Durand Funfest exhibit featuring dresses, sashes and crowns from past queens and princesses, posters, news articles and photos.

The West Side Old Settlers Society (WSOS) has entrusted the museum with caring for its large archive of documents accumulated since WSOS first organized during the late 1800s. This collection is a treasure trove of old photos, obituaries, stories of people and events and more. Interested parties are welcome to view the collection by appointment.

Unique Gift Ideas from PCHS

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 - \$5.00

25th Anniversary T-Shirts - sizes s-m-l-xl, \$5.00

Summer hours are Thurs – Sun 1 to 4pm or the Museum is **open anytime by appointment!** Call 715-672-5423 to set up a time.

Memorials Received:

For: Peter, Sr.&Margaret Hartley
From: Evelyn Holmstadt

New "Old Look" in Upstairs Courtroom

Thanks to a generous donation from PCHS member Rosemary Carlisle and her late husband Robert the long rows of old fluorescent light tubes in the upstairs courtroom have been replaced by more historically aesthetic hanging schoolhouse globe fixtures. The bulbs are the more efficient LED type that reduce electricity use by 65%.

The old courtroom is in the most historically original condition of any room in the building. The new lights fit the early 1900s time period when the then 25-year-old courthouse was in its prime. A fire in the attic in 1931 resulted in serious damage when the water used to extinguish the fire caused the courtroom ceiling to collapse. More than \$4,000 (about \$54,000 today) in repairs were needed for water and smoke damage. Charred rafters and roof trusses are still evident in the attic.



Summer Intern – 2014

Mike Shoup, a graduate student at UW-Eau Claire, has assumed duties of the Museum Operations Internship Program sponsored by PCHS. Shoup is a native of Stevens Point and graduated from UW-Stevens Point with bachelor's degrees in history and political science. He then taught junior and senior high school history for three years in North Dakota before deciding to pursue an advanced degree in history.

Shoup will complete his graduate degree in the Masters in Public History Program at UW-Eau Claire next year and is using the internship program to get additional experience in operating a museum. Among his assignments will be to develop and design a new exhibit for Helen Parkhurst, the world renowned educator who was born and raised in Durand.

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

"THE COLUMNS" is published three times a year by the Pepin County Historical Society.

Editor: Terry J. Mesch

"Sing Me the Universal: A Whitman Monologue" to be Presented for PCHS Fundraiser

Museum manager Terry Mesch will perform "Sing Me the Universal: A Whitman Monologue" on Saturday, August 16 in the upstairs courtroom at the Old Courthouse Museum. The presentation will be a fundraiser for the Pepin County Historical Society; the \$5 admission will all go to PCHS.

Discover Walt Whitman through his own words in this adaptation from more than three dozen poems in his monumental work, "Leaves of Grass". Whitman explains his poetry, beliefs, sexuality, his objection to war, concern for the environment and his own death. Stage veteran Mesch brings Whitman's words to life as this Great American Poet takes the audience by the hand to accompany him on his personal literary journey.

Regionally, Mesch has performed on stages in Durand, Mondovi, Pepin, Stockholm, Maiden Rock and at the Mable Tainter Theater in Menomonie. He has also developed, written, produced, directed and performed in several readers' theater productions, including the Sesquicentennial Readers' Theater in 1998 celebrating Wisconsin's 150th anniversary of statehood. Most recently he has developed and performed a one-man show of eclectic poetry entitled "This Invading Interpreter".