



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

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Affiliate of Wisconsin Historical Society

June, 2016

“Night at the Museum” set for Monday, July 18, 2016

Featuring “The Hangin’ of 1881”

The Old Courthouse Museum and Jail will present a “Night at the Museum” from 6 to 9 pm on Monday, July 18. Museum volunteers will guide visitors through exhibits to reveal fascinating details about people and events which have shaped Pepin County. The most significant and notorious event to effect the Old Courthouse itself was the lynching of Ed Maxwell in November, 1881. Storyteller and Museum director Terry Mesch will detail the events of that day starting at 7pm in the upstairs courtroom where the events actually occurred. Pepin County also has close connections to Wisconsin’s richest governor, Ronald Reagan’s girlfriend, the Wisconsin state bird, Sherman’s March to the Sea, the elite Dalton School in New York City, and the first U.S. artillery shell fired in World War I. To discover these stories and many others come to “Night at the Museum”. Refreshments will be served on the porch. The public is invited.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Monday, July 18, 2016

Open 6 – 9 pm FREE
to Public ADMISSION

Old Courthouse
Museum & Jail
Durand, Wis.

Our volunteer staff of storytellers will weave tales of adventure, daring, murder, romance, and passion as they reveal the lives of people who make up the history of Pepin County.

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

Society News

Tom Garnevicus of rural Durand was elected to a three year term on the PCHS Board of Directors at the PCHS Annual Membership Meeting held in April. He fills a seat vacated by Lynn Coulson. Richard Schlosser and John Solie were re-elected to new three year terms. At the Board's reorganizational meeting in May, Kim Wagenbach was elected President, Lois Laehn Secretary and Galen Radle Treasurer. Vice-President remains vacant. Also, the Board is looking for someone interested in filling the remainder of the term for the seat formerly held by Roberta Stuart, who passed away earlier this year.

The Board also committed \$1500 to help re-roof the Little Plum Schoolhouse. Matched by similar donations from the Little Plum Lutheran Church and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Society (LIWS), the work was completed during June. Future projects like painting, re-glazing windows, etc. will help to ensure this remarkably well preserved one-room schoolhouse will be around for future generations. PCHS looks forward to other joint historic preservation projects with LIWS.

Planning for development of the Helen Parkhurst Historic Site in downtown Durand will begin soon.

Museum Notes

Mike Shoup, a graduate student in UW-Eau Claire's Masters degree program in Pubic History, has returned for a second summer internship at the Old Courthouse Museum. Mile researched and designed the new Helen Parkhurst exhibit when he worked for us in 2014. This year he will be developing a new exhibit featuring Elizabeth Clark Hardy, a highly regarded poet, essayist, and editor. Mike will also be helping us expand our Internet presence on Facebook and our website:

www.oldpepincountycourthouse.com

People continue to make artifact donations to the museum and we are running out of room. We try to say "No", but some items just have too much historical value to ignore. Accepting a donation is guided by a few important questions: *What does it have to do with Pepin County? Was it made in Pepin County? Who owned it? How long has it been here? Etc.* We are more interested in the stories of people than we are in old stuff. However, some artifacts can themselves be stories or help to tell a specific story. Paintings and sculptures by local artists and poetry and prose by local writers (especially memoirs and family histories) are valuable additions to any museum's collection.