



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

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Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

March 2008

President's Message:

Greetings from PCHS! As always, I want to thank all the volunteers, board members, and society members for your help in keeping us such a vital part of our community. This is an exciting year for PCHS and Pepin County...we will be celebrating the county's 150th birthday and PCHS is planning a wonderful celebration for Saturday, August 9th. Mark your calendars now...you won't want to miss the great events being planned (see inside for details).

Everyone is invited to our Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 13th at 2 p.m. in the Durand High School Cafeteria. We'll have election of three board members (seats currently held by Rita Conlin, Jean Kannel and Lois Laehn) and a special presentation by Stockholm Poet, John Graber.

I would also like to announce PCHS has hired an intern for the summer. Corinne Menomonee is a grad student at UW-Eau Claire and will be working at the museum.

We'll also be expanding our hours to four days per week from Memorial Day to Labor Day this year. We're looking forward to a great year!

Finally, I would like to appeal to you to help us out financially with the 150th Birthday Celebration and our new intern. Any amount you can share will be greatly appreciated.

- Kim Wagenbach

PCHS 2008 Sesquicentennial Calendar Still Available

We still have a small supply of Sesquicentennial Calendars available...now at a discounted price of \$3 each or two for \$5. Contact a PCHS Board member or call the museum at (715)672-5423 to place an order.

TOURS, RESEARCH, QUERIES

Persons interested in making arrangements for museum tours, doing research, asking questions about the collection, etc., should call the museum phone at (715)672-5423 or call the Pepin County Resource Office (715)-672-5709. Museum **tours** are available **free of charge** anytime by appointment.

PCHS Spring Meeting Sunday, April 13 - 2 p.m. Durand Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

Featured presentation: John Graber, Poet

Stockholm, Wisconsin, Poet John Graber has been writing poetry for most of his life and will be giving a poetry reading at the PCHS Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 13 at the Durand Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria.

During the past several years, Graber has been conducting poetry writing workshops through the Lake Pepin Art and Design Center. Collections of his works have recently been published by UW-Madison's Parallel Press and by Puddinghouse Publications.

He has been living in Pepin County for three decades and inspiration for many of his poems has come from the natural surroundings here.

John received degrees from St. Olaf College (1968) and the Iowa Writers Workshop (1972). He has taught grade school, high school, and college English. He has had more than fifty poems published in a variety of magazines, including "*The American Poetry Review*", "*The Christian Century*", "*The American Review*", "*The Great River Review*", "*Free Verse*", "*Transactions-Wisconsin Poetry*", "*Wisconsin Review*", "*Rosebud*", "*The Madison Review*", and others.

Old Courthouse Museum to be a Featured Stop during Spring Fresh Art Tour May 16-17-18

The Old Courthouse Museum will be a featured site during the **Spring Fresh Art Tour**. The museum will be presenting the work of the late Marge Mason, who lived and painted in Pepin County. PCHS will be releasing a limited edition of one of Marge's paintings, "**Pepin Farm Apple Blossoms**". The museum will have several Mason paintings on display and the "Apple Blossoms" print for sale. Of course, the museum also has the original works of numerous artists on permanent display, including C.H. Gleason, Esther Baur, Roger Britton, Jr., Ed Grippen, etc.

The Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, May 16, 17, 18. Volunteer hosts are needed. Contact Terry Mesch at 672-5709 if you are interested in helping out any of these days.

SOCIETY NEWS

PCHS TREASURER Galen Radle's financial report for 2007 shows the Society is in excellent fiscal condition. Revenues exceeded expenses for the year and good fiscal management in the past has resulted in a comfortable cushion with which the PCHS Board has to work. Receipts from memberships, memorials, donations, interest, and sales of cards, books, bricks, etc., during 2007 totaled \$6,063. Total 2007 expenditures, meanwhile, were \$5,769. Anyone who would like to see an itemization of expenditures can request a copy by calling the Old Courthouse Museum phone @ (715)672-5423 and leaving a message.

MUSEUM NEWS

ATTENDANCE at the Old Courthouse Museum during 2006 was more than 610, about the same as 2006. The busiest days were Oct. 5,6,7 (the Fall Fresh Art Tour), more than 250 people were in the building checking things out and viewing exhibits and art work. The next busiest days when the museum was open to the public were (once again) during Durand Funfest Weekend. Meanwhile, the museum entertained hundreds of students during Law Day/Mock Trials organized by the Pepin County Bar Association for fifth graders and the annual visit by third graders, teachers and chaperones from Durand area schools. We also had a busload of (mostly retired) folks from Menomonie and Eau Claire in early May, Girl Scouts, and numerous small group tours of the museum throughout the year. Small group tours can be arranged at anytime during the year.

OUR GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS (including Saturday Volunteer Hosts; check page 3 for your assignments for 2008) contributed more than 700 hours of their time to keep our museum going and our Society on course during 2007. Four key volunteers show up every Tuesday and have been tirelessly cataloguing and protecting valuable photographs, letters, documents, artifacts, etc. Irma Bauer, Judy Schwellenbach, Pat Ulwelling, and Julie Rinholen have been regular Tuesday work-day volunteers.

PCHS BOARD has agreed to hire a "Museum Operations Intern" for the summer of 2008. The Board is seeking to expand the number of hours/day and days/week the museum is open and to help our volunteer staff develop a more "visitor friendly" museum. Corinne Menomonee, a graduate student at UW-Eau Claire, will be working 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-through-Sunday from June 5 to Labor Day. Corinne is working on her Master's Degree in Public History and has considerable experience in historical research and historical re-enactment and brings important technical and communication skills that will be valuable to PCHS and the Old Courthouse Museum.

EXPANDED MUSEUM HOURS should increase the number of visitors we receive during 2008. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday from June 5 through August 31. The museum will also be open Saturdays 1-4 p.m. on May 24 & 31, during all of September, and October 4 & 11.

ART & ESSAY Contests will also be a part of the county's 150th Birthday Celebration. Artwork = any medium, any Pepin County scene. Essay = how living in Pepin County has affected your life. Money awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in two categories: 19 yrs & older, 18 yrs & under. Start thinking, writing and painting!

Memorials received:

For	From
Janet Kraft	Thalice Nicklas, Darrel & Judith Wrolstad, Mary Buchholtz
Marlene Hoch/Kees	Galen & Bernadine Radle, Gerald & Vivian Levenske
Gerald S. Jevne	Galen & Bernadine Radle
Cyril R. Sinz	Mary Buchholtz
Margaret M. Bauer	Mary Buchholtz
Diane L. Fisher	Mary Buchholtz
Keith J. Bauer	Galen & Bernadine Radle

Pepin County 150th Birthday Celebration

Schedule of Events (tentative)

Saturday, August 9, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Old Courthouse Museum Open House - Guided tours: hourly 11am to 3 pm
- 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Traditional Crafts exhibits - Washington Square
- 10:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony- Washington Square Unveiling of Sesquicentennial Works of Art
- 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - Food concessions - Student Historical Exhibits - County Historical Display - Art Contest entries - etc. - Masonic Hall
- 11:00 a.m. - Lecture by John Hallwas - Book signing & sales - Durand Theater
- 12:15 a.m. - Lecture by Mary Logue - Book signing and sales - Durand Theater
- 1:30 p.m. - Music through the Decades by Yata - Durand Theater
- 2:45 p.m. - Essay contest winners - Art contest winners - Durand Theater
- 3:30 p.m. - Dancing through the Decades - Durand Theater

A Memorable Gift? Membership in the Pepin County Historical Society for someone important...unforgettable.

Pepin County Historical Society

Officers:

President: Kim Wagenbach

Vice-Pres.: Jon Dodge

Secretary: Roberta Stuart

Treasurer: Galen Radle

Directors:

Rita Conlin, John Solie, Lois Laehn,

Jean Kannel, Lynn Coulson

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

Editor: Terry J. Mesch

Sesquicentennial Celebration

Pepin County is 150 years old this year and PCHS is helping the county with planning a big celebration! Numerous events are being planned around the county during the year, but the biggest celebration will be held in Durand on Saturday, August 9. A full day of events will be held at three locations in downtown Durand starting at 9 a.m. with the Old Courthouse Museum opening its doors for an all day open house. A formal Opening Ceremony will kick things off at 10 a.m. on the steps of the Old Courthouse. Traditional crafts will be presented/ demonstrated on Washington Square, displays and exhibits and food at the Masonic Hall, and lectures, music and dancing at the Durand Theater. (see tentative schedule on page 2)

Plan now to attend this exceptional celebration of Pepin County's history and culture. Additional 150th Birthday events will be held June 21 in Arkansaw, June 28 in Stockholm, and October 18 in Pepin. Plus, the Pepin and Durand libraries are planning a "Pepin County Read" of Mary Logue's Bone Harvest. Watch the local and regional news media for more information.

Two New Books to be Released during 2008!

Two books, both about the notorious Maxwell brothers and the infamous 1881 shooting and lynching in Durand, will be released this year.

Les Kruger of Owen Sound, Ontario, is self-publishing Brothers in Blood, which will be available for purchase through PCHS. Kruger is planning several appearances in Pepin County during the year to promote the sale of his book.

John Hallwas, a highly-regarded professor of English at Western Illinois University (WIU) in Macomb, Illinois, is also publishing a book, Dime Novel Desperadoes - The Story of the Williams Brothers, about Ed and Alonzo Maxwell (alias "Williams") and focusing on the 1881 shooting of Charles and Milton Coleman by the Maxwells. Hallwas's 500-page manuscript is at the publishers now and will be ready for release this summer. Hallwas will be presenting a lecture and book signing during the county's 150th Birthday Celebration in Durand August 9. More details to come!!

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER HOSTS FOR 2008

May 24	- Rita Conlin & Pat Rosenberg
May 31	- Gwelda Glaus & Lou Simpson
June 7	- Judy Schwellenbach & Joyce Haigh
June 8	- Terry Mesch & Lori Miller
June 14	- Chuck & Lois Laehn
June 21	- Roger & Alice Bauer
June 28	- Don & Irma Bauer
July 5	- Jon & Loni Dodge
July 12	- Diane Bauer & Carol Danzinger
July 19	- Gerald & Deanna Rippley
July 26	- John & Linda Solie
Aug 2	- Pat Miller & Sadie Hagness
Aug 9	- Pat Ulwelling & Evelyn Holmstadt
Aug 16	- Rosemary & Joan Achenbach
Aug 23	- Kim and Lynette Wagenbach
Aug 30	- Roberta Stuart & Rosemary Carlisle
Sept 6	- Don & Jean Kannel
Sept 13	- Galen & Bernadine Radle
Sept 20	- Bernard & Lorraine Brenner
Sept 27	- Linda DeLong & Julie Rinholen
Oct 4	- Donna Setterlund & Jean Kannel
Oct 11	- Lynn & Kelli Coulson

The Old Courthouse Museum is open Saturdays 1 - 4 pm. Any of the above volunteer hosts with scheduling conflicts should contact Volunteer Host Coordinator Lois Laehn at 672-4883.

The Old Courthouse Museum periodically needs hosts for special events and Saturday substitutes. If you would like to serve as a museum host, please call 672-5423 to leave a message.

We Need Your Help!

PCHS will be underwriting the cost of many of the 150th Birthday Celebration expenses this year. However, our bank account has its limits. We are seeking donations to help pay for the traditional crafts demonstrators, lecturers, musicians, dancers, contest prizes, horse-&-wagon services, etc., etc. Of course, your donation is tax deductible. **Donations should be sent to:**

**PCHS - 150th Celebration
P.O. Box 74
Durand, WI 54736**

Pepin County Historical Society
OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM
 Washington Square
 P.O. Box 74
 Durand, WI 54736



PCHS Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 13
Presentation by:
John Graber, Poet
Stockholm, Wisconsin
 (see inside for details)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 13 - PCHS Annual Meeting
- May 7 - PCHS Board Meeting
- May 8-9 - Law Day at Museum
- May 16-17-18 - Fresh Art Tour
- May 24 - Opening Day at Museum
- June 4 - PCHS Board Meeting
- June 7-8 - Durand Funfest
- July 2 - PCHS Board Meeting
- July 21 - PCHS Summer Picnic
- Aug 6 - PCHS Board Meeting
- Aug 9 - 150th Birthday Celebration

GREEN DOT means
you
haven't paid '08 dues

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

MEMBERSHIPS:

- \$5 Individual
- \$8 Family
- \$25 Friends of Museum
- \$25 Business/Professional
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$1000 Lifetime

Name _____

Address _____



This is just one of several round barns located in Pepin County. Because these barns are privately owned, their owners don't always like unwanted visitors traipsing onto their properties to get a better look. This particular barn is visible from the county road that passes by a couple hundred feet away. Round barns were considered to be very efficient buildings in which to house and feed animals...before cheap electricity came along and made these barns obsolete. Given the rising cost of fuel, they may make a comeback.