



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXIII, No. 1

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

March 2009

President's Message:

Greetings to PCHS members! Spring is nearly here and we have been busy planning the 2009 schedule, including the Annual Membership meeting in April, Spring Fresh Art Tour in early May, Museum opening Memorial Day Weekend, Summer Picnic in July, and Autumn Educational Event in October. We hope you'll participate in all these events.

We would not be able to do these events without the dedicated work of the PCHS Board of Directors, our regular Tuesday volunteers, and all our volunteer hosts at the Museum on Saturdays throughout the summer. Thank you all very much!

I would also like to thank Jon Dodge for his service on the board and for his efforts to make National History Day a great success at Durand Jr.-Sr. High School. Jon accepted a new teaching job at Ellsworth, where he will also be head track coach and head cross-country coach. Jon will be missed by PCHS.

The board has decided to once again hire a summer intern to help with Museum operations. We felt last year's experience was good enough to merit another year. Attendance was up, exhibits and displays were enhanced and we were able to keep the doors open four days a week.

Also, I want to call your attention to our new website! You can find us on the Internet at: www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org

- Kim Wagenbach

PCHS & Old Courthouse Museum Now on the Internet!

We finally have a presence on the Internet, located at www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org

It's an attractive, yet simple website and we'll be adding more to it as we are able to. One of the jobs of our summer intern will be to develop content for the site. We value your input, so go visit the site and let us know what you think.

Our Address Has Changed

Please make a note that our postal address has changed! Our street address is: **315 W. Madison St.** All correspondence should now be addressed to our street address in Durand, Wisconsin.

PCHS Spring Meeting

Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

**Arkansaw Elementary School Cafeteria
Arkansaw, Wisconsin**

Featured presentation:

**Dr. Rene F. Berends & Dr. Luuck Sanders
Dalton Research Centre, Saxion University,
Deventer, The Netherlands**

**"Helen Parkhurst & the History of Dalton
Education in The Netherlands"**

Drs. Berends and Sanders both train future teachers and are members of the Dalton Research Centre (DRC) at Saxion University in Deventer, the Netherlands. Berends has been researching and writing a biography of Helen Parkhurst, the creator of the Dalton Plan on Education, for the DRC; while his colleague Sanders conducts research about the use of tasks and assignments within the Dalton schools. Together they are also writing a book about the history of Dalton education in The Netherlands. More than 350 primary and secondary schools in The Netherlands are Dalton schools, based on Parkhurst's educational theories. These schools are all members of the Dutch Dalton Association.

Berends' specific task is to write a biography about Helen Parkhurst in Dutch, so teachers of Dalton schools there can learn more about the background of the 'founding mother' of Dalton education. This mission is what brings them to Durand, Wisconsin, the birthplace of Helen Parkhurst. They will also be visiting UW-Stevens Point and UW-River Falls, where there are large collections of historical documents about Helen archived in the Area Research Centers.

Berends and Sanders have agreed to make a presentation at the PCHS Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for 7p.m. in the cafeteria at Arkansaw Elementary School in Arkansaw, Wis., on Wednesday, April 22. They will also be touring Durand Junior-Senior High School (from which Helen graduated valedictorian of her class in 1904) and meeting with school district teachers and administrators during their visit to the area.

A brief PCHS business meeting to elect members to the PCHS board will precede their presentation. Don't miss this presentation about Helen and her legacy to children of the world.

SOCIETY NEWS

Approximately 70 people attended the PCHS Autumn Education Event last October to hear Douglas Faulkner talk about the geographical changes to the lower Chippewa River throughout history. Faulkner is a professor of geography at UW-Eau Claire.

PCHS had another successful financial year during 2008 despite expenses of nearly \$12,000, more than double the expenses of 2007. Of course, 2008 was the county's 150th birthday, and, PCHS sponsored speakers, exhibitors, art work and events which cost nearly \$6,000. However, the society was able to offset those expenses by soliciting funds from the community. Businesses, organizations and individuals from throughout the county came forward to manage events and donate time and money to help make 2008's Sesquicentennial Celebrations a great success.

PCHS also for the first time hired a summer intern which cost the society around \$2,500 in wages, income taxes, social security, unemployment insurance, etc.

Overall, '08 revenues fell a little short of the year's expenditures and PCHS did have to dip into its reserves. At the year's end, the society's checking and savings accounts totaled \$28,528 and just \$769 less than where it finished in '07. Not bad for a year during which PCHS doubled its expense budget.

Anyone interested in seeing budget details can contact PCHS Treasurer Galen Radle.

MUSEUM NEWS & NOTES

Changes continue at the Old Courthouse Museum as the staff creates new displays and modifies existing ones. Presenting more and more local history while making the Museum visitor friendly is the major goal.

We have recently acquired and hung several acrylic paintings by Durand native, Carol (Bauer) Davis. They are displayed in the "Artists' Alley" along with work by Esther Baur and Marge Mason. Our collection of original artwork continues to expand.

Unique Gift Ideas from PCHS

Dime Novel Desperadoes-The Notorious Maxwell Brothers, by John Hallwas, published by University of Illinois Press, 2008 - \$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

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

Memorials Received:

For:

Theresa Wittig
Emma Langlois

Dane Morey

Beryl Holmstadt
Doris Schlumpf
James Forster
Erma Sturz
Warren Walters

From:

Galen/Bernadine Radle
Lee/Gayle Grippen, Richard/
Vera Slabey, Galen/Bernadine
Radle
Vaughn/Muriel Hoffman, Galen/
Bernadine Radle, Richard/Vera
Slabey, Judy Schwellenbach
Richard/Vera Slabey
Edward/Mary Schlumpf
Galen/Bernadine Radle
Vaughn/Muriel Hoffman
Jane Wise, Steven Schwartz,
Richard/Vera Slabey, Lee/
Gayle Grippen

Old Courthouse Museum Once Again Featured on "Spring Fresh Art Tour"

The Museum will feature the photography of guest artist Dennis Newton during the "Spring Fresh Art Tour" on May 8, 9 & 10. The Museum will be open from 10AM to 5PM all three days. Many of Newton's photographs are of landscapes, buildings and other settings in Pepin County. He has an exceptional eye for beautiful colors and unusual subject matter. Newton lives near Pepin in rural Pepin County.

#

The Museum will also host the annual "Law Day" event developed and produced by members of the Tri-County Bar Association. Fifth graders from Durand, Pepin, Mondovi and Plum City will participate in a mock trial and tour the Old Courthouse Museum and Jail. Law Day is scheduled for May 7 & 8.

Pepin County Historical Society

Officers:

President: Kim Wagenbach

Vice-Pres.: vacant

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



Native American History on the Lower Chippewa River

Wed., Apr. 15 @ 10AM – Round Hill

An historic gathering at scenic Round Hill designed to provide a wealth of information about Native American history on the Lower Chippewa River will be held April 15. Dr. Rick St. Germaine (UW-Eau Claire Native American Indian Studies Program) and others will provide insights into the history of this area's original inhabitants. For more information, call (715)836-3616.

IN MEMORIAM

PCHS lost several good friends and benefactors during the past few months. Long-time PCHS member and former board member, Warren Walters, died recently. We all will remember his smiling face and great love for Pepin County and his fellow man.

Dane Morey, former attorney and Pepin-Buffalo County Circuit Court Judge, was highly regarded and well respected. His sense of fairness and compassion will be remembered.

Emma Langlois was the long-time Pepin County Register of Deeds. Her service to the community and to her family is an inspiration to the rest of us.

Other PCHS members who passed away during the past six months include Beryl Holmstadt, Doris Schlumpf and Mary Buchholtz.

The Board of Directors extends its sympathies to the families of these PCHS members.

2009 Saturday Volunteer Host Schedule

- May 23 - Rita Conlin & Pat Rosenberg
- May 30 - Gwelda Glaus & Lou Simpson
- June 6 - Judy Schwellenbach & Joyce Haigh
- June 13 - Gary & Barb Bauer
- June 20 - Alice & Roger Bauer
- June 27 - Don & Irma Bauer
- July 4 - Jon & Loni Dodge
- July 11 - Diane Bauer & Carol Danzinger
- July 18 - John & Linda Solie
- July 25 - Lois & Chuck Lane
- Aug 1 - Gerald and Deanna Ripley
- Aug 8 - Kim & Lynette Wagenbach
- Aug 15 - Pat Ulwelling & Evelyn Holmsted
- Aug 22 - Lorraine & Bun Brenner
- Aug 29 - Carol Forster-Bauer & Rosemary Carlisle
- Sept 5 - Donna Setterlund & Jean Kannel
- Sept 12 - Galen & Bernadine Radle
- Sept 19 - Rosemary & Joan Achenbach
- Sept 26 - Linda DeLong & Julie Rinholen
- Oct 3 - Lynn & Kelly Coulson
- Oct 10 - Mike and Barb Ausing

If a conflict arises for the Saturday you are scheduled as a Volunteer Host, please try to make arrangements to trade with another host or contact Lois Laehn at 672-4883 or Terry Mesch at 672-5709. Your help is very important to the success of the Museum.

Orientation sessions for Volunteer Hosts can be arranged by contacting Terry Mesch at 672-5709.

PCHS Efforts to Preserve Old Courthouse

The Pepin County Historical Society (PCHS) is committed to preserving the Old Pepin County Courthouse and minimizing the building's deterioration. In that effort PCHS has, during the past several years, done the following to maintain / enhance the property:

- Replaced deteriorated storm cellar entry steps
- Installed a new storm cellar door and new exterior basement door
- Painted new storm cellar door and repainted handicapped-access ramp
- Tuck-pointed foundation masonry
- Installed new main hallway lighting
- Installed new / repaired existing and painted handrails to second floor
- Repainted storm doors, rear door, and storm cellar door
- Caulked and repainted base of pillars
- Removed old construction materials and pigeon droppings from cupola
- Replaced flush mechanism and stopper on toilet

These maintenance and improvement items have cost in excess of \$3,500. In addition, the County has paid for the replacement of a motor to the boiler. Also, the exterior siding and combination storm/screen windows have been replaced (paid by insurance) on the building's northeast side following damage by a hail storm.

Museum staff will also be proposing changes to the lighting system throughout the building, from the existing tube fluorescent lights to more historically compatible and/or museum appropriate lighting instruments. The first phase will likely be the upstairs courtroom. Once estimates have been received, the board will be looking for funds.

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



PCHS Spring Meeting
Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.
Arkansaw Elementary School Cafeteria
Arkansaw, Wisconsin
Featured presentation:
"Helen Parkhurst & the History of Dalton
Education in The Netherlands"
(see inside for details)

Orange Dot -
2009
dues not
received

Please make a note: our mailing address has changed. We are now receiving all mail at 315 W. Madison Street in Durand, WI 54736

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

Name _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIPS:

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



Main entrance to the prestigious Dalton School in Manhattan, New York City. The school is an independent, co-educational (K-12) day school and was founded in 1919 by the renowned progressive educator Helen Parkhurst. Helen graduated from Durand High School in 1904.