



# THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXV, No. 1

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

March, 2011

GREETINGS! from your PCHS president! As old man winter still has a slight hold on us, we are looking forward to another busy spring and summer season at the Old Courthouse Museum.

Kicking off the year is the Annual Membership Meeting April 10, followed by Law Day and the Spring Fresh Art Tour the second week of May. Our regular season at the Museum begins the weekend after Memorial Day. The PCHS Board has agreed to once again hire Ben Clark (back from last year) as our summer intern.

I can also advise you that the PCHS Summer Potluck Picnic will be held Monday July 11 at the Lutheran Church in Ella. Our Autumn Education Event is also being arranged for October.

Thanks in advance to all of you who will serve as our Volunteer Hosts on Saturdays; your presence at the Museum helps to put a real face on those of us who keep the Museum going. Also, a big thanks to our regular Tuesday volunteers and to our special helpers during Law Day and other large tour groups.

I would like to close by challenging each and every member to stop by to visit the Museum this year and to bring friends and family with you. The Museum will be open Thursday through Sunday 11am to 4pm June through August. It's a great diversion when visiting relatives start to get restless for something to do. We have a great Museum which should be shared and discovered!

- Kim Wagenbach, PCHS President

Your **Old Courthouse Museum & Jail** are OPEN YEAR 'ROUND by appointment - Call (715)672-5423 or (715)672-5709 to set up a time to visit.

## PCHS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, April 10 - 2pm

at Durand Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria

Educational event featuring  
**"LIVING HISTORY - GEORGE WASHINGTON & SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR"**  
Presented by Lynn Coulson

Lynn Coulson is an avid history buff and enjoys talking to small groups about American history, especially the Revolutionary War. He will be presenting a "Living History - George Washington & Soldiers of the Revolutionary War" at the PCHS Annual Membership Meeting to be held at 2pm on Sunday, April 10 in the Durand Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria.

He wears a period uniform during his presentation and carries the weapons and accoutrements of a soldier 225 years ago. Lynn is well versed in the history of George Washington and his soldiers.

Lynn was born and raised in Plum City, Wisconsin, the youngest of Bernard and Mildred Coulson's four children. He graduated from Plum City high school in 1984 and has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Lynn spent one year with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections as a prison guard, and has been a trooper with the Wisconsin State Patrol since 1989. Lynn is currently assigned patrol responsibilities in Eau Claire county, and in warmer weather he is one of the district's motorcycle officers.

Lynn married Kelly Bauer in 1989, and they have three children; Jacob (19) a United States Marine currently training in San Diego, CA., Zachary (18) a senior in high school and Kathryn (14) a freshman in high school. Lynn moved his family to Durand in 1998, in order to send his children to Assumption Catholic schools and Durand High School.

Lynn has served on the Pepin County Board of Supervisors and currently sits on the Pepin County Historical Society and Durand Library boards. Lynn spends his free time reading, exploring historical sites and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

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Prior to Lynn's presentation, PCHS will hold its Annual Membership Meeting to elect three directors to its Board of Directors. Board members whose terms expire this year are Kim Wagenbach, John Solie, and Dick Schlosser, who have all indicated they are willing to serve another term. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

## SOCIETY NEWS

PCHS had another successful financial year during 2010. Expenditures totaled \$5,471, more than half of which was for the museum's summer intern's wages, income taxes, social security, unemployment insurance, etc. Revenues from memberships, bequests/memorials, donations, and sales of books and cards, interest, etc. totaled \$25,487. Included in that amount is a \$20,000 bequest from the late Virginia Ryan. The Society's 25th Anniversary Celebration last summer and a booth in the Fall Crafts Sale at Arkansaw Elementary School where volunteers sold our books and cards were PCHS's major fundraisers during 2010.

At the year's end, the society's checking and savings accounts and CDs totaled \$45,346. Anyone interested in seeing budget details can contact PCHS Treasurer Galen Radle.

Our biggest selling item during 2010 was the "Pepin County History" book printed by Taylor Publishing (Dallas, TX) in 1985. PCHS received about 20 books from the former sales representative. Once made available for sale, these books went very quickly and the Society has no remaining copies for sale.

### 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 - \$10.00

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirts - sizes s-m-l-xl, \$10.00

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

**The Old Courthouse Museum is open anytime by appointment! Call 715-672-5423 to set up a time.**

## Memorials Received:

For:	From:
Carl E. Silberhorn	Galen/Bernadine Radle
Gwen Rockwell	Marjorie G. Greeley
Donald Wekkin	Lee E. Grippen
Earl Gilles	Lee E. Grippen
Loretta Brantner	Galen/Bernadine Radle

### Museum Notes

The Museum will host the annual "Law Day" event developed and produced by members of the Tri-County Bar Association. Fifth graders from Arkansaw/Durand, Pepin, Mondovi and Plum City will participate in a mock trial in the second floor courtroom and tour the Old Courthouse Museum and Jail. Law Day is scheduled for May 11 & 12.

The very next day, the Museum will host Pepin artist John Meyer during the "Spring Fresh Art Tour" May 13,14,15. (see article in next column)

Arrangements are being made with the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Public History Graduate School Program to once again hire Benjamin Clark as the summer intern. This internship in "Museum Operations" provides students with valuable hands-on experience in making history accessible to the public. Ben served with distinction during the 2010 season and the museum staff looks forward to working with him once again.

Volunteer staff members put together wonderful holiday displays throughout the building for Durand Dazzle Day last November. Exhibits included old skis, ice skates, a sled, 100-year-old newspaper ads from the Pepin County Courier, antique lights and ornaments, an old model railroad set, vintage clothing and more. They're talking about doing it again next year



### 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



Spring Street, Stockholm, Wis.  
Watercolor by John Meyer

### **Pepin Artist John Meyer Featured at Old Courthouse Museum for “Spring Fresh Art Tour”**

The Museum will feature the paintings and drawings of guest artist John Meyer of Pepin, Wis. during the “Spring Fresh Art Tour” on May 13,14,15.

Known primarily for his watercolor and oil paintings of area river towns, scenes of the hills, and landscapes around Lake Pepin, his work is also a travelogue of the places he visits. John grew up in the farm country of northeastern Iowa, studied physics and art at the University of Minnesota, and attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

He now paints almost exclusively ‘on location’ – he says it helps him maintain the freshness and spontaneity often lost in the studio. When not displayed in the Old Courthouse Museum, his paintings can be seen at Stockholm Pottery and Mercantile in Stockholm, Wis.

***The Museum will be open from 10am to 5pm all three days.***



***The Museum will also be open Funfest Weekend - Thursday through Sunday - June 9,10,11,12 - 11am to 4pm.***

#### **Original Artwork on Display at Museum**

Beautiful artwork by numerous local artists from the past are on display throughout the Museum. Watercolors, oils, pastels, carvings, replicas, sculptures, photographs, acrylics, pen and pencil drawings by John Anibas, Midge Bolt, Bernard Brantner, Lorraine Brenner, Roger Britten, Jr., Carol Davis, John Flickr, C.H. Gleason, Ed Grippen, Rozan Henning, Floyd Hubbard, Burton Gjefle, Eula Johnson and others can be seen in nearly every room in the building.

#### **2011 Saturday Volunteer Host Schedule**

May 28	-	Rita Conlin & Pat Rosenberg
June 4	-	Paul & Lou Simpson
June 11	-	Judy Schwellenbach & Joyce Haigh
June 18	-	Gary & Barb Bauer
June 25	-	Alice & Roger Bauer
July 2	-	Don & Irma Bauer
July 9	-	Dick & Judy Schlosser
July 16	-	Diane Bauer & Carol F. Bauer
July 23	-	John & Linda Solie
July 30	-	Pat Miller & Sadie Hagness
Aug 6	-	Gerald and Deanna Ripley
Aug 13	-	Kim & Lynette Wagenbach
Aug 20	-	Lois Laehn & Evelyn Holmsted
Aug 27	-	Lorraine & Bun Brenner
Sept 3	-	Roberta Stuart & Rosemary Carlisle
Sept 10	-	Donna Setterlund & Jean Kannel
Sept 17	-	Galen & Bernadine Radle
Sept 24	-	Rosemary Achenbach & Gwelda Glaus
Oct 1	-	Linda DeLong & Julie Rinholen
Oct 8	-	Lynn & Kelly Coulson

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. Other volunteer hosts may be needed for special events, if you are interested contact Lois or Terry.

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



This wise old man is depicted on a highway mile marker sign advising travelers it is just three miles more to the Durand Drug Co. in Durand, Wisconsin. The Old Courthouse Museum now has five of these signs, which are believed to have been painted 90-to-100 years ago. The artist is unknown. One guess might be that the painter was an itinerant artist who traveled around from place-to-place stopping now-&-again to do some painting to earn a little money. The paintings were found in the basement of Durand Drug Co. in the 1940s and were donated to Pepin County Historical Society by members of the Val and Audrey Hoeser family.

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

Find us on the Internet!

[www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org](http://www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org)

**COLORED DOT HERE IS  
A REMINDER TO RENEW  
YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP**

IF YOU CAN  
READ THIS  
YOU HAVE  
PAID  
THANKS

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

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

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



**Laura Ingalls Wilder** did not begin writing books until her daughter, Rose, had achieved some success as a freelance writer for magazines. Laura approached Rose with a manuscript she had titled, "When Grandma Was a Little Girl." It became "Little House in the Big Woods," and Laura Ingalls Wilder went on to write a series of extremely popular books based on her childhood spent wandering in the big woods and the prairie. She died in 1957 at the age of ninety.