



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XX, No. 3

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society September 2006

President's Message

I'm happy to announce the vacant seat on the PCHS Board has been filled by Lynn Coulson. [see below] It's great to be operating with a full board once again.

The Old Courthouse received some damage in the recent hail storm. The screens were tattered on nine northeast facing windows and several window panes broken. An insurance claim is being filed through the county, which owns the building, and a private contractor has been asked to give us an estimate of the damage.

The museum displays have been changing during the past year and if you haven't visited for awhile, you really need to stop by for a visit. We're open on Saturdays through October 14 or by appointment any time.

We'll be offering special premiums for certain membership for next year. [see inside] and don't forget your dues help with our mission "to preserve the history and traditions of Pepin County."

Kim Wagenbach

PCHS BOARD FILLS VACANT SEAT

Lynn Coulson has been named to fill a seat on the board, which has been vacant since the Annual Membership meeting last April. Lynn will serve the remainder of the three-year term. A life-long resident of the area, Lynn lives with his wife, Kelly, and three kids in the City of Durand. Lynn has more than a passing interest in history and has often been seen in costume doing his

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.

USAF Colonel (Retired) Dan Doughty will be Featured Speaker at PCHS Fall Meeting

Daniel James Doughty joined the Air Force Reserve in 1952, received his pilot's wings in December, 1954, and served at bases in the U.S., Lybia, Japan, Thailand and South Vietnam. During his 169th combat mission on April 2, 1966, his plane was shot down over North Vietnam and he was captured. He was held as a prisoner of war for almost seven years before his release on February 12, 1973. He retired from the U.S. Air Force with the rank of Colonel in 1976.

Doughty will be the featured speaker at the **PCHS Fall Meeting scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 8 at the Arkansaw Elementary School in Arkansaw, Wis.**

The son of Herbert and Ruth (Black) Doughty, Daniel was born June 23, 1933, at Ladysmith, Wis. He grew up on his family's farm, attended grade school first in a small country school and then at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in Ladysmith, and graduated from Ladysmith High School in 1952.

After joining the Air Force Reserve in 1952, he went on active duty as an aviation cadet in September, 1953, and earned his wings at Webb Air Force Base in Texas. Following his release from North Vietnam, he served three more years before retiring from the Air Force.

Since that time, he has lived in Eau Claire with his wife, Theresa, and helped raise four children. He continued his piloting flying charter flights out of the Chippewa Valley Airport at Eau Claire.



Daniel Doughty next to his Model T Ford, which he recently drove on a trip throughout western Wisconsin, including a stop at the Helen Parkhurst Memorial Bell Tower at the Arkansaw Middle School in Arkansaw.

OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM NEWS

Recent acquisitions include a beautiful log cabin doll house donated by Lorena (LaPean) Richardson. The log cabin, which is on display in Room Two in the museum, was modeled after an actual log cabin owned by Lorena's parents, Steven and Mary LaPean. The cabin stood in the Town of Waterville, a couple miles west of Arkansaw, along what is now Pickering Lane. Lorena also donated a photograph and an oil painting of the original LaPean log home. The log cabin doll house included the miniature furniture, wall hangings, window treatments, wood stove, and other household items, which are also on display.

PCHS has recently acquired several more paintings by Charles Hovey Gleason. Patricia Wilcox of Sedro Woolley, Washington, has donated a watercolor landscape painted by Gleason in 1947, while he was living in Mount Vernon, Washington. Ms. Wilcox remembers watching Gleason create this painting.

Sue Weber of Durand, Wisconsin, donated a smaller oil of a mountain landscape, which hung for many years in her parents' Durand home. This painting is not dated, but the inscription on the back indicates it too was painted while the artist was living in Washington state.

Several other canvasses painted by Gleason have been donated to PCHS by Steve and Penny Schultz of Durand. These landscapes had previously been adhered to the dining room walls of the Schultz's Durand home, which was known as the "Miles home" believed to have been built in the late 1920s.

Randy Brantner of Arkansaw donated an exquisite pair of child's leather shoes (circa 1890) and a pair of brass fish-scale epaulet, which he believes were vintage to American Civil War era. Epaulet are adornments worn on the shoulders of certain military uniforms.

The storm-cellar double-doors covering the outside stairs to the basement at the rear of the building have been replaced. The old concrete steps have been covered with new wood steps and the old door to the basement itself has been replaced with a secure steel door.

New track lighting has been installed in the main corridor, replacing the old florescent lights. The new lights accent the pictures and artifacts nicely and provide greater ambiance to the museum.

The museum is still seeking copies of the History of Northern Wisconsin and the History of Dunn County for our reference Library. We're also looking for original documents, photos, letters, diaries and other information about William Boyd Newcomb, who founded the Village of Pepin in the 1850s. Anyone who has such information can contact the museum at 715-672-5423 or 715-672-5709.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED -

For:

From:

Margurite Anderson

Judy Schwellenbach

Gene Bauer

Gerald/Viven Levenske

Leonard F. Knutson

Judy Schwellenbach

Christina Weissinger

Lynn/Kelly Coulson



Look familiar? This Greek Revival architectural style county courthouse is located in Lexington, North Carolina, the county seat of Davidson County. This style is said to make a strong statement about the democratic ideals of government and is repeated in counties across the United States. Only two exist in Wisconsin, here in Pepin County and in Iowa County at Dodgeville.



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

PCHS Publications For Sale

PCHS has numerous publications available for purchase. The prices cover the cost of printing and provide a few dollars to the PCHS treasury. These books all focus on local historical events or people who lived here at some time during their lives. The books are not only entertaining, but also enlightening with insights into what life was like in Pepin County.

Anyone interested in these books can contact PCHS at the Old Courthouse Museum phone (715)672-5423 or by writing to P.O. Box 74, Durand, WI 54736.

Here is a listing of the books published by PCHS:

Durand 1881, compiled by Vera Slabey, published 1987 - verbatim excerpts from the "*Pepin County Courier*", W.H. Huntington, Editor, about the murders of the Coleman brothers, search for the Williams/Maxwell brothers, and the lynching of Ed Maxwell - \$3.00

Steamboat Navigation on the Chippewa River, by Peter A. Adler, published 2004 - written in 1969 as partial fulfillment of his Master of Science degree at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire - \$10.00

Mary Plummer Clemenceau - Sweetheart of Pepin County, by Vern Pinkowski, published 1997 - biography of Mary Plummer, who was born in Pepin County and eventually married Georges Clemenceau, the "Tiger of France" who became the Premier of France during World War I - \$10.00

Helen Parkhurst - Educator, by Vern Pinkowski, published 1999 - biography of one of the most important educators of the 20th century. Born and raised in Durand and valedictorian of the 1904 graduating class at DHS, Helen went on to become the most important American female educator of her era - \$10.00

Elizabeth Clarke Hardy - Wife, Writer, Farmer, Poet and Editor, by Vern Pinkowski, published 2001 - short biography of popular Wisconsin writer/poet who lived in Durand during the last 15 years of her life and whose poem, "When the Tide is Low", was read at the state funerals for both presidents Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding - \$10.00

A Pathway to Pepin County's Stone Age People, by Vern Pinkowski, published 2003 - a literary journey through prehistoric times in Pepin County from 12000 B.C. to 1500 A.D. - \$10.00

A Vanished Community - The Waubeek Saw Mill Settlement, by Vern Pinkowski, published 2004 - a history of a once-thriving, now-disappeared community located in the shadow of Waubeek Mound and built upon the shoulders of the powerful lumber industry of the Chippewa River Valley during the mid-to-late 1800s - \$10.00

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

Membership Premiums New for 2007

In an effort to encourage upgrading the level of your PCHS membership, the PCHS Board has decided to offer a variety of premiums for membership categories of \$25 or higher.

The "**Friends of the Museum**" and "**Business/Professional**" (both \$25 level) will be eligible for their choice of one of the books (up to \$10 value) shown in the column to the left.

A "**Contributing**" membership of \$50 will be eligible for the choice of two of these publications (up to \$20 value).

A \$100 "**Sponsor**" membership will be eligible for the choice of any three books (up to \$30 value), plus an attractive 8½"x11" print of a 1993 line-drawing of the Old Courthouse Museum done by artist, Brian Larson (\$3 value).

If you currently have an "**Individual**" (\$5) or a "**Family**" (\$8) membership, you may want to consider upgrading your membership level for 2007. Your membership in PCHS is our number one means of financial support. We could not continue without you!

"We made an unplanned stop in Durand to visit with folks at the Old Pepin Courthouse, which is the last wooden courthouse still standing in Wisconsin."

This image and quote were pulled from the Internet. The gentleman in the picture is Mark Green, Republican candidate for governor of Wisconsin this year. He apparently stopped by on a day other than Saturday when there were no "folks at the Old Pepin Courthouse" with whom to visit. It was a good photo-op and good publicity for Green and the Old Courthouse Museum...and the colors matched nicely. The sign in the picture, by the way, has recently been replaced. Both the old and the new signs were created by Wm. D. Hoesser, an artist living and working in Durand.

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

PRST STD
 Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. postage
PAID
 Durand, WI
 Permit No. 5



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct 4 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- Oct 8 - Fall Meeting 2:00 pm @ Arkansaw Elementary School in Arkansaw, Wis.
- Oct 14 - Last Day of '06 Museum Season

Join us!

Check out our premium offers for upgrading your membership in 2007! See inside for details

MEMBERSHIPS:

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

Name _____

 Address _____



"Honor a Teacher/Mentor" bricks border the walk to Helen Parkhurst Bell Tower Memorial. PCHS is accepting requests for more engraved bricks.

The **Honor a Teacher - Buy a Brick** is accepting orders for engraved bricks honoring important teachers, coaches, mentors, pastors, or other positive role-models like parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or family friends. Stop by the Helen Parkhurst Bell Tower Memorial at Arkansaw Middle School to see the 65 engraved bricks already in place. Twelve more will be placed soon. PCHS is taking requests now to fill an order of at least thirty more bricks later this year. Call the Old Courthouse Museum at 715-672-5423 for details.