



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXII, No. 3

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

Sept., 2008

President's Message:

Greetings from PCHS! Once again Fall is almost here and another season at the museum will be history. We have had a successful and busy summer, particularly related to the Pepin County 150th Birthday Celebration. The events on August 9th were both educational and entertaining. We are proud of the time and effort it took to make this day happen.

I would like to thank Corinne Menominee, our Summer Intern, for all her work and dedication. I wish her good luck in her future career in history.

Our Fall Meeting will be Sunday, October 12th and will feature Douglas Faulkner, who will give us a better idea about the geographical history of this county in which we live. It won't be about a person, though "she" is our Mother (the Earth).

We are always looking for folks willing to serve as Guest Hosts at the museum on Saturdays during the season and for special tours of large groups. Depending on interest, Terry Mesch will be organizing "Host Training" sessions in the Spring.

Have a great Autumn!

- Kim Wagenbach

Final Event of Sesquicentennial Celebration: "Harvest Dance"

Plan now to attend the "Harvest Dance" on Saturday, October 18. Dinner and an old-fashioned barn dance will be the featured events. Tickets are available at numerous locations throughout the county. For more information about the Harvest Dance, contact (715)442-2712. The event is sponsored by the Laura Ingalls Wilder Society and Pepin Community Club.

Our Address Has Changed!!

Please make a note that our address has changed! The PCHS Board has agreed to give up our post office box and we will now receive mail at our street address: **315 W. Madison St.** We have installed a mailbox at the back of the Old Courthouse Museum and the post office will be delivering our mail to us in the future. All correspondence should now be addressed to our new street address.

PCHS Fall Meeting Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. Durand Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

**Featured presentation:
Douglas Faulkner, Ph.D.**

"History of the Physical Geography of the Lower Chippewa River from the Last Ice Age to the Present"

Douglas Faulkner, an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, will be the featured presenter at the Pepin County Historical Society's Fall Meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct 12 at Durand Jr./Sr. High School. Faulkner will discuss the historical changes to the channel of the Lower Chippewa River from Eau Claire to the Mississippi River. Faulkner has had a special interest in the Lower Chippewa River Valley in west-central Wisconsin, which he describes as "...a fascinating and unique region that was designated a State Natural Area by the Governor and the Natural Resources Board of Wisconsin in 2001."

One of his on-going collaborative research projects has been to reconstruct channel changes that have occurred along the Lower Chippewa over the past century and to identify the factors that control why certain reaches of the river have seen more dynamic changes than others. Another project "...seeks to reconstruct the Late Quaternary geomorphic history (both fluvial and eolian) of the Lower Chippewa Valley." (That means "...figuring out the changes caused to the Chippewa River by flowing water and blowing wind during the most recent 25,000 years".)



SOCIETY NEWS

Approximately 50 people attended the PCHS Summer Potluck Picnic at Round Hill in July. The weather was perfect, the food was plentiful and delicious, and Les Kruger, author of Brothers in Blood, gave an interesting and entertaining presentation. Les sold and signed copies of his book following his talk.

MUSEUM NEWS & NOTES

Our summer intern, Corinne Menomonee, assisted with museum operations during June, July and August. She staffed the museum for our extended summer hours Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Corinne re-designed and enhanced the captions and narratives which accompany our displays and artifacts, making our exhibits more attractive and much more visitor friendly.

She provided guided tours, helped improve our archives, and the cataloguing of artifacts, photographs and other collections. She also developed new displays.

The PCHS Board was willing to experiment this year, with goals of increased attendance and improvements at the museum. The Board will be analyzing the results of this internship to determine if we will continue it in the future.

The Museum will only be open a couple more Saturdays this season. Oct. 11 is our last official day. If you haven't been to the museum for a while, be sure to stop in to see the changes we've been making. We have more original artwork on display and have new exhibits in several areas. Guided tours can be arranged at just about any time throughout the year with advance notice.

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: From:

Jeanne Hoesser	Galen / Bernadine Radle
	Richard / Vera Slabey
Mary Buchholz	Richard / Vera Slabey
	Sadie Hagness
Virginia "Pat" Rhiel	Jean A. Bean
	Mary Goodrich Greeley

Pepin County 150th Birthday Celebration – August 9, 2008

The events of the day-long August 9 150th Birthday Celebration were a resounding critical success, but the beautiful weather which blessed the celebration also cut into the attendance. A few hundred people attended the various events held in downtown Durand.

Attendees' responses to all the presentations, exhibits, entertainment and food were very favorable. The largest crowd of the day gathered at the Durand Theater for John Hallwas's presentation about his book, Dime Novel Desperadoes – The Notorious Maxwell Brothers. Hallwas sold out the two cases of books he brought along for the occasion. Many people also enjoyed the presentation of Mary Logue, author of the Claire Watkins mystery series, which are set in Pepin County.

Yata's "Music Through the Decades" was very entertaining and educational and the audience didn't want him to stop at the end of his performance time. He did a couple encores and was then followed by the announcement of the art and essay winners.

"Dancing Through the Decades" presented by Arthur Murray Studio in Eau Claire was also a wonderfully entertaining presentation.

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



Arlyn Colby of Barron, Wis., who has been periodically doing research about the railroad line from Trevino to Eau Claire at the Old Courthouse Museum, sent us this picture of Durand. The actual date is unknown, but was taken after 1902 when the bridge in the photo was constructed. If anyone can pinpoint the year based on other visual cues, please let us know. The Old Courthouse is visible near the center of the picture.

More Literary Connections to Pepin County

Margaret R. Miller of Knapp, Wis. recently completed a trilogy of books she has been working on during the past decade or so. Margaret was born and raised in Durand, the daughter of Claude and Emma Langlois.

Her first book, The Glory Years, was published in 2000 by Publish America Book Publishing Co. The final two, Rose of Sharon and The Days of Fortune, were self published and released late in 2007.

All three stories revolve around a young heroine, Kate Parker, and her great love of horses. Miller generously donated a copy of each of her books to PCHS's small but growing library.

All three books are available directly from the author; The Glory Years is also available on amazon.com. Miller lives on a small hobby farm near Knapp and can be contacted by phone at (715)643-6018.



Aerial view of Washington Square in Durand as can be seen on the Pepin County Geographic Information Web Server (www.co.pepin.wi.us). The picture was taken from an airplane flying about 5000 feet in the air during the early spring of 2007 in the early morning (note the bare trees and long shadow cast by the Old Courthouse).

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



PCHS Fall Meeting - Sun., Oct. 12
Presentation by:
Douglas Faulkner, Ph.D.
“History of the Physical
Geography of the Lower
Chippewa River from the Last Ice
Age to the Present”
 (see inside for details)

Please make a note: our mailing address has changed...we no longer are at P.O. Box 74 ... 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



Terry Mesch, Old Courthouse Museum Director and Coordinator of the Pepin County 150th Birthday Celebration, is seen here (above) waiting for the Durand Funfest Grand Parade to get underway on Sunday, June 8. Below, Terry is pictured with former Durand resident, Tom Bauer, in front of the Sesquicentennial traveling display at the Stockholm Art Fair on Saturday, July 19.

