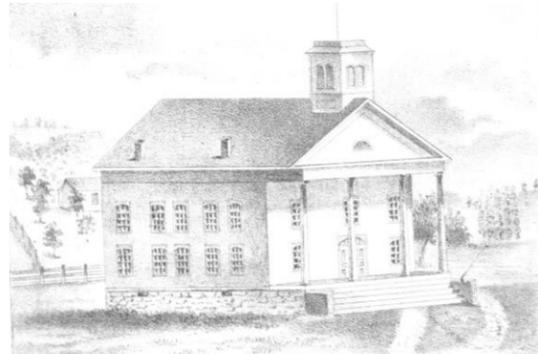


Pepin County Historical Society  
 OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM  
 Washington Square  
 315 W. Madison St.  
 Durand, WI 54736



Pepin County Courthouse at Durand, Wis. lithograph from "Illustrated Historical Atlas of Buffalo and Pepin Counties - 1878"

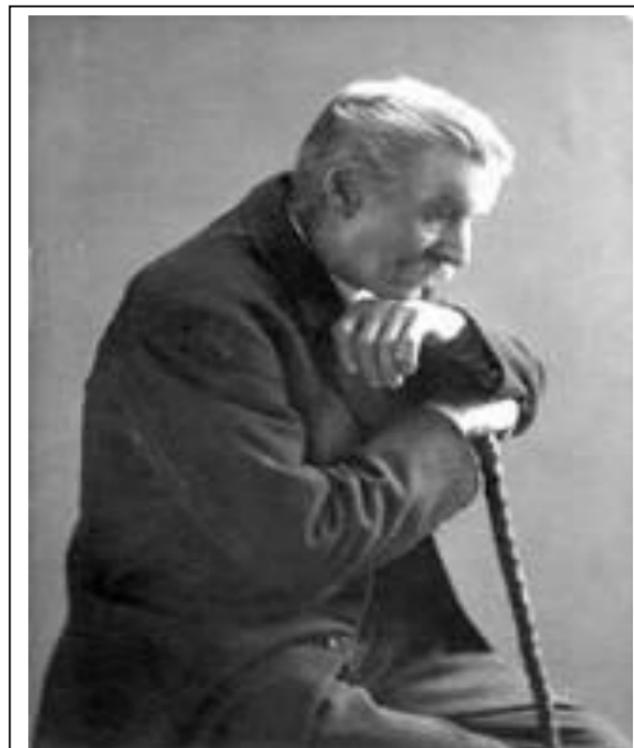
Find us on the Internet!  
[www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org](http://www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org)

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

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

- \_\_\_ \$8 Individual
- \_\_\_ \$12 Family
- \_\_\_ \$25 Friends of Museum
- \_\_\_ \$25 Business/Professional
- \_\_\_ \$50 Contributing
- \_\_\_ \$100 Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$1000 Lifetime

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



Phil Scheckel captained steamboats on the Chippewa River during the late 1800s and is the subject of a new song, "Ballad of Phil Scheckel", by Doug Wozniak which will be featured at the PCHS Autumn Education Event.



# THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXVIII, No. 3

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

September, 2014

Greetings!

Fall is in the air and with it comes the end to the regular summer season hours at the Old Courthouse Museum. We will continue to be open from one until four on Saturdays through October 11. But you can still visit by appointment anytime during the rest of the year simply by calling and leaving a message at 715-672-5423.

We have been fortunate to once again having had a top quality intern from UW-Eau Claire during the summer months. I want to thank Mike Shoup for the great work he did for us this year. Not only faithfully showing up each day to open and close the doors, but for quickly learning the many wonderful stories we have and leading tours whenever visitors asked. Mike designed and set up a new Pepin County Fair display and took the lead in designing our wonderful new Helen Parkhurst exhibit, which we'll be unveiling on October 18.

The PCHS Board has been very proactive this year overseeing numerous big projects like new period lighting in the upstairs courtroom, the Parkhurst display, upgrading the 1881 lynching exhibit, and purchasing cases of books for sale by our gift shop. The Board approved the purchase of a case of "The Sea Wing Disaster" by Fred Johnson, who spoke at our summer education event last July. It's for sale now and will make a great Christmas gift for that history buff on your list.

The Board also decided to pursue some historic preservation of two very important tombstones related to one of the City of Durand's most significant events. The gravestone of Charles Coleman in the Forest Hill Cemetery and that of Fannie Hussey in the Waubeek Cemetery are both deteriorating and need significant repair.

Finally (and most importantly), I want to thank the folks who make our wonderful museum a reality - all our regular volunteers and board members, our Saturday Volunteer Hosts, and Museum Director Terry Mesch. I especially want to thank Julie Rinholen for the extensive research she has done for the Museum. She has inherited her interest in history from her mom, Pat Ulwelling, who passed away this summer. Pat was also a great researcher and faithful volunteer at the Museum. We miss you, Pat ... and thank you for your daughter.

Blessings to you all!

- Kim Wagenbach, PCHS President

## PCHS Autumn Education Event

Sunday, October 12 - 2pm

Durand Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria

### "Songs & Tales of Logging & Steamboating in the Chippewa Valley"

by

**Douglas Wozniak**

Singer, song writer and tale spinner Doug Wozniak of Chippewa Falls, Wis. will feature original ballads and tales as he recounts the history of logging and steamboating in the Chippewa River Valley at the PCHS Autumn Education Event on Sunday, October 12 at the Durand Jr-Sr High School. He will also feature scores of vintage photographs from the area to make his presentation an audio and visual treat and a fun way to learn history.

Doug has performed music, juggling, magic, puppets, and story-telling throughout the Midwest and has regularly performed at the Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau Claire. He has recently written "The Ballad of Phil Scheckel", a new song honoring local steamboat captain Phil Scheckel.

Doug has written hundreds of folk songs, ballads and children's song during his lifetime. When just 23 years old, he wrote the songs and directed the music for a musical adaptation of "Wisconsin Death Trip", which was presented at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wis. in 1974.

Born in Wakefield, Michigan, he moved with his family to Chippewa Falls, where he attended school and began writing songs while still in junior high. He graduated with a degree in music from UW-Eau Claire and taught music for many years at schools in New Auburn and Chippewa Falls.

The Autumn Education Event is free and open to the public and is scheduled for 2pm on Sunday, October 12. For more information, call the Museum at 715-672-5423 and leave a message.

**The Old Courthouse Museum is open by appointment throughout the year! Call 715-672-5423 to schedule a visit.**

## MUSEUM & SOCIETY NEWS

Fifty people attended this summer's PCHS Potluck & Education Event to listen to the harrowing story of the Sea Wing, the paddle-wheeler that sank in Lake Pepin in July 1890. Fred Johnson, author of "The Sea Wing Disaster – Tragedy on Lake Pepin", held the audience spell-bound for more than an hour. This story is an important enough event in Pepin County's history to prompt the PCHS Board to purchase a case of the books from the publisher, Goodhue County [Minnesota] Historical Society. It is now for sale through our gift shop, so order yours today!

Summer intern Mike Shoup finished his employment at the Museum Labor Day weekend. He quickly got absorbed in our mission of preserving the history and traditions of Pepin County and was instrumental in designing and constructing a new exhibit about the Pepin County Fair in the Main Hallway. Mike also designed, developed and coordinated the construction of a major new exhibit to Helen Parkhurst. Mike's passion for history and his dedication to the Old Courthouse Museum this summer were exemplary. His efforts will be remembered for a long time and he has set a high standard of performance for future interns.

### Unique Gift Ideas from PCHS

The Sea Wing Disaster – Tragedy on Lake Pepin, by Fred Johnson, 2014, published by Goodhue County Historical Society - \$25.00

Dime Novel Desperadoes - The Notorious Maxwell Brothers, by John Hallwas, 2008, published by University of Illinois Press; winner of "Best Biography from the Midwest" by the Society of Midland Authors - \$25.00

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 - \$5.00

## Memorials Received:

**For: Bernadine Black** From: George & Barb Grotkin, Chuck & Lois Laehn, Galen & Bernadine Radle, Evelyn Holmstadt, Steve Potach & Judy Horn, Gwen & Kathy Lecander, Ron & Cathy Black Hendricksen, Joyce Haigh, Debbie, Denise & Dedra Krings, Nick & Vicky Hartung, Donald Hofacker, Allan & Ruth Hofland, Lee & Sharon Fernholz, Wayne & Pat Miller, Marie Black Wiemer, Dorothy Black Rostad, Jane Hofacker Mohr, Bill & Joan Sweeney, Eric & Shari Wagner, Burt & Judy Johnson Will, Bob & Mary Ellen Fisher, Roberta Stuart, Suse & Kirk Ausman, David Hofacker, Bill & Sheila Myers, Joan & Ray Marsolek, Sue & Butch Weber, Catherine Baier, Marliis Pittman Beland, Jeff Bosshart, Eunice Black, Michael & Cheryl Barth

**For: Pat Ulwelling** From: Don & Irma Bauer, Mary Polzer, Peter J. Fossum

**For: Glorieux Rayburn Dougherty** From: Rose Mary Stoll



Pat Ulwelling was a charter member of the Pepin County Historical Society and was a regular volunteer at the Museum from its beginning in 1985 until just a few years before her death this past July. She had a passion for history that led her to tracing her own and her husband's family histories. She also did a considerable amount of research for

PCHS and the Old Courthouse Museum.

Pat was born on Nov. 21, 1934 on the Biesterveld family farm at Rock Falls, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Bauer) Biesterveld. She and her husband Joe married in 1955 and ran a filling station in Durand until Joe's retirement in 1980. Pat told how she accompanied Joe as he waded into the Chippewa River with a chainsaw to cut the top off one of the pilings from the 1884 Durand bridge, which Joe then mounted on an oak pedestal along with the inscription plate from the 1902 bridge. They donated this display to the Museum, where it remains on permanent exhibit. We are indebted to Pat for all her dedicated work ... and for giving us her daughter Julie, who has picked up where her mother left off.

### 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

## Memorials for Bernadine Black Earmarked for Restoration of Important Gravestones

The family of Bernadine Black has advised PCHS of their wishes for memorials donated in her name to be used to restore three historically important gravestones in Pepin County. The PCHS Board recently approved a proposal to restore the gravestones of Charles Coleman, Fannie Hussey and Fannie's sister, Annaetta. Charles Coleman and his brother Milton were shot to death on July 10, 1881 in their infamous shootout with the Maxwell (alias Williams) brothers, Ed & Lon. Charles is buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Durand; the headstone has loosened from its base and the text has become difficult to read. Fannie Hussey, wife of the infamous desperado Lon Maxwell, is buried at the Waubeek Cemetery in the Town of Waubeek next to her sister. Their headstones are broken and nearly unreadable, and, the bases are badly deteriorated. PCHS has contracted with local Historical Preservationist, Darrek Orwig, to clean, repair and restore the three gravestones. Charles and Fannie had pivotal roles in the tragic events that occurred here in 1881.

The PCHS Board has also approved an important addition to the Museum's existing display depicting this remarkable story. A 3'x4' panel containing a synopsis of the story was developed by summer intern Mike Shoup and will soon be installed.



Charles Coleman's headstone in Forest Hill Cemetery in Durand soon to be restored.

The PCHS Board of Directors and staff and volunteers of the Museum are very proud to report we have completed the development and installation of a large new exhibit honoring one of Pepin County's most important citizens, Helen Parkhurst. This bold new display was designed by Mike Shoup and was just one of several projects he completed for the Museum during his internship this summer. Measuring 6'-high-by-22'-wide, the exhibit focuses on Helen's life from her childhood, education and first teaching job in Pepin County to her remarkable achievements, international recognition, and lasting legacy. One of America's most important educators, her name has also been included among the world's top 100 teachers/educators of all time.

The most difficult part of the project was condensing the thousands and thousands of words written about and by Helen to just the most relevant and important facts to convey the story that needed to be told. Mike spent many hours of his own time in addition to his 20 hours per week spent at the Museum on the project. The six large panels which make up the display were made by Sharp Photo in Eau Claire. Mike received help from Museum Coordinator Terry Mesch in building the framing and installing the panels.

**A special "unveiling" ceremony for the exhibit is planned for 10:30am on Saturday, Oct. 18.**

