

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



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

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Find us on the Internet!
www.oldpepincountycourthouse.org

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to a friend & encourage
him/her to join PCHS!**

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MEMBERSHIPS:

- \$8 Individual
- \$12 Family
- \$25 Friends of Museum
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Longest serving sheriff in Pepin County history, John Andrews retired in 2014 after 28 years of service. John is the featured presenter at the PCHS Autumn Education Event at 2pm on Sunday, October 9 in the upstairs courtroom at the Old Courthouse Museum in Durand.

GREETINGS from the president's desk! We owe a big thank you to all our volunteer staff, Saturday hosts, board members and our intern Mike Shoup for another successful summer season. We were very pleased with the success of our "Night at the Museum" in July. Though I was unable to attend, I heard many positive comments and feed back; a great idea which started with board member Jean Kannel and regular volunteer Julie Rinholen.

We are planning our Autumn Education Event for Sunday, October 9 at 2pm in the upstairs courtroom at the Old Courthouse Museum. Featured speaker will be retired Sheriff John Andrews, who will talk about his long career in law enforcement in Pepin County.

The summer has flown by and we must now get ready for a cold, snowy winter, but let's keep our hopes up for another mild one. In the meantime, as you travel around exploring for colors during the next few weeks, slow down to really enjoy the scenery, watch out for deer, take time to visit an old friend and remember every day is a blessing..

Thank you and God Bless.

- Kim Wagenbach, PCHS President

The new "**Elizabeth Clarke Hardy**" exhibit has been completed and can be viewed in the Homemakers' Room on the main floor of the Old Courthouse Museum. Discover who this remarkable woman was and enjoy the music and the power of her poetry.

AUTUMN EDUCATION EVENT

Sunday, October 9 - 2pm
at **Old Courthouse Museum**
on Washington Square in Durand, Wis.

Featuring

John Andrews

Longest Serving Sheriff in Pepin County History

Join retired Sheriff John Andrews in the courtroom of the old Pepin County Courthouse in Durand, Wis. as he recalls the people and events of his 28 years as Sheriff of Pepin County. First elected in 1986, John served as County Sheriff until his retirement in 2014. John witnessed many changes within law enforcement and within Pepin County from the time he began his law enforcement career in the early 1970s until his retirement.

He oversaw considerable growth in the Sheriff's Department during his tenure, increasing the size of staff and the size of the jail. Daily occupancy in the jail during that time period increased from one or two inmates 30 years ago to an average of 16 or 17 in 2014.

Under John's leadership, the jail staff developed a reputation for being among the most compassionate and caring jail personnel in western Wisconsin. His law enforcement philosophy emphasized the education of law breakers rather than their punishment. Numerous inmates studied with tutors and many went on to earn G.E.D. high school diplomas.

Among the biggest changes in criminal activity he witnessed has been the increased use of illegal drugs. He believes part of the cause for this increase has been a deterioration of the family and increasing numbers of children who grow up with little or no supervision and who lack direction in their lives.

This Autumn Education Event begins at 2pm on Sunday, October 9 **in the upstairs courtroom at the Old Courthouse Museum** in Durand, Wis. and is open to the public free of charge. Treats and beverages will be served following the event.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Board of Directors is now back to full strength: Tom Garnevicus was elected to the board at the annual membership meeting in April to replace Lynn Coulson, who chose not to run again; and, the board appointed Durand resident Jane (Grippen) Jafferri to fill the remaining two years of the seat held by Roberta Stuart, who passed away earlier this year.

The board has been discussing moving the Big Arkansaw School bell tower to a new location. The Durand-Arkansaw School District will soon be selling the former Arkansaw Elementary School and moving the bell tower will likely be required by the new owner. A new location has not yet been determined, but some local residents have expressed interest in keeping the structure in Arkansaw.

An estimated 80 to 100 people visited the museum during our "Night at the Museum" education event in July. At least 60 folks joined museum manager Terry Mesch in the upstairs courtroom as he retold the story of Ed Maxwell's lynching in 1881. His 40 minute presentation focused on the last 30 minutes of Ed's life, which actually took place in the courtroom and outside on the courthouse lawn.

Unique Gift Ideas from PCHS

- The Chippewa Valley Line, by Arlyn Colby, 2015 - \$30.00
- 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, \$25.00
- Brothers in Blood, by Les Kruger, 2008 - \$20.00
- Durand 1881, compiled by Vera Slabey, published by PCHS, 1987 - \$3.00 or FREE with any other purchase
- 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
- The Sea Wing Disaster; Tragedy on Lake Pepin, by Frederick Johnson, published by Goodhue Co. Hist. Soc., 2014 - \$25.00
- Missy Sippy River Saloon, by Audrey Biesterveld, 2005- \$10.00
- Only in Eau Galle, by Audrey Biesterveld, 2014 - \$10.00
- A Twisted Pig's Tale, by Vern Pinkowski, 2008 - \$5.00
- 25th Anniversary T-Shirts - sizes s-m-l-xl, \$5.00

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

Memorials Received:

For: Rheta Brunner
From: Lee Grippen

Museum Notes

The museum was fortunate to once again employ Mike Shoup as summer intern. Mike was intern during the 2014 season and designed and developed the **Helen Parkhurst Exhibit** that summer. Mike picked up where he left off and this year designed and developed the new **Elizabeth Clarke Hardy Exhibit**. He also helped catch up on accessioning new materials, designed a new brochure, and created new or upgraded existing display narratives. Mike's enthusiasm for and interest in history are evident in his commitment to the Old Courthouse Museum this past summer. He stated, "Working for the Old Courthouse Museum has been my best job ever." Thank you, Mike. Employment of the summer intern is made possible by a grant from the Curt Stine-Judy Lively Fund of the St. Croix Valley Foundation

The museum staff, with the help of future interns, will continue to design and develop new exhibits about important people, events, organizations and institutions in Pepin County. The next likely project will reflect the importance of agriculture to our county. This display's centerpiece will be an impressive replica of a turn-of-the-century (circa 1900) barn built by PCHS member Bernard Brantner. We hope to transition the existing "Tool Room" into the "Ag Room".

The Museum and Jail can be *open anytime* by appointment. Call the Museum at 715-672-5423

Pepin County Historical Society
Officers: President: Kim Wagenbach
Vice-Pres.: Dick Schlosser
Secretary: Lois Laehn
Treasurer: Galen Radle
Directors: Rita Conlin, John Solie, Tom Garnevicus
Jean Kannel, Jane Jafferri

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Editor: Terry J. Mesch

New "Elizabeth Clarke Hardy Exhibit" Complete

A three panel exhibit of photographs and narrative honoring highly regarded poet, essayist, magazine editor, and, most importantly, homemaker Elizabeth Clarke Hardy (1849–1929) has been completed. The exhibit dominates the completely redesigned "Homemakers' Room", which gives a glimpse into what it was like to be a woman operating a household a century ago.

Elizabeth, like many women of her time, ardently believed that being a homemaker was one of the highest callings a woman could have. She considered the family the most important institution in society, and the home in which the family lived was critical to the development of children into honest, hard-working citizens.

She supported women's right to vote and was a confident and self-possessed person. She and her husband, Joseph, divided the chores into household and farm with Elizabeth in charge of the former and Joseph the latter. This, however, did not stop either from joining in on labor needed in each other's domains when needed.

Elizabeth's literary career started early in her life and she was a published poet by her early 20s. The earliest poem in the museum's collection was published in the *Pepin County Courier* in 1876. She was appointed editor of the "Household Column" for *Wisconsin Agriculturist* magazine in 1906; a job she held until her death at age 80 in 1929.



New **Elizabeth Clarke Hardy Exhibit** in the completely redesigned Homemakers' Room. The exhibit measures 9 ft. wide by nearly 6 ft. high and was designed and developed by the museum's summer intern, Mike Shoup.

Acquisition of Materials by the Museum

Although PCHS has no formal policy for accepting new artifacts and other materials into the museum's collections, the board has discussed what types of materials should be accepted and has acknowledged the primary criteria for acceptance should be how the item(s) relate to Pepin County and what stories it can tell. Uncle Charlie's vintage Hawaiian postcard collection is of little interest to us, unless there is writing (names, addresses, personal messages, etc.) that actually relate to someone in our history. Since preserving and telling stories is a big part of our mission, our greatest interest for acquisition is in letters, personal scrapbooks, poetry, manuscripts, family histories, genealogies, photographs with identification of subjects and locations, etc. Meanwhile, artifacts will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Like many small, volunteer operated museums, the Old Courthouse Museum has limitations related to storage and preservation of artifacts. We lack storage space; most "real" museums have between 10 and 20 percent of their possessions on display, while the other 80 to 90 percent are stored in a climate controlled environment. We, on the other hand, are reversed with about 80 to 90 percent of our possessions on display. The rest are stored in various locations throughout the building which lacks adequate climate (temperature and moisture) control and proper storage cabinets and containers.

Gift from Blues on the Chippewa

The PCHS Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to the organizers of Blues on the Chippewa, the successful music festival held in Durand in early August, for their very generous donation of \$500. The Blues weekend is one of the busiest of the season at the museum, so we are doubly grateful for the cash donation and the influx of visitors.