

*Preserving our  
Historical Heritage*



# Price County Historical Society Newsletter

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



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President: Etola Foytek, Phillips

Vice-President: Dr. Peter Dahlie, Phillips

Secretary: Annette Setterman, Park Falls

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Director: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips

Director: Edith Burant, Butternut

Director: Bonnie Salm, Fifield

Director: John Berg, Wisconsin Rapids

Director: Deborah Sales, Fifield

Director: Arlene Morrison, Park Falls

Newsletter Editor: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips

## Old Town Hall Project Complete

If you have driven through Fifield this past summer you will have noticed a massive project going on at the Old Town Hall Museum. Thanks to two extremely generous monetary donations from two different individuals ear-marked for the repair and painting of the museum, we were able to contract with Huotari Construction to complete this task.

The Old Town Hall Museum was built in 1894 and this summer turned one hundred and twenty two years old. The building is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Landmarks and is a very impressive building, housing and preserving much of the history and culture of Price County.

The project ultimately consisted of rebuilding a main support beam; removal of the old chipping and peeling paint; repairing and/or replacing any boards beyond saving; priming and painting the entire building; re-glazing several windows that were either cracked or had holes in them; re-



placing the basement door structure and putting on covered rain gutters and downspouts.

When doing a job such as this on our old building it was inevitable that some surprises would occur. Immediately it was discovered that approximately half of the bottom beam running north and south on the east side of the building needed to be rebuilt due to the fact that water coming off the roof and hitting the handicapped ramp had then seeped into the side of the building and rotted out



a portion of the beam. Of course, this was an added expense, but we were able to use money out of our building and grounds fund to cover this and also pay for a long term fix, which was to add the rain gutters. Because this building it is on the National Historic Register it is to remain in a state that most resembles the way it was when placed on the register. However, after explaining our situation to the State Historical Society, we were given permission to add the rain gutters to maintain the structural soundness of the building. Even though it is costly to repaint the building with the usual life of a paint job on a building such as this lasting approximately fifteen years, we are absolutely not permitted at this time to use other materials such as vinyl siding on the building. We need to continue with wood to maintain the integrity of the historical significance of the building. Having the building on the historic register does come with some restrictions, but also many benefits.

So if you haven't taken a drive past the museum lately, please do so. It is positively stunning with the new paint job. Not bad for a one hundred and twenty two year old building! Also take note, as you drive by, that some of our board members have been scraping, priming and painting problem areas on the Old Greenfield School Museum to extend the life of the paint job on that building.

Our next project for the Old Town Hall Museum is to begin fundraising for interior painting. There are several areas inside the building that have peeling and flaking paint on the walls and ceilings.

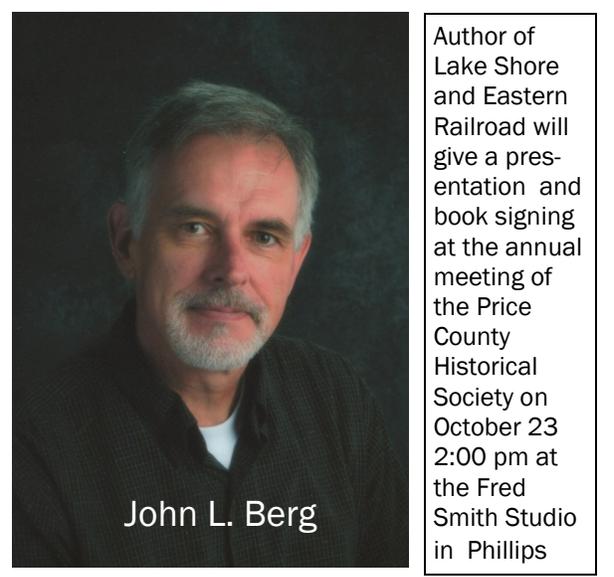
So get prepared to eat lots of spaghetti, chili, pies, strawberry short-cakes and tea and crumpets. Buy bake sale items and participate in raffles. Any money we make from these fundraisers is designated to go directly into our building and grounds fund for repair and maintenance of our buildings.



The Price County Historical Society will be holding their Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Fred Smith Studio at the Wisconsin Concrete Park in Phillips. A brief business meeting will touch on the highlights of the historical society that occurred in 2016. Two of the more visible projects that came to fruition in 2016 were the repairs and painting of the Old Town Hall Museum in Fifield and the publication of a book authored by John Berg "The Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad: A Logging Railroad in North-Central Wisconsin." The repairs and painting of the museum were made possible by two very generous monetary donations from separate individuals and the book was recently published by the Price County Historical Society after a series of grant awards and individual donations. After the business portion of the meeting John will be doing a much anticipated presentation about the Lugerville and West Lumber Companies. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. Since this is a non-profit project on John's part, all sales will go to benefit the Price County Historical Society. Refreshments will also be served.

Many people attended the meeting last year to hear a presentation of the history of the logging railroad as it related to the building of the community of Phillips and surrounding Townships of Emery and Worcester. This year John will present "A Railroad Runs through It 2.0" and continue the saga of the logging and railroad operations as they relate to the community of Lugerville.

Today's Lugerville is not your great-grandfather's Lugerville. At one time Lugerville was an industrial community bustling with railroad operations and lumber manufacturing. Lugerville was considered to be a little ant hill of activity in west central Price County with steam engines bringing train cars of lumber into the area to be processed by the lumber companies. John will especially be touching on the Lugerville and the



West Lumber Companies as they were the driving force in the growth and economy of Lugerville and Price County. The presentation contains both narrative and pictures of those times and is designed to be an interactive presentation with the audience. Because Lugerville contained lumber companies that wanted to process lumber at its site there still exists today remnants of those times such as a smattering of residential houses that were built by the lumber companies for their workers, along with a rock dam and several government buildings.

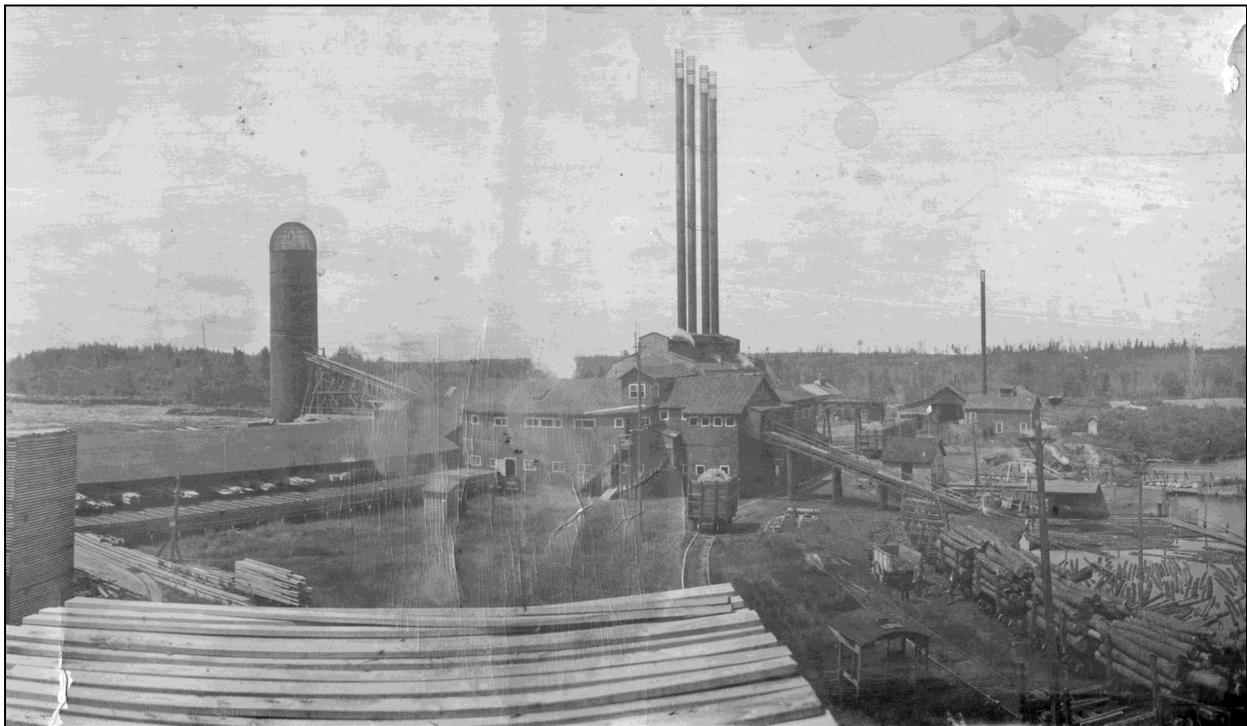
John is a life member of the Price County Historical Society, is a member of the board of directors and currently resides in the Town of Saratoga in Wood County with his wife Carol. John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 1978 and then spent the majority of his teaching career employed by the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools as a special education teacher. John retired in June 2012 after more than thirty-three years as a special education teacher, and was recognized by the Wisconsin Rapids Public School District as one of its Teachers of the Year. Also in May, 1987, John received his Master of Science degree

in Teaching History from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, majoring in United States and Canadian history with an emphasis on the colonial fur trade frontier. Among his other interests is that of Wisconsin's lumber and railroad industries, and labor history.

Locally, John has co-authored with Manny Stein the book, "The Pike Lake Chain: A Collection of Historical Documents and Photographs" in 2002, as well as an earlier series of articles and "The Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad," published from 1981-1983 in *The SOO*, the journal of the Soo Line Historical and Technical Society."

The Price County Historical Society is extremely honored to have been in a position to support this project, which has seen John's life work come to fruition with the publication of this book. Ultimately this work will play an important role in preserving and securing a part of history that speaks to the culture and heritage of Price County. The general public is encouraged and welcome to come and listen to this presentation. John will be available to sign books after his presentation.

John will also be at the Phillips Public Library on October 28 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and October 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will have copies of his book available for sale and signing. In addition, the book is on sale at the Phillips and Park Falls Chambers of Commerce.



The sawmill, as updated and expanded for capacity by the John R. Davis Lumber Company in 1910, dominates the scene along the South Fork of the Flambeau River. To the left of the mill is the sorting shed and incinerator, while the tracks to the right lead back to the engine house and blacksmith shop. To get there the locomotives and cars had to pass under the hog chain, which is hauling logs from the log dump to the sawmill.

Therese Trojak Collection: S.A. Johnson photograph.

Price County Historical Society Annual Meeting  
Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Fred Smith Studio/Wisconsin Concrete Park-Phillips

President Foytek called the 2015 Annual Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Fred Smith Studio, Phillips. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a Moment of Silence was observed to honor those departed: Louis Lobermeier, Bob Plant, Pru Alm, Gloria Gehring, Kathleen Lavoie, Laddie Zellinger, and Jim Stutz.

Motion to approve the Agenda. Dahlie/Burant Carried

Foytek introduced members of the PCHS Board of Directors: Peter Dahlie, Vice-President, Jo Gibeaut, Treasurer, Annette Setterman, Secretary, Arlene Morrison, Laurie Pilch, Deb Sales, Edith Burant, Beverly Brayton and Jeff Koshak (absent).

Motion to approve the October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Annual Meeting Minutes, which were previously mailed to all board members. Burant/Gibeaut Carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Gibeaut distributed treasurer's current report for 2015. Income total: \$19,338.17. Expense Total: \$8,178.70. Cash on Hand checking and savings: 27,721.62. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (subject to audit). Setterman/Burant Carried.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** 227 members. New members are always welcome.

**Newsletter:** Pilch-Rich and Laurie Pilch work to put the newsletter together. Interesting articles, pictures and facts highlighting the history of Price County are among the writings found in the newsletter. Members and local historians are welcome to submit stories.

**Photo:** Gibeaut-Photos are inventoried and archived in the temperature-controlled room at Phillips MarquipWardUnited. Additional software was recently ordered which will allow multiple persons to submit information to the files.

**Fundraisers:** Burant-We held several events to raise money; including, a Spaghetti Feed, an Afternoon at the Museum, a Tea Party and a Plant Sale. Over \$2500 was raised.

**Displays:** Burant-On an average two to three displays are replaced each year. This keeps viewing interesting for new and repeat visitors.

**Building and Grounds:** Gibeaut-The museums constantly need maintenance. At present the Old Town Hall is in need of new windows, an inside and outside painting, in addition to regular maintenance. Our prioritization report guides the board in making its decision on a timeline for these jobs. We submit grants to help out with costs. The MarquipWardUnited building helps with storing and archiving of photos. Our new office at the Northwoods Building is used for conducting business and holding board meetings. Inventory of all artifacts is an ongoing activity. The location of each item is now being recorded. Price County and the Town of Fifield help with finances and grounds work.

**Election of Directors:** Arlene Morrison and Etola Foytek, who have three-year terms expiring in 2015, have consented to stay on the board for another term to expire in 2018. Gibeaut is leaving the board. Nominated for a new term are Leslie Alm and Bonnie Salm. Motion to accept nomination. Burant/Pilch Carried. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot for recommended board members was made by Karen Baumgartner and seconded by Virginia Bosse. Carried.

**Open Forum:** Karen Baumgartner reported that the German Settlement Historical Society held a barn dance on Memorial Day at the German Settlement and a summer picnic in town of Spirit.

**On display today:** Mourning Hair and three-ring binder containing the history of Mary Murray, a one-room school teacher; a painting, "Fleeing the Fire," donated by David Winkler; a chair from Clyde and Anna Erickson that survived the Phillips fire; and a quilt which was used to wrap silver when fleeing the Phillips fire.

**Adjournment:** President Foytek adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Annette Setterman, Secretary

Following the meeting historian, John Berg, spoke on his book The Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad, a logging railroad located in North Central Wisconsin before and after the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over fifty people attended.

**Annual Meeting  
October 23, 2016**

The following candidates are being presented to the members for election to the Board of Directors of the Price County Historical Society.

John Berg	Three Year Term	Expiring 2019
Peter Dahlie	Three Year Term	Expiring 2019
Jo Gibeaut	One Year Term	Expiring 2017
Eric Tollefson	Three Year Term	Expiring 2019

PCHS WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING:

Monetary gifts were given to support the work of PCHS by:

An anonymous donation for restoration work and painting of the Old Town Hall.

Arlyn and Grace Kielsmeier

Russ and Jeanne Kirchmeyer

JoAnn Gehrman

Rich Eggleston

Bruce and Susan Marshall

Jim and Brenda Kronberger

Alan and Diane Barkstrom

Carol Koenig

Monetary gifts for the publication of the "Lake Shore and Eastern: A Logging Railroad in North-Central Wisconsin" were given by:

The Mead-Witter Foundation

The Ann Marie Foundation

Price County Historical Society, Inc.

The Soo Line Historical and Technical Society Archives

John Karamanian

Karen (Peterson) Baumgartner

Manny and Roz Stein

Agnes Wudel

Harold G Hoffman II

Jo Gibeaut

Etola Foytek

Therese Trojak

Richard and Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch

Joel and Nancy Genisio

Kathy Cleven

Many individuals assisted us with our various activities this past year. Thanks to:

Bonnie Salm, Marlee Fromm and Liam Cassidy for organizing the spring plant sale.

Jerry and Gail Movrich for assisting with the Spaghetti Supper.

"Friends with Threads," especially Dee Hintz, Kathy Straetz, Diane Schmidt, Carolyn Wilde, Edith Burant and Jan Olejniczak for displaying and demonstrating their crafts.

Russ and Barb Giese for supplying the strawberries for the Strawberry Shortcake fundraiser.

Bev Brayton for organizing the August book signing.

Brenda Kronberger, Edith Burant and Linda Kopisch for all their help with the Victorian Tea.

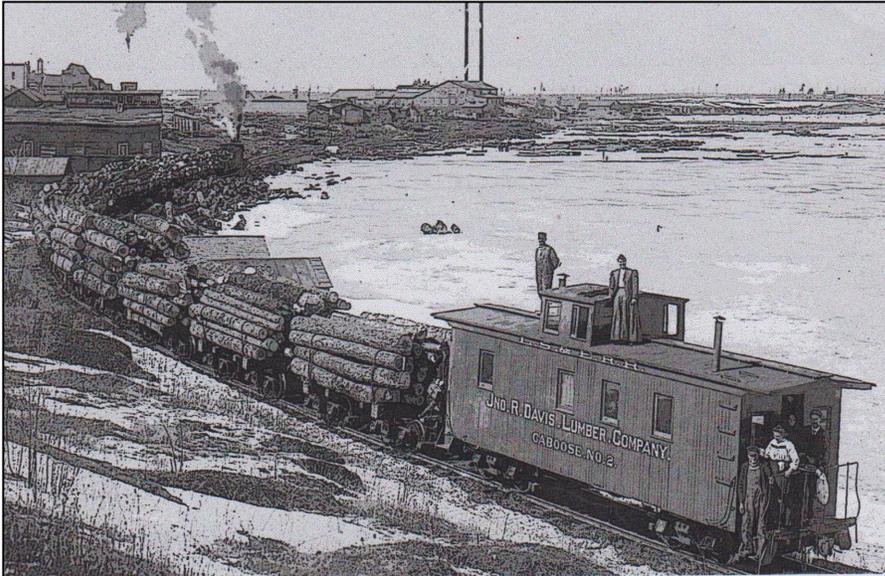
Eric Tollefson for all his research work with our artifacts and for being one of the lead coordinators of our photo project.

Sally Putnam for making sure the lighted sign was updated with information for all of our activities and events.

All the individuals that brought bars and other baked goods for the Spaghetti Supper, along with those that baked pies for our summer pie social and baked goods and assisted at the Victorian Tea.

All of our hosts that volunteered each weekend to keep our museums open. More on this to come in our next newsletter!

The Lake Shore and Eastern A Logging Railroad in  
North-Central Wisconsin by John L. Berg



*LS&ERR Number 258 arrives in Phillips from Emery Township, ca. 1907. Louise Foster Zorn Collection.*

On sale now  
Price: \$30.00  
Available at  
Park Falls and  
Phillips  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Offices  
or contact either  
715-339-2415  
715-339-2481

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