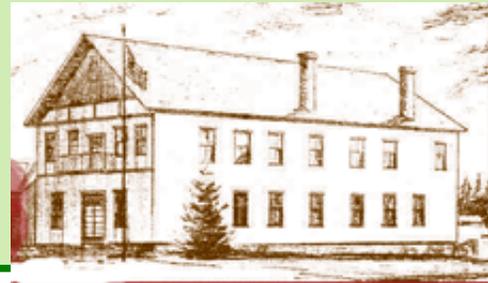


*Preserving our  
Historical Heritage*



# Price County Historical Society Newsletter



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

Volume 33, No. 1 May-August 2015

President: Etola Foytek, Phillips

Vice-President: Dr. Peter Dahlie, Phillips

Secretary: Annette Setterman, Park Falls

Treasurer: Jo Gibeaut, Fifield

Director: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips

Director: Edith Burant, Butternut

Director: Beverly Brayton, Catawba

Director: Jeff Koshak, Park Falls

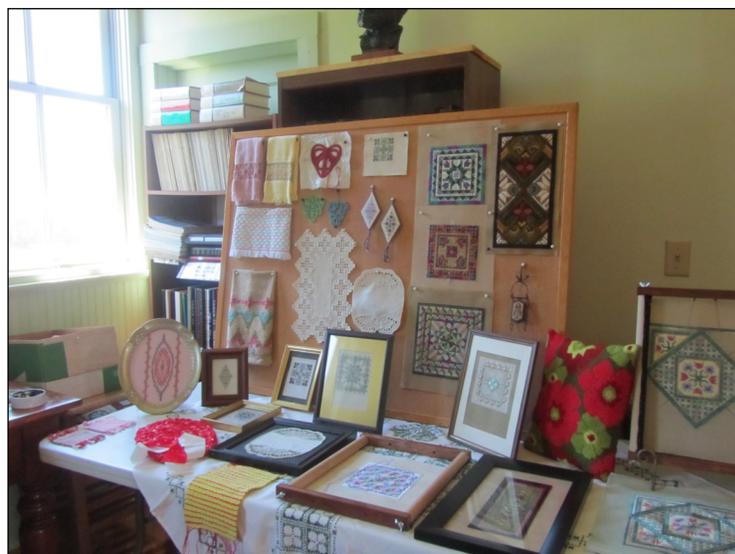
Director: Deborah Sales, Fifield

Director: Arlene Morrison, Park Falls

Newsletter Editor: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips

## A Summer Afternoon at the Museum

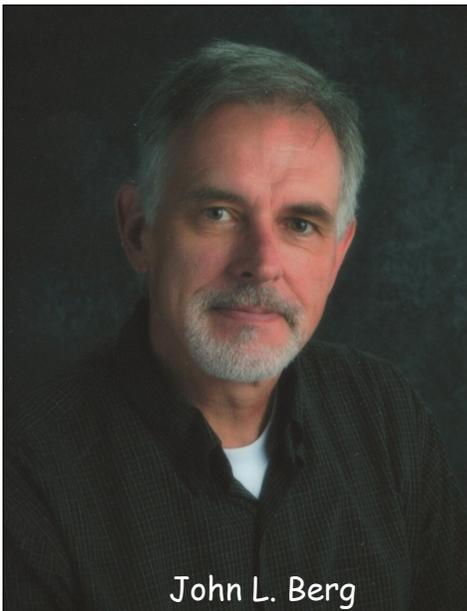
“Friends with Threads,” whose motto is (always in stitches) returned again this year to demonstrate and display their array of needlework, fiber and craftwork. Peyote Beading, Locker Hooking, Blackwork Embroidery, Net Darning, Kumihimo Braiding along with Weaving, Wool Appliqué, Grandmother’s Flower Garden Quilt, Knit Scarves, Necklaces, Richelieu and Zentangling were on display at both the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School Museums. Those attending were able to view a multitude of projects that the group completed since their exhibition last year and also observe, ask questions and participate in hands on demonstrations. “Friends with Threads” is dedicated to learning, creating and preserving the art of traditional and historical needlework. Members meet regularly to work on their projects and learn the techniques of



The Old Town Hall and Greenfield School Museums were adorned with beautiful displays of intricate needlework and crafts.

many different and varied genres. The display this year included work from several different origins and eras including the Victorian, French, Native American, Japanese and early Americana. Members participating in this year’s event included Dee Hintz, Carolyn Wilde, Edith Burant, Kathy Straetz, Diane Schmidt and Jane Korab.

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John L. Berg

For anyone planning on attending the annual meeting of the Price County Historical Society you are in for a treat. After a brief business meeting those in attendance will have the opportunity to hear a presentation

from John Berg. The presentation will be on “The Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad: A Logging Railroad in North Central Wisconsin. John has recently finished his book manuscript and will in the future be seeking patrons to contribute to the publishing of this manuscript. John is planning to publish this book as a public service non-profit project.

John has compiled a thoroughly-researched and well-paced narrative complete with over 200 photographs and accompanying maps covering the entire span of operation of the Price County logging railroad. The book is designed to appeal to students of the steam-era short lines and for the general reader of Wisconsin history. Those engaged in land use policy will also find a thorough documentation of the era.

According to John, “Just a short century past, lumber companies used steam-powered equipment to harvest vast forests that covered northern Wisconsin. Upon the demise of these companies, the once-common sight of the logging railroad faded rapidly and little was remembered about these landscape-changing operations among which the Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad at the headwaters of the Chippewa River was one of the most extensive and

long lived.” These railroads carved through northern Wisconsin also helped to establish the many communities that exist today. Phillips is one of those communities and John’s book is also a study of that community.

John is a life member of the Price County Historical Society 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. 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.

Price County Historical Society is very fortunate to have this talented author attend and present at our annual meeting. The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m. at the Fred Smith Studio at the Wisconsin Concrete Park in Phillips. Please make plans to attend.

## MEMORIAL BOARD

The Memorial Board is displayed in the entrance of the Old Town Hall Museum. For a minimum donation of \$25.00 a name plate can be purchased that will be engraved with the name of your loved one. This is a wonderful way to honor and memorialize family members or friends. If this is something you wish to consider doing, please contact the Price County Historical Society and we will help you with the arrangements. This year the following four names will be added to the board. In memory of Richard Morrison, Kathleen LaVoie, Robert Plant and Laddie Zellinger.

### **PCHS WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING:**

Vivian Simpson for a monetary gift.

Jim Stutz for a monetary gift.

Phillips Area Community Center for a monetary gift.

Rosemary Plant and the estate of Robert Plant for a monetary gift in memory of Robert Plant.

The residents and staff of Park Village for a monetary gift in memory of Kathleen LaVoie.

A monetary gift in memory of Laddie Zellinger.

Price Electric Cooperative for their monetary donation in honor of their 75th anniversary.

Everyone who donated baked goods and helped in any way with the Spaghetti Dinner.

Bonnie Salm and her helpers Marlee Fromm and Shirley Anderson for coordinating and working at the Spring plant sale.

Dee Hintz, Carolyn Wilde, Edith Burant, Kathy Straetz, Diane Schmidt and Jane Korab who displayed and demonstrated their beautiful needlework and crafts.

The Koshak Family, Jeff, Charlotte and Susan who displayed their collection of historical artifacts.

Carol Forward and Annette Setterman for organizing the kids games.

Russ and Barb Giese for donating the strawberries.

Jo Gibeaut, who will be going off as a member of the Board of Directors and also as Treasurer. Jo has volunteered countless hours and worked tirelessly for PCHS. We will miss her tremendously. Jo has agreed to continue to work on the inventory of artifacts and the photo project and for that we thank her immensely.

PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING

October 25, 2014, Fred Smith Studio at the Wisconsin Concrete Park  
Phillips Wisconsin

Board of Director Treasurer, Jo Gibeaut called the 2014 Annual Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a Moment of Silence was observed to honor those members departed in 2014: Ken Bubenec, Bill Downing, Richard Hilgart, Mary Ann Kramer, Ruth Peterson, Don Zoesch , past Director, John Smart and those known only to God.

Motion by Karen Baumgartner, seconded by Edith Burant to approve the agenda, motion carried.

Board Members present were introduced.

Motion by Peter Dahlie, second by Arlene Morrison to approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting of October 26, 2013 as printed in the newsletter, motion carried.

Motion by Edith Burant, second by Laurie Pilch to approve the Treasurer's Report, motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Bylaws and Policy: The Board of Directors has updated the membership policy in 2014 to become effective January, 2015. The Board decided to discontinue the household membership, because of the difficulty in establishing the number of members that could constitute a household. The new membership policy will be as follows:

- Individual Member \$10.00
- Bronze Member (no more than two individuals) \$25.00
- Silver Member (no more than two individuals) \$50.00
- Gold Member (no more than two individuals) \$100.00
- Life Member (per individual for the life of the member) \$500.00

Membership: We have maintained the vast majority of our current membership, lost some members due to death and have gained several new members. Membership recruitment is ongoing. Discussion centered on attracting new members. Karen Baumgartner made the suggestion that we may want to work with Alumni Association regarding recruitment.

Photos: Original photographs have been moved to our climate controlled room at Marquip. Copies of the original photographs remain available at the Price County Historical Society office.

Fundraisers: A spaghetti dinner was held in April at the Fifield Town Hall. A book signing with authors Sara Witter Conner, Terri Kaiser and Gerald Brillhart was held on the opening weekend in June at the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School Museums, along with the pie and ice cream event. Needlework demonstrations and the strawberry shortcake event were held at the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School Museums in July. Discussions are ongoing for a fall fundraiser, possibly a bake sale. In addition, grant funding has been applied for through the Weathershield Employee Lite Foundation and AnnMarie.

Display: A new Maybelle Hardy display is being planned, the laundry display was redone and a new display on early period winter clothing was completed. Plans are to change out the maple syrup and the display on the stage this fall. Karen Baumgartner suggested that we may want to take photographs of the displays before they are taken down to be able to track what was in each display and the period of time the displays were in place for future planning.

Buildings and Grounds: The Vietnam Memorial Marker was placed on the grounds and a special rededication ceremony was held. The Greenfield School does not have any immediate needs except for routine maintenance. The Old Town Hall Museum needs to be re-painted both externally and a portion of the ceiling and wall area going up the stairs internally. The paint was tested for lead paint with findings of some lead in the green paint, but not at a level to impact public safety. There was no lead found in the white paint. Asbestos testing in the Old Town Hall Museum indicated that there was no asbestos. Our Insurance carrier inspected the buildings and recommended several updates. For the Old Town Hall Museum, rotted/damaged wood around the foundation and along the handicap ramp should be repaired and fire extinguishers should be tagged annually. For the office building, the roof should be replaced, fascia/soffit/siding should be repaired, foundation should be repaired, handrails should be installed along the basement stairs and fire extinguishers should be tagged annually. These were only recommendations and not contingent on coverage. The office building is presently being tested for lead and asbestos. The Price County Review ran an article after an interview with board member Jo Gibeaut about the building maintenance needs of the Price County Historical Society. We will continue to reach out to the Price County Review and other media outlets in order to make our needs known.

**New Business:**

Board Members with terms expiring in 2015 are Bev Brayton, Edith Burant, Jerry Movrich and Lorraine Pilch. Jerry has submitted his letter of resignation. Bev, Edith and Lorraine have agreed to serve another three year term. Deborah Sales has agreed to come on to the board. Motion by Karen Baumgartner, second by Jo Gibeaut to accept the slate of board members proposed and cast a unanimous ballot for the board members, terms to run through 2017. Motion carried.

Open Forum: No reports.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by Jo Gibeaut.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch  
Acting Secretary

PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

		Period Ended
		<u>9/30/2015</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants		675.00
Membership Dues		1,320.00
Donations		13,463.00
Visitor Donations		489.81
Books Sold		449.17
Interest Income		23.89
Gift Shop Sales		90.75
Fundraisers		2,656.55
Memorials		50.00
Miscellaneous		140.00
<b>INCOME TOTAL:</b>		<u>19338.17</u>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Advertising		0.00
Insurance		0.00
Fees/Dues/Licenses		364.00
Gift Shop Purchases		0.00
Office Rent		1,000.00
Office Expense		0
Postage Expense		190.88
Website Expense		5.31
Newsletter Printing		0.00
Repairs/Maint-OTH		0.00
Repairs/Maint-School		1,851.90
Repairs/Maint-Office		3
Preservation Materials		446.62
Supplies - OTH Museum		0.00
Utilities .OTH		0.00
Utilities • School		90.45
Utilities • Offices		496.53
Publishing		673.90
Fundraiser Expense		295.13
Miscellaneous		100.00
		150.00
		0.00
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL:</b>		<u>5664.75</u>
Checking Account		27,336.72
Savings Account		3,096.53
<b>CASH ON HAND:</b>		<u>30,433.25</u>

<b>Designated Donations:-</b>		
Maybelle Hardy	125.00	Maybelle Hardy - Updated display & preservation
Fifield School Monument	474.58	Monument maintenance - plants \$25.42
OTH Museum Entrance Update	88.02	\$37.98 spent to-date
Grant (2013) for Photo Project	494.40	Grant for \$1,000 - \$505.56 spent to-date
Buildings & Grounds	13,488.52	OTH Painting - Priority
Mini-Grant for inventory software	700.00	Past Perfect Software - Pending October
Weather shield grant for preservation	100.00	Desiccants - Pending October
Photo Preservation donations	287.30	Johnson Photos - \$432.70 spent to-date

Total Designated Funds \$15,757.82

\*Designated Fund Donations maintained in PCHS account at First National Bank, Park Falls.  
These funds are included in totals of cash on hand.

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Carol Forward and Annette Setterman had entertainment in store for the children in the Greenfield School. Children were able to observe and play the type of games that would have been typical of those a school child would have played during the age dominated by one room schools in Price County.



Jeff Koshak discusses the history and use of braces along with exhibiting his extensive collection.

Jeff Koshak was on the grounds of the museum to demonstrate a brace, which is a hand drill containing different bits that were used to drill through wood. The earliest recorded use of a brace was in 1470. Braces were still being made through the 1950's. Jeff, who has done extensive research on the history of braces, had multiple

examples of different braces and drill bits on display. Charlotte Koshak, along with her mother Susan, was also on hand to display Charlotte's growing and very unique collection of ladles. Charlotte's display included ladles for cooking, drinking, blacksmithing and many other varied uses.

As part of their fundraising efforts, members of the Price County Historical Society served up homemade strawberry shortcakes with ice cream and beverages.



Arlyn and Grace Kielsmeier with their grandchildren L-R Ben, Sam, Molly and Henry enjoying delicious strawberry shortcake and ice cream served to them by Price County Historical Society President Etola Foytek.

Editors Note: The mission of the Price County Historical Society is to discover, preserve and pass on the history of Price County. In part we do this by hosting informative events and maintaining displays within our museums, which depict the rich history of Price County. We are presently in the planning stages for events and exhibits for 2016 and would appreciate feedback and suggestions from our members. If you have an idea for an event or display, please let us know. You may send your suggestion to the address on this newsletter, or contact any of the members of the Board of Directors,

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Price County Historical Society is set for:

Date: Sunday, October 25, 2015

Place: Fred Smith Studio at the Wisconsin Concrete Park in Phillips, Wisconsin

Time: 2:00 p.m. (refreshments provided by PCHS Board of Directors)

### **Agenda:**

- Approve minutes from Annual Meeting, October 25, 2014
- Financial Report
- Public Comments
- Report from Price County Historical Society 2015
- Proposed new members for Board of Directors and any nominations from the floor
- Open Forum
- John L. Berg Presentation "The Lakeshore & Eastern Railroad"

Price County Historical Society  
Old Town Hall Museum  
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