



The Union

**Prairie du Chien Historical Society Newsletter
February 2019 Volume 22 #1**

Financial Update

The Finance Committee was appointed in the summer of 2017 to put together solid financial data, reports and information so the Board could make good sound financial decisions moving forward. To that end, the group of Kathy Koch, Lori Bekkum, Friday Wiles, Gary Koch and Mary Antoine have been working to construct a reporting framework to give the best possible information to the Board in an understandable format. The Board will have adopted a new budget for 2019 by the time you receive this issue of the Union.

The Board is now receiving monthly reports in a format they can all understand with at least two years of reliable, comparative data. This should lead to more financially informed decisions and a better handle of the daily operations of the Museum.

Like budgets in the past two years, there is not much room for error. Small local museums like ours have a difficult time coming up with the resources to fund the operation to a standard we'd like. The biggest positive thus far, is the outstanding support we've been getting from our members, businesses and other contributors. All our fundraising efforts in 2018 exceeded expectations! On the other side of the ledger, there are always those unexpected expenses that eat up those resources. Thus, the daily battle for small museums is keeping up the energy to retain your support, while trying to be diligent about maintaining and sustaining a quality museum operation.

Our emphasis this year will be to try to control the expenses we can. Gene Bouzek, our do-everything person, has been working on trying to reduce our energy costs. Friday Wiles, our site manager is chipping away at administrative expenses and the membership and buildings and grounds committees are looking to boardening our base of membership and keeping our site appearance appealing using lots of volunteers.

Please keep watching for some new fun opportunities at the Fort and other possible trips to interesting and historical venues in the area!

Lastly, we have a great local asset in the Fort Crawford Museum. We provide the community with a repository for our local history. It's our goal to preserve all this great history while providing educational opportunities for everyone. We do that by keeping the doors open, with good financial management and your continued support.

Gary Koch
Finance Chairperson

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Christmas at the Fort

The porches were all decked with Christmas finery for the month of December. On Saturday, December 8th the holiday cookie and candy sale sold \$973.25 worth of delicious goodies and treats. Thanks to our sponsors all 25 trees were decorated with festive creativity, remembrance and love. Thank you to those who sponsored and decorated the trees. They looked lovely!

Diana Temte in memory of Eric Temte

Terri and Charlie Connell

Exit Realty

Peoples State Bank

Ron Shipley Family in memory of Mary Lou Shipley

The Local Oven

Daughters of the American Revolution

Jane Page in memory of Fred & Barbara Huebsch

20th Century Study Club

Gundersen Lutheran-PdC Clinic

Janet and Ted Finn

PdC Womens Civic Club

Century 21 Welter Realty

Sutton Insurance

Friends of the Prairie du Chien Library

The Norma Lochner Family in memory of Don Lochner

Wonder Workers 4-H Club

Donna Teynor

Janet Mezera

Fraternal Order of Eagles

MPC

Cathie & Tom Nelson

Crossing Rivers Health Care

PdC Historical Society

Ken Birrenbach Family in memory of Dorothy Birrenbach

The Carpenter/Valadez Family in memory of Gladys Brown, Phyllis Gokey & Helen Larson

The Family Tree of the Carpenters and Valadez

Eagle Appreciation Saturday, February 23

The city will be celebrating our national bird, the Bald Eagle with events around town. As part of the celebration the Museum will be open from 9:00 until 4:00 for tours on Saturday, February 23.

Annual Dinner Meeting January 10, 2019

The first event of the season is the Prairie du Chien Historical Society's Annual Dinner Meeting. This year after a wonderful meal and a look back on 2018 by President Mary Antoine those in attendance were fortunate to hear Dick Walter, retired surveyor for Houston County Minnesota, present his research on the Neutral Ground of Iowa. Having spent his career as a surveyor Mr. Walter has studied the boundary lines of the Neutral Ground as surveyed by Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone.

Mary Elise Antoine explained in a recent newspaper article that in the early 19th century the Dakota and Sauk-Meskwaki frequently fought each other over the control of lands west of the Mississippi River. By 1825 the extent of the conflicts effected white settlement. A Grand Council was held here in August 1825 with William Clark and over 130 leaders of Midwestern Indian tribes in attendance. Clark told the Indian leaders that their wars resulted from not having boundaries that defined their territorial rights. He pressured the nations to define their tribal lands.

Article Two of the 1825 Treaty of Prairie du Chien established the neutral line in what became the Iowa territory. The line was drawn to separate Sioux territory from the area occupied by the Sauk and Meskwaki. The line ran from southeast Minnesota into northeast Iowa at the Mississippi Rivrr and southwest to the Missouri River. The Dakota and other Sioux were to remain north of the boundary line and the Sauk-Meskwaki were to stay to the south, but the fighting between them continued, which led to the development of the Neutral Ground Treaty signed on July 15, 1830.

In the treaty, the United States created a neutral zone by purchasing a 20 mile wide section of land along the 200 mile boundary line from both the Dakota and the Sauk-Meskwaki. The Ho-Chunk would then be relocated from Wisconsin into this 40-mile wide neutral zone. The government hoped that the Ho-Chunk would serve as a buffer between the Sioux nation and the Sauk-Meskwaki. The Ho-Chunk had maintained peaceful relations with both of these tribes, they were not eager to live between them.

But like so many other treaties, the neutral zone arrangement was short lived. The Ho-Chunk was forced to sign another treaty in 1837 to give up the first 20 miles of the neutral ground west to the Mississippi River. They were then moved westward to Fort Atkinson. When Iowa became a state in 1846, the Ho-Chunk lost their remaining area in the neutral zone. They were relocated to what is now southwestern Minnesota.



Map of the Neutral Ground

Thank You

The Annual Holiday Cookie and Candy Sale would not occur without the following people:

Connie Achenbach
Mary Antoine
Sharon Atkins
Nancy Ashmore
Nancy Becker
Lori Bekkum
Irene Beneker
Pat Boldt
Delores Bonney
Colleen Bouzek
Donna Cipra
Linda Cherrier
Melissa Collum
Pat Coorough
Ginger DesRocher
Juanita Dyer
Janet Finn
Barb Frommelt
Mary Lou Garnsworthy
Vicki George
Deb Rider
Boots Haefer
Ruth Hendricks
Bill Howe
Deanie Kieser
Armella Kueter
Doris Moore
Vickie Mundt
Linda Munson
Cathie Nelson
Mary Prindle
Mattie Rademacher
Barb Rink
Jodie Russell
Carolyn Sand
Tina Sander
Vicki Seeley
Cindy Standorf
Diana Temte
Friday Wiles
Rose Ziel

Thank you for your delicious contribution to the Prairie du Chien Historical Society. Buying Christmas cookies from us has become a tradition for many families. A tasty one for sure!

Raffle Winners

Raffle tickets were sold during the 2018 season and the winners were drawn out of container at our Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, January 10th. The lucky people are:

Fire Ring—Gene Bouzek
Shepherd's Hook for hanging flower baskets—
Donia Russell
\$50.00 cash—Terry Seeley
Congratulations and enjoy!

Winter Exhibit Work

The Education/Exhibit Committee will be installing two new exhibits for 2019.

Currently, work is under way in the Prairie du Chien Museum to showcase **cigar manufacturing** in Prairie du Chien. It was big business in the mid 1800's and early 1900's. Gene Bouzek is constructing a new display case for the numerous artifacts acquired during the past year.

The other new display will be in the 3rd room of the hospital. It will tell the story of the importance of **artesian water** in Prairie du Chien. What...that awful tasting water?

In the past many people swore by the medicinal properties of artesian water. Many drank it and many came from far and wide to soak in therapeutic baths at various sanitariums in the city.

Learn more about these subjects when you visit the Fort Crawford Museum. The museum will open for its regular season on May 1st.

Remember: members tour for free!

Cindy's Wish List

The maintenance crew is in need of funds to purchase a power washer (\$300.00) and an extension ladder (\$225.00). Contact the museum if you would like to contribute.

Thank You!