



The Union

Prairie du Chien Historical Society Newsletter
March 2020 Volume 23 #1

2020 Activities and Events

February 29	Open to celebrate Eagle Appreciation Days
March 14	St. Patrick's Day Parade
April 26	Recognition of Pillar Project Supporters
May 1	Opening Day
June 19	First "Fridays at the Fort" Other dates for this event are: June 26, July 10, 17 & 24, and August 7 & 14.
June 20	Pies-A-Plenty
October 3	Visiting Our Ancestors
October 14-16	Annual Bus Tour to the Twin Cities
October 24	Spirits of Fort Crawford
November 28	Santa Shops Small/Small Business Saturday
December 12	Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale "Christmas at the Fort"

Please note: this calendar of events is subject to change and/or cancellation. We do our best to keep our members updated on what is scheduled and advertised. Mother Nature is an unpredictable force and we take into consideration how she is behaving. It is best to call ahead for the latest information.

Reminder

The Membership Committee recently sent request letters with 2020 membership forms to everyone. This was done thru the post office not email. If you have misplaced the 2020 form there is a copy at the end of this newsletter. This time of year, when the museum is not open daily receiving dues are a needed source of income. Please renew your membership soon. If you have already done so, Thank You!

Board of Directors

President
Mary Antoine

Vice President
Chad Fradette

Secretary
Janet Flinn

Treasurer
Lori Bekkum

Joe Atkins
Bill Howe
Carolyn Sand
Cindy Standorf
Bob Ziel
Mike Rider

Staff

Administrative Manager
Friday Wiles

Interpreters
Barb Rink
Jodi Russell
Donia Russell

Buildings and Grounds
Gene Bouzek

Standing Committees

Collections
Education
Exhibit
Finance
Membership

Contact Information

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Kathy Koch
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John Mundt, Esq. December 8, 1965-December 11, 2019

John died unexpectedly the morning of December 11th as he got ready for work. The news shocked and saddened the community. John was a very talented, dedicated and sincere person who did everything with enthusiasm and gusto.

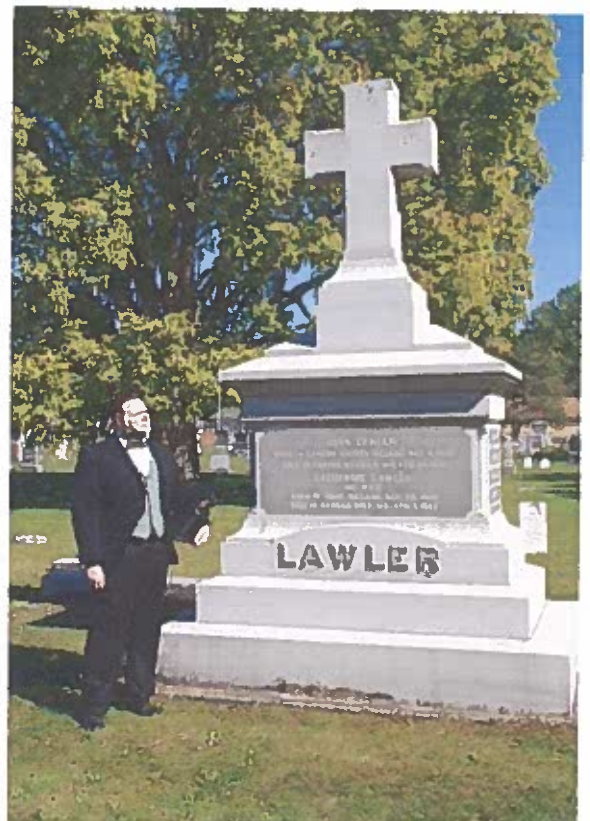
The Prairie du Chien Historical Society and the Fort Crawford Museum were favorites of John's. He was a Board member since 2013. He was asked to join the Board after doing mural paintings for two exhibits in the Prairie du Chien Museum.



The photo on the left shows John standing in front of his mural of the pontoon bridge, his 2nd one at the Museum. The mural is the background for the railroad exhibit which remains today. The railroad arrived in PdC on April 15, 1857. The pontoon bridge connecting Prairie du Chien with Marquette, Iowa was erected in 1874 and operated until October 31, 1961.

The train engine in the photo ran back and forth between the ends of the exhibit as if crossing the Mississippi River. This was Eric Temte's clever idea.

Over the years he worked on other exhibits lending his creative eye and vast knowledge of Prairie du Chien history. Many of his "Mole" drawings are on display in the Mole Day Exhibit. John was always available to be a costumed interpreter for group tours and events. One of his best portrayal's was John Lawler. In 2015, he became John Lawler for the October event, Visiting Our Ancestors. He even grew a beard mimicking John Lawler's. The picture on the right shows John standing alongside the Lawler monument in St. Gabriel's cemetery. John was very theatrical and a good story teller. He drew you in and made you listen, learn and enjoy. There was one role he didn't like to portray, and that was the sergeant for the Mini Militia, the school group's version of marching and drilling. The sergeant had to be gruff, and John said he had a very hard time doing that. And that sums up John. John Mundt was a gentle man. Rest in peace, John. We miss you.



Fort Updates

Annual Gift Giving Campaign 2019-2020

This was the 18th year of conducting the gift giving campaign. Request letters are sent to our membership during the fall. Highlights and special activities of the season are described. Over the years the generosity of the community has been remarkable, and this year was no exception. This year \$11,920 has been received! Thank you to all who contributed!

Christmas at the Fort & Holiday Cookie & Candy Sale

The Christmas trees were beautiful this year. They are enchanting when lit up at night, but a close up look during the day is charming too. The uniqueness, creativity and thoughtfulness that our sponsors put into decorating their tree is extraordinary. It has become a special and meaningful event for the museum.

What better way to have Christmas cookies and candy on hand during the holidays than buying a plate full or two during this annual event. The holiday treats are super delicious. This year the two events brought in \$2,306.50! We are grateful for the patronage and hope all enjoyed the goodies.

New Board Member

Mike Rider has joined the Board of Directors for one year filling the seat vacated by the resignation of Terry Seeley. Mike, a Prairie du Chien native, and his wife Shelly are very active in the community. They participate in the Follies, a fund raiser for the Sculpture Park where Mike has become a fan favorite. They have worked hard over the years for Rivers and Bluffs Animal Shelter, and Mike keeps our website current and interesting. But they are best known for their involvement with the Villa Louis Carriage Classic.

Mike has been a volunteer for that event since he was 10 years old. His first job was running the stopwatch on the cones course. In 1999 he took over as Show Manager. He and Shelly work side by side making it the best competitive pleasure driving event in the Midwest. The Carriage Classic is a wonderful event—beautiful, fascinating and elegant. It is well attended by participants and spectators and Prairie du Chien is fortunate to be the host city.

Welcome, Mike. And thank you for giving the Prairie du Chien Historical Society your time, energy and knowledge. It is going to be a good year.

Gift Shop

Easter is weeks away, but if you have little ones' baskets to fill the gift shop has an amazing selection of stuffed animals. There're frogs, eagles, bats, buffalo, owls, wolves, rattlesnakes and bears and many more. They are so cute! And reasonably priced. Kids will love them.



**Prairie du Chien Historical Society
2020 Annual Membership Form**

January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

The Prairie du Chien Historical Society will open the Fort Crawford and Prairie du Chien Museums for their 23rd season on May 1, 2020. Become a member of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society & help preserve Prairie du Chien's heritage.

***Required Information (in RED)**

***Membership Levels**

Individual	\$25.00 _____
Family	\$50.00 _____
Sustaining	\$125.00 _____
Patron	\$250.00 _____
Benefactor	\$500.00 _____
Preservationist	\$1000.00 _____

***() New *() Renewal**

Make check payable to the Prairie du Chien Historical Society and return with this form or pay for your membership with your debit/credit card (stop in for processing).

Prairie du Chien Historical Society
PO Box 298
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE include your email address to ensure your copy.
Thank you!

Memberships include:

- The quarterly newsletter, The Union.
- Free museum admission.
- 10% discount on Gift Shop/Bookstore purchases.
- Voting privileges at the Annual Meeting.
- Invitation to attend all Board meetings.
- Satisfaction—your support is safeguarding our history.

Volunteer Opportunities 2020

Donated time by our members and supporters reduces the expense of operating the Museum. The list below is comprised of work or projects that offer a variety of opportunities for a person to help the Historical Society. Maybe you have a talent or interest not listed and would like to be of service. I'm sure we can fit you in. Please look the list over and check mark items you would be willing to help.

- ___ Volunteer Coordinator—calling/record keeping
- ___ Drivers for Cemetery Tour event in October
- ___ Maintenance/Lawn Care Help
 - Mowing/Trimming
 - Building & Grounds Maintenance
 - Help with exhibits
 - Snow Removal
- ___ Event Coordination
- ___ Event Preparation-setting up/taking down
- ___ Publicity: press releases –television/radio/channel 6 and social media
- ___ Help Work with Collections
 - Reference Area Work
 - Accessioning Records
 - Sale of items on website
- ___ Up keep of Exhibits, Cleaning before opening
- ___ Website Updating
- ___ Pie Baking
- ___ Christmas Cookie & Candy Making
- ___ Sewing
- ___ Other _____

Do you have a specific interest?

Please be reminded, other contributions do not include your Membership Dues.