



The Union

Spring 2023

Volume 26 #1

We're looking forward to a great season! Our museums open this week with several new exhibits for our guests to enjoy. *History in 3-D: Historical Dioramas of Prairie du Chien* showcases dioramas originally created by Cal N. Peters. These dioramas have not been viewed by the public in many years. We have a new exhibit celebrating the 350th anniversary of Marquette & Jolliet's exploration and the fur trade in Prairie du Chien. Our family tree exhibit has been enhanced with display cases and artifacts from the collection of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society.

Our museums will be open this season daily 10-4 and closed on Tuesdays. Be sure to stop by soon and see what's new!

Brandon Brockway

Fur
factory
store
diorama
by Cal N.
Peters



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Follow us on Facebook!

- Fort Crawford Museum
- Museum of Prairie du Chien
- St. Germain dit Gauthier House

2023 Calendar of Events

May 1	Museums Open for the Season
June 24 & 25	Fete de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste
June 30	Friday at the Fort
July 7	Friday at the Fort
July 15	Pies-a-Plenty Sale
July 23	Marquette & Jolliet River Tour
July 28	Friday at the Fort
August 20	Marquette & Jolliet River Tour
September 17	Marquette & Jolliet River Tour
October 7	Visiting Our Ancestors Cemetery Tour
December 9	Christmas at the Fort

For more information, please visit our Facebook page or call us at 608-326-6960.

THANK YOU!

We are so very grateful for the generous gift giving and membership donations that we've received since January. If you're considering a membership, or would like to renew, here are the levels that we currently offer:

Student: \$10

Individual: \$30

Family: \$60

Collections Sponsor: \$150

Museum Sponsor: \$300

School Tour Sponsor: \$500

School Program Sponsor: \$1,000

Fort Crawford Hospital/St. Germain Sponsor: \$1,500

Society Program Sponsor: \$2,500

Museum Benefactor: \$5,000

School Library Sponsor: In addition to any membership level or school sponsorship you can gift a set of books on Prairie du Chien History to a school library of your choice.

Elementary School Library Set: \$250

High School Library Set: \$350

*A few photos from our February
La Fête Du Voyageur Dinner*

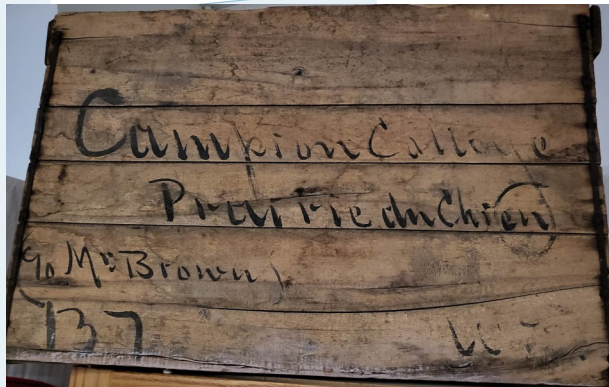


Maintenance Volunteers Needed

The Prairie du Chien Historical Society is currently scheduling maintenance volunteers for our 2023 season. Light maintenance such as exhibit lighting, lawn mower maintenance, & painting are just a few tasks that we could use help with. If you'd like to help, please let us know! You can email us at pdchhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call us at 608-326-6960.

From the Collection Room

New to the Collection!



Large wooden shipping crate labeled "Campion College; Prairie du Chien WI"

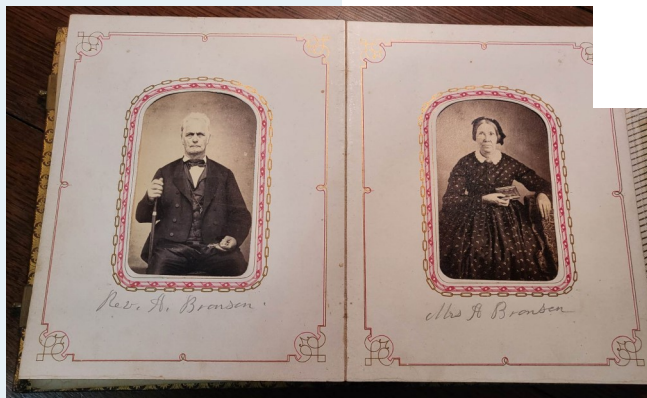
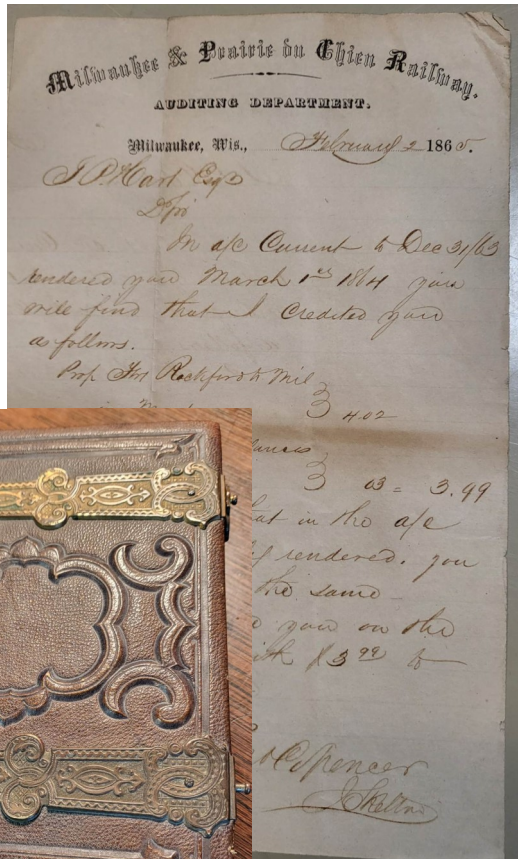


Tobacco box produced in Prairie du Chien; Thomas Vavra



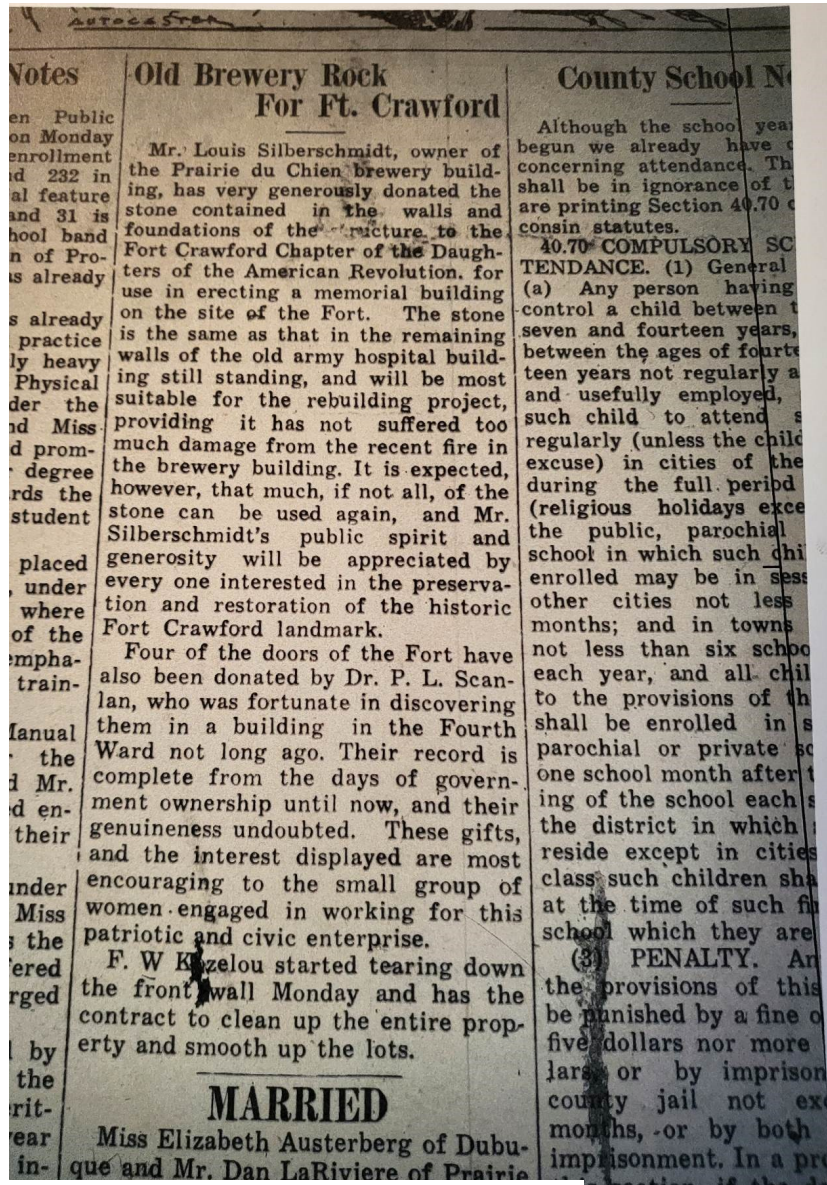
Metal clam bucket with handle

Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien Railway invoice dated February 2, 1865



1860s carte-de-visite photograph album; Alfred Brunson family provenance





The Prairie du Chien Historical Society has two of the doors mentioned in this article. One was incorporated into an interior doorway of the Fort Crawford Hospital Museum, when the building was rebuilt in the 1930s. The other door is in storage. It is unclear what became of the remaining two doors. This article dates to the 1930s.

June 16-18



Volunteer



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90 Years Ago

La Crosse Tribune + Leader-Press
Nov. 30, 1933.

Rebuilding Of Historic Fort Crawford Assured

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis. — (Special)— With an allotment of \$7,510 under the CWA, the rebuilding of the remains of part of historic Fort Crawford on the banks of the Mississippi here has become a certainty. Work began Monday morning with a crew of 20 men removing dirt and debris from the basement of the historic remains.

The original fort covered several blocks square while the hospital wing which will be rebuilt was in the form of an "L" at the south end of the original fort, started 106 years ago by troops here under the command of Zachary Taylor, colonel and later president. The first part of the building to be rebuilt will be the old surgeon's quarters, which were at the north end of the structure. The east wing was the hospital where Chief Black Hawk was held after his capture and where the famous surgeon, Dr. Wm. Beaumont, conducted his experiments on Alexis St. Martin by which he discovered the action of the gastric juices of the stomach,

thereby marking one of the greatest steps in the science of medicine.

The north wing is 22x60 and the east wing 22x83. The latter cannot be completed as it would cover or cross most of the concrete highway that leads past the site.

Rock for the replica is being secured from the city quarry, but a movement is on foot to tear down the famous old first ward school, which is one of the oldest school buildings in the state, and use the weathered rock from that building in the fort hospital. Proponents set forth that the historic value of the hospital will be even greater as the timbers in the school are of the same type as used in the fort.

The D. A. R. owns the property and remains of the building. It is the organization's intention to make the fort a public museum, where relics of the olden days may be safely stored. They have appealed to public for contributions or the lending of such antiquities in anticipation of the completion.

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