



## 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

### Board of Directors

President  
Mary Antoine

Vice President  
Chad Fradette

Secretary  
Janet Finn

Treasurer  
Lori Bekkum

Joe Atkins  
Bill Howe  
John Mundt  
Carolyn Sand  
Terry Seeley  
Cindy Standorf  
Bob Ziel

### Staff

Administrative Manager  
Friday Wiles

Interpreters  
Barb Rink  
Jodi Russell

Buildings and Grounds  
Gene Bouzek

### Standing Committees

Collections  
Education  
Exhibit  
Finance  
Membership

### Contact Information

Fort Crawford Museum  
717 S. Beaumont Road  
PO Box 298  
Prairie du Chien, WI  
53821  
608 326-6960  
[ftcrawmu@mhtc.net](mailto:ftcrawmu@mhtc.net)

Kathy Koch  
[kgkoch@centurytel.net](mailto:kgkoch@centurytel.net)

## Christmas at the Fort

The porches were all decked with Christmas finery for the month of December. On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 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

#### 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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!