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# *The Union*

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## **Newsletter of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society**

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### **Board Members**

Rebecca Hackett, President  
Dale Klemme, Vice-president  
Nancy Thurn, Secretary  
Donna M. Kinley, Treasurer  
Ginger Arms  
Chad Fradette  
Naomi Huffman  
Robert Ziel

### **Welcome to 2025 Season**

The Board of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society met the end of March. Officers were elected for the 2025 calendar year. The Board also set the hours for the operation of the Fort Crawford Museum.

The Fort Crawford Museum will open Wednesday May 21 and be open through Sunday November 2. The hours of operation will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Museum will be closed each Tuesday.

Schools and organized groups are welcome to schedule a tour throughout the months of April and May. Just contact the Museum at 608 326-6960.

The admission fees are the same.

Fort Crawford Hospital in 1863. Stereoview by John Carbutt. In that year, Carbutt, who had a studio in Chicago, traveled along the upper Mississippi and regions west. He produced a set of stereographs, which he named *Glimpses of the Great West*.



## Thank You to Our Members

### Individual

Ginger Arms

Nancy Becker

Robert Camardo

Margaret Fagen Key

Mary Lou Garnsworthy

Naomi Huffman

Mary Peckham

Rita Wachuta-Breckel

### Family

Colleen Bouzek

Fred and Barb Grelle

Mark and Ann Grunwald

Ron and Sylvia Hollenberger

Gary and Joan Howe

Mary Huser

Patricia Meagher-Springer

Michael and Shelly Rider

Joe and Kay Schmitz

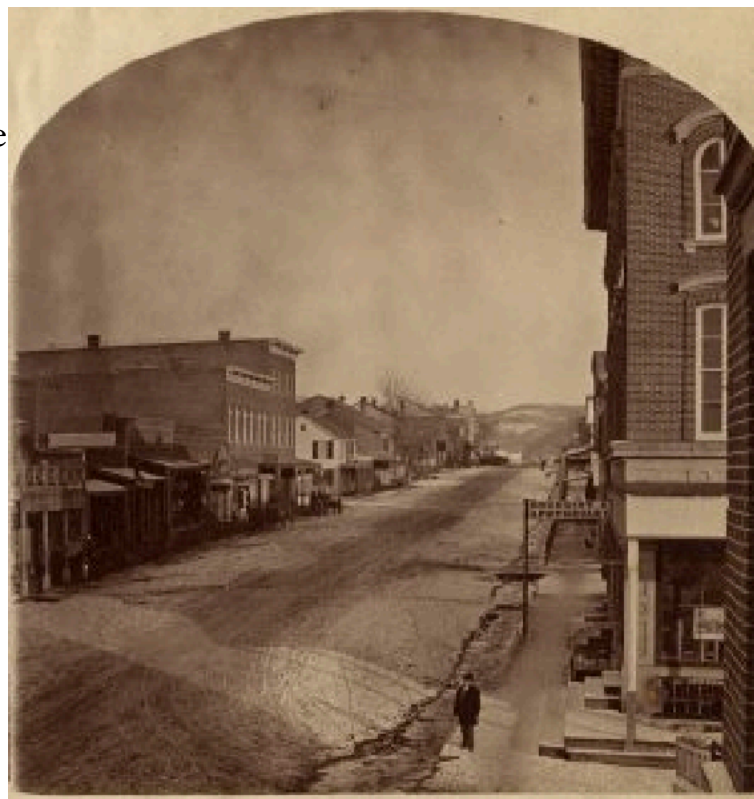
### Collection Sponsor

Virginia Antoine and Thomas Schmidtkunz

Delores Bonney

Prairie du Chien Chamber of Commerce

Bluff Street looking east, from  
the Case Block, circa 1880.



## Beach Quilt Returns to Prairie du Chien

Last issue of the Newsletter contained a story about the donation of a rocking chair owned by Horace Beach. It was donated by Mary Huser. Well, the best advertising is word-of-mouth.

Mary told a relative, Sharon Malecki, about the donation of the chair and other Beach items to the Society. Sharon owned a quilt made by Jessie C. Beach and some of her friends. Sharon wrote to Carolyn Sand, who cares for the Society's collections, and offered the quilt to the Society, saying, "I feel it should definitely be with the other memorabilia of Jessie & Henry's as they were quite well-respected & known in the community in the early 1900's. Socially, they were very reserved and non-assuming people. They had no children of their own."

The quilt is now part of the collection of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society. Thank you Sharon.

### Jessie Case Beach

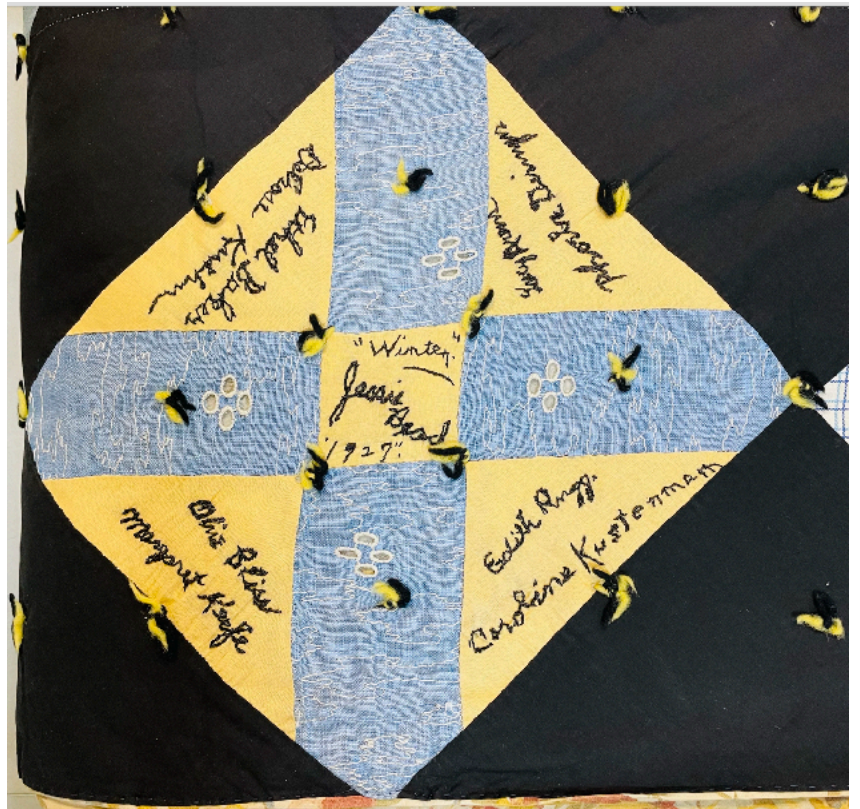
Jessie W. Case was born March 1873 in Norwalk, Connecticut, the daughter of Charles B. Case and Ella Ware. Jessie's mother died in 1877, and by 1880 Charles had moved his daughters to Prairie du Chien and married Otilie Georgii. Lawrence Case, Charles' brother, had also relocated and brought his family to Prairie du Chien. The brothers constructed the Case Block on the southwest corner of Main and Bluff Streets. Lawrence sold dry goods; Charles sold groceries

Jessie married Henry C. Beach, son of Horace and Clarissa Beach, on March 5, 1903. They made their home in Minneapolis, where Henry worked as a traveling salesman. It was while Jessie lived in Minnesota that she and eight of her friends made the quilt. Each woman embroidered her name in the center panel of the quilt and dated their work "Winter 1927."

By 1930, Jessie and Henry had returned to Prairie du Chien, living with Seward and Horace Beach, Henry's brothers. Jessie died May 31, 1962. She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.



Jessie Case Beach



Quilt block signed by Jessie Beach, Olive Bliss, Margaret Keefe, Ethel Baker, Delores Kirschbaum, Lucy Arens, Phoebe Dering, Edith Rigg, and Caroline Kustermann.



Horace Beach Family Home.  
North Michigan Street, Prairie du  
Chien, Wisconsin.

## Speaking of Quilts

Cindy Noel, a member of the Prairie du Chien Historical Society, has donated a quilt she made to the Society.

Cindy is an avid quilt-maker, donating many quilts to “Quilts of Valor.” Cindy is also a master gardener. She cares for “Mrs. Beaumont’s Herb Garden” located on the grounds of the Fort Crawford Museum.

Per Cindy’s request, her quilt will be part of a raffle to benefit the Historical Society. Tickets will be on sale at the Museum beginning on opening day of the Museum. The quilt is made of cotton and 58 inches by 78 inches.

Thank you very much Cindy.

