



## The Union

**Prairie du Chien Historical Society Newsletter**  
**July 2020 Volume 23 #3**

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### We're Open!

Opening day was Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Museum hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm every day of the week. Guests are encouraged to wear face coverings when visiting. The Board set in place cleaning and disinfecting protocols for the staff and volunteers. We want our visitors to feel safe while touring the buildings.

### Fridays at the Fort

The summer program 'Fridays at the Fort' is well under way. There have already been three programs with four more to go. Here is a list of what is coming up:

- July 17      Freedom Rock Painting  
                 Rocks and paint will be provided. Bring your imagination, create a patriotic design or whatever makes you happy.
  
- July 24      Native American Story Telling and Music  
                 Dan Lybarger will share traditional Ojibwe & Cherokee stories & music.
  
- August 7    A Magic Show featuring "The Great Vernon".  
                 The Great Vernon, a local magician, enjoys making balloon characters.
  
- August 14   Tea with Mrs. Beaumont  
                 **Reservations required. Only 30 spots available.**  
                 Mrs. Beaumont will be serving light refreshments along with a variety of berry teas. All participants will go home with their teacup and saucer.

All programs start at 1:30 and end at 3:30. All programs are free! Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. **For more information or to reserve a spot call the museum at 326-6960.**

## **Fall Bus Trip Cancelled!**

This decision did not come easy for Janet Finn, organizer and coordinator of this event. Without knowing what the state of the pandemic will be in October and not wanting to jeopardize anyone's health, Janet came to the conclusion that this year the bus trip to the Twin Cities must be cancelled. This is a huge disappointment, but the health and safety of the participants come first. On a positive note Janet says she is already planning for 2021.

## **Mini Grant Received**

Earlier in the year, Carolyn Sand, chairperson of the Collections Committee, submitted a request for funding through the 2020 mini-grant program provided by the Wisconsin Historical Foundation and the Wisconsin Council for Local History. She was notified in June that the Prairie du Chien Historical Society was the recipient of \$270.00. The grant money will be used to purchase archival polyester film. Polyester film will be used to protect old documents from humidity which causes deterioration and decay. Carolyn stated, "this grant will allow us to continue to care for and help preserve the rich history of Prairie du Chien." Good work, Carolyn!

## **COVID-19 Relief Funds**

The PdC Historical Society has applied and received funding through the SBA for two programs. The Economic Injury Disaster Relief Fund provided \$5,000 in late April based on our five (5) employees. This is a forgivable loan that will turn into grant once we've provided proof of retaining employees and expenses incurred. We also received a loan as part of the SBA Payroll Protection Program for \$6,587 based on last year's monthly payroll. Again, this loan will turn into grant when we provide expense information at the end of 24 weeks from 5/14/20. The hope is that with these funds we can replace the revenue we would have realized from the cancelled pie auction and bus trip.

We are also in the process of applying for additional loan/grant funding from the Wisconsin Humanities Care Program and the SBA EIDL Loan program. The Wisconsin Humanities grant of \$7,500 has been submitted and would pay for operating expenses from 8/1/20 – 10/31/20 because of lost revenue if funded. The SBA EIDL Loan program provides loans at 2.75% for 30 yrs. The Society has applied for \$15,000 and it has been approved by SBA.

It has been very difficult to stay ahead of the ever changing COVID landscape, but we are doing as much as possible to maintain Museum operations with a focus on the health and safety of our employees and patrons.

## St. Germain dit Gautier-Coorough House

Restoration on the French log cabin, the St. Germain dit Gautier-Coorough House started in the middle of June. Contractors for the project are: Artisan Restoration, LLC, Kasota, MN, Wadsworth Construction, Waukon, IA, Wagner Electric, Wauzeka, WI, and Mezera Heating & Air Conditioning, Prairie du Chien. The process includes removal of rotten boards, replace the mortar between the logs, stabilize the foundation and eventually return the cabin to its 1835 appearance. Please drive by, progress is noticeable each day. The museum's Facebook page has many pictures showing the work. It is a mesmerizing transformation. It already looks better than the June 29th picture below.



The Prairie du Chien Historical Society is grateful for the contributions from the following:

### **Support from:**

Prairie du Chien Tourism Council  
City of Prairie du Chien  
Peoples State Bank  
JWalkers of Holy Family Parish

### **Donation of Supplies and Material:**

Doug Enke, Town and Country Sanitation  
Blair Dillman  
Artie and Debbie Johnson, Johnson's One Stop  
Kraemer Company Quarry  
Tractor Supply

### **Grants:**

Madison Gas & Electric Foundation  
Fuldner Heritage Fund

### **Monetary Donations:**

Michele Pierce  
Tom & Cathie Nelson  
Patricia Coorough  
Robert & Rose Ziel  
Friday Wiles  
Robert V. Camardo  
Virginia M. Antoine  
Gary & Kathy Koch  
White Dairy Cattle  
John & Betty Fischer  
Mary Elise Antoine  
Prairie du Chien Women's Civic Club  
Visitors to the Fort Crawford Museum

**THANK YOU!**

The transformation of the french log cabin is an expensive project. Donations are needed. Please consider making a contribution to this rare historic past of Prairie du Chien.

## Carolyn's Wish List

In our collection is a beautiful quilt made by the Crawford County Homemakers circa 1930's. The group of women who "tie" quilted this blanket were from the northern part of Crawford County. The triangles and squares were cut from feed sacks and each quilter embroidered her name in the center of her block. The two signatures in the picture are Alta McDonald and Rose Adair. Does anyone know either of these two women?



To protect the quilt from deterioration it needs to be stored in an archival quality box. The cost for such a box is \$45.00. Anyone interested in donating money towards the purchase of an appropriate storage box please call the museum. Thank you.

## The Staff 2020

Two new people have joined the staff for the 2020 season. They are Jean Pellemounter and Brandon Brockway. Jean and Brandon will fill in the gap from the departure of Barb Rink and Donia Russell. Jan Stavroplus has returned after a two-year hiatus. Welcome! The Museum is fortunate to have Friday Wiles, Jodi Russell and Gene Bouzek still with us. The Fort is in good hands with this year's staff!



## Say Cheese!

April Schrick of Prairie du Chien created the colorful cut outs of Colonel Willoughby Morgan and his wife. A photograph of Gene and Colleen Bouzek dressed in their period clothing for Visiting Our Ancestors event was her inspiration. The cut outs are standing on the porch of the south side of the hospital.

Gene Bouzek made the stands to keep them upright and two foot stools for little ones to stand and reach the head openings.

The two are a handsome pair and just waiting for someone to poke their head through and take a picture.

Thank you, April and Gene for this delightful addition to the museum.