



# *The Chronicler*

## **First Quarter in Review:**

Even though the museum may be closed for the season, the Board has been busy preparing for the summer. There a few fun events in the works and some work has been done inside of the Museum. Everyone is looking forward to the warm summer weather and for the museum to be open again.

Last year we participated in a Museum Assessment Program through the American Alliance of Museums. This year we have been lucky enough to be selected to participate in another one. Last year we had an Organizational Assessment which focused on all aspects of our museum and historical society operations. It helped us evaluate the ways in which the museum has been operated for the past several years and taught us how to move forward following museum standards and best practices. The Organizational Assessment helped us understand the value of strategic plans and how to plan with both long term and short term goals in mind.

The Assessment we are participating in this year is the Collection Stewardship Assessment. The process of the assessment is generally the same as the Organizational Assessment. First we had to fill out a detailed application and be accepted into the program. We are now in the self-study workbook stage of the assessment, during this stage an assessment team made up of staff and board members work on a very in-depth workbook and two activities. Both the workbook and the self-study activities are aimed to make us take an intensive look into how we are managing our collections and our policies related to collections management. We have already learned a lot and are learning that we have room to grow as we continue to care for our collections.

This summer, after we have our workbook and activities completed, we will have a visit from our peer reviewer, Beth Hansen, who comes from a group of accredited volunteers with the American Alliance of Museums who have experience and knowledge in museums like ours. Beth will visit our museum this summer and will write a review with recommendations on how we can move forward in a way that is in the best interest or our collections and our mission as a museum.

These assessments are great opportunities for staff and board members to learn about the best way in which to care for the museum and the collections housed within. Participation in these assessments shows a real commitment on the part of board and staff members to the future of our museum.

There have been some projects going on inside the museum this winter as well. One that we are all very excited about is the uncovering of the Judge's desk upstairs in the courtroom. A few hard-working board members took the time to remove the paneling that was covering up the beautiful desk. As it continues to warm up the restoration will be complete. Some windows throughout the building have received an upgrade of window-coverings. Many of the windows were previously covered by Styrofoam sheets, as natural light can be harmful to items on display, but are now covered with insulated panels with a crisp white finish. These panels look much nicer and are a lot more durable and sturdy than the Styrofoam.



### **Scholarship Opportunity**

If you know a high school student who attends a Polk County High School the Polk County Historical Society has a \$500 scholarship open to them. They can inquire with their school counselor for more details. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 1st

## Grant Awards

The PCHS would like to thank the following foundations for their generosity:

**-Wisconsin Humanities Council** – donated \$1,050 to help with costs for our Logging Heydays event in July. This event is being supported by a generous Grant of \$1,050.00 from the Wisconsin Humanities Council with funds from the MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation. The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports and creates programs that use history, culture and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin.

**-St Croix Casino, Turtle Lake EDC** – donated \$400 for operating costs. St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin are supporting local communities.

**-St Croix Valley Foundation** – donated \$750 to go towards our educational enrichment programs. The St Croix Valley Foundation is enhancing the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley Region, supporting local communities and regional interests.

**-Hardenbergh Foundation** - of North Oaks, MN very generously donated \$10,000.00 to help fund our Lighting History Project to provide our museum with museum safe lighting to help protect our artifacts. The Hardenbergh Foundation was established in 1950 in Minnesota and supports Cultural Programs.

## giveBIG St Croix Valley!



We are VERY excited to be a part of giveBIG St. Croix Valley again this year. giveBIG St Croix Valley is a one day fundraising event focused on supporting local non-profits. Even though the giveBIG day is on April 26<sup>th</sup> you can visit [www.givescv.razoo.com](http://www.givescv.razoo.com) and search Polk County Museum to donate at any time. On April 26<sup>th</sup> you will be able to donate online or at several donation sites throughout our communities. Last year the proceeds from this event went a long way in helping us continue in our efforts of educational enrichment at the Polk County Museum. Donations big and small help us continue our mission. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Polk County Museum this April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Events:

**-Unity Community Ed:** Tour the logging room, watch a short program about work in the lumber camps 150 years ago, and listen to a talk from a Natural Resource expert. Enjoy a lumberjack style luncheon and then tour the rest of the museum at your leisure.

**When:** May 13<sup>th</sup>, 11 am

**Where:** Polk County Museum, Balsam Lake

**Cost:** \$15, includes lumberjack style lunch.

If you would like to be a part of this event pre-register by April 29th. Please pre-register for classes online at <http://unity.k12.wi.us/.../community-education/offered-classes> or by contacting Deb Paulsen, Community Ed Coordinator at 715-825-2101 ext. 1560, or email [depaulsen@unity.k12.wi.us](mailto:depaulsen@unity.k12.wi.us).

-**Book reading** by Author **Lisa Doerr**. Lisa is the author of *Eureka Valley – Grandfathers’ Grandfathers*. Based on the real lives of St. Croix Valley Settlers, this novel takes readers from Alabama’s Appalachian hills to Wisconsin’s woodlands.

**When:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm after monthly board meeting

**Where:** Polk County Museum

**Cost:** Free, refreshments provided. Donations always appreciated.

-**Logging Heydays Event**. Mark your calendars for **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Visit the museum and enjoy a talk from a National Park Service employee about the St Croix River and a presentation by the Raptor Center. This is a free, family friendly event and the museum will be open to tour at your leisure.

## *Murder Mystery at the Museum*

In January the Polk County District Attorney’s office had a Murder Mystery themed holiday party at the Museum. Can you guess who the murderer is?



### *Wanted:*

Volunteers! If you have any interest in helping our Gardening Committee with the upkeep of our Memorial Garden located in the museum lawn, please email [polkcountymuseum@lakeland.ws](mailto:polkcountymuseum@lakeland.ws) for more information.

### *PCHS Wish List:*

We are always looking for specific donations, so we don’t need to use budget money to offset certain programs or costs. Items sought:

- Office Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies

**PCHS membership**

**Individual annual-  
\$15 Family annual—  
\$25 Patron—\$50  
Students—\$2**

To become a member or renew your member- ship, contact (715) 485-9269

E-mail—

**polkcountymuseum@lakeland.ws** mail to

Polk Co. Hist. Society,  
PO Box 41, Balsam Lake, WI. 54810

hey  
you!

Is your membership out of date? In the future, newsletters will only go out to members who are up to date on their dues. Not sure if you are paid up to date? Give us a call or email and we will let you know. Thanks!

Polk County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 41  
Balsam Lake, WI, 54810

