

*Preserving our
Historical Heritage*



Price County Historical Society Newsletter



www.pricecountyhistoricalsociety.org

Volume 33, No. 3 Nov-Dec 2015

President: Etola Foytek, Phillips

Vice-President: Dr. Peter Dahlie, Phillips

Secretary: Annette Setterman, Park Falls

Treasurer: Jo Gibeaut, Fifield

Director: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips

Director: Edith Burant, Butternut

Director: Beverly Brayton, Catawba

Director: Jeff Koshak, Park Falls

Director: Deborah Sales, Fifield

Director: Arlene Morrison, Park Falls

Newsletter Editor: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips

2015 in Review

The Price County Historical Society, Inc. is an affiliate of the State Historical Society by virtue of incorporation under the provisions of Section 44.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes. As an affiliate, the society is an institutional member of the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Council for Local History. In addition, the Price County Historical Society operates under a set of bylaws established by the voting membership of the society. At the last Annual Meeting in October of 2015 the membership roll totaled 230 members. The Board of Directors of the Price County Historical Society usually meets monthly January through October to attend to the operation of the society. The museums operated by the society are open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday from the first full weekend after Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. The Society depends upon the generous donation of time given by so many of our members who volunteer



Display of artifacts at the Old Town Hall Museum

to be hosts each weekend. The tours are self-guided. There is no charge to tour the museums, however donations are appreciated. In 2015 over 400 individuals visited our museums.

Events for 2015 began with a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at the Town Hall in Fifield in April followed by a spring plant sale fundraiser and a thorough cleaning of both the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School Museums to make both buildings ready for the summer season. The flower

beds were weeded and mulched and the balcony, which had been repaired in the winter, was painted.

Members of the board participated both Friday and Saturday in May in Heritage Days at the Wisconsin Concrete Park with a display and presentation. May was also a time when exhibits and displays at the museums were changed out, with new displays and artifacts made ready for the summer season.

In July, our "Summer Afternoon at the Museum" consisted of a wonderful needlework display and hands on demonstration by "Friends with Threads." This exceptionally talented group has made it their mission to learn, create and preserve the art of traditional and historical needlework. During the same afternoon those in attendance were treated to a display of the use and history of a brace by Jeff Koshak, while Susan and Charlotte Koshak were on hand to exhibit Charlotte's ever expanding display of ladles. Charlotte's display included ladles for cooking, drinking and blacksmithing. The society members also sold strawberry shortcakes, ice cream and beverages throughout the afternoon.

A display depicting the history and artifacts of the Phillips Fire of 1894 was set-up at the Price County Fairgrounds during the fair in August. In September, an afternoon Victorian Tea was held at the Saint Anthony's Padua Center in Park Falls

Our season wrapped up with our Annual Meeting in October. At this time, we were privileged to have in attendance John Berg who is the author of his soon to be published book, *The Lakeshore & Eastern Railroad: A Logging Railroad in North Central Wisconsin*. John gave an excellent presentation on the history of the logging railroads that carved through northern Wisconsin establishing many of the communities that still exist today. Well over fifty individuals attended.

The society had a highly successful 2015 and is looking forward to being able to bring more events to the museums and community in 2016. We hope that some of you were able to attend some of these events or take a tour of the museums in 2015. If not we hope you make plans to take in some of the activities and displays in 2016. Price County has a rich heritage and culture and the goal of the Price County Historical Society is to preserve this for many generations to come.



Courtroom display showing the furniture from the old Price County Courthouse

Greenfield School

By Jeff Koshak

The Greenfield School found a new home in Fifield, WI. It sits right next to the Price County Historical Old Town Hall Museum. This should be the final resting place. Of all the schools in Price County, why the Greenfield School from Town of Lake? A question can only be answered by the people involved.

I don't know a lot of history or ground work why the school was built. My history of this building is from my early childhood. Our family lived kiddy corner from the school; County B and E and Tower Road. It stood on top of a hill by the Town of Lake Town Hall. This is probably one of the busiest road intersections in the township. It served as the Town Hall.

Memories of this building are part of my childhood. I remember on Election Day my sisters and I would stand outside and wait for 8:00 pm; a gentleman would holler out some words and then take down the American Flag. It was an Election procedure. The school had broken windows and chipped paint. It was going downhill. I use to mow the lawn around the school building for ten years. No one ever went into the building just at election time; maybe a town meeting. The Town of Lake then added on to the garage a new meeting place. The old school was vacant. We would play and ride our bikes and then the motorcycle around the school.

It became just an old building falling apart. But, it still stood proud on top of that hill watching Town of Lake growing.

How many students were schooled in that building? Are any of them still



living and what became of their lives? A lot of questions can be asked. History is defined by facts and memories. That Greenfield School is part of my childhood and it watched me grow into becoming a man. It affected many people's life in many different ways.

A few dedicated people put in a lot of time and saved this heritage. I commend them for their work. Now it is restored and filled with school memorabilia of the early 1900's.

My heart goes out to all the schools that were not restored. They too are a part of our heritage. They were part of our heritage by educating our people to build a strong America.



One room classroom at the Old Greenfield School Museum

Price County Historical Society

Spaghetti

Dinner

\$ 6.00 plate

Under 12—\$ 3.00

Tuesday April 19, 2016

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fifield Town Hall

Bake Sale and
Bucket Raffle

- * Spaghetti
- * Salad
- * Dessert
- * Garlic Bread
- * Beverage
- * Carry outs available

