

# Price County Historical Society Newsletter



Old Town Hall  
Museum



Louis A. Koenig  
Research Center



Greenfield School  
Museum

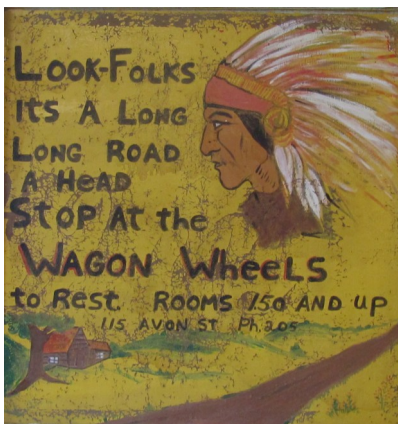
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**Board of Directors:** President: Etola Foytek, Phillips — Vice President: Peter Dahlie, Phillips— Secretary/Treasurer: Lorraine Pilch, Phillips—Newsletter Editor: John Berg, Wisconsin Rapids—Tom Kaiser, Park Falls — Bonnie Salm, Fifield—Traci Dunbar, Phillips— Len Schmidt, Park Falls—Eric Tollefson, Phillips—James Wedemeyer, Fifield— Gay Marschke, Phillips

## CATCHING UP WITH LIFE AT PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By: John L. Berg

What has been happening since your last issue of the Newsletter was published? Welcome to the advent of another museum season at the Campus at Fifield! The PCHS Board has been busy this winter and have a number of projects underway to preserve our buildings and artifacts, as well as the ongoing work of preservation at the Louis A. Koenig Research Center. We have settled on the dates for our Pie Social and Strawberry Shortcake fundraiser, worked on short and long range planning for all of our facilities and grounds, and formed a publicity and marketing committee to create a new marketing plan in order to promote the museums



Painstaking work was done by Terry Morgan to preserve this sign for display at the OTH.

and research centers' unique offerings and attract new and returning visitors. In the works as well is the design of a new cover and title page for one of our newest publications to be offered later this summer. Lots to do—lots getting done! SO, without

further delay, let's take a look at what is going on at PCHS...

## AT THE LOUIS A. KOENIG RESEARCH CENTER



John Berg stands beside The Jacob Miller map now hanging at the research center.

What is happening at the Louis A. Koenig Research Center? In March we had the crew from

Huotari Construction install the Stas Picture Rail System along the wall below the ceiling tile supports. This system incorporates a system of cables and hooks suspended from the rail that allows the display of photographs, maps, and documents without pounding nails or drilling screws in the walls. Multiple photographs can be suspended for maximum efficient use of space. The large 1883 Jacob Miller map has been brought over from the Old Town Hall Museum and permanently hung on the east wall immediately south of the Honor Recognition Board. This map is extremely rare. Originally printed and sold to logging companies, railroads, and land offices, Miller's map provided the viewer with a comprehensive visual record of the Chippewa River watershed.

Locations of settlements, dams, and logging camps as they were situated 142 years ago are invaluable as a primary source for research. The Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau Claire also has an encapsulated original, and with our copy, are the only two known to exist. Research on the existence of other originals is ongoing; Miller was a German immigrant engraver and cartographer who settled in Menomonie, so other museums may also have originals.

During the coming summer we will once again welcome patrons by appointment to the Koenig Center. In order to conduct your directed research you will need to set up an appointment and prepare an outline of what you intend to search. Contact me [John L.Berg] at 715-323-3414 phone or by email at [jlmj@wctc.net](mailto:jlmj@wctc.net). Or contact Etola Foytek at 715-339-2415 phone or [efputter@pctcnet.net](mailto:efputter@pctcnet.net) by email. This will allow us time to retrieve the material you are searching for, and maximize your time in the Koenig Center. You can also contact Laurie Pilch at 715-339-2481 phone or [rljpilch@pctcnet.net](mailto:rljpilch@pctcnet.net) by email for general questions.

## AT THE OLD TOWN HALL AND GREENFIELD SCHOOL.

What is happening at the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School? Our building and grounds supervisor, Tom Kaiser has been diligently inspecting our structures and making note of the maintenance necessary to ensure their preservation. This is an ongoing necessity as the Old Town Hall is 131 years old and the Greenfield School is nearly 120 years old. A sturdy, well-covered roof, dry foundation and basement, and secure, well-maintained siding are essential to prolonging the life of these old structures. They are constructed of materials right from the pinery of Price County. Thus, Tom has been working with a local mason to tuck point and replace the mortar of the fieldstone foundation of the Hall. The foundation and basement are original—these locally sourced fieldstones

makes the structure that much more unique. Tom hired a local photographer to employ a drone for inspection of the roof, chimneys, eaves and gutters on the Old Town Hall. This aerial examination revealed that, while the roof appears to be in good condition, the chimneys and flashings need immediate attention. Also of concern are the windows on the south wall of the Hall, which receives a significant amount of beating from the sun, as well as the weather from the prevailing westerly winds. Tom is researching the intricacies of window replacement that will be historically accurate and yet durable. The Old Town Hall is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and certain regulations must be followed to maintain the integrity of the original building. Its appearance must be maintained to remain on the Register. Greenfield School is slated to have the exterior painting along with the installation of new foundation vents completed this summer. Each structure is sound and very attractive, but that is due to the diligence of Tom, our Board, and membership—and our commitment to keep these buildings healthy!



The 1894 exterior portion of the foundation of the Old Town Hall Museum will be getting repaired this summer.

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEER HOSTS:** The Board is seeking to increase the number of its volunteer base to serve as hosts at either of the museums during the summer. This job requires a time commitment of 4 to 5 hours and a willingness to welcome visitors and, if they choose, guide them through the displays. Most visitors like to browse on their own, so hosting often involves being present in a supervisory role. I, Berg, will be hosting a training session On Friday, June 20 at the Museum. I will be there from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop in any time during those hours and meet with me.



**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE** [or, when she speaks we listen] A Word from PCHS President Etola Foytek.

Through the winter we have received two military uniforms to fill our missing time periods and also a large collection of photographs of early Prentice. One of the uniforms was from the Korean War era complete with the dress overcoat, raincoat and long-lined coat for working in the winter weather. The other uniform was from the Vietnam conflict. With this donation we also received the flag from his funeral and his four Phillips High School yearbooks. The Prentice photographs were professionally framed and can be used when we celebrate their 150 year anniversary in 2028.



Included with the Korean War uniform was a religious cope (cloak), which had intricate embroideries and designs. The donor didn't know where it came from, nor why it was in the house, but it is so beautiful and interesting that I knew we would keep

it. It will be displayed in the church area of the Old Town Hall, with an explanation of the design. Look for it the next time you visit the museum.

Another donation received were two log ends pulled from Lake Duroy during the flood of 1994 in the Phillips area. Unique to these logs was that each log contained the stamp of the John R.

Davis Lumber Company. Both of these logs have been added to our logging room display.



Recently we had an inquiry about information or photographs of the tornado of May 10, 1953, that hit the Phillips area. Thank goodness for the years of old "Bees." I was able to

find the article in the May 14, 1953 paper and three pictures of the damage in subsequent week papers. We are truly fulfilling our building's purpose as a *Research* center.

Members of the Board of Directors spent Monday, May 19, cleaning and organizing the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School museum and getting them ready for the summer season. We plan another work day on June 3, as we recently received a donation from the Flambeau River State Forest of tools dating to the days of the CCC Camps. We will be spending the day working to identify, clean, and add them to our CCC display.

I would like to thank PCHS member Tammy Lanham for working to keep our flowerbed and planters looking so good at the Greenfield School. While we were working on cleaning and organizing the museums, Tammy was working on the flowerbed. Thank you Tammy!

By Memorial Day the American Flag is flying high on the flag pole at the PCHS campus. This is through the volunteer efforts of the Fifield American Legion Post No. 532. They donate and put up the flag every spring and take it down in fall after Veterans Day. We appreciate and thank them for doing this for the Society.

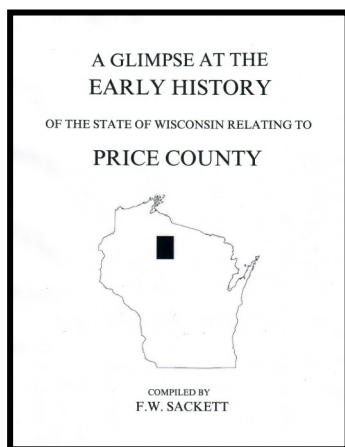
I would also like to thank former Board Member and present PCHS member Arlene Morrison for all of the volunteer time and the many years she spent collecting and organizing our obituaries, and placing them into three ring binders. These are all available at the research center and are a valuable research tool that have been used by many individuals. Arlene closed out the 2024 year and we are now looking for a volunteer to take on this role. I have been cutting out the obituaries, but need someone willing to organize and put them in binders. If you are interested in helping us out, please contact me by phone at 715-339-2415 or by email at [efputer@pctcnet.net](mailto:efputer@pctcnet.net).

## THE BUSINESS OF RUNNING THE SOCIETY

Laurie Pilch, PCHS Secretary/Treasurer brings us up to speed on the Society Business.

Please check your membership status. For those of you that get your newsletter by mail if you see the year 2024 on your address label your membership is still due. For anyone getting their newsletter by email I will be contacting you to see if you wish to renew. We are continuously working to expand our membership. If you know of anyone that may be interested in joining, please encourage them to do so. Membership forms are available on our website, our Gift Shop at the Old Town Hall Museum, and included with this newsletter.

One of the duties I have taken on is managing our book sales. In that role I would like to make you aware of a book that will be available later this summer. For some time now John Berg, Karen Baumgartner and I have been working on bringing to publication *A Glimpse at the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County* compiled (ca. 1905–1906) by F.W. Sackett. This book contains early history of the territory which is now known as the State of Wisconsin and extensive history of Price County both prior to and after formal origination by legislative decree in 1879. It is the earliest local comprehensive history that we have of the area and packed with narrative and first person accounts from the early history, early mission and church history, the press, history of public schools, and recollections of pioneer days by those that came to the area. Bringing a work such as this to publication has met with many challenges from digitization to design, but we are almost there!



Meanwhile I believe the most accurate description of the intention of the work compiled by F.W. Sackett is best left in his words and writing. "Track-laying on the Wisconsin Central reached a spot about opposite Wm. Waddell's place in the City of Phillips, on the 16th day of August, 1876, and with it came the writer of these notes, looking for the new Eldorado, or as it was more often said, to grow up with the country. Not a tree was cut upon the town site, not a building was erected; only a few tents, a few shacks and the beautiful Elk lake was in sight. We were informed by our friend, Capt. Rich, the chief engineer of the Wisconsin Central Co., and in command of the corps of surveyors, that he was instructed to plat a city at Elk lake, and with a faith in its future that we have never lost, we decided to locate and do what we could towards building up a city and a business that would in time provide us a pleasant home. To await the platting of the city and the placing of its lots upon the market we returned to Weyauwega, where the writer was engaged in publishing the Weyauwega Times, closed out our business, and in a few weeks returned and commenced the erection of a building for a printing office in the woods. Here we have remained for twenty-five years, the choice ones of our life, and now at the close of a quarter of a century of active experience we are engaged in the pleasant task of recording the early history of Price county and incidents connected with its settlement. A quarter of a century is of but small moment in the history of a nation or a people, but on the human mind it confuses past events. We shall call freely upon the old settlers for aid in our work, and we have reliable data in the complete files of the local paper for the past twenty-five years, yet we shall write from personal recollections, and while we may ask pardon for errors of omission, we hope to present the reader a record that will be interesting to him and in a degree creditable to us. With this personnal digression, we take up the thread of the local history of Price County."

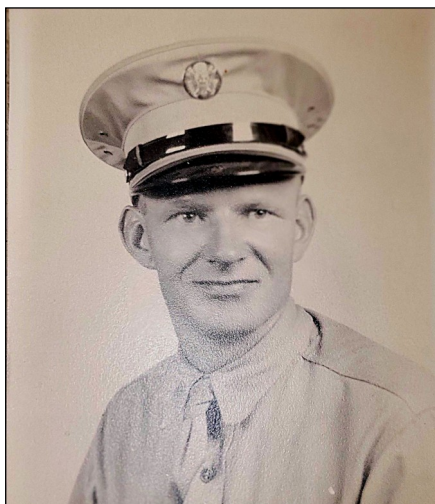
## FROM THE ARCHIVES: A MOMENT IN PRICE COUNTY HISTORY

By John L. Berg

Full Circle:

### John Pavlek's Quest to Bring Uncle Joe Home from World War II

On July 2, 2024, PCHS Secretary Laurie Pilch received the following email: *"Hello! My name is Dr. Kate Alfin, and I am the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency (DPAA) Research Partner Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As the DPAA Research Partner Fellow, I conduct archival and historical research in support of DPAA's accounting mission to locate and identify service members Killed In Action (KIA) and/or Missing In Action (MIA) from the Second World War through the Cold War. One of my current projects is to locate photographs of Wisconsinites killed and/or missing in action from World War II for publication on DPAA's website, where they post photographs and biographies of service members who remain unaccounted for. I am reaching out because I am looking for a photograph of an unaccounted service member from your County: Private (PVT) Joseph A. Dombalo..."* Dr. Alfin concluded, *"I am writing to see if you could help me locate a photograph of PVT Dombalo for inclusion in his biography on DPAA's website? Any assistance, guidance, or insight you could provide would be appreciated."* After doing some research on the DPAA site, Laurie got on the phone to Price County's premier historian, Karen Baumgartner and discussed Dr. Alfin's request. A member of the Price County Genealogical Society, Karen knew right where to look to track down Private Dombalo's family. The family emigrated to Price County prior to 1930, and settled on a farm on Luger Star Route. In addition to Joseph, he had two brothers, Rudy and Andrew; and three sisters: Helen, Mary, and Pauline. Joseph Dombalo never married, but several of his siblings did, including Pauline. She married Ignatius ("Iggy") Pavlek. They in turn had their own family: James, Vicki, and John. After Karen Baumgartner made the



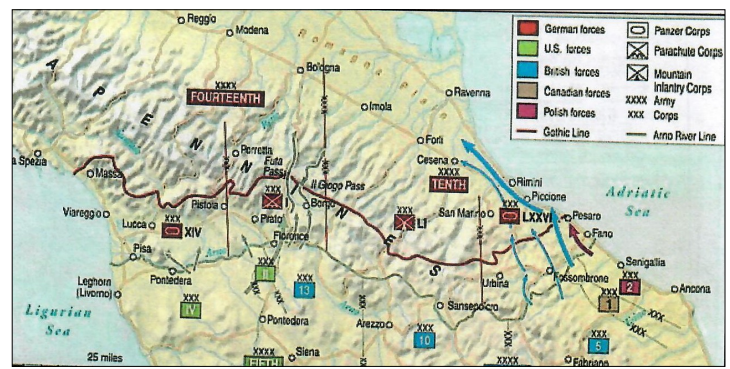
PVT. Joseph A. Dombalo

family connection, Laurie was able to contact Jim Pavlek. Jim then directed Laurie to his sister Vicki who in turn directed Laurie to their brother John. In his youth, John often heard the story of his mother Pauline's brother, U.S. Army

Private Joseph A. Dombalo, who died fighting in the mountains near Florence, Italy. Both Joseph's and John's life adventures have taken them far from their Price County homes. So, now let's travel back to May, 2022, when John Pavlek received an out-of-the-blue phone call that would galvanize his fascination with the fate of his long-lost uncle. According to records John has provided, Joseph A. Dombalo was born on September 1, 1912 in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The 1920 census locates his family in South Dakota, however the 1930 Census records indicate that his family had moved to Price County, settling along Luger Star Route northwest of Phillips. Joseph was then 18 and described as a farm laborer. John has significant information in a report on Joseph from the United States Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. *"Private Joseph A. Dombalo...entered the U.S. Army on 7 May 1942, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He served with Company E, 337th Infantry Regiment, 85 Infantry Division, during World War II."* The account of the military campaign in this report offers insight into the significance of Private Dombalo's service and fate. *"In September, 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies, who predicted that the German Army would subsequently withdraw from the Italian peninsula into the Alps. Instead, Adolf Hitler and Field Marshall Albert Kesserling...decided to hold ground in central and northern Italy for as long as possible. They hoped to discourage Allied operations*



in the Balkans, where Germany obtained critical raw materials, and keep Anglo—American air bases as far from Germany as possible. As a result, the German Army vigorously defended the territory it occupied in Italy.” Forced out of Rome and Florence in the summer of 1944, the Germans staked their “last stand” along a fortified line in the northern Apennine Mountains across the boot from the Ligurian Sea to the Adriatic Sea. Dubbed the “Gothic Line,” its loss would open the Po River Valley to Allied advance into the Alps; Austria would be the prize which would open the door to the Fatherland. Thus, from Autumn, 1944 through Spring, 1945, the Nazis mounted a furious defense of their high ground. “*The 85th Infantry Division, to which Pvt. Dombalo was assigned, was one of several divisions that took part in the Gothic Line campaign during that time period.*” By October 20, the 337th Infantry Regiment advanced to within 10 miles of Bologna: “*The rugged terrain of Apennine Mountains...made advancing northward incredibly difficult.*” Thus, “*Over a two day period, 22 and 23 October, the 337th Infantry Regiment was able to take and finally hold Monte Castellaro, despite numerous German counterattacks. While defending this position, the 337th Infantry Regiment received concentrated mortar and artillery fire from enemy forces occupying nearby hills. On the night of 24 into 25 October, Pvt. Dombalo’s 337th Infantry Regiment advanced northeast from their positions around Mt. Castellaro.*” Eighty-one years later this land has reverted to the beautiful wine country of the state of Tuscany. Although scars and memorials of the fierce combat remain, we can only try to imagine the fearful apocalypse which the men of the 337th faced. “*Although there is no specific account of Pvt. Dombalo’s death available in his file, all documents in his IDPF agree that he was killed in action on 26 October. One document states he was killed by ‘enemy shell fragments near Mt. Castellaro.’ By December, 1944, the government had received unknown information that justified changing his status*



A map showing the Gothic Line in red, which spanned across the peninsula from west to east, north of Florence and south of Bologna.

from missing in action to killed in action.” The fate of Private Joseph A. Dombalo was revealed to his mother Josephine and sister, Pauline from the Adjutant Generals Office. “*The individual named in this report of death is held by the War Department to have been in a missing in action status from 26 Oct 1944 until absence was terminated on 21 Dec 1944, when evidence considered sufficient to establish the fact of death was received by the Secretary of War from the Commanding General, Mediterranean Area.*” As reported by the United States Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, “*Private Joseph A. Dombalo...was killed in the northern Apennine Mountains near Monte Castellaro, Italy. His remains were not accounted for following the war. Today he is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at Florence American Cemetery in Impruneta, Italy.*”



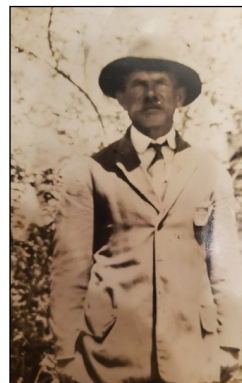
Although John Pavlek spent his formative years in Phillips and Price County, his career interests led him to various cities throughout the United States, most recently to San Antonio, Texas, where he works, ironically, as a funeral director. And this is the story he heard from his mother Pauline and grandmother Josephine. End of story—or so everyone thought until he received his out-of-the-blue phone call. Initially considered a prank, a supposed representative of the United States Department of Defense claimed the remains of Private Joseph A. Dombalo had been tentatively identified and recovered from interment in Italy. The strict protocol for combat zone recovery of deceased soldiers demanded their remains be gathered with their dog tags, enclosed in a military “body shroud” and buried side by side with their comrades in a temporary grave to await future retrieval at the cessation of operations. All was recorded by the attending recovery unit with full expectation that the remains would be identifiable and returned to families.

This was all too fantastic to be true, but the Defense Department representative insisted his identity and report were official. He sent John the entire file on Private Dombalo. According to these documents, Dombalo’s remains were disinterred in 1948 and in 1949 shipped to a military base. The representative stated the remains were presently at a military base in Oklahoma, where Dombalo’s case was classified as an open investigation pending further confirmation of identity. Imagine John’s staggering astonishment upon hearing this news. Thus began his quest to have the remains conclusively identified as those of his uncle, and if confirmed, insure he be repatriated to Phillips. The profound respect and concern for dignity of those service men and women who have given their lives in defense of our country is so deeply amplified by the determination of the Department of Defense Personnel Accounting Agency to identify, and to

greatest degree possible, repatriate the remains of the fallen. This is an astounding and profoundly inspiring mission, but by its very nature it also a very time consuming and deliberate process. Patience is paramount for both the investigators and the families. In the spring of 2023, John submitted a DNA sample as per Department of Defense protocol to assist in confirmation of identification. And again, it was wait. Recently John once more contacted the representative assigned to Private Dombalo’s case, and he was informed that the case remains open and active. And thus, it is here our narrative pauses for the time being, but certainly not in limbo; certainly not final—not by any stretch of the imagination. Rather, John and his family wait, patiently, as the investigators apply their skills and knowledge in hope of finally confirming the remains as those of Private Joseph A. Dombalo, U.S. Army. And, if so confirmed his nephew John, will accompany Joseph’s body upon arrival in Wisconsin, and direct the funeral and burial with full military honors. Joseph will be buried next to his sisters at St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Phillips, closing the circle to bring his uncle home to rest in peace.

You, the reader, will be fully informed in these pages as soon as your editor receives word from John Pavlek.

A photograph of Private Dombalo was provided by the Pavlek family and forwarded by Price County Historical Society (PCHS) to Dr. Kate Alfin for inclusion on the DPAA website. <https://www.dpaa.mil/>



Joseph, Sr. and Josephine, parents of Joseph A. Dombalo



Ignatius "Iggy," and Pauline Dombalo Pavlek. Parents of James Pavlek, Vicki Pavlek Langer, and John Pavlek

As part of the research gathering PCHS has become aware of several other sites that may be of interest to our readers.

The University of Wisconsin has a Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project and was the first academic institution to partner with the DPAA. As stated on its website "*The University of Wisconsin Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project (UW MIA RIP) honors the sacrifice of brave Americans who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms. Our primary mission is to recover missing U.S. military personnel from past global conflicts. Additionally, we educate students and communities year round on the importance of past national service and help bring closure to the families of the missing.*" <https://mia.biotech.wisc.edu>

Another site is the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), which under their link of Cemeteries and Memorials contains information about the Florence American Cemetery in Italy. As stated on their website "*The Florence American Cemetery and Memorial site in Italy covers 70 acres. The wooded hills that frame its western perimeter rise several hundred feet.*

*Between the two entrance buildings, a bridge leads to the burial area where the headstones*

*of 4,292 of our military dead are arrayed in symmetrical curved rows upon the hillside. They represent 39 percent of the U.S. Fifth Army burials originally made between Rome and the Alps. Most died in the fighting that occurred after the capture of Rome in June 1944. Included among them are casualties of the heavy fighting in the Apennines Mountains shortly before the war's end. On May 2, 1945 the enemy troops in northern Italy surrendered.*

*Above the graves, on the topmost of three broad terraces, stands the memorial marked by a tall pylon surmounted by a large sculptured figure. The memorial has two open atria, or courts, joined by the Tablets of the Missing upon which are inscribed 1,409 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. The atrium at the south end of the Tablets of the Missing serves as a forecourt to the chapel, which is decorated with marble and mosaic. The north atrium contains the marble operations maps recording the achievements of the American armed forces in this region. When a missing service member is recovered, identified and finally laid to rest, ABMC places a rosette beside their name on the Walls of the Missing. This rosette, a symbol of eternity, is crafted as a bronze rosemary wreath—a timeless emblem of honor and victory. Encircled by the eight-points of a compass, it signifies America's commitment, reaching out in all directions to recover their remains from the farthest corners of the earth."*

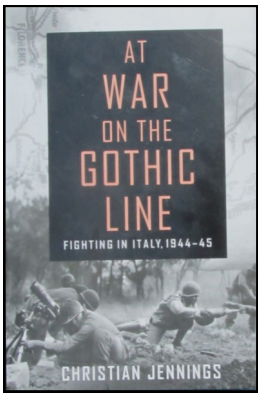
So far 126 rosettes have been placed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery. <https://www.abmc.gov>

Private Dombalo's story has been brought back to life through the contributions and efforts of Dr. Kate Alfin, Laurie Pilch, Karen Baumgartner, James Pavlek, Vicki Pavlek Langer, and John Pavlek. Thank you.



## THE CAMPAIGN TO PRESERVE PRICE COUNTY'S HISTORY

After completing the compelling story of Private Joseph A. Dombalo. I happened to be doing some historical research on another matter, and discovered *At War on The Gothic Line Fighting in Italy, 1944-45* by Christian Jennings. "As the Allies stormed across Normandy in late summer 1944, another strategically vital yet unsung campaign was being fought across the mountainous terrain of northern Italy. A vast international Army of twelve different nationalities, spearheaded by 100,000 Americans, had to break through the Gothic Line, a rugged barrier of German defensive positions that stretched from the Adriatic coast to the Mediterranean." About the Author:



"Christian Jennings has been an investigative journalist, war correspondent, and history, science, and current affairs author for more than twenty years, working mainly in the Balkans, Africa, and the European Union. Originally from the UK, he has lived in such countries as Twanda,

Kosovo, and Bosnia and now lives in Turin, Italy." PCHS has added this book to our archives at the research center. You may also find it online or at your local library.

I often cite the passionate call of Board Member Len Schmidt for all to record their family histories and submit copies of them for accessioning in the Koenig Center. Len donated the military records and memorabilia of his uncle killed in World War II, that of Private First Class Fred J. Anetsberger. Company H 87th Mountain Infantry. The cover of the 11 x 14 publication containing the detailed battle history of Company H states the following: " We respectfully dedicate this story of battle to those who made the supreme sacrifice. Frank P. Baker, Andrew E Dalton Jr., John Hollingsworth, Lester L. Allison, Fred J. Anetsberger, Clarence W. Linn, Jr., and Edward J.

Ringlein. This story is written for those people who will read the implications therein, the trials the men of company H saw and endured, and who will go on from there to build a better world, a world of peace and honesty." Private Anetsberger was 20 years old when he was killed in action on April 17, 1945 in Italy in the northern Apennine Mountains on the approach to Mt. Serra and the village of S. Prospero while trying to reach the Po Valley. One of the 100,000 Americans that fought, and in this case died, on the Gothic Line.

Kathy Felch Beard recently donated the school and military records of her father, Arthur H. Felch. Arthur graduated from Fifield High School as Valedictorian of his class in 1931 and was working at the Northern Lakes Store in Fifield when he received his Notice of Selection to Report for Induction on April 10, 1941. S SGT HQ BTRY 403rd FA BN served until his honorable discharge on June 16, 1945. S SGT Felch, while not fighting on the Gothic Line, was part of the invasion of southern Italy that fought with the 85th Infantry in September 9, 1943 through January 21, 1944 in the Naples—Foggia Campaign, pushing German forces northward and securing key airfields in Foggia. These airfields were vital for launching bombing raids deeper into Nazi-occupied Europe. S SGT Felch was also part of another major military campaign the Rome—Arno Campaign along a heavily fortified German defensive line, known as the Gustav Line, focusing on the Allied push to the Arno River and eventual capture of Rome. This campaign spanned from January 22, 1944 to September 9, 1944 and concluded with Allied forces reaching the Gothic Line.

The Italian Campaign was brutal, with prolonged fighting as German forces built strong defensive positions and used the terrain to their advantage, making the campaign a grueling and costly one for the Allies. Between 1943 to 1945 at least 12 different countries were part of the Allied campaign. Most of the forces were from the United States, Great Britain and Canada.

While casualty counts vary depending on source it is estimated by the National Army Museum that the Allies suffered approximately 312,000 casualties, including 65,000 killed. Various other sources put the German casualties at anywhere from 336,000 to 434,000 with close to 100,000 killed. In addition to military casualties, the Italian population also suffered immense losses, with over 150,000 civilian deaths.

## CALL FOR DOCUMENTS

The Society supports Len's call for family narratives and hopes each of you will consider putting your history to print and submit a copy for the archives. I continue to make **A call for documents, narratives, family histories, maps, plat books, ledgers, diaries, and related paper ephemera in our campaign of preserving the past for the future.** If you are cleaning out your collections, closets, attics or garages, Please consider donating any photographs, plat books, maps, family histories, documents, ledgers, diaries, to the Price County Historical Society! We at the Society understand if you have historic photographs, documents, and plat books and the like, and you want to keep them. Please consider allowing the PCHS staff to digitally scan the item(s), and then accession the scanned copy to the PCHS archives with permission to publish. We will accession the item in your name (or designated name) as part of the collection of the PCHS archives. By so doing, an image of your item is preserved and becomes available for research and use by PCHS staff as well as other historians or people conducting historical research. The Louis A. Koenig Research Center is THE secure housing for preserving and accessioning these artifacts for use by historians, genealogists, scholars and students of history and interested individuals.

On a personal note, I want to recognize a dear friend, a modest, humble giant among men, who has passed from our lives. Leonard J. Stein, Jr., known to us as Manny, passed away on March



© Dave Melancon

Manny presenting on the activities of the CCC Camps at the PCHS 2024 Annual Meeting.

24, 2025, at his home at age 89. Manny enjoyed a full and robust life in the Upper Flambeau Watershed and in particular the Pike Lake Chain. Manny's folks, Len and Karen (Knuteson) Stein were the first people I interviewed, when, as a 15 year old teenager I started researching history of the Pike Lake Chain in the summer of 1970. Through the years I got to know Manny and his first wife Jeanette, and their five great kids, and his second wife Roz. He served with distinction in the USDA Forest Service caring for his home land—his beloved Chequamegon National Forest. His accomplishments in preserving local history working with Al Campbell to supervise and guide the reconstruction of the Round Lake Logging Dam, and co-authoring the Pike Lake Chain book, cemented his legacy in the who's who in Price County. As recently as last November, Manny joined Therese Trojak and Delia Plyer Pritzl to present their recollections of life in the CCC camps and work with the Forest Service in 1930–1940s Price County. Manny recalled his parents' involvement with the CCC camps and explained their work with the Forest Service to establish the Chequamegon Forest timber management and fire control—work which he was later involved with. We mourn Manny's passing and yet celebrate having known him as a friend and colleague. Our condolences to the Stein family for their profound loss—may they truly be comforted, as we all are, by the wonderful memories of Manny Stein.

**UNLESS YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER, MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE IN JANUARY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL (715) 339-2481 OR EMAIL [rlipilch@pctcnet.net](mailto:rlipilch@pctcnet.net) LORRAINE (LAURIE) PILCH, MEMBERSHIP COORD.**

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**PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBER FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: PLEASE CHECK YOUR SELECTION:**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.....\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please write check to **PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** (designate MEMBERSHIP YEAR or YEARS as you may pay for multiple years if you choose on your check and on this form.) I am paying for the year(s) of \_\_\_\_\_. A membership term runs from January 1 through December 31.

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[www.pricecountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.pricecountyhistoricalsociety.org) Click on the Membership section and follow the instructions.

- ( ) Check box if you want newsletter sent to the address on the membership form.
- ( ) Check box if we may send you your newsletter by e-mail to help save paper and postage.
- ( ) Check box if you would like an e-mail reminder of special events.
- ( ) Check box if you would like to volunteer. We will contact you.

All membership money automatically goes into our regular fund for general upkeep of our four buildings, utilities, insurance, and printing and sending our newsletters.

Your yearly membership entitles you to receive newsletters and a voice at the annual meeting.

Donations in addition to membership are always urgently needed and greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your prompt payment and helping to preserve history for future generations.



The Old Town Hall and Greenfield School Museums open June 7 and are open every Saturday and Sunday from the first full weekend in June through Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Louis A. Koenig Research Center is open by appointment.

**June 20** Training Session for Hosts Old Town Hall 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**June 28** Pie Social 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**August 9** Strawberry Shortcake 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**CALLING ALL PIE BAKERS!**

Pies are needed for the Pie Social on June 28. The past several years we have sold out of pies. This is a very successful fundraising event for the Society. If any of you can help us out in the pie baking department we would greatly appreciate it. Please call Etola Foytek at 715-339-2415 for more information.