

Price County Historical Society Newsletter



Old Town Hall
Museum



Louis A. Koenig
Research Center



Greenfield School
Museum

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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? The winter season continues to be a time for the detailed work of processing the many donations the society has received throughout the year. As we prepare for the 2026 Museum Season, here is a look back at what your Board has been working on since last fall.

AT THE LOUIS A. KOENIG RESEARCH CENTER

What is Happening at the Louis A. Koenig Research Center? The Society continues to be the fortunate recipient of numerous donations of both paper-based artifacts and actual physical artifacts. Several families and individuals who have evaluated their photograph and documents have chosen the Society's archives, securely housed in the Koenig Research Center, as the appropriate repository to preserve these important relics. The work of accessioning and cataloging these items is thorough and systematic, following the procedure established from previous archivists such as Karen Baumgartner, Pat Schroeder, and Elva Lessard. Some years ago the Society purchased the computer software for PastPerfect, a database that allows for the documenting of artifacts as they are accessioned. It is a professional level program used by many archives and museums. The program allows the work done by Etola, Eric, Traci and Laurie to download and organize the items with several tags further increasing access to other items of similar topics or themes. Tagging artifacts by cross-referencing names of people, dates, locations, events, and even descriptors of items seen in the photographs, allows researchers broader access to the related items in the collection. The process, once mastered, is time consuming, but

when completed will increase our ability to quickly reference and retrieve artifacts requested by researchers. Bear in mind that we are just beginning application of this program, and so this does take significant time. Fortunately, Jenni Werkmeister and Jim Wedemeyer have stepped up to get the program running, focusing on entering data for the entire photograph collection. Recently, our archives staff had an in-person and zoom meeting with Vito S. Borolotti, Executive Director of the Eagle River Historical Society. Vito is another of the tech-savvy "youngsters" familiar with PastPerfect, and he spent part of his day on April 14, 2026, with a basic data management evaluation session. He was extremely helpful, and pointed out that we have all the component parts essential for data entry into PastPerfect in place and operating.



Looking North along Central Avenue in Fifield, Price County Wisconsin prior to the disastrous July 27, 1893 fire that destroyed this view. In two hours 60 buildings burned leaving 21 families homeless. The population was approximately 1,600. From *A Glimpse at the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County*, ca. 1906.

Now we just need to get into the program and start downloading data we have collected to bring it all together. Then on Friday, April 17, our tech consultant, Joe Huycke, [J.A. Huycke Consulting] stopped in at the Louis A. Koenig Research Center to help set up remote access for the archivists and coordinator Jenni Werkmeister to access the system from home. Joe is truly worth his weight in gold, as he understands where we want to go and knows how to get us there. Personable and expertly knowledgeable, he is a teacher as well as a technician. Each of us involved with the data entry for the photographs and documents will have greater flexibility to get the program underway. On a personal level, since I am trying to limit my travels up north to the third week of the month [miles on the vehicle + price of gasoline], I can now access the photograph collection and title the entries Eric has made. Then I'll be able to write up deep-dive captions, like the one you read about in From the Archive section below. And so the work goes on!

AT THE OLD TOWN HALL AND GREENFIELD SCHOOL

What is happening at the Old Town Hall and Greenfield School? 2025 was a very big year for maintenance as we reported in the Fall, 2025 Newsletter. Now I'd like to take a moment to lay out a sketch of PCHS' Buildings and Grounds man, Tom Kaiser, who is untiringly reliable in his regular evaluation of the 132 year old Old Town Hall and ca. 121 year old Greenfield School. So how does he do this? It takes a person with a host of connections and familiarity of the people and resources in the county, and Tom's connections in Price County are legion! Who does he NOT know? Well, let's take a closer look!

Tom was raised as a farm boy in the town of Emery, living there for 19 years, attending Dover School in Emery until 8th grade, transferring to the elementary school in Phillips, and finally graduating in 1972 from the Old Phillips High School, which was the last class to graduate from the old high school. From there he worked for the local township and farmers in the area and started at Phillips Plating Corporation that fall. Tom also had learned how to install vinyl tops and customization, which was popular back then for cars, trucks and full size vans. After working at both for two years he moved to Bartlett Illinois, starting his own business installing vinyl tops and various trim products. Car dealerships were getting out of that sort of business and Tom had several

dealerships he worked for in the Chicagoland area. The gas crunch of the later 70's sent him back to Phillips and heard the paper mill was hiring and that's how that all came about. He continued his vinyl top business on days off from the mill and had dealerships and shops from Eagle River to Eau Claire and from Superior and Duluth to Stevens Point. Tom started out in the finishing room as a cutter loader and then moved up to a layboy on the sheeters as they were referred to later. From there he moved up to operator on the number one sheeter which was the oldest one. There were three sheeters and he was trained on all of them. He liked being around equipment and enjoyed operating them. In time he was asked if he would be interested in being a spare foreman and learning the other processes of the finishing department, including the machine room operations with working with the foreman and crews on the three paper machines. Tom then was asked to become a company foreman and accepted that challenge—he remembers it was a lot of responsibility for a guy who was not married at that time and pretty young. But Tom enjoyed that responsibility and enjoyed working with the crews and numerous operators. After 8 years he was asked if he would be interested in moving into the machine room operations on the three paper machines and the stock prep operations. Tom accepted that position as foreman, learning the operation on the number one and two paper machines under the leadership of the lead foreman. Tom recalls, "I rotated between four crews to learn from those senior foreman who I respected very much. Those men worked their way from the bottom jobs in the machine room operations and stock prep areas to lead foreman."

This breadth and depth of knowledge of machinery, and industrial operations come from an inquiring mind to learn all he can. Tom takes his work seriously, paying close attention to details and seeking out the best professionals to get the job done right. He closely inspects all three buildings and does checks on the Society's float several times during the year, treating our buildings inside and out as if they are his own. Inspections are critical in keeping these rustic buildings in the best possible conditions and regular maintenance must be done—it's costly but very necessary. Tom will always remind us that this is a WE project, not a me project—he stresses that every member of the Society is contributing to the preservation of the buildings and artifacts through dues, donations, participation or in whatever manner they can contribute.

Tom takes great pride in our group as a whole and does what he can to preserve what we ALL work so hard at keeping going. Our Society is fortunate to have Tom Kaiser take command in this crucial monitoring of the Society's gems—The Old Town Hall, Greenfield School and Louis A. Koenig Research Center.

Our most recent “big” project Tom is working on is consulting with a window manufacturer and other individuals to design an exact replica window to replace those on the south side of the Old Town Hall museum. This involves significant meetings and travel to ensure the replacement windows will meet National Register standards while keeping the original appearance consistent. Other projects include painting jobs on the outside stairwell and ramp on the Old Town Hall Museum and foundation work at the Greenfield School. There is no moss under Tom Kaiser's boots!!



L—R Tom Kaiser, Building and Grounds Coordinator, John Berg, Newsletter Editor.

PRESERVING THE PAST BEFORE IT IS LOST TO THE FUTURE

The PCHS Board continues to issue 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 INC.! 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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: A MOMENT IN PRICE COUNTY HISTORY

Our Fall, 2025 issue of the newsletter published the first of a three part series of research in progress entitled “Best Dam Builder in the Chippewa River Watershed: The Enigmatic William H. “Billie the Beaver” England, Captain Charles Harmon Henry and the Eau Claire—Chippewa Falls Pool in That Dammed Price County 1870—1900.” Part 1 of our narrative ended with the reporting on the Lower Elk Dam that Alexander B. McDonnell built on Section 11 documented in The PHILLIPS TIMES, Saturday, June 30, 1877. I stated it would be published in the Spring, 2026 edition of the Newsletter, and the series is scheduled to conclude in the Spring, 2027 edition. Readers were encouraged to stay tuned—the story gets better—and most of it happened right here in Price County! Well here we are, ready for Part 2...BUT WAIT!!! We interrupt our regularly scheduled narrative with this BREAKING NEWS!



The Greenfield School freshly painted by David Scholz Painting with a beautiful revamped flowerbed completed by PCHS member and volunteer, Tammy Lanham. The school is slated for exterior and interior foundation repair work this summer by Bill Smasal of Bill's Construction to correct the problem of frost heaving. David Scholz Painting will be painting the handicapped entrance and stairs at the Old Town Hall.

150 AT 250: THE IRON HORSE AT THE CROSSROAD OF HISTORY DEFINED BY WATER AND FOREST!

By: John L. Berg

This year marks the 250th year since the Continental Congress directed Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin to draft a written declaration of independence based upon grievances against the policies of the English Crown. If we didn't sleep through our high school history and civics classes, we all generally remember the rest of the story. One hundred fifty years ago—1876—the Wisconsin Central Railroad was making its way north to Lake Superior through a densely wooded watershed. Hence, we will make note of Price County, by considering 150 AT 250: The Iron Horse at the Crossroad of History Defined by Water and Forest. To set our journey in context, let us first consider what Price County, the *“Crossroad of History Defined by Water and Forest,”* looked like two-hundred fifty years ago.

Getting to 150 from 250

What is now Price County was the land of the Anishinaabe Ojibwe. The middle of the 17th century saw the return migration to the south shore of Lake Superior, establishing a settlement on Madeline Island. From there they ranged throughout the forests south of the lake, warring with the Isanti Dakota for dominance in the rich hunting lands for well over a century. By the mid-1740s the Ojibwe, led by Kiischkiimun [Sharpened Stone], ranged throughout the Chippewa River watershed hunting, fishing, harvesting wild rice, and making maple sugar. For well over a century, the Ojibwe dispersed in smaller family-based groups and some settled at Waaswaaganing, now known as Lac du Flambeau, as well as along the shores of lakes in the Flambeau River headwaters. Kiischkiimun's son Waabiski Gaagaagii [White Raven] succeeded his father as chief leader of the inland Ojibwe bands including those of Waaswaaganing. Upon Waabiski Gaagaagii's death in 1847, his son AhMous [contemporary Ojibwe translate AhMous' name as Thunder of the Bees—not as Warren translated The Little Bee] was recognized as the unquestioned chief leader in the councils of the Ojibwe at Waaswaaganing, and indeed throughout the Chippewa and Flambeau River watershed.

The 18th and 19th centuries saw French fur traders venture inland, often forming social as well as economic ties through marriage with Ojibwe women, a

practice ubiquitous in that era with other indigenous nations. After 1763, British fur traders took over the old French posts, denying the United States government control over the Old Northwest Territory until after the War of 1812. In the decades following that conflict the United States government demanded and forced concessions from indigenous nations through incessant treaty after treaty. For the Ojibwe in what is now northern Wisconsin, the most significant treaties were those signed in 1837 [“White Pine Treaty”], 1842 [“Mineral Treaty”], and 1854 [“Reservation Treaty”]. The fur trade was in rapid decline by the time AhMous assumed his position as chief leader of the Waaswaaganing band, however, the Ojibwe continued their seasonal activities as before, and made regular journeys to La Pointe for annuity payments. In 1850 President Zachary Taylor ended the usufruct rights of the Anishinaabe Ojibwe, and ordered annuity payments moved from La Pointe to Sandy Lake in Minnesota Territory, forcing a disastrous journey of hundreds of miles in the dead of winter resulting in as many as four hundred Ojibwe deaths. News of the tragedy inspired citizens and advocates, motivated by economic as much, if not more than, altruistic concerns, to petition the new President, Millard Fillmore, to suspend the order. This action allowed the Anishinaabe Ojibwe to remain in their homeland, and restored usufruct rights that continue in force today. After a delegation led by the principal ogimaa of the Lake Superior Ojibwe, Gichi Bishiki [The Great Buffalo], made an arduous journey to Washington D.C. and met with President Fillmore, annuities were restored to La Pointe and two years later reservations were established by the 1854 treaty.

During the early 1860s AhMous and his sons hunted throughout the Upper Flambeau and Chippewa watershed. In 1861, while on one of these journeys on the North Fork of the Flambeau River just above the present city of Park Falls, his son Sky captured a fledgling bald eagle. Word traveled fast down river and created quite a sensation. Contact was made with AhMous and his sons, and they traveled to Eau Claire where he traded the eagle for various sundries. The eagle in turn was given to the Eighth Wisconsin Regiment, where it gained fame during the Civil War as Old Abe the War Eagle. By 1865 United States surveyor Alexander Anderson and his crew encountered AhMous and his kinship band who had established a settlement along the northwest shore of Pike Lake. Anderson described several cabins and an extensive garden of two or three acres planted in

vegetables. Declaring it was the county seat of the “de Flambeau Indians,” he suggested that Pike Lake should be named for AhMous.

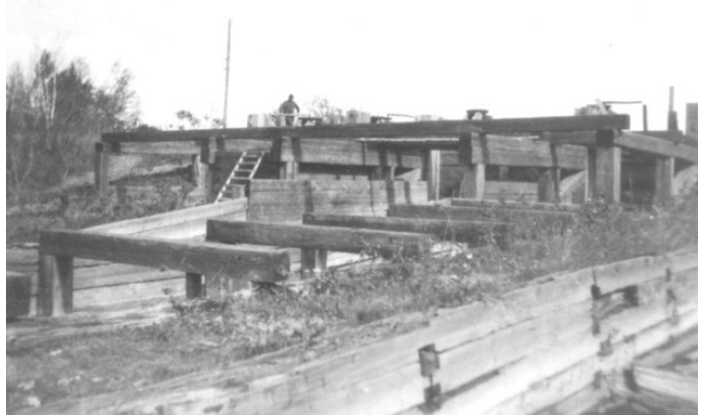
AhMous was a member of several delegations that traveled to Washington D.C. to petition President Abraham Lincoln and his successor, Andrew Johnson, to restore the original boundaries of the reservations as defined in the 1854 Treaty. During one of these journeys, unfortunately, AhMous succumbed to a severe illness and died in the capital city in March, 1866. He lies buried in the Congressional Cemetery with two compatriots. As documented in newspapers such as the Phillips TIMES, Ojibwe kinship bands’ presence continued throughout the ceded territories well into the 20th century, as they exercised their usufruct rights retained through the treaties of 1837 and 1842.

During the decade of the 1860s European—Americans came north to engage in the nascent logging industry. A transitional figure we have heard about is the enigmatic Isaac Stone. Born 1822 or 1823 in the state of Maine. Stone was, by 1850, working at Hogarty’s logging camp on the Eau Claire River in northeast Marathon County, Wisconsin. There he married an Ojibwe woman from Lac du Flambeau, whose name was thought to be Elizabeth, and began a family with her in the remote forest. After Elizabeth’s passing, sometime around 1858, Stone and his children located on the Spirit River in the present Town of Spirit in the early 1860s, taking a homestead patent in 1868. Stone lived the rest of his life in Price County and his family merits a deep-dive examination in a future newsletter entry. However, for our purposes here this reference alludes to the few years before the momentous life—altering changes riding on the coming of the Iron Horse that would reorient the whole north woods.

On the Edge of 150

150 years ago, the Centennial Year of 1876, what did Price County, the “*Crossroad of History Defined by Water and Forest*,” look like? Well, it was NOT Price County! In fact, Chippewa County and Lincoln County were the governmental agencies for the lands we now know as Price County. Organized in 1871, Wisconsin Central Railroad crews carved a right-a-way through the vast forest, constructing the line from Menasha to Stevens Point and north to Ashland. Upon the advent of the economic panic of 1873, crews had reached a place identified by the

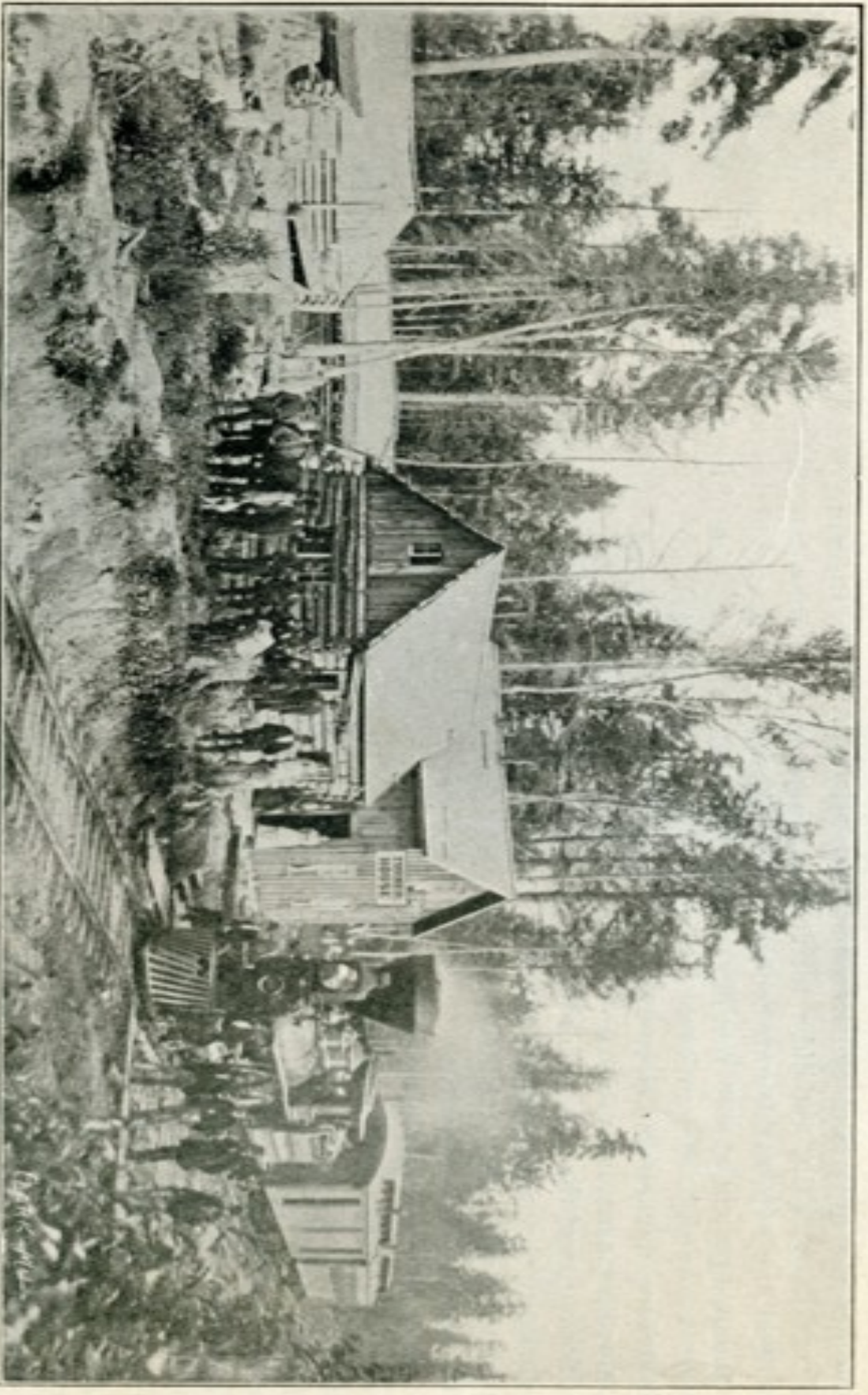
railroad as Mile Post 101, about 3 ½ miles north of the present village of Prentice. A close examination of the following photograph captures a moment of that place on the edge of 150 years ago.



Main sluiceway and gate for the Pike Lake Dam, ca. 1914-1915. Originally, and illegally, constructed by W.T. Price’s crews at the source of the South Fork Flambeau River at Round Lake in 1876, this entire dam was rebuilt and enlarged by William H. England some time after its authorization in March, 1878. The 1878 gate turnstiles and beveled wheels are mounted on the current version rebuilt in 1995. The dam is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the only dam of its kind remaining in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Archives.



The Main Street of Ogema, Wisconsin. Dennis McGuire’s Ogema House, was the first frame building at Section 89 on the Wisconsin Central. Originally named Dedham for the town of the same name in Massachusetts in 1874, it was given the Anishinaabe Ojibwe name for chief leader (Ogii-maa): Ogema, in early 1876. Photograph ca. 1890. Price County Historical Society Archives.



Wisconsin Central Railroad Mile Post 101, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, ca. 1875.

[Section 13 Town 36 North, Range 1 East 4th Principle Meridian]

FIRST PASSENGER TRAIN RUN OVER THE WISCONSIN CENTRAL TO WORCESTER - THEN KNOWN AS 101," was photographed by Clark of Milwaukee. The original half-tone photograph is published on page 9 in A Glimpse At The Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County. [Compiled by F.W. Sackett, published by The PHILLIPS TIMES, ca. 1905-1906.] An original copy of this book is in Price County Historical Society Collection Louis A. Koenig Research Center Archives

From 1873 to 1876, “Mile Post 101” [also named “Worcester” and “Wolverine”] was the terminal of the Wisconsin Central Railroad’s southern mainline from Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

At “Mile Post 101” surveyors, railroad construction crews, lumber jacks, cruisers, river pigs, hunters, and any other adventurous parties departed for points north, east, and west. This image was published, circa 1906, on page 9 in *A Quarter Of A Century In Price County Relating To Its Organization And Historical Events*, and was photographed by Clark of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is simply described by this caption: “*FIRST PASSENGER TRAIN RUN OVER THE WISCONSIN CENTRAL TO WORCESTER—THEN KNOWN AS 101.*”

This generates two questions: 1.] Is this caption accurate? And, 2.] Can an exact date of this image be determined?

Addressing the first question, we examine the possible season shown in the photograph juxtaposed with this locale described nearly three months earlier in the Stevens Point Journal, [Wednesday, November 1, 1873, page 2, column 4]: “*The train due here*

from the north on Tuesday afternoon, did not arrive until Wednesday Morning at 4 o’clock. The heavy snow delayed it. There is reported to be more snow up the line than here.” And, two weeks later the Stevens Point Journal, [Wednesday, November 15, 1873, page 3, column 1] reported: “*STOPPING WORK—Work up the line is being rapidly brought to a dead halt. There are now about 400 men up there, but these will be brought down to this city in a few days, paid off and discharged, thus suspending operations for the winter. With the exception of two heavy cuts, the grading is nearly completed to section 100.*” At the year’s end, the Stevens Point Journal, [Wednesday, December 13, 1873, Page 3, Col. 1] reported: “*There are now about three hundred men at work on the line of the Wisconsin Central in the vicinity of Section 101.*” Announced in the Stevens Point Journal, [Saturday, January 24, 1874, page 3 column 1]: “*TO THE END—Trains on the Wisconsin Central now run to Section 101, which point they reach in the evening. That part of the road west of this city [Stevens Point] has been doing a heavy freighting business all winter. The passenger business is also quite heavy.*” In the Stevens Point Journal, Saturday, November 14, 1874 [page 3, column 1], we see:

WISCONSIN CENTRAL RAILROAD OPERATED BY THE PHILLIPS & COLBY CONSTRUCTION CO.		
NORTH Bound :		SOUTH Bound:
<u>Passenger:</u>	<u>Station:</u>	<u>Mix:</u>
11:29 P.M.	Stevens Point	5:00
12:27	Wis.Val.Junc.	4:30
12:52	Mill Creek	3:46
2:31	Marshfield	2:21
3:45	Unity	12:54
4:16	Colby	12:30 A.M.
6:18	Medford	10:25
8:30	Dedham	5:15
10:00	Worcester	5:45

Ten months later, in the *Stevens Point Journal*, Saturday, September 18, 1875 [page 3, column 2], we see:

WISCONSIN CENTRAL RAILROAD
OPERATED BY THE PHILLIPS & COLBY CONSTRUCTION CO.
Sept. 12, 1875

NORTH Bound :			SOUTH Bound:	
P.M.	A.M.		A.M.	P.M.
<u>Mix:</u>	<u>Passenger:</u>	<u>Station:</u>	<u>Mix:</u>	<u>Pass.:</u>
2:15	11:00 P.M.	Stevens Point	1:00	5:10
3:40	12:01	Junction City.	11:56	4:34
4:10	12:19	Mill Creek	1:25	4:15
6:01	1:18	Marshfield	9:35	3:12
7:40	2:12	Unity	7:54	2:12
8:10	2:29	Colby	7:22	1:50.
10:00	3:30	Medford	5:30	12:01
P.M.	5:00	Chelsea	A.M.	
" "	7:30	Worcester		8:30

Thus, I conclude this photograph probably is NOT of the first passenger train to "101," but perhaps documented a visit by WCRR dignitaries, such as reported in *The Stevens Point Journal*, [Saturday, May 30, 1874, page 3 column 1]: "*Gardner Colby, Mr. Phillips, and a gentleman named Abbott, one of the stockholders in the Central, went up the line Monday, and returned Tuesday. We cannot learn that there is any prospect of a resumption of work, either on the mainline, or Portage road.*"

Next, I attempt to answer the second question—the date of this photograph—by analyzing the image and the narrative of William F. Turner's detailed recollections of "Mile Post 101" from the end of December, 1873 to late 1876. On page 81 in *A Quarter Of A Century In Price County Relating To Its Organization And Historical Events, "Awakening from a Dream,"* Turner writes: "*About the last of December, 1873, I went up to 'Section 101,' now Worcester, and built a log hotel with a board roof. Its dimensions were 10 x 24 feet.*"

Now let me turn our attention to three people situated near the door under the sign advertising the Turner House. We see a man leaning against a barrel who is flanked by two women. That man is William F. Turner, and one of the women, very likely the woman at the door, is his wife, Anna [nee St. John] Turner. What justifies this supposition? Since the advent of photography, people have sought to be memorialized with what they deem important: their loved ones, friends, pets, machines, buildings, and the like. Thus, to distinguish themselves from

the other people in this scene, and to associate themselves with the dominant structure, the Turners positioned themselves at the door of their hotel—the Turner House—a structure significantly located at the end the line of the first railroad to penetrate the Wisconsin pinery. Therefore, it is compellingly evident that the people at the door are William F. Turner and his wife, Anna [St. John] Turner, and if so, this photograph was taken before her death on May 22, 1875. But who is that other woman? Given the proximity of the two women standing on either side of Turner, the one in front of the window, slightly distanced from Turner's right, may be his sister, and wife of his partner and brother-in-law A.P. "Del" St. John. On page 84 Turner noted, "*In the spring of 1874, I bought the interest of my brother-in-law, A.P. St. John, and he put up a new hotel across the railroad track, but did not seem to make a success of it.*"

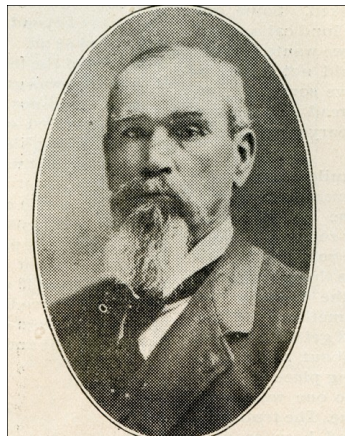
Turner goes on to explain how he financed the sawed—lumber addition, constructed after June 1, 1874. Nearly one year later, around the first of May, 1875, Anna contacted typhus, and died on May 22, 1875. Turner was devastated: "*She had been so patient and helpful during our long struggle in the wilderness of the New North that her death was a sad blow to me.*" [page 84]. Given Turner's account of his arrival and construction of his first log structure, the sawn—lumber addition, and the death of his wife, it is evident that one of the two women in the door is William's wife, Anna [nee St. John] Turner, and as such, this photograph must be dated prior to May 22, 1875.

As we examine this photograph, one is struck by the profuse evergreens dominating the forest, and their proximity to the railroad right-of-way. The rustic appearance of William F. Turner's "House" attests to the emergent types of available building material. The buildings in the left are bunkhouses for the railroad crews. By January 23, 1875, there was a single stall engine house and turntable in place: *"The Central Engine house at the end of the track, a temporary structure erected for the accommodation of one engine, was destroyed by fire last Sunday at 12 o'clock. Fortunately for the company, the engine happened to be fired up and out of the building at the time. The turn-table was saved."* [Stevens Point Journal, Saturday, January 23, 1875, page 3, column 3]. Work on opening the right of way from Mile Post 101 northward began in November, 1875: *"AT WORK ON THE MAINLINE—Work on the main line of the Wisconsin Central railroad was resumed this week. A party of engineers have been engaged for some time running lines from Section 101, and now a gang of choppers have been put on to clear the right of way."* [Stevens Point Journal, Saturday, November 20, 1875, page 3, column 1]. Within a year Worcester was largely abandoned for the fledgling settlements at Elk Lake [Phillips] and Fifield. Turner writes: *"During the summer of 1876 the laying of track north from Worcester or "101" resumed. The first engine reached Phillips on the 20th day of August, 1876. Nearly everyone who had been doing business at "101" moved to Phillips. I went with the crowd and started my new hotel...."* [page 84] And what of William F. Turner? He later settled at Pike Lake [1878 to 1879], married Miss Myrtle Sweet in the summer of 1878, moved to Fifield [1879-1893], and finally to Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin, where he died on June 24, 1921.

By the end of 1874 it was reported in the Stevens Point Journal, [Saturday, November 28, 1874, Page 3, Col. 1]: *"A NEW TOWN. W.B. Agnew has been up the line this week, laying out a new town at Section 83, which has been christened Westboro. It is on the south branch of the Jump River, and as there is a large tract of pine tributary to it, a bright future is anticipated for the young bantling. It is here that Duncan, Ritchie & Co. are putting up a large saw mill and shingle mill. Preparations for the erection of several houses are already being made, including a hotel, which will be put up by W.F. Turner, now proprietor of the Turner House at the end of the track."* Further north at Section 89, Dennis McGuire is credited with providing meals and lodging for the

crews building the railroad. He later built a hotel around which the village of Ogema, developed. Eight months later the Stevens Point Journal, [Saturday, July 24, 1875, Page 3, Col. 1] reported: *"LOGGING ON THE CENTRAL. We are indebted to Mr. Lunt for the following partial list of contracts already let for putting in logs up the line:*

*Wm. Price, on Flambeau, 18,000,000 feet.
E. Swift, on same, 5,000,000.
E. Hackett, on north fork of Flambeau, 6,000,000.
J.A. Bigger, for Duncan, Taylor & Co., 6,000,000.
Abraham Taylor, at Chelsea, 4,000,000.
Mr. Holmes at Section 89, 3,000,000. [Section 89 is the present village of Ogema. JL Berg]
McCartney & Whalen, at Medford, 8,000,000.
E. Bowen, on Little Black, at Section 45, 4,000,000.
Evans & Earl, at Dorchester, 6,000,000.
A.E. Sawyer, of Black River Falls, 10,000,000.
Ex-Governor Washburn has also let a contract for putting in 20,000,000 on Black River.
This gives a total of 90,000,000, but does not include near all the contracts already let. Part of the logs will be cut at the mills along the line of the road, part at Black River Falls, part at Eau Claire, and part at La Crosse, but the supplies for all the logging camps will be taken up the Central road."*



William F. Turner, ca. 1906

Mrs. Myrtle
"Mertie" [Sweet] Turner,
ca. 1906



Within a year The Stevens Point Journal, [Saturday, July 22, 1876, Page 3, Col. 4] announced: *"UP THE CENTRAL. Interesting Letter from End of Track. Special correspondence of the Journal. END OF TRACK. July 19. We commenced laying track at Worcester this morning, and will be able to lay the first five miles without being delayed by the grading. It will probably take ten days to lay the first five miles of iron, and we will then move headquarters to the south end of section 106, [the present day city of Phillips—JL Berg] and while the grading is being finished ahead, the construction train and track force will work between Worcester and end of the track, widening out the cuts and banks that are unfinished. The track will probably be delayed at 106 for a week or ten days, after which they can lay iron to Elk river, at the rate of half a mile a day, without any delay whatever from the graders. The work is progressing finely, and the weather for the past month has been very favorable."*

To see the rest of the story, you are invited to visit the Old Town Hall Museum at Fifield where a modest display of photographs will offer a glimpse of 150 AT 250: THE IRON HORSE ARRIVES AT THE CROSSROAD OF HISTORY DEFINED BY WATER AND FOREST. Oh! And what about Billie the Beaver England? Stay tuned! We will return to our regularly scheduled narrative in the Fall issue of the newsletter!



Lake Street during the first winter in Phillips, Town of Worcester, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, 1876–1877. From *A Glimpse at the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County.*, ca. 1906



In this 1880 scene, the original Wisconsin Central Railroad depot at Phillips, in the Town of Worcester, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, overlooks Lake Duroy. Wisconsin Historical Society. Whi(3)37613.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE [or, when she speaks we listen]

A Word from PCHS President Etola Foytek.

Board members and volunteers of Price County Historical Society are busy getting the museums ready for the 2026 season. John Berg, Jim Wedemeyer and I are working on a display for the stage and other areas in the OTH and GFS honoring the 150th birthdays of Ogema, Phillips, and Fifield and the 250th birthday of the United States of America. Sue Holm, one of our new volunteers is updating the Maybelle Hardy room. There are plans to do a new display in the kitchen area.

Carol Forward coordinates displays and tends to the many needs at the Greenfield School. Carol and I will be calling to arrange for hosts for the summer season as she takes care of those arrangements for the Greenfield School and I do the same for the Old Town Hall. John Berg conducted a host training on May 21. If you missed it, no worries as I, or someone from the Board of Directors can assist with your training on a one-on-one basis. If you are a first time host we will pair you with one of our veteran hosts to help make your time at the museum a pleasant and positive experience. If you would like to discuss hosting with me at either the Old Town Hall or Greenfield School, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please call me at 715-339-2415.

The hallway in the lower level will have a new look as a picture rail system is going to be installed so more photographs and descriptions can be hung. Historians will be happy to see a copy of the Jacob Miller map will again be available for their examination.

As always, if the lights are on in the Louis A. Koenig Research Center you are encouraged to stop in and look at all that is available. There are copies of the Phillips newspaper, plat books, high school year-books, family history and much more.

The museums will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday during the summer beginning June 6 through September 7, including the Monday of Labor Day. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 27 when we have the annual Pie Social and August 8 for the Strawberry Shortcake event. Be sure to visit the Phillips and Park Falls Public Libraries this fall to check out our traveling display.

It takes many volunteers to put on these events and I am especially grateful and want to thank all of our many pie bakers that each year so generously give of their time and talents to make sure that we have a varied selection of pies for our pie social, along with Peter and Kathi Dahlie for their past efforts in picking and donating the strawberries for our Strawberry Shortcake event.

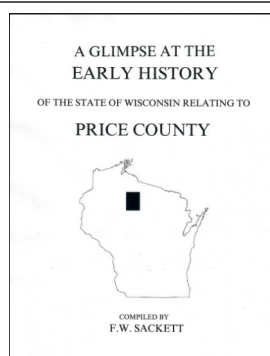
THE BUSINESS OF RUNNING THE SOCIETY

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

Changes are coming! I have requested to once again have the office of Secretary/Treasurer divided into two separate offices. In 2017 I became the Secretary. In 2018 according to the options in our bylaws the office of Secretary/Treasurer was combined after our treasurer moved from the area, and I assumed those duties as well. Since then the duties of both offices have expanded and have now reached the point where it makes much more sense to once again have separate officers for the positions. As of our Board of Directors meeting on May 21, I submitted my letter of resignation as Secretary, which the board then accepted. At that same meeting Jenni Werkmeister was elected as our new Secretary. I will continue on in the office of Treasurer along with all of my other duties I have accu-

mulated over the years. Jenni will make an excellent Secretary for the Society. She has stellar clerical and technical skills, along with a deep interest in local history, and will use them to expand the workings of the office. Please join me in welcoming her as our newest officer.

Website Update: Our goal this year is to complete the updating of our website with information and links to local historical sites in Price County. In addition to these updates also look for updates in our membership section to more easily link to our gift shop for payment of memberships and renewals. We accept credit card payments through our website. If you wish to become a member of the Society, renew your membership, make a donation or purchase one of our historical books you can access our web site www.pricecountyhistoricalsociety.org and under our main menu click on our Gifts and Books link. This will take you to our Gift Shop. Once there, you can scroll down and select and complete your purchases. Be sure to check out our many books telling the history of Price County. Besides our website you can also purchase books at the Old Town Hall Museum Gift Shop in Fifield. Select titles are also available at The Fred Smith House in the Wisconsin Concrete Park south of Phillips and HomeSpun Coffee and Crafts located downtown in Phillips.



Throughout this newsletter you may have noticed this book credited as a source document several times. For many years we only had a few hard copies of this manuscript in our archives. This all changed when PCHS made the decision to publish Mr. Sackett's work for all to

enjoy and learn from. Besides the historical events documented a mere 25 years after the formation of Price County, the publication contains splendid first person accounts written by some of the earliest pioneers who immigrated to the new county along with some of the earliest photographs of the area. PCHS has long desired to share this publication with a broader audience. You can purchase a copy at the Old Town Hall Museum Gift Shop in Fifield or online at our website. The cost of the book is \$15.00 in-person purchase or \$20.00 when ordering online.

WHAT EVENTS CAN YOU ATTEND THIS SEASON AT THE MUSEUM CAMPUS?

June 6 through September 7, 2026: The museums are open every Saturday and Sunday (and the Monday of Labor Day) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June: Pie Social Saturday June 27, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August: Strawberry Shortcake Saturday August 8, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Louis A. Koenig Research Center is open by appointment. Your time and research will be efficiently applied if you can present an outline or list of your project and the items you are looking for prior to your visit. Contact us via email or snail mail so we may assess and prepare for your visit.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEER DOCENTS at the Museums. The Society appreciates the financial and personal involvement of its membership—because of each of you we're in a very good situation! With that in mind the Board is seeking to expand the involvement of the membership [and non-members interested in history] to serve as hosts at either of the museums during the summer. Regardless of how much you know about Price County History, YOU can be a host! This job requires 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. If you are a first time host, you may be more comfortable teaming with one of our more experienced hosts. We will arrange for that to happen. Give hosting a try! You'll get a chance to hang around in two really awesome old buildings and meet interesting people as they visit! It's an easy gig and supports the mission of the Society.

Price County Historical Society
PO Box 156
W7213 Pine Street
Fittfield, WI 54524-0156