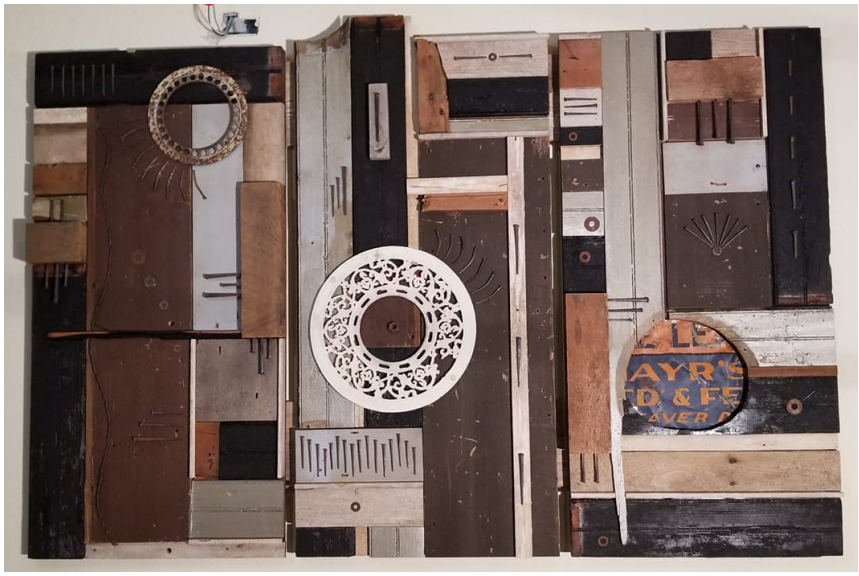
Princeton WI Historical Society Newsletter

630-632 West Water Street, PO Box 71 Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

February 2020 **Vol. 2020, No. 1**

Building Project Leaps Forward

We are starting 2020 with the exciting news that we are starting to move display items back into the building. Not all of the renovation work is complete yet, but we are much closer to having a real museum! Come and see our progress at our next meeting on March 16th at 2pm, have a tour, and find out how you can help with construction or displays.



Our new museum has a gorgeous new wood floor, art made by Mary Lind including a sculpture made from pieces of our old building, and lots of displays ready to be filled with scenes and artifacts. Exhibits, including two-story building facades made to look like historic structures, will take visitors through various aspects of Princeton's history.

These will include the town's schools, hotels, industries, important citizens, tragic disasters, and triumphant comebacks. You will see everything from a working model paddlewheel to mukluks and Native American artifacts.

Community Supports Museum Project

So many wonderful individuals and organizations gave money, labor, artifacts, furnishings, or all of the above to the Historical Society in 2019 to help build the museum. We can't possibly thank everyone, but some of our major donors are named here.

The Princeton Chamber of Commerce donated $400 towards updating our building facades. Thank you!

The names of donors will be honored in the finished museum by being inscribed on river rocks in a beautiful 3D wall mural. Your name could be there too– consider donating today. Example pictured.

The best way to move a mountain is one stone at a time.

Princeton VFW Post 10542 donated $1,000, presented here by Roger Wolff.

Darrick and Melissa Luck donated our beautiful wooden floor, including many hours of labor to install it, through their business "Old Wood, New Use." The wood was saved from many historic barns and buildings around Wisconsin.

The Olbrech Foundation donated $5,000, presented here by dentist Dr. Smestad.

The Princeton branch of US Bank donated $2,000, presented here in May 2019.

Webster's marketplace

Webster's Grocery donated $1,000. Thank you!

2019 in Review: Pictures Worth 1,000 Words

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 3

Princeton Students Volunteer at Historical Society Dinner Event

PHOTO SUBMITTED TO PRINCETON TIMES-REPUBLIC

THE PRINCETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY hosted a dinner after their cemetery tour Saturday, August 24. During and after the event, a group of Princeton High School students helped serve food and then cleaned up.

Left: an article on the Princeton Historical Society fundraiser dinner at the American Legion. The event was held after the August 24th Cemetery Walk, 2019. High Schoolers volunteered to serve and clean up. Below: Paranormal expert Chad Lewis spoke at the dinner fundraiser. His topic was "Bizarre Wisconsin."

Above: High School Student Council members help cook and serve at our Christmas in Princeton food booth fundraiser, November 2019.

Below: Darlene Krentz holds up a glass plate photo negative from the early 1900s in the new archive room at the museum.

Above: Betsy Ladwig helps distribute prizes while other Historical Society members run games at Trick or Treat on Water Street, October 2019.

Above, from left to right: Charlie Wielgosh, author Joan Guckenberger, Joe Wise, and Kathie Weinberger help research Joan's book on Princeton's Canadian Club.

Marj Remembers: School Days

From the Memories of Historical Society President Marjorie Mlodzik

Back when there were no school buses, and winter weather could be deadly, a state law was passed stating that no child should have to walk more than one mile to school. Like many children in Wisconsin, when Marj was a little girl, she was taught in one of these small one-room buildings near her home, alongside children of many ages. Here are some of her memories from Spoor School near Berlin, Wisconsin.

The Annual Book Order

Marjorie loved to read. Fortunately for her, her father was in charge of ordering all the books for the local schools. When the big boxes of books came, Marjorie and her mother would help sort them into piles in the parlor, putting the orders together. Carefully setting aside her own school's books, Marjorie would devour all the other books, not letting her father deliver them to the schools until she had read every one. She didn't touch her own school's books so that she would not be bored during lessons.

The Outhouse

There were two outhouses at the school, one for boys and one for girls. Each one had a narrow concrete path connecting it to the school house, which was "quite a luxury" when the ground was muddy. Each outhouse had more than seat, with no dividing partitions between them— "going to the bathroom was companionable." Older children helped younger children up onto the wooden seats and prevented them from falling into the open holes.

One bitterly cold winter morning, little Marjorie was the first to use the outhouse. She was careful to lay her brand new deerskin mittens aside as she sat down. However, she was still wearing her coat, and accidentally brushed the mittens down the hole with the hem. She jumped up immediately and reached in for her mittens. Fortunately for Marjie, the outhouse pit was quite full, putting her mittens in reach, and it was frozen absolutely solid. Her new mittens, just sewn by her mother, came to no harm.

Lessons

Because children of all ages learned in the same room, each student heard lessons repeated over and over, and even helped teach younger children. In this way, each student thoroughly learned every lesson.

Fire and Water

Marjorie's country schoolhouse, like most, was heated by a woodburner. It was the teacher's job to light it every morning so as to warm the building before the children arrived, and boys were tasked with keeping the wood box full. Parents, had to either chop wood or contribute towards the cost. Many times, Marjorie's father wound up with wood chopping duty, because few others wanted to do it.

Water at the school was provided by a hand pump. Each day, a different older boy was tasked with filling up the school "bubbler" from this pump. This bubbler was not an electrically powered drinking fountain as we know it today, but merely a stoneware crock with a spigot. When the spigot was opened, water came out as air bubbled up through the water. This is where the term "bubbler" originated!
In wintertime, the children would often intentionally pump too much water and let it flow down the hill on which the schoolhouse was situated. Then, after it froze, they would take turns sliding down the ice.

Welcome Back to the 20s!

The “Roaring 20s” was a time of economic prosperity, high optimism, high hemlines, and new beginnings. Now that we are in 2020, take a moment to read look over some photographs and articles from Princeton in 1920. The photographs are not labeled— if you know these people, please contact us! Articles are from the Princeton Times-Republic, January 1920.

PRINCETON TO BECOME A CITY.

From the recent census taken in our village sufficient evidence has been gained that we have population sufficient to make Princeton a city of the fourth class. The many advantages gained by being a city a number of our businessmen prevailed upon the village board to take steps necessary to effect the change. A mass meeting was called for last Tuesday evening and a large assemblage of voters was present and the sentiment in favor of the change was almost unanimous. Shortly after the meeting the village board made the and arrangements for drawing resolutions necessary for a city charter. As it requires another census and a complete list of names of the inhabitants, Frank Mueller was appointed for that position The change will be made before the spring election and Princeton will be devided into three wards; each ward having its own voting precint.

NEW RULES OUT ON LIQUOR SALES

Shows One and Only Way to Get Any Booze.

SEIZED GOODS TO BE SOLD

Bureau of Internal Revenue Compiles System of Permits Providing Definite and Fixed Channel Through Which Liquors Must Move.

PRINCETON MARKETS.

Corrected Today

Eggs	—50
Butter	50—60
Hens live	22
Spring Chickens	22
Geese, Dressed	—27
Ducks, "	—28
Turkeys, "	—38
Hens "	—26
Clover Seed	30.00
Wheat	—2 50
Potatoes, per 100 lbs.	—3 50
Beans, per 100 lbs.	—6 50
Rye 60 lbs	—1 60
Oats	—85
Hogs	—13 00
Calves	—15 00
Sheep	6.00—7.00
Lambs	—10 00
Beef Canners	—6.00
Bulls	—7 00
Steers	8 00—10.00
Fat Cows	7.00—8.00

The Great Ice Storm of February '22

This storm still stands out as one of the worst ice storms ever experienced in Wisconsin.

From February 20th through the 22nd, a winter storm dumped freezing rain, ice, and snow on roughly half the state. Ice accumulations of 1-2", with a few reports of around 4", built up on trees, poles, and wires. The heavy ice accumulation brought down 15,000-20,000 utility poles. This resulted in interruptions of power, telegraph, and phone service from 2 to 15 days. In addition to the poles, there was considerable damage to trees. Ice accumulation on train tracks accounted for ten train wrecks as locomotives and cars slid off of their tracks. Minor flooding was reported in La Crosse, Sheboygan, Darlington, Fond du Lac, and a suburb in Milwaukee. Property damage across the state amounted to a staggering $10 million, equivalent to about $153 million today. The storm was also responsible for the deaths of at least two people in Wisconsin.

Princeton certainly got its share of the ice. In these photos, we can see badly damaged trees, telephone lines encased in ice, and a world covered in white.

Unfortunately, there are no names on the backs of any of the photos. The photo of the two women looking at something off-camera was simply labeled "surveying the wreckage."

Contact Us!

Have a question about local history, genealogy, or our organization? Interested in donating? Want a topic featured in the next newsletter? Please email or write to:

princetonhistsociety@gmail.com

630 West Water Street
PO Box 71
Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

Don't Forget to "Like" Us on Facebook!

Princeton WI Historical Society

Volunteers Wanted

-to staff the museum on weekends, giving tours and tidying up in the spring and summer

-to staff the raffle and information booths at the Princeton Flea Market on Saturdays from April through October

-to help plan and staff events, including Trick or Treat on Water Street, food fundraisers, and special events

-to help us catalog and organize original historical photos, documents, and artifacts

Please call Chris at 708-425-0921 or Vicki at 920-291-5434 for more information on volunteering.

Next Meeting: Monday March16th, 2pm at the new museum!

Join us at 630 West Water Street, Princeton, WI 54968. Get a tour of the building, and find out how you can help with construction or displays. We need YOU!

Become / Remain a Historical Society Member!

___ $2 Annual Student Membership (high school and lower grades)
___ $10 Annual Individual Membership
___ $15 Annual Family Membership (parents + children under age 18)
___ $100 Lifetime Individual Membership
___ $250 Lifetime Family Membership
___ $500 Charter Membership
___ $1,000 Donor Membership
___ $5,000 Patron Membership
___ $10,000 Founder Membership

I am interested in helping with (please check one or more):

- ☐ Computer Entry
- ☐ Special Events
- ☐ Building Construction
- ☐ Giving Tours at the Museum
- ☐ Staffing Our Fleamarket Booth
- ☐ Fundraising

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City, State_____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cut out this form and send in your membership today! Make checks payable to the Princeton, WI Historical Society, and send them us to PO Box 71, Princeton, WI 54968. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

Return address:
Princeton Wisconsin Historical Society
630-632 W. Water St.
P.O. Box 71
Princeton, WI 54968

Mail to local history fan: