

OCTOBER 2023

# THE CHRONICLER

The Official Newsletter of the Polk County Historical Society

[www.polkcountymuseum.org](http://www.polkcountymuseum.org)

120 W. Main Street, PO Box 41, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Preserving the past for future generations by collecting a unique and enduring collection of Polk County history shared with the public through programs, exhibits and research.

## MUSEUM HOURS - Off Season

Monday - Friday

9:00 - 3:00

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Please call to schedule a time to come in.

## ADMISSION

Admission is free. Donations are greatly appreciated!

715-485-9269

[info@polkcountymuseum.org](mailto:info@polkcountymuseum.org)

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

ELEVATOR FOR ALL

THREE FLOORS

AIR CONDITIONED

Follow us on Social Media!

 Polk County Historical Society

 @polkcountymuseum

## 2023 SEASON RECAP

**Visitor Numbers:** 1581 visitors came through the Polk County Museum during our open season!

### Events:

- *School Visits:* We received visits from three fourth grade classes in the Spring with approximately 200 students coming to learn about Polk County's history.
- *Library Events:* Our Director visited two libraries to showcase some of the items in our newly created Education Collection to visitors at the Osceola Public Library in June and the Frederic Public Library in August. Our typewriter and stereoscope were huge hits!
- *Freedom Fest:* We received donations from Wayne's Foods Plus in Luck and from Bernick's Pepsi in Dresser to create our delicious Root Beer Floats and Orange Creamsicle Floats (new this year). We ran out of ice cream halfway through the day on Sunday and we made more than enough to continue our yearly scholarship opportunity to Polk County High School Seniors! Thanks so much to our volunteers who helped preparing, serving, greeting, and coordinating all aspects of the fun Freedom Fest festivities!
- *Wine Walk:* The museum hosted 236 Wine Walk patrons! Special thank you to Endeavors for the amazing cherry tomatoes!

### Speaker's Series:

- May 27: Kathy Waldvogel spoke at our first Speaker's Series on the role of women in the American Revolution
- June 24: Adam Halberg of Polk County Again (check it out on Facebook!) talked about Polk County in the internet age.
- July 1: Sara DeLuca talked about the Civil War Letters of Lute Moseley. This was accompanied with beautiful period music.
- August 19: Lois Joy Hofmann talked about her adventures circumnavigating the globe (twice!).
- September 2: Jim Swanke talked about the impact of climate change on the Wisconsin environment.

**Quilt raffle:** Two quilts were crafted to honor Wisconsin's 175th anniversary of statehood and Polk County's 170th anniversary of countyhood. We drew winners at the end of the Wine Walk. Congratulations to Bill Cornell and Brian Rank!

## STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

**Museum Staff:**  
**Brenna Weston,**  
**Director**

**Board of Directors:**  
**Jan Carlson, President**  
**Curtis Nelson, Vice President**  
**Caroline Rediske, Secretary**  
**John Adams, Treasurer**  
**Al Foxwell**  
**Larry Smetak**  
**Lisa Mosay**  
**Millie Enerson**

**Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 4:30 PM.**

## 2023 PIONEER SCHOOL REVIEW

We are please to report that both sessions of this year's Pioneer School were fun-filled experiences for all of the children who participated! Children learned more about education in a one-room schoolhouse while wearing period clothes, eating lunches from pails, and drinking from glass jars. We are glad to provide these experiences for children in and around Polk County and we hope many will return next year.

We want to especially thank Tammy Henderson, our wonderful "school marm" who has been leading these schools for the last five years. Tammy and her assistants are wonderful assets and we're so grateful to have them!

Note: End-of-summer construction plans will soon be undertaken to redo the windows and replace the siding on this historic schoolhouse!



**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED GIVING TO THE POLK COUNTY MUSEUM? WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?**

**What happens to your donations?**

**Your donations help us keep the museum up and running! With your donations we can:**

- Purchase collection and archival materials to keep our items safe and preserved for future generations
- Develop, schedule, and provide refreshments for special events and speakers
- Build new exhibits and display new and loaned collections items
- Help keep the building and grounds clean and beautiful

### WAYS TO GIVE:

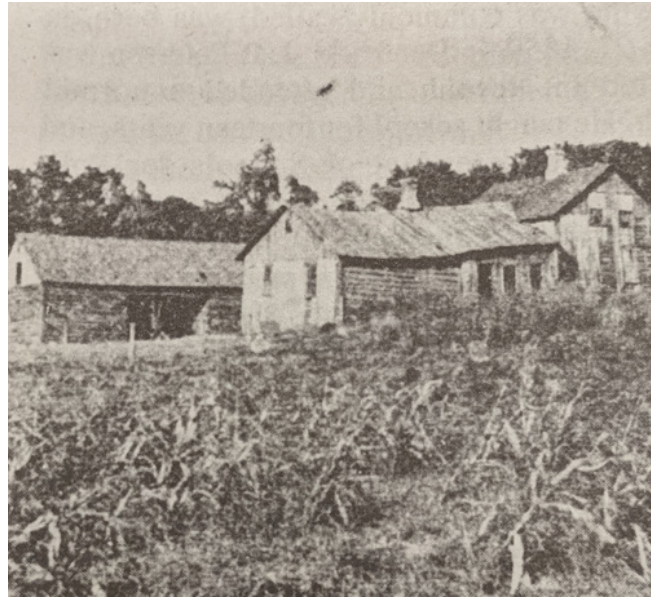
**MAKE A DONATION ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.POLKCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://www.polkcountymuseum.org/membership)**

**OR MAIL TO: POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 41, BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810**

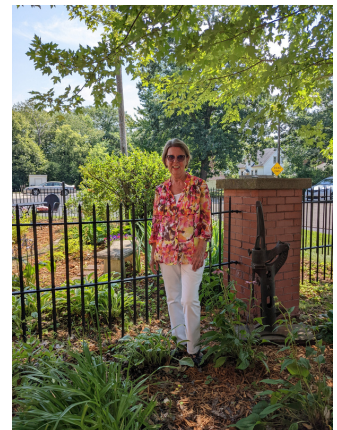
## A CONNECTION TO OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

A piece of Polk County can now be found at the "Old World Wisconsin" museum in Eagle, Wisconsin. The log cabin portion of the building on Christian Pedersen farm (located three miles west of Luck) was donated to Old World Wisconsin. This log cabin dates back to 1870 during a time of Danish immigration to the area. Old World Wisconsin will open for the 2024 season on May 6.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CAROLINE REDISKE

In this edition of Volunteer Spotlight, we are pleased to highlight volunteer and Board member, Caroline Rediske. Read on to learn how Caroline got involved! "I used to own the Basically Balsam across the road and saw people going into the museum and was curious." The rest is history! Caroline has been involved with the Historical Society since 2015 and has done anything and everything from exhibit development, collections management, fundraising, greeting, and research. "I've always been interested in history because I've been looking for my grandfather. I love genealogy research." Caroline is our number one go-to for genealogy research. She's a whiz!



## EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: JINGLE DRESS

The Jingle Dress, as told by Dan Mosay, has only been around about 100 years. There was a mother whose child was very sick, terminally so. She went to spiritual leader for advice and he told her to make a dress and put jingles (little metal cones) on it. And at the pow-wow, she was instructed to dance, to make the jingles make noise, and that would heal the child. Nowadays it is used as a healing for anyone who is in the area and wishes for assistance with anything they may be suffering from. Side note: a jingle dress has to have 365 jingles on it to make the right noises.

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## IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES...

Remember the games you used to play with your friends? Share your games with us and they might make it into our next issue!

Here's one you can play with kids (of all ages)!

### The Traveler and the Wolves

The smallest (or slowest) person is the traveler and the rest are wolves. The traveler is given as many tennis balls as there are wolves (or more) and is given a basket. The traveler gets some distance away and the wolves then roar they are coming. As a wolf gets closer, the traveler throws a ball as far as possible behind them. The wolf must retrieve the ball before they can get back into the race. The traveler tries not to use all the balls before reaching the goal. You can pick the distance.

## SAVE-THE-DATES

### **October 5, 4:30 PM: Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will take place in the old courtroom upstairs in the museum building. Russ Hansen will be presenting, and a tour of the museum will follow the meeting. All are welcome!

### **October 28, 4:00 & 5:00 PM**

Speaker Series - Brenna Weston (Museum Director): Paranormal Polk County

Night at the Museum: check out the Museum after dark. You'll be sure to have a spooky time!

### **October 31, 4:00 PM, Halloween**

We will be hosting our annual trick-or-treating event on Halloween!

### **November 25, Tree Lighting & Small Business Saturday**

See the Balsam Lake Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for more information.

### **December 15, Christmas Stroll**

See the Balsam Lake Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for more information.

**Check our website and social media for more information, updates, registration, etc.**