



Big Creek Historical Society

# The Pony Express

Volume 1 Issue 7

Spring 2007

## City Hall Restoration Update



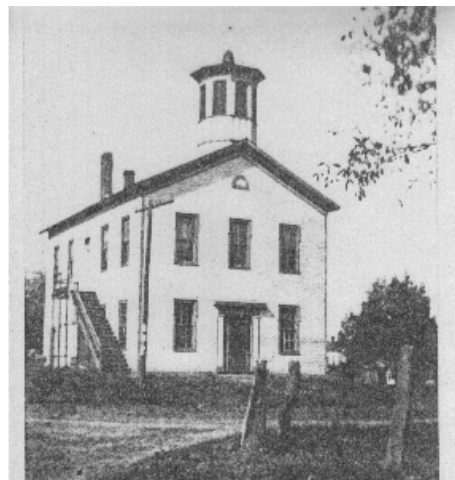
### 'Stairway to Yesteryear'

By Tom Cox

All of the activity at this time is concentrated on the fund raising campaign. We know that grant money will be needed so we invited the head of the grant department at the State Historical Society to meet with us. Kathy Gourley came to the museum in March and met with our group.

She was most helpful. She encouraged us to

pursue the Historic Site Preservation Grant that is funded by the state. An HSPG grant recipient would receive between \$40,000 and \$100,000 which is all dollar for dollar matching funds. Gary Mahannah, Polk City Administrator, has agreed to help us with this grant application. We are very fortunate to have Gary helping for he has extensive experience in grant writing. We have made very good progress in the development of our promotional materials that will be used in our campaign. Diane Conway brought some excellent ideas to this project and has been a great help. We will soon plan and schedule our kick-off of the campaign. We are down to 'elbow grease' and 'generosity.'



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## Polk City Train Depot



A resolution by the city council on Feb. 4 1894, stated: "Whereas C & NW RR Co. has located their depot for Polk City on the west side of their tracks, north of a street designated as 'Bluff', the street commissioner is instructed to open said street" from 2nd to

3rd Street. A boardwalk went from the depot "south" to Broadway. There it turned right and continued to the hotel on the corner of 3rd and Broadway.

The only difference between the tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.  
Mark Twain



No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.

Mark Twain 1866



**Wagner sketch of historic city hall of Polk City.**

If you like what we are doing, ask a friend to join us. Adding members who believe in what we are doing will make doing it much easier.



**Wagner sketch of the bandstand in the Polk City town square**

# From The President.....

Although fund raising has never been one of the things I often volunteer for, I am looking forward to this fund raising campaign. The prize is worthy of all of our efforts. A fully restored 'city hall' would be a real asset to central Iowa. I am also excited about what we have going on in the museum

with the new technology for building a video/ audio library and creating special presentations. We will be able to take the history of Polk City on the road. Schools and other civic groups will be our target. One of my long time goals was achieved this spring.

We now have a very nice web site on the internet. With all that we have going on, 2007 could be the best year yet of our group's young life.

## New Member

Phyllis Cox  
Ankeny, IA  
Welcome

## Big Creek Historical Society Items

### Polk City Historical

#### Structures Throws



Available for \$50  
A great gift  
\$7 Shipping Fee

### Books

#### Early Days of Polk City

By R. Currie - \$8

#### Brave Men Shouldered Their Muskets

By R. Currie—\$8

#### American Patriotism

By Leonard Brown.  
Reprinted by R. Currie  
\$50

#### Murder!

By R. Currie - \$14  
\$3 shipping for all books

#### Big Creek Historical

#### Cardigans

\$25  
\$4.00 Shipping Fee

## Calendar of Events

### April 2007

Care Center Bingo— 9th  
Meeting- 16th 6:30 PM  
Museum— 29th 2-4 PM

### May 2007

Care Center Bingo- 14th  
Meeting- 21st 6:30 PM  
Museum— 27th 2-4 PM

### June 2007

Care Center Bingo—11th  
Meeting— 18th 6:30 PM  
Museum— 24 2-4 PM

### July 2007

Care Center Bingo - 9th  
Meeting— 16th 6:30 PM  
Museum— 29th 2-4 PM

### August 2007

Care Center Bingo—13th  
Meeting -20th 6:30 PM  
Museum—26th 2-4 PM

'Watch for fund raising events and special programs in the museum this summer'

# 'Wanted'

Old Polk City  
Photographs

We are attempting to collect photographs of Polk City to create a calendar of Polk City history. Identified persons in the photographs would be great. Any money raised will be used for restoration cost. Photographs will be returned if requested

## Word Skills

Rearrange the letters of the following to see what phrase you can create. **'The Eyes'**

*Answer bottom of page*

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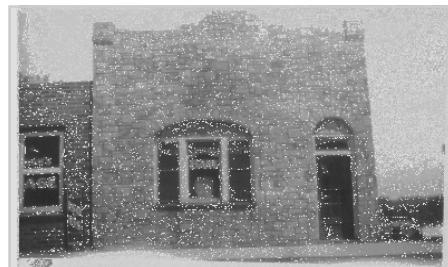
**You've used  
our Cream  
Now try our Blades  
Pair up the Best  
In Shaving Aids  
Burma Shave—1940**

## Test your Memory

There are three photographs on the right margin of this page.

All were taken in Polk City. Can you identify the contents of these photographs?

If you do not know, contact us and we will give you the answers.



## Big Creek Historical

Society T-Shirts

**\$10**

\$4 Shipping Fee



# 'Preserving the Past for the Future'

## Goals for 2007

1. Conduct a fund raising campaign for restoration .
2. Increase our membership base and participation.
3. Develop programs for use in the museum

This Newsletter is produced by the Big Creek Historical Society, PO Box 201, Polk City, IA 50226. Contact: Tom Cox

**515-965-3828**

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

### BCHS Officers:

Pres. Tom Cox

Vice Pres. Lela Austin

Treas. Paul Grodt

Sec. Phyllis Martens

Photography— Paul Grodt

## **Big Creek Historical Society on the World Wide Net**

**Don't Forget to  
Fly Your Flag**



The Big Creek Historical Society has arrived! We now have a web site. This has been a goal for some time.

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

Robin Deason-Payne provided the know how to get this completed. Robin, daughter of

board member Deanna Deason, contributed a significant amount of her time to our group. She did a fantastic job taking the information given to her and organizing it for the site.

**Answer—Word Skills**

**They See**



Big Creek Historical Society  
PO Box 201  
Polk City, IA 50226

## Address Service Requested



Polk City Horseshoe Lakers  
Baseball Uniform—1920's  
Worn By Virgil Swim

By Tom Cox

Jerome Thompson, State Curator-Iowa State Historical Society, accepted our invitation and visited our museum in January. Rose Taylor had suggested we extend an invitation to Mr. Thompson. The visit was extremely beneficial to us. He gave us several ideas and tips on how to possibly increase the number of visitors to the museum including several contacts of individuals who might provide special programs. These programs varied from The History of Iowa Baseball to Archeology of Polk County. Mr. Thompson showed a lot of interest in what we are doing stating that we were right on track with how we plan to

## Museum Update

move forward. We took him upstairs to look over our next challenge of restoration. He felt the second floor had great potential.

A museum catalog has been completed. We now know exactly what we have and where the item is located. Pictures of some items were incorporated into the catalog to help the recognition of the items. Example; 'Buggy Foot Warmer.' One could imagine several different ways that item may look. Lela Austin was a tremendous help in getting the catalog up to date. The catalog is maintained on a computer which will make the updating of the document rather easy.