



The Big Creek Historical Society

The Pony Express

Volume 1 Issue 12 Summer 2008

'Stairway to Yesteryear'

By Tom Cox



The restoration of the exterior and second floor of historic city hall began in July. First a new roof was put in place. Then all of the metal siding was removed. A window was discovered that had been covered with the old wood siding. This window has been restored. All of the window framing and stools had to be rebuilt. The original wood was damaged when the metal siding was

installed. Windows received new glass and restoration. Approximately eighty per cent of the old wood siding, a portion of which was native black walnut, was replaced with new cedar siding. The contractors are now in the process of painting the exterior. The paint scheme is the same as was used for the cupola and front entrance restoration: white, saddle brown and light grey. I must admit what has been painted really does look great. The tin ceiling has been delivered the light fixtures have been ordered. The interior color scheme has been determined and the stage curtain decision has been made. The restoration committee, Diane Conway and Lela Austin, have been busy. I am confident that you will like their decisions. The hall on the second floor will be named the 'W.C. Miller Family Hall', Miller Hall for short. The stage will be named the 'Tom and Phyllis Cox Stage', the Cox Stage for short.

Inside this issue:

From the President	2
Calendar of Events	2
Schaal Descendants	3
Goals for 2008	3
Egg Thief Caught	3
Museum Activities	4



It's not hard to meet expenses, They're everywhere.

Anonymous

Restoration Pictures (continued on page 4)





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.....

This summer has been very exciting. The museum committee is planning the future of the museum. The restoration committee is deciding how our museum will look. People walk up to me and make comments like "What a great project. The building will look great when you have finished the

restoration." There is some excitement in the air. The building will look great when we are finished. We have decided to take the winter and finish the interior. Our intent is holding a reception for our donors and a grand opening in the spring of 2009. It is a good time to be part of

BCHS. It is also a good time to recruit new members. If each one of us got one new member just think what we could accomplish. Like the old saying goes 'strike the iron when it is hot.' If you would like to help with the finishing work this winter please let us know.

Big Creek Historical Society Items

Polk City Historical

Structures Throws



Available for \$50

Plus \$7.00 Shipping Fee

A Great Gift!

Books

Early Days of Polk City

Brave Men Shouldered Their Muskets

By R. Currie—\$8 each

American Patriotism

By Leonard Brown.
Reprinted by R. Currie

\$37.95

Murder!

By R. Currie - \$14

\$3 shipping for all books

Big Creek Historical

Cardigans

\$20

Calendar of Events

October 2008

Care Center Bingo 13th

Meeting—20th 6:30 PM

Museum By Appointment

November 2008

Care Center Bingo—10th

Meeting—17th 1:30 PM

Museum By Appointment

December 2008

Care Center Bingo - 8th

Christmas Lunch TBA

Museum By Appointment

January 2009

Care Center Bingo - 12th

Meeting—19th 1:30 PM

Museum By Appointment

BCHS Board Meeting

Jan 15 2008—10:00 AM

February 2009

Care Center Bingo—9th

Meeting—16th 1:30 PM

Museum By Appointment

Schaal Descendents Visit



Sue Prater-Measures and her sister Judy Triem from CA. visited our museum, on July 10. They are great granddaughters of Wilhelmina Schaal-Prater sister of John Adam Schaal the builder of the Big

Creek School House in 1863. All of the Schaal family information that we have in the museum was made available to them. They spent about two hours going through all of the documents having some copies made. We toured the second floor that is being restored. We enjoyed their visit tremendously. Hopefully they will return when we are finished.

Four Season Festival

The first annual Four Season Festival was held 7/25 –26. We entertained sixty visitors to the museum. There were many activities taking place in Polk City with hundreds of people participating in the fun. Photo to the right is BCHS members Lela Austin and Paul Grodt riding in their parade entry driven by Bill Sumpter. The festival was a great event.



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

BCHS Officers:

Pres. Tom Cox

Vice Pres. Lela Austin

Treas. Paul Grodt

Sec. Rosemary Hutton-Taylor

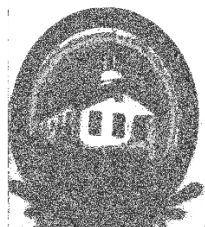
Photography— Paul Grodt

Big Creek Historical

Society T-Shirts

\$10

\$4 Shipping Fee



‘Preserving the Past for the Future’

Goals for 2008

1. Increase our membership base and participation.
2. Complete restoration of City Hall.
3. Develop displays and programs for the museum

Egg Thieves Caught Red Handed By Paul Grodt

In 1930 my father rented the Nellie Gimricher's house just North of Harry Hug's barn (photo). Mr. Hug did some farming as well as blacksmithing in the barn. Mrs. Hug also used the barn for her hen house. I was about 5 years old at the time and my brother Ed and I would play around the barn. One day we went in the barn and saw some eggs in the hen nests. We each took one egg and ran home quickly before Mrs. Hug might

spot us. We entered our house quite proudly declaring we had just found some eggs in our hen house. Mother got a disturbed look on her face stating that she had just gathered all of the eggs and there were no hen setting when she left. We had to admit the dastardly deed. Mother took us by our hands and off we went to confess to Mrs. Hug and to return the eggs that we had stolen from her hen house. Our crime spree was foiled.



Ed & Phyllis Byrnes barn located at 401 W. Broadway (scene of crime) 2008 photograph

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

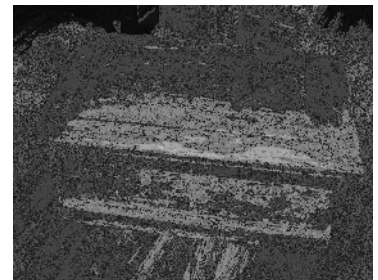
Address Service Requested



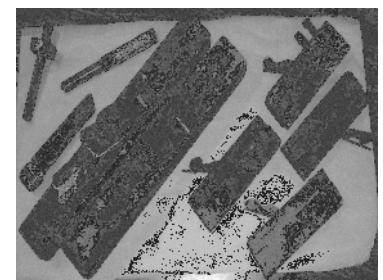
Museum Activities

By Tom Cox

The museum committee (Rose Taylor, Lela Austin and Sue Burt) has begun to identify the theme of our museum, the types of displays and an inventory of the items maintained in the museum. Bill & Betty Schaal gave us a tool chest, filled with tools belonging to William Schaal, which was used in the construction of the Big Creek School House. A display will be created displaying the tools. We really appreciate the gift for our museum and hope others that have Polk City artifacts will consider contacting the museum committee about donations to the museum. When our museum is totally restored we will have a wonderful venue for the displaying of Big Creek area artifacts.



William Schaal Tool Chest



Wood Planes used in 1863