



The Big Creek Historical Society

The Pony Express

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Big Creek Historical Museum Reopens

By Tom Cox

We are ready to announce the new hours of operation for the museum. The museum had been closed part of 2007 and all of 2008 to accommodate the restoration project. The museum will be open on the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 3 PM. The new hours will begin on June 14, 2009. We decided to have our museum open in conjunction with other area attractions in hopes we could increase attendance. The Johnston Historical museum is open that same Sunday from 2 to 4 PM. We will encourage our visitors to visit the Johnston museum, as they will do likewise. Perhaps both museums will benefit from this schedule change. We are looking forward to having the museum open once again to show off the results of the 'Stairway to Yesteryear' project. Hopefully we will attain a high level of activity in the museum this year.

Open House

June 7, 2009 - 3:00 PM

Bring a friend to help celebrate the reopening of the museum

Museum Receives Flat Panel Television

The decision to not install a lift as part of the restoration project included providing technology to bring the activities of Miller Hall to the first floor for those unable to access the second floor. A camcorder was purchased to record the second floor and the activities that are held there. DVD's will be produced of those recordings. In April, Collete Heurtz generously donated a flat panel TV with a built in DVD player. This can be used to view the DVD's we currently have in our video library. That library includes interviews of Polk City residents Paul Grodt,

Wilbur Miller, Lance Leonard, Lois Burt and Betty Berggren. Each interview is approximately twenty minutes in length. More interviews will be conducted this summer. If you are interested in being interviewed, or know someone who we should interview, let us know. We also have created two DVD presentations that are each about twenty-five minutes in length. Those presentations: First 100 years of Polk City and The History of the Lakes: Saylorville and Big Creek will be scheduled for viewing in the museum.

Inside this issue:

TV Donated	1
From the President	2
Calendar of Events	2
Goals for 2009	3
Meeting Time Change	3
Museum Activities	4



If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.

Mark Twain



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.....

Springtime! A wonderful time of the year here in Iowa. The landscape is transforming to a brilliant green. A transformation not unlike the results of our restoration project: from an unused, dirty and dark area to a bright, cheerful and clean area. Miller Hall has come alive. The outside stairs have been completed and fifty new chairs have been placed in the hall. All that remains are the side curtains for the stage, which are scheduled to be installed in May. It

is really exciting to be in the process of making our facility a 'destination' in northern Polk county.

Ruddy Cheeks

and face of tan

Neatly shaven

What a man!

Burma Shave—1933

Big Creek Historical Society Items

Polk City Historical

Structures Throws



Available for \$50

Plus \$7.00 Shipping Fee

A Great Gift!

Books by R. Currie

Early Days of Polk City
\$8.00

Murder! - \$14

American Patriotism

Leonard Brown. Reprinted by R. Currie

\$37.95

\$3 shipping for all books

Big Creek Historical

Cardigans

\$20

\$4.00 Shipping Fee

Calendar of Events

May 2009

Care Center Bingo 11th

Meeting—18th 6:30 PM

Museum By Appointment

June 2009

**Open House
7th - 3 PM**

Care Center Bingo 8th

Meeting—14th 3 PM

Museum 14th 1-3 PM

July 2009

Meeting— 12th 3 PM

Museum 12th 1-3 PM

Care Center Bingo—13th

August 2009

Meeting— 9th 3 PM

Museum 9th 1-3 PM

Care Center Bingo 10th

September 2009

Meeting—13th 3 PM

Museum 13th 1-3 PM

Care Center Bingo 14th

'The New Year'

By Mary Schaal-Rogers

January 2, 1933

**The year at the spring
The spring's at the morn,
The morning's at seven
The grass is dew pearled.**

**The Lark's on the wing,
The snails on the corn,
God's in his heaven,
All's right with the world.**

Mary Schaal-Rogers, the daughter of John Adam Schaal (builder of 'The Big Creek School House), was a prolific writer. Mary was the wife of Fred Rodgers who was the railroad station agent in Polk City in the early 1900's. There are many more of Mary's writings in the Big Creek Historical museum.



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

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BCHS Officers:

Pres. Tom Cox

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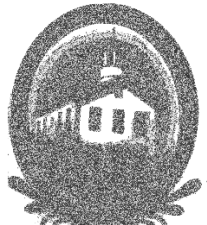
Photography— Paul Grodt

Big Creek Historical

Society T-Shirts

\$10

\$4 Shipping Fee



Goals for 2009

**'Preserving
the Past
for
the Future'**

- Increase membership base.
- Increase membership participation
- Complete documentation of museum items
- Develop museum programs

Membership Meeting Change

By Tom Cox

Effective June 14 the Big Creek Historical Society's monthly membership meeting will be held at 3 PM. Directly following our museum hours on the second Sunday of each month. We hope that this change in meeting time will help us with one of our goals this year of increasing the participation of our members and the recruitment of new members.

Previously our meetings during the week (either in the afternoon or early evening) are not very well attended. Meetings during the work week just adds one more thing to do that week. We will try the Sunday meetings to see if that will help in achieving our membership goals. We want to make it as easy as possible to be a participating member in our group.



**Museum Hours
1 to 3 PM
Second Sunday
of each month
Membership Meeting Follows**

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

Address Service Requested

Museum Activities

By Tom Cox

As the work winds down on sorting, categorizing and storage of all the news articles, pictures and items that BCHS has accumulated over the years, we begin to look forward to how we will utilize Miller Hall. Our plan is to look for different individuals and/or groups that provide entertainment and interesting programs. We will also pursue 'travelling' displays that would be interesting to the residents of northern Polk county. There is a variety of grants available to support this type of programs. The 'office area' has been established by the committee. Rich Taylor purchased office furniture for \$30.25. Rich, also, has acquired a computer that supports a printer/scanner/copier and a projector for DVD presentations. The system has internet connectivity. The software has been installed. This system will provide the museum

with technology support that will be needed. All that and under budget too! We really appreciate all that Rich has done for us. At this time we have two events booked for Miller Hall. Both are sponsored by the Lincoln Street Music Studio located in Polk City. May 17 a piano recital will be held which will include studio students from Des Moines, Ankeny, Grimes, Johnston and Polk City. July 6-10 the studio is holding a music camp in preparation for the First Annual Music Theatre Camp On Broadway which will be performed in the town square on July 10 at 6 PM. Tell all of your friends about the music performance in the square on the 10th. Hopefully there will be a big crowd to see the results of the students music camp.