

Fall 2023

**PRINCETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**



Thank you to all of those who helped make 2023 such a success!

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Watch your mailbox– you will get a Christmas card from us soon!

More holiday cards with historic Princeton scenes are on sale at our gift shop.

**Princeton Historical Society and Folklore Museum
630-632 W. Water Street • PO Box 71 • Princeton, Wisconsin 54968
920-295-9008 • princetonhistsociety@gmail.com
princetonwihistoricalsociety.org**

PHASE II MUSEUM PROGRESS

In April, we moved piles of lumber, furniture, and many large artifacts to local volunteer storage facilities to make way for our construction crews. Since that time, a huge amount of work has been going on non-stop.

Dedicated volunteers moved out debris, pulled down old ceiling tiles, built a floor over the old loading dock area, framed in the new exhibit spaces, laid wiring and insulation, installed doors and fixtures, and kept everything clean.

This immense undertaking would not have been possible without the help of over a dozen volunteers, dedicating hundreds of hours of labor. We thank them, and others, on the next page.

We have much left to do, including more insulation, drywall, a new ceiling, and of course, the actual history. Ten exhibits will go into this space: Schools, Churches, Community Service, Agriculture, Industry, Government, Arts & Entertainment, Disasters & Emergency Services, Communications, and Native American History & Nature. We are currently considering naming exhibits after sponsors. For example, "The Smith Family Agricultural Exhibit." Please contact us if this is of interest to you!



Visit our NEW Little Free Library!

In addition to our museum, we now have our own public library! (Well, a tiny one.) Open 24/7, this free library box allows anyone to grab a book at any time, and we promise to keep it stocked with history books. Chris Goulet successfully applied for a grant for this gem, and it was installed November 13th.



Volunteer Roll of Honor



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the many volunteers who contributed to our success this year. Without your help, we would be lost! THANK YOU.

Owen Purvis— many hours of hard labor building in the museum, flea market food booth volunteer
Norb Wianecki— many hours of hard labor building in the museum

Dave Anderson— many hours of hard labor installing tech in the museum, maintaining our computers

Chris Goulet— many hours of hard work in the museum, flea market food booth volunteer, souvenir manufacturer, grant writer, videographer, museum docent, and more

DC Johnson— many hours spent on our new website

Susan Gorr— organized meeting speakers, walked in parades, museum docent, wine walk helper

Jan Manweiler — sending and receiving emails, flea market food booth, proofreading newsletter, wine walk

Dan Freimark— lent us items from the Princeton Tiger Brewery for a great display

Marjory Mlodzik— museum docent, 175th helper

Kurt Smollek, Matt Koski, and Travis Nygard— volunteer antique appraisers

Randy Sondalle and Richard & Debbie May— donated storage for artifacts and building supplies

Mashuda Contractors— donated labor for moving heavy items

Barb Bednarek and Mary Swed— museum docents, flea market food booth volunteers, 175th helpers

Carol Siddall, Dick Hebbe, Michael and Karen Lehner —flea market food booth volunteers

Bill and Rose Wick —flea market food booth cooks

Dave Resop— flea market food booth volunteer, Santa donation, museum docent

Diana Skalitzky— accessioning photos, flea market food booth volunteer

Lily Buslaf — photo editor **Dawn Wianecki**— accessioning photos

Tammi Ross— helped create souvenir T-shirts

Historical Society Board Members:

Mike Goulet, Chris Frasier, Jim Frasier, Vickie Wielgosh, Ron Hatfield, Laura Skalitzky

Student helpers at Trick or Treat:

Top, left to right:

Teacher Josh Cheek, Kiley Weckworth,
Hailey Treder, Sophie Buslaff,
Tori Wegner

Bottom, left to right:

Macey Weckwerth, Abby St. Germain,
Sarabeth Hawkins, Abby Cattanach,
Lane Schoebel



**Did we miss
any volunteers?
Not on purpose!
Please let us
know!**

Check Out Our New Website!

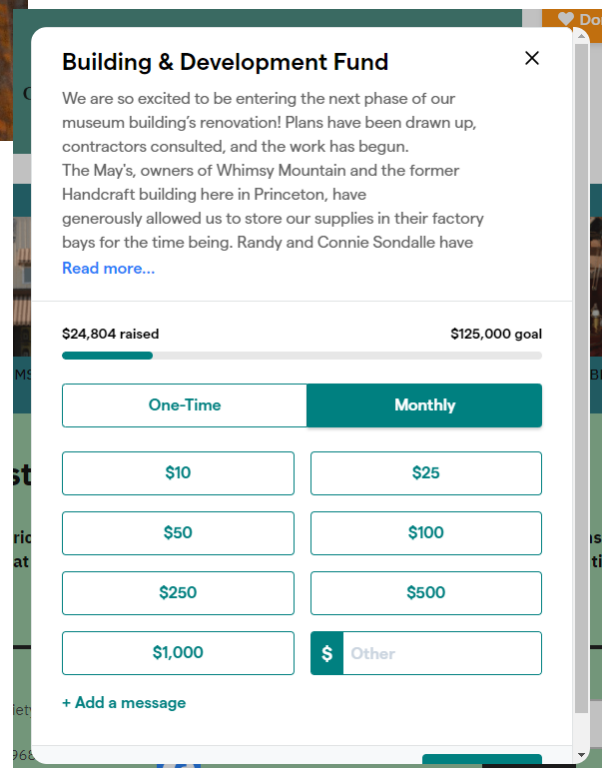


princetonwihistoricalsociety.org



Local reporter DC Johnson volunteered her time freely on this huge project. She spent many hours creating our new website and consulting with board members.

DONATE ONLINE



Although still a work in progress, the website currently has our newsletter archive, links to our videos, an upcoming events calendar, and more.

Our new website also gives us a fantastic new opportunity: we can now accept donations online! Many people prefer to donate this way rather than mail a check or cash.

The donation platform, called "Give Butter" allows people to securely give a one-time or monthly donation of any amount. Donations made on our website are tax deductible, just like any other kind of donation. Donors receive an emailed receipt.

Our new website will eventually allow people to sign up for our newsletter, and possibly even sign up for membership. If you are tech-savvy, we would love your help expanding this great new resource!

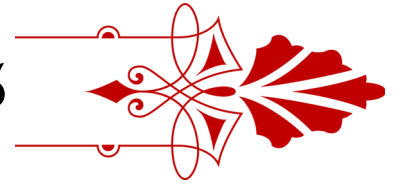
History and Memories at the Library

This year, we worked with Princeton Public Library to record people's memories for posterity. Three people took us up on the offer: Mary Swed, who spoke about meeting her husband, and the courageous life of her father-in-law; Dan Priske, who grew up here; and Mr. Siepert, a grandson of Fred Siepert, who had a harness shop here in Princeton. Videos of their testimonies are saved in our archives.





FUNDRAISERS



Souvenirs

Chris Goulet, with help from Vicki Wielgosh and Chris Frasier, has turned her house into a miniature factory this year, producing a wide variety of the highest-quality Princeton-themed souvenirs. Petunias, sturgeons, our zip code 54968, and the Fox River are featured designs on many items.



Visit our gift shop for wine and beer glasses, can koozies, T-shirts, tumblers, and more!



"In Vino Veritas"

We participated in both of the Chamber of Commerce's Sip and Shop events again this year. On May 20th and October 14th, we served wine and hors d'oeuvres in period and spooky costumes. It was a fun way to lure guests into the museum and we received some great donations!

Rain or Shine!

On June 10th and September 23rd, we worked hard at the famous flea market food booth. Unfortunately, we were almost rained out during on the latter of these days. That didn't stop us though!



Wishes Granted

Chris Goulet has worked very hard on writing FIVE grants for us this year!

Two have been awarded so far. We received \$500 from Signarama, and a Little Free Library valued at \$500.

Chris is waiting to hear back about a grant request she wrote to the Webster Foundation, which we hope will fund the purchase of WI history textbooks for Princeton's 4th grade students.



On the Menu

On February 25th we had a wonderful, successful fundraiser at BeerBelly's bar on Water Street in Princeton. Thank you to all who attended! We raised about \$1,800 thanks to your help.

“What’s Hot & What’s Not” Our Antique Appraisal & Dinner Fundraiser

Our annual August dinner fundraiser was even bigger and better this year!

We began the afternoon at 1pm by offering antique appraisals at the Folklore Museum for only \$5. Our volunteer appraisers were Matt Koski & Travis Nygard (Heffelfinger & Tweed appraising), and Kurt Smolek (Sasquatch’s of Princeton). Together, their expertise covered antiques and collectibles from the 1790s to the 1990s.

Afterwards, we treated our guests to a marvelous barbeque dinner at Knickerbocker Landing. Attendees enjoyed chicken, pork, and beef, cornbread, coleslaw, and dessert. While they ate, they heard from professional auctioneer & appraiser Carol Miller of Bailey’s Honor Auction Service. Ms. Miller spoke about “what’s hot and what’s not” in the antiques and collectibles market.

Over the course of the entire day, we held a silent auction. In addition to some wonderful baskets full of goodies, we auctioned off three large, stunning photo prints of historic Princeton scenes. Each of these were custom framed by Ron Hatfield, and came with detailed histories of the scenes in the photos.

73 people attended this event, and we raised \$2,375 for the Historical Society!

Jan Maweiler had her Japanese artifacts appraised.



Speaker Carol Miller advised collectors and sellers.



Another kind of dinner fundraiser happened in July at Knickerbocker Landing— our volunteers acted as waitresses during the 175th anniversary celebrations in exchange for a nice donation to the Historical Society.



Ron Hatfield professional framed the beautiful photos for our silent auction. Right: Framed photograph of steam tug boat “S.W. Hollister” and an unknown steamboat on the Fox River near Princeton. Photo taken by William A Keys, circa 1900. Middle: a lovely photo of Princeton’s Black Bridge taken by Jim Frasier. Far left: Framed photograph of Princeton’s brewery on Farmer Street, above the Fox River, with enlarged label showing “John Ernst, Proprietor.”



HONORED GUESTS

This year, we continued the tradition of having speakers at our membership meetings. We appreciate them so much for sharing their time and memories! We were also pleased to host a few special events with community members.

Did you miss a meeting? Watch videos of our guest speakers online at our Youtube.com channel, or at princetonwihistoricalsociety.org



Mary Swed is a masterful speaker, as well as an entertaining one! She donated some very dear items to us during her talk on Sept. 18th.

On May 16th, Cliff Mashuda spoke about growing up in Princeton, including being one of the first kids to attend St. John's Catholic school, and picking lots of beans. At this meeting, we also had representatives from Thrivent, a Christian nonprofit investment group, talk about their "choice dollars" program.



At our July 17th meeting, Michael Lehner spoke of his family's history in the area— over 100 years on the shores of Green Lake. He spoke a little about his career as a lawyer, and a lot about his second life as captain of the yacht "Escapade." Mike has always been a longtime supporter of many community organizations, including ours— and he tells great jokes! Consider taking a boat tour with him.



On June 19th, Paul Schlaefer talked about his volunteerism and career, which included many years managing Princeton's Piggly Wiggly.

The number of guests visiting our museums went up 75% this year!

July and August were our busiest months.



In October, we hosted a birthday reception for Lynda Schwanz Kraklau at the Folklore Museum. Lynda and her sister Barb Schwanz Kefer reminisced about their early years in Princeton and their father's years of delivering milk to area families. Lynda also shared memories of her days attending St. John's Catholic school. An excellent time was had by all and the group graciously made a fantastic donation.



HONORED GUESTS (continued)



Newspaper Columns Have Returned!

Carrying on an old tradition, Mike Goulet has been writing a monthly newspaper column for the Princeton Times-Republic. The columns list highlights from Princeton History, as in, "This month in 1889..." Read these fascinating stories—Subscribe to the Princeton Times-Republic!



At our meeting on August 21st, local author, musician, and storyteller Butch Kaping shared a great yarn with us!



Former Jaycees members got together at the museum to reminisce about their haunted house in the old Tiger Brewery. Their story was written up in the Oct. 12th edition of the Princeton Times-Republic.



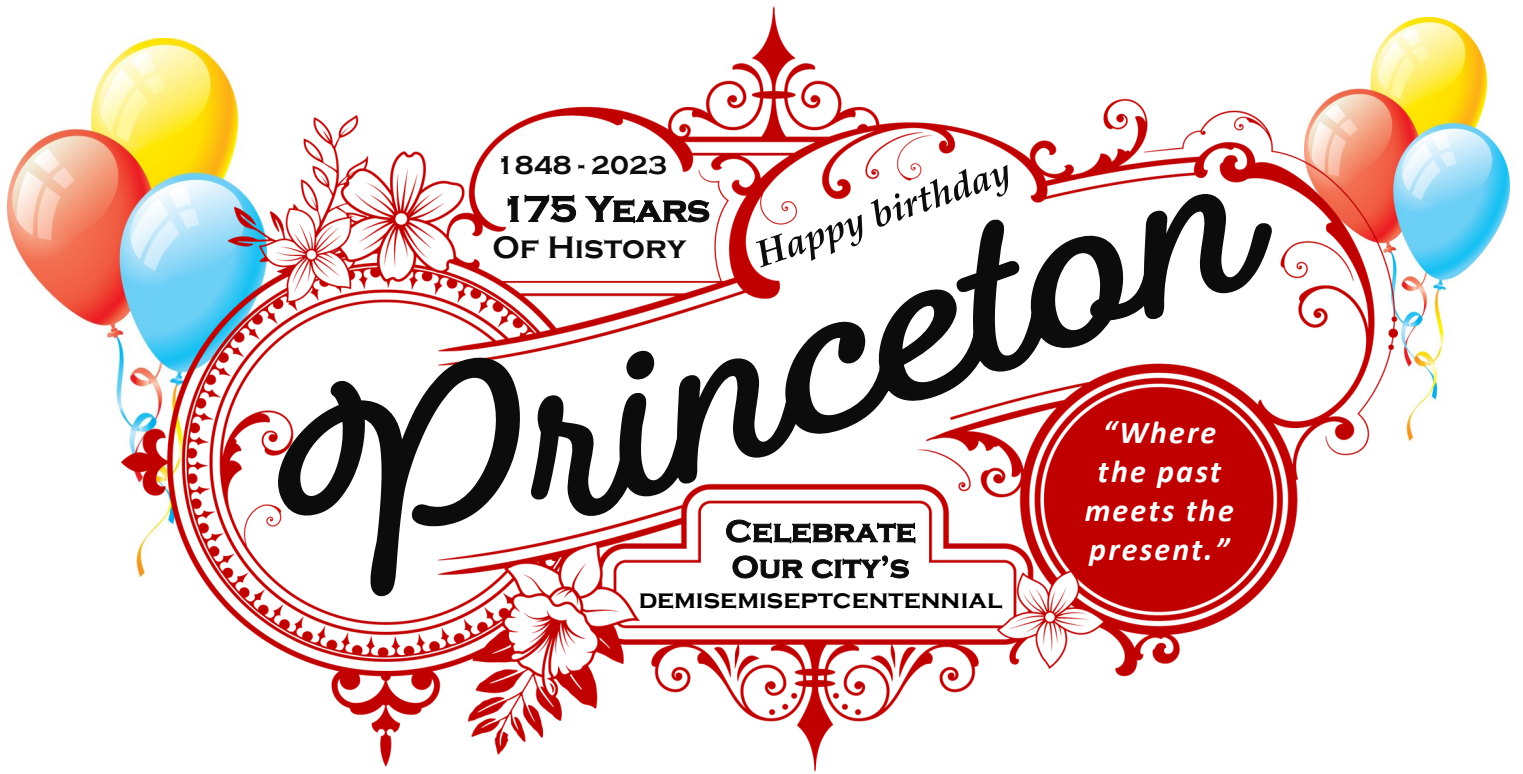
Princeton police officer Will Gorr, Princeton's most eligible bachelor, spoke at our Oct. 16th meeting about his time as a Marine and a firefighter.



Keith and Liz Barzck from Princeton's Ice Bowl have been great supporters this year! In this picture, they're showing off the custom Princeton T-shirts. They purchased them from us and are reselling them, then donating some of the proceeds to us. Thank you!



On November 13th, members of several local historical societies (Kingston, Berlin, Dartford and Princeton) met at Town Square in Green Lake. The group shared thoughts, ideas, and plans to work together for everyone's benefit. Attendees were afterwards taken on a tour of Green Lake County's former courthouse, built in 1896. Representing Princeton were Vickie Wielgosh and Chris & Jim Frasier.



From July 20th-23rd, our little city was bursting at the seams and booming with noise and fun! Thousands of people joined in the city celebrations, which included a children’s parade, a huge grand parade, two rock concerts, carnival activities at City Park, a Kids Zone on Main Street, a fire show, water fights with the Princeton Fire Department, Voyager canoe rides with Jerry Disterhaft and Glen Gorsuch, a yard decorating contest, a bagpiping performance, and innumerable sales, displays, and parties. Events were organized by the 175th Committee– Mary Lou Neubauer, Cheryle Nickel, Ron & Mary Hatfield, and Leanne Holland. Lee Williams, who passed away in May 2023, had also been a key part of the committee.

We did our part by keeping our Museums open extra days and extended hours, participating in the parades, and putting up extensive displays of photos and artifacts (see next page). We also hired local reporter DC Johnson as our official photographer of record for the event. Ms. Johnson took several thousand photos, which we will catalog and preserve. We hope to release many of these on our website and Facebook page as well. We have also kept many artifacts from the celebrations, including posters and souvenirs. Finally, we created a time capsule, and invited all Princeton area residents to contribute.



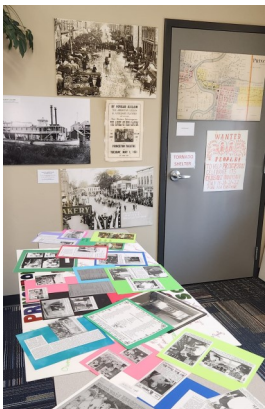
Vickie Wielgosh, Chris Frasier, and Susan Gorr dressed up to walk in the 4th of July and 175th Anniversary parades. They handed out five different 11X17 broadsheets, with historic photos, newspaper articles, and maps of early Princeton.



The backs of these wonderful souvenirs promoted our Historical Society, including museum hours and upcoming events.



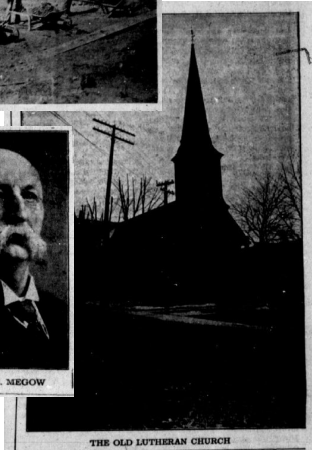
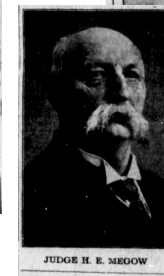
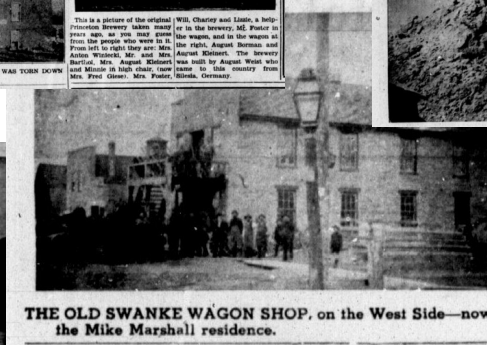
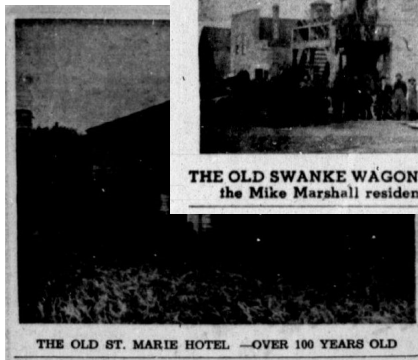
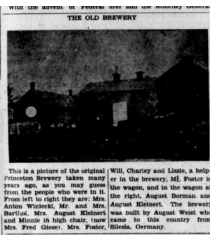
175th Display: Historic Photos



We worked with the Princeton Public Library to create a large display of historic photos and artifacts at the library. These were on display for about two months in July and August.



The 1948 Centennial edition of the Princeton Times-Republic newspaper published many historic photos, some of which we don't have. We would LOVE to scan these for our archives. The photos were contributed to the paper by the public, then returned to the owners. If you have one, or know someone who might, will you please get in touch? If a photo's owner could meet us at the public library, scanning would take about 5 minutes-- there would be absolutely no risk. It would be wonderful for everyone to see a higher quality version of these amazing pictures. In fact, if you have ANY historic photos, please contact us- we'd love to see them. The photos below are just a few of the ones we're looking for.



Contribute to the Time Capsule!



Send a message into the future! We want YOUR photos, videos, letters, and personal items!

Our goal is to create a snapshot of current-day Princeton, so people are encouraged to put in items that reflect their daily lives or the recent past. We have put in a copy of the Princeton Times-Republic covering the 175th Celebrations, a poster from the 175th celebrations, some movie tickets, magazines, grocery store advertisements, photos, and other ephemera. Some of the items we are putting in are digital content on a cell phone, and we welcome YOUR digital contributions too! Send us a TikTok, a voicemail, etc.

The time capsule itself is a large metal shipping box which once belonged to Lee Mevis, who attended college at UW Madison in the 1960s. His parents would fill the container with “care package” items any college student today would appreciate— food, clothes, money, and personal supplies. Unlike a cardboard box, the shipping container could be reused hundreds of times, for years. The cost for delivery (still stamped on the package) was only 60 cents.



Contribute YOUR memories to our time capsule! We have extended the deadline to bring things to us until May 2024. The time capsule will be opened in 25 years for Princeton’s 200th birthday!



Upcoming Election

Please join us at our December 10th meeting at Mekan River Outfitters.

We will have lunch at noon and vote afterwards. Please RSVP by calling 920-295-9008.

Two of our board members are up for election: Ron Hatfield and Jim Frasier.

If you are interested in running for a board position, please be prepared to nominate yourself (or have someone else nominate you) at the meeting. We are always happy to have more help! All paid-up members may vote, and are eligible for nomination to a board position. After the election, board members vote amongst themselves for positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc).

Donations Gratefully Received

We don't have enough space to list everything here, but these are some wonderful highlights of the donations we've received this year. Thank you to all our donors for helping us preserve history!



Dick and Donna (Wielgosh) Prachel donated a fine potbelly stove, a footlocker used by veteran Anton Wielgosh, and World War I items. Dan Ladwig donated the baby carriage. Ron Murphy donated fantastic framed newspaper ad sheets from the 1930s.



Elaine Kallas donated these 3 business promo pieces, including a 1912 plate from the Nickodem Bros.

Cash donations included:

\$5,000 Princeton Chamber of Commerce.

\$1,000 Mike & Chris Goulet, and Mike's workplace Kimberly Clark matched this with another \$1,000.

\$610 Jim and Ann Geer.

\$500 The Ice Bowl (Barczyks)

\$404.25 Knickerbocker Landing.

\$200 estate of Kenneth James Smedema.



Alan Detjen's Piggly Wiggly allowed us to participate in the "round up" program, netting us \$1,731.79!



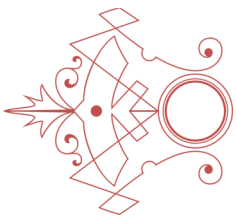
These handmade brooches crafted by Lillian Hotmar were donated by Marjory Mlodzik.



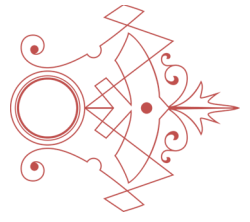
Many Jaycee artifacts were donated by Ron Murphy.



Early portable phonograph used for funeral services by Wachholz & Sons. One of many items donated by Todd Wachholz.



Holiday Events



VISIT SANTA!

A FREE EVENT AT THE

**PRINCETON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Friday Nov. 24th
3:30-5:30pm**



630 West Water St.
920-295-9008
princetonhistsociety@gmail.com

We hope you can join us at our upcoming holiday events! Volunteers are still needed too.

**Holiday
Membership Meeting**
Sun. Dec. 10th at Noon

Join us for lunch and Christmas cheer!

Mecan River Outfitters

W720 Hwy 23, Princeton

Please RSVP!

920-295-9008

Enjoy chicken pot pie, coffee, and dessert!

Eat at Mrs. Claus's Kitchen!

Saturday Nov. 25th 9am—2pm

At the Holiday Bounty Craft Fair

Princeton School, 604 Old Green Lake Road

Breakfast and Lunch, *Made with love!*

Our menu will include brat soup, pulled pork, mac'n'cheese, sloppy joes, coffee, donuts, and desserts.

We would love to have donations of desserts to sell!



Visit Our New Website!
princetonwihistoricalsociety.org

**DON'T FORGET
TO PAY YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
DUES**



You should be getting a beautiful Christmas card from us with membership information. If not, please let us know and we'll add you to our mailing list!

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

 Princeton WI Historical Society

Volunteers Wanted

WE NEED YOU!

Please call 920-295-9008 for more information on volunteering to staff our museums, help with raffles and food booth fundraisers, speak at meetings, and more!

Contact Us!

Have a question about local history, genealogy, or our organization?

Interested in donating?
Want a topic featured in the next newsletter?
Please let us know!

princetonhistsociety@gmail.com

630 West Water Street

PO Box 71

Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

or call 920-295-9008

VISIT OUR
GIFT SHOP



If we're closed, call 920-295-9008 and we'll let you in!

8X10"
prints of historic
Princeton
photos are only
\$5.00