

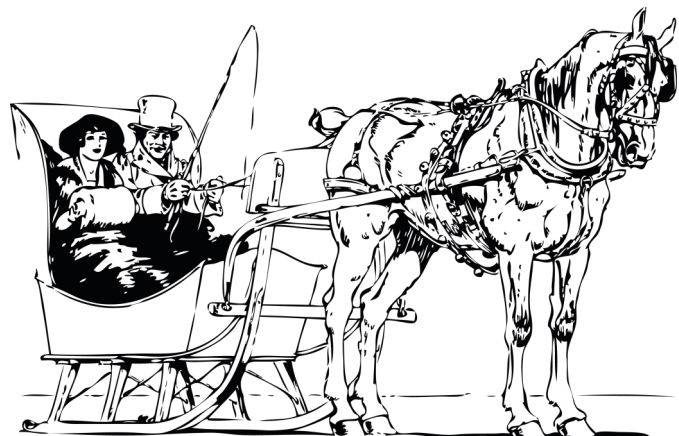
WINTER 2024/2025 NEWSLETTER



Above: PHS Board members and National Honor Society student volunteers served lunch at Mrs. Claus's Kitchen during the Christmas in Princeton Holiday Craft fair at the school on Nov. 30th.

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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

Halloween Events

We are so pleased to host guests in our museum for the HalloWINE walk each year. Although it costs us to be a part of this annual Chamber of Commerce event, the fun and goodwill are well worth it.

Water street is closed for the afternoon so that guests can stroll through this historical area and enjoy the fabulous Halloween light pole decoration contest, street games, and sales from local vendors. We've been told we always provide the best snacks! We served fudge made by Susan Gorr and meatballs made by Chris Frasier and Vickie Wielgosh along with the alcohol provided by the Chamber.

Many wine walkers came in costume, including "The Queen of Hearts" and four Sesame Street characters. This event sold out, and we're looking forward to an event bigger crowd in 2025!

HalloWINE Sat. October 12th



Once again, we had a fantastic turnout for our Halloween games and open house during the Chamber of Commerce "Trick or Treat on Water Street." Thank you to all who volunteered!

Trick or Treat Fri. October 25th



Games included "go fish," witch hat ring toss, and "make a monster."

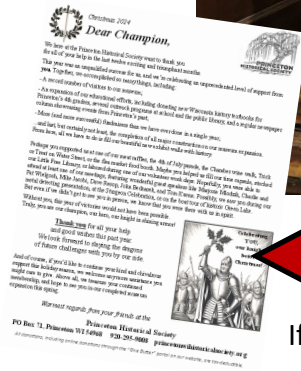


National Honor Society Student Volunteers



CHRISTMAS IN PRINCETON

Held on the weekend after Thanksgiving, this event is one of Princeton's most beloved traditions. Kids and their families were invited to visit with Santa at the Folklore Museum during the first night of Christmas in Princeton. Kids can tell Santa what they want for Christmas, while adults check out our awesome holiday display, and of course our local history exhibits. At 6pm, the holiday lights parade passed by the museum. Many thanks to Santa (Wesley Hilgart) and Mrs. Claus (Wes's wife Donna) for volunteering their time!



← Did you get one of our Christmas cards and letters? If not, please tell us your address for next time!

On Saturday, Nov. 30th, we continued our yearly concessions fundraiser during the Holiday Bounty Craft Fair held at the high school during Christmas in Princeton. With the help of National Honor Society student volunteers, Mrs. Claus's Kitchen served pulled pork, three different soups, donuts, and more. Thank you to all who helped by baking, serving, or eating!



PHS CASH RAFFLE WINNERS!

Thank you to all who bought and sold tickets for this fantastic fundraiser!

Special thanks to Betsy Ladwig, who sold more tickets than anyone. Our drawing was held on Sat. Nov. 30th at the Holiday Bounty Craft Fair, where we sold concessions at Mrs. Claus's Kitchen.

Raffle winners were:

\$50 : Gib & Darlene Kretz, Shea Hirtz, Mike Strand, Cary Waite, Suzanne Mattice

\$100 : Ron Kraft, Logan & Elaina Ladwig, Jay & Amy Adcox

\$500 : Scott Jensen

\$2,500 : Tim Barker

\$5,000 : Marci Drew



Jay and Amy Adcox
and Mike Strand
gave their winnings
back to us—
THANK YOU!



Although people did not have to be present to win, an excited Suzanne Mattice was there to claim her prize.



Winner Carey Waite poses with PHS Board member Chris Goulet.



PHS President Mike Goulet draws winners with the help of a student volunteer at Mrs. Claus's Kitchen.

Annual Dinner Meeting

On Sunday, January 19th, PHS members were invited to the Gooseblind Bar & Grill in Green Lake for lunch, to celebrate a wonderful past year. About 40 people attended, and members were served a fine Italian style meal and cake. After lunch, President Mike Goulet gave a slideshow presentation with photos of 2024 events and thanked all of our wonderful volunteers. Jim Frasier presented Dave Dugenske, who played Santa at our museum for over 40 years, with a framed photo as recognition for his dedicated service to P.H.S.. During our annual elections, President Mike Goulet and board member Laura Skalitzky, whose terms were up, were re-elected to the PHS Board by unanimous vote.



120 Year Old Murals Uncovered

Artist's Heir is an Artist Herself



Above: Gym manager Ellie Apland with winter mural.
Below: Maud Caldwell holds daughter Dola.



buried in the same coffin in Princeton's City Cemetery.

Lynn says that, according to her mother, Fred Caldwell was quite a character:

"Grandma's whole name was Illa Muffet Caldwell Bakken. Her father was a bit of a 'card,' as mom would say, and he tried valiantly to get his wife to name their first child Little Miss Muffet. He got as far as Muffet for a middle name. (He also talked his wife into getting married on Leap Year Day, telling friends that he would only need to remember his anniversary every 4 years.)"

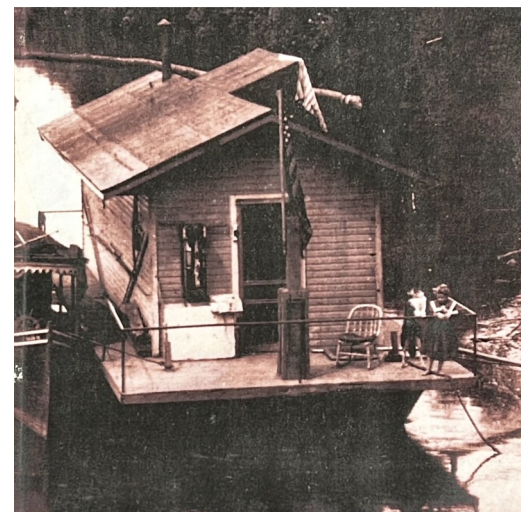
Lynn has shared several photographs with us, including one of Illa and her dog on the houseboat that Fred called "The Ark." He built it as a combination residence and art/photography studio, and sailed it down to St. Louis the same year he painted the murals. Fred also worked in the Holly studio on Short Street in Princeton, named after his grandparents, Myron and Sarah Holly. Lynn tells us that when her mother Elizabeth was a child, grandpa Fred would send the Sunday paper from near St. Louis for the family. They would get it on Tuesday and they called it "grandpa's funnies." Illa was ultimately raised by her maternal grandmother, Georgia Etta (Georgetta) Stowe. Illa called her "Bammy."

You may have heard about a fantastic discovery in Princeton recently. The large 120 year old murals uncovered at 429 W. Water St. each show a different season. Three also have an excerpt from a poem by William Cullen Bryant. One has a quote attributed to Rector Phillips Brooks of Massachusetts: "All divisions of sect or creed are like the pools upon the ocean's shore."

We have been talking with the great -granddaughter of the artist, Fred Caldwell, who painted the four beautiful scenes back in 1905, when the building was known as Turner Hall.



Turner Hall circa 1915



Above: Illa and her dog on "The Ark," circa 1905.

"Murals," Continued from previous page:

Lynn has a very old family recipe for sugar cookies sweetened with sorghum syrup called "Grandma Carvey's Cookies," a title she had been puzzled by. We were able to tell her that "Bammy's" maiden name had been Carvey, so Fred's wife and her mother live on in the family's recipe box.

Georgia Etta "Bammy" Stowe was married to a Civil War veteran, Samuel Warren Stowe (1836-1895). He fought with Wisconsin's 4th Cavalry Regiment, Company D, and at some point was promoted to Corporal. The 4th fought at Vicksburg in Mississippi and in Louisiana and Texas. Lynn believes Mr. Stowe was captured in Clinton, Louisiana in January 1864. He is buried in Oxford, WI.



Corporal Samuel Stowe

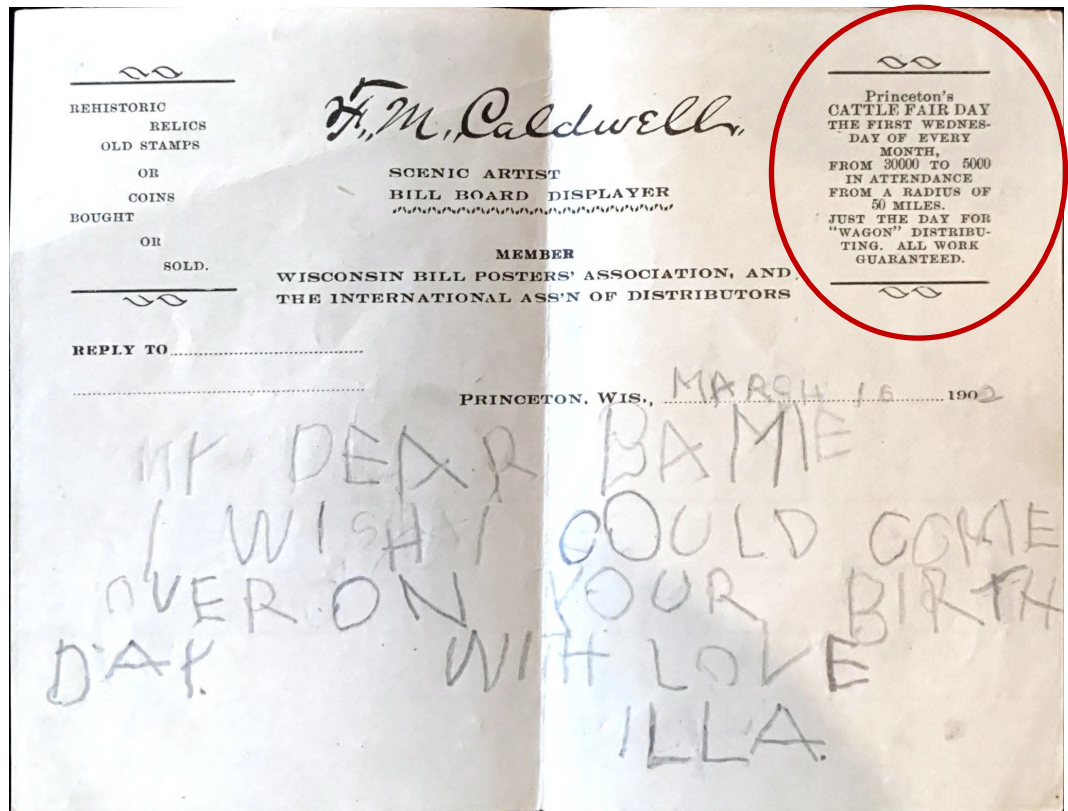
We hope that you will stop by 429 W. Water St. to see the murals.

The building is on its way to becoming the new location of Grizzly Fitness, owned by Colton Burt and managed by Ellie Apland. The fact that Turner Hall is now a gym is wonderfully appropriate, since the structure was originally built by a German social club called the "Turners," meaning gymnasts. Turner Hall was originally constructed in 1878, but the building burned in the devastating fire of 1880. The hall was rebuilt by the Turners shortly thereafter, and then remodeled and expanded in 1905. At that time, a stage and the murals were added. Over the years, the building became an opera house, movie theater, roller skating rink, and hardware store. Up until very recently, the building housed Sheree Zimmerman's Fox River Country Mercantile.



Above: Illa Caldwell.

Right: Stationary headed F.M. Caldwell dated March 1902 with a note from Illa to her grandma "Bammy" or "Bamie." Princeton's Cattle Fair is advertised (upper right).



Many thanks to Lynn D.T. Hershberger Hefferan for the photos and information! Find her at colorjoy.com.

[More photos are available on our Facebook page.](#)

Do YOU have a family story? We'd love to help you tell it. Your story is HISTORY.

Contact us! princetonhistsociety@gmail.com OR call 920-295-9008

MEETINGS, GUESTS, & SPEAKERS

Thank you to all who attended our last several meetings! We recorded each of our guest speakers on video for your enjoyment. The videos are posted on our YouTube channel (@princetonwihistoricalsocie5771) and on our website, princetonwihistoricalsociety.org.

Monthly meetings are at 6pm on the third Monday of each month, May - October.

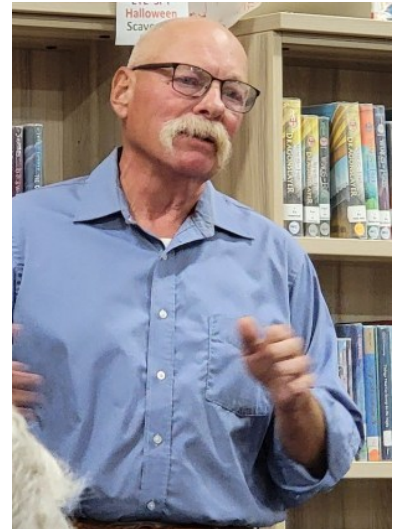
On October 21st, guest speaker Tom Kuenn (right/below) talked about his life and his bar, Kuenn's Korner Inn.

Due to popular demand, we will also be extending our guest speaker series, even when we don't have meetings!

Mon. Feb. 17th, 6pm: Eddie Wargula. Meet at the public library.

Mon. March 17th, 6pm: Dan Priske. Meet at the public library.

Mon. April 21st, 6pm: Director for the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center Steve Rogstad, who will be speaking on President Lincoln in WI. Meet at the library.



Below/Left: Ho-Chunk artist Kimberly Crowley of Baraboo visited the museum to talk with some PHS board members about the museum's forthcoming Native American display, canoes, and traditional basket weaving.

Below/Right: On Nov. 18th, Vicki Wielgosh gave a museum tour to a group of students from Diverse Options, an organization which helps disabled individuals gain independence.



Steve Rogstad, Executive Director of the Sheboygan County Research Center, visited our Folklore Museum on November 19th. He traveled from Racine to see us and was very impressed with all that we have done. He especially liked Dr. Drill's office and the stories behind our museum construction and design. Mr. Rogstad will be giving a talk on President Lincoln here on April 21st.



Left: Steve Rogstad

Right: Jim Frasier, PHS Museum Director

Donations Gratefully Received

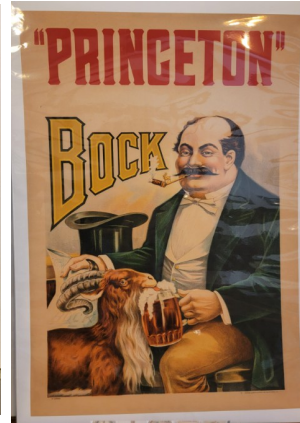
We are so appreciative of all those who contribute to our cause! Did we miss you here? Tell us!

Dave and Becky Freimark have shown an incredible generosity towards us and the entire Princeton community by preserving a fantastic collection of artifacts, which they have donated to the museum. The treasure trove includes:

A 1875 map of the city; a 1910 calendar featuring cigars made in Princeton by R.H. Miller; wooden cigar molds from 1925 and 1932; a cigar cutter; cut glass goblets, trays, posters, steins, beer and soda bottles from Princeton's brewery; and a lard pail and advertising from "Ham" Megow's butcher shop. The Freimarks have also given us \$1,000! We are so very grateful.



Right: different bottles from Princeton's brewery over the years.



Below: Quality Dairy Embossed Milk Bottle from Princeton, Klawitter Hutchinson Soda bottle circa 1890s.



Above: Souvenir china pitcher and matching creamer depicting Water St. as the "White Way," imported by the A. Fishkin Store, Princeton.
Right: cigar molds from Miller's factory.



Donations Gratefully Received (Continued)

Carol Siddall gave us a check for \$400 on behalf of PAC-F.

Lois Wargula donated Princeton yearbooks from the 40s & 50s.

Allen and Linda Schultz donated a dollhouse and toy barns made Al's uncle, Florian "Jim" Marshall.

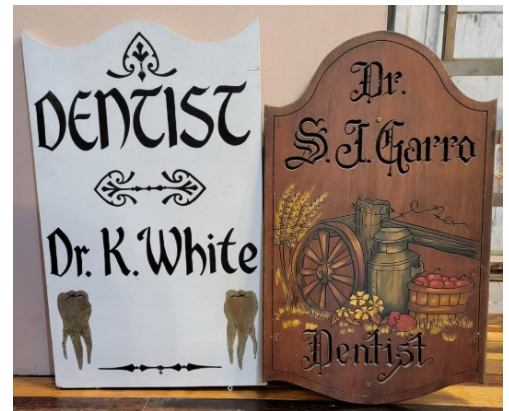
Sheree Zimmerman donated the phonograph and many albums used at the Princeton Theater (previously Turner Hall).

Kathleen Worringer donated \$100, which was matched by the Novartis Matching Gift Program

Warren Nighbor donated a 1940s Princeton firefighter helmet.

The White family gave us a lead apron, X-ray lights, Kelly White sign, Dr. Garro Sign, and Dr. Garro's crucifix for our dentist exhibit.

Sondalle Law (Justin and Dan Sondalle) donated early 1900s law books once owned by Phillip Lehner Sr.



Pat Bentley gave us a wonderful collection of items related to his pharmacy, including this "Penny" scale (left). Before home scales were widely available, people would pay a penny to be weighed by this machine. The scale dates back to the early 1900s and we are hoping to find someone able to get it working again.

Other donations included items from "Breity's," which was the previous name of the drugstore. Pat donated children's toy skis, signs, scales for weighing medicines, and lots of other great items.



Dollhouses and toy barns were donated by local farmer Allen Schultz.



GRANT GURU GOULET GETS GLORY AT GREEN BAY

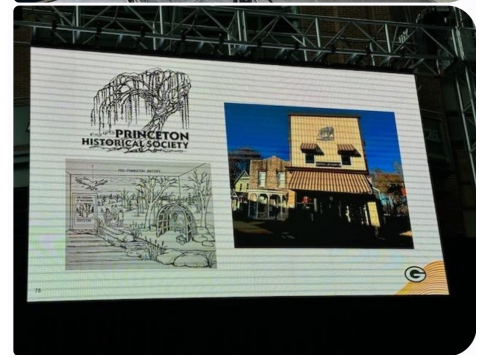
Thanks to the hard work of P.H.S. board member and designated grant writer Chris Goulet, our museum became the beneficiary of a wonderful grant. The Green Bay Packer's Foundation awarded us \$4,000 to have a mural of the Fox River painted for our pre-Princeton history exhibit. Chris and her husband, P.H.S. President Mike Goulet, were invited to Lambeau Field to accept the grant at a lovely dinner, and met several famous Packers players and trustees.



Above, from left to right: Chris Goulet, Hall of Fame Green Bay Packer Dorsey Levens, and Mike Goulet.



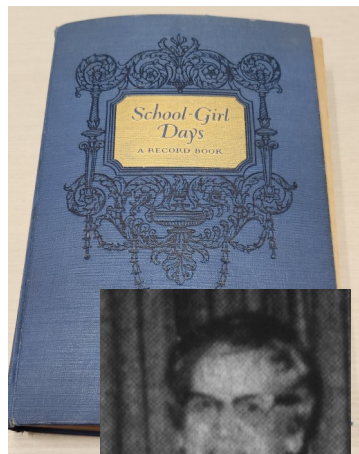
Above: Eddie Garcia, former Green Bay Packers kicker and current Packers Foundation trustee, poses with Chris Goulet.



Above: Chris and Mike Goulet were invited to receive the grant on behalf of the Princeton Historical Society at the Packers Foundation lunch.

VINTAGE HIGH SCHOOL BOOK RETURNS HOME

When this 1920s scrapbook came up for sale on eBay in November, we knew we had to have it! It belonged to a teenage Doris Offerman, who graduated from Princeton High School in 1925. It contains many snapshots, newspaper clippings, handwritten notes from friends, printed programs, and signatures from Princeton students. Doris married Erwin Bartell in 1930, when she was only 23 years old. The photo of her here was taken in 1975, at her 50th high school reunion.



PHASE II MUSEUM PROGRESS

We are so excited about the progress we've made in the museum, and many wonderful volunteers are working full bore to try and get everything done in time for a grand opening in spring.

We don't know if this will be possible, but we do know that we own an incredible debt of thanks to Owen Purvis, Mark Lind, Norb Wianecki, Dennis Orlov, Carla Konen, Susan Gorr, Mary Lind, JoDee Megeath and PHS Board Members Mike and Chris Goulet, Vicki Wielgosh, and Jim and Chris Frasier for all their hard work lately.



Above/Right: A stunning new mural will grace the Native American and Natural History area. Painted by Kelly Meredith, it was paid for by a grant from the Packer's Foundation. The scene is intended to show the Fox River as it would have been before Europeans arrived, with large clusters of wild rice and pine trees.



Left: Dennis Orlov reaches up to mount a hanging sign bracket in the Farming section, while being supervised by a crowd of volunteers. From left to right, Susan Gorr, Karla Konen, Dennis Orlov, and Mike Goulet. In the background is Mark Lind.

Right: Kevin Soda hauled his scaffolding in for us, so that we can work safely at any height.



Left: The Mashuda family lent us a great crew of heavy lifters to move our printing press.



Become / Remain a Historical Society Member!

- \$2 Annual Student Membership (high school and lower grades)
- \$10 Annual Individual Membership
- \$15 Annual Family Membership (parents + children under age 18)
- \$100 Lifetime Individual Membership
- \$250 Lifetime Family Membership
- \$500 Charter Membership
- \$1,000 Donor Membership
- \$5,000 Patron Membership
- \$10,000 Founder Membership

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

Name: _____
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Cut out this form and send in your membership today! Make checks payable to the Princeton, WI Historical Society, and send them to PO Box 71, Princeton, WI 54968. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

Contact Us!

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Visit our website

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Mon. March 17th, 6pm: Dan Priske.

**Mon. April 21st, 6pm: Director for the Sheboygan Co.
Historical Research Center Steve Rogstad,
speaking on President Lincoln in WI**

Meet at the public library (424 W. Water St.)

Volunteers Wanted

WE NEED YOU!

Please call 920-295-9008
for info on volunteering to staff our
museums, help with raffles
and food booth fundraisers,
construction, and more!

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP

Coasters, pens, 8X10" historical photos of Princeton,
USB chargers, cheese boards, T-shirts, tumblers,
beer and wine glasses, and MORE!
If we're closed, call 920-295-9008 and we'll let you in!