

THE COUNTY CRONICLER
POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 2004

March 23rd, 2004
7:00 PM

Marge Hallquist
will speak on:
"Does Our Society Have a
History?"

Marge is well known to most of us, she grew up in Polk County, attended Macalester College and completed her Master's degree at the University of Minnesota. Marge has always kept close contact with her native area. This will be an evening emphasizing our local history.



Elsie Wood – See page 2

March is National Woman's History Month. This year will honor Elsie Wood of Clear Lake at our March 23rd meeting.

Board of Directors 6:00 PM

**Museum Spring Cleaning Work
Days at Museum and Rural
School**

April 13, 14, 15th
20th & 21 or any other dates that
you can help, we will arrange it!

9:AM - 2.

Note: Change of Location

Our March Meeting will be held in the Balsam Lake Village Municipal Building, on the east side of Main street, 1 ½ blocks south of the museum. This is under the water tower in the same building as the village library.

**Help is urgently needed in the
following areas –**

- Wash display cases
- Dust & wash displays
- Floors

Elsie Margaret Wood

Elsie Margaret (Warner) Wood, daughter of Gertrude and Charles Warner of Clear Lake, Wisconsin was born June 16, 1920, the oldest of five children. She attended the Clear Lake Elementary School through eighth grade. She graduated from Drummond High School in 1938, followed by graduation from Superior Teachers College, now known as University of Wisconsin-Superior, with a two year Rural State Graded School Diploma.

Elsie married Clayton Wood on April 24, 1943 and celebrated their 60th Anniversary in April, 2003.

Elsie and Clayton have three children; Joyce (Bob) Homsey, Superior WI, Jerry (Joan) of Clear Lake, WI and Jay (Sonya) who lives near Baltimore, MD. They have seven grandchildren.

Elsie taught rural schools for eight years and farmed with Clayton until 1954 when they purchased a sport shop in Clear Lake. Together they operated Wood's Sport Shop for the next 24 years. They sold the business in 1978. During that time, Clayton also drove school bus for the Clear Lake District for 26 years.

Elsie and Clayton have been 4-H leaders for 45 years and 38 years respectively. They have chaperoned 4-H delegates on many out-of-state exchanges and have gained many friends throughout those years.

In the early 1970's, Elsie assisted their son, Jay with his 4-H Cultural Heritage Project. Together they served on the publication committee for the Clear Lake Centennial Book (1875-1975). In addition, she served as vice-chairman on the Clear Lake Centennial events in 1975.

Starting in the 1990's, Elsie assisted her granddaughter, Jessica Wood with her 4-H Cultural Heritage Project. Elsie is also interested in genealogy, she has worked on the genealogy of the family of her father, Charles Edison Warner, in addition to the Warner family history, Elsie also researched the histories for the connected families with the surnames of; Francis, Larson, Wood, Cain, and Boardman and compiled books of each.

In 1988, the pastor of the Clear Lake United Methodist Church appointed Elsie as historian of the church; she continues to work in that capacity today. For the past several years, she has also served on the Program Resources Committee for the United Methodist Women's Society.

Another capacity Elsie has filled is historian for the Clear Lake Historical Museum where she gives tours and assists many people with their genealogy searches, which she really enjoys.

Elsie's daughter, Joyce, says a fitting motto for Elsie is,

"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

President's Notes,

Welcome to our 2004 Polk County Historical Society Calendar of Events!

We have another busy year with some of our annual events and some new ones! Our calendar is filled with activities, programs, tours and a style show.

The year starts out with Marge Hallquist speaking at our March 23rd meeting. Marge has selected the title, "Does our Society Have a History?" for her topic. Marge is a retired history teacher, past president of PCHS and a lifetime resident of Polk County. We are looking forward to her presentation.

The Frederic School has asked to use the Lanesdale School for a two-day frontier school session for fourth graders. This will be May 18th & 19th. The teacher organizing this is Melinda Sorenson with Carol Wedin from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Money was donated for this project and is being used for chalk slates and prairie bonnets and dresses.

The St. Croix Falls School will again be using the Little Red Schoolhouse at the fairgrounds. They are scheduled for June 4th through 20th.

Our Annual Bus Tour is planned for Friday, June 11th. We have some excellent guides lined up for touring the northern part of our county.

The Balsam Lake Fun Days are July 3rd and 4th. This is a big day in Balsam Lake and we will be joining the activities by having a Vintage Style Show at the American Legion Hall. Martha Philip will be heading this up and the theme will be HATS! Martha did an excellent job at the County's 150th Celebration and we look forward to another excellent show. Tell your lady friends to wear their hats.

The heart of the society and the museum is volunteers. We need gardeners, school tour guides, and people to clean and change displays. Why be a volunteer? Meet new people, have fun, express creativity, try out new ideas.

We look forward to seeing you at the March meeting. Don't forget we will be at the Balsam Lake Municipal Building, 7 PM Tuesday, March 23rd, 2004.

President, Rosalie

OLD BUSINESS – NEW BUSINESS

Our thoughts have been with Jim and Betty Gisch, as Betty has been going though some serious health problems. Jim has worked for the PCHS for several years and will be taking a leave of absence to care for her during recovery from her scheduled five hour heart surgery in the coming days.

We will be ordering new advertisement brochures in April, several mistakes will be fixed and additions made. Let Rosalie know if you see something that should be changed.

The PCHS Board of Directors have placed the museum air quality as the main project for 2004. The old system is not an option. If you have experience in this area and would be willing to help, call Carl Johnson, 268-8353 or Judy Wester, 646-1447.

The roofs of the Lanesdale School in Balsam Lake and the Little Red Schoolhouse at the fair grounds need repair. If you have experience in this area, your help would be appreciated, call Rosalie, 483-3979.

The Community-School Room on the second floor of the museum was extensively changed last fall by Judy Wester, be sure to go up to see it.

Judy would like to see a new display giving recognition to our local service men and honoring Dan Gabrielson, Frederic, who was killed in 2003, serving our country in Iraq. Perhaps something could be done in the military room.

We have museum school tours lined up for May. We need some tour guides, please let Rosalie know if you can help in this way, 483-3979.

We will have one "Music on the Lawn" this year. It will be Saturday, June 26th.

Our bus tour will be Friday, June 11. We will be touring the northern part of the county and have some excellent tour guides lined up.

LeRoy Schwan, our local artist has donated a copy of all of his prints to the museum. It is a large collection and a great majority of them are featuring sights in Polk County.

LeRoy has his own web-site -

www.leroy-schwan.com/Pages/Polk_County_Museum.html

Leroy Schwan's Scenic Views of the St. Croix River Valley

Picture 56 of 100



Polk County Museum Balsam Lake, Wisconsin



INTERNET NEWS

Have you tried typing in "Polk County, Wisconsin" in your Internet Search Engine? (google, yahoo).

I was amazed to see all the sites that come up.

Try "Polk County Historical Society", or "Polk County Museum".

"Explorewisconsin.com" leads to excitement all over Wisconsin.

I found all these sights while I was looking for the new site that John Jenkins, and Ron Hedberg, put together for our historical society, the address is:
www.co.polk.wi.us/History.



Type in this address → www.co.polk.wi.us/history/Places to Go

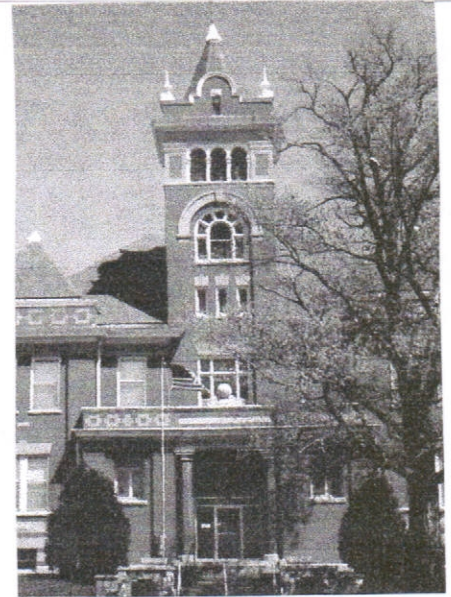
← This screen will
← come up →
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Early History



Municipality
Organization Dates



Polk County Museum

Polk County
Government History



History Links
Things to do and
Sites to explore

This history site is a new work in progress. We hope you find it helpful and interesting. Feedback and suggest welcome.

- Ron Hedberg 5 March 2004

This history and museum site is a cooperative effort by Polk County Historical Society, [Polk County government](#), John Jenkins, and [Ron Hedberg](#). We are grateful to the many who have donated photos, and their time to preserve Polk County's past for future generations.

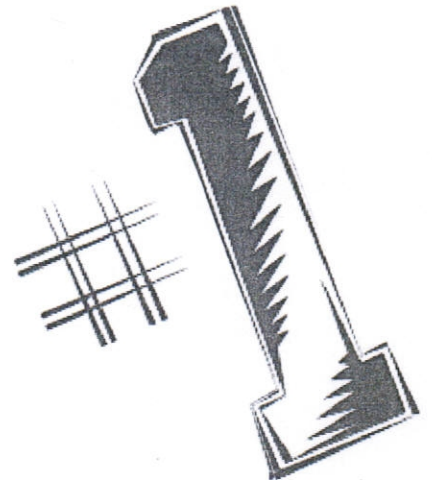
"KNOW YOUR ANTIQUES"

The April 27th meeting will be at the Justice Center. Ted Zinn, Betty Jensen and Craig and Elaine Cox will be telling us about the history and worth of antiques that are brought in. Any item is welcome. The Balsam Lake Study Club will be serving.

If this letter were a computer screen and you found the new web site (opposite page), you could click on the number 1 symbol and the page below would come up. If you clicked on the map, a page with old maps of Polk County would come up.

Historical Firsts

- Polk County organized 3-14-1853
- Steamboat, the Palmyra, up St. Croix, 1838
- Agricultural Society, Osceola, 1862
- Cooperative Creamery, Luck, 1884
- School taught by Miss Tainter, St. Croix Falls, 1848
- Grain crop, St. Croix Falls, 1839
- Newspaper, the St. Croixian, 1860
- Grist Mill, Osceola, by Kent Brothers, 1848
- Sermon preached by Rev. Boutwell
- Bridge across St. Croix River, St. Croix Falls to Taylors Falls, 1856
- Town organized, Leroy, 1853, all of Polk County
- Physician, Dr. Christopher Carli
- Practicing lawyer, Isaac Freeland
- First church, a Baptist, at Osceola, 1857
- Steamboat built at Osceola, 1854
- Soo Railroad, East and West, 1887
- Soo Railroad, North and South, 1900
- Polk County Normal, 1905
- Courthouse, Balsam Lake, 1899
- County highway garage, 1933
- Sawmill, St. Croix Falls, 1840
- High School, St. Croix Falls, 1886
- Bank of St. Croix Falls, 1888
- Polk County Fair, organized, 1886.



*The Polk County
Genealogy Group
provides this web site.*



www.rootsweb.com/~wipolk/index.html

Welcome to Polk County Wisconsin Genealogy



This is a picture of the Old man of the Dalles located on the St. Croix River, in St. Croix

Polk County Pages



*This is part of the genealogy home page...
Click on a link and learn more on that subject*
[Bios ~ Obituaries ~ Queries ~ Surnames](#) **NEW**

Lookups	Polk County Resources
Queries(before Aug '98)	Surnames(before Aug '98)
Cemeteries	Cities/Towns of Polk County
1888 Polk Co. Plat Book Index NEW	Polk Co. Centenial Directory 1853 - 1953 NEW
Birth Index - Polk Co. Pre. 1907 NEW	Death Index - Polk Co. Pre. 1907 NEW
Marriage Index 1855 - 1867	Marriage Index - Polk Co. Pre. 1907 NEW
Polk Co. 1870 Census	Publications for Sale
Wisconsin/US Links	Norwegian Ancestors
Swedish Ancestors	Finnish Ancestors
Danish Ancestors	Polk Co. Genealogy Group
Township Map	1901 Map of Polk Co.

Dedicated to our men and women of Polk Co. WI , who have faithfully served our Country

coming soon "the Veteran's Memorial"

LOOKING FOR INFO FOR OUR : *VETERAN'S MEMORIAL*
bios - obits - muster lists - stories- etc.

**PLEASE SEND TO: *Marie K. Loughlin* coordinator
- Polk Co., WI**

Civil War - History-Bios-Obits

WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR II

KOREAN WAR

VIETNAM WAR

DESERT STORM

**LOCAL VFW AND AMERICAN LEGION
POSTS - POLK CO.**