

THE COUNTY CHRONICLER

Polk County Historical Society

2005

April

JLW

KNOW YOUR ANTIQUES

April 26th, 7:15 p.m.

**Community Room at the new Justice Center
Balsam Lake**

**We ask that you limit yourself to two items
and donate \$2 for each antique to be judged.**

The experts to critique your treasures are

Larry & Linnea Phillipson

Executive Board meets at 5:45 p.m.

Lunch will be served by

Rosalie & Darrell Kittleson and

**Art & Patty Young after the program and
short business meeting.**



This is the goal!



Leslie C. Park - See page 3

**POLK COUNTY MUSEUM
AUCTION for ELEVATOR**

WE CAN DO IT!

APRIL 30TH

LANESDALE SCHOOL

We are happy to report that our membership is growing. We are close to 120 members. Rosalie has done a good job recruiting. The latest members are:

Judy and Allen Measner, Osceola
 Art Everson, Osceola
 Sue Matthews, St. Croix Falls
 Wm Johnson, IV, Frederic
 Pastor Ron & Charlotte Stanley,
 Balsam Lake
 David & Beth Wurst, Osceola
 Emory Giles, Frederic

Memorials have been received this last month for Carol Hansen from Marge and JoAnn Hallquist.

We have received the following for the elevator fund:

Leona Cummings	\$25
Russell and Iris Holm	\$50
Westconsin Credit Union	\$25
Shiloh-Goose Lake Homemakers	\$50

The matching grant agreement for the elevator addition between the Deaver Foundation and Polk County was signed March 13, 2005 by Mr. Brager, the foundation representative, the foundation lawyer, Rosalie Kittleson for the Historical Society and Robert Blake, Polk County Chairman.

Historical Bus Tour
 St. Croix Falls Area
 Friday, June 10th

Polk County Museum

Balsam Lake, Wisconsin

Thanks to the efforts of the Polk County Historical Society, much of our county's past has been preserved for future generations. Preserving our rich heritage began when the society was formed in 1937.

Perhaps it's most important accomplishment is the operating of the Polk County Museum. The old courthouse that was built in 1899 and is on the National Register of Historical Places was converted into three floors of galleries in 1976.

If you walk through the museum, you get a sample of life around the early 1900's. The more than fifty galleries feature a fully equipped general store, blacksmith shop, barbershop, early kitchen, hardware store, bedroom and parlor, ethnic exhibits, military room and the Native American room which even houses a wigwam.

IT ALL NEEDS CLEANING!

Every weekday in May is cleaning day!

Every person is appreciated!

Coming Events

June-Author's Month

Authors will be visiting, selling and signing their books.

Special Features

June -Wedding Dresses

July - Military Uniforms

August - Quilts

You may donate wedding dresses or quilts.

J.W. Park – Ira H. Park – Marion Park Deaver

Up to fifty years ago or so “Park” and Balsam Lake were synonymous, referring to John Wesley Park, commonly known as J. W. Park. He was born in Ohio, Aug. 4, 1840. In May, 1881 he came to Balsam Lake and negotiated for the mill property. He returned to Ohio and in August brought his family here. His family consisted of his wife, Philora, two sons, Alva and Ira, and two daughters, Ollie and Ella.

So great was Mr. Park’s faith in the future of Balsam Lake that he borrowed \$4,000 to make further investments which included the saw mill, the grist mill, the Pioneer Store with post office, the water power and extensive land areas.

The land embraced all real estate south of the lake and extended from main street east almost to the town line with Apple River. He developed a large farm east of town that embraced an open field of over 100 acres. The farm and the sawmill afforded work for most of Balsam Lake’s population. Much white pine timber was cut about the lake. Some of the logs were hauled and dumped into the mill pond which laid just above the mill. Some pine logs were dumped into the lake on the ice, boomed into rafts and floated or driven down to the dam where they were sluiced thru. The writer recalls seeing this done back in the ‘80’s and ‘90’s. The dam was located where County Trunk I now crosses the outlet of the lake.

Park was the prime mover in getting the county seat moved to Balsam Lake. The county seat had been at Osceola since Polk County was organized in 1853 but the “powers-that-be” never saw fit to build a courthouse or other buildings and depended on rented property.

Mr. Park was chairman of the township of Balsam Lake eight years in all. In 1896 or 7 he headed a move to build a town hall just north of the present courthouse. The hall was a two-story building. Mr. Park, having the sawmill saw to it that the best of material went into its structure. The amount appropriated was \$2,000. During the campaign to remove the county seat, the township agreed that the hall might be used as a courthouse. The vote was held at the November election in 1898 and carried by substantial majority. The promise of a courthouse free of charge, the fact the county had no building or buildings and the argument that Balsam Lake was in the exact center of the county were influencing factors which resulted in a favorable vote.

The county board of supervisors met right after the election and voted an appropriation of \$25,000 to build a courthouse, jail and sheriff’s residence. Work was commenced at once and completed in 1899. In the meantime, circuit court session and county board meetings were held in the upper story of the hall and the lower part was petitioned off for various offices.

Park not only donated the ground for the town hall but he also donated the site for the courthouse and jail.

It seems incongruous nothing was ever done to pay homage to the memory of J. W. Park for his contributions. A small bronze plaque placed suitably in the courthouse would be a fitting tribute to his memory.

The saw mill and the grist mill have both been dismantled and about the only reminder of the Park regime is Park Drive which runs along the lakeshore for over a mile and is flanked by cabins and cottages. This drive way was not laid out until after Mr. Park's death, June 12, 1926, and was turned over to the village by members of the second generation of the Park family.

Anyway, time is fleeing and it is not long after man "passes from life to his rest in the grave" before he is forgotten by those who follow, as Dr. Clyde Park, a grandson, will testify after being told "I believe I have heard that name."ⁱ

Ira H. Park, son of J. W. Park, married Nellie L Husband in 1893.ⁱⁱ The 1910 census records that Ira and Nellie have three children, Clyde H., age 15, Marion L., age 11 and Leslie C., age 8.ⁱⁱⁱ

Marion Park Deaver was born in the Village of Balsam Lake in Northwestern Wisconsin. As a child, she preferred the outdoors, spending her time on the lake, canoeing, swimming and especially fishing with her two brothers, Clyde was the oldest; Leslie was younger than Marion. She was dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and natural resources for public health, recreation and enjoyment. Mrs. Deaver attended a business school, learning the secretarial skills, accounting, dictation and a special emphasis on handwriting that led to her career. After gaining experience in banking, she became the private secretary to Mr. H. G. Wells, Manager of the Grain Brokerage at the Peavey Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She continually expanded her skills and her value to the Peavey Co., becoming an administrative assistant in the Grain Brokerage and Futures department...

In 1942, she built a log home on Balsam Lake, then convinced both brothers to build cabins next to her, so they could be together for family vacations and holidays.

Harry Gilbert Deaver was born in Minneapolis. After completing his education, he joined the Peavey Co. and spent part of his career in Canada, where he managed the King Midas Mills and other Canadian Peavey operations. He and his first wife had two children. The daughter still lives in Canada and the son lives in Casper, Wyoming. After his wife's death, Harry returned to the corporate office in Minneapolis as Wheat Buyer at the Grain Exchange, working in the Grain Brokerage office. There he met Marion Park, and they were married in 1944...

These two families instilled in Harry and Marion the principles reflected in the Marion Park Deaver and Harry Gilbert Deaver Foundation Charitable Trust.^{iv}

ⁱ E.E. Husband, Back In The Gay Nineties, Polk County Ledger.

ⁱⁱ Polk County Marriage Book 3, 97, Register of Deed's Office, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ira H. Park household, 1920 U. S. census, Polk County, Wisconsin, sheet number 2A, dwelling 2851, family 26, HeritageQuestonline.com., Electronic Library online.

^{iv} Marion Park Deaver and Harry Gilbert Deaver Foundation, manuscript copy in Polk County Historical Society files.

**Polk County Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting
March 22, 2005, Polk County Justice Center, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.**

Directors Present: Art Young, Carl Johnson, Phyllis Gabrielson, Merle Bergren, Ralph LaDuke, Jim Gisch, Diane Dueholm, Leroy Schwan, Darrell Kittleson, President – Muriel Pfeifer and Director Rosalie Kittleson

Call to Order: President Muriel Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

Secretary's Report: President Muriel Pfeifer noted changes in the October 26, 2004 minutes, as follows: The report on the high tea was given by Muriel Pfeifer not Nicole Hanson.

President Muriel Pfeifer noted changes in the December 28, 2004 minutes, as follows Rosalie Kittleson not Patty Young will co-chair the brat sales; Muriel Pfeifers' last name is spelled Pfeifer not Pfiefer.

Treasure's Report: Read by Muriel Pfeifer

Director's Report: Rosalie Kittleson reported that Phase I of the grant writing is in progress, letters will be going out to local business soon. She gave itemized list of the companies that would be receiving the grant requests. She requested that new envelopes and stationery need to be order. She itemized the list of displays at the museum which will be in the logging room, Bee artifacts (thanks to Jim Gisch for his help); itemize list of items purchased by the curator Leana Phillipson; Items not sold at the estate sale were donated for the auction; she read an itemized list of the items donated by the Estate of Henretta Anderson. Thank you to Nancy Beck for estate items.

Requested reimbursement of \$200 for purchases, Motion by Diane Dueholm, 2nd by Carl Johnson, passed. Applications for Pierce County and New Richmond Historical Societies presented, it was agreed the New Richmond membership envelopes were a better quality. (no motion made). Rosalie said she would obtain price quotes from printers.

Newsletter report: 179 newsletters sent; 79 emailed, 8 Historical societies and 13 libraries received.

Judy Wester asked (via letter) if we should continue with the newsletter. Cost is about \$500 a year. Rosalie proposed if we should continue with the 8 mailings a year or cut down. Darrell Kittleson questioned difference in price when more were emailed. Rosalie Kittleson said the price is cut in half with emailed newsletters, she suggested to continue with 8 because it is good marketing exposure to the public. Diane Dueholm felt it was good for members who cannot attend to receive the monthly newsletter. Darrell Kittleson, Leroy Schwan, Carl Johnson and Muriel Pfeifer felt the newsletter should continue and is a good thing.

Muriel Pfeifer asked how long should members receive the newsletter if they no longer pay their dues?

Carl Johnson felt the lifetime members should receive the newsletter as long as they are alive.

Motion made by Diane Dueholm to continue the newsletter eight times a year. 2nd Leroy Schwan, all in favor, none opposed.

Correspondence: Rosalie Kittleson read a letter from Polk-Burnet Electric Cooperative whom donated \$500, part of the operation round up.

Rosalie Kittleson read a letter from the Park Deaver Foundation pronouncing matching funds.

Rosalie Kittleson told the board that the Dallas Visitors newspaper/advertiser had made a mistake and will compensate by providing the society free advertisement for the year.

Old Business:

Auction: Darrel Kittleson gave an update on the auction; he felt is moving a long, very pleased. He requested that fliers be put up after April 1, 2005. He presented the flier style. He gave an itemized list of the items being stored at the museum and other places. Darrell asked for help with moving items on the day of the auction and help with various job duties.

Jeanie Alling, from Unity asked for help from students.

Advertising for auction will be via radio and newspaper.

Rosalie Kittelson said any costs for the auction will come from the elevator fund. It is a credit that Park Deaver Foundation set up fund for use for fundraisers.

LeRoy Schwan suggested we have a disclaimer that we will not be auctioning items from the museum.

Thrivent Insurance members will have matching funds for auction. It was recommended that this be included in the advertising.

Amery Lion will donate food and proceeds to the elevator fund.

Brat Stand: Brat stand set for July 2 and August 13. Muriel asked Carl Johnson how much food would be necessary, he felt it would depend on the weather and price of the brats.

Red Hat Society: Muriel Pfeifer stated that September 15th is the set date for the wedding and prom fashion show/luncheon at Paradise Supper Club. It was noted that wedding dresses can be donated.

By Laws: Muriel Pfeifer announced that the proposed by-law changes cannot be voted on. They need to be posted for 30 days. The proposed changes will appear in the April newsletter and be voted at the May 2005 Polk County Historical Society meeting.

Article II Membership, Section 2. Classification and Dues.

Motion by Leroy Swanson, seconded by Darrell Kittelson., passed.

Article II Membership, Section 3.Subsection b. - Voting and Privileges.

Motion by Leroy Swanson, seconded by Phyllis Gabrielson, passed.

Article V. Elections

Motion made by Jim Gisch, seconded by Darrell Kittelson, passed.

Article IV Meetings

Motion made by Carl Johnson, seconded by Art Young, passed.

Article X The Polk County Historical Museum is owned by all of Polk County

Art Fund amendment

Motion by Phyllis Gabrielson, seconded by LeRoy Schwan, passed.

Exhibit Fund Allowance.

Motion by Merle Bergen, seconded by Carl Johnson, passed.

Resolution: "3. Tercentennial Fund-...Trust Fund.

Motion by Leroy Schwan, seconded by Ralph LaDuke, passed.

New Business:

Upcoming workshops: Presented by Muriel Pfeiffer in Milwaukee. Also suggested a disaster plan seminar.

Stationery/Envelopes: Rosalie Kittelson asked if we can go ahead and order or does the board want to approve. We will continue using current picture of the courthouse building.

Rosalie Kittelson suggested envelopes for donations and membership similar the New Richmond Society. She did not have a quote on price, Muriel Pfeifer requested a quote on price before the board approves.

Membership: Darrell Kittelson suggested to work on more new members and to have a stand at the Auction for new members.

Contract: By the Park Deaver Foundation read by Rosalie Kittelson prepared by the attorney of the Park Deaver Foundation pledging future grants if anything should happen to the founders of the foundation and a letter pronouncing matching funds. Approved / signed by Polk County.

Museum Maintenance: Darrell Kittelson said that the floor in the Native American Rood has ripples. Upstairs by the Ethnic display there is a hump in the floor. The Law Library floor by the door is rippled making it difficult to open the door.

Darrell Kittelson suggested contacting Debbie Peterson at Polk County / Polk County Board to take care of it. He suggested to see what the county says before we pursue anything; it may have been caused by the removal insulation in the attic. No water in the basement, yet, per Jim Gisch and Darrell Kittelson. Windows in the basement have rotting sills and jams Darrell Kittelson suggested that repairs would need to be done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 by Muriel Pfeifer, 2nd by LeRoy Schwan

Bylaw Changes to be Voted on at May 24 General Meeting

Bylaw Proposed Amendments for 2005

The light print is the extraction of the present bylaws, the bold print is the proposed bylaw.

Article II Membership

Section 2. Classification and Dues

a. Memberships shall be of 5 categories as follows:

Individual Family Seniors Student Lifetime membership

1. Resolution amended to read:

a. Membership shall be of three (3) categories as follows:

Individual Student Lifetime

Section 3. Voting and Privileges

b. Each parent or guardian included in the family membership shall be entitled to the same voting rights and privileges as pertain to an individual membership.

2. Resolution amended: Drop this from the bylaws because of no family memberships.

Article V. Elections

Section 1. Directors

a. Directors shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting of the organization. Directors shall be elected for a term of three years.

b. Vacancies among the directors occurring before the expiration of term shall be filled by election of the Board of Directors and those so elected shall complete the term of the director at large they replace.

3. Resolution to be added:

c. No Director shall be eligible to serve more that two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. In filling vacancies for unexpired terms, a director who has served more that half of a term is considered to have a full term in that office.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of the Board of Directors.

b. Five (5) of the Board of Directors present and eligible to vote shall constitute quorum at any regular or special meeting.

4. Resolution amended to read:

b. Two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors present and eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the board.

Article X The Polk County Historical Museum is owned by all of Polk County. The following funds are set up as special trust funds of the Polk County Historical Society:

2. Art Fund – These funds can be used to acquire exhibit items or artifacts to enhance the museum.

5. Resolution amended to read:

2. Exhibit Fund – These funds can be used to acquire exhibit items or artifacts to enhance the museum.

6. Resolution to add:

The Exhibit Fund allowance for purchases is \$1,000 per year. Curator and part-time curator authorized to spend up to \$200 without the Board of Directors approval.

3. Tricentennial Fund – these funds can be used with accumulated interest for the historical celebration of 300 years in 2076 AD. This has been incorporated in the trust fund.

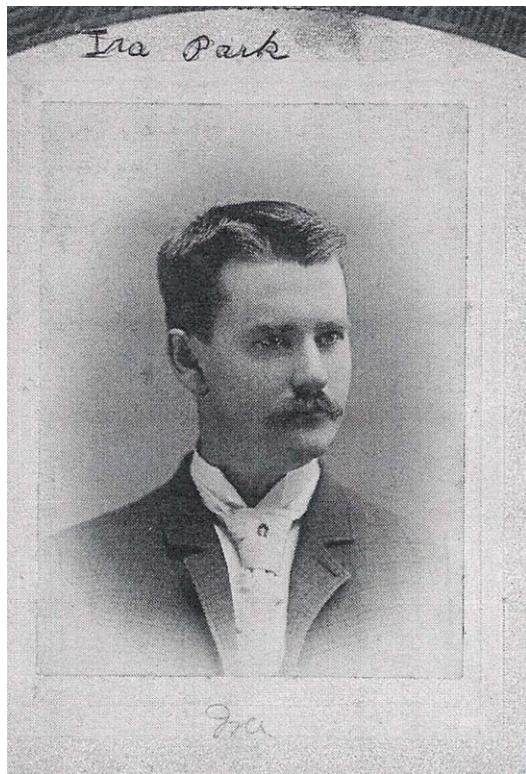
7. Resolution: “3. Tricentennial Fund-...trust fund.” To be eliminated.

These seven bylaw changes will be voted on separately at the general meeting by all members of the Polk County Historical Society on May 24, 2005.



I believe that Marion Park is the sixth person from the left.

8.



The following is extracted from the HISTORY OF THE SAINT CROIX VALLEY, Vol. II, page 1004, Editor, Augustus B. Easton, Published by H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., Chicago

J. W. Park, for nearly a quarter of a century postmaster at Balsam Lake village, was born in Crawford County, Ohio. August 4, 1840. He went to school and farmed until the Civil war, when, in 1864, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Army of the Potomac. He subsequently spent three years working for himself on a farm, and then followed the sawmill business for thirteen years in Williams County, Ohio. In 1881 he came to Balsam Lake and purchased a saw and flour mill, which he still owns and operates. In 1886 he was appointed postmaster, and about that time he opened a mercantile establishment.

October 3, 1895, the store burned down, and he erected his present large store, which commands a wide trade, and carries a fine lot of goods. Mr. Park was married in 1862 to Philo Hammond, a native of Ohio. By this union there are four children: Alva D. is at Park Falls. For twenty years he managed his father's four mill, but now is in the lumber business. Ira H. is in the employ of his father. Olive married W. C. Park, a lumberman and farmer. She now keeps house for her father. Euella married R. Elvin. Mrs. Park died February 4, 1901. Our subject is republican in politics, having cast his vote for Lincoln, He cast his vote in Chatfield, Crawford County, Ohio, at a time when there were but three Republicans in the town, his being the only Republican vote that was cast. For some twenty years he has been a member of the county board, and is present supervisor of Balsam Lake.

ⁱ E.E. Husband, Back In The Gay Nineties, Polk County Ledger.

ⁱⁱ Polk County Marriage Book 3, 97, Register of Deed's Office, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ira H. Park household, 1920 U. S. census, Polk County, Wisconsin, sheet number 2A, dwelling 2851, family 26, HeritageQuestonline.com., Electronic Library online.

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