



The Big Creek Historical Society

# The Pony Express

Volume 1 Issue 13 Fall 2008

## ‘Stairway to Yesteryear’ By Tom Cox



The light at the end of the tunnel is rapidly approaching and it is not another train. The work that has been completed looks very good. We are all going to be very proud of what our group has accomplished. The exterior is complete with the exception of the exterior staircase. The interior is really taking shape. It is quite a contrast

from the first time my good friend Jim Huennekens and I first gained access to the second floor. The many holes in the floor, the walls, the woodwork and wainscot have all been repaired. The tin ceiling has been installed. The color is quite close to what was once installed. A burgundy colored stage curtain has been ordered. The heating/cooling and electrical work is complete. The main items that remain are: building the exterior staircase, installing light fixtures, sanding the floor, staining the woodwork and painting the walls. Shelving has been installed in the office area where we will keep all of the books we have collected. We will also have a computer installed that will have access to the internet to assist people in research. There is a great deal of work ahead of us to organize all of the museum items that we have had boxed since the start of the restoration project. The challenge will be finding an appropriate place to store all of the items.

### Inside this issue:

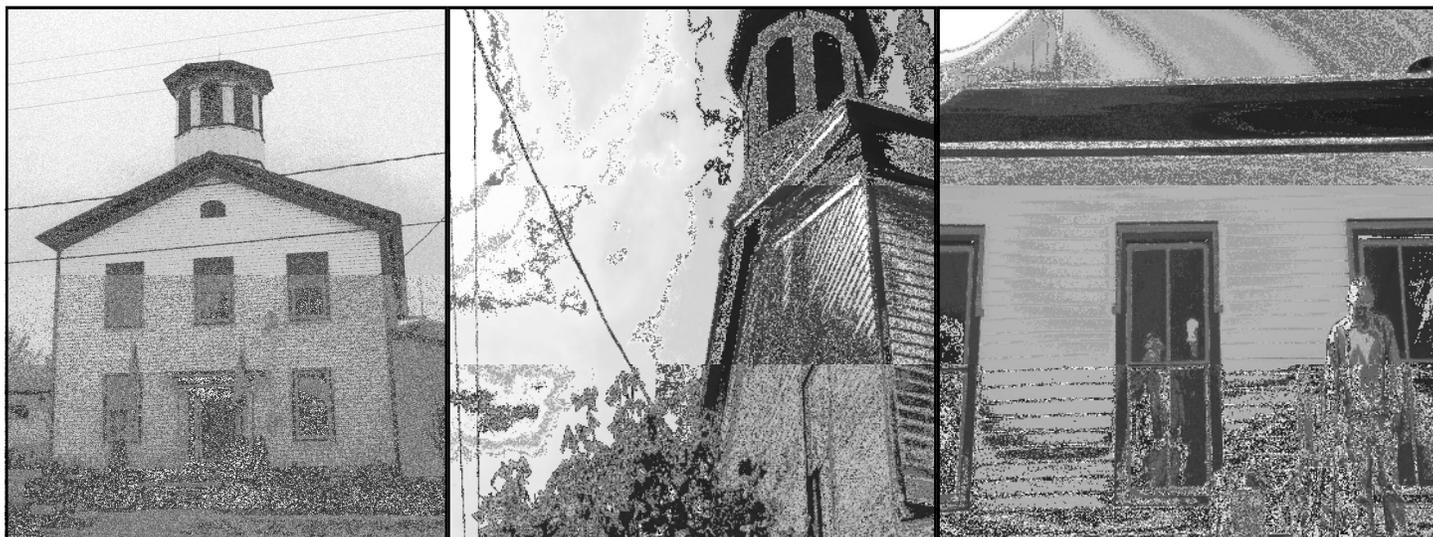
From the President	2
Calendar of Events	2
Memories	3
Goals for 2009	3
2009 Officers	3
Museum Activities	4



**“The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don’t want, drink what you don’t like, and do what you’d rather not”**

**- Mark Twain**

### Restoration Pictures (continued on page 4)





*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.....

With our restoration project beginning to wind down, it is time to look to the future. Our challenge is to determine what role our museum can play, not only in Polk City, but northern Polk County. The restored Big Creek School House provides us with a very unique opportunity. We need to take advantage of that opportunity. It is my desire that we identify some individuals who will be willing to create a plan for the future of the museum. We value input from all of our members. Perhaps you have visited a museum and saw something that was particularly attractive to you. We need your ideas. To ensure the long term viability of the museum we need to consider establishing a foundation to sustain the museum. The Polk City Community Foundation may be able to provide a vehicle for us.

## Big Creek Historical Society Items

### Polk City Historical Structures Throws



Available for \$50  
Plus \$7.00 Shipping Fee

**A Great Gift!**

### Books

#### Early Days of Polk City

#### Brave Men Shouldered Their Muskets

By R. Currie—\$8 each

#### American Patriotism

By Leonard Brown.  
Reprinted by R. Currie

\$37.95

#### Murder!

By R. Currie - \$14

\$3 shipping for all books

#### Big Creek Historical

#### Cardigans

\$20

## Calendar of Events

### January 2009

Care Center Bingo - 12th  
Meeting—19th 1:30 PM  
Museum By Appointment

### BCHS Board Meeting

Jan 15 2009 10:00 AM

### February 2009

Care Center Bingo—9th  
Meeting—16th 1:30 PM  
Museum By Appointment

### March 2009

Care Center Bingo - 9th  
Meeting—16th 1:30 PM  
Museum By Appointment

### April 2009

Care Center Bingo 13th  
Meeting—20th 6:30 PM  
Museum By Appointment

### May 2009

Care Center Bingo—11th  
Meeting— 18th 6:30 PM  
Museum TBA

# Memories

Reprinted from: Sept. 22, 1977 Tri-County Times. Written by

P.D. Sargent

Our community was fortunate to have a man named Mr. Chader who could lay a rock wall or foundation that was a thing of beauty. To build a foundation for a large house or barn Chader would put a large stone at each corner three or four feet in diameter, and place others about eight feet apart and fill in between with smaller stones. My grandfather had a 60-foot well five feet across walled by Chader with small rocks.

Chader put the big stones left in the fields to good use. Very few houses built in the 1800's had inside cellar stairways so Chader would split large stones into flat steps. He would drill a row of holes in a straight line in the stone, put a charge in one or more of the holes, and the stone would split straight. I took out our stone steps in 1938. They had been in use for over 50 years. \*\*\*

A great story about the craftsmanship in the 19th and early 20th Century.

If you have a story to share, please submit for the newsletter.



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

515-965-3828

[www.polkcithistory.org](http://www.polkcithistory.org)

**BCHS Officers:**

Pres. Tom Cox

Vice Pres. Lela Austin

Treas. Paul Grodt

Sec. Rosemary Hutton-Taylor

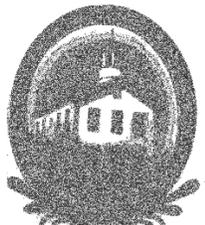
Photography— Paul Grodt

**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

**Officers Elected for 2009 BCBS Web Site**

In our October meeting we voted on a slate of officers for 2009. The officers remained the same with one exception. Rosemary Hutton-Taylor became the Secretary of the Big Creek Historical Society.

In order to keep our web site more current Rich Taylor is volunteering his time to help us out. Our plan is to begin a regular updating schedule. Check out the site and give us your feedback. Thanks

**[www.polkcithistory.org](http://www.polkcithistory.org)**



Hope that Santa will be Generous And You Have A Wonderful New Year!

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

## Address Service Requested

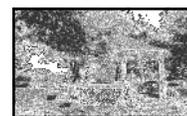


## Museum Activities

By Tom Cox

The museum committee continues to be quite busy preparing for our museum reopening in 2009. A very productive meeting was held with Jerome Thompson, Curator—State Historical Society of Iowa. Museum operation and cataloging and managing of museum items were the topics. Mr. Thompson provided some very much appreciated guidance. Planning for the reopening of the museum will begin in full force after the holidays. The committee is working on options to properly recognizing the people who made the 'Stairway to Yesteryear' campaign successful, the donors. The

committee will make recommendations to our group for approval. Displays will need to be defined and developed for our reception for our donors and the grand opening.



## Beebe Plaque for Town Square

Rosemary Taylor and Diane Conway are exploring the options for placing a plaque in the town square recognizing the city founders—The George Beebe Family. Rose and Diane are working with the city's Park & Recreation Board.

