

BIG CREEK SCHOOLHOUSE

Report Card

Winter 2026 vol one

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

A new Founders' Day program.

Dedication of the 20-Mile House Historic Marker

Cemetery Walk

History of Music

History of Saylorville Lake

Corn and Krushchev

Walk TO the Cemetery

And of course:

Painting the Schoolhouse

2026 at the Big Creek Historical Society

Painting the beautiful old Big Creek Schoolhouse that houses the Big Creek Historical Society and Museum was certainly the biggest event of last year. It was a cooperative effort involving the City of Polk City, grants from Bravo Greater Des Moines and the Polk City Foundation, and your generous gifts. Turns out it was just the beginning.

In January Polk City Public Works crews separated the "North Lean To" from the original schoolhouse building and hauled it all away! There were some interesting discoveries behind that lean to, that have us scratching our heads and asking questions about the second floor stage



The old Big Creek Schoolhouse is looking pretty trim now that the North lean to has been removed. PC Public works did an amazing job of cutting the lean-to loose without damaging the Schoolhouse.

You can see the exact line in the siding where the 1915 addition attaches to the original building. And since the siding is off at the bottom you can see the original corner post of the Schoolhouse. It's a big one!

If you have memories, handed down stories, or, Bless You, photos related to the stage, please contact us at info@polkcityhistory.org

We are always finding things that lead us down some kind of interesting bunny trail, but THIS find has us wanting to uncover EVERYTHING about the stage and community use of the second floor of the building. As restoration of the now exposed north wall of the schoolhouse proceeds, keep watching and keep us in mind for stories and photos.



Easy to donate through this QR Code.

Or Contact Us

Big Creek Historical Society

116 S Third St
Polk City, Iowa, 50226

info@polkcityhistory.org
www.polkcityhistory.org

Did I say we need money? We do. But, you know, what we really need are volunteers. If you can help out with scrapbooking, mailing, cleaning, hosting..... we can use your skills.

Do you want the museum to be open more often? Please volunteer.



YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT WILL PROVIDE THE DOLLARS WE NEED FOR UPDATES WITHIN THE MUSEUM, OPERATION EXPENSES AND SOME GREAT PROGRAMS

Spring starts with Baseball.

April 14, 2026 @ 6:30 P M
How Iowa Met Baseball; the Myths, the History the Players
presented by John Liepa, DMACC educator of the year in 2004.

He will be bringing a great program AND his extensive collection of baseball cards and memorabilia representing Iowa’s 225 Major Leaguers and seven Hall of Famers. He assures me Iowa’s baseball story is much bigger than Bob Feller. This is a program from the Humanities Iowa speakers bureau.

Then on to our neighbor, Camp Dodge.

May 12: 6:00 P M
Home Away from Home presented by Camp Dodge Museum
Curator Mike Vogt.

Camp Dodge was one of 16 training camps for WWI draftees. Period images, maps, letters will detail the first time many of these young men had left home. This is a program from the Humanities Iowa speakers bureau.

What does that sign with the soldier in red mean? A Dragoon?

June 4: 6:00 PM
The Dragoon Trail as Hiked by Kevin Mason, Assistant Professor of History at UNI.

The story begins with the 1835 expedition of the First U. S. Dragoons. With archival records, maps, indigenous histories and ecological data, Mason will explore how Iowa’s prairies and wetlands gave way to farms towns and transportation networks.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

- Farmers Markets
- Fall Fest
- Light Up Polk City