

PIATT COUNTY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

1 Heritage Lane Monticello, IL 61856
Winter 2014



No Longer a Dream

It's real; it's not a dream. The Piatt County Museum building has been erected on the prairie adjacent to the Monticello Railway Museum just outside Monticello. Lyle Prosser Construction Company of Lakewood, IL began building in early October and has the structure completely enclosed, roofed and sided.

Robin Shively, Board Member, stated, "The Museum Board is extremely happy that the construction of Phase One is finally complete after months of delay, however, the museum is quite a ways from being open. The next phase of construction will be the building connecting the existing Educational Center to the barn. That building will house the mechanical room, restrooms and office. The interiors of both buildings will have to be finished, an elevator installed, and the parking lot completed before any work with the artifacts can begin."

The barn is a magnificent structure, very close to the size and design of the University of Illinois barn that was purchased by the museum in 2006 with intentions of erecting it on the museum property as a new home for the historic artifacts now in storage. Unfortunately, the U of I beef barn was not accurately dismantled, thus could not be reassembled. To view the new museum structure drive east of the Best Western Motel towards the Monticello Railway Museum, you can't miss it!



Lyle Prosser and the Team of Lyle Prosser Construction Company

October 8, 2014



October 25, 2014



October 29, 2014



October 29, 2014

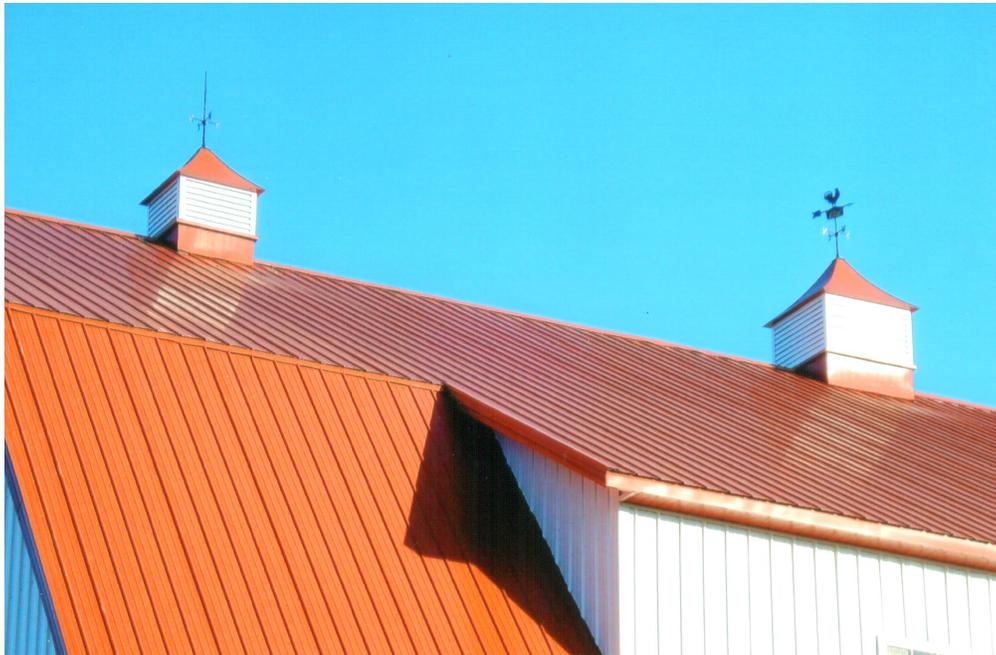


November 5, 2014



President's Message

The Board of Trustees wishes the members, supporters and friends of the Piatt County Museum a Happy New Year. We want to thank you for your ongoing support of your museum. In case you have not had an opportunity to drive out past our museum property location, you really do need to go and take a look at what we have done so far. Our education center is up as well as our big barn with the bright red roof that all can see from Interstate 72 as you go east from Monticello. However, we are just beginning as we need to finish the inside of our buildings in order to put our items back out on display for people to see and study. Now is the time for all of us to pitch in and do what we can to get these projects across the finish line. We ask for your continued support to get this job done and offer all the Piatt County Museum of our dreams. Once again, thank you for support, past, present and future. Todd Henricks, President



Cupola, Cupola, Cupola

What would a barn be without a cupola? The new museum barn has not one, not two, but three cupolas on its very high roof. A working cupola provides the ventilation that circulates the air, which dries the hay stored in the hayloft of a barn. Cupolas are traditionally made of wood, with ventilation slats on each side. The roof of a cupola is normally shingled and topped with a weather vane. A working weather vane turns freely on a fixed rod and is designed to point into the wind. For that reason the letters “N”, “S”, “E”, and “W” are attached. Weather vanes come in all shapes, with the rooster being the most popular, the shape selected for the museum. The museum cupolas are there only to enhance the appearance of the barn.

A Personal Note from Retired President Robin Shively

“In every not-for-profit organization it is good to have a turn over of board trustees. Sometimes boards can become stagnant because they continue to stay in the same ‘mode’ or ‘direction’ that their leadership has set them on. New people with fresh ideas and enthusiasm is always good for not-for-profits. I believe the time as come for this board to have new leadership. I see some very good leaders sitting at the table every month. The museum is in very capable hands and will continue to move forward in a positive way. It has been an honor to be in the memberships servitude. In fact, it has been a joyous time in my life serving along side such fine people. Thank you for allowing me to do so.”

(Mr. Shively plans to remain an involved member of the Board of Trustees)

Fundraising

From a distance the museum barn looks complete, however a closer look will reveal it is far from the goal of “turn key”. Although the museum continues to receive donations from museum supporters, there is still a substantial need for financial assistance to bring this project to fruition.

Economically, the completion of the museum will be a benefit not only to the city of Monticello, but to Piatt County and the surrounding area as well. The museum is a treasure chest overflowing with historical artifacts that will tell the history of this legendary area to visitors of all ages. Please consider making a donation that will make the dream of opening this educational center a reality. Thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact Emily @ (217-762-2128)

The Piatt County Museum is a private, not-for-profit 501 © (3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership

Museum membership dues for the upcoming year are payable on January 1, 2015. The money received for membership is placed in the General Operations Fund to cover expenses that occur in the process of running the museum. The General Operations Fund is separate from the Building Fund.



Annual Membership Renewal for the year 2015

General

- Individual \$25.00
- Family \$35.00
- Small business \$75.00

Heritage Society

- Piatt Council \$2,500
- Sangamon Circle \$1,000
- Lincoln Fellow \$ 500

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Piatt County Museum, #1 Heritage Lane, Monticello, IL 61856

My Donation: _____

**Piatt County Museum
1 Heritage Lane
Monticello, IL 61856**

Watch for Summer Events