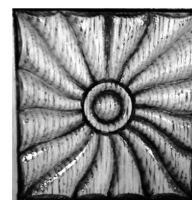


# MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Murray County  
Historical Society

October 2015

If you missed the Murray County Historical Society's 2015 Annual Meeting this year, held at The City Limits Bar and Grill in Slayton on October 11th, then you missed the opportunity to step back in time to the Civil War era. Our presenters for this year's event, Richard and Sharon Krom from Rochester, presented "Cyclone in Calico: Mary Ann Bickerdyke." You may have heard of Clara Barton but few have heard Mary Ann's story. She was a nurse who was so highly regarded during the Civil War that General Grant appointed her as Director of Nursing for the Union armies. This amazing woman's story has been all but lost to history. The Kroms presented in full Civil War garb and were a wealth of knowledge on the history of the war of southern secession. Richard Krom's great grandfather, Edward Bassett fought with the Minnesota 1st and left a cache of over 200 letters about his experience. From those letters Richard and Sharon wrote the book "Minnesota First: Second to None." The Museum staff had a display of Civil War and Logan Grand Army of the Republic Post items on display for the afternoon. The results of the Annual Meeting and the director's report, can be found on pages 2 and 3.



## In This Issue

- Annual Meeting
- New Lecture Series Schedule
- New in the Collections
- Fall Events
- What we're up to
- Mystery Photos

Richard and Sharon Krom of Rochester. Speakers for the 2015 Annual Meeting

# Director's Report for Murray County Historical Society - 2015

## Visitors:

Signed the book: 663 (not counting Fair visitors)

States: 30

Countries: 4- Italy, France, Sweden, and Canada.

Total visitors, so far in 2015-including those at Programs, Outreach, Events, and Fair-2644

**Researchers:** 68 including drop-ins, phone, and e-mail requests.

Every year dozens of researchers from around the country either stop in or contact us for information on their ancestors. Kelly Muldoon has been helping with research orders on a volunteer basis this year.

## **Outreach Programming**-Total attendees:410

- ◆ ECFE children's event-Country School booth, children made a sewing card.
- ◆ Farm and Home Show- Baseball mini-exhibit-garnered lots of attention
- ◆ MCC High School classes- Murray County in the Great War
- ◆ Brown County Historical Society Annual Meeting-Metis Families during US Dakota War of 1862
- ◆ Balaton Historical Society Annual Meeting-Museum Management 101
- ◆ United Methodist Women- "Racism and American Indians" Slayton and Lake Wilson
- ◆ Brown County Historical Bus Tour- -"Shetek Trail from Sioux Falls to Dutch Charley's Home" Springfield
- ◆ Elderhostel-Museum and End o Line tours-Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp
- ◆ Society for the Study of Local and Regional History- "Museums as Place Makers" Marshall, MN

## **Other outreach:**

- ◆ Janet participated in a statewide History writing class through a Legacy grant project.
- ◆ Janet was nominated to become a board member of the statewide organization Minnesota Association of Local History Museums.
- ◆ Created an off-site exhibit for the Slayton Library anniversary year.

## **In- house Programming--Museum and Dinehart House**

- ◆ Parade of Trees
- ◆ Christmas villages at Dinehart House
- ◆ Shalom Hills Farm- Rural Seminary Student Tour
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Party
- ◆ Murray County Staff Appreciation Party
- ◆ Country School Program-5 sessions
- ◆ Victorian Pop-up Valentine card making-2 sessions
- ◆ Dinehart Holt House Tour for the MCC High School interior decorating class
- ◆ Dinehart Lecture Series-6 lectures throughout the winter
- ◆ Country School- Series of 5 different lessons.
- ◆ MCC High School Social Science classes in-museum tour.
- ◆ Edgerton elem. Pioneer day
- ◆ Shetek/Currie Area Extension Club tour
- ◆ Explore Minnesota Tourism representatives bus tour
- ◆ Dinehart Front Porch Music Series-4 concerts
- ◆ Quilt show at Dinehart House for Fair
- ◆ MC Baseball Exhibit- Members and Donors Open House
- ◆ MC Fair Baseball presentations-2 presenters
- ◆ Class of 1955- Memory Tour
- ◆ Daycare tours
- ◆ MCC second grade Pioneer Day

## **Grants**

*In progress:*

\$9660.00 for Baseball Oral History Project

Interview 10-12 past and present baseball players, boosters, managers from different teams and eras. Transcribe the conversations to be kept in our archive and send to Minnesota Historical Society Archive.

# Director's Report for Murray County Historical Society - 2015 (continued....)

## Grants Completed and closed:

- ◆ \$6,691.00- Collections Assessment Grant: Elisa Redman from Midwest Conservation was here on March 26-27th for on site work. Staff completed an 18 page survey prior to her arrival. Final product complete and will be put on the website and made available in hard copy in museum.
- ◆ \$1410.00-SMAHC grant for Front Porch Concert Series.
- ◆ \$9,660.00- Photo Inventory grant completed: 1471 photographs cataloged and re-housed.

## Grants Applied for:

- ◆ \$500.00-Nobles Co-op Round-Up Grant: Signage for Sierk building,
- ◆ \$30,000-Legacy grant-Mid-size- Historic Structure Report grant for the Dinehart Holt House
- ◆ \$9800.00- Legacy-small-Textile inventory and re-housing grant

## Building Projects:

An appropriate procedure has been worked out with the county by which the Historical Society can provide funding for an archive vault project within the museum. Preferable scenario for county: Historical Society donates the money to county and the project goes through official bid process. Donations for this project: Mary and Marty Krogman have donated \$5000.00 to go toward a research archive.

In other projects this year we have:

- ◆ New carpet and paint in Staff office.
- ◆ Staff area for Josh Jordon created between bathroom and entry door to East Wing.
- ◆ Larger research area created by removing a temporary wall on west side of gallery. All self-service research materials available for researchers now in one place.
- ◆ New exterior siding on west side of Museum building.(2015 County budget)
- ◆ New emergency ramp that is ADA accessible built on west side of museum.(2015 County budget)
- ◆ Ice guards placed on Sierk building to reduce possibility of ice damage to cars and museum.(2015 County budget)
- ◆ Temporary offsite storage provided by the county.
- ◆ Brian Harmsen constructed new rain gutters and downspouts with heating that mitigated the ice build-up problem along back porch of Dinehart House. MUCH APPRECIATED!
- ◆ Upcoming Soon-Sample LED lighting (1 light) to see how it works in the gallery.
- ◆ Upcoming Soon-new interior wall to be finished on front of building-Trim around window and sheet rock on wall.(2015 County budget)

## Collections Care and Management:

The collection is the heart of any museum and must receive priority in time and effort. This process is, for the most part, an invisible one that patrons and members rarely see until something is placed on exhibit. It is also a process that is extremely labor intensive.

## On-going Collections Inventory and movement of items.

When items are taken off of display or moved to a different place they must be entered into the Past Perfect Software so they can be re-located as needed. If any item is not in the system then they must be added and given a number if necessary. Items often have to be found in previous inventories or in the files of accession documents. It may take up to a half hour or more for each item. This summer Gaylene and Carmen Olsem, with Rachel Dreesen's help, inventoried and moved over 200 items to move the WWI display out and make room for the baseball exhibit and new research area. They also counted and sorted over 995 clothing items in preparation for Textile Inventory grant.

## Collections Care:

The MC Historical Society has provided funds for archival quality storage for photographs, documents, small material items, and newspapers. Joshua documented and re-housed 1741 Photographs in new archival quality sleeves and boxes. Gaylene and volunteers sewed archival quality padded hangers and rehung 98 Military Uniforms to better preserve them. Gaylene created a storage process for hats where they are protected from UV, flattening under their own weight, and shattering due to fiber loss. Gaylene wrapped and re boxed military items, veteran's ribbons, and badges to reduce UV and environmental disintegration.

## Volunteers:

1200 hours

We could not operate without the generous help of volunteers. This year A.C.E. volunteers have logged over 600 hours and non-ACE volunteers approximately 600 more, the equivalent of a part time staff person. Board members alone donate over 200 hours each year to the administration of the historical society in board meetings, and committee meetings.



# Dinehart Lunchbox Lecture Series

For more information contact Janet Timmerman at 836-6533

[jtimmerman@co.murray.mn.us](mailto:jtimmerman@co.murray.mn.us)

Join us for this outstanding series of lectures for 2015-2016. They will be held on the first Thursday of the month, lectures begin at 12 noon at the Dinehart Holt House. The cost is \$3.00. Murray County Historical Society members are free. Coffee and tea are provided.

**November 5, 2015**

**Murray County's Experience in the 1940 Armistice Day Blizzard featuring Janet Timmerman**

*It has been 75 years since the great Storm of the Century that took 56 lives in Minnesota and many more throughout the Midwest. Murray County lost several citizens and hundreds of livestock during this freak storm.*

**December 3, 2015**

**The Great Depression featuring Lloyd Peterson, SMSU, Marshall**

*There are few alive today that remember the devastating effects and the hard times the Great Depression wrought on America. Dr. Peterson will discuss the causes and eventual effects of the Depression.*

**January 7, 2016**

**Exploring Your Roots: Genealogy 101 featuring Meredith Vasalaar, Adrian**

*Have you ever wanted to know more about your ancestors and where you came from? Come and explore the world of genealogy and get started finding your roots.*

**February 4, 2016**

**1860's Glass Plate Photography featuring Dave Rambow, Pipestone**

*In this digital world, it is hard to imagine the work and talent it took to get a photograph from a glass plate. Photographer and Living History re-enactor, David Rambow will demonstrate how a glass plate camera works and the art of taking photos with one.*

**March 3, 2016**

**Southwestern Minnesota Women in WWI featuring Anita Talsma-Gaul**

*There were many women that picked up the slack when the men went off to war. From the Woodstock Women's Home Guard to Red cross nurses, women had a huge part in America's success in WWI. Dr. Talsma-Gaul presents in her animated style which is always educational and entertaining.*

**April 7, 2016**

**The Calamity at Lake Shetek— Curt Dahlin, Maple Grove, MN**

*The human loss during the 1862 US Dakota War was immense on both sides. Mr. Dahlin has done in-depth research into the killings at Lake Shetek and Slaughter Slough. He will present on his publication of the same name.*

## Other Upcoming Activities for Fall and Winter

**Sunday, Nov. 29th from 1pm - 5pm**

**Open House Parade of Trees and Treasured Vintage Toy Display**

Remains on display Nov. 29 through December 30 during regular Museum hours or by appointment.

**Tuesday Dec. 1st from 9am - 12pm**

**Volunteer Appreciation with Music and Merriment at the Dinehart Holt House**

## What We're Up To....

Boy, summer went by faster than a Ray Metz grounder to right field! OK, so baseball is still in our heads. The Home Town Nine exhibit opened to an appreciative crowd the week of the fair. Our speakers, Peter Gorton and Mike Springman, came from Minneapolis and Virginia, respectively, to talk baseball. We're thankful for their willingness to come and speak to us.

Josh Jordan is starting his oral history interviews with baseball players from the county. We look forward to sharing those stories with everyone once that project is complete.

Throughout the summer all of our other work continued. Gaylene and summer museum assistant, Carmen Olsem, cataloged over 200 items from the collection so it could be moved for the baseball exhibit. The collections committee accepted 238 items into the collection which Gaye and Carmen then entered into Past Perfect, numbered, and housed. Many items became part of the document archives.

The Front Porch Music Series provided four nights of great entertainment and food for crowds that ranged around 100 each evening. The only night we had to move indoors was for Dick and Ian Kimmel's concert of kickin' Bluegrass Music.

Our hope was the music series would bring more people to appreciate the Dinehart House as a public asset. When Gaylene produced the Quilt Show at the Dinehart House for the Fair, visitation doubled over last year. We'd like to believe that part of the increase was from people's exposure to the Front Porch Series.

Research requests have been coming in for families such as Metcalf, Kayser, and Amundson, Kremer, and Aldrich who are finding information on their ancestors. Thanks to Kelly Muldoon for her help with research.

Elvera Nelson has been volunteering each week this summer. She has been organizing scrapbooks and adding newspaper articles to them, making new resources available to researchers. Earl Halvorson spent many hours in the research area flagging baseball articles for the exhibit research. Margaret Kluis has steadily been adding to our obituary files over the summer.

Early fall found us working on more grants, collections inventories, planning the Dinehart Lecture series for the fall and winter season, and creating a new Dinehart exhibit for the foyer exhibit case at the house.



*Stop by to enjoy the baseball exhibit at the museum!*



## MYSTERY PHOTO SOLVED

Thanks to everyone who helped us identify these three men. Craig Johnson replied via e-mail:

*"Not sure if anyone has contacted you regarding mystery photo 2015.001.0849 but that was taken at the Senior Center in Dovray during a meeting to discuss the future of the Dovray post office. Several representatives from the USPS were present to discuss the procedure for closing the office but after seeing and hearing from many of the local residence it was decided to keep the office open and in operation. In this case, democracy and the voice of the people prevailed. My best guess on the date would be 1979. There were about 20-25 people in attendance which filled the room however, in the photo and seated on the right is Cal Hager. On the left is Junior (Stanley) Severson, and standing is yours truly."*

Best Regards and thanks for the memories. Craig Johnson



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## HELP SOLVE A NEW MYSTERY

### Photo 2015.003.021

In 1940 Ben Wagner and Leo McDonald made a bet on their respective hometown baseball teams. The winner would get a free wheelbarrow ride from the loser's town to the winner's. Ben Wagner won the bet so we assume it is him in the wheelbarrow. Can anyone identify Leo and the third man in the photo?



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## NEW IN THE COLLECTION:

During the County Fair, Roger Huyink took time to admire the umpire's uniform donated to the museum collection by his son, Charles Huyink.

Both father and son umpired many local games through the years. In 1976 Charles attended the Al Somers Umpire School with hopes of becoming a major league umpire.

The umpire's uniform is complete with the mask and pads and even the home plate whisk broom in a back pocket.

To see the uniform and many other baseball artifacts stop in at the museum. This exhibit will be up through the summer of 2016.



## HOLIDAY PARADE OF TREES

Decorators are needed for the 2015 Parade of Trees. The Museum has approximately 30 trees available to decorate. Trees can be decorated starting Sat. November 7 through Nov. 21. This is a fundraising event for the Historical Society and each tree can be voted on by placing money in a voting jar. The decorator of the winning tree keeps its "votes" and the remaining "votes" help the Society provide programs, events, and care for the collections throughout the upcoming year.

Voting begins at the Open House November 29. People can vote for their favorite tree through December 30. Competition can be fierce so vote often!



### Accompanying this year's Parade of Trees! A Treasured Vintage Toy Display

Bring in your treasured vintage toy for the display, along with the story of receiving it, to the museum by November 21st. Toys and trees go on display at the

#### OPEN HOUSE

Sunday Nov. 29 from 1-5

and will remain on display until Dec. 30th

Room is limited so call ahead to make sure we have a spot for your toy.

Call: 507-836-6533 or e-mail: [museum@co.murray.mn.us](mailto:museum@co.murray.mn.us)



### Holidays are a great time to rent the Dinehart Holt House!

This Holiday season consider renting the elegantly decorated Dinehart Holt House for family gatherings, special events, or just a nice place for your organization to have a meeting.

To encourage more use by non-profit organizations, the house is now open for non-profits to rent on a donation basis. Call us at 507-836-6533 or [museum@co.murray.mn.us](mailto:museum@co.murray.mn.us)

***Please fill out and return to: MCHS PO Box 61, Slayton, MN 56172***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in serving on the **MCHS Board of Directors**  
(Attend monthly meetings, help plan special events, staff special events, serve as committee chairs, volunteer at the museum buildings when needed)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in serving on one of the following committees, as part of the Murray County Historical Society (check all that apply). Most committees meet quarterly.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Collections Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Building Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program (Special Event) Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nomination Committee



\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot serve on a board or committee, but am willing to volunteer at events or at the museum.

**Hours:**

**T-F 10-5 and S 10-2PM**

**Contact us:**

507-836-6533

[museum@co.murray.mn.us](mailto:museum@co.murray.mn.us)

[murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org)

Find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/murraycountyhistoricalsociety) too!

**MCHS Board Members:**

Brian Harmsen

Linda Wing

Brad Bergerson

Christy Riley

Dorothy Bloemendaal

Gary Kass

Rachel Dreeson

Margaret Kluis

Dennis Miller

County Commissioner representative: James Jens

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