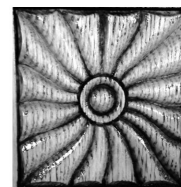


MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Murray County
Historical Society

Fall 2016

Please Join Us!! Bring a friend!

Murray County Historical Society

Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 9th

2 PM

City Limits Bar and Grill

featuring Dr. Joseph Amato,

Professor Emeritus SMSU

Presenting

"The History of Everyday Life"



In exploring and knowing our grandparents, peasants, immigrants, and industrial workers, writer Joseph Amato, teaches that we come to fathom and represent ourselves. Amato is the author of twenty five books. Among his favorite topics have been small towns, rural culture and ethnicity, regional demographics, and Midwestern farm, village and rural life.



In This Issue

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- Holidays are coming!
- Help for the local cemeteries.

MCHS Bulletin Board

We want to thank Karen Torbert who was inadvertently left from our volunteer list in the last newsletter. We also want to apologize to Keith and Betty Wilcoxon who spell their name with an 'o' and Gary Kass who spells his with a 'K'. Spelling, not my strong suit!
- 'J'

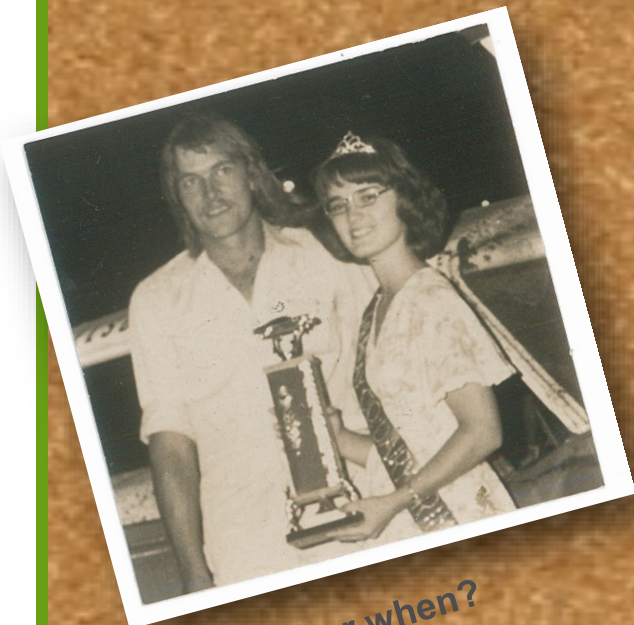
Welcome to the newest Member:
Caiden Dreesen
son of Board Member Rachel Dreesen and her husband Brandon!



Big Thanks go to everyone who helped out during the Murray County Fair! In no particular order but of great importance are:

Dennis Miller
Kathy Miller
Colleen Miller
Gerald Magnus
James Jens
Dottie Muecke
Penny Boock
Bill Karssen
Pat Erickson
Linda Wing
Anita & Sophie Gaul
Lucas Hampton
Audrey and Bob Wornson
Linda Johnson
Mary Molitor
Ray Priebe
Romane Dold
Ruth and Bob Koehler
Betty Dahlhoff
Jim Surprenant
Case Voss
Betty Brake
Mark and Ian Timmerman
Margaret Kluis
Joan York
Gary Kass
Mona Westra

Thea Schneider Elyse Polzine Cheyenne



Remember when?
Guess Who.....

Be sure to visit the 70's Exhibit!!!

New in the Collection...



Last spring Paul Moran, of St. Joseph, MN, made a significant donation to the museum with his great-grandfather's 1860's Wesson rifle. The museum had a photo of Paul's ancestor, John Moran, in a stylish fur coat, purported to be a buffalo coat. The rifle was made by the Frank Wesson Company and was patented in 1862. It is a .32 caliber with a 24 inch octagon barrel. What makes this rifle unique is it's two trigger style. This is one of the first breech loading guns to use rim fire cartridges, removing the need to have a separate percussion cap.

Paul's family has just called it "Grandpa's Buffalo Gun." John Moran, as a young adult, lived in Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin before coming to the Avoca area with his father and brothers. He married Sarah Short in 1911 and they had eleven children.



Legacy grant helps Museum hire a writer for MNopedia Articles



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

Murray County will soon be represented on the MNopedia website, a site dedicated to discovering and disseminating the history of our great state. Similar to Wikipedia, the site is considered a resource for reliable information about significant things, places, events, and people from our past. Each topic has a short essay included. There will be six to seven new articles entered in the site on topics from Murray County's past written by a qualified historian or author.

Thanks go to an Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant provided by the Minnesota Historical Society with funds provided from the 2008 Legacy Amendment voted on by the citizens of Minnesota.

Topics that have been chosen for this round of essays include the general history of Murray County, the history of the End O Line Park and Museum, the Sweetman Colony, the History of the Murray County Fair and fairgrounds, Christopher and Flora Dinehart, and Anna Sheerin Lowe, the first female sheriff in the state of Minnesota.

If you have ideas for more topics please be sure to pass them along. We want to see Murray County history well represented on this site. To see the current essays on MNopedia go to:

www.mnopedia.org



Upcoming Exhibit: **Boys in Blue**

November 11– January 31, 2017

A year after our nation's Civil War ended, an organization for Union veterans was established. The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) became a fraternal order that limited membership to men who served the Union from 1861-1865. Reaching approximately one million members this fraternity stretched across local, state, and national lines.

Though there was only one county resident, William Duley of the Shetek settlement, who served in the military at that time, many of the early settlers who moved to the region were military veterans. Murray County was home to two G.A.R. posts, the Logan Post of Slayton and the Zachary Taylor Post of Fulda, and at least one Women's Relief Corps.

This exhibit is a traveling exhibit originating from the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls but will include artifacts and stories from our own county. The exhibit will highlight the legacy of this important group that set the precedent for future veteran's organizations.

Dinehart Lunchbox Lecture Series: Season Three

We are glad to offer a third season of local history topics. There are some familiar faces in the lineup and you will see some new ones. The lecture series will meet at noon on Thursdays, one time per month from November through April. The site has been permanently moved to the 4-H building on the Murray County Fairgrounds. **Cost is \$3.00 or FREE to Members of MCHS.**

Thursday, November 17: Minnesota in the Civil War– Lloyd Peterson, SMSU professor. This will be the keynote Lecture for the new exhibit "Boys in Blue: The GAR" This will be a living history!

Thursday, December 8: Writing a Family History: Colleen Gengler, Slayton

Thursday January, 12: Murray County Agriculture in the 1970's: Janet Timmerman,

Thursday February, 9: TBD

Thursday, March 9: TBD

Thursday, April 13: Avoca Indian Girl's School: 1880-1889, Dr. Anita Talsma Gaul, SMSU



From the Director's Desk.....

"Let planning be the springboard so spontaneity can be our splash."

When I head out for work in the morning, my husband often asks, "What will you be doing today?" Many days I answer, "I have no idea." or "That depends." It's not that there isn't enough to do. We all know that's not the case. There are so many things to do, it is hard to prioritize. We get busy and then someone comes in needing help for a research project, or one of our good friends and members comes in to see what we are working on, or there is an unexpected meeting to attend. All of this is important to us as we strive to create community around the history of our county. If even a portion of every day's work goes toward a long term vision of what the Museum can be to the community, then we will, over time, accomplish our goals.



It is important that we have a long term strategic plan to guide our days and weeks and inform our collection care, programming and exhibits, and fundraising and membership. But oh, to have the flexibility to jump on an opportunity when it comes along or to do something just because it is fun and inclusive, that is the sweetest part of having a good plan in place.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out our strategic planning surveys. We received over 200 back so that will help us as we finalize a strategic plan.

Hopefully there will be a draft in place by the time we have our Annual Meeting on Sunday October 9th at 2 PM at City Limits Bar and Grill.

It is a meeting you won't want to miss. Our speaker this year is Dr. Joseph Amato, Professor Emeritus of History and Rural and Regional Studies at Southwest Minnesota State University. Besides being a friend and mentor of mine over the years, Dr. Amato has been a voice for the importance of local history in Southwestern Minnesota for over forty years. He has taught us how to rethink our home and its place in the world as we document its history. He has studied and written histories about things as small as dust and as broad as everyday life. Please join us for a lively afternoon with Joe. Bring a friend and enjoy pie and ice cream with us.

History is a thing with wings that makes our imaginations soar!



An open letter to the Murray County Historical Society

Murray County Cemeteries: Have You Noticed?

(Volunteers Needed)

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Erickson
and Steve and Nancy (Pierson) Laible*




Have you had an occasion to visit an area cemetery in the past year? Have you noticed that some of the Murray County cemeteries are on a trend line to disrepair and neglect? It is not uncommon to see monuments that are toppled, broken or tilted. Cemeteries are an important part of the history of an area, but it is a challenge to preserve cemetery landscapes and the history contained within a cemetery. Excerpts from the "Saving Graves" website make the following important points:

- All over the country, cemeteries are threatened by neglect and insufficient funds.
- Cemeteries can be an important source of community pride.
- Preserving cemeteries promotes an attitude of reverence and respect for the burial sites.
- Cemeteries are a unique historical resource and they should be preserved to show appreciation for the past and provide a learning opportunity for the future.

The Murray County Historical Society has an opportunity to play a role in an effort to help preserve Murray County cemeteries. Some individuals are already exploring the issue of funding landscape improvements at the Slayton (north) cemetery. There is also consideration of conducting a special event called a "Cemetery Walk". Other communities have held cemetery walks to raise awareness and celebrate the lives of famous people, ordinary citizens and special characters that make up the historical fabric of a community.

Volunteers are needed to help formulate ideas and develop stories about the history that is represented by the cemeteries in our area. Please let the Murray Country Museum Coordinator know if you have an interest in or ideas related to preserving our cemeteries.

Some examples of the needs of area cemeteries.

		
Toppled	Broken	Tilted

Interested in helping? Call 507-836-6533.



New Exciting Changes for 2016 Parade of Trees! Celebrate a Country Christmas at the Dinehart House



Due to a construction project in the museum this fall and winter, the Parade of Trees will shift from the Museum to the Dinehart Holt House. We are also changing the date of our Open House to correspond with Slayton's Holiday Open **House on Sunday, November 6th from 1-5 PM**. But that's not all! The Dinehart Holt House will be the first stop on the Slayton Chamber of Commerce Parade of Homes. Everyone is welcome to visit the house, purchase tickets for the Parade of Homes if they want to, and enjoy music and Holiday treats. The Open House is Free and Open to the Public.

The house will be open for tours starting the second week of November through December 17th for a cost of \$3.00 per person. All money raised will go towards repair projects and programming at the Dinehart house.

Organizations, businesses, and individuals are invited to help us decorate by signing up to decorate a tree, a room, a wreath, or an outdoor porch. We are not voting on the trees this year and just want to have a festive house full of country charm for everyone to enjoy!

Our theme is "Celebrate a Country Christmas" and we encourage everyone to decorate with that theme in mind. The Dineharts were not only bankers but farmers as well, raising race horses, registered cattle, and hogs. They owned almost 4,000 acres of county land. At one time the Dinehart House essentially sat in the country. Just south of the Dinehart house sat a large stable and barn for the livestock.

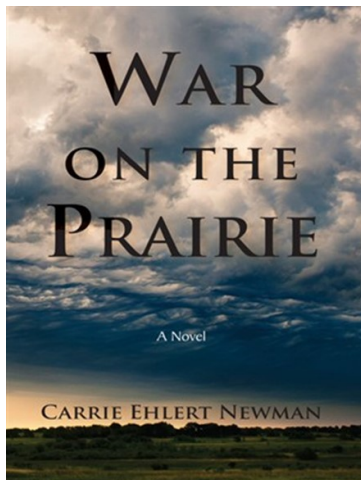
So, we encourage you to check out Pinterest's best country-themed decorating ideas and help us bring new holiday traditions to the famous house!

We have several decorating options - choose one or more! They will be assigned on a first come basis.

- 7 indoor trees
- 3-4 Outdoor trees
- 11 rooms
- Grand staircase
- The elegant dining room Buffet
- 3 porches with railings
- 10 evergreen wreathes

Decorating can start on Tuesday October 25th through Friday November 4. Reserve your spot soon by calling 507-836-6533 or email museum@co.murray.mn.us.

Don't forget that the house is available for rent too!...have your holiday reception at the Dinehart House!



Tuesday, October 18th

2:15 p.m.

Slayton Public Library Community
Room

The public is invited for a special presentation in the

Description: *In August of 1862, the United States was bitterly fighting a dreadful war to rid the country of slavery. At the same time, new states in the Midwest and west struggled with the tensions between settlers and Native Americans. In Minnesota, the Dakota were pushed beyond human endurance. Starving and without any hope of help, they lashed out. Hundreds of settlers were caught in the middle. This book tells the story of two young girls trying to survive as war engulfs the prairie. Margaret is a German settler, her friend is Winona, a Dakota girl. Will their teamwork help them reach safety before it's too late?*

This event is made possible through a SAMMIE
Teen Co-op Young Adult Author Visit Grant



Hours:

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

Contact us:

507-836-6533

museum@co.murray.mn.us

murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org

Find us on facebook 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

Murray County Historical Society

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