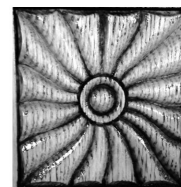


MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Murray County
Historical Society

Fall 2017

Please Join Us!! Bring a friend!

Murray County Historical Society

Annual Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 5th

3 PM

City Limits Bar and Grill

featuring

Jane Bisel and Steve Williams, Blue Planet Consulting, LLC

Presenting

“History of the Christopher and Flora Dinehart Family and Residence.”

Plus Free Pie and Ice Cream!

The Christopher and Flora Dinehart Family came to Murray County in 1884 with the dream of building and running a banking business. Little did they know that three generations of their family would inhabit their 1891 home and their lives would become the foundation for the study of a place. The influence of this family is reflected today in the face of downtown Slayton, and the fact that both the county seat and the county fairgrounds are situated in Slayton.

Come and hear some of the untold tales about the Dineharts from two Rochester historians who have uncovered stories through their work with the Dinehart House Historic Structure Report Project.

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MCHS Bulletin Board

A BIG THANK YOU to Dennis Miller for the time effort, sweat, and maybe even a few tears of frustration as he organized the displays in the Sierk Agricultural Building. Because of his work, artifacts are now organized by use and season and an extra walkway was created for better viewing.

Thanks to Case Vos for making all the new barrier stands for the Sierk Ag. Building. At 90, Case is our oldest Volunteer! Case and Doris enjoy the agricultural exhibits.



Be sure to check out the weather exhibit at the Murray County Museum. The photo below is the Dovray Lutheran Church rolled over by a cyclone in 1908.



Letter received from Linda Moehnke of Banks, Oregon. Grand-daughter of Julius Remsted.

Dear Janet,
Thank you so very much for the tour of the museum and archives and the hbt house. I really enjoyed it.
Sometimes going back makes you appreciate your childhood even more. The memories of love, music, kindness help us deal with today. I'm glad I grew up in "small town America" with "no electronics and social media" I was allowed to be a kid. Again Carolyn and I so appreciate your time on Labor Day.
Linda

New Site Supervisor takes over at End O Line

Hello to all! My name is Jakob Etrheim and I am the new Site Coordinator for End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum in Currie. As I write, I have completed a little over two months at the Park. A little about myself. I was raised across the border in Garretson, South Dakota where I graduated from high school in 2011. Despite being a “Dakotan,” I am no stranger to the region. My father’s side of the family lives near the Jasper, Edgerton, and Hardwick area. In grade school, I spent many a summer attending Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp. My passion and interest with history really started with my grandfather, who himself, was born, raised, and has lived in Garretson his whole life (and at age 91, this is still the case). As a kid and even to this day, I always loved hearing stories from grandpa about Garretson of old. During my senior year of high school, I started attending board meetings of the Garretson Area Historical Society as well as volunteering for them. I still remain active with that organization. I attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, studying history and specializing in Museum Studies and American History post-Civil War. While in college, I worked part-time at two museums; the South Dakota Ag Heritage Museum in Brookings and with Siouxland Heritage Museums in Sioux Falls. In May of 2016, I took a Legacy grant-driven Collections Specialist position at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society in Willmar, MN, where I completed an inventory of all the society’s three-dimensional artifacts. I enjoy bringing history to life through social media and hope to bring some new ideas to End-O-Line and the historical society! If you have any thoughts about making End-O-Line a better or more exciting place to visit, please don’t hesitate to contact me.



Many Thanks for Donations and Memorial Gifts

Donations:

Robert Erickson - For the Slayton Cemetery Story Project

Linda Moehnke, Banks, Or.

Shetek Lutheran Ministries - Road Scholar Project

Thank you to everyone who made a donation big or small this summer!

Memorials:

In Memory of Ellen Cahill-Paul and Velda Wilkinson, Allen, Texas

Their monetary donation will go to create an interpretive sign for the Caterpillar 60, originally owned by Ellen’s father, John Wilkinson.



Jane Sierk Donna and her family donated this memorial bench in honor of their parents, Leon and Erma Sierk.

The Sierks were farmers north of Lake Wilson and Leon served as a county commissioner for 28 years. Pictured left to right:

Jim Donna, Jane Sierk Donna, son and daughter in law, Jeffrey and Kelly Donna.

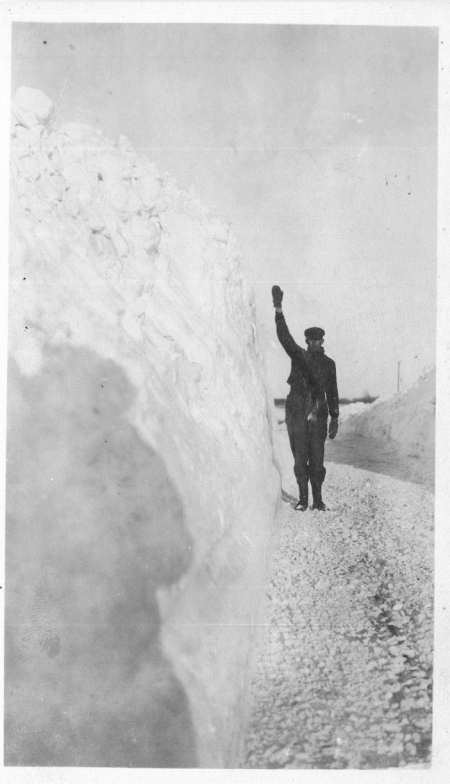
The text on the bench reads “In Memory of Leon W. and Erma J. Sierk. Leon 1965-1993 Murray Co. Commissioner and Fair Board. Erma - 4-H Sheep and Bread Champion.”

The bench resides in the Sierk Agricultural Exhibit building for all to “sit a spell and visit.”

New Temporary Exhibit

Rain Before Seven: Weather in Murray County

August 2017– July, 2018



Murray County's weather is changeable and unpredictable.. Temperatures can soar in the 100's and dash down to 30 below. We have one of the highest daily wind speeds in the United States. So weather history is pretty deep here. (No pun intended.) Stop by and experience the stories of the Armistice Day Blizzard, the Drought of "76," or the drifts of 1917. Turn on the mini-tornado-in-a-bottle to see how a tornado forms from the clouds.

There is always something new to see at the Museum!

Dinehart Lunchbox Lecture Series: Season Four

We are glad to offer a fourth 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 the second Thursday of the 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 9: "*Conservation on the Northern Plains*"

Anthony Amato, SMSU professor, author, editor

Thursday, December 14: "*The Minnesota 34th in WWII*"

Gary Kass, Balaton, SFC (retired) MN ARNG

Thursday January, 11, 2018: "*Recounting the 1968 Democratic Convention.*"

Hillary Barry, Lake Wilson, 1968 delegate.

Thursday February, 8, 2018: "*Halcyon Days on Valhalla Island.*"

Janet Timmerman, MCMC

Thursday, March 8: TBD

Thursday, April 12: "*The Tracy Tornado: Fiftieth Anniversary*"

Scott Thoma, author and editor



From the Director's Desk.....

"No place becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory."

Someone asked me the other day, "Why is history important? Its over and done with. People have to move on." I contemplated that attitude for awhile. It is easy for a historian to dismiss that kind of talk, but it deserves an answer. There is a group that has set out to do just that. It is called the History Relevance Campaign. Some of their main points include the following.

History is important to our own personal identity. It allows people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities, and nation. History nurtures and guides our personal values.

History is important to our Critical Thinking Skills: History teaches critical 21st Century skills and independent thinking. It teaches research skills, judgment of accuracy and validation of facts, reliability of sources, awareness of bias and multiple perspectives. All really important skills for living in a world of social media and "alternative facts."

History is vital to the places we live and work. History lays the groundwork for strong resilient communities. No place becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal traditions, and civic commemorations. Our connections and commitments to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences.

History is a catalyst for Economic Development. People are drawn to places and communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity and character. Cultural heritage is a demonstrated economic asset. It is an essential component to a vibrant local economy.

History helps citizens craft better solutions. At the heart of democracy is the practice of individuals coming together to express views and take action. History helps us better understand contemporary issues by understanding the origins of the challenges facing our communities , states, and country.

History inspires local and global leaders. It provides leaders with the inspirations and role models for meeting complex challenges. It gives us a basis for moral judgement.

History provides a solid Legacy. History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations. It is crucial to preserving our democracy for the future by explaining the past. Preservation of meaningful documents, artifacts, images, and stories can leave a foundation upon which future Americans can build.

Thanks to all of you who help us preserve the past. History Matters. Period.



Northern Bedrock Preservation Corps to Help Restore 1872 Wornson Cabin and Currie Depot



In early October the Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps will be coming to Murray County to help repair the 1872 Wornson cabin and re-glaze the windows in the 1900 Currie depot.

Northern Bedrock is a non profit organization committed to teaching preservation skills to the next generation with hands on projects. At a time when historic structures across the country are greatly in need of maintenance and repair the number of individuals knowledgeable in these preservation trades is dwindling.

The goal at Northern Bedrock is to engage the next generation in the preservation trades by partnering with skilled trades professionals doing historic preservation work. They are learning to restore log structures, repair and raise cemetery stones, rebuild historic landscapes, re-glaze windows and many other techniques needed to preserve the material culture of the past. This organization belongs to AmeriCorps so besides a small living stipend the corps members also receive credit towards college loans.

During their week in the area, the six person crew will camp on the fairgrounds in a spike camp of tents. They plan to re-shingle a section of the Wornson cabin as well as replace lost daubing, repair the door sill and some window sills, inject boron preservative into the log ends to add life to the logs and a few more miscellaneous updates.

At End O Line, the crew will remove the large windows from the depot and re-glaze them.

They have set aside October 11 for a public training session on how to clean and restore sagging headstones to be held at the Slayton North Cemetery. Watch our Facebook page, local newspapers, or listen to KJOE radio for more information on that.

To learn more about the work of the Northern Bedrock HPC go to their website at <http://www.northernbedrockcorps.org>



2017 Parade of Trees Expanding at the Dinehart Holt House

Get in the Holiday Mood at the Dinehart Holt House this season!

This year the entire house, upstairs and down, will be decorated in the luster of the holiday spirit. There will be at least sixteen trees, lots of nooks and crannies decorated in a **"Music of the Season"** theme. To kick off the season the Historical Society will host a ;

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday November 12 from 1-5 PM.

As a fundraiser for the house on that same day, Christy Riley will be offering horse drawn sleigh rides to and from downtown Slayton's Shopping Open House for a \$5.00 donation. (No snow required for these sleigh rides!)

The house will be open for tours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1-5 from Nov. 16th through December 16th for a donation of \$3.00 or **free to Historical Society Members**. All proceeds go toward repairs and programming at the house.

Our 2017 theme is **"The Music of the Season"** and we encourage everyone to decorate with that theme in mind. The Dinehart Holt House was the cultural heart of Slayton and Flora brought the first piano to the county. Florence Holt was the pianist and organist for the First Presbyterian Church for 40 years! Organizations, businesses, and individuals are invited to help us decorate by signing up to decorate a tree, or an outdoor porch. Maybe you want to create a breathtaking buffet display! This is great way to advertise your organization or business.

We encourage you to check out Pinterest's best Christmas Carol themed decorating ideas and help us bring new holiday traditions to the famous house!

We have several decorating options - choose one or more!

- 16 indoor trees
- 3-4 Outdoor trees
- Elegant dining Room Buffet
- 2 porches with railings

Decorating can start on Friday October 20th through Thursday November 9th. Reserve your spot soon by calling 507-836-6533 or email museum@co.murray.mn.us.

Consider having your Christmas party for your organization, club, or family at the house!



Congratulations to Jan Bryan, our Retro Raffle grand prize winner of the cedar deck chairs, created by Brian Harmsen.

We had lots of Summer Fun with the Barbershop Quartet "Kordal Kombat" at the final Front Porch Music Series Concert in August. Here they mug for the camera alongside Jim Surprenant and his antique car.



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
 Romane Dold
 Rachel Dreeson
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 Ruth Hoyme
 Dennis Anderson
 County Commissioner
 representative: James Jens

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