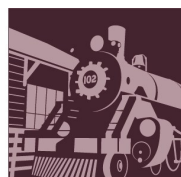
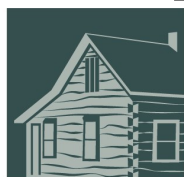


Quarterly Newsletter of the



MURRAY COUNTY — HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

Slayton, Murray County, Minnesota

Spring 2020

The Roaring Twenties! It brings to mind flappers in short skirts, the Chicago mafia bosses in fedora hats, and things associated with the Great Gatsby. The realities of the 1920's in rural areas were far from the glamorous spectacles of the big cities. This decade has a lot of parallels with our current experiences. America was just getting past the Great War, bringing servicemen home and trying to re-integrate them into society. The farm recession that followed the end of the war forced many farmers out of business or into different farming practices. New technology in the form of tractors and automobiles were replacing horses. Where towns were building power plants to supply electricity, farmers were investing in wind generators and battery systems to provide power.

In the 1920's there was a concern about immigration. The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 refused immigrants from what it called "The Asiatic Barred Zone" and greatly reduced the number of total immigrant visas. The KKK reared its ugly head in the area with cross burnings and midnight meetings of hooded members. Their targets were Catholics, bootleggers, and those of the Jewish faith. Lake Wilson lost a good merchant and grocer in the 20's due, in large part, to the activities of the KKK. Mr. Kaplan was Jewish and moved his business and family to Sioux City. Segregation was not just in the South. Traveling black baseball teams that played local town teams in barnstorming tours, were housed in separate areas and left towns soon after games. Some teams rode and lived on their own rail cars to avoid the difficulty of finding accommodations.

The 1920's ushered in cultural change. Women were empowered with full franchise. Women's study groups set up training programs to teach the new voters how to participate in America's politics. The Women's Christian Temperance Unions (WCTU), fresh off the heels of the passage of the 18th Amendment, turned to better education for children on the dangers of drugs and alcohol, protecting and changing the lives of women in prostitution, reducing the numbers of rape victims, and educating the population about health and reducing medical narcotics. They even adopted a department to encourage Hollywood to create more wholesome and entertaining movies. There were at least five WCTU groups in the county and at least one was active into the 1950's.

Prohibition was as hard to enforce in the rural areas as in the big cities. Moonshine stills were hidden in barns, groves, and basements. Cars were retro-fitted with false bottoms under seats and trunks for rum running. One of the Upper Midwest's largest alcohol production busts happened in Fenton Township. Seven 1,700 gallon vats were confiscated.

That is why we are taking a large look at the 1920's this year, in discussion, exhibit, and dance! Come experience the past with us.

Janet Timmerman

In This Issue

- Upcoming Programs and Fundraisers
- Rose's Winter Update
- New Collections Just In!
- Happenings at End-O-Line RR Park & Museum
- Family History
- Donations
- Memberships
- Update on the Dinehart Bears!

Upcoming Spring Programs and Fundraiser

Save the Dates and We Hope to See You!



Saturday March 14th

Hadley Community Center

Trivia starts at 7:00pm

Teams of 3-6 people—\$25 per team
1st prize: 1/2 the pot after expenses
but no less than \$50. Teams must be
signed up and pay their registration
fee by **March 6**.

Sign your teams up by stopping by the Murray
County Museum or contacting us at 507-836-
6533 or museum@co.murray.mn.us

Remaining Dinehart Lunchbox Lecture Series for the 2019-2020 Season

Feb. 13: Ardent Spirits: Prohibition and
the Women's Christian Temperance Un-
ion— Janet Timmerman, MCHS

March 12: The [not so] Invisible Nation:
The KKK in SW Minnesota— Anita
Talsma Gaul, PhD; Minnesota West Col-
lege

April 7: Minnesota's Wild and Woolly
Prohibition Days— Arn Kind with Histori-
cal Experiences. *Collaboration with the
Slayton Public Library.*

**All talks are presented at noon in the
Murray County 4-H building on the coun-
ty fairgrounds in Slayton. Participants
are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy
the presentations. The cost is \$3.00 or
free for Historical Society members. Cof-
fee, tea, and cocoa is provided.**

Brownie Bake-Off Fundraiser

March 28th (Location TBD)

Do you have the best brownies? Competitors pay \$20 entrance fee. Best Brownies will receive \$30 cash prize and 'brownie' gift bag. You be the judge! \$5 gets you a sample of each brownie with a scoop of ice cream and score card. Brownies will be judged based on: Appearance, Texture, and Flavor.

Competitors must register by **March 24** and can do so by stopping at the Murray County Museum or contact-
ing us at 507-836-6533 or museum@co.murray.mn.us. Proceeds go towards returning the Dinehart Bears.

The Murray County Historical Society is hosting a good ole' fashioned...

Speak Easy



Key Largo on Lake Shetek Ballroom — April 18 starting at 7pm

We're back in the Roaring 20s! In the 1920s, the 18th Amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors. With saloons and clubs closing all across the state, the Murray County Museum is taking the risk of opening a "one night only" Speak Easy!

Enjoy LIVE MUSIC provided by the Fulda Big Band! Free Charleston dance classes on site. Be prepared to dance the night away! Raffle drawing with funds going towards the Historical Society's preservation efforts. Cash bar on site with hors d'oeuvres and snacks provided. Dressing in your best 1920s outfits are encouraged, but not required.

Password Required to get in!

Tickets (with the password) cost \$25 per person for Murray County Historical Society Members or \$30 for Non-Members. Tickets available for purchase at the Murray County Historical Museum or with any Society Board Member. To inquire on tickets or for questions, contact the museum at (507) 836-6533 or museum@co.murray.mn.us



End-O-Line Park
Annual Open House
Sat, June 13, 10a-5p

Beyond the Spring

Save the Date

County Fair
August 11-15



A Winter Update

By Rose Schmit, Site Coordinator/Collections Manager

As I sit down to write this update my mind is swimming with all the things that have been happening at the Museum since the last newsletter. In October we were visited by about 60 MCC 2nd graders for Pioneer Day. The students were able to explore the Wornson Log Cabin, learn about butter making, and try their hand at pressing homemade apple cider. The second annual Dinehart-Holt House Flashlight Tour attracted over 40 visitors and brought in many people who had not been to the museum before. Also, in its second year was the Trick-or-Treating event at the Dinehart-Holt House. I have always loved Halloween and so being able to light up the large historic house on Linden Avenue these past two years has been a real “treat!”



Next came the International Holiday Traditions Open House in early November. Coordinating tree set up, decorators, advertising, and the open house kept me very busy. To the chagrin of my coworkers, once the trees were set up on October 16, I was fully in the holiday spirit—including playing Christmas music. I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped to set up and decorate trees this year including: MCC First Grade, Trinity Lutheran Church, MCC Spanish II Class, End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum, Cameron 4-H club, A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota, the Fulda Memorial Library, Prairie Hustlers 4-H club, Friends of the Slayton Library, the Catholic Daughters, Kiwanis, MCMC Auxiliary, and the Slayton Women of Today! Also in November was the kickoff of the 2019-2020 Lunchbox Lectures with Kathy Miller Brandt, the 2019 Annual Meeting at Painted Prairie Vineyard, and a visit from members of the Lake Wilson Study Club!

In December there were four private rentals and the Annual Volunteer Appreciation at the Dinehart Holt House. The second Lunchbox Lecture was provided by author Phyllis Cole-Dai on her book *Beneath the Same Stars: a novel of the U.S.- Dakota War* which is now available for purchase at the museum book shop.

January started off with a presentation of pioneer life to the Murray County Clover Buds 4-H group. Students preparing to go into rural ministry from the Shalom Bible College and Seminary in Des Moines, Iowa made their yearly trip to the museum to learn about rural living and traditions. A big thank you to Dennis Miller for presenting to them this year and in the past! I gave the January Lecture on “Suffrage: From Seneca Falls to Slayton.” The presentation focused on the history of suffrage and what was going on in Murray County during the movement—this was so much fun as suffrage is one of my favorite topics in history!

Along with all the various events that have been going on, I’ve been working on the collection at the museum. The next Collections Committee meeting is coming up in February where all new donations will be reviewed. Some of the various collections projects going on include sorting through the books in the collection to connect them with donors, organization all the miscellaneous newspaper clippings into searchable categories, continuing moving artifacts from the south wing into “the vault,” and inventorying a large collection of medical equipment from the Woodgate Drug Store.

I’m looking forward to another busy year here at the museum and hope to see as many of you as possible as visitors to the museum or at events!

This Just In...

New Artifacts at the Museum!

Twice each year, members of the MCHS Collections Committee gather at the museum to review all newly donated items. In order to be accepted into the collection, items must pass five criteria: Criteria 1: Does this item help MCHS meet its mission? Criteria 2: Is this item important to or tell a part of Murray County's history? Criteria 3: Is MCHS financially able to care for and store this item appropriately? Criteria 4: Is there a duplicate item in the collection already? Criteria 5: Is the condition of the item suitable for approval?

At the next Collections Committee meeting, members will review over **160** items donated by 39 individuals! Take a look at a few examples of newly donated items:



A warm-up outfit worn by Lake Wilson varsity basketball players circa mid-1950s to 1960s.. This one was worn by Dennis Miller.

Thank You to the Members of our Col- lections Committee

Lennie Carlson
Jon Lupkes
Joan Lupkes
Romane Dold
Lind Johnson
Dave Johnson
Kyle Vos
*Colleen Gengler
*Beth Cuperus

* New Members

A Matchbook advertising
the Houska Hatchery
which was located in
Slayton. Circa 1950s or
1960s.



This Just In...

Continued



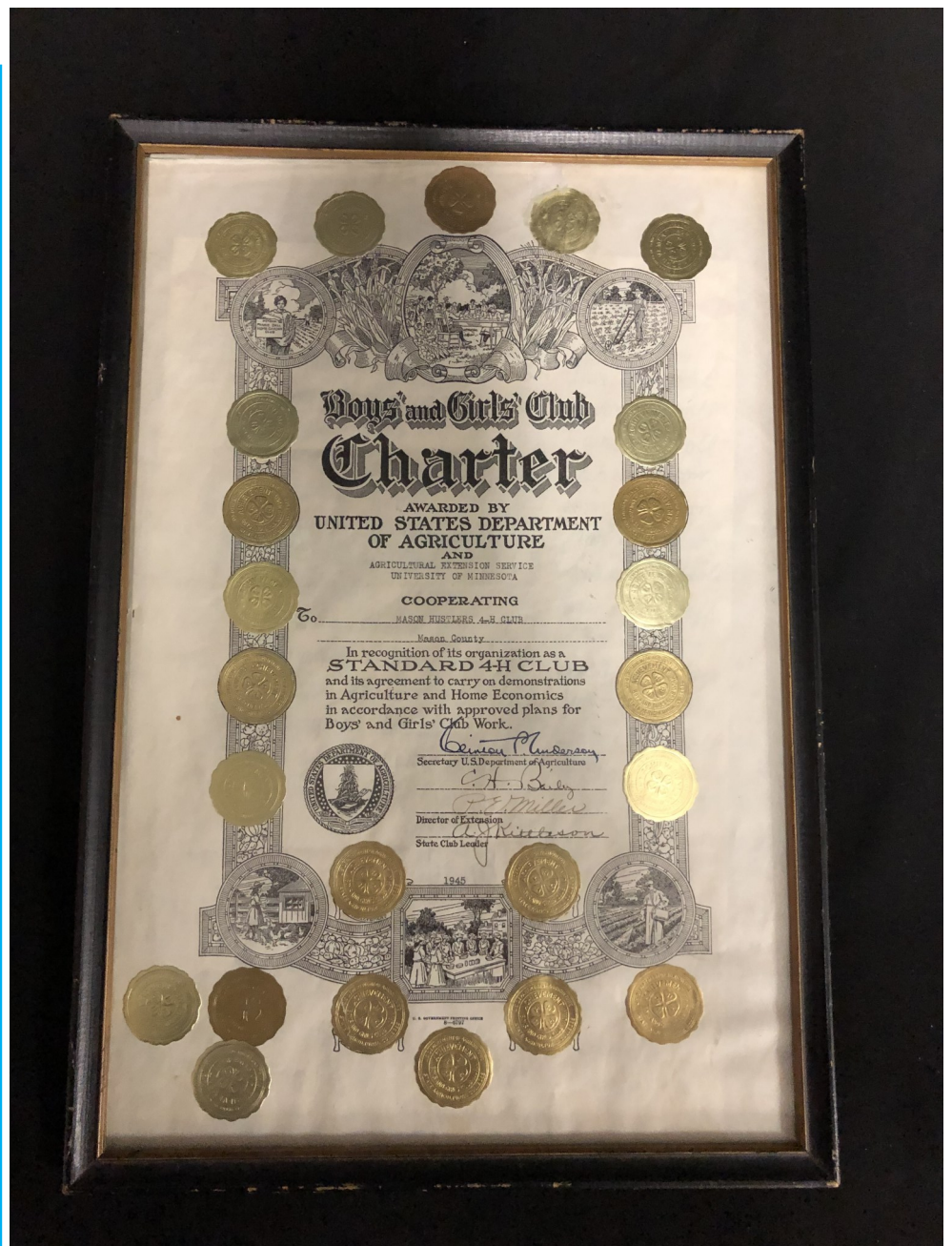
Three metal components that were manufactured at the Slayton Defense Plant, Circa 1940s. The Plant was in operation from 1942 to 1945 and produced meal pieces for the war effort in WWII.

Framed charter for the Mason Hustlers 4-H Club. A list of club presidents, adult leaders, and club achievements is handwritten on the back. 1945.

5 Tips You Can Do Right Now to Save Your Family Heirlooms

By Denise May Levenick
www.thefamilycurator.com

- 1. Move Your Heirlooms Out of the Garage**
Museums aim to store their collections in relative humidity of 50% and a temperature of about 68 degrees.
- 2. Trade Cardboard or Plastic for Archival Quality Boxes**
- 3. Wash Your Hands Before Handling**
- 4. Keep The Family Together**
If you are caring for your and a your spouse's (or more) collections, keep them separated and well documented.
- 5. Keep Your Treasures In the Dark**
Repeated handling, dust, pets, and light will speed the deterioration of your keepsakes.





Twenty individual quilt blocks hand embroidered by members of the Fenton Friendship Club. Here are three examples Circa early 1970s.



Volunteers Wanted!

Are you in search of a project to get you through the next few cold months? We are currently looking for volunteers to help with a simple sorting project! While going through the miscellaneous newspaper clippings many "biography" clippings were discovered. Biography clippings include pieces from the "gossip column," birth and retirement announcements, and personal interest stories. Basically, any clipping that is about a specific person. What we need volunteers to do is go through these clippings and sort them based on the first letter of the last name. After that, our clipping expert, Karen Finne who is working on the large obituary project, will be able to add them into the biography files. If you are interested in lending a hand with this project give Rose a call at the museum (507) 836-6533!



Happenings from End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum

By Jakob Etrheim, Site Coordinator

2019 was another good year for us at End-O-Line Park in Currie. Overall on the year, we had nearly 4,000 visitors to the park. Thank you all who came to the park during our open house in June. This year End-O-Line's Open House will be on Saturday, June 13. Admission to the park for the day will be waived in-lieu of free-will offering donations. We will also have a new author talk about her book; with a topic related the Laura Ingalls Wilder Family and the railroad around Tracy. Save the date and we'll publish further details later this Spring

As we look to the new season, End-O-Line will be a busy place. On the docket for projects include painting the Currie depot and Dist. No. 1 Schoolhouse. Painting of the depot will be partially funded thanks to a grant we received last fall from the Carl Schmidt Foundation out of Rochester.

Around Christmas, Janet and I sent in an application for a Legacy Grant through the MN Historical Society. This grant will be used to conduct historical research on the history of End-O-Line Park. The research will be used to write a book that we are aiming to publish in 2022 for the park's 50th anniversary.

Another goal we are looking into will be flood mitigation for two of our buildings at the park. The Currie General Store and Grist Mill replica, located in the far northeast part of the park, received flood damage last Spring. Looking at historical photos, this area experiences a flooding event 2-3 times every five years. This April, we'll be looking into applying for a Legacy Grant through the MN Historical Society to move one of the buildings farther into the park proper where the ground is higher.

Other than that, we hope to see you at the park in 2020. Whether

the last time you visited was last year or 40 years ago, you'll always see and learn something new!



IN 2019...

3,928 Total Visitors
to the Facility
(8.09% increase from 2018)

Visitors from **31** different
states (other than MN)
and **3** countries (Japan,
Canada, & Venezuela)

707 people visited
via field trips from
13 different schools

When asked "**How did
you find out about us?**"
the largest response was
"**Recommended by
Friend/Family**"
*Thank you for telling
people to visit us!*

 **END-O-LINE**
RAILROAD PARK & MUSEUM

All Aboard!!! Special Guests to End-O-Line Park coming this Spring!

For any of you train and railroad fans, the Chicago & North Western Railroad Historical Society (C&NWHS) will be hosting its national convention right in our backyard in Mankato. On Friday, May 29, part of the convention will include a bus tour to area depots; including a trip and tour to End-O-Line Park.

The society also publishes a very well-done and informative magazine. Their next couple editions will highlight some Chicago & NW Railroad towns around Mankato, including Currie. End-O-Line Park is a member and we highly encourage membership to this society too. If you are interested in going to the convention or more information, visit the society's website at www.cnwhs.org.



Murray County Genealogy Society

So you want to find out about your family history? Maybe you want to learn the identity of your ancestors, find out where they lived and what they did for a living? Or maybe your family lore includes stories of a Mayflower immigrant? Or you may have medical concerns

and wish to find out about your family's medical legacy? Curiosity, lineage, and medical history are all common reasons to take up the growing hobby of genealogy. The Murray County Genealogy Group is in the process of planning more events on family history related topics including speakers, site visits, and workshops. For attendees of past programs, we will send an email about our next program. If you would like to be part of this group email or just want more information, contact the Fulda Memorial Library (425-3277), the Slayton Public Library (836-8778), or Janet at the Museum (836-6533).



Rails & Rivers Mankato 2020

**C&NWHS's
convention
Mankato, MN
May 28-31, 2020**

**Mankato City Center
Hotel, across from
the C&NW station**

*Slide shows, history clinics, depots at New
Ulm, Sleepy Eye, Tracy, Currie, Westbrook
& St. James, company store, model-photo
contests, silent auction, Sun. a.m. flea market*

Many Thanks for Donations and Memorial Gifts

Donations:

Kent Johnson
Mark Yackel-Juleen

Joseph A. Amato
Judy & Leo Voss

Alice Knutson
Carol Rasmuseen

Memorials:

(In Memory of Patricia Weber) Vin & Cheryl Weber

Lifetime Membership Donations:

Dennis & Kathy Miller Rick & Luann Parker Joseph and Cathy Amato
Tom & Loretta Pryor Slayton Area Chamber of Commerce Brian & Kate Harmsen

If we missed your name as a donor, please contact Janet to make sure we have your donation on our list. We are deeply grateful for every donation and memorial. The Murray County Historical Society, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3). Donors may deduct their contributions as directed in the US Income Tax Code. The society's tax code can be given upon request.

Its time to renew those Memberships!

Thank you to all members of Murray County Historical Society! We appreciated your support in 2019! As we begin activities for 2020, we hope you will renew. We think membership is a bargain at \$15 for annual/individual membership or \$25 for a family membership. We also welcome new members! A membership makes a great gift for anyone, young and old!

Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the historical society newsletters (we strive to print four a year)
- Invitation to society events (member discounts at certain events)
- Free Admission to the historic Dinehart-Holt House
- Free Admission to the Dinehart Lunchbox Lecture Series
- Voting rights at the society's annual meeting
- Free copies for research purposes at the Historical Museum

And most importantly...

- The satisfaction of helping a valuable cultural institution preserve, interpret, and display local history.

2020 Membership Renewals or New Memberships received as of Feb. 4

Carmen Barry	Colleen Gengler	Larry Joosten	Dwayna Paplow
Hilary and Marilyn Barry	Martha Giefer	Gary Kass	Fran Pedersen
Daniel & Linda Beerman	*Sandy Grams	Alice Knutson	Ray and LaVonne Priebe
Brad and Diane Bergerson	Diane Green	Joycelyn Koenig	John and Mary Risacher
Dorothy Bloemendaal	Trace Hafner	Jan Kunselman	Clint and Donna Rohrer
Mary Borgstahl	*Doug & Grace Hart	Steve and Nancy Laible	Hub and Marilyn Sandmann
Dennis and Jan Brech	Todd Hieronimus	Marjorie Larson	Jon and Michelle Schmit
Richard Brown	Phillip and Janet Hintermeister	Skip and Evey Larson	Wendy Steffen
Bill Bryan	Judy Horn	Rita Lear	*Julie Sundhurst
Barbara Carlson	Steve Horn	*Rebby Lee	Jim and Barb Surprenant
*Jim Christensen	Jon and Ruth Hoyme	*Robin Leonard	Karen Tommeraasen
Marge Christensen	Wesley Hromatko	Nona Magnussen	Rich and Nancy Vander Ziel
Eleanor Clauson	*Rebecca Hudson	Jackie Meier	Leo and Judy Voss
Jenna and Bradley Davis	James and Doreen Jens	Mary Mesner	Marilyn Wahl
Larry and Kathy DeBoer	David and Linda Johnson	Jerry and Irene Moline	Rosanne Wancenried
*Joel and Carla Deslauriers	Brent and Dianne Johnson	Claris Nord	Keith and Betty Wilcoxon
Romane and Patti Dold	Darwin and Pam Johnson	Eleanor Norton	Robert and Mary Zishka
Brandon and Rachel Dreesen	Laurel Johnson	Marv & Theresa Nysetvold	Murl Cole & Colleen Miller
	Jerry and Louise Johnson	Arlene Oolman	*Rose Schmit & Kele Moudry

If your name is not on the list above, please fill out the membership form below and return with payment to renew.

Slayton Building Materials

***Indicates New Member**



MURRAY COUNTY
—HISTORICAL SOCIETY—

After completing this form, please deliver or mail to with payment to:

Murray County Historical Society
2848 29th Street
PO Box 61
Slayton, MN 56172

2020 Murray County Historical Society Membership

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Phone

Email

☐ New Member

Check One

☐ Annual Membership \$15.00

☐ Family Membership \$25.00

Life Member—Donation \$_____

Method of Payment

☐ Cash ☐ Check

Checks may be written out to the:
Murray County Historical Society

Please do not mail cash payment

Please direct any questions to: (507) 836-6533





Help us Return the Bears!

We are still working on raising funds to return the iconic wooden bears to the Dinehart-Holt House. As of now, we have raised \$2,700 out of the total \$10,000 needed. If you are interested in donating towards this cause, please contact Janet Timmerman at (507) 836-6533 or jtimmerman@co.murray.mn.us or send donations to: PO Box 61, Slayton, MN 56172. The Murray County Historical Society is a non-profit, 501

(c)(3). Donors may deduct their contributions as directed in the US Income Tax Code.

MCHS Board Members:

Pres: Brian Harmsen
VP: Linda Wing
Tres: Brad Bergerson
Secretary: Rachel Dreesen
Kyle Vos
Romane Dold
Ruth Hoyme
Judy Horn
Dennis Anderson
Cty Comm'r Rep: Jim Jens

Staff:

Janet Timmerman
Rose Schmit
Jakob Etrheim
Karen Finne

Visit Us!

Tues-Fri: 10a-5p

Sat: 10a-5p

www.murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org



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Murray County Historical Society

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Slayton, MN 56172