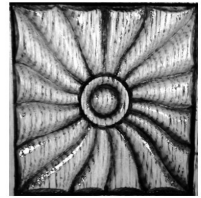


MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Murray County
Historical Society

Spring 2016

From the Director's Desk.....

"I was alive when the Dead Sea was just a lake that was feeling a little poorly."

- Cassandra Clare, *City of Ashes*

I am feeling a little like Clare in the quote above, especially now that I am working on the 1970's exhibit. It really doesn't seem that long ago. Those old H.A.S.H. jeans should still fit, right? Did we really think that pollution control was picking up garbage from the road ditch? Years after that, I even remember wondering what on earth the information highway was. So much has changed through the years. Just like our ancestors who lived through the Industrial Revolution, we are living through the Digital Revolution. Conversations in museums today surround the inestimable loss of personal letters, business dealings, and digital conversations. How do we save something in the "Cloud" and what format is the best to keep "born digital" items stored for generations to come? It is enough to drive an "old schooler" like me crazy. I still read real books!

This spring the whole staff attended the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums Annual Conference in Willmar. We tackled the tough questions in sessions ranging from how to save the history of disappearing towns to preparing our museum for a natural disaster. One very interesting session was mission based fundraising.

In this issue we share stories of some great volunteers and offer our appreciation for all the work that volunteers do throughout the year. We couldn't do this work without them.

Virtually Yours,
Janet

In This Issue

- Volunteers
- Upcoming exhibits
- New Collections
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- Grants



NO BONES ABOUT IT, WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITH OUT YOU!

Thank You to A.C.E Volunteers for all the work you have provided for the Museum and End O Line Park. Thank You to all the rest or our great volunteers. We couldn't do it without YOU!!! YOU make History Come to Life!

James Jens*

**Doyle Abrahamson
Caryl Busman
Doris Carda
Murle Cole
Kathleen Dysthe
Carolyn Gillette
Warren Hanson
Fran Hartle
Ruth Hoyme
Linda Johnson
Joan Lupke
Kathy Laleman
Colleen Miller
Dottie Muecke
Claris Nord
Betty Onken
James Surprenant
Sharon Schaap
Ramona Westra
Travis Spartz
Gary Kass*
Dorothy Lindstom
Joann Shaw
Louise Gervais**

Dennis Anderson

**Dorothy Bloemendaal*
John Busman
Marjorie Christianson
Patricia Dold
Don Erickson
Earl Halvorson
Brian Harmsen*
Vicki Hoffman
Elizabeth Jacobson
Dave Johnson
Margaret Kluis
Rita Lear
Dennis Miller*
Kelly Muldoon
Eleanor Norton
Kay Onken
Barb Surprenant
Doris Scheier
Betty Wilcoxen
Dianne Malone
Brad Bergerson*
Wesley Lindstrom
Wendy Steffen
Theresa Illg**

Rachel Dreesen*

**John Boynton
Berdena Buys
LaDonne Christians
Romane Dold
Patricia Erickson
Laura Hanson
Fidelis Hartle
Jon Hoyme
Dianne Johnson
Jay Lupke
Robert Koehler
Carol Lentz
Kathy Miller
Elvera Nelson
Linda Olson
Frances Pederson
Margaret Popp
Case Vos
Linda Wing*
Christy Riley*
Helen Brinks
Joyce Severson
Elaine Johnson
* denotes a board member**

If we inadvertently left someone's name from our list, please let us know. We want to thank each and every person who has helped this year.



New for the Collection...



New Scan Pro 2000 Microfilm reader, scanner and printer.

Legacy grant helps Museum Purchase a new Microfilm Reader



The museum has installed a new Scan Pro 2000 microfilm reader, scanner, and printer in the research area. 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.

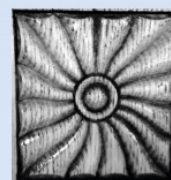
This new microfilm reader works in a similar way to the old one, but has far superior image quality, the ability to clip and paste different columns to a document, image clarity functions, and the ability to search a page for a term or word. Documents can be saved to a flash drive for ease of use. This machine and its accompanying software has many other new features that the staff is still discovering.

Researchers will find this reader a great improvement over the older machine. The computer that it is attached to was purchased by the Murray County Historical Society for patron use and the printer was provided by the county, making this a truly collaborative effort to increase accessibility to the archives for researchers and the general public.

Researchers who have used our archive this spring include the Larson, Addy, Sheeren, Lynch, Miller, and Hanson families, as well as information about the old Shetek Marine Building.



Front Porch Music Series



Historic Dinehart Holt House, Slayton, MN
All concerts start at 7 PM. Bring a lawn chair
Concerts Free and Open to the Public



Thursday July 14– Burlap Wolf King

Thursday July 21– Jerry Ostensoe

Thursday July 28– Dick and Ian Kimmel Duo

Thursday August 4– TBD but equally fun!!!



Got any Items from the 1970's You are willing to put on Loan or Donate?

Our new exhibit, due up by June, is "The 70's." We are lacking a few items that would help fill out the story of that decade in Murray County. If you have any of the items listed below or know someone who might, let Janet know.

Manual Typewriter (non-electric) from that era

Clothing-both Men's and Women's such as a leather string vest

Plaid polyester slacks and jacket

Macramé purse

A letter jacket or cheerleaders outfit from any county school from that decade

Men's Platform shoes

Record turntable and speakers (not a console) working

Halter tops and elephant leg pants.

Posters from a local dance at Valhalla - Can I wish for Crystal Blue?

Anything else unique?

Contact Janet if you have anything like this. Thanks for your help, man!





Updates on the Textile Inventory Project

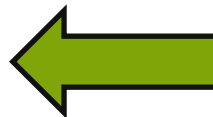
Last December the museum received an Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant through the Legacy fund. Torri McKinney and Gaylene Chapman have been working on the project and have over 800 items processed so far. Dozens that are beyond our ability to preserve and are not accessioned items have been set aside for donation to the Midwest Conservation Alliance for use as educational materials for conservator students.

As you can see by the before and after photos, we are making great headway. The metal rack for hanging items in the photo bottom left was made and donated by Jim Surprenant. We are extremely grateful for his talent and generosity. The metal storage shelves, where the boxes are stored along the back wall, were purchased and installed by volunteer Brian Harmsen. We are so thankful for his help on this project. One thing that we do lack at this point is more metal storage shelves for the boxes to be stored on. We are actively seeking donations to purchase more and need approximately \$500.00 to purchase an adequate amount of them. If you would like to be part of preserving these wonderful clothing items, send any amount in care of Textile Project to Murray County Historical Society.

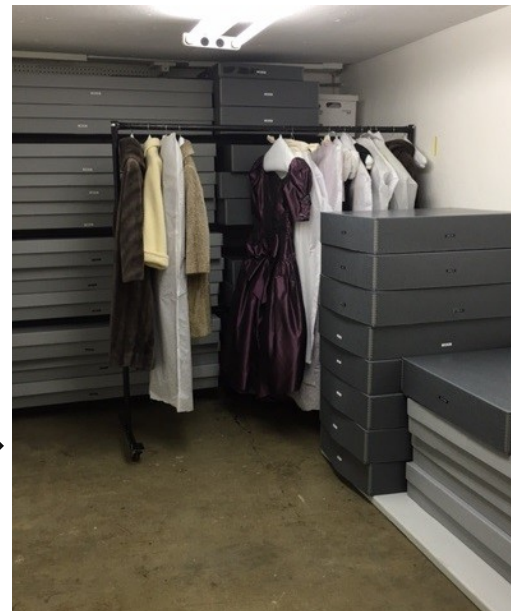
This stunning 1913 dress (pictured above) was found in the collection.



BEFORE



NOW



Volunteer Ian Timmerman repainting the walls and ceiling.

These custom made shoes complete a ensemble that includes a matching dress and clutch purse.



TAKE THIS SURVEY AND HELP US PLAN THE FUTURE

The Murray County Historical Society received a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Initiative Fund to develop a Long term Strategic Plan. As part of that process, the Society needs input from its members, the general public, and community leaders. **Please** take some time to fill out the survey below and send back or drop it off at the museum office. Results from this survey will help inform the final plan. Please circle the ones that best match your opinions.

1. I am a member of the Historical Society because.....

- A. It is important to keep our history accessible.
- B. Our family has artifacts in the museum collection.
- C. It is a civic duty.
- D. Someone asked me to join.
- E. Other-explain _____

2. I visit the museum....

- A. One time a year during the fair.
- B. When ever a new exhibit opens.
- C. For scheduled programs that I am interested in.
- D. whenever family or friends come to town for visits.
- E. Seldom or never.

3. Number the following in order of importance, number 1 being most important. The most important functions of a local museum are....

- _____ To educate our students.
- _____ To collect and preserve artifacts and documents.
- _____ As a community cultural center.
- _____ As a draw for tourism.

4. Our local museum hours of operation are...

- A. Adequate
- B. Restrictive to use and need to be open more.
- C. Need to be reduced during times of less use.
- D. Other-explain _____

5. The best use of the Dinehart Holt House is....

- A. As a Historic House Museum only.
- B. As a venue for community events.
- C. as a free public meeting space.
- D. all of the above.
- E. None of the above, it should be privately owned.

6. Programming provided by the museum...

- A. Could be expanded.
- B. Is unnecessary.
- C. Should be directed mainly at schools and students.
- D. Should include _____

7. As a member of the Historical Society...

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| A. I understand what the member benefits are. | Yes | No |
| B. I understand what my membership fees are used for. | Yes | No |

8. Currently the cost of a Historical Society Membership is \$15 for individual and \$25 for a family. These fees ...

- A. are too low
- B. are too high
- C. should include a business category.
- D. should offer more benefits to members

HELP WANTED

Volunteers add so much to the capacity of the museum. Our ability to care for the items and resources relies heavily on volunteer help. If you have an hour a month or a few hours per week to lend a hand we would gratefully accept the help. There is always coffee, tea, and cookies on for volunteers! For more information stop any day we are open or call Janet at 836-6533.

1. ***Do you like to file and organize things?*** The Museum is looking for two to three people to volunteer a few hours per week filing topical newspaper articles into filing cabinets. Can work alone or in pairs, etc.
2. ***Are you outgoing and enjoy greeting people?*** The Museum is looking for volunteer docents who would greet people and answer questions at the museum two afternoons per week this summer. You may also help perform Dinehart Holt House Tours as needed.
3. ***Farming and farm machinery your interest?*** The Museum needs some farmers or farmer wannabees to help organize and repair farm machinery in the Sierk Building.
4. ***Love to flower garden?*** Never enough flowers in the world for you? The Dinehart Holt House gardens need someone to give them some tender loving care.



Summer is a great time to rent the Dinehart Holt House!

This spring and summer during the wedding season consider renting the elegantly decorated Dinehart Holt House for groom's suppers, bridal and baby showers or even a small venue wedding! It is a beautiful place to have your prom or senior pictures taken as well. Prices are affordable.

Perhaps your organization is looking for a special spot to hold a meeting or luncheon. To encourage more use by non-profit organizations, the house is now open for rental on a donation basis for non-profits, church groups, and club.

Call us at 507-836-6533 or museum@co.murray.mn.us

Hej! Do you Celebrate Svenska Jul?

We were contacted by Twin Cities food writer, Patrice Johnson. She is in the process of writing a cookbook /cultural history of the celebration of Jul in the Upper Midwest with family recipes and stories from those who still celebrate their Swedish roots. She would like anyone who still celebrates in the traditional style or makes some of the traditional Jul recipes to contact her and possibly be included in her publication. If you are interested in this, contact Patrice at: johns388@umn.edu or call her at 612-220-0261.

Of course any Swedish treats you do make must be shared with the museum staff!

Smaklig maltid!!



Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm

Contact us:

507-836-6533

museum@co.murray.mn.us

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

Commissioner Representative:

James Jens

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