

MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



MURRAY COUNTY
— HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

Winter 2019

*"A people without the knowledge of their past
history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots."
Marcus Garvey*

I like the Garvey quote above, but in our case, we would probably say 'prairie grass without roots.' It is true, historians are always trying to make the case that history is important. In Murray County we know that people take their history seriously. This isn't just local history, its personal history. There are so many people who contact us looking for history about their ancestors, or someone stops in to see Uncle Harry's artifacts that he donated in 1963. Maybe someone is looking for a repository for their great grandmother's wedding dress. The local museum tries to help them all. In 2018 the museum received requests for research from over 60 different researchers. We accessioned items into the collection from 77 donors. Items ranged from a single 1897 sale bond for the District 23 Schoolhouse to three five-drawer filing cabinets full from the Bill Bolin Collection. We also took in ten bankers boxes of documents and photos from the C.E. Dinehart family; 2,200 items in all. With all of these items to care for, I am glad we have two well organized staff members to give this collection order and care. We also deaccessioned some items that no longer fit into the collection, are a hazard, or are duplicates. Some of those have gone back to the families who donated them, some have been offered to other museums, and some are waiting for final dispersal upon due process.

We hit a milestone this year. We accepted our first digital age artifact; the first computer to be used at the Murray County Wheel Herald. Boy do I feel old!

In 2019, Collections Manager Rose Schmit and End O Line Site Manager Jakob Etrheim will be spending extra hours doing an inventory of the agricultural items in the Sierk Building. Their project is paid for with an Arts and Cultural Heritage grant provided through the Minnesota Historical Society and made possible by the people of Minnesota from the 2008 Legacy Amendment.

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Members Make it Happen!

Its time for our annual membership drive.

We thank our Members for their support!

If your name is listed in **red**, your membership is due.

Mail back your membership slip in the self-addressed envelope and continue to support the great things happening at the MC Historical Society. Already a 2019 member? Pass the membership information on to friends or family.

Anthony and Felixa	Amato	Dave	Hansen*	Sylvia	Onken
Joe and Catherine	Amato	Brian	Harmsen*	Lyle and Kay	Onken*
Doug and Janet	Anderson	Aurora	Heard	Arlene	Oolman
Merlyn	Anderson*	Todd	Hieronimus	Luann	Parker*
Lorna	Bader*	Phillip and Janet	Hintermeister	Howard	Paul
Hilary and Marilyn	Barry	Merry	Hollis	Dean	Pearson*
Carmen	Barry	Richard	Holmberg*	Fran	Pedersen
Bethleen	Bean	Judy	Horn	Jean	Pelikan
Linda	Beerman	Steve	Horn	Mary	Perry
Kathy	Behrends*	Jon and Ruth	Hoyme	Phillip and Joan	Peterson
Brad and Diane	Bergerson	Wesley	Hromatko	Beulah	Powell*
Fran and Federic	Berreau	Garry	Immerman	Ray and LaVonne	Priebe
JoAnn	Biren	James	Jens	Gaeland	Priebe
Fredric and Phyllis	Bloemendaal	Gary	Johansen*	Loretta	Pryor*
Dorothy	Bloemendaal	Lynn	Johnson	Gail	Radke
Sandy	Bolin	Dave and Linda	Johnson	Kathryn	Reisdorfer
Mary	Borgstahl	John and Elaine	Johnson		
Dennis and Jan	Brech	Darwin and Pam	Johnson	Christy	Riley*
Richard	Brown	Jerry and Louise	Johnson	Joyce	Risacher
Donna	Bruns*	Brent and Dianne	Johnson	John and Mary	Risacher
Bill and Jan	Bryan	Laurel	Johnson	Clint and Donna	Rohrer
Donald	Buldhaupt*	Larry	Joosten	Daniel	Rouenhorst
John and Caryl	Busman*	Gary	Kass	Amy	Rucker*
Larry and Gail	Byers	Justin and Krista	Keller	Hub	Sandmann
Brian	Byers	Tom and Julie	Keller	Barry and Kerry	Sauer
Janice	Cahill	Terrance	Keller	JoAnn	Schultz*
Doris	Carda	Glenn and Margaret	Kluis*	Mark	Schwanebeck
Margorie	Carlson	Jim	Kluis*	Joan	Shrader
Barbara	Carlson	Bob and Ruth	Koehler		
Almie	Carlson*	Joycelyn	Koenig	Maxine	Silvernale*
Rosemary	Carraway*	Martin and Mary	Krogman	Slayton Area	Chamber*
Roy and Laura	Carter	Arnold	Krusemark	Larry	Sloan*
Jim and Gaylene	Chapman	Jan	Kunselman	Cindy	Smith
Marge	Christensen	Steve and Nancy	Laible	Nancy	Snedeker
Lonnie and Vicki	Clarke	Sharyl	Larson	Laurine	Somers
Robert and Eleanor	Clausen	Marjorie	Larson	Peggy	Southwick*
Murl	Cole	Skip and Evey	Larson*	Anne Furan	Spartz*
Joyce	Cuperus	Char	Larson*	Denny and Pat	Spartz*
Charlotte	Curry	Rita	Lear	State Bank of	Chandler*
Sarah	Dahlgren		Left Bank Cafe	Wendy	Steffen
Wanda	Daniels*	Randall	Lucht	Linda	Stevens
Jenna and Bradley	Davis	Larry	Lucht*	Jim and Barb	Surprenant
Larry and Kathy	DeBoer	Marlin	Lundholm	Phil	Swenson
Rosella	DeGrote	Henry and Marlene	Magnus	Paul and Maria	Thompson
Diane	Devereaux	Nona	Magnussen	Janet	Timmerman
Romane and Patty	Dold	Mike and Sheryl	March	Karyn	Tomblin
Brandon and Rachel	Dreesen	Corrine	Marz*	Karen	Tommeraaen
Daniel	Edgar*	Brian and Paula	Matson	Sam	Toner*
				Clayton and	
Curtis and Lois	Erickson	Mary	Mattson	Karen	Torbert

Donald	Erickson*
Darina	Ethridge
Jakob	Etrheim
Neal	Everson
Karen	Frisk
Mary	Galles
Delven and Elaine	Gaul*
Colleen	Gengler
Jane	Giese*
Myron and Rena	Gnadt*
Jim and Carla	Goedtk*
Diane	Green
Ruth	Green
Rudy and Lori	Gunnink
Trace and Diann	Hafner
Barb	Haken
Lorraine	Halbur*

Jackie	Meier
Mary	Mesner
Cleo	Metty
Joe and Heather	Meyer
Colleen	Miller
Dennis and Kathy	Miller*
Jerry	Moline
Bob	Moritz*
Marian Overson	Mulder
Kelly	Muldoon
Harold	Nelson
Patricia	Nelson
Jeaneen	Nelson
Claris	Nord
Eleanor	Norton
Marv and Theresa	Nysetvold

Corrine	Totzke*
Steve	Tutt*
Betty	Tyrrell
Rich and Nancy	Vander Ziel
Case	Vos
Kyle	Vos
Edna	Voss
Leo and Judy	Voss
Marilyn	Wahl
Rosanne	Wancenried
Troy	Weking
Shirley	Wendlend
Jodi	White
Keith and Betty	Wilcoxon
Linda	Wing*
Ted and Marjorie	Winter
Robert and Mary	Zishka

Many Thanks for Donations and Memorial Gifts

Donations:

The City of Slayton
State Bank of Chandler
First National Bank

Curie State Bank
MinnWest Bank South-Slayton Office
Nobles Cooperative Electric

Memorials:

Dennis and Kathy Miller in memory of Roger Miller
Kathy and Larry DeBoer in memory of Tom Warren

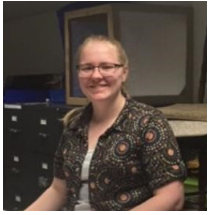


Dinehart Lunchbox Lecture Series-Winter 2019– Only three talks left!

Lectures are free for members. Bring your lunch.
Coffee and tea or cocoa is provided.

Thursdays

Feb. 14, 2019—Memoir of Working in the US Capitol– Christy Riley
March 14, 2019—German POW camps in SW Minnesota, Colleen Gengler
April 11, 2019—Korea: The Forgotten Warriors, Gary Kass



A Note from Rose

A Look into Rose's Winter Schedule

What a busy winter this has been so far! The 2018 Victorian Christmas hosted at the Dinehart Holt House has kept me on my toes with cleaning the house, setting up the trees, decorating, and now, after about four months, taking the decorations down and organizing for next year (thank you to our wonderful volunteers with their help on all these tasks). We had a large turnout for both the Victorian Christmas Open House and the Volunteer Open House which could not have had a better setting than the beautiful Dinehart Holt House.

One exciting project I have been working on has been organizing and creating what I'm going to call a "Simple Inventory/Finding Aid" on the Dinehart Holt records which were donated this winter by Margaret (Holt) Lichty, a descendant of the Holt family. Lichty donated the contents of 10 full banker boxes of everything from pictures to passports. So far with eight boxes completely sorted there are roughly 2,200 documents accounted for in this new collection! It has been so fun every day digging into the records and seeing all the wonderful new information we have not only on the Dinehart Holt family but also on other Murray County families and businesses!

Another major project that I have been working on this winter is the Collections Committee (CC) meeting. With the changes in staffing, we have not had a CC meeting in quite some time and so at this meeting we'll be reviewing donations from over 35 donors! With approval by the CC, I will be able to start accessioning the new donations and getting them settled into our permanent collection.

In terms of grant work, Jakob and I have just gotten started on working on the Sierk Inventory Grant. Through this process we will get every item in the Sierk Building officially on PastPerfect, the cataloguing program we use here at both the museum and out at End-o-Line. Also, with Janet's guidance, this winter I wrote my first grant ever! The grant money would be used to purchase several books about museum work including cataloguing, exhibit building, interpretation, and much more. This grant will not be reviewed for a while, but we have our fingers crossed for its approval!

Finally, the last major venture I have been working on this winter is the designing and building of a storage shelf to be used for all the framed art in the collection. At this time, the framed art is stored in several different locations in our storage rooms. With the completion of this new shelf, the framed art will be checked to verify that it has been catalogued, wrapped in protective acid-free tissue paper, and stored together as one large collection.

Overall, it has been a busy and exciting winter here at the museum! I am looking forward to the spring to see what new adventures and projects await!

Many Thanks for Donations and Memorial Gifts

Donations:

The City of Slayton	Currie State Bank
State Bank of Chandler	MinnWest BankSouth-Slayton Office
First National Bank	Nobles Cooperative Electric

Memorials:

Dennis and Kathy Miller in memory of Roger Miller
Kathy and Larry DeBoer in memory of Tom Warren
Marilyn and Leland Erickson in memory of Vernon and Clara Gilbertson
Family and Friends of Patricia Weber in her memory
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.

Ingenuity on Display

The Museum has so many amazing items on display that often things are overlooked by our visitors. Every artifact tells a story and these items tell about human ingenuity through the centuries.



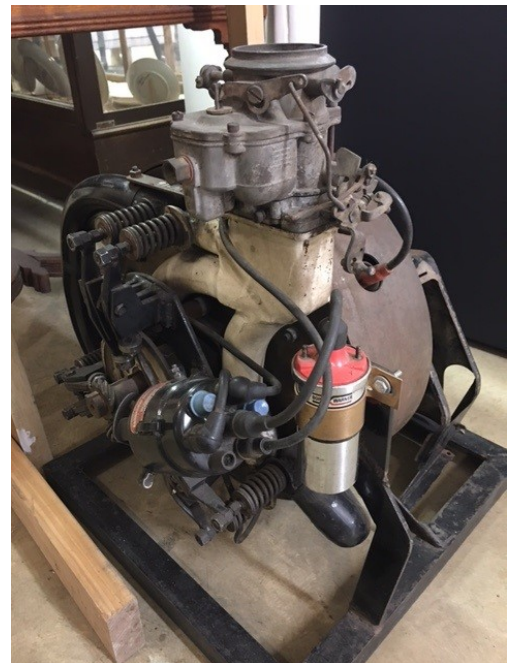
This Native -made technology is a full -grooved stone axe head. These were pecked using another harder stone and then smoothed on sandstone. As they became dull they were re-sharpened again. They were hafted onto a strong wooden handle. This axe was found on the property of Fritz and Phyllis Bloemendaal of Lowville Township who donated the piece in 2018. This tool was probably used over 2,000 years ago.



Before the area sprouted hardware stores and manufactured items, early sportsmen created their own fishing equipment and hunting decoys. This little ice fishing decoy was hand made by Ole Aleckson of Skandia Township. Ole came to the area in 1877 and was an ancestor of Case Vos. It is perfectly balanced and was used for spearing. The decoy was donated by Ole's daughter, Mary Lindsey, who lived into her 90's.



In 1893 Christian Christianson of Hadley, slipped and got his legs caught in a threshing machine. Both legs had to be amputated. Not to be kept an invalid, Christian fashioned this handmade artificial leg. He used a hands free cane that he fashioned for the other side and went about his business for another 32 years, dying just short of his 100th birthday.



Slayton machinist, Jim Meaden's, award winning three cylinder rotary motor won best of show in the 1973 Minnesota Inventor's Congress. It was similar in design to the German Wankel engine having reciprocating pistons. Jim, a decorated WWII veteran, took over Meaden Machine Works from his Dad, Otto, in 1972..

Happenings for the End-O-Line Site Coordinator

Jakob Etrheim



People always ask what I do while End-O-Line Park is closed for the winter. My quick response is usually along the lines of: I work on projects I don't have time to do during the summer! But here is what I have been doing and some of my plans for the winter.

My first project immediately after the park closed for the season was to research and design interpretive panels for the park. If you haven't been to the park recently, a couple years ago we restructured our guided tours of the park. Instead of the tour consisting of every building on campus and the tours taking 90-100 minutes long, now our guided-tours take you through only our railroad-themed buildings, structures and exhibits. The other buildings (that we call our "Village") that have a local county history theme are now open for visitors to tour on their own. The one downside to this tour change is that the non-tour buildings don't have any history or interpretation. So, we developed panels with pictures and history that will accompany each building so visitors can learn the history and significance in each building.

This fall and winter, I have also been going through our attendance numbers, guest book submissions, and visitors' surveys to determine who how many visitors we had at End-O-Line as well as where they are from, what times/day are the most popular visited times, and any criticism they left. Despite being closed for three weeks in July due to flooding, attendance was good in 2018 with 3,512 visitors from nearly 20 different states. 10:30am on Saturdays was our busiest tour times.

For the remaining winter and spring, I'll be on working scheduling school field trips in May and restocking the gift shop. Until early April, I will also be working with Rose to inventory the collections that are in the Sierk building thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society's Legacy Amendment. We estimate there is about 800-1000 individual items in there, so it will be good to have a concise record of everything in the building. Finally, I will also be starting the process of looking for a structural engineer or architect to give an assessment of our historic 1901 turntable at the park. Last year's flooding has us worried about its condition.

As I approach my second full summer at End-O-Line park, I want to thank everyone for their encouragement and support. And please give End-O-Line a visit in 2019. Whether the last time you visited was last year or 30 years

TRIVIA NIGHT AT HADLEY! Get Your Think On!!!



Enter your team to win prizes at the Historical Society's Trivia Night.

Put on your thinking caps and join the Murray County Historical Society for a friendly history trivia competition! No history degree necessary! The Think Off will take place on Saturday, February 9 at the Hadley Community Center (150 S Main St., Hadley) starting at 7pm. Registration for teams is \$25 for 3-5 people per team. Advanced registration is required. First prize winning team gets a percentage of the pot. **A BBQ Sandwich Supper** open to everyone will be served from 5-7pm for a free will offering. Drinks available at Hadley Liquor Store. Proceeds from the meal and trivia go towards the Murray County Historical Society's preservation efforts for the historic Dinehart-Holt House and Murray County History Museum. Bring your team to enjoy food, drinks, and the chance to win money,

or come as a spectator to watch who will become Murray County's Trivia Champs. Deadline to sign up a team is February 1 by contacting the Murray County Museum at 507-836-6533 or museum@co.murray.mn.us.



Murray County Historical Society

Museums are our history and our future

507-836-6533

Murray County Historical Society
2480 29th Street
PO Box 61
Slayton, Minnesota 56172
Phone: 507-836-6533
Email: museum@co.murray.n.us

Memberships Are Essential

Thank you for your interest in a membership to the Murray County Historical Museum. We hope that you enjoy our museum as you discover new bits of history. We invite you to explore our permanent collection, and take part in upcoming programs, events and exhibitions. As a member, you will have an opportunity to see them first! You can also use our library and archives to research your own history or learn more about other projects.

Membership dollars help us to provide good stewardship of the collection, and create new ways to share the great stories of our county and region.

See history in a whole new way, by becoming a member and plan to participate in new exhibits, lectures, workshops and other events. With your membership it gives us the opportunity to fun extra events.

Your annual membership includes:

- ✓ One Year Membership
- ✓ Subscription to Newsletter
- ✓ Invitations to members only events
- ✓ Free admission to the Dinehart-Holt House
- ✓ Free admission to Lecture Series Events
- ✓ Email notices of special events and features
- ✓ Attend the Annual Meeting Event
- ✓ Opportunity to vote at the Annual Meeting



BECOME A NEW MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP



MURRAY COUNTY
— HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

Murray County Historical Society
2480 29th Street
PO Box 61
Slayton, Minnesota 56172
Phone: 507-836-6533

2019 Murray County Historical Museum Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Method of Payment

☐ Cash

☐ Check

Member Signature _____

Types of Memberships - renew yearly (check one)

☐ Annual Membership 15.00

☐ Family Membership (1 person and spouse) 25.00

☐ Life Member - Donation \$ _____

Shack Wacky Pinterest Party!!!



Are you going Shack Wacky during this long winter? Want to get out and do something fun and socialize with other Pinterest-Crazy crafters? Then sign up for the first ever Shack Wacky Pinterest Party on Sunday February 24th from 1-5 PM at the Dinehart House! The Murray County Historical Society and Friends of the Dinehart House invite you to bring one of your newest or favorite Pinterest projects with you to work on for the afternoon. It's a great way to see what others are doing and share your own projects.

Table space, snacks, and beverages will be provided for a low cost of \$5.00 each. Register ahead of time so we can plan enough space for each crafter's project. Space is limited, so call soon. Let us know how much space and if you need electricity for your project. To reserve your work space call 507-836-6533 or contact jtimmerman@co.murray.mn.us



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:

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Linda Wing

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Murray County Historical Society

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