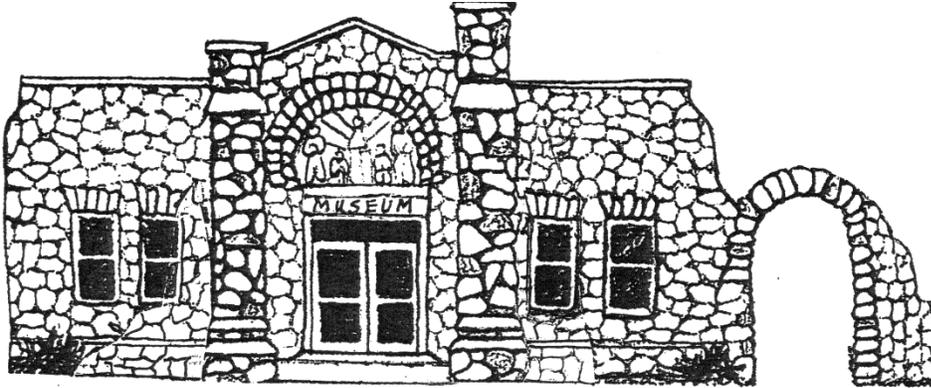


Milaca Area Historical Society

News



Preserving and sharing Milaca's history for over 30 years

Winter 2015 – Volume 17, Number 1

Progress in 2014

By Tom Sauer,
MAHS President

There are a number of things MAHS accomplished at the Museum this past year.

We wrote for and received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to do a historical architectural assessment of the exterior of our building (see article page 5). Following that, we stripped the interior east wall of the 1907 part of the building, removing the 1968 retrofit which had trapped moisture and damaged the wall. We had to repair the ceiling along that wall. Also in response to the study, we installed a basement storm window and two chimney caps on the building.

The city installed some new sidewalk and a new ramp to replace the old one removed a few years ago. Some wood chips and hosta plants along the ramp prettied up that area.

We also received a second grant from MHS for a conference scholarship (see article page 2).

Good news for our organization: We were 30 years old in 2014 and our membership has grown from about 10 in 1984 to 228 in 2014. Thanks to all who support this community organization! Unfortunately the pool of 20 members who volunteered to keep the museum open a few years ago has shrunk to about 12. Each year we find a few new volunteers but we lose more than that number to aging and death. We want to thank them for their work over the years (some volunteered for 25 years).

We really need **more museum volunteers** to keep it open for seven months, four days per week. We know many members are still working, busy with their families, etc. **However**, if you are able to and interested in helping one or two days per month for four hours per day, please contact any of the officers or call the museum. You would work a few shifts with a seasoned volunteer to help you become familiar with the tasks of our Museum Volunteers *before* you would work alone. People can work in pairs if you are more comfortable with that. Any help would be appreciated. All email and phone information is on page 4 of this newsletter.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to once again thank the City of Milaca, which provides our building, heat, lights and groundskeeping rent free; and Mille Lacs County and the townships of Bogus Brook, Borgholm, Hayland, Milaca, Milo and Page for financial assistance.

Making Connections:2014 AASLH Annual Meeting

By Ann Johnson and Karen Schlenker

“Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts” was the theme of the American Association of State and Local

History conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul last September. With the once in a lifetime opportunity to attend this event, MAHS membership generously helped fund our expenses, along with a scholarship grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

We arrived early on Thursday, September 18, and immediately registered. The conference brochure was overwhelming with its many offerings. We set out on a mission to glean as much helpful information as possible in a couple of days. A number of the presentations dealt with organizing and digitizing accessions. In one session, we were told of a Pennsylvania project in which small repository collections were being put on a database available to a larger audience via the internet. This kind of accessibility appears to be the coming thing. Attendees were also advised of the importance of using social media effectively to enhance museums.



Karen and Ann at AASLH Conference

Information was presented on how we can best help teachers bring history into the classroom. And more than one session stressed the importance of including all parts of a community in creating displays and being actively involved in what goes into making a museum special. One presenter told of an abandoned prison that had been refurbished along with preserving records of past inmates. When it was completed, they held a reunion which was actually attended by a number of men who had been incarcerated at that facility. What a success!

Several sessions dealt with organizational health, communication, decision making, and teamwork (are we all on the same page? how do we work *together* toward our shared goals?). There were also nuts-and-bolts sessions on nomenclature, standardizing data to improve searchability, even on preservation of scrapbooks (very complicated...).

Of course, the event featured keynote speakers, in this case, Garrison Keillor, creator of *A Prairie Home Companion*, and Marilyn Carlson Nelson, the former Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies. Both speakers told of interesting facets of their own lives and how history influenced them. The audio of both speeches (and more) is available on the aaslh.org website [Annual Meeting>Past Annual Meetings>2014 Annual Meeting>"Highlights" box, click on speaker you wish to hear].

Above and beyond the sessions we attended were the connections we made. We met professionals and volunteers, from all over the state and the country, who are dealing with some of the same problems we are facing. We now have access to publications and expert advice on improving our own museum and our historical society. In spite of the information overload after the time spent at the conference, we came home with new ideas, a better understanding of the direction being taken by others in our field, and many new resources for improving our museum and our historical society.

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



Please renew your MAHS membership! Membership form is on page 7.

MAHS News and Notes

Township meetings coming in March

March 10, 2014 is Township Day, with annual township meetings taking place across the state. MAHS has been receiving financial support from neighboring townships, but this support doesn't just happen--we have to ask for it! If you live in rural Milaca, please participate in local government by attending your township meeting. And if you plan to attend your meeting, please contact MAHS officers and tell them you will speak for MAHS's funding request.

MAHS in the schools

Once again we are looking forward to hosting the 2nd grade field trip to the museum, a 3rd grade walking tour, and visits from 7th grade social studies classes. These will happen in April or May, and are always rewarding interactions. We encourage members to help out with a variety of tasks. Contact Karen Schlenker if you'd like to join the fun.

Jere Day has also put together a Traveling History Cart, which we took to Milaca Elementary School's 2nd grade last year. We will continue to develop this to bring it in line with curriculum needs, and hope to make presentations to students, at many grade levels, in their classrooms. Contact Jere if you'd like to help with this project.

Remembering Departed Friends

Some good friends of the Milaca Area Historical Society passed away this year. Members Jane Nelson, Toby Henschel, and Milton Johnson contributed much energy and knowledge to the society over the years, and their presence will be missed.

Museum Garden

When the new handicap ramp was installed last May, we decided we would dress up that corner of our world. We had some hostas and hydrangeas installed by Ryan DeBoer's landscaping company, as well as mulch to make caring for them easier. Our landscaping is nothing fancy, but this low maintenance garden will make the south side of the building more inviting and attractive.

Who's Who at MAHS: Leslie Anfinson

Leslie was recently elected Vice-Secretary, so we thought we'd kick off our new Who's Who feature with her story.

In 1982, my husband Terry moved our family from Illinois, my home state, to the farm in Milaca that has been in his family since 1909. It was here I began my volunteering, first with Girl Scouts, then the Milaca Pantry, Sunday School as well as various posts under the Milaca School umbrella all dependent on the ages of our three daughters and their interests. I loved teaching, a career I put on hold when I became a mother but entered into again when the state funded Early Childhood Family Education in 1985. I retired from ECFE in 2011 to follow a lifelong goal of international teaching. I was fortunate to teach kindergarten in Cairo, Egypt for two years from 2008-2010.

From its beginning, the Milaca Museum has been a place I have wanted to spend more time exploring. I love meeting the public who visit and learning their stories and how the Milaca community has been a part of their lives. I am thrilled to be more involved and look forward to learning more about this place I call home.

Wish list

There are plenty of gaps in our resources, but some are more obvious than others. Some things we'd like to add to our collection are:

- Photos from Mille Lacs County schools.
- Advertising items, photos, menus, etc. from Milaca area cafés.
- Advertising items dating to before 1980 from Milaca area businesses.

MAHS Officers 2015

Tom Sauer, President 982-6603, tysauer@milaca.net
 Jere Day, Vice-Pres, 983-3325, jlazyday@frontiernet.net
 Lynn Kent, Treasurer 983-3155, lynnkent@frontiernet.net
 Ann Johnson, Secretary, 983-6391, alj1941@yahoo.com
 Leslie Anfinson, Vice Secretary, 983-3749, cairoleslie@gmail.com
 Karen Schlenker, Newsletter, Curator 983-3586, jkarschlen@gmail.com
 Museum phone – 320-982-1212
 Museum email - museum@milaca.net
 Website <http://milacamuseum.org>

Museum's Conditions Assessment Completed

By Ann Johnson

The sky(light) is falling! The sky(light) is falling! Well, not really, but members of the board of the Milaca Area Historical Society and others have known for some time that the skylight, as well as a number of other features of the Milaca Museum building, require attention regarding restoration issues. Like any other piece of property, this structure needs repairs and maintenance from time to time. But where do we begin?

Roof and window replacements and some other repairs took place after a professional conditions assessment was completed in 1999. It appeared a more up-to-date assessment would give us a better idea of how to proceed. In spite of the cost, it was determined that another assessment was necessary.

Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage grants were being offered through the Minnesota Historical Society. Early in January MAHS submitted an application for one of those grants for \$9,000. In February we were informed that our application had been approved for that grant. Shortly thereafter authorization arrived giving us permission to begin our project.

Nine requests for proposals to conduct a conditions assessment on our building were sent out to architectural firms in early April. Three of those firms sent representatives to visit the museum. All three submitted proposals as did one which had not visited. Upon opening those four proposals, the assessment committee selected Collaborative Design Group, Inc. of Minneapolis for the project. That company was chosen because their team consisted of an architect, engineer, and roofing specialist. CDG has an extensive background in projects involving structures which are on the National Register of Historic Places. They agreed to meet the requirements of the project at a cost of \$6,895.

Collaborative Design Group sent an engineer and architect for visits to the site for in-depth inspection. A preliminary draft was sent to us in mid-June. We made some suggestions for items we wanted included or clarified. That draft was tweaked to include our concerns and returned to us in mid-July. To keep the City of Milaca informed, this draft was presented to the council at their August meeting. We also submitted the draft to the Minnesota Historical Society for approval. MHS informed us of some minor changes which were passed on to Collaborative Design Group and included in the report. By the end of August MHS had approved the conditions assessment report. The final meeting with the architectural firm was held in September and the project was completed. And we were able to return a check in the amount of \$2,030.49 to the MNHS.



The report provided a prioritized list of repair, replacement, and restoration recommendations with the estimated cost of each project. Some items involve little time or money to complete, and indeed some have been accomplished (unused chimneys and vents have been capped). Others are major projects requiring extensive professional expertise at considerable cost. One important piece of

information we obtained involved the east wall in the 1907 building. The 1999 assessment advised that the east wall had deteriorated such that it would fail within a few years. After the inspection by the engineer from Collaborative Design Group, we were informed that this wall is sound in spite of damage to the lower wall due to poor drainage, which can be repaired.

We now have an outline that will assist us in working with the city to make these much needed restorations. The complete report is at the museum and will be made available to members. You are welcome to come in and check it out.

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

From the Collection

By Karen Schlenker Volunteer Curator

The museum received many donations in 2014, and we're still processing some of them. We received gifts large and small. Families and friends gave two large collections of memorabilia which tell the stories of two community members--Harvey Lindberg and Beth Severeign Bork. Harvey's collection includes many things from his service in the Navy in World War II, as well as objects from his business career and many volunteer activities. Beth's collection has a wealth of photographs documenting life in Hayland Township over nearly a century.

Smaller accessions are just as important. Things that may be of limited value alone sometimes fill in gaps in our knowledge, and certainly provide better resources for researchers. We have been declining to accept offerings more often, as we see more clearly what pertains to our needs. And we have been sharing things that clearly belong elsewhere by sending them to more appropriate homes.

We processed 52 accessions in 2014, from about 45 individuals. The incomplete numbers for the year (I'm still working on boxes of items) are: 25 objects, 76 photos, 48 archival collections (sometimes a single item, sometimes a file of papers), and a book for our library shelves. We now have more than 8,900 items in our collection.

Research Too!

Not exactly related, but important, are the research requests we field. These come from visitors, telephone calls, and more and more frequently via email (many of these through our website). We have paperwork on 25 requests, which probably doesn't cover all that were received. These queries come from all over the state and the country--Ohio, Seattle, Iowa, Los Angeles, Colorado. It takes time to answer these requests, but it's not uncommon that our effort is reciprocated, with information and sometimes photos coming from people far and wide. We now have digital images of members of the Cone and Towle families of the Foreston area, dating back to the Civil War, as a result of a research query.

Places To Go, Things To Do

Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Walnut Grove, MN is open April through October. In addition to the museum in town, visitors can now go to the original Ingalls dugout site a few miles away. The Wilder Pageant will be performed in 2015 on July 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25. For more information call 888.528.7298 or visit the website at www.walnutgrove.org

Note: Laura's Uncle Peter Ingalls is buried in Milaca's Forest Hill Cemetery

Milaca Community Education Offers Trip to Wilder Museum

A motor coach trip is being offered by Community Ed on Thursday, May 21. The cost is \$55 (meals not included). The bus leaves from the ALC lot at 7 a.m. and returns at 9 p.m. It's a long day, but it's a long way to go, and somebody else is doing the driving! For more information, call Milaca Community Ed 982-7307. (The Community Ed brochure was part of the December 28 Town & Country Shopper).

Stearns History Museum has Breakfast Club events the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the museum (235 S. 33rd Ave., St. Cloud). Speakers share information about local history (research, books, etc.). Free for members, \$5 for non-members. For information about the History Museum, Breakfast Club, and other events call 320.253.8424 or go to the website www.stearns-museum.org.

The Minnesota Historical Society runs over two dozen sites around the state, and there are many activities and events at these sites throughout the year. Site and event admissions are free or reduced for MHS members. Check the website for activities, events and site open hours: www.mnhs.org. (Also on the site are indexed Minnesota birth and death records and a catalogue for the MHS library.)

For great day trip ideas, see our collection of brochures from local and Minnesota Historical Society sites, in the Museum entryway.

Local History – It's Where You Live!

From the Record: **veterans of Other Conflicts**

Compiled by Tom Sauer

The Memorial Day cemetery lists published in the local newspaper include the names of local men who were veterans of conflicts before World War I.

Civil War

Sam Bobo (Forest Hill)

A.H. Morgan (Forest Hill)

Ancel Starr (Forest Hill)

L.A. Cone (Milo)

Spanish American War

James Frazier (Forest Hill)

Oktor J. Mattson (Forest Hill)

Mexico Border

H.H. Sterling (Forest Hill)

We believe the L.A. Cone listed above is related to Sylvester Cone pictured here, but Sylvester doesn't seem to appear in any of the Memorial Day lists published. Anyone having more information on veterans of earlier conflicts is encouraged to submit it so that the record can be improved.



**Sylvester Cone (1846-1916), buried in Milo.
Digital photo shared by Dave Towle.**

Please be a MAHS Member!

Please consider joining or renewing your Milaca Area Historical Society membership in 2015. We have been preserving historical photos, items, and information for over 30 years. To make the process simple for you, there is a tear-off form below. **Please check the box preceding your desired membership category (see below). Then send your dues to our address below.**

We thank you for your interest in helping us achieve our goals of helping our members and our community discover and preserve the heritage of the Milaca area.



Fire Hall circa 1918

Jere Day

Vice-President/Membership Chair

Dues January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

**2015 Membership in the Milaca Area Historical Society
 [Send to MAHS, PO Box 144, Milaca, MN 56353]**

Date _____

***** Please check box(s) below ***
 MAHS membership categories**

Enclosed is my check # _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student/ Senior	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	two Seniors	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$ 60.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business/Organization	\$ 30.00

for **2015** membership dues \$ _____

I'd like to add a donation \$ _____

My **total** is \$ _____

MAHS is a 501(c)3 **nonprofit** so your **TOTAL** is **tax deductible**)

Name/s: _____

Address: _____ city/state _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would like to receive E-mail notice of monthly meetings

I am unable to come to meetings. Please send me the MAHS Newsletter

2014 MAHS Membership***** note business members are on page 9 *****

Alyce Alkire
John & Judy Allen
Betty Anderson
Mary J. Anderson
Peggy Anderson
Robert & Marilyn Anderson
Dennis & Doris Anfinson
Terry & Leslie Anfinson
Donald & Clara Asp
Ardy & John Becklin
Kathy Berland
Sandy Bailey
Mary & Steve Bemis
Marvin & Genelle Blomquist
Mark Boggs
Ruth & John Boggs
Mary Jane Bridge
Janet Burklund
Dorothy Cravens
Joe & Patty Cronin
Richard Curott
Jean Dahlstrom
Peter & Judy Dahlstrom
Wendy & Benjamin Davis
Jere & Linda Day
John & Pat Day
Megan & Francis DeSchepper
Ralph Dehler
Roger Diethelm
Harley & Sonja Eggen
Nancy & Glenn Erickson
Joan Evanov
Dean & Linda Fredrickson
Alan & Nancy Frerich
Larry Gardiner
James & Roxanne Gerads
Debra Gilchrist
Chrois & Sonja Graham
Marcia Grant
Paul Hagedorn
David Hagquist
Paul E Hagquist
Jeanette Hannenberg
Denise & Mile Helmin
Toby Henschel
Richard & Maureen Herbst

Gerald & Barget Herges
Shawn & Cheryl Hewitt
Pat & Carl Hjort
Robert & Barbara Hjort
Richard & Kathleen Hoeck
Frederic C Hoffman
Peter & Karen Hydukovich
Adolph Jr. & Bonnie Johnson
Ann & Robert Johnson
Dr. Eric & Caitlyn Johnson
Ernie & Jill Johnson
George & Gloria Johnson
Janet & Robert Johnson
Karl Johnson & Christine Cox
Larry & Deborah Johnson
Milton Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Lynn Kent
Carole M Kujath
James & Carol Kragt
Ginny & Ed Knerr
Tom & Linda Kvamme
Phyllis Kurre
Linda Lang
Mike & Jean Larsen
Gerald Laumann
Greg & Sandy Lerud
William Lindholm
Roger & Sue Loegering
William Lindholm
Marian Majerle
Virginia Maurer
Bruce & Mary Milton
Ervin & Peggy Monroe
Bob Mork
Don & Carol Mueller
Ken & Judy Muller
Dennis & Linda Nelson
Jane Nelson
Pat Nelson
Phil & Mary Nelson
Martha Norrgard
Amy & Ivan Nunez
Jon Olson
Rick & Lynne Olson
Alan Onberg

John & Ruth Oss
 Janelle Pearson
 Harold W Pederson
 Dean & Arlou Peterson
 Dennis & Marian Peterson
 Ron & Lois Ploeger
 Peter M Probasco
 Larry & Shirley Rosenberg
 David & Joan Sauer
 Joseph & Patti Sauer
 Megan Sauer
 Steve & Lisa Sauer
 Tom & Yvonne Sauer
 Karen & John Schlenker
 Barbara & Gene Shaw
 Wesley & Susan Siemers

Marv & Mary Sims
 Don Smith
 Jeff & Kristi Smith
 Cecelia & Bob Soderberg
 James & Dorothy Soderlund
 Michael & Robin Soderlund
 Richard & Judy Stewart
 Janice Stromwall
 Julie Swalboski
 Lola Vedders
 Frank & Janet Vetsch
 HC "Bud" & Lorraine Wessman
 Jayme & Nathan Westling
 John & Jackie Youngberg

MAHS appreciates our 23 business members

All-Aboard Travel/Travel Leaders

Billings Service

Blue Moon Saloon

Circle 6 Appraisal

Ethan Allen Law Office

First National Bank of Milaca

Fransen Decorating

Fures Jewelry

Greater Minnesota Credit Union

Harris Hardwoods

Jims Mille Lacs Disposal

Koch Hardware

Milaca DAC

Milaca Local Link

Milaca Township

Molacek Family Eyecare

NAF Properties

North Star Garage

Peterson Johnson Funeral Home

Rum River Realty

Sage Cats Consulting

Town & Country Finance

United Country Real Estate

A total of 227 MAHS members as of 31 Dec 2014
We tried not to miss anyone. Please call 982-1212 if you were missed!

Milaca Museum Open Hours

Open April through October

Wednesday through Friday 1p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call if you need an appointment outside our regular hours

Admission is free!

We appreciate your donations

MAHS
PO Box 144
Milaca, MN 56353

Join us 27 January 2015

Or for any of our regular MAHS meetings!

4th Tuesday each month

January through October

Note The Time! **6:30 p.m.** *Note The Time!*

At the Milaca City Center

Council Chambers

255 First Street E.

Participate in fun and fellowship with
the Milaca Area Historical Society!