

Dodge County Historical Society invites your membership...

Give the gift of a
DCHS membership
 this holiday season!



Membership Form
 Dodge County Historical Society
 P.O. Box 456, Mantorville, MN 55955-0456

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Category: Renewal New
 Annual-\$20 5-Year-\$50 Junior Historian-\$5

Volunteer Opportunities

I would be interested in helping with:

Grant Writing Special Projects
 General Repair Technology
 Fund Raising Office Projects
 Special Events Collection

Please complete this form and send it along with your check to the address above.

Thank You and Welcome!



Fall Newsletter

Non-Profit
 Postage Paid
 Permit No. 14
 Kasson, MN
 55944

Dodge County Historical Society
 615 N. Main, P.O. Box 456
 Mantorville, Minnesota 55955
 507.635.5508 • dchs@kmtel.com

Calendar of Events
 3rd Thursday of each month
DCHS Board meets at the Museum
 Visitors Welcome

Harvest Wine Tasting • November 7
 DCHS Fund Raising Event
 Call 635-5508 for tickets

Christmas in Wasioja
 Church Service Dec. 21 at 5:00 pm
 Wasioja Church

2013 DCHS Board of Directors
 Greg Nelson, President
 Coy Borgstrom, Vice President
 Mary Ann Bucher, Secretary
 Barb Gilliland, Treasurer
 Faye Richter
 Dale Morris
 Diane Berge
 Larry Dobson
 Phil Haukum



Thursday
November 7, 2013
 at
Events
 by Daniel's Saker & Schmitz
 Kasson
\$20 advance • \$25 at the door



Found in the Historical Society Collection

Uniform
Spanish American War
 Black wool military coat, rank of Major, and trousers, worn by Henry Leuthold, born 1865 in Kasson, MN. Henry was son of Jacob Leuthold.



The Leuthold Story
 Jacob Leuthold's remarkable growth of his original little store in Kasson into a chain of businesses establishments in cities and towns in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. In 1855 Jacob came to Mower County where he proved up a farm and lived there six years. He decided to quit the farm, which he later sold for \$1,200 in cash and move to a little village in Dodge County. He found work in a Mantorville store and later began operating "The Farmers House, which he described as "a Hotel and boarding house.

He later commented: "I had a very good run during Civil War drafting time as long as the railrad stopped in Rochester, also during the build of the Courthouse and the Stone Block in Mantorville". When we found that the railroad was going to bypass Mantorville, I came to Kasson. At that time most of the buildings were only shacks and lean-tos. Their son Henry Leuthold was born there in the half finished 20 x 40 building that was to be the new store. Jacob had 5 sons:

Rudolph, John, Jacob Jr., Charles and Henry. They all managed stores. Leuthold Stores were located in Kasson, Spring Valley, Kenyon, Waseca, Owatonna and Osage IA. Our subject, Henry (Hank) was the son of Jacob, and father of Paul who owned the Leuthold Shoe Store in Kasson.



From the President

Fall is fast approaching, and summer has waned away. The Dodge County Historical Society has been very busy this year, and has some exciting things that have happened and more to come. The display at the Wasioja Civil War reenactment was wonderful, and we were glad to see everyone there. If you were not able to make it out, let me invite you to the museum to see the beautiful shadow box display of Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) artifacts, including a black armband worn at Abraham Lincoln’s funeral procession.

We had a nice turn out for our display at the log cabin during the Dodge County Free Fair. I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work getting

the cabin ready, and all the volunteers that helped man the display. We could not do it without you, and your help is immensely appreciated. Another big thank you goes to Dave Chicos, who brought his tractor and Von Ruden rear mounted chain saw for our display. This saw was manufactured in Claremont, MN. in the 1940’s to early 1950’s. Even hooked to the back of a tractor, it must have taken a very strong person to operate it. Once again thank you to all who helped make the fair a successful event.

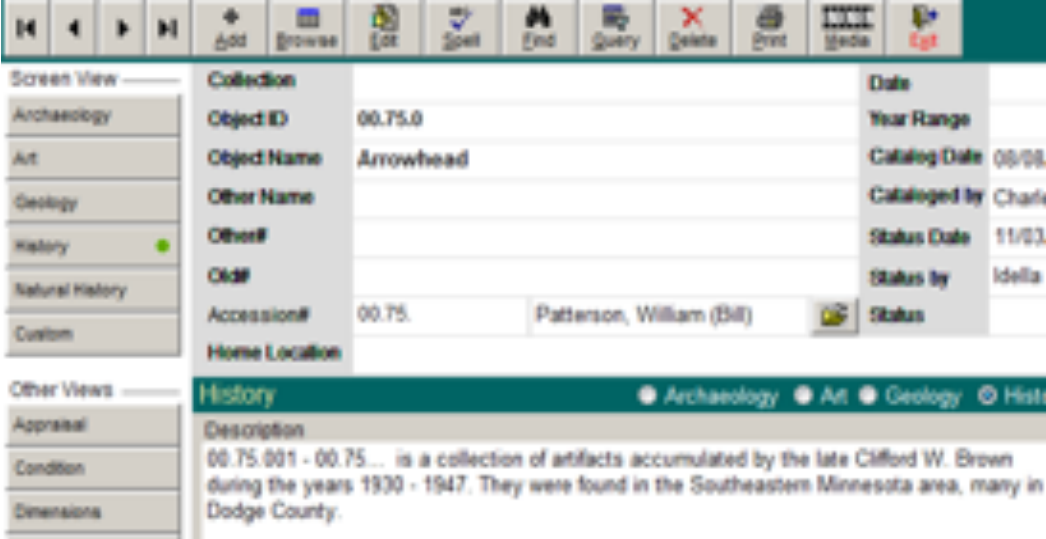
As many of you have probably heard, the City Of Kasson generously offered the DCHS the carriage house that stands behind the Folkstad residence in Kasson. (see article in newsletter) .

We have applied for a grant to pur-

chase a new digital microfilm reader, scanner, and printer. The new machine can clarify and lighten images, as well as crop and other exciting features too numerous to list. If you have ever made a copy from one of these machines and find it dark and difficult to read, this machine can make them crystal clear.

I would also like to welcome Phil Haukom to the executive board. Phil has proven to be a great asset to the DCHS already. Lastly, I want to sincerely thank each of you who have donated generously, either in time volunteered or financially to the Dodge County Historical Society. You are what helps to keep us going on, preserving our rich history for future generations.

Sincerely,
Greg Nelson



Transfer of data to computers aids searches

We have fourteen 3” notebooks full of accession sheets like this. In their day, the people who worked at the museum did a good job of cataloging the items that came into the museum typing up descriptions and putting them into theses notebooks. The problem is, for example, a gentleman came in wanting to see the items his mother donated, but he didn’t know what they were! We invited him to come in and sit down and go through these books ... he wasn’t too keen on that idea.

In the 21st century, we have computers and a museum program called “PastPerfect.” As an Experience Works

employee, I have been assigned to DCHS to help out where I can. I have adopted the project of entering these 14 books of accession records into the PastPerfect program. When I am done, we will take pictures of each item in the museum and add them to the file and each item will have a physical location entered. When someone comes into the museum and asks to see what his mother donated, we will be able to search his mother’s name, and everything will be cross referenced, then we can look at what the items are, and where they are located in the museum or other DCHS location.

Char Shrager

Pattersons preserve local history

In January 1976, Bill & Lucille Patterson walked into the museum with a rather large collection “of artifacts accumulated by the late Clifford W. Brown during the years 1930 - 1947. They were found in the Southeastern Minnesota area, many in Dodge County. Mr. Brown had most of these items cataloged and a card file kept on them, but the stickers came off. The card file was kept in the bottom drawer of the old wardrobe in the museum.

Mr. Brown later gave his collection to Bill Patterson who in turn gave it to the Dodge County Historical Society.

William R. Patterson was born in Wasioja, May 12, 1910. His father, James M. Patterson, served as postmaster of West Concord for several years. His grandfather, James Patterson, was born

in Ayre, Scotland 1834. He homesteaded 120 acres in Milton Township in 1856. James’ wife was the daughter of Marcellus Edison, who also homesteaded in Milton Township and was sheriff of Dodge County in 1869. Lucille Patterson was born in Claremont Township Dec. 26, 1916. Her father, Edward Cartwright, was a Dodge County farmer and a grandson of Anna Cartwright, who homesteaded in Claremont Township in 1856.

The Pattersons purchased the Andrew Doig stone house in Wasioja in 1963 and restored it. The house has since been maintained by them as a year-round home, antique shop and Historic site. In 1975 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Wasioja Historic District.

Watch for
The Dodge County Historical Society Annual Fund Raising Letter. It will be mailed in November. Your support is necessary to maintain a non-profit institution like the Dodge County Historical Society. Please continue to learn about and support you local history. It belongs to you—it’s your museum, your history library, your Dodge County Historical Society—past, present and future. Don’t forget the Dodge County Historical Society in your will or estate planning.

New Acquisitions
This summer we have been privileged to receive some unique donations to our collection.
• The framed Charter of the Orcott GAR Post - donated by the West Concord American Legion Post.
• The very first portable computer in Dodge County - donated by the Court House. – Note that it weighs 40 pounds.
• Two wool Quilts from Eleanor Staplekamp.
• Beautiful garments from the late 1800’s donated by the Stanton Family in Hayfield.
• Oil painting of the Church painted by Ron Hunt donated by Don Pappas.
• 1937 Dodge County Atlas donated by Steven Suhr.
• Parade Uniform and 48 star flag donated by the VFW in Mantorville.

Thanks for all the DCHS support

Volunteers

- Jerry & Karen Chellgren
- Darrel Faulkner
- Barb Loquai
- Barb Maplethorpe
- Barb & Klaus Alberts
- Paul Larson
- Ron Ruport
- Brian McCool
- Richard Hutton
- Linda Jervis
- Janet Kelling
- Mary Lee Lambert
- Austin Renland
- Ben Renland
- John Olive
- Dave Hanson
- Bob Beaver
- Dve Delzer
- Marlys Delzer
- Virginia Giese
- Gerald Giese
- Duane Hythecker
- Janice Hythecker
- Lowel Johnson
- Lois Nash
- Sharon Theimann
- Eleanor Engesser
- Christina Smith Nelson
- Sandy Gochnauer

Memorials To

- Clarence Smith by Cindi Carter
- Mary Ann Bucher
- Dale Morris
- Barbara Gilliland
- Scott French
- Lowell Johnson
- Karl & Lyn Griffith
- Robrt Senjem
- Donald or Joyce Alberts
- Larry and Janet Johnson
- Silvester and Shirley Stockelll
- Brian Andrist
- Dave & Ruth Hanson
- Twin Creek Farm
- Dave & Marlys Delzer
- Earl & Jean Johnson
- Don & Linda Bartel
- Royce & Beatrice Naylor
- Dennis & Debora Klocke
- Harold & Marion Johnson
- Dwayne Schmoll
- Lyle & Carol Tjossas
- Dale Morris
- Darrold & Naomi Flury
- John & Shirley Chapin
- Greg & Linda Leth – Wagon Restoration
- Klaus & Barbara Alberts

- Marlow Hjellming by Mary Ann Bucher
- Virginia Trapp by Dale Morris

Donations since March 2013

- Jim Buehler
- John Dittrich
- Gretchen Erickson
- Dan French
- Mary Lou Hindal
- Ladyslipper Model A’s Ford Club
- Dan and Tammy Neseth
- Carol Niewinski
- Larry Rouhoff
- Project Kids

Townships

- Wasioja Township
- Canisteo Township
- Ripley Township

MN Statute 138.053 states that “a town may annually appropriate from its general fund up to 0.02418 percent of its taxable market value to be paid to the County Historical Society.” Since DCHS is officially sanctioned by the Minnesota Historical Society, contributions are within a townships scope of operations.

Become a member of DCHS

(Dodge County Historical Society)
As Dodge County residents, you and your family helped make history in Dodge County.

As a member of Dodge County Historical Society, you can help preserve that history so your children and grand children have a resource they can use to find the story of their origins.

Being a DCHS member is interesting, educational and fun.

DCHS Turns Down Folkestad Carriage House

By Gretta Becay

The unique carriage house behind the old Folkestad garage at 310 West Main St in Kasson will remain in its location for now. The board of directors of the historical society voted against accepting the building from the City of Kasson at a special meeting Aug 1.

The city purchased the property earlier this year and offered the structure to the Dodge County Historical Society along with \$10,000 to help with the expenses of moving it.

Before the meeting, members researched moving costs.

The moving of the building itself would cost about \$6,000, including moving permits but the costs of pouring a foundation for about \$4,000, a deposit to Xcel Energy of \$3,500, shingling the roof and stabilizing the base of the building for about \$13,500 all added up to a sum well over the amount available for the move. Continuing upkeep on the building would be another expense.

The city purchased the entire Folkestad property to use as a "business incubator" where new or existing businesses can have space to start up or expand. The city plans to gut the garage and use that space, demolish the house on the property, and find a new home for the unique carriage house.

Greg Nelson, president of the Society, received several letters about the building, almost all of which were against accepting the gift. David Grabitske, from the Preservation Office of the Minnesota State Historical Society, wrote, "While age may be a factor, age alone does not make something historic."

The history of the building before World War II is uncertain. Shortly after the war, Richard Folkestad moved it from the neighborhood of Third St and Third Ave Northwest to its present location near Main Street behind the Folkestad garage.



The carriage house has four different sides. It displays different architectural styles in its dormers and combines both Victorian and Federal styles. Many of those discussing the building have conjectured it was used as a "sampler" to show potential homebuilders what the carpenter could build for their home. Was that carpenter E.E. Heulster, the builder of the iconic Kasson water tower? Or is it just an old carriage house? Those questions may never be answered. Since that meeting the Mantorville Restoration and the Mantorville Theatre are pursuing the Carriage House. The Theatre group would use it to design, build and store flats for the theatre productions.



DCHS Hosts County Commissioners and Special Guests

Beautiful weather greeted the guests under white tents as the Historical Society served a delightful lunch on the grounds of the Historical Society. Everyone enjoyed visiting the Museum to see the changes that have been made, with new exhibits and stories. Janet Faulkner, from Rochester entertained the group with renditions on the 1874 Chickering Piano. Thank You to Barb Loquai, Paul Larson & Ron Ruport for helping with the Luncheon, Barb and Klaus Alberts and Mary Ann Bucher for supplying the great food. Everyone enjoyed the finale presentation of 2 pies and a layer cake.

History of the Mantorville School

In August of 2013 the County of Dodge purchased the Mantorville School property from Ken and Carol Keller. Here is a little history of the schools in Mantorville.

From "Mantorville of Today" – no date.

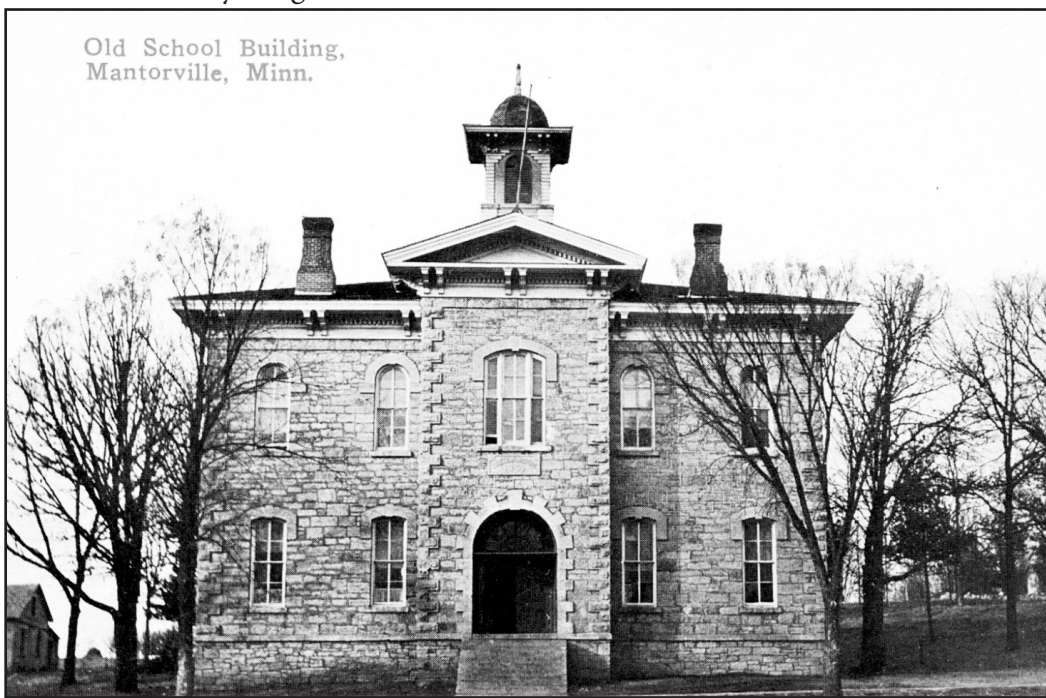
Educational
Building for permanence, the founders of Mantorville from the first recognized the beneficent influences of education, and provide the means for cultivating the intellect, thus the town has two well-fitted school buildings. In 1869 the building which is now known as the "Central School" was erected, but three years ago the conclusion was

arrived at that the one building was inadequate, hence in 1894 another school was erected and is at present known as the "High School" building, neither served as the present school (1952).

The best instructors only are employed, which are mostly the graduates of

thorough Normal Schools. Liberal salaries are paid and every effort is made to secure the highest efficiency in the instructors. The School Board is comprised of six members.

(To be continued next issue)



Old School Building, Mantorville, Minn.

Welcome

New & Renewed Membership

- Archer, Richard
- Baudion, Jerry
- Berge, Dianne
- Berge Mavis
- Borgstrom, Coy
- Buehler, Jim
- Delzer, Dave
- Delzer Marlys
- Engesser, Eleanor
- Faulkner, Darrel
- Guzniczak, Vivian
- Haugen, Michael
- Huppler, Karl
- Huse, Karla
- Hyland, Timothy
- Kroulik, Mary Jane
- McConkey, Karen
- Milde, Charles
- Nelson, Anton,
- Nelson, Joan
- Newinski, Carol
- Powell, Nancy
- Ricketts, Susan
- Sander, Pamela
- Senjem, Daniel
- Sowieja, Judy
- Stanton, Marion
- Webster, Carla
- Webster, Glenn



1896 Mantorville High School

DCHS preserves local history for posterity.

Closing ceremony held for 1921 Mantorville school

By **Gretta Becay**

About 130 people attended an event to say goodbye to the 1921 portion of the old Kasson-Mantorville Intermediate School on September 14, 2013.

Dodge County is purchasing the school with the condition that the 1921 section be demolished before the deal is closed.

The county plans to move administrative offices into the remainder of the structure after some remodeling. The property also gives the county much more parking space.

Mayor Chuck Bradford said, "The good news is, we are not losing the entire structure, we are not losing county services, we are not losing the oldest working courthouse in the state, and we are not losing a valued partner in our community."

The building's current owners, Kent and Carole Keller, hosted the ceremony, organized by Jane and John Olive.

Kent said the people that built the building knew it would eventually be torn down; therefore, they left a message in the cornerstone.

After the speeches, Kent and John laid the 1921 limestone cornerstone on its side and using a chrome-plated pry bar, carefully opened the metal box time capsule inside the stone block.

Wearing gloves, Kent pulled out the revealed papers and read portions of them to the waiting crowd.

Included were the high school annual, published by the senior class of 1921, and information that the cornerstone was laid in June 1921. The building was built using bricks from Roanoke, Ill, Mantorville limestone, and Portland cement.

"To whom it may concern," began one document, which gave information about the two bond issues needed to build the school. A \$41,000 bond approved in March 1920 and an additional \$18,000 bond approved the fol-

lowing spring provided the majority of the financing for the building. The first bond passed with only 10 dissenting votes and the second passed by a clear majority.

The writer talked about the high costs associated with construction at the time.

The program from the school's groundbreaking ceremony was included, mentioning the elementary children singing.

Kent turned over the contents to Mary Ann Bucher from the Dodge County Historical Society. Experts in that organization will preserve the papers for posterity.

From students graduating in 2014 (who attended the middle school before they were transferred to the new Kasson school) to 99-year-old Maxine Harris who graduated in 1932, the building brought back memories for those attending the ceremony.

Former county commissioner Klaus Alberts, class of 1950 – three boys, nine girls -remembers a prank the girls played on one of the teachers. They put a tack on the teacher's chair and after he sat on it, "He was stormin,'" said Alberts.

"One of them ran to the girls' restroom but that didn't stop the teacher; he ran in after her."

Janice and Don Torgelson remembered a prank from the 1950's when they attended the school. There were eight servings of butterscotch pudding for the home economics class set out on a table in the cafeteria and someone gobbled up them all.

"It's still a mystery who ate them," said Don.

Janice said she lived close enough to the school that she could walk home for lunch so she couldn't eat in the cafeteria every day. But, on the days the cook - Mrs. Bradford - made barbecue, it was so good all the students ate there. The meal was sort of like a sloppy joe,

explained Janice; hamburger and barbecue sauce served on a bun.

Discipline was stronger then, said Don.

He remembers the 'spat board' kept in the principal's office.

Ironically, the paddle was made by students in a shop class, said Don. It was a smoothed board with holes in it. He personally never felt its sting, he said, but kids that did then had bragging rights.

Bricks and limestone blocks that can be preserved during the demolition are being offered for sale to interested people. For more information, contact 1921mantorvilleschool@gmail.com.

Proceeds from the sale are being donated to the Kasson-Mantorville schools activities department.

Right: Crowd, many in costume, watches as time capsule is opened; below, Kent Keller opens the time capsule as John Olive and MaryAnn Bucher watch in anticipation.



Experience Works at the Dodge County Historical Society

Experience Works is a national, non-profit organization offering job training, job placement, and work experience in community service organizations to mature workers over age 55.

Originally named Green Thumb, this organization was established in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson (with encouragement from Lady Bird) to provide job placement for poor, rural farmers.

Since then, Experience Works has evolved to include a variety of programs designed to help older workers enter the workforce, find more challenging positions, change careers, or supplement their incomes.

Dave Dubbels and Char Shrager are working at the Museum through the Experience Works Program. They each one work 21 hours a week.

Dave works Monday – Thursday primarily General Office, Tour Guide and registering memberships, memorials and donations in the Past Perfect Program

Char works Thursday - Saturday with general and individual requests for research and has honed in on entering all of the accession sheets into Past Perfect. There are 14 3" three ring note books.

Stop in an visit us.