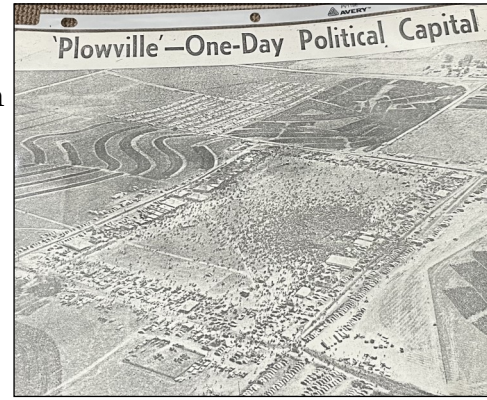


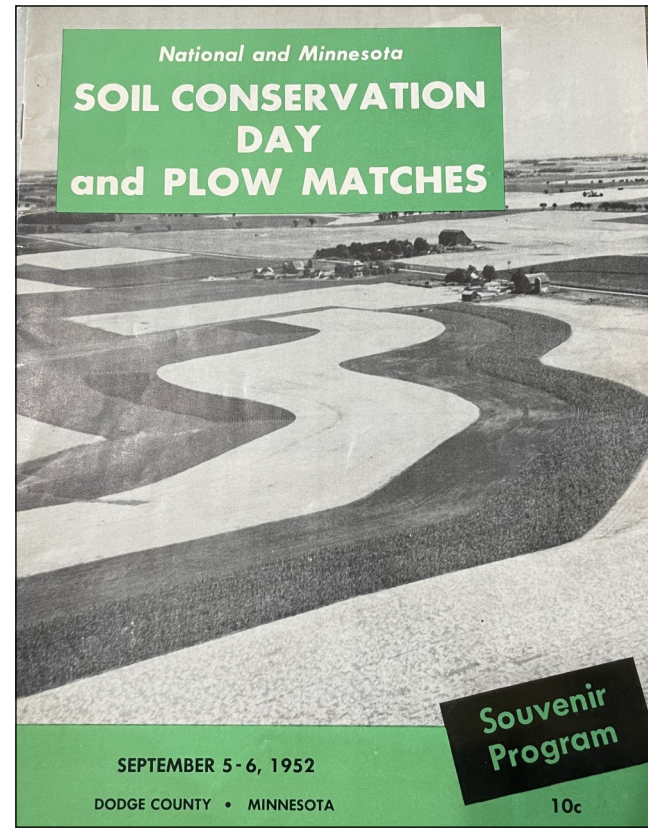
Share your Plowville story with DCHS

Our featured exhibit at the county fair and at our Tractor Time/Garden Party showcased Plowville, the event that took place seventy years ago, in September 1952. We displayed posters showing the main information about the event, and we encouraged people who have memories of Plowville to share them with us. The exhibit generated a lot of interest and many entertaining stories were told of various aspects of what went on.

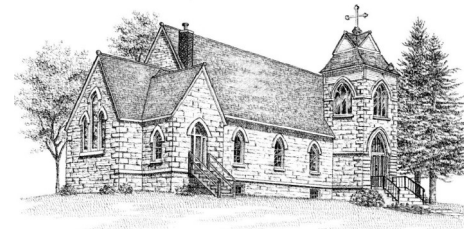
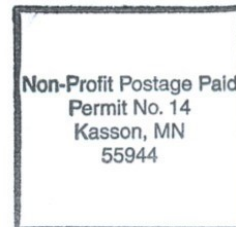
We are still interested in learning people's recol-



lections of that day, so if you, or a friend or family member has something to contribute, contact us at dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We plan to incorporate those memories in a future exhibit.



DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 456
MANTORVILLE, MN 55955



**DC
HS**

The Hilltop

News from the Dodge County Historical Society

Fall 2022

Civil War exhibit opens Oct. 16

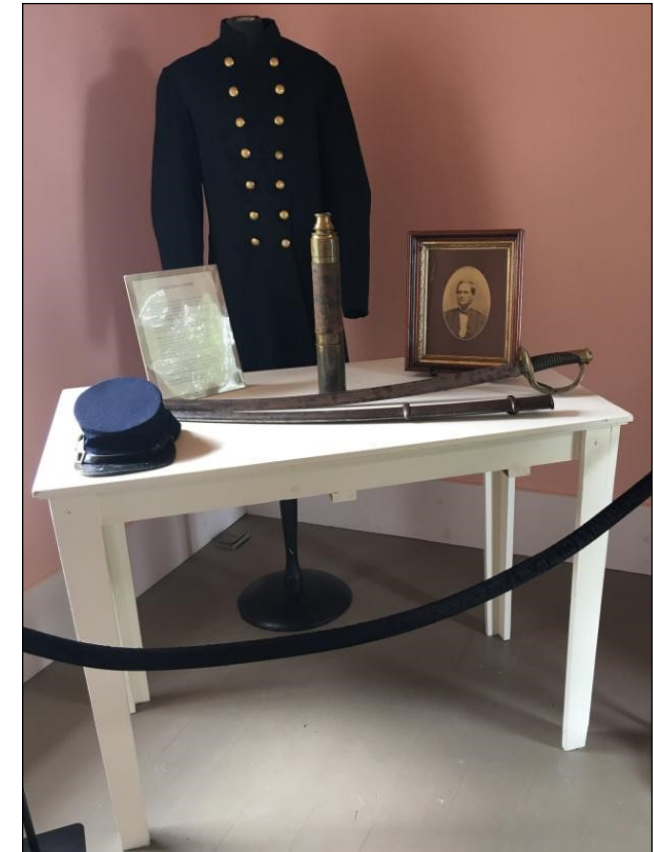
We are happy to announce the official opening of our new Civil War exhibit featuring Colonel James George of Wasioja. We invite you to come to the DCHS Museum at 615 N. Main St., Mantorville, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, to view the new exhibit. Refreshments will be served. This day marks the end of the museum's official open hours for 2022. The museum remains open by appointment until spring 2023.

James George was born in New York state in 1819 and educated there. He worked as a bookkeeper and a teacher before moving to Ohio, where he became a Registrar of Deeds.

After serving as captain of an Ohio Company in the Mexican War (1846-48) and being wounded at the Battle of Monterey, he was awarded a land warrant in Minnesota, which brought him and his family west. He was one of Wasioja's earliest pioneers, and when the Civil War broke out in 1861, he worked to recruit

local men into the Union Army. The new recruits enlisted at George's stone law office in Wasioja, which earned it the name of "Recruiting Station," which it still carries today. During the war, Colonel George led his men of Company C into battle, including the battles of Mill Springs and Chickamauga.

Neil Farnham and his family of Rochester are direct descendants of James George. They donated their personal collection of Civil War era memorabilia from the Colonel's family, including both a Mexican War uniform coat and a Civil War uniform frock coat and hat (kepi), saber and scabbard, telescope, officer's epaulets, canvas-covered leather trunk, and Army-issued McClellan saddle.



Neil Farnham and his family of Rochester donated their personal collection of Civil War era memorabilia from Col. James George's family to the Dodge County Historical Society. That collection will be on display beginning Oct. 16. The museum will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. that day.

Stop by to view the new exhibit and visit with museum volunteers while enjoying cookies and a beverage on Oct. 16.

Board Members

Jean Bartel, President
Nan Babcock, Vice President
Lois Hancock, Secretary
Tom Gall, Treasurer
Linda Jerviss
Lori Kryzer
Dallas Ness

Hours (through Oct. 16)

Thursday 1-4 p.m.
Friday 1-4 p.m.
Saturday 1-4 p.m.
Sunday 1-4 p.m.
We will have volunteer staff at the museum at additional times as well.
Please contact us 48 hours in advance if you want to make an appointment to come in at a time outside of these hours.
We will do our best to accommodate you.
We love visitors, so please come and see us!
Look at our many historic artifacts, and do some research into your family history or your community's history.

Contact Information

Dodge County Historical Society
615 North Main Street
Mantorville, MN 55955
Phone: 507.635.5508
Email: dodgecountyhistorical.society@gmail.com

Website

<https://dodgecountyhistorical.mn/>

Moving?

Please contact the society if your address or email has changed.

The mission of the Dodge County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Dodge County in relation to the history of the state of Minnesota.



Tractor Time/ Garden Party held

We celebrated our rural and local heritage on July 31 with a combined Tractor Time/Garden Party in Wasioja. More than 40 tractors made the trip, and proud owners parked their machines and spent time visiting with each other, and visiting the historic structures that were open for company that day.

The Civil War Recruiting Station was open with live music provided on the lawn by Heidi and Brian Brasher.

Inside the Wasioja School, agricultural exhibits were on display, and at the Plowville exhibit, people

were encouraged to share their memories of the event.

In the Wasioja Church, Levi Livingood was on duty at the piano, playing old time hymns, and visitors were welcome to join in the singing.

The Ted Bartel Memorial Gardens were open for people to enjoy nature, and at the Creamery there were places to sit down, enjoy bundt cake and beverages, and visit with friends.

This event was a fundraiser and a time to welcome visitors into our historic buildings on a lovely summer day. We appreciate all those who came out to take part in it. Kudos to the 20 enthusiastic volunteers who contributed their time to make the event a success.

Mark your Calendars

- ◆ Sunday, Oct. 16, 1-4 p.m., Museum Open House featuring new Colonel George exhibit
- ◆ Saturday, Dec. 10, Christmas Memories: Dessert at the Creamery by reservation only, call 507-421-9810
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 11, 1-5 p.m., Christmas Memories: Open House at the Creamery
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Christmas Memories: Church Service at the Wasioja Church



Fair exhibit

The Log Cabin was humming with activity during the Dodge County Fair in July. In addition to exhibits and volunteers entertaining visitors inside the air-conditioned building, we had blacksmiths on duty on the lawns each day. Mark Grimes of rural Pine Island and Zac Wilcox of Dodge Center demonstrated their skills and equipment as they heated and shaped metal into usable goods that would have been needed by our early settlers.

Inside, exhibits featured blacksmith tools, early Dodge County newspapers, office artifacts used in the Dodge County Courthouse, and information on our country schools. Another exhibit showcased the 70th anniversary of Plowville, the national event that brought two national presidential candidates together on the same stage while bringing attention to agricultural conservation concerns in 1952. We collected stories from visitors who had participated in the event.

We couldn't have done it without the 27 volunteers who acted as hosts. Thank you for your contribution.



Above, Blacksmith Mark Grimes of rural Pine Island and below, blacksmith Zac Wilcox demonstrated their skills and equipment at the Dodge County Fair.



Volunteers power DCHS

Our volunteers contributed many hours to make things happen for DCHS this summer. Special events and keeping the museum open four afternoons a week made it a very busy time for us. We appreciate each hour that was contributed by these generous people.

In August we held a volunteer training session attended by eight people where we covered some basic historical background of the museum and our other buildings. We have several volunteers interested in learning how to conduct research using the resources we have at the museum and online, so we hope to hold a training on research in the future. Please contact us if you are interested.

Thank you to our volunteers.

Barb Alberts
Barb Gilliland

Barb Maplethorpe
Barb Meidinger
Bill Babcock
Boyd & Shelby Winslow
Brian & Heidi Brasher
Chris Snow
Connie Wobig
Dave Chicos
Dave Hanson
Dave Erickson
Deb Wilson
Dennis & Diana Vang
Eleanor Engesser
Jan Jech
Janet Kubat Willette
Jerry Suhr
Jim Checkel
Jim Twaddle

Julie & Scott French
Kay & Orlo Toquam
Ken & Janice Borgstrom-Durst
Kim Boyum
Levi Livingood
Mark Packard
Mary Ann Bucher
Mike Suhr
Nancy Clancy
Patti Krier
Paul Larson
Phil & Diann Greene
Richard Harris
Sharon Thiemann
Tonya Edgar
Vernice Engelken

KM alumni visit Wasioja

Kasson-Mantorville High School's Class of 1967 held their 55th reunion in Wasioja in mid-August. Under the leadership of Ginny Suhr Basseen the group took a tour of our historic district. Approximately 30 attendees stopped at the Seminary, Doig House, 1858 Baptist Church, Wasioja Schoolhouse and the Recruiting Station.

We had volunteers at each location to share the history of the booming village as well as stories of the buildings, which were open

to tour. Everyone enjoyed learning about Wasioja and its early role in Dodge County as well as in the Civil War. For a few of the attendees, we even put Wasioja on the map - to live so near, yet not be aware of this small slice of history.

Our volunteers are willing to offer this opportunity to other groups on a limited basis, so contact the Dodge County Historical Society if you would like more information.



Christmas in Wasioja events set for Dec. 10-11

DCHS will be holding our second annual holiday fundraiser in Wasioja with 3 different events.

We are pulling out all the stops again this year to decorate the Wasioja Creamery for Christmas. There will be festive decorations throughout the main and second floors featuring eight Christmas trees with various themes.

DCHS has enlisted our talented volunteers to create a limited selection of floral arrangements in vintage holiday themed containers, as well as collections of holiday baked goods. These items will be for sale during our events.

Saturday, Dec. 10, Christmas Tea

We will hold two seatings. Both will offer a delicious, elegant dessert and beverage with time afterward to enjoy the decorations throughout the creamery. We encourage you to find a comfortable place to sit and visit. Seating will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. with dessert served upon arrival. Reservations only, limited seating.

Please call 507-421-9810 to reserve your spot for the 1 p.m. or 5 p.m. seating. Admission is \$20 per person.

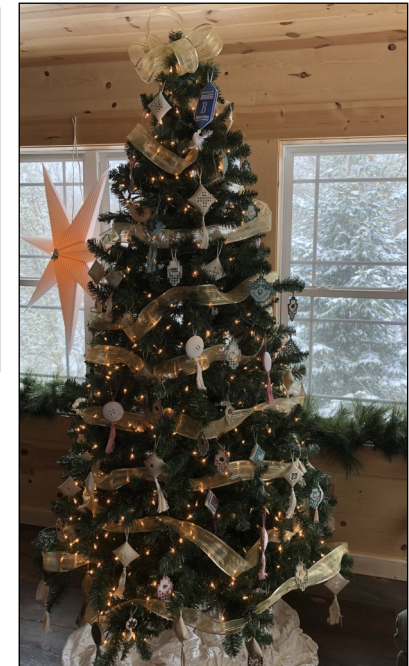
Sunday, Dec. 11, Open House at the creamery

The creamery will be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 and light refreshments will be served. Donations to the Dodge County Historical Society encouraged.

Sunday, Dec. 11, Wasioja Christmas Church Service

Our annual Yuletide service at Wasioja Church is 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11. Plan to sing your favorite carols and enjoy a Christmas message. Cookies and coffee served after the service. Free will offering with proceeds to DCHS.

Back by popular demand, we will offer decorat-



Clockwise, from upper right, the Wasioja Church decorated for Christmas, a decorated tree at the Creamery and a Norwegian Kransekake.

ed Norwegian Kransekake, perfect for your holiday table. Please call 507-421-9810 to reserve yours. Orders must be made before Dec 1. Cost is \$35.

Check our website at dodgecountyhistorical.mn or follow us on Facebook for more details as they become available.

Thanks to intern Annie Buresh

Annie Buresh contacted us in mid-May wondering if we would have an intern opportunity at the museum. We discussed it at the May meeting, had support from the Dodge County Commissioners, and on May 27 she became a DCHS intern.

During her first three weeks, Annie spent every day cataloging articles that had been waiting to be accessioned into our collection. Some items had waited more than 50 years! It was tedious work describing each item thoroughly, measuring, photographing or scanning, and then renaming each image in the computer to correspond to its new museum number.

Annie also helped clean our various buildings for events, setting up exhibits for the fair and researching genealogy requests that came through the museum. She staffed the museum along with a senior volunteer, as well as worked at the fair every day.

The last of the textiles we have inventoried in the lower level of the museum were tucked into archive boxes with Annie's help and are now safely in storage. We spent a few days work-



Annie Buresh, center, helped with the garment preservation project at the Dodge County Historical Society over the summer.

ing at off-site storage facilities to inventory, photograph and organize items.

All this inventory, cataloging and imaging has now been entered into a database. Annie worked on data entry whenever she had free minutes at the museum, or she worked on it from home when we didn't have staff

to supervise her during the week. Aside from a few days off, Annie was at the museum, fairgrounds or at a storage building almost every day of her summer. She was kind, patient, thorough, ambitious, willing to learn, effervescent and a joy to work with. We are grateful for all her hard work.

Now Available

The Berne Church: Rooted and Grounded in Love is an extraordinary history of its people. This compilation of oral history, articles, and research, told in a storytelling style, brings to life the Swiss pioneer families who settled among indigenous people to begin this agrarian community in the 1850s. They needed this community, this church, established in 1872, to overcome many challenges. This account will appeal to the historian as well as the genealogist in you. The voices may come from Berne, Minnesota families, whom you will get to know, but these stories are shared by rural communities all over America.

ORDER TODAY!!

Email : bernechurch@bevcomm.net call: 507-356-4340 T, W, Thurs

The book will be sold at the DCHS museum.

Visit museum during Fall Festival

Mantorville's Fall Festival is Oct. 29 and the Dodge County Historical Society is joining the fun. The museum will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 29.

Be sure to stop by. Volunteers will be handing out treats to little ones in costume who come up the hill to visit the museum.



Thank you to our donors

Dodge County Historical Society is a non-profit organization operated entirely by volunteers. Our assets include the Museum, the Ashland School, and the Old Settler's House in Mantorville, along with the Wasioja Church, School and Recruiting Station. These buildings contain amazing history, which we want to share as ef-

fectively as possible with the people around us.

As we look to the future, we will be sharing specific needs we have to enable us to share our history in ways that are enjoyable as well as educational.

Our financial needs are great, and we always appreciate the

generosity of those who contribute to our cause. A huge thank-you to our donors, for gifts large and small.

Thank you to those who have donated from July through September 2022, including:

- Lois Johnson
- Judy Severson
- Lance Sorensen

- Merrie Powell
- Mary Lou McClamroch
- Jacob Roy
- Lions Club of Kasson-Mantorville
- Joy Beaver
- Michael Rentas
- Virginia Basseen
- Sheila Hisdahl