

Guess what?

An image from our files from the 1920s. Can you tell us where it was taken and what happened? Send your guesses to dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

In the last newsletter, we featured an image from the Wasioja School in October 1955. We received no information on the identities of the students in the image.



Legacy grant funds restoration work on red house

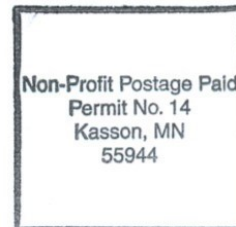
The Historical Society received a Legacy grant to fund preservation and restoration of the little red house on the museum grounds. The project began in late April and is nearing completion. Work completed to date includes tuckpointing of the exterior stone foundation and partial tuckpointing of the interior basement wall; total dismantling

and rebuilding of the chimney; complete roof replacement with cedar shingles; and repair and/or replacement of aged wooden siding and trim. Other damaged areas include the porch floor and pillars, which had to be rebuilt, as well as the basement door and window shutters.

The Historical Society acquired this house in 1990. It is one of the earliest structures in Mantorville and is thought to have been built in the mid-1850s. It remains an important example of early pioneer architecture.

Linda Jerviss

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Update on historical society happenings

Summer greetings to DCHS members and supporters. The election results are in and Tom Aakre, Nan Babcock and Tom Gall are new board members. Jean Bartel is the new president, Jim Checkel is vice president and Lois Hancock is treasurer.

There's a lot going on with the historical society, including:

- Construction on the Bourdon house also known as little red house on the hill.
- Shingling of the museum and Henslin School.
- New exhibit at government center in Mantorville.
- Staffing museum on weekends.

Past president sends greetings, asks for volunteers

Hello members of the Dodge County Historical Society membership,

For the past two and one half years of my appointed presidency of the DCHS I have been behind the scenes of the museum due to pandemic-related closures. Most of our activities were postponed or cancelled including the Dodge County Business Expo and 2020 Dodge County Fair.

I very much enjoyed meeting you at the dedication of our re-

stored Recruiting Station in Wasioja. For age related concerns I choose not to run for a second term. I enjoyed watching your newly elected president, Jean Bartel, perform as master of ceremonies at the Memorial Day event at the Seminary In Wasioja.

I do intend to help where I can as a volunteer helping to keep the museum open on weekends when the construction and clean up is complete. The plan is to open Saturdays and Sundays

from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with volunteer greeters. DCHS board members are responsible for finding volunteers willing to help. I will be responsible to find volunteers for the weekend shifts until winter closure Oct. 16. The museum will be closed the weekend of the county fair, July 17-18.

Dave Hanson

Contact Dave at applacre@frontiernet.net or 507.374.6594.

Board Members

Jean Bartel, President
 Jim Checkel, Vice President
 Lois Hancock, Secretary
 David Chicos
 Janet Kubat-Willette
 Mark Packard
 Dave Aakre
 Nan Backcock
 Tom Gall

Contact Information

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Moving?

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

Ordering online?

When ordering through Amazon Smiles, be sure to designate the historical society for your donations.

Website

www.dodgecountyhistorical.org



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



New government center exhibit

The Dodge County Historical Society exhibit at the Government Center reflects the county's agricultural heritage.

The Vorce plow exhibit tells the story of the first settlers in the county who broke the prairie. Linda Jerviss, Jim Checkel, Lois Hancock and Jean Bartel collaborated on various aspects of the

exhibit to give a factual and interesting account of the family, plow, oxen yoke and the history of settling Dodge County.

The exhibit will travel to the Dodge County Fair, July 14-18, and be on display at the log cabin if you are unable to view it at the Government Center.

Jean Bartel

Thank you!

Thank you to all who support Dodge County Historical Society. Your support is vital to keep the organization in operation.
 Gloria Alberts

Jean Bartel
 Gary Bromley
 Mary Ann Bucher
 Karl Huppler
 Quentin Kleinwort

Ardis Marquardt
 Morris and Jane Marquette
 Ripley Township
 Westfield Township
 Lowell Wright

Textile preservation is work in progress

Have you had a chance to visit the museum to see the beautiful white Edwardian dresses on exhibit?

This work began last year with a search for a suitable Suffragette dress to celebrate 100 years of the passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. Board member Linda Jerviss discovered that our textiles needed proper cleaning and archival storage. The garments were various shades of dark yellow to almost brown. With careful laundering in a special solution, the cotton garments have been restored to their pristine white. They were collected in the lower level of the museum while we worked to find their accession numbers, either already sewn into the garment or combing through the 18 binders of accession sheets to identify the garment and sew in an identifying tag. Once they were properly tagged, they were photographed and described in detail. This information will be uploaded onto a new statewide museum database.

The board approved the purchase of archival boxes and tissue so these garments can be safely stored to prevent further deterioration. At the beginning of May, the white cotton garments were all carefully tucked into the boxes with lots of tissue, properly labeled between layers of tissue, and catalogued on each box. This location information will also be uploaded to the database so a future exhibit using the garments can be done with-



Volunteers work on packaging textiles for storage in the museum basement.

out disrupting all the contents of the archives.

Once the white cotton garments were packed for permanent storage, we unpacked the many boxes of Victorian wear. These garments are hanging on rods in the lower level of the museum to air out. We are rotating garments to the entry of the museum so on nice days they can be pulled to the front step for fresh air. The garments are mostly wool and silk and are quite fragile. They cannot be laundered, so fresh air and gentle care will be the mandate. The same numbering, photo, documenting process will be followed before very carefully packing these into archival boxes.

There are some garments that are worn and could not be used in an exhibit like the Edwardian exhibit now at the museum, but the

handsewn construction and ornamentation still warrants the storage of these garments for a teaching exhibit on garment construction in the Victorian era.

While we do this work in the lower level, it is open as a learning exhibit for those visiting the museum. It is important to understand that these garments are all that is left of this bygone era. We are fortunate that the garments in our collection are from prominent citizens of Dodge County.

Please find time to visit and enjoy the Edwardian exhibit upstairs and check out the ongoing archival work in the lower level. Perhaps consider a monetary contribution to help us defray the expense needed to archive and store this fragile part of our museum collection.

Jean Bartel