



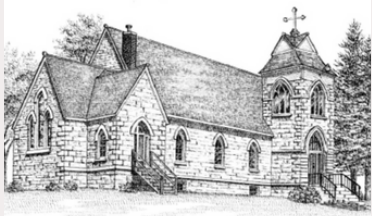
Newsletter

Turning back time with Model T visit to Wasioja

The Dodge County Historical Society hosted a huge group of Model T drivers at the Wasioja Recruiting Station on July 25. The drivers came from all over the United States and beyond. They were in the area for their international convention and stopped midmorning for doughnuts in Wasioja. We had volunteers on hand to greet them, many in costumes of the era. Thanks to Bruce Bordelon for coordinating this event.



Mark Your Calendar
Volunteer Appreciation
Saturday, Oct. 25, 1-4 p.m.



Member updates

Board Members

Jean Bartel, President
 Nan Babcock, Vice President
 Lois Hancock, Secretary
 Tom Gall, Treasurer
 Mary Sue Sandeno
 Elaine French
 Dale Rood

Hours

By appointment only through May. Please contact us via email 48 hours in advance if you want to make an appointment to come in. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Contact Information

Dodge County Historical Society
 615 North Main Street
 P.O. Box 456
 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.

Rummage sale during Marigold Days

The Dodge County Historical Society is having a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5 and Saturday, Sept. 6 at the DCHS Museum, 615 Main St., Mantorville, Minn.

Among the items for sale are Dodge Center Dodgers yearbooks from 1958 through the mid 1980s and old sheet music.

Stop by and see what we have and find new treasures to take home.

Volunteer thank you event is Oct. 25

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 25 for a volunteer appreciation event at the museum from 1 to 4 p.m.

The DCHS board will be showing our appreciation for the many generous volunteers who are the reason the Dodge County Historical Society is able to function.

Stop by for refreshments and enjoy the museum's exhibits on the last day of our regular 2025 season.

Beginning in November, the museum will be open by appointment only. Email dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Volunteers Lois Hancock and Jan Jech sew printed accession numbers into textiles in the DCHS collection.

Marigold Days walking tours are Friday and Saturday

DCHS member and Mantorville history enthusiast Tom Gall will conduct walking tours of Mantorville during Marigold Days.

Tours will be at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Meet at the Welcome Center, 407 N. Main St., Mantorville.

Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

Members: Update your information

Many of the DCHS membership records are out of date and need to be updated. If you've ditched your landline, updated your email address or moved, please let us know so we can keep in touch. Email your updated information to dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Donations always appreciated

DCHS is a nonprofit organization that relies heavily on your generosity. One example of a giving opportunity is through Thrivent. IBM employees can do matching grants.

As you consider your end of year giving, please keep the Dodge County Historical Society in mind.

The purpose of the historical society is to preserve and promote the history of Dodge County, Minnesota.

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.

DCHS joins history exchange

In June, our members were sent new membership cards with an explanation of a new collaboration that DCHS has joined. The purpose of joining is to offer unique experiences for history buffs.

The collaborating historical societies are a short drive from each other and the Twin Cities metro area, making them all ideal destinations for day trips.

Southern Minnesota History Exchange (SMHE) has a Facebook page, please go out and follow us. It will alert you to programs and events going on at the other members' sites.

Many of these opportunities will offer a discount to their local members, and as DCHS members, you will also be eligible for that offered discount.

A paid staff or volunteer representative from each of the

historical societies meets once a month at one of the museums to share information, offer suggestions on issues or concerns, and topics/ ideas for future events. This is extremely valuable to those of us that are operating under all-volunteer staffing.



Do you have historical items in your attic?

When you are going through Grandma's attic and you run into old things that you might not know what they are, look again. They may be valuable; they may provide understanding into family history and insight into local and national events.

Consider finding out more about these items by consulting us at the historical society, doing a quick internet search, or talking with someone at an antique store.

Many items in the DCHS collection shed light into the everyday life of residents of our county from years past. Band uniforms, schoolbooks and advertising items are valuable parts of Dodge County's heritage.

Before tossing heirlooms in the trash, bring them to the historical society; they may be just what we're looking for to complete an exhibit.



Get ready for Christmas in Wasioja

Plan to attend our Christmas events in Wasioja on Sunday, Dec. 14. We'll host an open house fundraiser at the Creamery from 1 to 5 p.m. with decorations, music, holiday vendors, cookies for sale, and refreshments. All are welcome to come and enjoy the holiday ambience.

At 6 p.m. we'll hold our annual Christmas Candlelight Service at the Historic Wasioja Church. Levi Livingood at the piano will provide carols and Pastor John Todor will share an inspirational message.

SMHE program on POWs held in Owatonna

A recent SMHE program presented by the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna featured information about World War II prisoners of war that were encamped nearby.

Owatonna was home to a prisoner of war (POW) camp in 1944. There were 16 camps in Minnesota with the base camp in Algona, Iowa. Camp Number 5 was based at the Thomas Cashman farm in Owatonna. He died in 1933, but his widow had two houses, one with 15 rooms and the other with 11, along with several outbuildings. Officers stayed in the larger house, guards in the smaller one, and the prisoners had barracks in the barn. The location of this Cashman farm is where the new Honda dealership is going up near 26th St. NW in Owatonna.

The camps came about because of all the prisoners that had been taken in Europe. There was an overwhelming need to put these prisoners somewhere. At the same time, there was a labor shortage in the Midwest. Men had gone off to war and there was no one to do the work. The POWs in Owatonna were all members of Rommel's African Corps.

The POWs were put to work in lumber mills throughout the state, the canning company in Owatonna, local farms, and the Borden milk facility. Food came from Fort Snelling or the local area. They were paid for their work, although most of their earnings went to the government for their upkeep. They were treated according to the Geneva Conference's treatment of prisoners.



Prisoners of war lounge in the sunshine at the camp near Owatonna. The camp was housed at the Cashman farm, pictured above, on the north side of Owatonna.

Entertainment was provided for them; there was a recreation room with a radio and movies. Two of the opportunities for the POWs were wood carving and playing an instrument in a band.

Our active board member Lois Hancock remembers that her mother had stories about these POWs who spoke German. Her mother was German and could speak with them. She would take them food on occasion if they were working in her neighborhood. She grew up a few miles northeast of Blooming Prairie on a farm in Steele County.

Steele County's History Center has an exhibit of a POW camp in the Village of Yesteryear.

Mantorville Brewery remembered

The Mantorville Brewery was one of the earliest in Minnesota, established in 1858, and over the years produced many brands of beverages, beer, soda and water. We made a copy of one of the early labels and had it reproduced on t-shirts to promote our history.

The shirts are available for \$25 in sizes M through 3X. You can purchase them at the museum and at special events. We will be selling them during Marigold Days, Friday and Saturday at the Welcome Center from noon to 6 p.m. You can also call the museum at 507-635-5508 or email us at dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The remains of the original brewery, located on private property, were obscured by trees and brush until three years ago when a group of local history buffs were able to clear away what nature had done. The impressive ruins are now visible one block east of the Hubbell House and the Chocolate Shop in Mantorville.

The original building was four stories tall and produced beverages until 1939. The structure was torn down in 1942.



The Mantorville Brewery was four stories tall and produced beverages until 1939. The remains are located one block east of the Hubbell House.



Man's Beer was brewed at the Mantorville Brewery by one of its earliest owners. The Man's Beer T-shirts are a fun way to celebrate Dodge County's colorful past.

Annual Membership \$20

Membership includes: Promotions, requests for research assistance, newsletters and limited number of mailings, which are sent via mail, email and text.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Ok to text? Yes / No

Email: _____

Make checks payable to Dodge County Historical Society and mail to Dodge County Historical Society, P.O. Box 456, Mantorville, MN 55955.

DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOX 456

MANTORVILLE, MN 55955

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