



History Center News

Belle Creek

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Cannon Falls

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Florence

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Hay Creek

Holden

Kenyon

Lake City

Leon

Minneola

Pine Island

Red Wing

Roscoe

Stanton

Vasa

Wacouta

Wanamingo

Warsaw

Welch

Zumbrota

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Newsletter of the Goodhue County Historical Society

Francis Shoemaker, Red Wing's Radical Newspaper Editor

By Frederick L. Johnson

Editor's Note: This article has been reprinted with permission from the online encyclopedia of Minnesota History, MNopedia. To view more about Francis Shoemaker or articles like this, visit www.mnopedia.org.

Francis Shoemaker was born in Renville County to Francis M. and Regina D. Shoemaker on April 25, 1889. He later claimed to be a "known speaker" by age 14 and a labor organizer at 17. He also alleged aiding the prominent, radical labor leader "Big Bill" Haywood. Yet even Shoemaker's political allies didn't trust his statements. Henry G. Teigan, a founding father of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party (F-L), said Shoemaker leaned toward "spilling fabrications instead of facts."

In the early 1920s Shoemaker was active in the farmer labor group Progressive Farmers of America (PFA). A PFA official charged him with misuse of funds in 1926, resulting in Shoemaker's expulsion and a serious rift within the group. In 1928 Fred A. Scherf, a Nonpartisan League activist and former state legislator, chose Shoemaker as editor of the Scherf-owned Red Wing newspaper the *Organized Farmer*.

Shoemaker used the newspaper to denounce the area's dominant Republican party and its leaders. Three-term Republican Congressman August H. Andresen became a popular target of the feisty editor. Shoemaker hoped to replace Andresen in Congress. "Jellyfish," "rodent," and "Wall Street tool" were among the names given to the incumbent in the *Organized Farmer*. Shoemaker, the Farmer-Labor party candidate, ran for Andresen's Third District seat in 1930. He proclaimed, "Vote for me in November and make it the last of August." Shoemaker lost.

A bigger challenge now faced the editor. He had written a letter to a Red Wing banker addressed to "Robber of Widows and Orphans, Red Wing, Minn. in care of Temple of Greed and Chicanery." Local postal workers took note. Shoemaker found himself charged with improper use of the mail. U.S. District

(Continued on page 3)

The mission of the Goodhue County Historical Society is to serve as the steward for county history by collecting, preserving, and promoting the natural and cultural history of Goodhue County and its people.

Goodhue County History Center
1166 Oak Street
Red Wing, Minnesota, 55066

651-388-6024

Website: www.goodhuecountyhistory.org

General information via email:
info@goodhistory.org

Open Tuesday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays, Holidays, and Sundays
through March

Staff

Executive Director: **Dustin Heckman**
Curator of Objects & Exhibits: **Johanna Grothe**
Archives & Library Manager: **Afton Esson**
Education & Outreach Coordinator: **James Clinton**
Collections Assistant: **Joshua Wold**

Board of Directors

Scott Adkisson, Red Wing, **Chair**
Roger Hand, Red Wing, **Vice-Chair**
Fran O'Connell, Red Wing, **Secretary**
Marilyn Lawrence, Red Wing, **Treasurer**
Ron Allen, Red Wing, **County Commissioner**
Nancy Barth, Wacouta
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Ann Nibbe, Lake City
Ken Roufs, Red Wing
Dennis Schultz, White Rock

Historical News is produced quarterly by the Goodhue County Historical Society. Opinions expressed by authors or in quotations do not necessarily represent those of the Society, its Directors or staff. The Society welcomes your comments and suggestions. Except otherwise noted, all photos are from the GCHS Photograph Collection.

As I write this, I struggle to figure out where 2014 went! The past year was amazing, thrilling, and rewarding for both myself and for the Goodhue County Historical Society. While I won't dive into exact numbers right now (we'll save that for our annual report), 2014 will rank as one of the best in recent memory. Our success this past year laid the foundation for another great year in 2015.

When I start putting the newsletter together, I usually try to look at what events or programs are approaching. Looking over the list, I am reminded of the hard work we will be putting in over the next few months before the summer season hits.

Here is a short preview:

- **New lobby exhibits:** We will have more rotating exhibits in our lobby area. This will keep the History Center looking fresh and new each time someone visits. It includes traveling exhibits from the Minnesota Historical Society as well as outside groups such as the current History, Made exhibit.
- **New programs:** With the addition of James Clinton as Education & Outreach Coordinator, we are looking to increase our programming efforts. More programs related to exhibits, new programming series, and some events outside of the History Center and closer to your neighborhood.
- **Building Upgrades:** In an effort to become more energy efficient and improve the infrastructure of our building, there are many upgrades that will be happening at the History Center. We are working with the City of Red Wing (our landlord) on quite a few of these.

This list doesn't even scratch the surface, but needless to say I'm very excited! The future of the Goodhue County Historical Society looks bright and its all because of your support as well as the hard work of the staff and volunteers.

Come check us out early and often!

(Continued from page 1)

Court judge John B. Sanborn Jr. heard his case in St. Paul and sentenced the newsman to a \$500 fine. Sanborn added a year and a day in federal prison but suspended that term.

An angry Shoemaker struck back, using his newspaper to question Sanborn's decision. The now-irate federal judge sent the editor to prison. Shoemaker spent nearly his full term in Leavenworth Penitentiary before being released on November 4, 1931.

America's Great Depression deepened while Shoemaker served his time. He returned to the newspaper, ready for another run at Andresen. A talented and combative speaker, Shoemaker campaigned aggressively. He knocked out a Clarkfield heckler. A Twin Cities radio station forced him off the air. A Faribault jury, meanwhile, heard an Andresen slander lawsuit against Shoemaker. It took just twenty minutes to find him not guilty.

Shoemaker caught a break when political stalemate resulted in Minnesota's 1932 race for Congress being run on an "at large" basis. The top nine vote-getters statewide were to be sent to Washington, D.C., and 1932 appeared to be a Farmer-Labor year in the state.

Backed by voters from Greater Minnesota, Shoemaker captured the eighth of nine seats. Andresen placed tenth. Once in Washington, Congressman Shoemaker did little lawmaking. But he did take revenge on his old Minnesota enemies—"ravenous fiends" and "alley



rats"—in a June 9, 1933 speech, "My Judicial Crucifixion—How a Judicial Oligarchy Railroaded Me to a Penitentiary."

During his term, Washington police twice arrested the erratic Shoemaker for assault. Minneapolis officers topped that total, jailing him three times—most notably for a high-speed chase down Hennepin Avenue and during the 1934 Minneapolis truckers' strike.

Shoemaker overreached in March 1934 when he challenged Farmer-Labor Party leader Henrik Shipstead for his U.S. Senate seat. A bombastic Shoemaker speech nearly stampeded F-L convention-goers to his cause. Party regulars finally put down his mutiny.

Shoemaker ran for Congress four more times, but without success. In July 1934 he claimed he was going overseas as a foreign correspondent. A *St. Paul Pioneer Press* editorial noted archly, "Never have the citizens of the state more anxiously and passionately desired to believe the congressman's word."

Shoemaker later moved to Redwood Falls, where he was arrested for assault in 1938 and 1939. He died in Minneapolis in 1958.

Membership Structure Changes

Effective January 1, 2015, the Board of Directors have made the following changes to the membership structure:

- Creation of a Basic Business level at \$50
- Name change of the \$250 from Sustaining to Contributing
- Elimination of the \$500 level
- Name change of life members to Rev. J.W. Hancock Society members
- Life member level increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- Various member benefit changes which can be found on the membership page of the website.

Documentary examines Anita Hill story By Ruth Nerhaugen

A new documentary, “Anita Hill: Speaking Truth to Power,” tells the story of a young woman who ignited a political firestorm about sexual misconduct and power in the workplace some 23 years ago.

The Goodhue County Historical Society is among local organizations sponsoring the Minnesota premier of the film, which tells about Hill’s testimony against U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

The documentary — which contains adult content — will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Twin Bluff Middle School Auditorium. Admission is free, but tickets are required. They are available at Red Wing Public Library.

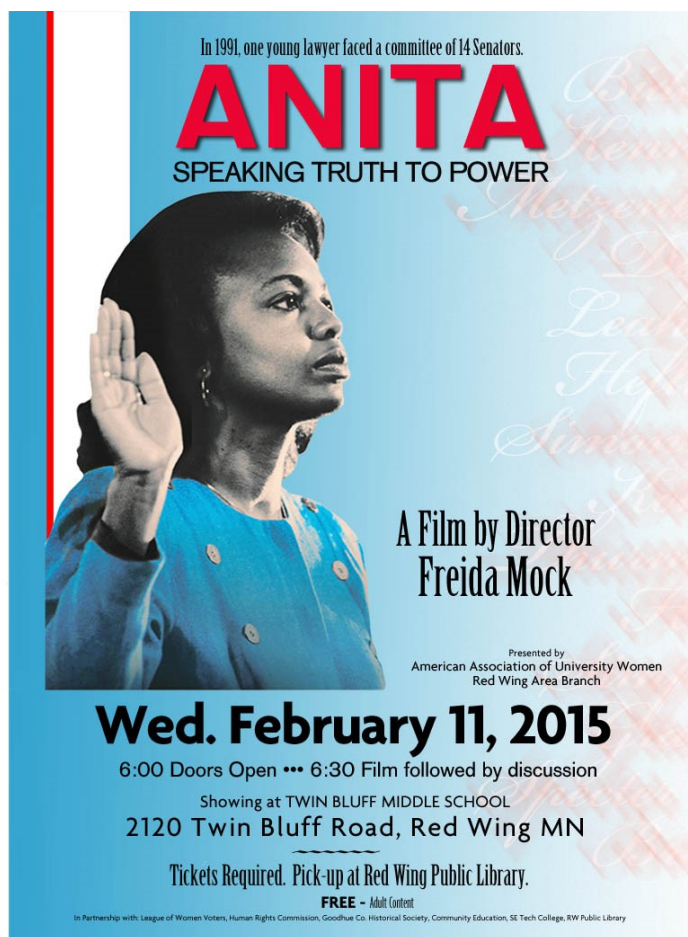
The film was made by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock.

Sponsors wanted to bring it to the public because they believe the issue still resonates with women and men who would stand up for equality and justice.

Hill’s graphic testimony about repeated acts of sexual harassment she endured while working with Thomas is considered a turning point for gender equality in the United States.

Sponsor for the screening of the 77-minute documentary is the American Association of University Women, Red Wing Area Branch, along with partners Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical, Red Wing Chapter of the League of Women Voters, Red Wing Human Rights Commission, Red Wing Community Education, Red Wing Public Library and the historical society.

For more information, e-mail organizer Ann Marie Rose at annmarie@husomandrose.com.



In 1991, one young lawyer faced a committee of 14 Senators.

ANITA

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

A Film by Director
Freida Mock

Presented by
American Association of University Women
Red Wing Area Branch

Wed. February 11, 2015

6:00 Doors Open ••• 6:30 Film followed by discussion

Showing at TWIN BLUFF MIDDLE SCHOOL
2120 Twin Bluff Road, Red Wing MN

Tickets Required. Pick-up at Red Wing Public Library.

FREE - Adult Content

In Partnership with: League of Women Voters, Human Rights Commission, Goodhue Co. Historical Society, Community Education, SE Tech College, RW Public Library

HELP US WITH OUR MAILING LIST!

We receive a number of our mailings back with an incomplete or undeliverable address. If you have moved, or have a winter or summer address, please notify us. Even if you have moved to a new apartment in the same building/complex, please give us your new address.

If you would like to save a tree, and help us save on the cost of bulk mailing, you can receive the newsletter by email. Please send an email to info@goodhistory.org with *Paperless Newsletter* in the subject line to start receiving the newsletter by email. If you have changed your email address as well, please let us know your new address. If you have notified us but have not received the newsletter, check your bulk mail inbox and spam filter settings in your email program.



It is not too late to donate a piece of jewelry for our Bling fundraiser. Just drop it off at the G C History Center, today.

Ooh la la

Take a historic jewelry jaunt through the capitals of Europe during the Goodhue County Historical Society's 9th annual "Bling & Chocolate" fundraiser scheduled on Sunday, February 22, 2015. From Bohemia and Czechoslovakia to Scandinavia, France, Italy, Japan and America, we have collected some of the most exquisite jewelry these countries had to offer.

Most of the rhinestones, glass, crystal and plastic beads that we wear today had their origins in Bohemia and Czechoslovakia. At the turn of the last century, small cottage industries produced large quantities of beautifully crafted stones and beads that were exported to jewelry makers all over the world.

At our oral and silent auctions, look for brooches, necklaces, and bracelets made from these vintage beads and stones. Plus, don't forget contemporary jewelry, scarves, purses, great desserts and a whole lot more. Enjoy an afternoon of sweets, treats and refreshments.

**Join us on
SUNDAY, February 22, 2015
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Tickets \$20
1:30 p.m. Auction Preview
Reserved Seating Only (limited to 100)**

**Goodhue County History Center
1166 Oak Street, Red Wing MN**

For information or to reserve tickets

**651-388-6024
or
To purchase tickets on-line**

www.goodhuecountyhistory.org

CHECK US OUT ON THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH FREE ADMISSION!



ZUMBROTA TOWNSHIP DAY FEBRUARY 1

Join friends, family, and neighbors for the opening of the Zumbrota Township Exhibit on the 1st Sunday of February. Learn the history of the township and share some of your own stories from the area.



FILM: THE GIRL FROM BIRCH CREEK MARCH 1

To kick off Woman's History Month, we will be showing the film *The Girl From Birch Creek*. This documentary traces the life and career of Minnesota's First Female Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Wahl. The film and its producer, the Washington County Historical Society, received a Minnesota History Award in 2014 from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.

Additional Event Sponsors: League of Women Voters Red Wing and the AAUW—Red Wing Area Branch

All 1st Free Sundays are sponsored through a community partnership with



Three or More Objects Make A Collection

By Janet Daley

The hobby of collecting includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloging, displaying, storing, and maintaining whatever items are of interest to the individual collector. The scope of collecting is unlimited: "If something exists, somebody somewhere collects them."

A hobby is a regular activity that is done for pleasure, typically during one's leisure time. Hobbies can include collecting themed items and objects, engaging in creative and artistic pursuits. By continually participating in a particular hobby, one can acquire substantial skill and knowledge in that area. Some examples are: stamps, aprons, bottles, teddy bears, trains, yard sticks, calvary equipment, horse brasses, hats, washing machines, and many more...

Are you a collector? Would you like to show it off? Display and share your unique collection at the Historical Society! We are looking for people with unique collections to showcase as part of a new exhibit series on personal collections. Each collector will be featured in the newsletter.

Everybody collects something--- now show it off at the Historical Society.

Contact Janet Daley at (651) 388-4556 for details.

GCHS Membership Application

Name _____

Contact Person (Business only) _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Would you like to receive the GCHS newsletter by email? _____

Would you like to receive event and program notices by email? _____

New Renew

My check is enclosed Please debit my credit card

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ CCV/CVV # _____

Authorized Signature _____

Yes! I want to be a member of the Goodhue County Historical Society at the following level (please check one):

- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Basic Business \$50
- Supporting \$100
- Contributing \$250
- Rev. J.W. Hancock Society (life) \$5,000

Please make checks payable to:

Goodhue County Historical Society

Mail applications to:

**Goodhue County Historical Society
 1166 Oak Street
 Red Wing, MN 55066**

*All lists are current from
 October 16 to December 31, 2014—
 Thank you!*

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of

Paul E. Swanson

Given by

Mary Mark

In Memory of

Helen E. Ottman

Given by

Mary Mark

In Memory of

Dr. Eugene Jonas

Given by

Howard Burfeind

In Memory of

Jim Kelm

Given by

Arlan & Lynda Vollan

In Memory of

Bernice Schwartz

Given by

Barbara Tittle

The Lipton Family

Muriel Copp

Marj Matthees

Keith & Judy Johnson

Richard & Dawn Anderson

Lynnette Sjoquist

Lynnea Sjoquist

Marlys Garmer

Dale & Sally Fox

Clarice & Stephen Vagasky

Mark Freij

Don & Dorothy Anderson

Robert & Ruth Goudy

Bertril & Carol Weberg

Bruce & Patty Prigge

Vicki Wickerling

The Schmidt Family (Jane, Lee,

Tom, & Marcus)

Annette Duncan

Martin Lohmann

Mark & Cindy Sjoquist

Roger & Doris Gruber

Don & Joyce Gustafson

The Gustafson Family (James,
 Steve, Rich & Sue, Al & Nancy)

Dennis & Joyce Sjoquist

Bruce & Linda Simonton

Marian & Bill Glew

Robert & Sara Schreiber

Anne Pudas

Steve & Karen Burger

Lyle & Karen Mehrkens

Roy & Karol Harley

Oscar & Janet Daley

Carl Bang

Alan & Maureen Lodermeier

Neal & Christine Sjoquist

Rosann Pearson

Burnetta Dicke

Grace Hendrickson

Bruce & Audrey Bodin

Chuck & Carol Schwartz

Heidi Stennes

Joyce Stenstrom

Edward & Eileen Allison

Tom Anderson

Neil & Barbara Siewert

Deceased Members

Bernice Schwartz

Joseph Goggin

Cal Eastlund

Gwen Remus

*We apologize if there are any
 errors or omissions.*



Goodhue County
Historical Society
1166 Oak Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Winter 2015

Minnesota's oldest county historical society, est. 1869



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Red Wing, MN

Don't miss...

Lobby Exhibit: History, Made - Through February 14

History, Made Artist's Reception - Friday, January 23, 6 to 8 PM

Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 25, 2 PM

Zumbrota Township Day - Sunday, February 1, 2 to 4 PM

Film: Anita Hill - Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 PM at Twin Bluffs Middle School in Red Wing

Bling & Chocolate - Sunday, February 22, 1:30 to 4 PM

Film: Girl From Birch Creek - Sunday, March 1, 2 PM

Minnesota's Own: Preserving our Grand Homes - Friday, March 7, 7 PM at the Anderson Center

Lobby Exhibit: Minnesota on the Map - March 21 to May 10

For more information about these and upcoming events, please check our website and Facebook page often for updates.