GOODHUE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Center News

Volume 50 No. 1– Winter 2016 Newsletter of the Goodhue County Historical Society

Belle Creek
Belvidere
Cannon Falls
Central Point
Cherry Grove
Featherstone
Florence
Goodhue
Hay Creek
Holden
Kenyon
Lake City
Leon
Minneola
Pine Island
Red Wing
Roscoe
Stanton
Vasa
Wacouta
Wanamingo
Warsaw
Welch
Zumbrota

Goodhue County's Battle with Booze and the Rest Island Experiment

By Frederick L. Johnson

Decades before the 1920s Prohibition Era when gangsters and G-Men fought their famed war over beer and booze, Goodhue County residents found themselves deeply enmeshed in the anti-alcohol movement. During the nineteenth century's last decades, the national Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) spearheaded the attack on alcohol. Julia Bullard Nelson of Wacouta, Belvidere, and Red Wing and Harriet Duncan Hobart of Red Wing, a dynamic pair of WCTU leaders, were part of a determined army of activists in a movement that was sweeping the county.

John Granville Woolley in *The New York Times: A Magazine of Social Progress,* 1893.

In another important temperance development, John G. Woolley, a charismatic reformed alcoholic and a future candidate for president of the United States, would bolster the WCTU's efforts in Goodhue County by building Rest Island, a "home for inebriates and drunkards." This regional refuge, located on Lake Pepin in the county's Central Point Township, would quickly draw national attention in the early 1890s.

Banning liquor in villages and townships, running bootleggers out of the county, and rooting out local blind pigs (illegal liquor operations) were among the goals of Goodhue County's fifteen WCTU chapters. Pine Island and Kenyon women organized the county's first temperance groups, while Nelson and Hobart emerged as regional and national leaders in the politically powerful WCTU. Nelson, a founder and officer in the state WCTU, traveled the nation serving as a paid speaker. This dedicated social reformer was also state president of the Minnesota Woman's Suffrage Association from 1890 to 1897, and had taught freed slaves in the South following the Civil War.

(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 Sundays, Mondays, & Holidays

Staff

Executive Director: **Dustin Heckman**
Curator of Objects & Exhibits: **Casey Mathern**
Archives & Library Manager: **Afton Esson**
Education & Outreach Coordinator: **James Clinton**

Board of Directors

Roger Hand, Red Wing, **Chair**
Dennis Schultz, White Rock, **Vice-Chair**
Fran O'Connell, Red Wing, **Secretary**
Marilyn Lawrence, Red Wing, **Treasurer**
Ron Allen, Red Wing, **County Commissioner**
Nancy Barth, Wacouta
Howard Burfeind, Lake City
Janet Daley, Welch
Loren Evenrud, Cannon Falls
Ruth Nerhaugen, Red Wing
Ken Roufs, Red Wing
Richard Samuelson, Cannon Falls

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.

Executive Director's Column *By Dustin Heckman*

Membership is a key element of the success of nonprofit organizations. People who purchase a membership are usually some of the strongest supporters and advocates of our mission. As with any membership, there are certain perks that go along with being a member. But do most of you utilize those perks? Do you know what the perks are of being a member of the Goodhue County Historical Society?

Free admission to the History Center
As a member, you can visit the History Center to view exhibits and utilize the Jean Chesley Research Library, all without paying an admission fee! Last year, we installed and hosted 10 temporary exhibits, and an Ancestry.com subscription was added to our available library resources.

Standard 10% discount on gift shop items, research services, and meeting room rentals
By being a member, you get 10% off of the wide array of items in our gift shop, 10% off of photocopy costs when researching your family tree, and 10% off of the rental of our meeting room for your family celebration.

Subscription to our quarterly newsletter
Every three months, you'll get a copy of this newsletter in your mailbox or your email inbox to stay informed and keep you connected to local history.

Discounts on select ticketed programs and events
As we have been rolling out more program opportunities, we are offering special member pricing for certain programs. The general public will not get these offers, but members will!

Enrollment in Time Travelers through the Missouri History Museum
This program allows you to enjoy perks at 399 locations in 43 states and the District of Columbia! Time Travelers is operated through the Missouri History Museum and is a great way to utilize your membership in locations across the country.

I hope to see you around the History Center soon!

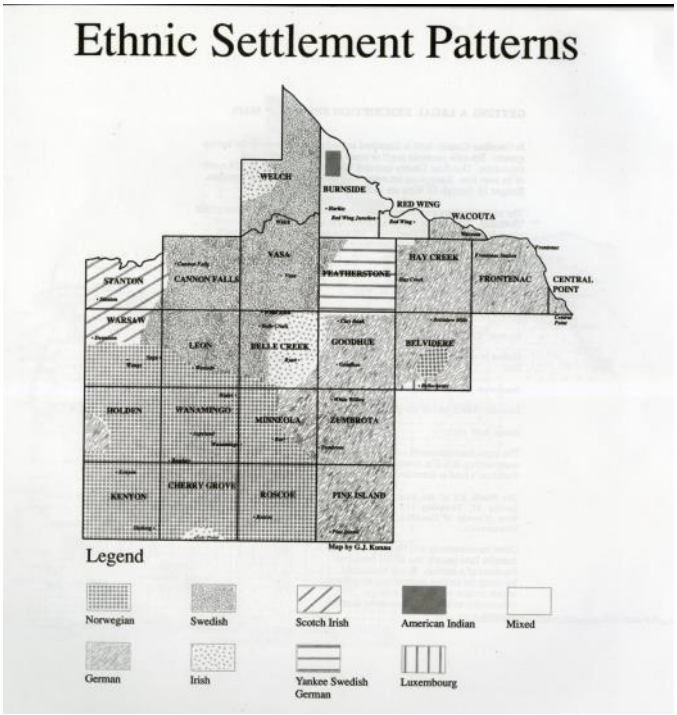
(Continued from page 1)

Harriet Hobart came to Red Wing in 1868 to marry the recently-widowed Methodist Episcopal minister Chauncey Hobart whom, in 1852, had an been officer in the Minnesota Territorial Temperance Society. Harriet became president of the Minnesota WCTU, holding that position for 13 years, the longest tenure in that organization's history.

In a typically forceful speech, Julia Nelson put the evils of alcohol abuse before the 1881 state WCTU convention, "What issue is now of such vital importance as temperance? What enemy is so deserving of good men's best blows as the rum oligarchy, which fattens on the tears of widows and the woes of orphans; which grows rich and strong by filling the land with paupers, criminals and lunatics."

Temperance advocates understood they faced a major challenge as they attempted to make Goodhue County "Dry"—anti-liquor, as opposed to "Wet," pro-alcohol. In general, those living in the county's smaller villages had a significant Yankee element—typically Dry-voting New Englanders who first settled the area. Thus Cannon Falls, Pine Island, and Zumbrota favored prohibition of alcoholic beverages. In the southwest, the heavily Norwegian American communities of Kenyon and Wanamingo were also largely Dry, although that region's rural districts, including Holden, Cherry Grove, and Roscoe, had some limited Wet support.

Majorities in the smaller Irish American communities in the county were Dry. Father John H. Stariha, an avid temperance advocate, helped make the east Belle Creek and west Goodhue parish of St. Columbkill a center of Dry activity in the mid-1870s. That parish was home to the county's only male temperance group, a 48-man chapter of the national Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America (CTAUA). The name Belle Creek "became prominent in every CTAUA state convention," according to a 1909 county history. Irish Catholic women from the parish, including Mary Igoe, Celia Hutcheson, and Mary Ryan also established a very active WCTU chapter.



Ethnic Settlement Patterns from *Map of Goodhue County Minnesota 1877*, reprinted in 1991 by the Goodhue County Historical Society

Wets were found in more rural areas, particularly the strongly German American-settled townships of Hay Creek, Belvidere, Florence, Goodhue, and Pine Island. Ethnic Swedes in rural Vasa, Cannon Falls, and western Belle Creek leaned Wet. Voters in Goodhue, the county's newest village, incorporated in 1897, teetered between Wet and Dry, sometimes legalizing alcoholic drinks, sometimes banning them.

Red Wing held around 40% of the county population between 1900 and 1920 as

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)
national prohibition neared. That included a diverse mixture of ethnic northern Europeans and old stock Yankees. Red Wing traditionally was Wet. According to the editor of Goodhue County Republican, the city in 1876 had more than 49 locations "in which to buy…liquid poison," but the city's resolute WCTU grew stronger.

Single-minded and steadfast, the Goodhue County WCTU would finally prevail in November 1918 when Minnesotans gathered to vote on the national prohibition amendment. The county went Dry, but by a meager 36 votes—2,842–2,808. Red Wing came in with a surprisingly strong Dry vote, 853–692. Norwegian districts were heavily Dry, including Wanamingo village and township, Kenyon village and township, Cherry Grove and Holden. German-dominated townships Belvidere, Hay Creek, Pine Island and Goodhue produced the strongest Wet vote. Residents in the towns of Cannon Falls, Pine Island and Zumbrota supported prohibition, while the majority in townships of the same name were Wet.

Goodhue County's most interesting experiment in temperance developed along its Wabasha County border on a scrub and oak-covered Lake Pepin peninsula just north of downtown Lake City. Strongly supported by state and national WCTU leaders and their money, Rest Island, a colony for recovering alcoholics, came into being in 1891, thanks to its creator John G. Woolley. No one understood the seductive and destructive nature of alcohol abuse better than Woolley, a man whose life had been nearly ruined by the stuff.

John Woolley's Rest Island project left few historical footprints on Lake Pepin's sands, but, upon its opening, it was known around the nation. Woolley, born in Ohio in 1850, became an ambitious lawyer, emerging as Minneapolis district attorney by 1881. Then, he later admitted, "drink became my master." A disgraced and broken man, he left Minneapolis.

Woolley regained control of his life in 1886, deciding to reach out to addicted alcoholics and help them reform. He embarked upon a nationwide speaking tour, conducting so-called "Woolley's Meetings." Frances E. Willard, prominent founder of the worldwide WCTU, praised him, writing, "John G. Woolley is a phenomenon…the World's Brother and Friend."

While traveling along the Mississippi, Woolley encountered Central Point. The lake was actually a widening of the Mississippi, hence quite accessible by water as well as rail. He viewed the area as a perfect place to fulfill his vision: Woolley hoped to found a colony dedicated to healing inebriates. He secured the financial

The interior of the 1891 annual convention tent. Image courtesy of the Lake City Historical Society

backing of two wealthy and prominent Minneapolis temperance advocates, Elizabeth Augusta Russell and Etta Thompson, and in 1891 construction began on Rest Island.

Russell, Thompson and Woolley purchased nearly 400 acres on Central Point, 160 acres dedicated to a campus that would include Hotel Russell, the administrative headquarters with a capacity for twenty male recovering alcoholics, and Willard Cottage, a "gift from Minnesota women," with rooms for twelve men. Woolley planned to have the farm pay for itself using lodgers to operate a 200-acre farm. He figured about 200 residents would be required to make the operation sustainable. A school would occupy the men during winter.

Convention tent, 1891 Image courtesy of the Lake City Historical Society

"There will be no excitement, no games of chance, no tobacco, no visitors, ordinarily," wrote Woolley, "[The] great feature will be the Bible study." Mr. and Mrs. Harry N. Timolat were hired to be "resident missionaries," while a head farmer and three maids completed the staff.

A week-long convention opened Rest Island on July 19, 1891, drawing "thousands" daily and "fully three thousand" for the Sunday service, according to the Rest Island and Lake City Souvenir. Leading national and state temperance churchmen handled speaking duties. Even though additional structures on the campus were still under construction, the future looked bright and plans were laid for an 1892 convention. Lake City residents endorsed Woolley's project, with Mayor J. M. Underwood, "a warm supporter of the…Rest Island enterprise," an influential and enthusiastic advocate.

John Woolley's enterprise, off to such an auspicious start, soon faced difficulties. Flooding from the unpredictable Mississippi covered large parts of Central Point, and promised financial support did not meet projections. Following the 1892 convention, Woolley set out on a lecture tour in England that continued for nearly a year. Locals could follow his travels in the pages of the Lake City Graphic.

In early 1893, spectacular failures in the nation's once-booming railroad sector brought on bank collapses and a plunge in the stock market. The Panic of 1893 was on. This dangerous economic slump would continue for four years. By the time John Woolley returned to Rest Island, a daunting financial crisis awaited. The future of Rest Island was at stake. With some bills unpaid, his honesty came into question. Woolley faced inquiries in Lake City and Minneapolis. A shortage of $3,661.06 was discovered.

Woolley defended himself, pointing out his overseas absence as the panic struck. He then quickly made up the immediate shortage using his own personal funds. But

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)
Rest Island was now figuratively under water. Etta Thompson came to the rescue, paying off other existing debts and assuming mortgages of about $20,000. Woolley's shares in the Rest Island buildings and his personal debts were settled using proceeds from the sale of two tracts of land reserved for that purpose.

Etta Thompson and Elizabeth Russell kept the founder's ideas alive, making the Rest Island site a summer resort and organizing annual religious conferences at the Hotel Russell for several years. In 1894 a newspaper noted that the two women were "making the island one of the most delightful spots one earth for rest and comfort." Their for-profit resort continued to underscore the owners' religious and temperance beliefs. With the economy still weak, the enterprise dissolved and the site abandoned.

Rest Island's failure did not end Woolley's commitment to the temperance crusade, nor damage his reputation in Dry circles. Once again, he launched public speaking tours while also agreeing to edit The New Voice, the Prohibition Party's national newspaper. That party attempted to make him its candidate for president of the United States in 1896. Woolley declined, but four years later accepted another request to run. He picked up more than 209,000 votes, or 1.5% of the 1900 nationwide total. Goodhue County citizens cast 110 votes for Woolley.

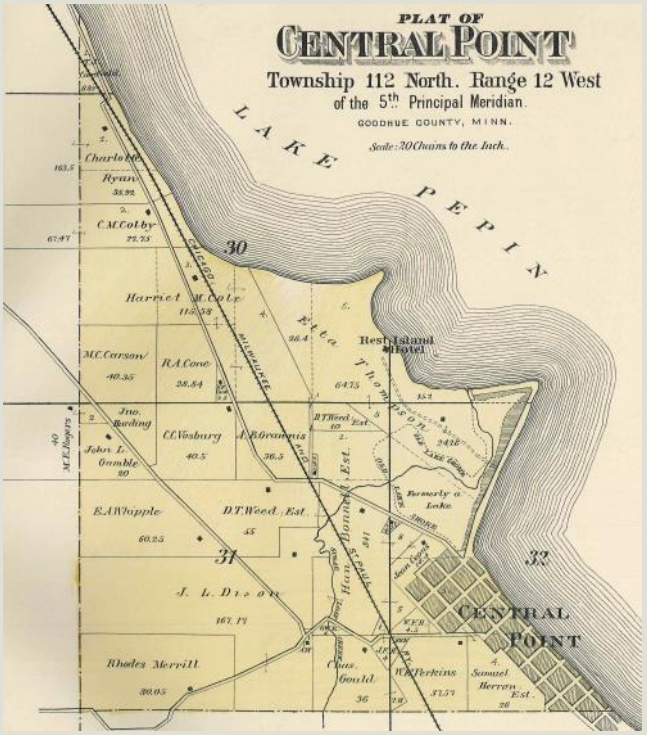
John G. Woolley died in Granada, Spain, in 1922.

Fred Johnson, a resident of Cottage Grove and Red Wing native, is a respected Minnesota historian. He has published nine books on Minnesota history including The Sea Wing Disaster and Goodhue County: A Narrative History

Check out our current and upcoming township exhibits!

On exhibit now
Central Point Township

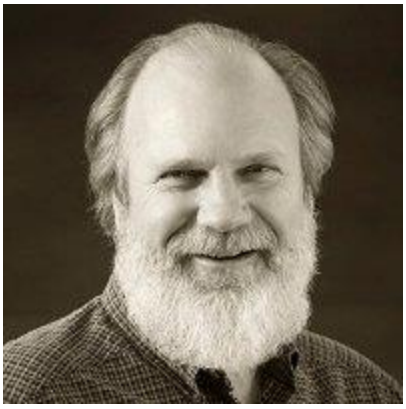
Learn more about Rest Island as well as other features of this ghost township!



Coming in February!
Leon Township

2016 Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 21st 6 PM
Goodhue County History Center



The Goodhue County Historical Society invites its members and the public to attend our 2016 Annual Meeting. Learn about the past year's achievements and future plans for the organization. A formal business meeting will be held at 6 PM, with a presentation from Rolf Hagberg of the Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps to follow.

The Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, based in Duluth, was formed in 2011 to integrate historic preservation services into the proven conservation corps service model. Northern Bedrock trains the future stewards of our state's historic structures ensuring legacy of our built environment while adding to the state's skilled work force. Work projects have included preservation and stabilization of the Hillside Cemetery in Carlton, as well as log structure preservation in the Superior National Forest.

All lists are current from October 1 to December 31, 2015—Thank you!

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of
Norma Mandelkow
Given by
Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of
Helen Nordwall
Given by
Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of
Patrick Costello
Given by
Martin & Gretchen Wilson

In Memory of
Nicholas Gisslen
Given by
Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of
Lorraine Schwartau Kunde
Given by
Ron Schwartau
Judy Schwartau
Alice Fitschen
Patrick & Rebecca McCaskey
Vaughn & Therese Bein

In Memory of
Willard Holm
Given by
Robert & Debra Brodie
Mark & Marilyn Ryan
John & Sheila Kirkwood

In Memory of
Lillian (Bloom) Smith
Given by
Wayne & Jean Miller
Dan Miller
Willie & Gayle Miller
Mark Bloom
Jerry & Linda Zemke
Bruce Bloom

In Memory of
Ted Helms
Given by
Judy Schwartau

In Memory of
Daniel Vonch
Given by
Dennis & Shirley Schultz

Deceased Members

Colleen Nilan

We apologize if there are any errors or omissions.

The Secret
By Lynn Thompson Henn

We had a family secret until I shared it with a Nancy Drew wannabe friend. I knew, because my mother told me, but I was not to talk about, my grandfather's first marriage. Otto B. "O.B." Thompson had been married to a woman who died in childbirth before he married my grandmother. Being a labor and delivery nurse, I understood the many complications of pregnancy, which ended so many young women's lives in the early 20th century prior to modern obstetric care. But which one took my grandfather's wife and baby?

My friend, JoAnn Bohmbach, quickly whisked me off to the Goodhue County Courthouse. We estimated a likely year of the death and scanned the death index for Thompson. Within ten minutes we had our answer: puerperal eclampsia of pregnancy. Aha! Treatable now and how many times had I helped nurse a woman back to health with the same diagnosis? For most people the question would have been answered, the book closed and life would go on. I, on the other hand, was even more intrigued. Now I had a name and death date: Honor Elizabeth Lindsay, December 25, 1920. They had not been married a full year. My heart was full as I wondered if my grandfather, now dead 30 years, had thought about that Christmas long ago when we celebrated the holiday together. I knew her parent's names: John and Mayme Lindsay. I knew that Honor was born in Iowa. Where was Honor buried I wondered? As a child, we visited the cemeteries and various graves in the area with my grandparents on Decoration Day, but never hers. Where was she? What did she look like? What was she like? No longer satisfied with just a name, I wanted to know about her.

I directed my attention to Honor's local obituary and from there traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she was interred. After consulting with the local library and genealogical society, I found myself standing in Fairview Cemetery at an unmarked grave belonging to Mrs. Honor Thompson. I had been prepared for a stone in poor condition but not this. My first first feeling was that of anger. How could he leave her like this? Then I remembered the time was 1920. Otto was young, poor, and lived in Minnesota. A long train ride would be the only way for

him to travel. Long distance telephone calls? Never. How could he have met the needs of his day and dealt with all of this from such a distance? I had to put my feelings aside and deal with this. Some months later I was led to a local monument company in Iowa. With their help, I was able to mark Honor's grave for a reduced fee. We put two crosses on the stone. One for Honor and one for her baby.

After the stone was set in the cemetery, I asked a local person through FindaGrave.com to photograph it for me as I had not seen it and did not know when I would be back in Council Bluffs. He asked me to take over maintenance of Honor's memorial on the website, and I did. This led me to answer an email from an actual cousin of Honor. While she was doing some research of her own, she happened onto the new stone in her family plot. I had made a notation that Honor was married to my grandfather on May 28, 1920. What a stroke of luck to find Monica Anderson, a new friend and collaborator genealogist who knew the answers to some of the most perplexing questions. And I knew some things she did not. For instance, I discovered in my research that Honor and Otto were married in a double ceremony with Honor's younger sister, Winifred. Monica had an old photograph of what appeared to be two brides in a wedding party, but did not know who they were. I identified my grandfather in the photo. Furthermore, Monica's grandmother, Mrs. G.E. Lindsay, was a witness at my grandfather's wedding. How great is that for collaboration.

We've been in contact ever since. Not only did I find the answer to my original question, I now discovered how fascinating a family can be. As a result, I have a new hobby. I have become the family amateur genealogist digging up one mystery after another, searching out people from my past, and learning what their lives might have been like. I have come to appreciate the strong character they all had and their ability to accept things as they were and go on. I see how one death can mean life for many who otherwise never would have been born. I am one of those people, since Honor's death preceded a second family. My grandfather married Myrtle Lillian Boothroyd from Welch on April 24, 1922. They had a long and loving marriage. My father, William Boothroyd Thompson, was born March 20, 1923, followed by four more children in six years.

I still don't know the answer to the curious question of how Otto, the well-known buttermaker from Welch, met and married Honor, a school teacher from Council Bluffs. Why would a young woman from a well-to-do family in that town have an unmarked grave? So far, there is no mention of a lost or surviving Thompson baby in any records. We are left to speculate about their life details and honor their memories. Perhaps by recording names and dates and some of the life stories on a website, I am doing what I can to offer a humble "thank you."

Mix up your lunch routine with a

History Break

@ the Goodhue County Historical Society

The Historical Society proudly presents "History Break," a lunchtime learning program series. Every third Wednesday of the month at noon, bring your lunch to the Historical Society for a FREE hour long program on national, state, and local history.

Wednesday, January 20

A Ski Jump History
featuring Olympic Ski Jumper Brian Sanders

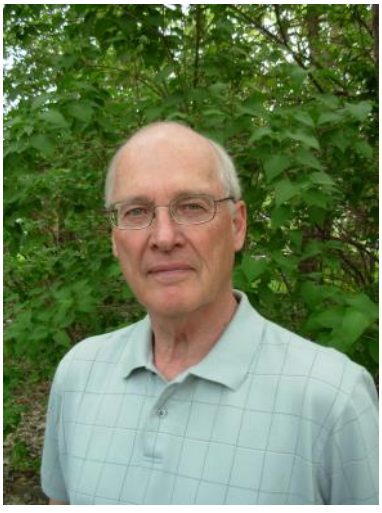
Olympic Ski Jumper Bryan Sanders will visit the History Center to discuss Red Wing's role in establishing ski jumping as a popular sport in the United States and why Red Wing claims to be the 'birthplace of ski jumping.' Sanders competed in the 1992 Olympic Games and in 1989 won the title of US Junior Ski Jumping Champion.

Photo courtesy of the Red Wing Republican Eagle

Wednesday, February 17

Uncertain Lives: A History of African-Americans in Red Wing
featuring Fred Johnson

Local historian, author, and educator, Fred Johnson presents his book *Uncertain Lives: African Americans and Their First 150 Years in the Red Wing, Minnesota Area* in conjunction with Black History Month. Similar to virtually every other ethnic group that moved into the Red Wing area in the late 19th century, the African American community hoped to build successful lives in a vibrant Minnesota frontier village. However, the legacy of slavery and entrenched racist attitudes throughout the country made this goal complicated, dangerous, and uncertain.



Wednesday, March 16

The Future of Preservation
featuring Doug Gasek of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

Doug Gasek, the Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, discusses the importance of preserving the irreplaceable segments of Minnesota's heritage: its structures, neighborhoods, and community fabric. As 2016 is the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, now is the time to reflect on successes that preservationists have earned while evaluating where the movement is headed.

Other Upcoming Programs

Saturday, February 13 2 PM

Bluffs & Brews: Cabin Fever Edition
Snowshoe the Cannon River Bottoms
$5 per person, space is limited

Can't stand to be inside all winter? Neither can we! Join the Historical Society and the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center this February for a special Cabin Fever edition of the popular **Bluffs & Brews** program. Strap on a pair of snowshoes and join guides in exploring the natural beauty of the Cannon River Bottoms. Before the trip, hear a short history talk on how past Goodhue County residents dealt with the winter's biting cold. Afterwards, join the group for a social hour at Kelly's Tap House, complete with door prizes provided by Vasque Footwear. *Contact the Goodhue County Historical Society to reserve tickets.*

Thursday, February 25 6 PM

Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot
featuring Otis Zanders

Commemorate Black History Month with an engaging and provocative program on the history of race relations in America. Otis Zanders, who retired in 2011 from the Minnesota Correctional Facility—Red Wing, will discuss the events preceding and following Bloody Sunday: the infamous turning point in the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Zanders grew up in the South, and attended the 50 year anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama in 2015. He worked with Chad Roberts, the president of the Ramsey County Historical Society in developing the program "Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot." *This program is co-sponsored by the Red Wing Human Rights Commission. Photo courtesy of the Red Wing Republican Eagle.*

{free} Family Fun Day

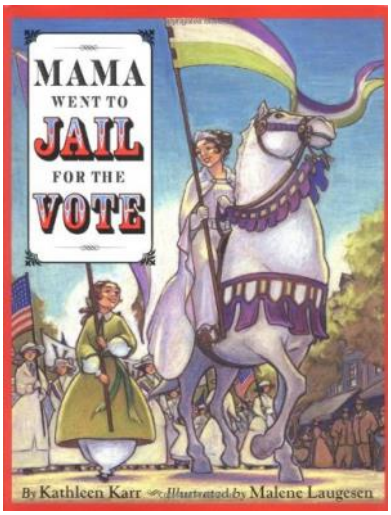
@ the Goodhue County Historical Society

Enjoy free admission and family activities each month on Free Family Fun Day!

Valentine's Day: **Crafts, Candy, & History!**
Saturday, February 6, 1-5pm

The History Center is celebrating Valentine's Day! Stop by several different craft construction stations to make Valentine's Day cards, messages and other gifts. Curious about the story behind America's biggest Hallmark holiday? Each craft station will have history handouts that explain different elements of Valentine's Day history, from ancient Rome to the modern United States.

Women's History Month: **Mama Went to Jail for the Vote**
Saturday, March 5, 1-5pm



Celebrate Women's History Month with a special scavenger hunt designed to explore some of Goodhue County's most famous and notable women. At 2 PM, there will be a reading of the children's book, *Mama Went to Jail for the Vote.* After the reading, we will make special Role Model Medals in honor of the brave suffragettes that fought for the right to vote. The Medals make great gifts for the female heroes in all of our lives.

Earth Day: **Turning Trash into Treasure**
Sunday, April 3, 1-5pm

Did you know that Earth Day began across the Mississippi in nearby Wisconsin? Learn more about Earth Day while creating special crafts that celebrate the planet we call home. Everyone is encouraged to bring 2-4 pieces of recyclable trash to the History Center to make an 'upcycled forest' made out of recycled materials.

Check out our classes this winter and spring through Red Wing Community Education!

To register for a class, contact the Community Education office at (651) 385-4565.

How to Use Ancestry.com with Dustin Heckman

Tuesday, January 26, 6-8 PM or
Thursday, March 10, 6-8 PM

Have you ever wanted to start a genealogy project, but were unsure how to begin?
Learn how with Goodhue County Historical Society Executive Director Dustin Heckman. Heckman will go over the basics of genealogy research and provide the tools you need to get your own project started. Instruction on how to use Ancestry.com will be the main focus of the program. The program will take place in the Jean Chesley Research Library at the Goodhue County Historical Society. Cost is $10 per person with space limited to 10 participants per class.

Save Your Stones Tombstone Preservation Workshop

Saturday, May 21, 9 AM to 3 PM

On Saturday, May 21, the Goodhue County Historical Society will host *Save Your Stones*, a tombstone preservation workshop co-sponsored by Red Wing Community Education. The workshop runs from 9am—3pm, and includes a presentation by *Save Your Stones* founder Jarrod Roll, followed by a hands-on workshop at St. John's Cemetery in Red Wing. Tickets are $38 and include a take-home preservation kit and lunch.

In addition to founding *Save Your Stones,* Jarrod Roll is the Director of the Monroe County History Museum in Sparta, Wisconsin. Mr. Roll has a passion for helping communities hold onto their local history, and has developed *Save Your Stones* to help individuals preserve their ancestors' grave markers. Recently, he created the take-home preservation kit so that people interested in genealogy and local history can apply professional restoration techniques on their own. If you are a cemetery professional, genealogy enthusiast, or simply a history buff, you don't want to miss this fun and informative workshop.

Volunteers Embody the Holiday Spirit Year-Round

By James Clinton, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Despite the constant—and at times, overwhelming—activity of the holidays, I always enjoy the spirit of the season. Strangers smile at one another a bit more, friends express their gratitude towards each other more often, and families separated by hundreds of miles reconnect.

No matter how we celebrate the holidays, it seems like we all try to be a bit more selfless during this time of year. Whether it's donating a few dollars in response to the soft ringing of Salvation Army bells,

offering a heartfelt "season's greetings" to your neighbor, or stopping to pick up the dropped purchases of a fellow shopper. To me, those small, selfless, moments bring the holiday spirit to life. However, too many of us, myself included, act this way only as December draws to a close and the calendar flips to a new year.

Our volunteers donate their time, energy, and talents no matter the season. They are selfless not because of the holidays, but because it is simply the right thing to do. Volunteers embody the selflessness of the holiday spirit year-round.

I am privelaged to work with our volunteers on a daily basis. Without them, the Historical Society would not be able to conduct our Free Family Fun Day programs, lead historic walking tours, or guide over one hundred elementary school students through our exhibit halls simultaneously. Our fantastic team of volunteers not only ensures the success of events and programs, but also work hard week after week, writing, transcribing, organizing, and researching local history. *Our volunteers make local history happen.*

To our volunteers, from all of us at the Goodhue County Historical Society: Thank You.

Thank you for your time, your talents, your dedication, and most of all, your selflessness. 2015 has been an absolute pleasure, and I cannot wait to work with each of you in 2016.

Cheers to the New Year!

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

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Have you designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars yet?

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, there is an easy way for you to direct donations to a charitable organization of your choice. Thrivent Choice Dollars allow members to distribute funds to eligible organizations each year.

The Goodhue County Historical Society is a participating organization in the Thrivent Choice program. Contact your Thrivent representative today to designate your Choice Dollars to the Historical Society.

All Thrivent Choice Dollars must be designated by March 31, 2016.

Help us with our mailing list!

A number of our mailings are returned with incomplete or undeliverable addresses. 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.

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

Fall 2015

Minnesota's first county historical society, est. 1869

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 305
Red Wing, MN

JOIN US AT FACEBOOK

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

History Takes Over Trivia Night at Jimmy's Pub!

Consider yourself a history buff? Visit the Goodhue County Historical Society staff when we take over Trivia Night at Jimmy's Pub at the Saint James Hotel in Red Wing. Each night will feature a different historical theme, and it is free to play. The winning team receives a free drink at Jimmy's Pub. Trivia Night is held every Thursday at 7 PM.

Join us on these dates to test your knowledge of different historical topics:

January 14th
February 4th
March 3rd
April 7th