

Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

33/2: Spring, 2012

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Now Open

Gone Fishin'

In honor of the Governor's fishing opener on Lake Waconia, the CCHS is proud to announce the newest exhibit *Gone Fishin'*.

Minnesota Tragedy: The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862



May 1- May 31

Carver County Historical
Society

Monday - Friday 9am-4:30pm

Saturday 10am-3pm

Open to the Public

2012 marks 150 years since the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, a tragic time in Minnesota's history. The war, its causes and its aftermath had a profound impact in shaping Minnesota. Throughout 2012, we will introduce a wide range of initiatives to encourage discussion and reflection about the war.

The *Minnesota Tragedy: The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862* shares historical background, a timeline of events, public programs, books, links to photos, documents and artifacts relating to the war, and resources for researching family history.

We encourage you to learn more about this important time in our history by coming to the exhibit opening May 1st, at the Carver County Historical Society, going to community events, and joining the conversation

This exhibit explores the causes, voices, events and long-lasting consequences of the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. It was produced by Gustavus Adolphus College students in conjunction with the Nicollet County Historical Society. The project was funded by Gustavus Adolphus College, Nicollet County Historical Society, Minnesota Historical Society and the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Little Crow's wife and children at Fort Snelling - ca. 1863



SNIPPETS

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Who is that?

My mother, who is 81, just started using a digital camera, only because she couldn't find film anymore for her traditional 35mm camera. Watching her get used to the camera was I am ashamed to say, amusing. Her most interesting and very understandable comment was about how to develop the film. We told her that the camera didn't have film but a memory card. She asked how many pictures it would hold and we told her it held over 1,000 photos, if not more. To this, she responded with much frustration, stating that it would take her years to use that much film before she could develop it and see the pictures.



Photos were once only taken on a special occasion. We were careful not to take unnecessary photos so as to not waste the film. Digital cameras, not to mention cameras in phones, have made taking pictures of anything and everything possible. With this freedom comes a greater need to document who and what we are taking pictures of. The Carver County Historical Society has boxes of unidentified photos of people and places. With the advent of our new photo indexing project, we have started taking greater efforts to identify the photos. Herein the danger lies. Well meaning people may identify a photo by a statement such as, "I think that is...". Only later to we find out that the photo was misidentified. The lesson to be learned is to identify photos immediately.

We need your help! Become our Facebook friend. On Facebook you will find unidentified photos posted in hopes that someone will be able to identify them. You can also "share" the photo with your Facebook friends who might know more about the photo in question. For those of you who say they are too "old" for a Facebook page, let me tell you that my mother has one, for one reason— to see her grandchildren's photos. The other thing you can do is to be sure to identify your photos once you have them stored. Scrapbooking is a current popular hobby that will prove to be historically valuable to future generations.

The CCHS is currently in the process of scanning all 14,000+ photos in our collection. These photos are being entered into a museum software call PastPerfect. The pictures will be available for public research first here at the museum, then at the Carver County Libraries and finally, in about two years, on our website. This is a long term joint project funded in part by a Legacy grant through the State of Minnesota and in cooperation with Carver County and the Carver County Library system. This is an effort to make our photos more publicly available. Please take the time to thank your Carver County Commissioners for their support.

If you are wondering about the above photo, it is the Young America Sewing Circle. The names of all the ladies were not documented. If you know any of the ladies please contact us at 952-442-4234 or wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us.

At the CCHS Annual Meeting in January, the following persons were elected to serve on the CCHS Board Directors: K.J. MacDonald-Watertown, Michael Owen Hill-St. Paul and Darlene Fasching-Hamburg. We would like to welcome and thank them for being willing to serve on the board.

News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Historical Society

Masons on Display at NYA Heritage Center



The Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America is now featuring a special display on the local Masons and Eastern Star organizations.

Locally, the Masons held their first meeting in 1877 and were a chartered group from 1878 to 1984. They opened the Humboldt Lodge in Young America during 1905. It was unique for a chapter in such a small community to have its own building.

In the photo left, the large Bible on the bottom shelf was used at the Humboldt Lodge and belonged to the first Mast, George Mix. The painting of George Washington is believed to date from 1877, and badges from the Eastern Star group are pictured in the middle, with medals for the Masons on the right. The top hat, typically used by the Master at the time, is on loan from the Waconia Masons. Other memorabilia include handwritten reports, a ballot box, and more. Original members came from chapters in Watertown and Shakopee, and in 1984 the local chapter merged with the younger Waconia chapter.

In the closing writings regarding the merge, it was noted that the picture of a younger child taking care of an aging parent was fitting.

Article reprinted with the permission of Paul Downer, *NYA Times*

Chanhassen Historical Society General Membership Meeting

Tuesday April 24
Chanhassen American Legion
6:30-7:00 Social Hour
7:00-7:30 Meeting
7:30-8:00 Presentation:
*A Brief History of the
Chanhassen Fire Department*

Watertown Area Historical Society dedicates plaque to Early Watertown History

The Watertown Area Historical Society dedicated a plaque to Early Watertown History, April 19th. The plaque was a long term goal of WAHS's founder Mrs. King, a retired teacher, who had long wanted information to give to students about early Watertown history. This plaque will now give students and visitors a place to find answers.



The History of the Watertown Minnesota Area, 1856 to 2006

After many requests to republish her Watertown history book, Charlotte Johnson has updated and republished her history book of the Watertown area. Only 8 of these books are still available. If you would like to purchase a book, either call the author, at 952-955-3546 or email her at charlotte-mary@charter.net. The cost for the book is \$150. The CCHS has two copies available for purchase.



Carver County Barn Quilts

Town Hall Meeting

Have you seen our County's latest arts attraction? Designed for barns, not beds, "barn quilts" are 8 foot-square painted wooden quilt panels, hung on the exterior walls of barns. Come and meet the founders of this grand community arts endeavor, and join in a discussion as they share their continued artistic vision for the project and its potential economic impact throughout Carver County. Learn where the barn quilt movement began and how local support for the arts helped launch this larger than life, open-air-gallery of Folk art. Hear from current barn quilt owners, quilters, art enthusiasts, and community organizations as we discuss barn selection, painting techniques, installation, and the variety of volunteer opportunities available. Barn owners, future barn quilt enthusiasts, history buffs and art supporters will enjoy this informational and friendly atmosphere. Learn how to request a "quilt" for your barn and join the fun!

Date: Saturday, May 12, 10:30 – noon

Waconia High School Auditorium

This event is sponsored by Community Education in District 110 and 112; the Arts Consortium of Carver County, the Chaska Area Quilt Club; and the Carver County Historical Society.