

Transcending Time

Carver County Historical Society

29/3 : Summer 2008

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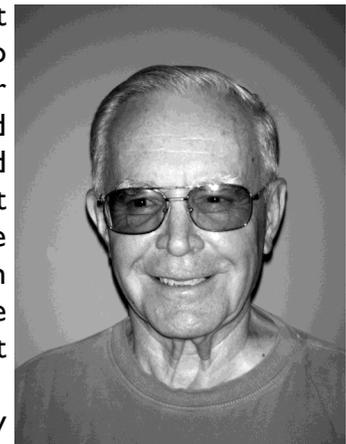
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Ronald Holtmeier Wins Prudential Volunteer Award

Ron Holtmeier won the Prudential CARES Volunteer Grant for volunteer services with CCHS on July 2, 2008. With the award, comes a \$250 donation to the Carver County Historical Society in Ron's name.

Ron started volunteering after he retired in 1979 for the University of Minnesota Agricultural Student Training program at the St Paul campus. The program was designed for international students to live and work at a farm for 9 months. Following the farm visit they would return to the campus for academic work. Ron and his wife Harriet would pick up the students at the airport on Saturday, providing housing for a few days then take them to the St. Paul campus the following week. From there the students would go to farms in Minnesota. Ron tells of one student from Estonia who knew no English and went to work for a dairy farmer near Mankato. The farmer told him to do something with the bulk tank and not understanding the student mistakenly drained 2000 gallons of milk. The farmer was obviously not happy with this but was at least understanding. The farmer not only kept the student, he paid for English tutoring. Ron has kept in touch with many of the students over the years, including his first student from Finland.

Ron became involved with the Carver County Historical Society by an invitation from Jo Mihelich. Specifically, he has been busy promoting the Andrew Peterson farm and working with the Nordic Club. Last summer Ron, his wife Harriet and a number of other wonderful volunteers spent a lot of time planning to bring over 27 people from Sweden for a tour of Carver County, the Peterson Farm and parts of the US.



Ron Holtmeier winner of Prudential volunteer CARE

The year before he helped with the four Swedes who came to rebuild the Peterson granary. He has enjoyed working with everyone involved in regard to the Peterson farm but most enjoys the visitors from other countries. He is CCHS's liaison with the Peterson farm and gives tours of the farm when requested.

Ron's advice to others thinking about volunteering is just do it. "It is fun!"

The Andrew Peterson home near Scandia

Photo circa 1885



SNIPPETS

Wendy Biorn
Executive Director

The Generations Project

Sometime last summer a lady walked into the museum. To be honest, I cannot tell you why or what it was about her, but she had something special. She had an aura, that exuded happiness and friendliness. The lady's name was Ruth Tremblay. The aura she has is one that makes everyone she comes in contact with comfortable. Ruth and I learned that we shared something special that day. The love for old barns. So began Ruth's adventure of documenting Carver County barns.

The name, "Generations Project" was bestowed by Ruth in tribute to the generations of families who continue to live on the family farm. The project is based on a survey designed by The National Barn Alliance who's lofty goal is to document all barns in the United States. The project is not just about taking photos of the barns, it is about documenting the history of the generations of people who live, worked and homesteaded on the farm. My concern from a history and preservation standpoint is that in time we will lose the family farm and the stories and images would go with them. Ruth and I don't kid ourselves into believing that we can save all the barns, or even a fraction of them, but it would sure be nice to save the nicest example of each. For the barns we can't save, we can save their image and the oral history of the generations who lived there.

One of the predominate questions I receive is, "what are you going to do with the information." This is a valid question as I fully understand the need for privacy. There will be several copies of the information made. The National Barn Alliance, State Historic Preservation Office, Carver County, Ruth and the Carver County Historical Society will each have a copy of the information. In each case the purpose of having the information is protecting the barns. For example, as the County plans for transportation needs, they will be able to refer to the barn survey with our hope of avoiding the barn, moving it or if it is determined a barn can not be saved a through record of the barn will exist in perpetuity.

We at CCHS owe Ruth and her efforts to document the barns of Carver County more than we can possibly return or thank her for. Please let Ruth know just how much she is appreciated by visiting her at the log granary at the Carver County fair in Waconia, August 6-10th. If you would like your barn documented she generously gifts the owner a copy of the photo for allowing permission to photograph. Her photographs will be available for sale at the fair and at CCHS. Ruth has generously donated back a portion of each sale to CCHS.





Programs Intern Katherine Elchert
*Katherine is the daughter of Tim and Sue
Elchert of Woodbury.*

Programs Intern Helps Teach Local Students about Eco-History

Hello, I'm Katherine Elchert, the Summer 2008 Programs Intern. My position is funded by Community POWER!, a program of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board. This June I graduated from Lawrence University, a small liberal arts college located in Appleton, WI. At Lawrence, I double majored in history, with a concentration in public history, and art history. While a student, I focused my education around museum studies and created my own classes concerning public history, exhibit curation and archival research and management.

Museums have always been favorite places of mine. I'm partial to art and history museums and this is clearly reflected in my past work experience. For three years, I worked at the Lawrence University art gallery, setting up different exhibits and maintaining the permanent collection. Over the past two summers, I interned at the Minnesota Historical Society and worked with their large collection of Red Wing Pottery. I loved both experiences within the museum world.

My time at the Carver County Historical Society has flown by! Over the past month, I've helped Erin Anderson, the CCHS Education Coordinator, run different sessions of Eco-History Camp and Wagons & Cabins Pioneer History Camp along with other various family activities. Another major project is the creation of a family guide for the museum exhibits. Hopefully, the guide will help the whole family learn and fully enjoy their experience at the Carver County Historical Society.

WANTED

The CCHS Library is in need of several large, 4" 3-ring binders. If you would like to donate one or more of these items, please call Marlene at (952) 442-4234 or bring them by the Historical Society.



SUMMER 2008 Eco-History Camps

In the summer of 2007, the Carver County Historical Society was awarded an \$8,338 grant by Community POWER!, a project of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board to create three eco-history day camps. This summer, we were able to implement these camps to great success. Check out the pictures on the next few pages to see some of the fun we had!



Waconia Eco-History Ambassadors
From back left: Sterling Sauter, Carter Pederson, Lance Miller, Emmylou Barden, CCHS Education Coordinator Erin Anderson, Nicole Heinen, Sami Braun, Clare Wickenhauser
From front left: Raven Concagh-Blount, Hannah Crannell, Megan Girard, Mackenzie DeLeo

CCHS Eco-History Ambassadors share a laugh while lining up to perform their peer teaching skits. Students were charged with creating a skit about one of the waste reduction topics they learned about that week.

From left: CCHS Education Coordinator Erin Anderson, Emmylou Barden, Clare Wickenhauser, and Hannah Crannell



Students learned about peer teaching and activism on the last day of camp. They created t-shirts in support of an environmental cause of their own choosing, performed their skits, and participated in learning activities with their families and friends.

Left: Lance Miller crafts a letter to the editor of his hometown newspaper about the dangers of global warming.



Hannah Crannell performs the part of "Frankentree" in an original skit, *Frankentree and the Recycling King*. Other group members included Carter Pederson, Nicole Heinen, and Mackenzie DeLeo.

Mackenzie DeLeo is "knighted" by CCHS Education Coordinator Erin Anderson after completing the week long camp. Students were dubbed "CCHS Eco-History Ambassadors" in honor of the Green Guardian, a knight who defend the environment. The Green Guardian is the mascot for the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, which was the primary sponsor for the camps.



Above from left: Hannah Crannell, Carter Pederson, and volunteer Kermit Dietrich
Students conducted oral histories with community elders to learn about waste reduction in the past.
Below from left: Tyler Fisher, Sami Braun, and volunteer Audree Sells

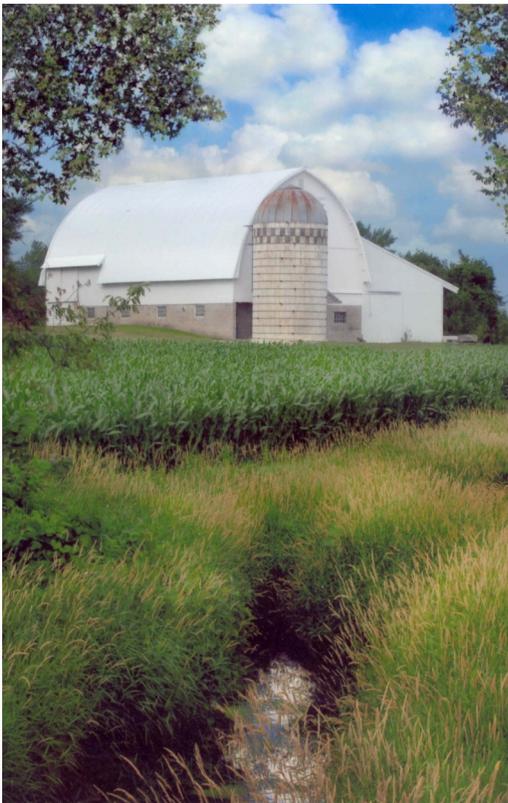
Pictured above, from back left: Hannah Crannell, Sami Braun, Raven Concagh-Blount, Emmylou Barden, CCHS Education Coordinator Erin Anderson, Clare Wickenhauser, and Nicole Heinen
From front left: Sterling Sauter, Tyler Fisher, Carter Pederson, Lance Miller, Mackenzie DeLeo, and Megan Girard
Students had the opportunity to visit the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum exhibit *Treeology* to discover more about the importance of trees in our environment. Students also visited the Carver County Environmental Center in Chaska.



GreenGuardian.com

Funding for this program is through a generous grant from Community POWER, a program of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board. The SWMCB, and their information website www.greenguardian.com, are committed to reducing the amount of household waste produced by the Twin Cities.

Mark your calendars!



Join the Friends of Minnesota Barns and the Carver County Historical Society for a tour of Carver County Barns

When: Saturday, September 27

10-4 PM

Where: The bus pick up is in Chanhassen. Exact location is TBD.

Cost: \$40/members; \$50/non-members

Cost includes lunch and bus tour

Pre-registration for this event is required. To sign up or for more information, please call the Carver County Historical Society at (952) 442-4234.

Ruth Tremblay, Waconia artist and noted barn photographer, will be on hand to answer questions about her work and the properties. Wendy Biorn, CCHS Executive Director, will also be on hand to answer questions about **The Generations Project**.



The Chaska Valley Family Theater presents *Quilters*, the story of a pioneer woman and her daughters that stitches together songs, scenes, and monologues into a beautiful patchwork that celebrates the beauty, terror, joy, challenge and abiding rewards of frontier life.

What: Lunch performance of *Quilters*

Where: Chaska Valley Family Theater

1661 Park Ridge Drive

Chaska, MN 55318

(952) 361-6424

www.cvft.org

When: Wednesday, October 1

Lunch at 11:30am

Show at 1pm

Cost: \$20 for lunch and show

Why: Proceeds from this performance will benefit the Carver County Historical Society

Mark your calendars!



An Open House at the Andrew Peterson Farm

Sunday, September 28

12-5pm

8050 Hwy 5, Waconia, MN

Presented by the Friends of the Historic
Andrew Peterson Homestead

**Stop by for an afternoon of good,
clean Swedish fun! Activities for
visitors of all ages**

- Music
- Games
- Swedish food
- Silent auction
- Arts and crafts
- Children's activities

Learn about **Andrew Peterson**, one of Carver County's earliest farmers, in the place where he lived and worked for over 40 years. Known for more than just his work in apple breeding and horticulture, Peterson also kept copious notes and journals. These provide some of the best known documentation of early Swedish immigrant life in America. His journals were used by Swedish novelist Vilhelm Moberg to craft a story of Swedish immigration in his novels *The Emigrants*, *Unto a Good Land*, *The Settlers*, and *Last Letter Home*.

Thank You New and Renewing Members!

Jude & Deb Anderson
Lisa Backlund
Susan Buetow
Lee Buescher
Judy Budreau
Mike & Kathy Coleman
Mark & Kathleen Free
Mervin Hermann
Bob Hutchinson
Adeline & Kristine
Kohman
Marie Lane
Randy Lehs
Marlys Lindert
Ramon & Theresa
Mendiola
Amy Pepler
Edna Terlinden

Ellen Woodruff
David Esposito
Sara Gaucher
Raymond Henke
Auralie Jones
Tom & Elanor Kottke
Wilmer & LuVern
Kroells
C. Audrey Lano
Dianna Lindberg
Kathy Middendorf
Lovera Ohm
Ron & Elaine Roeser
Mary Sauerbrey
Douglas Schutz
H. Gordon Schwacke
Kimberly Adams-Plehal
Paige & Howard
Anderson

Robert & Helen
Nicklaus
Gerald Orazem
Sheila Rush
Susan Storms
Erv Uecker
Gail L. S. Berger
Ed & Donna Bierlein
John & Laura
Synstegaard
James Burroughs
Lonnie & Linda Venske
Daniel Effertz
Kathleen Henderson
Martha Klammer
Marie Lane
Mary Loehrs
Karen McCrossan
Richard A. Born

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board Members

Mike Fahey (President), Carver
Mary Booth (Vice President), Chaska
Lois Schulstad (Secretary),
Chanhassen
Doug Hoese (Treasurer), Watertown
Val Barlau, Waconia
Al Bongard, Cologne
Mary Eklund, Watertown
Lori Lohman, Chaska
Randy Maluchnik (County Liaison),
Carver
Dianne Strandberg, Eden Prairie

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CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Senior Citizen \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Family \$25.00
- Sustaining \$50.00
- Please send a gift membership to the name below. I understand a letter will be sent to the recipient announcing my gift.
- Please accept my donation of _____ toward your annual fund drive.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Gift Membership to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The Carver County Historical Society is a non-profit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.