

Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

37/3: Summer, 2016



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“History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our humanity, so that we can better face the future.”

~Robert Penn Warren



Lost Relics:

Found in Carver County

The bottles in the pictures left and below were found by Darrin Gray, local metal detector enthusiast and scuba diver. He found them together at the bottom of Lake Waconia.

Round bottom bottles date from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century. The majority of these bottles were imported from the United Kingdom, though there were a few American companies that produced them.

They most often contained ginger ale or other types of soda. In America, they were called “round bottoms”, and called “cucumber” bottles in England. The so-called round bottom bottles do not appear until about the 1870-80 era. Prior to that, “torpedo” bottles were designed with a more pointed bottom. They were intended to lie on their side so that the wired down cork could not dry out and shrink, allowing the contents to lose carbonation or evaporate. Loss was accrued by companies because the corks, which were secured with a wire bale, could dry out, shrink and allow the carbonation to escape or worse, the liquid to spoil or sour. These bottles remained in use after caps were introduced for only a few short years, before flat bottom bottles were introduced (mid-late 1800’s).

Round bottoms made in America are most often from Boston, Massachusetts (Vincent, Hathaway and Co, Boston Ginger Ale) or Savannah, Georgia (John Ryan’s Excelsior Bottle Works).

The bottle Darrin found once held champagne. The cap reads “G.H. Mumm & Co.” and below the bird, “G. de Bary”. The little text around the edge reads “Betts Protective Paris-Londres-Bordeaux” There was most likely a cork beneath the cap.

Mumm was founded in 1827. The firm owns 540 acres of vineyards throughout the Champagne region, and is the largest company in Reims. Since its founding, the house of Mumm has been regarded as one of the most famous names in Champagne. Its Champagnes are crafted from a palette of prestigious crus with varied flavors that offer each cuvée “finesse, elegance and freshness”. Mumm is the second-largest selling Champagne in the United States, with a motto “only the best”.



Stands, such as the one Darrin discovered, would have been used once the bottle was opened and being served. The stand would hold the bottle to keep the contents from spilling.



SNIPPETS

Prince's Memorial Wall

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Today, I received an email from a reporter from "The Straight Dope", asking about the Prince Memorial Wall. He wanted to know why and how it was taken down, where the items went, how the items will be cared for, and if Paisley Park will be open to the public. These questions are the most commonly received in regard to Paisley Park. I am not the spokesperson for the estate, but I can tell you how it came about that the Memorial Wall was taken down and why.

By the time the Memorial Wall items was taken down, it had been up for four weeks. Massive, yes massive, amounts of dead flowers, and some rotten food, were ready to be removed. Many of the memorial items were being destroyed due to weather conditions. Part of the job of a historical society is to preserve history. In this case, the items on the wall were in danger of complete loss if some preservation method was not utilized. I first contacted Bremer Bank to see if they would like some help with the memorial items. The answer was yes, so I next checked to see how other organizations handled their memorial wall.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. and Graceland were good case studies for me. Each place had an archivist on staff who oversaw the removal of items on a scheduled basis. The items were stored away following generally accepted museum standards.

With a positive answer in hand from Bremmer, I contacted the Minnesota Historical Society, the Chanhassen Historical Society and the Hennepin History Center, to see if they were interested in participating. This was not as easy as it would appear, as Bremmer asked for high levels of confidentiality. This meant that while I could ask for volunteer help, I could not tell people what they were volunteering for. I also received the date and time for the removal at 1:30 in the afternoon the day before the 9 AM meeting.

Despite all this, we had an estate archivist, plus three additional curators helping to take down the memorial wall, ensuring the process was done correctly. Each panel was first numbered and photographed, and then all items, except for dead flowers and food, were saved. Items were placed in numbered tubs that corresponded with the number of the panel. I removed 9 lawn sized bags of dead flowers in a space of about 20 feet. The items that were wet were placed in separate tubs to be dried out. The tubs were placed into vans and taken to an environmentally controlled area where the estate archivist could inventory and clean things more thoroughly.

So what is to be done with all the items? They will be preserved until the estate decides what to do with everything. I know as much about the future of Paisley Park as anyone else. If the newspapers are correct, it would appear that the building will be open to the public at some time in the future. Having never been in the building, I will be one of the first in line to see it. If and when the building is open for tours, I will be sure to let you know.

When is the next time the wall will be cleared? I have heard nothing from the estate regarding the logistics for future Memorial Wall cleanups. I think it would be pretty safe to say that when the day does come, it will be with short notice and I won't be able to tell volunteers what I am needing them for. Maybe I should start a list for people who are willing to volunteer without knowing what they will be doing. Now there is a thought. I could call people in and surprise them with pulling weeds from the flower garden at the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. On the other hand, that might come with mixed reactions, not all good.

The Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead was dedicated June 25th. There are so many people to thank, it would be impossible to do so without missing someone. To everyone who has helped or contributed, our deepest thanks. A complete report of the dedication will be coming in the Fall newsletter.

News from Around the County

Chanhasen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society



Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Another artifact has returned home. Last year, a player piano from Power's Furniture which operated in the 1930's was donated to the Willkommen Heritage Center, and now a Grandfather Clock. Back in 1992, the State Bank of Young America was located in the building where the Heritage Center currently resides. During that year, the Bank celebrated their 90th Anniversary by giving away a Grandfather Clock, hand crafted by Raymond Meffert of Arlington, MN. The fortunate winner was Rita Luecke of NYA. After fourteen years, Rita is redecorating her home to make room for a family heirloom. She decided the Grandfather Clock needed to go to a safe place, and back to where it started. The building on the corner of 1st Ave. & Main St, was a perfect choice.

Upcoming:

- preparation for the 2016 Stiftungsfest Celebration
- Mid July will be the transformation from Patriotic Remembrances to Memories of past Stiftungsfest.
- In recognition of the Dienesfeld Band returning this year, many artifacts from their past visits will be on display.

Volunteers are busy preparing information exhibits for the Heritage Tent at Stiftungsfest. Topics for this year are- 25 year History of the Queen Program, Grand Marshals of previous parades, Stiftungsfest in general, and the 160th year history of the Cardinal Baseball Team.



L-R Lin Deardorff, Rep. Jim Nash, Rep. Dean Urdahl, Comm. Randy Maluchnik, and Ex. Dir. Wendy Petersen Biorn plant a ceremonial Astrakhan apple tree, at the June 25, 2016 dedication of Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead.



Tying the Knot in Chaska:
Celebrating over
150 years
of Hometown Weddings

Visit the Chaska History Center during River City Days for this multi-sensory extravaganza!

There will lots to see and do including:
*Cake to taste
*Flowers to smell
*Bridal gowns/suit jackets for kids to try on
*Wedding music

Displays will include:
*10 Wedding Dresses from 1900-1970s
*Bride Dolls
*Galleries of Wedding pictures from many different eras: 1860-1900, 1901-1920, 1921-1940, 1941-1960, 1961-1980 and 1981-2016 and much more!

*Items will be on display until early December

River City Days Hours at the Center:
Friday, July 29, 2016 9am-5pm
Saturday, July 30, 2016 9am-5 pm
112 West 4th Street, Chaska



CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Waconia
Darlene Fasching (VP), Minnetrista
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CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBER FORM

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please email me my newsletter.
- Please accept my donation of _____ toward your annual fund drive.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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