

News Lines

B E N T O N C O U N T Y H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

“ MINNESOTA’S DEADLIEST TORNADOES ” O C T O B E R 8 , 2 0 0 9 O N T P T - 2 A T 9 : 3 0 P M

Mary Lahammer who is the *Almanac*: *At the Capitol* host and *Almanac*: political reporter for **tpt** recently focused her efforts on putting together a documentary on the deadliest weather events for Minnesota.

One of the focuses was the Sauk Rapids, St Cloud, Rice area tornado that happened on April 14, 1886. Starting in St. Cloud, the cyclone did damage in that area, but jumped the river and devastated the town site of Sauk Rapids. With death tolls in the 70’s and injuries of hundreds of people; this tornado still ranks as the Number One weather event for Minnesota.

Mary features information, pictures, and a re-enactment of the Rice wedding story in this documentary.

Fred Joesting, our research specialist, did the narration for the Benton County Historical Society. Be sure to watch the program on **tpt-2 on October 8, 2009 at 9:30pm**. We are very grateful for his participation as he did a beautiful job on the history of our area!

John Decker from Stearns County History Center did the narration for the St. Cloud history. He did a wonderful job as well.

One of the unique features of the documentary is the wedding re-enactment of Henry Frietag and Minnie Schultz. The re-enactment was shot in the prairie of the **Bend In The River Park** in the Rice area. This is not very far from the original Schultz farm, where the tornado hit, injuring and killing some of the

wedding party members. The groom died, but the bride survived with injuries.

Other parts of the documentary will include Mary Lahammer’s personal family tragedy of her grandmother’s involvement with the Appleton tornado, the deaths, injuries and devastation including the loss of their family members.

We have seen some of the video clips and previews of the documentary and it is great! We look forward to viewing of the program in its entirety on October 8 at 9:20pm on **tpt-2!**

We are hoping that you will take the time to view it too!



Mary Lahammer is the reporter that is featuring the “Minnesota’s Deadliest Tornado” documentary on tpt-2 October 8th at 9:30pm



A B O U T M A R Y L A H A M M E R

Mary Lahammer has been a program host and political reporter for Twin Cities Public Television since 1998. She has won several Emmys and numerous awards in several states for her anchoring, reporting, producing and photography. Lahammer was named “Best TV Reporter” by *Minnesota Monthly* and “Best Newscaster” by *City Pages Magazine*. Mary’s trademark has been getting politicians to open up and trust her including Governors like Jesse Ventura, Tim Pawlenty, and Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman. She has produced a variety of documentaries on topics such as global trade missions, candidates revealing life stories and Minnesota history.

Mary is a native Minnesotan who began attending the University of Minnesota’s Honors College at 15, where she went on to graduate with Phi Beta kappa and Summa Cum Laude honors. She holds degrees in Journalism and Mass Communications and Constitutional Law History from the U of M. She served as President of the Alumni Board at the U’s journalism school.

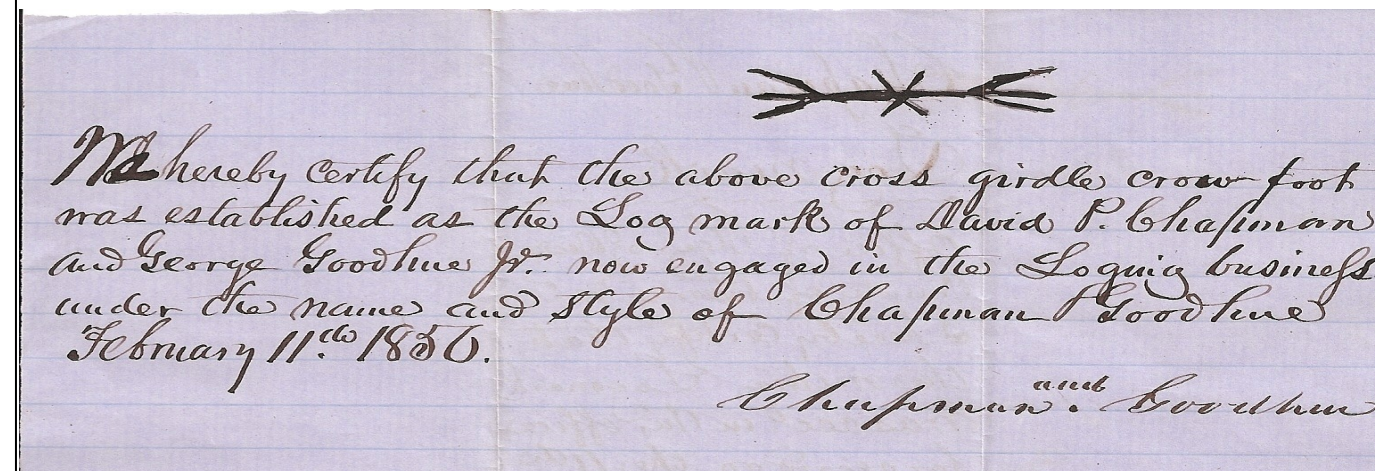
LOGGING "BRANDS"



Pictured above- a logging section sometime in the 1920's with logs in storage piles.

We try to find interesting pictures and information on Benton County History to put in the newsletter!

For this newsletter, Fred Joesting found the original document filed in Benton County in 1850 for David P. Chapman and George Goodhue Jr. to register their log mark (Picture Below). The documents had to be filed with the "log marks" that were to be branded on the ends and on the sides of each log. Logs were run down the rivers by the logging men (called drivers) and then the logs were placed in storage boons at the respective mills along the river. (See Above picture)



Original filing documents for the "Cross -Girdle -Crowfoot" branding logmark which identified the Logs of David P. Chapman and George Goodhue Jr.

Executive Director's Corner

The weather outside is suggestive of Fall. A little bit cool, a little bit rainy, with the leaves finally turning! A change of seasons with the weather and people will be going back to the family/history projects that they work on in the colder, winter months!

We, of course had some excitement with **Fred Joesting** narrating the documentary on *"Minnesota's Deadliest Tornadoes"*. Fred did an amazing narration job from the clips that I **have seen!** Fred does an excellent job at everything he does and was a "Natural" in doing the TV spot for the documentary! How fortunate we are to have Fred helping us at the Museum! We are excited to have the opportunity to reach a broader public community with our resources and information!

We got notification that the City of Sauk Rapids and Benton County Government will be cutting our budget amounts for the coming 2010 year. We are in the same boat as a lot of other non-profits, and that is trying to do more for less. We will be trying to come up with some creative ideas for new funding sources, and encouraging people of the community to join us with memberships.

I would like to take a moment and just thank all our members for everything they do from memberships, to donating resource materials and artifacts! You are the ones that make this organization a worthwhile one! Till next time–

Mary Ostby

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours and Contact Information

Benton County Historical Society's Museum is open Monday thru Friday 10am-4pm

Appointments are available for after hours, tours, visits and travel requests.

Phone: 320-253-9614

Fax: 320-253-9614

Email: bchsmus@charterinternet.com

Meeting are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm

October 19th, 2009

November 16th, 2009

In House Volunteers:

Fred Joesting– Research Specialist

Marjean Keehr– Research

Andy Schwalboski-Research & Displays

Caren Kalenda– Data Input/Oral Interview

Jack Toliver– Military Support

Jenny DeWinter-Museum Support

John Stafney– Database Support

Lorane Walsh– Cemetery Suport

Maureen Athman– Oral Interview Transcriber

Ron Zurek– Webmaster

Staff:

Mary Ostby– Executive Director

Meredith DePree– Office Support

Miles Christie– Office Support/Military Support

Jack Toliver– Military Support



From time to time we get information on workshops and programs offered around the area. We recently received the notice below and have it posted at the museum for everyone to see. I try to get them in the newsletter so that all members can be aware of the upcoming programs.

PROGRAM	
8:00	Registration
9:00	Don Litzer: "A Gem at the Crossroads"
10:30	Darlene Joyce: "Major American Genealogy Libraries"
11:30	Hot Buffet Lunch
1:00	Don Litzer: "The Mysteries of PERSI"
2:30	Darlene Joyce: "Important Regional, Ethnic, and Local Libraries"

COST	
MGS Members:	
all day, pre-pay:	\$25
all day, at the door:	\$30
half-day, pre-pay:	\$15
half-day, at-the-door:	\$20
Non-MGS Members:	
all day, pre-pay:	\$30
all day, at the door:	\$34
half-day, pre-pay:	\$20
half-day, at-the-door:	\$25

Lunch:	
pre-pay:	\$10
at the door:	\$15

PROGRAM HELD AT:



Minnesota
Genealogical
Society

1185 Concord Ave N.
Saint Paul MN 55075
Phone: 651-455-9057

Register: www.mnngs.org

MIDWEST LIBRARIES AND GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Genealogical Society Harvest Program SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2009

A Gem at the Crossroads of America: The Allen County Public Library

The Allen County Public Library contains more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 microform items. Don Litzer will lead a multimedia "tour" of the library's Genealogy Center, discussing its collections and services, and recommendations on using the Center for research.

The Mysteries of PERSI: PERiodical Source Index

PERSI entries link to valuable information in nearly 10,000 general and local history publications. Unlock the mysteries of searching PERSI, a series of indexes and databases providing valuable information on people, places, and how-to's.

Major American Genealogy Libraries for the Midwest Researcher

Darlene Joyce, CG, will provide an overview of general resources and depositories in our region, including the Minnesota Historical Society, special university collections in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and neighboring states, the Midwest Genealogy Center in Missouri, the Newberry Library in Chicago, and more.

Important Regional, Ethnic, and Local Libraries for Genealogy Research

Discover many valuable resources often underused by researchers, including NARA's Great Lakes Regional Archives (Chicago), the Naeseth Norwegian Research Library (Madison, WI), ethnic collections housed on university campuses, local Minnesota public libraries and county historical societies, online, etc.

"I like a teacher who gives you something more to think about besides homework"

-Edith Ann (Lily) Tomlin-

ANNUAL MEETING 2009

We held our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the Benton County Historical Society Museum.

We started a social hour for the members and had a light supper with Croissant sandwiches, chips, relish trays and beverage.

The Board of Directors held their meeting and the Annual Elections. The members present re-elected Board Members **Char Dhein**, **Renee Kampa** and **Randy Schafer** to serve on the BCHS Board of Directors for three year terms.

The Board and members also re-elected **Ernie Wollak** to serve as President, **Char Dhein** to serve as the Vice-President, **Renee Kampa** to serve as the Treasurer, and **Melissa Keller** to serve as the Secretary for the 2009-2010 year.

We had an excellent turnout of people and our presentation for the evening was done by **Sharon (Eberhardt) Schulte** of rural St. Cloud. Sharon is married to Tom Schulte, has five adult children and writing is her hobby. She has been published on a local, state and national levels on a variety of topics. Her latest release as an author is a new book called : ***The Children Remember: Stories of Minnesota Children During WWII***. The book has been endorsed by St Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, and the First Lady of Minnesota, Mary Pawlenty.

Sharon was a child in east St. Cloud during the war years. To her own memories she added the experiences of many such children throughout Minnesota. She collected the stories and put them together in the book with much information about how children remember the war years.

Sharon's presentation was a fun and informative discussion of what the children remember. Some of the members were participating in the discussion with their memories of picking milkweed pods, the blackout rules, collecting pelts for fur collars and shared memories of the "stars in the windows" flags, school drills for air raid warnings, rationing, and victory gardens.

Sharon shared her own experiences with everyone about the necklace she wears with the 1943 wartime penny. These pennies were called "steelies" and 'white lead' due to the copper shortage at the time.

When the presentation was over, everyone spent a few minutes visiting and as the book was not available in print (behind in printing) we gave information to the people that were looking for copies and took orders for them.

We have received the books at the Museum that were originally ordered from members at the meeting. We have contacted everyone who ordered as to their availability. The books are also available at Amazon.com for ordering (search for the authors name) and they should be getting their supply shortly. We can also order again through the author for those interested. Book are \$16.00 with sales tax if anyone is interested, please call the Museum.

Thanks to Sharon Schulte for presenting at our Annual Meeting! Thanks to our members present who shared the information and memories. A great time was had by all!



President Ernie Wollak and Author Sharon Schulte at the Annual Meeting!

NEW STAFF! MILES CHRISTIE

Miles Christie has come to work with us from the Quality Careers program. We welcome Miles as he is picking up where Carol Bundy left off with the school year starting and her leaving.

Miles has been here for just over a month, and has quickly learned the ins and outs of the information that we process. He finished processing the Watab District School

house visitor list into a spreadsheet and is currently working on updating the Research Index. He is a natural for understanding the military information, so, Miles and Jack Toliver are also teamed up in processing displays. The two of them have been working together on some of the displays of the military; labeling, organizing and preservation and storage. We thought that the military display

looked good, but now it looks great!

Miles is working at the Museum on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, so please stop down, introduce yourself and welcome Miles to our organizational family!



We welcome Miles Christie to our team!

DONATIONS

Derek Norsten– Cannonball found in Rural Sauk Rapids– See Right→

Caren Kalenda– *Speak French*, A book for soldiers and Benton County pictures from Andreas Atlas

Ruth Kilkelly– Hand-carved Cane, items from her mother **Laura**

Freecheck: Foley Garden Club Books, Handmade Soap, Foley Senior Citizens scrapbooks, items from her father, **Norris Freecheck:** Cribbage Board, Foley Community Band pants, **Grandmother’s Julie’s** shoes, various pictures and a 1930-40’s era dress.

Cliff Johnson– 22 Business promo items, 9 cookbooks of various business/organizations of Benton County, Benton County book, Thielen Book,

Lorane Walsh– Formal Gown, Tails Tux– hand sewn pants and jacket

Carol Vierkant– vintage newspapers from the county area

Karen & Larry Sakry– Memorial donation for: **Rose Mary Winkelman**

Clara Hyslop– List of Teachers District 15, 2 photos of James Hyslop, wooden hangers

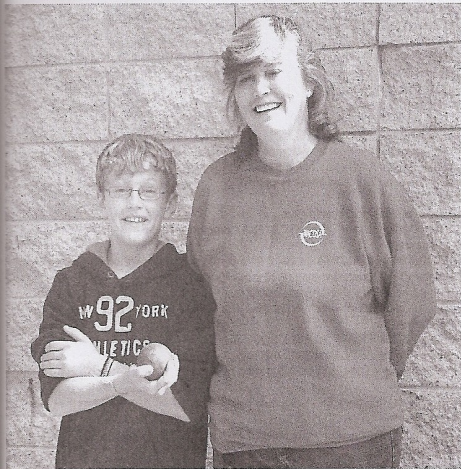
Sue Mielke– 12 Sauk Rapids Indian Day Buttons

Merlin Youso– Foley Community Shop– Chmielewski Store Promotional Item

Jan Rothanburg- Various items including vintage games, clothes, household items, pictures, phonographs, and books.

Pat Lezer– Surname file information on Studenski/Walk families

County Historical Society
Receives Cannonball Donation



Derek Norsten, left, recently donated a cannonball to the Benton County Historical Society he found in Mayhew Lake Township, rural Sauk Rapids. Derek originally wanted to keep the cannonball, but at the urging of his parents, decided to donate it to the Historical Society for the community to enjoy with the Military Display at the Society Building in Sauk Rapids. The cannonball weighs 3-1/2 pounds and is forged together in a cast of lead and cast iron with a seam in the middle. Eight to ten of these cannonballs were fired from a parrot gun during the time of Indian conflicts. There have been other reports of persons finding them in the area, however this is the first one to arrive at the Museum for display. Thank you Derek! Shown with Derek is Mary Ostby, Executive Director of the Benton County Historical Society.

Picture reprinted out of the Sauk Rapids Herald of September 30, 2009

MEMBERS

New members

Bill & Kathy Holroyd

Ruth & John Kilkelly

Linda Bryan

Elizabeth (Libby) Levinski

Nancy & Charles Anderson

Renewed members

Sherry & Kelly Kipka

Membership renewals letters will be sent out later in the year for 2010. We usually send out the renewals on or about December 1st for the next year. Please watch your mailbox around that time!

Thank you all for your support!



We appreciate our members!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

My name is Renee Kampa. I have lived in Benton County all my life. My husband, Tim, and I live in Foley. I work as a Title 1 Educational Assistant at Foley Elementary. I also work at the Frandsen Bank & Trust in Foley, mostly in the summer. On the side, I give piano lessons, year around. Tim works for the City of Foley. We have 2 children, Jeff, age 26 and Carisa, age 21.

I became interested in digging up the roots of my family tree shortly after my Gramma and Father died. That was about 13 years ago. The more you dig, the more you want to know. I was hooked! I spent a lot of time digging for those roots at the Benton County Historical Society. Since I was spending so much time at BCHS, someone thought I might as well become a board member, and invited me to do so.

I have been a board member for about 6 years. We are working to move forward and improve our ability to be an historical informational source on Benton County. The Benton County Historical Society contains a wealth of information on our county and it's inhabitants for the public to access. We, Benton County, are so RICH in Minnesota history. It is one of the original 9 counties formed in Minnesota.

We welcome donations in all forms, whether it is a gift of money, time, talent, knowledge, or physical donations connected with our county. Please consider becoming a member, if you have not done so already.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We have attached our membership information into the newsletter for the convenience of everyone who would like to join. If you are a member, dues are not due until December of each year. Feel free to share this membership form with someone you know if you would think they would like to join. We will be putting them in each newsletter as we are looking for members! Just clip out the section and send it to our mailing address: BCHS P.O. Box 426, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379. Please make checks payable to BCHs or Benton County Historical Society. Thank you for continuing to support BCHS organization!

Household	Business
Senior- \$9.00	Annual- \$50.00
Single-\$13.00	Supporting-\$75.00
Family-\$18.00	Maintaining-\$100.00
Contributor-\$27.00	Patron-\$150.00
Supporter-\$50.00	Benefactor- \$500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Benton County Historical Society

PO Box 426

Sauk Rapids, MM 56379

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

WWW.ROOTSWEB.ANCESTRY.COM/~MNBCHSM

BOARD MEMBERS

Ernie Wollak- President

Char Dhein-Vice-President

Renee Kampa-Treasurer

Melissa Keller-Secretary

Earl "Butch" Bukowski-Director

Pat Gerchy- Director

Bud Lubbesmeier-Director

Randy Schafer-Director

Merle Stowe-Director

Board of Director Meetings:

Held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm

Members and the Public are always welcome!

