

# Benton Newslines

## Lyndon Johnson Agate Collection is a Huge Success!

**Wow!** That is the only word that pops into my mind when someone asks about the Lyndon Johnson's agate collection which is on display here at the Museum until November 26th.

We opened the collection on September 13th, 2010 for the public. The Sauk Rapids Herald and St. Cloud Times ran newspaper articles on Lyndon's collection, we had it on our website, and put posters at community bulletin boards. The museum saw a doubling of visitors in the first few days. The Associated Press picked up the story next and it ran in newspapers, TV and radio internet news all over the state; then interest picked up very quickly! This has allowed people from all over get together to share their passion, see some great agates, learn a few things and exchange stories!

We scheduled three Special Saturdays for public viewing, along with our regular business hours. The first Saturday was September 23, 2010 and we had 333 visitors to the Museum in 5 hours! The second, October 23, 2010 was 120 people in 5 hours! Two new attendance records for a display at Benton County Historical Society and Museum! **We have one Saturday left for public viewing on November 20th from 11am-4pm.** We hope that everyone that wants to view it has the time to stop in!

Since the display began we have had visitors from the other states of : Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska and Kansas. There have been people from Northern Minnesota; Duluth, Two Harbors, and Southern Minnesota; Twin Cities areas. Along with the "out-of towners" we have also had near 1000 local people come into see the agates. The Benton County community area has a lot of history in mining; of granite, gravel, gold, and silver. The response from the community to this collection shows us that the agate collectors have been very successful in mining agates over the years too!

The people that are coming to see the display are admirers of agates; but a quite a few are "rock hounds"- people who collect and find agates. It has been great listening to the memories and stories of their searches and finds. We were not surprised at the amount of families that participate in finding and polishing these rocks/gemstones. We also heard about the rock shops that were in this area, with both Foley and Sauk Rapids having them. There was a lot of interest in re-starting a local rock club and we have a sign up sheet in the Museum for anyone who may be interested.

Thank you to everyone who has stopped by to see Lyndon's collection. A huge Thank You must also go to Lyndon Johnson of Sauk Rapids who has dedicated his time, energy and passion to collecting, educating, and sharing these beautiful gemstones!

In having the collection here we found that some of the things that people have enjoyed for generations; and have as memories; are not necessarily the "Good Ole Days" because they still exist today for families and will be part of the good ole days memories of tomorrow!





## Annual Meeting, Elections and Agate Presentation

The Annual Meeting was held on the September 21, 2010 at the Benton County Historical Museum. We had a light lunch of croissant sandwiches, chips, salad and beverages with a social hour before the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting Elections were held and three Board Members; Merle Stowe, Earl "Butch" Bukowski, Bud Lubbesmeier were up for re-election to three year terms. Director Bud Lubbesmeier had contacted the staff ahead of time and chose not to retain his Board of Directors position for another three-year term.

We had three applications on file of members expressing interest for any open Board position and they were submitted to the members present for consideration. These letter of interest were from: Jean Stark, Bob Bullock, and Lorane Walsh.

Merle Stowe and Earl "Butch" Bukowski were nominated by the members, voted upon and elected to serve new terms. Lorane Walsh was then nominated by a member, voted upon by the membership and elected to the open Board of Directors position. We are happy to see the return of established Board Members and are all very happy that Lorane has joined the Board of Directors!

Our Board of Directors Officers Positions- President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary positions were also up for elections and the members chose to leave the current Officers in their positions. President Ernie Wollak, Vice-President Char Dhein, Treasurer Renee Kampa, and Secretary Melissa Keller will remain in their positions for the 2011 year.

Lyndon Johnson finished up our Annual Meeting evening with a presentation on general agate history and the history of his personal collection. The members attending had a lot of questions about the agates, the types of agates, the areas for finding agates and what characteristics define Lake Superior agates. A few people who had attended had brought rocks with for Lyndon to look at and help identify. The presentation by Lyndon Johnson was enjoyed by all in attendance and was full of informative information for everyone!

*Nobody can go back  
and start a new  
beginning, but anyone  
can start today and  
make a new ending...*

*Maria Robinson*

## Organizational Update

We are still moving forward here at the BCHS Museum! We are almost finished with importing the complete research index listing into the internal database. There are many new index references, and that will help us immensely getting our members family references. **Fred Joesting**, who is our Research Specialist has been working on organizing this information for us for more years than I can count! We owe an infinite amount of thanks and appreciation to Fred because he has been instrumental in putting together the system with relative information and then listing each and every entry. Piece by piece he has made it happen!

We are needing updates for the cemeteries and are still modifying listings. While waiting for responses, **Meredith DePree** has been organizing some of the military information and finding out in each cemetery where the military people are located.

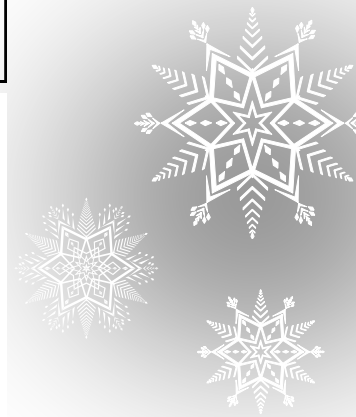
**Andy Schwalboski** has put together a couple of new display cases that are now organized and on display. She has been working on all the organizing, identifying and putting together displays for the public. The people that have come into the museum see the difference and are telling us it looks great! We think so too! Thanks to Andy!

**Caren & Bob Kalenda** have finished the Research Index spreadsheet conversions and are now, Caren is working on converting 100's of slides from slides to digital media that we can add to the photo collection! The spreadsheets and slide conversions are HUGE projects that will enhance our collections and preservation efforts! Thank you!

## Like Rocks? Looking for a Local Club to Talk Rocks?

Along with Lyndon Johnson's agate collection we also had a few people that were looking to re-start a local rock club. There was a local rock club for Central Minnesota back in the 50's, 60's, and 70's. We have a sign-up sheet in the Museum next to the agate display if you may be interested in organizing and being a member of a new club for the area!

We will get the sign-up sheet to Mr. Goldenstein after the end of the collection showing and he will be contacting the people that are interested. Benton County Historical Society agreed to open the Museum for an evening for the first meeting. So, if you are one of the people who would like to participate, please come down and sign-up. If you cannot come in; please give us a call or an email and we will gladly add your contact information to the list for an introduction meeting for you. 253-9614 or the new email address which is: [bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com](mailto:bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com)



## Upcoming Holiday Closing Dates

'Tis the upcoming holiday season and so, we will have some closing dates posted on the door for everyone to be aware of: **Thanksgiving- November 25th, 2010-Closed**

**Thursday December 23, 2010-Closed**

**Friday December 24, 2010-Christmas Eve-Closed**

**Thursday December 30, 2010-Closed**

**Friday, December 31, 2010-Closed**

**Monday, January 18, 2011-Closed (Martin Luther King)**

The Agate Collection will be here until November 26th, 2010 (which is the day after Thanksgiving) **November 26th we will be open for the last day of the collection!**

*Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.*

*Howard Thurman*

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS - [bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com](mailto:bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com)

Charter Internet Services recently changed their email formatting. As of November 1, 2010 they eliminated our "charterinternet" email address and re-formatted to include email that had a choice of our own domain listing. For everyone who wants to email us the please make note of the new email address that is provided above. WE want you to be able to find us!

When Charter changed their system, we lost the ability to use our Microsoft Outlook and so they disabled this program, and we lost all of our old emails and Contact lists. If you have a chance send me an email at the new address and I will be able to put the information in the new Contact list! It will make replacing them so much easier!



## “Good Ole Days” Collections for Museum

The “Good Ole Days” Collection idea came up in our programming because we know that there are many great collections out in the community. The agate collection of Lyndon Johnson was well received and we plan to continue with the program. In working with the community collection programs we are hoping for more awareness of our local museum and historical resources, but also focusing on a variety of interests that are out in the community. This museum and historical society exists for the community!

We change displays at the museum about four times a year and although we have some great items donated by Benton County residents, we would also like to expand our horizons and feature items that the community would be interested in, but never get a chance to see. If you are someone or know of someone who has a collection that you would enjoy sharing with the history community, please contact us at the museum.

We will be featuring the collections from time to time as we have people who would like to participate and make them available. If there are a couple of “smaller space” collections, we may be able to do a couple at a time. We would like to work with the displays in an educational format, so if you would like to put some history or a story behind the items that would be great, but we do not require you to do so. Contact us if you have some interest- we look forward to seeing what the community is wanting to see and what the residents of Benton County have to share!



*Laugh as much as you  
breathe and love as  
long as you live...  
Anonymous*

© There are many items people collect! We are listing a few of all the possibilities just for examples and ideas: Tea Cups, Salt & Pepper Shakers, Sugar & Creamer sets, Wedding Dresses, Postcards, Business promo items, Handiwork, Quilts, Radios, Walking Sticks, Depression Glass, Vintage hats, Calendars, Military items, Railroad items, Police Badges, Local Photos of Buildings, Homes, or Businesses, Tools, Sports Cards, Milk Cans, Red Wing pottery (one of many types), Canning jars, Candlesticks/Lanterns, Smoking Pipes /Tobacco Tins. There are many, many more but at least the list gives you some items to think about!

## Volunteers and Staff

### Volunteers:

Fred Joesting-Research Specialist-  
Marjean Keehr- Research  
Andy Schwalboski- Research &  
Displays  
Caren Kalenda- Oral Interviews/  
Data Input  
Bob Kalenda- Data Input

Lorane Walsh- Cemetery Support  
Maureen Athman- Transcriber  
Jenny De Wenter-Museum Support  
John Stafney- Database Coordinator

### Staff:

Mary Ostby -Executive Director  
Meredith DePree- Office Support

Miles Christie- Office Support/  
Military Support  
Jack Toliver- Military Support



Thanks to all the hands of help!

# BCHS Resources Wish List:

We are in search of ANY items about the Benton County Theatres. Information about locations, pictures, newspaper articles on any of the theatres that existed in the area would be greatly appreciated.

Foley High School Yearbooks: Any before 1950, also 1953- 1960, 1962,1963, 1965, 1968-1975, 1977-1989, 1991, 2007-2010

Sauk Rapids High School yearbooks- Osauka Memories or Sarahi:

1939, 1940, 1942-1947,1964-1965, 1982,1992, 1994, 1996-1997, 2001, 2009, 2010

ANY information on Benton County Rock Shops- We have no information on Rollie's ( Rolly's?) Rock Shop in Sauk Rapids, Corky's (Sauk Rapids also) and Peterson Gas Station, Rock Shop and Ice Cream in Foley .



**Graduation Memories!**

# Tours and Travel Research

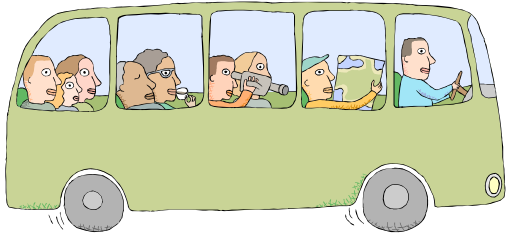
The Museum has regular business hours of 10am-4pm Monday thru Friday for research and organizational tours. (Closed on legal holidays) We realize that these hours will not always work for travelers, group organizations, or school schedules. If these hours do not work for your organization, research project or your travel schedule; please give us a call at 253-9614 or you can contact us by email: [bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com](mailto:bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com)

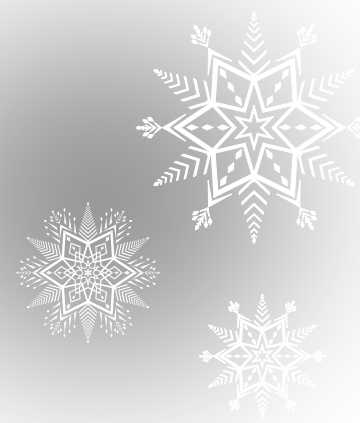
We will be happy to work with you and arrange an after hours time for your group or doing your research!

In the last two months we have done tours for: Sterling Ridge, Special Journeys Travel Tour and Sauk Rapids area Girl Scout Group 636, Pack 107- Den 2, Pack 107 Den 4

Thanks for coming in to see us!

*Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today...  
James Dean*





## Executive Directors Corner

Hello Again!

Hard to believe that the snow was falling in the area this weekend. I know, some years it is early and some years it is late, but it always comes eventually.

We have been very busy at the Museum! If you read the Agate Collection article on page one we have met a lot of great people in the past two months! The people from Benton County that have been here were pleasantly surprised at the agates; the resources; and the other artifacts that people have donated!

We learned that we have to do better in letting everyone in the county area know that they have a history museum and family genealogy resources! We will keep working on that!

We are looking for additional local collections. (the article on page four explains more) We are looking forward to meeting more members of the community and to continue our work of bringing history, education and memories to the Benton County residents.

Like all of you, we look forward to spending a little extra time with family at Thanksgiving and Christmas and of course, we posted the closing dates for the museum on page 3 of the newsletter for your convenience. This will be the last newsletter for the 2010 year! All of us here: Board Members, Staff, Volunteers at the Benton County Historical Society will be wishing all of you the most wonderful of holiday season year! We hope that everyone stays safe, warm and most of all happy for the holiday season!

*Mary Ostby*

*Experience is the  
one thing you can't  
get for nothing...  
Oscar Wilde*

# Membership Renewal Form for 2011

<u>Household</u>		<u>Business</u>		<b>Name:</b> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors \$9.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual \$50.00			<b>Address:</b> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$ 13.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$75.00			<b>City:</b> _____ <b>State:</b> ____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$18.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining \$100.00			<b>Phone:</b> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$27.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$150.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500.00			

**\*Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ (\*this would be greatly appreciated to replace my Contact listings in the email change)



Please make check payable to: BCHS or Benton County Historical Society

**Thank you all for your continued support of Benton County Historical Society!**

## Donation of Artifacts To BCHS

**Gordon Rehder**-Military Uniforms pants & tunic

**Lorraine Inderrieden**- Remington Rand Typewriter- 1939 Model

**Helen Bettendorf**- Brick Cell Phone, Foley Postcards-High School-Street Scene and Catholic Church, Foley Business Receipts, Sports Basketball team, Norm Grow information

**Jackie Johnson**- Three presentation panels on the 1886 Tornado of Sauk Rapids

**Lyndon Johnson**- Military Uniform of Stacey Johnson- dress uniform, dress coat, 2 military hats

**Katie Ackerman**- Beehive

**Shirley Wadsworth**- Glendorado Ban Uniform 1915-1917, Pitschka marriage and immigration items, State Teachers College Book 1924

**Les Perry/Steve Dancer**- Main Street Postcard- Sauk Rapids Sauk Rapids City Band Postcard

**Mayhew Lake Township**- birth and death information

**Pauline Brenny**- Fur Stoll made by Petters Co., Foley Golden Jubilee Button, Benton county News 1947 & 1951 issues

**Charlotte Peterson**- Books Small Farm Buildings 1930's, Public School system book and Trees, Fruit, and Flowers Book -

**Laverne Reginek**-100year old quilt made out of suit coats and military blankets.

**Bill & Kathy Holroyd**- Three prong fork, w cookbooks, Brownie camera, postcard with stamps

**John Decker**- Four photos of Benton County Places from the MHS collection

**Cecil Wade**- Newspaper Copies- Foley Tribune, Foley Independent and Sauk Rapids Sentinel



*Intellectual Growth  
should commence at  
birth and cease only at  
death...*

*Albert Einstein*

## Membership Renewal Information for 2011

We are at the time of year when we usually send out letters to the members for membership renewals. In the past we have tried to issue our letters in November to be due for January 1, 2011. This year we have added the Membership Renewal Slip to our November newsletter ( see page 6) to give everyone a chance to renew before we send individual letters.

The membership dues remain unchanged for the 2011 year and of course, if you have a change of address, or phone, we will make the changes when you renew.

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM



P.O. Box 426  
218 1st St. N.  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Phone: 320-253-9614  
Email: [bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com](mailto:bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com)

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!**

*PRESERVING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE....*

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsmus/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsmus/)

### Benton County Historical Society Board Members

**President:** Ernie Wollak  
**Vice President:** Char Dhein  
**Treasurer:** Renee Kampa  
**Secretary:** Melissa Keller  
**Director:** Earl "Butch" Bukowski  
**Director:** Pat Gerchy  
**Director:** Randy Schafer  
**Director:** Merle Stowe  
**Director:** Lorane Walsh

Benton County Historical Society are held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm unless otherwise posted at the Museum.

The Tentative Schedule may change due to weather or Board Motion and is listed at the right for the rest of 2010 and the year of 2011.

#### 2010 Meeting Schedule:

November 16, 2010- 6:30pm  
December 2010- Board Meeting was Board voted on and cancelled due to the proximity of the holidays.  
January 18, 2011- 6:30pm  
February 15, 2011- 6:30pm  
March 15, 2011- 6:30pm  
April 19, 2011-6:30pm  
May 17, 2011-6:30pm  
June 21, 2011-6:30pm  
July 19, 2011-6:30pm  
August 16, 2011- 6:30pm  
September 20, 2011- 6:30 pm  
October 18, 2011- 6:30pm  
November 15, 2011-6:30pm  
December 20, 2011- 6:30pm