

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Preserving the Past for the present and the future

Website: <http://mnbentonhistory.org>

Board of Directors and Meeting Schedule

Board of Directors

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

September 20, 2011-Annual Meeting

October 18, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 20, 2011

Benton County Historical Society meetings are held as scheduled on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm unless otherwise posted at the museum. The tentative schedule is listed above. Please note that this schedule may be changed with Board motion or due to inclement weather.



Come join us!

September 2011



BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Benton County NewsLines

September Annual Meeting

We will be holding the Annual Meeting at the Benton County Historical Society's Museum on September 20, 2011. We will be holding a social time from 6:00-6:30pm with a light meal available for a cost of \$6.00. Our Board of Directors Meeting will be at 6:30pm with an Annual Meeting report available for the members.

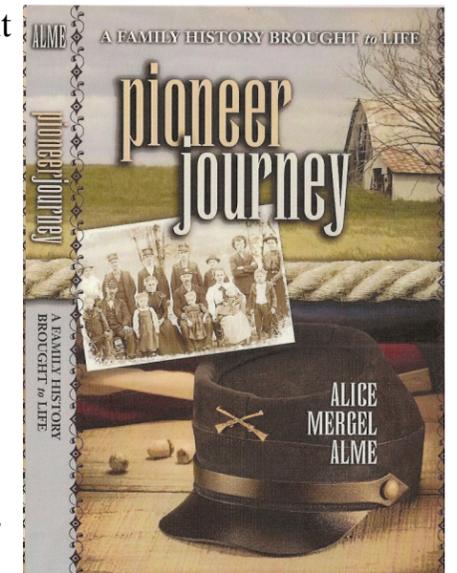
For the last few years we have had a presenter come to share with us about some aspect of Benton County history. This year we are featuring Alice Mergel Alme with the new release of her book "Pioneer Journey". Alice has brought a family history to life by writing a true story of her ancestors, Henry and Georgeanna.

Henry came to the United States from Germany and details his journey across the ocean, and his life in Sauk Rapids, with his family, his involvement in the Dakota War of 1862, Civil War and life with Georgeanna.

Georgeanna came to Sauk Rapids with her family from Maine in 1862 and Alice details her journey through life as well.

In addition to the histories of her great grandparents, Alice also details the history of Minnesota and the life of a pioneer during those days.

We are looking forward to the presentation from this author. The author will also have books present and for sale!



Annual Meeting Registration-September 20, 2011

If you will be attending the Annual Meeting and coming for the meal portion, please let us know ahead of time at 253-9614. The light meal will be sandwiches, chips, salad and coffee or water. Cost will be \$6.00. If you are not coming for the meal, but just for the presenter, please also let us know so we have the appropriate number of seating arrangements made. Hope to see you there!

Donations From the Community

Elaine Paumen– Book- “A Day in the Colonial Home” from School District #29

Charlene Kackman/John-Thomas Kackman– Family History Book –Kiekow

Sherry Josephs– Drum set of Raymond Russell Jurek, who drummed with the Svihel’s Orchestra

Robert Salisbury- 50th Anniversary Benton County Plat Book, Leslie Schumacher “Loon Print” and two Legislative Doodles

Lori Alverd- Two small chairs from School district #9,

John A. Mullally- The Roy Whistle history from Sauk Rapids– Roy Mullally manufacturing and inventor of whistle, plus family picture

Cathy and Bill Holroyd– Strainer Pan, Over-the-fire popcorn maker, Box of “63” Kerr canning jar covers

Naomi Larson-Post Toasties Box, Kellogg’s Corn Flakes Box

Stearns County Museum– Erika Aschman Scrapbook with Neil’s Correspondence Postcards from 1908-1912, Blueprints for St. Elizabeth’s Church, Blueprints Sauk Rapids High School– early 1960’s, Blueprints for Ross House in Sauk Rapids

Jan Rothenburg- Vintage clothing, schoolbooks and records, 9 city directories for various county areas, 4 Plat Books, index card holder, quilt squares, Baby Clothes, step stool, toy cast plane, silverware sleeve, Grazyck Kitchen items, sewing tote, Mosesburg Book

Cliff Johnson-Benton Station t-shirt, Parish Directory– Sacred Heart, Stearns-Benton Employment Cookbook, St. Regis Papermill- “Beyond the Adirondacks” book, fishing books, A Journey Through A Warriors Soul”– Mauer-Author– Vietnam Poems, business and church promotional items, Immaculate Conception Cookbook, Two Trinity Lutheran Church Cookbooks, Two watercolor Originals Artist: D.M. Jarve,

Hazel Starry– Gun Holster/ Canteen/Waist Belt/Three first aid packs– military

Kaye Krych– Betty Knafla wedding dress and picture

Mary Bauer– Alice Trushenski wedding dress/veil/petty coat/cake topper, Alice ‘s Bridesmaids dress, Mathilda (Parent)Barthelemy’s Wedding dress, Alice Mae’s christening dress

Eleanor Starr–Victoria Christensen– Old Newspaper copies, Scrapbooks of Foley Early Days articles, Foley Book, Legislative Manuals, Farmers Almanac

Clara Hyslop-Vintage Military Police Suspenders, A.G. Bacon Photo-Sauk Rapids

Phyllis Waverek– Vintage Clothing– Ladies dresses, 1920’s-1960’s Black Nylons,

Lyndon Johnson– Cane Fishing Pole

Doug Dingmann– Sauk Rapids Band Photos



*Individually we are one drop.
Together we are an ocean...
Ryunosuk Satoro*



Wendy Wheeler Pictures

Top Left: Czarnetski Hardware and Leisure Specialties

Bottom Left: Sauk Rapids Herald building

Top Right: Bridge Helix

Middle Right: American Legion Building

Bottom Right: Coborn’s Superstore



Executive Director's Corner

Well, here comes the Fall when the leaves start falling off the trees and the landscape changes again! I certainly hope that we will not be having an early start to winter, because Fall is one of the more comfortable seasons!

For us in the Benton County history world, the landscape has been changing faster than we can document it! We do our best to keep documentation of the items in our Benton County area, but in today's world it is harder to keep track of the buildings that are coming down or being remodeled.

Everyday I drive Highway 23 on the way into work in Sauk Rapids. For those of you who drive out that way, you already know the trees are being taken down for the new highway lanes. A house was moved, a business building was closed and moved and the old Gaulernault place was just torn down. We are watching construction and deconstruction in a lot of the communities in the area. After all, it is construction season in Minnesota....

We are grateful to the people of the community that are bringing in pictures of houses, buildings, and businesses that have changed over the years; or are just gone. One such picture was of a house at 324 Second Avenue So. Sauk Rapids– Watson– Krieg Home was just brought in. We also were able to check our records for the house on the corner of Second Avenue– 3rd Street South, Sauk Rapids– the “old” Rosaline Neils residence– which we hear is due to be torn down.(And we have a picture of that one) At least we had a chance to check to see if the house was in our files before it came down! Another house was torn down for the new Sauk Rapids City Hall– no picture of that one. It is a balancing act and we try to educate people because once it is gone– it is gone, unless someone has documented it.

I was corresponding with Sandy Stevens of Foley and they are currently restoring a house on Highway 23 out by Foley– it was moved from inside of Foley and used to be next to the funeral home. The house has a rich local history to it along with the people that lived in it, and I was happy to see the scales tip in a new direction. Kurt Schimmich saved the Sacred Heart parish house in Sauk Rapids and it remains to be seen what new use it will find; the same with the Robinson-Stanton house (Granite Care Home), which is up for sale. The old Foley Hardware store was turned into the Brick House Movie theatre years ago, resold, and now its “new” owners will keep it running, as a movie house. Every year we see more and more things that there is a need to keep track of– everyone knows; and then all of a sudden, people leave, move, or we go through a generational change and it becomes more difficult to get the information.

Our hope for the future is that the scales start tipping more in favor of local history and preservation than not. Each community area builds its' identity with a certain sense of stability from the people and the history that is there. If that cannot happen in our local communities, then the next best option we have is that the people of Benton County will contribute to maintain the history of the people and their lifestyles for the future. It does not seem important until.... Suddenly you remember it; or the information affects something else because of prior use; (you are doing a road project and no one is around to remember that an old quarry, water well; or an old sawmill was there) or you may just have a genuine interest in a neighborhood or person in local history. Whatever the reason, we have people coming in the museum and asking; and that makes it important!

Every piece of past is part of someone's life, and their community. Every piece of the present is part of someone's life in these communities. The outline of whatever we choose to do in the future; will be a piece of someone's life in communities. That deserves to be protected and preserved; even if the landscape changes.

Until next time... *Mary Ostby*

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

Wendy Wheeler– Photography

Jan Rothanburg– Photography

Jenny DeWenter– Museum Support

John Stafney– Database Coordinator &

Website

Maureen Athman– Transcriptionist

Jenny Josephs– Displays & Resource Support

Staff

Mary Ostby– Executive Director

Meredith DePree–Office Support

Miles Christie–Office & Military Support

Jack Toliver– Military Support

Thanks to all our volunteers!

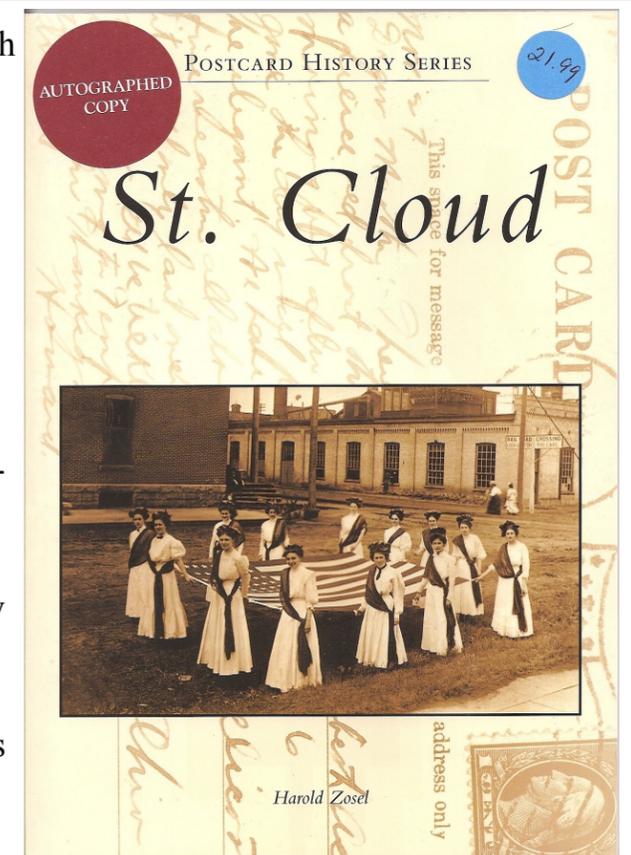
Harold Zosel's Book *St. Cloud Postcard History Series*

Author Harold Zosel stopped in the museum with some copies of his *St. Cloud Postcard History Series* book. Harold has collected postcards and has put them together with historical research in this postcard series of the St. Cloud area.

As we all know, part of St. Cloud is in Benton County and so there is a crossover of the postcards catering to Benton County history as well. The Granite City Hotel (Where Ace Bar is), street cars with Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud names on them are included, Great Northern Depot and more are included in this book.

Absolutely one of the finest picture and history books for the area! Harold has signed each copy and we have them for sale in the museum.

Give us a call or stop on by the museum to get your copy. You will not be disappointed– this is great history of the area.



East St. Germain Flagman's Shanty Restored!

Benton County Historical Society is pleased to announce the restoration of the Northern Pacific Railway Flagman's Shanty!

The original location of the shanty was on the East St. Germain road in the area of the railroad depot that still stands today on the East Side of St. Cloud. We are missing some pieces of the history, but we believe that the shanty was moved to the east side in 1923 and then rebuilt in this location in 1923, to look at it is pictured to the right on the next page. (Thanks to Treasurer Renee Kampa for going to Minnesota Historical Society and pulling up the Request For Proposals supplies for the building and the pictures at the right to get those dates and pictures.)

After the installation of wooden railroad crossing arms in the 1950's, the building was retired for use. The St. Cloud Times covered this change, along with the new installation of electrical crossing arms. John Clour worked for the railroad and in the early 1970's he bought the shanty by paying one-dollar for it, and then moved it to his property out on County Road 45, Sauk Rapids, for use as a well house. Mr. Clour said he removed five layers of flooring, and had to remove the roof to put the piping in the well case.

BCHS acquired the John Clour land in 2007 via John MacGregor's donation (it was the MacGregor homestead) and the railroad building on the land was recognized for its original use. The Board of Directors looked at restoration of the piece for Benton County history and Director Randy Schafer took on the task of finding someone who could work with the restoration. John Markfort, Little Falls, took on the task and did the restoration for the BCBS organization and he did a wonderful job of that!

It was debuted at the Benton County Fair, in the Heritage Building and we are so pleased to have saved a piece of history that so many people of all ages remembered!

Pictures

Before restoration out on the land



After restoration at the Fairgrounds



Benton County Fair - Watab District Number 2 program

Watab District Number 2 at the Benton County Fairgrounds has an amazing amount of visitors every year during fair season and this year was no different—lots of people!

The memories and fondness for the one-room schoolhouse experience is always a special experience for the people that attended, especially when the visitors meet up with some of their teacher's from the past!

We are ever so thankful for the Retired Teachers organization that has staffed the Watab District Number 2 since 1998. Thirty three retired educators put in 76 hours of volunteer time to staff the schoolhouse for this year with an amazing 2200 visitors! We do not have all the scheduled teachers names from this year in our possession, but want everyone aware how dedicated this organization has been to the programming!

Not on the teachers schedule this year were Retired Teachers Margaret Neary and Nellie Henry— we did see both of them at the schoolhouse checking in to make sure that school was in session! Both were instrumental in the early years programming for Watab District 2 and it is great to see them checking in on the program after all these years.

Thanks again to all the teachers who participated in staffing Watab District Number 2 for the 2011 fair season, we are very fortunate to have had such strong support for the programming each year!

*A teacher affects eternity; he/
she can never tell where his/her
influence stops....
Henry Brooks Adams*

One Room Schoolhouse Documentary— Mark Krauel

Mark Krauel, Produce/Director of RFV (Regal Film/Video Inc.) stopped by the Watab District Number 2 schoolhouse, did some filming, and then contacted Benton County Historical Society to do some additional research on the one-room schoolhouse educational systems.

Over the years, a lot of information about systems are forgotten, or left behind and Mark is one of those rare individuals that is working on getting it documented before the information is not available. His focus is not isolated to Benton County, but having the Watab District Number 2 preserved and actually programmed caught his attention.

We were very pleased to work with him, and when he came to the museum, he scanned documents, pictures, and researched information on the one-room schoolhouse experience. We are very fortunate that at this time Mark has decided to work on the story of the one room schoolhouses. Legislation enacted on May 24, 1967 required the consolidation of all school districts that did not have an elementary and secondary school that could maintain schools for all grades. The districts were given until 1971 to merge with a district that provided K-12 education. It affected the local history and was not well received in some areas because the one-room schoolhouse experience was part of the community and some argued "was a better education system than the larger districts." The opposing argument was that that the consolidation would bring more money to focus on education in the larger district areas. Enough time has gone by that the information is slowly disappearing and this will help not only with local history, but with understanding a changing educational system.

One of the other items that really caught his attention was our horse drawn school bus for transportation to the Sauk Rapids school system. Our local horse drawn bus was used from 1890-1935 and it is a piece of history that very few other systems had, or retained. He will be touching upon that subject in the documentary also.

We want to thank Mark Krauel for helping local history educate people in a broader area!



One-room schoolhouse

Stimmler– Kampa Reunion in July

Benton County Historical Society was host for one of the activities of the Stimmler-Kampa Family Reunion on Friday, July 22, 2011! Approximately 35 people were scheduled to come to the museum for a whole day of local and family history in Benton County.

Fred Joesting and I (Mary Ostby) started the presentation on explaining some of the local history areas of: immigration, transportation, housing, local government, and business. Some of the people doing genealogy for these families were not of this area, so the backdrop of the Benton County area was helpful to understand.

The group of attendees walked over to Jimmy’s Pourhouse for lunch and then came back to the museum to finish the day with questions and answers for the group of visitors. There were some pretty in depth questions and some very serious genealogy going on! Fred and I had a great time; and from the comments and responses we received by the attendees, so did the people who attended! Special thanks to Richard Kampa for setting up the event with us-we thoroughly enjoyed participating!

If you are thinking of having a family reunion and would like to do something similar, please give us a call!

If you don't believe in ghosts, you've never been to a family reunion

Ashleigh Brilliant

Wendy Wheeler Photography Mission in Sauk Rapids

Volunteer Photographer, Wendy Wheeler, has been very busy taking pictures of some of the Sauk Rapids businesses, parks, organizations and landmarks of this area.

We are so thankful for her time and talent as she has been out and about the area updating photos for our records. I added five of the new photos on page 11 and we have hundreds more of the Sauk Rapids area that she took! There have been a lot of changes to the downtown area since the new bridge came in and she has been documenting those for the future.

As the businesses move in and move out or switch buildings, we have lost a few places. She also has been trying to stay one step ahead of the demolition of buildings in the area. We missed out on the house up where the new city hall is being built (but she did get exteriors on the old city hall before it went down -Whew!) Wendy has committed to helping out in this area for Sauk Rapids and we sure appreciate that!



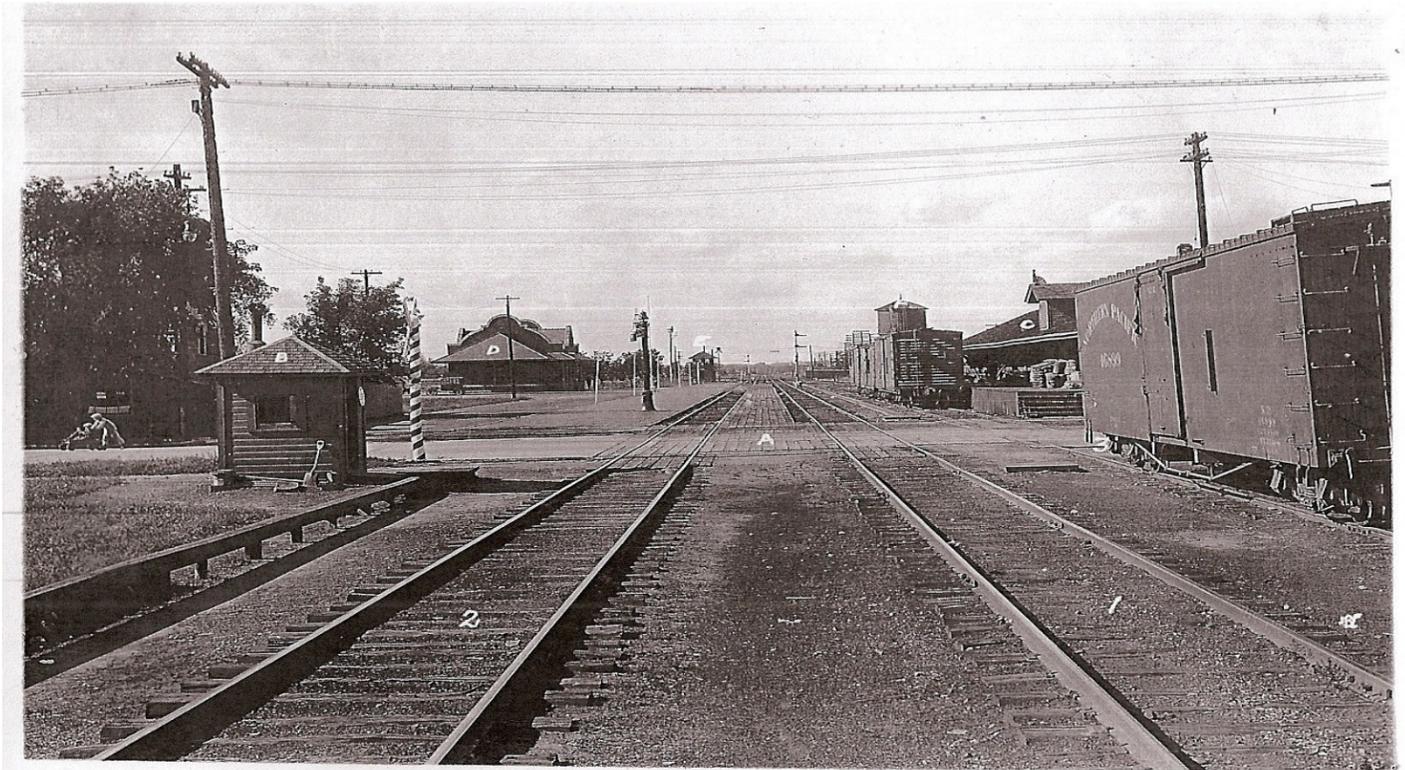
*We love our volunteers!
Thank you Wendy!*

She also has been working on a new “History Mystery” that we will be working with the Sauk Rapids Herald on. Some interesting pictures on some common and not so common items. It should provide a little incentive to know your community! We are looking forward to working with the Sauk Rapids Herald on this and as the Doroff’s own *Minnesota’s Oldest newspaper* we sure appreciate that they are still around to work with!

The “History Mystery” should be coming soon to you!

East St. Germain Flagman’s Shanty Restored! (Continued)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Westbound Main Line (not joint (owned by N.P.) | C. St. Cloud freight station (not joint-owned by N.P.) |
| 2. Eastbound Main Line (not joint-owned by N.P.) | D. St Cloud Passenger Station (not joint-owned by N.P.) |
| 3. N.P. house track(not joint-owned by N.P.) | E. St. Cloud Tower (joint-owned by N.P.) |
| A. St. Germain Street Crossing This crossing is protected
by flagman as well as by crossing signs | F. St Cloud Water Tower (not joint-owned by N.P.) |
| B. Flagman’s shanty (not joint-owned by N.P.) | |



St Cloud Flagman’s Shanty– N.P.R.Y. Records– Minnesota Historical Society Records (above and below)



St. Cloud - Looking North on EB Main at
St. Germain Street



St. Cloud - Looking East on St. Germain Street

Restoration of the East St. Germain Railroad shanty donators!

A special thanks to John Markfort of Little Falls, Minnesota for contracting to restore the Railroad Flagman's Shanty. He did a great job!

We also want to thank the following companies that donated materials or time to our restoration project:

BS Wood Products

Foley Hardware

Milaca-Foley Lumber Center

Gulfeagle Supply

The companies above donated paint, lumber, supplies and time to the project. We sure appreciate their participation and we hope that you also appreciate them in our Benton County community because we sure do!

A community is a group of people who have come together and they work, and they live, to try and improve the standard of living and quality of life and that is not about money... William Baldwin

Moving the Railroad Shanty

The East St. Germain flagman's shanty is located currently at our 218 1st Street North address in Sauk Rapids. We have it sitting on the lawn by the front door of the museum.

The shanty was moved from the land to the Fairgrounds by a donated boom truck and Director Randy Schafer. Once at the Fairgrounds, it had to get put into the Heritage Building for display, and President Ernie Wollak made that happen. Ernie did not give me details of that move, but as I was watching it come back out of the Heritage Building after the Fair with the help of Ken Schiller and Justin, I realized that this was tricky business making a building taller than the door go in and then, come back out!

Then the building came to the Museum!

Many thanks to President Ernie Wollak for his expertise in handling a Bobcat with front forks! (and I mean **expertise** in getting this building on the front forks, backing it off a trailer, teetering onto ramps and then positioning square to the building! Watching it was unbelievable as it took very small maneuvers to balance it! And yes, he was doing this by himself!)

Thanks to everyone who made this project happen— a piece of local history preserved!



East St. Germain Flagmen's shanty in front on the Benton County Historical Museum in Sauk Rapids

Looking for Information and Resources!

- ◆ We are looking for a photograph of the original St. John's Church in Popple Creek. It was a wooden building built in the late 1800's. If you have one or could look at photos or a scrapbook from early settlers, it would be greatly appreciated!
- ◆ Benton County Schoolhouse Pictures— buildings, and or class pictures (See: Mark Krauel Documentary on schoolhouses article in this newsletter)
- ◆ Any information or memories on the flagmen's shanty so we can put together a history and display for the building.
- ◆ Business histories for any and all businesses in Benton County— we are missing a lot of history in this category!
- ◆ Also looking for educators that were one-room schoolhouse students for staffing the evening hours of the one--room schoolhouse at the Benton County Fair

New and Renewed Membership and Information

Linda King

Lois Marie O'Konek

Mark Krauel

Benton County Historical Society Memberships Information

Households

Seniors -\$9.00 Singles-\$13.00 Family- \$18.00 Contributor-\$27.00

Supporter-\$50.00

Business

Annual- \$50.00 Supporting-\$75.00

Maintaining-\$100.00

Patron-\$150.00 Benefactor-\$500.00

In time of test, family is best

Burmese proverb

Museum Hours/Tours/Research

The museum has regular business hours of 10am-4pm Monday thru Friday for research and organizational tours. We have also added the first Saturday of every month to our available schedule. On those Saturdays we will be open from 11am-4pm. We are also closed on legal holidays and have a bad weather policy for closures when schools close.

We realize that our scheduled hours will not always work with travelers, groups, organizations, or school schedules so please feel free to give us a call at 253-9614, or by email: bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com and we can try to work with you schedule to arrange a convenient time for you to come in.

