

NEWSLINES

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

2011 Women Making History

Event Information

March 27, 2011- Sunday

Henry's Catering-Foley

12:30pm- Social Time

1:00 pm- Lunch

2:00pm-Honorees Program

Lunch cost: \$12.75

Oven Roasted Chicken

Parsley Buttered Potatoes

Honey Glazed Carrots

Signature 7 layer Salad

Buns, Coffee, Milk

Come join us to celebrate the
Benton County Women
Making History!



We are pleased to announce the 2011 *Women Making History* Event is scheduled for Sunday, March 27, 2011 at Henry's Catering in Foley.

The Benton County community came forth to nominate very deserving and great women to honor again this year! Thank You to the people who have nominated women for this honor since 1998!

Listed below are the 2011 *Women Making History* Honorees:

Carol Mersinger-Foley

Maxine Olson-Foley

Eileen Saldana-Rice

Cecil Wade-Foley

Emily Ackerman- Junior Honoree-Sauk Rapids

The people of Foley were really paying attention to their community this year! **Carol Mersinger** is associated with the Cross Center which does so much good for the community! **Maxine Olson** has been WCCO *Good Neighbor*, worked with Combined Charities, and serves with Cross Center and Foley Care Board. **Cecil Wade** writes a column for the *Benton County News* and recently released the book "Emmis". These are just a few items that they have contributed to the Foley community!

Eileen Saldana was nominated from the Rice area and is an active member of Immaculate Conception, Treasurer of Watab Township, works with Foster Grandparents Program and is a very busy women in our area!

Emily Ackerman, our Junior Honoree is from Sauk Rapids and has been involved in school, church activities throughout the community!

Please consider coming to the event to celebrate, honor and share thanks and appreciation for these women and their lives in Benton County !

Unidentified Pictures- More Slide Conversions!

*You always pass failure on
the way to success...
Mickey Rooney*

We found these pictures in our slide conversions. They were listed in a section of slides called "unidentified" Sartell.

The exterior church (to the right) has a sign that says Grace Church, (we have found two named Grace; one in Sauk Rapids and we were told one was in Rice.) We believe that this is the Rice Church because of the bell tower.

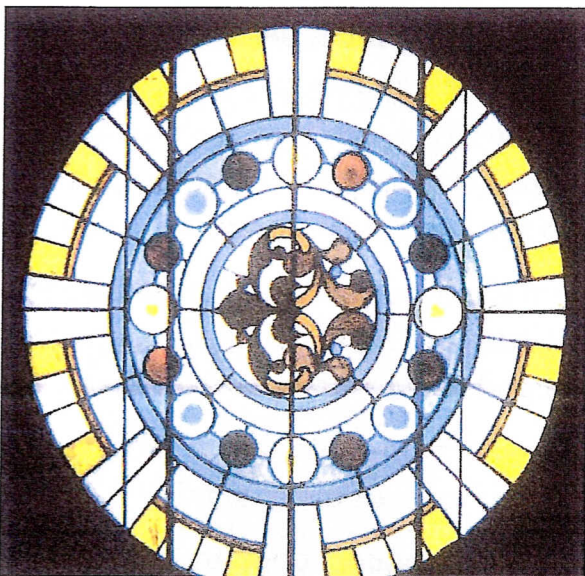
We are looking for confirmation of the church and its location. Since the pictures were in sequence, we believe that the bottom right picture is the interior and the bottom left is possibly a window in the church.

Any information on these pictures would be greatly appreciated!

Call 253-9614 or email at:
bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com



Sign on church says Grace Church on the first two lines, we believe "Episcopal" is the third line with an established date at the bottom.



Memberships Renewed and New

Margaret van den Bueken -New	S.J. Tomporowski
Robert and Patricia Danaher	Charles & Jean Stark
Deidre Brossard	Ardelle & Arnold Evensen
Coborn's Sauk Rapids	Ed & Pat Gerchy
Lloyd & Marjean Keehr	Merle Stowe
Sandie & Kevin Lahr	Julie & Mark Helgeson
Jim & Geri Moshier	



Many thanks to our members! We appreciate your support!

Volunteers and Staff

Volunteers and Staff:

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

Jenny DeWenter- Museum Support

John Stafney- Database Coordinator & Website

Maureen Athman- transcriptionist

Mary Ostby- Executive Director

Meredith DePree- Office Support

Miles Christie- Office Support/Military Support

Jack Toliver- Military Support

Excellence is not a singular act, but a habit. You are what you repeatedly do.
Shaquille O'Neal

BCHS Volunteer Photographers

We asked in the last newsletter for volunteer photographers to do areas of Benton County to document some of the history in the area.

We are happy to report that BCHS members **Wendy Wheeler** and **Jan Rothanburg** called in to start documenting photos of a few things in Sauk Rapids and rural Foley areas.

Member **Jim Moshier** called in to let us know that he has been doing that out in the Foley area for years and will work with us to preserve the information.

If you would also like to help- contact us!



Tours and Research



The museum has regular business hours of 10am-4pm Monday thru Friday for research and organizational tours. (Closed all legal holidays and due to bad weather) and we have added the first Saturday of every month from 11am-4pm. We realize that these hours will not always work with travelers, group organizations and school schedules. If these hours do not work for your visit, please give us a call at 253-9614, or contact us by email: bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com and we will be able to arrange an after hours time for your visit.

Tiger Scout Troop Pack 8 visited us in February !

Calendar Plates Collection is in!

Last newsletter I let everyone know that the calendar collection would be coming in. It is now here! (arrived the First of February and will be here until April 2011)

It is a beautiful collection of plates with business promotions and a year of calendars on each one. These plates were extremely popular as promotional tools for business customers as not only would the people see the business name, but they tended to use them more and display them because of the calendars on them.

Another one of our members, Marj Keehr, also brought in some local promotional plates to be displayed with the calendar collection. There are three Sauk Rapids buildings of the time portrayed on C.A. Coborn's business promotional plates from about 1907.

We have had a few people who stopped to look, if you have time, we hope to see you!

BCHS Resources Wish List



Pictures and Information on Country School Districts

Plat Maps for Benton County

Ronneby Information

Church Histories of Benton County

Military Information on Benton County Soldiers

Sauk Rapids and Foley yearbooks

City Directories

Family Histories

Benton County Business Histories

If you have any of these to donate or to allow us to copy/duplicate information, please contact us!

Executive Director's Corner

We are heading into the spring months of March, April and May! The snow eventually will melt and we will see the colors of spring coming back into the landscape. The people that have been in to visit the museum lately are all waiting for that!

The new website is attracting attention from people wanting to do research and we have had more research requests because of it! We have also realized that having more information available to the public, they have been made aware of what we don't have and are helping by bringing the information in! We really like the win-win of that!



In the last newsletter I talked about "change" a lot. We, in the history business, have a tendency to do that because we deal in the "old" and in the "new." It gives us a broader spectrum of comparison between the past, present and the future. Sometimes you have to know the past to make progress in the future, especially if you want a balance because life is "change."

A stark reminder to "change" for us was walking in the museum and a block away the Sauk Rapids City Hall was being demolished. It's the "old" city hall with a "new" Walgreens coming in. We also saw the "change" in Bruce Latterell's history on the Benton County Abstract building. The building has changed a couple of times with additions and new owners. The way we do things has also changed as we compare demolition of a building in a week versus re-use, re-do and remodel as the Abstract building story suggests. Other things "change" with the change; we can no longer give the same directions to "out-of-towners". You know, those directions of: take a left at the bank, go down two blocks; take a right at the blue house and it's the next building. Yup; we have ALL given those directions.. And I am guessing that is why maps, Map Quest and GPS are popular!

Anyway, as things change, we do our best to try to fulfill our mission of *preserving the past and the present for the future*. The job is a lot easier when we have volunteer photographers (thanks to **Jim, Wendy and Jan**) stepping forward to document changes and people are willing to share their family histories. Preserving the documentation is a lot less complicated when we have volunteers like **John Stafney** and **Fred Joesting** who put it together in research/resources in hard copies and then "change" the format for the future with technology. **Andy Schwalboski** is great at "changing" up the displays so that all artifacts donated get to be seen. **Caren Kalenda** converts slides into pictures, along with newspaper obits to computer files for her piece of the "change". **Meredith DePree** updates the cemetery records each year to reflect "changes" and **Miles Christie** inputs new information and "changes" to the Research Index.

All in all, the weather will change into Spring and the changes here will spring us into more change!

I am guessing that will give us more to write and talk about!

Mary Ostby

Donations From The Community

Renee Kampa- Forge, 2 Anvils, RR track rail set-up for metal working, history of, and family wagon picture

Bernadine Wesenberg- Iron rest, electric iron

Steve Ostby- 1945 Great Northern Railway Trust Bond, 1970 Great Northern Railway Trust bond,

Wendy Wheeler- Medical Encyclopedia Set, Early 1900's Medical Book

Cathy Holroyd- Lace handkerchief song book, baby room picture, hair clips, Union Pacific Time Tables, Colored, Decorated X-mas toilet paper

City of Sauk Rapids—large display cabinet from the police department

Merle Stowe- District 33 Glendorado School Picture

Joann Marshall- Guck Family History Pictures

Sherri Jaeger- Burton Family History Pictures



Military Collection Display Veterans Day

We are working with bringing in collections from the people of Benton County for display at the museum. We were pleasantly surprised to hear from Jim Hovda in Rice, who suggested that we should display and try to work with military days, either Memorial or Veterans Day.

A good idea deserves attention and so, we are asking the community of veterans, especially organizations like Legion Clubs and VFW's to come aboard and help us with this one! Our military display here is great, but we would like to change it up a bit and invite anyone who would like to temporarily display military items for a November-December 2011 military display to contact us so that we can work together and put a display together.

We were also contacted by the Veteran Administration programming looking for women's military items that we may have for display. We have only one more current uniform (80's) and so, that is something that we are also interested in finding for display. Women participating in the military whether it is information, history or uniforms seem to be short in supply for museums, and for display. We are hoping to change that with awareness!

It is an important part of our Benton County history to be remembered and preserved!

"Courage is the discovery that you may not win; but trying when you know you can lose."
Tom Krause

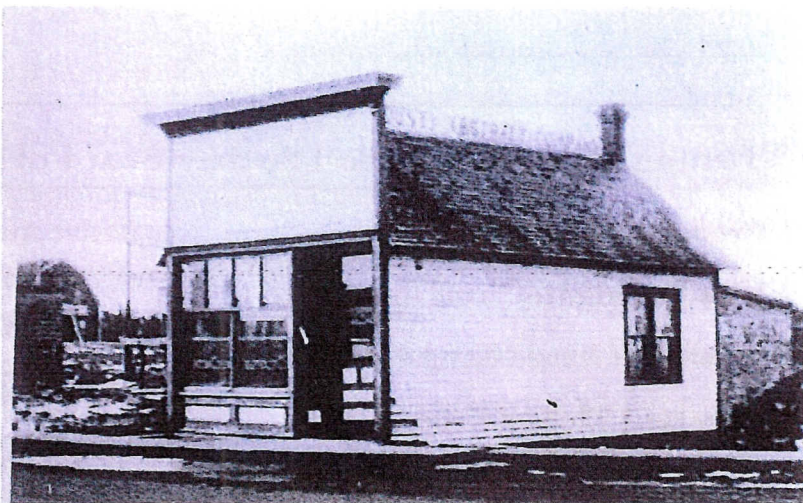
Benton County Abstract Picture Information

We were contacted by Rich Zimmer, retired City Administrator who referred and emailed over to us. He saw the picture in the last newsletter and contacted Bruce Latterell (who is the present owner of the building).

Mr. . Latterell shared some information on the history of the building: He wrote: *"I have that picture someplace. I remember the building well. It was very cold in there. Dad had a pot belly stove in the middle with a wood pile outside. The place smelled like smoke and there were fire scars all over . The front wood building was built earlier. I'm not sure of the year, but I was told many times that the building was built from the scavenged wood left from the Foley Hotel fire, which was where Dewey Place is now. Dad took it over in 1953 when my Uncle Joe Mushel died of a heart attack. I believe Joe built the rear brick addition in 1937 or 1938 because that's when the cubby hole system was started, which was located in the addition. The stone building to the left was Ruben Monsons welding shop. The building is where the parking space is now. The back addition was yellow brick. I remember that because when we tore the building down, my dad made me clean most of the bricks with a chisel so they could be re-sold. I was seven years old. The current building there was built in 1963 by Kirchoff. I was digging out a stump there a few years ago and found a couple of broken bricks. I am starting to sound like my Aunt Helen."*

We would like to thank Rich and Bruce for referring the information over to us. We put the information with the picture (copied off the slide conversion) and the information together in our Foley Section. All information preserves the pieces of history that tell the Benton County story!

Anyone else would like to add to it? Let us know!



New Website Update <http://mnbentonhistory.org>– check it out!

Since we put out the new website during the last week in January we have had a good number of visitors! Through March 1st we had: 80 searches for Cemetery Indexes, 10 searches for Business Indexes, 42 searches for Census', 81 searches for the Death index, 115 searches for Name index, 116 searches for Obit indexes, 128 searches for photos, 21 searches for Probate index, 17 searches for Surnames. Wow! We have had additional requests for research and it is good to see and hear that it is user friendly and helpful!



BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM

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



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

Phone: 320-253-9614

E-mail:

bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com

Website:

<http://mnbentonhistory.org>

Benton County Historical Society Board of Directors and Meeting Schedule 2011

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 meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm unless otherwise posted at the Museum. The

tentative meeting schedule for is posted below. Please note that this schedule may be changed with Board Motion or due to inclement weather.

March 15, 2011

April 19, 2011

May 17, 2011

June 21, 2011

July 19, 2011

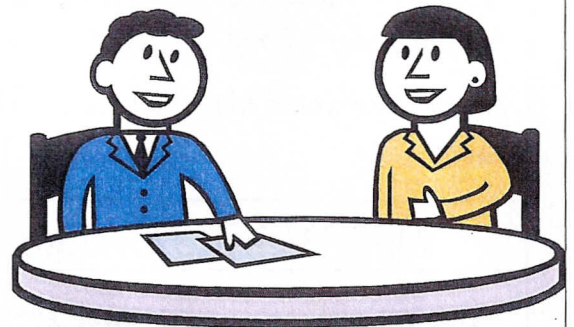
August 16, 2011

September 20, 2011

October 18, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 20, 2011



Public and Members are always welcome!