COMMEMORATION WEEK RECAP

Our 2015 U.S.-Dakota War Commemoration Week of Events was a great success! Our events ran Monday, August 17 - Sunday, August 23. The week’s events was co-sponsored with the New Ulm Public Library, for which we are so grateful to have such a terrific partnership.

We started the week on Monday at noon with our ever popular Lunch and A Bite of History speaker series. Curtis Dahlin spoke about his new book “Calamity at Lake Shetek: The Death of a Settlement”. That evening we had an enlightened presentation at the Library from the Lower Sioux Indian Community, Vanessa Goodthunder spoke about the Dakota Form of Government.

Tuesday morning brought an early start with a 14-person luxury van tour on our newest route, The Great Shetek Trail, given by Gary Wiltscheck. Mid-day brought the group to Springfield for lunch and then our Lunch and a Bite of History presentation with Janet Timmerman of Murray County whom recounted the history of The Shetek Trail at the Springfield Historical Museum.

Wednesday's lunch speaker was Jeff Williamson speaking of Thomas & John Williamson and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Gary Wiltscheck spoke that night at the Library about his latest book, published by the BCHS, "The Bluem Family of Brown County: A painful story of the U.S.-Dakota War”; complete with Bluem family members in attendance.

Thursday began with an early morning luxury van tour to Milford & Leavenworth Rescue Areas with Lisa Besemer & Gary Wiltscheck setting the stage with their knowledge of the events that took place there in August 1862. Thursday's lunch hour was complemented with an interesting talk by Mary Bakeman called "Rebuilding Family, Rebuilding Lives: Widows and Orphans". John LaBatte “took the stage” at the Library with his presentation about the Battles of New Ulm.

Friday, once again, began with Lisa & Gary guiding our patrons through the events of 1862 in Milford and the Leavenworth Rescue Areas. BCHS Board President Anne Earl and BCHS Director Bob Burgess took their turns presenting information and examples of our recently acquired depredation claims, each shedding light on different kinds of discoveries one may find while reading a claim.

On Saturday, we filled the morning and early afternoon with many wonderful activities. First, Cheyanne St. John, from the Lower Sioux Indian Community gave a fascinating presentation about Traditional Dakota Gardening. A lot of people left inspired and curious to try some of the techniques (mounds!) on their own gardens. The Popcorn Wagon was rolled out around ten o'clock and shortly after that we started welcoming our authors for the Local Authors Book Signing. We had a nice variety of authors including Brenda Byer, Gary Dallman, Lynn Erhke, Angie Portner, Greg Roiger, Terry Sveine, Stephen J. Vescelus, Gary Wiltscheck, Grandma & Me (Judy Sellner & grandkids), and Nick Adams. It was really great to see them mingling and discussing one another's works. The afternoon was complete with Opal Dewanz and Terry Sveine giving our fan favorite Downtown Walking Tour, a perfect summer way to take in history, outside!

The week was finished out with our very popular Pioneer Cemetery Tour on Sunday, given by Darla Gebhard, Paul Severson & Sue Ullery. So many people look forward to this part of the week as it gives the public a chance to see our beautiful and history-rich cemetery with a different perspective.

This week is our biggest of the year and it was incredibly well attended. Most of these events are free and open to the public, some of these events are possible thanks to grants and donors. Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make this week happen and our biggest thanks goes out to those that came. THANK YOU!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR NEXT GREAT EVENT!
Our Annual Meeting will be November 11 at Turner Hall

with special guest speaker Michael Lansing. More details coming soon!
MARCH 2015 // WOMEN'S HISTORY LUNCHEON

We had an excellent turnout for this year's Women's History Luncheon honoring Mary Ellen Domeier. Lunch was at the New Ulm Country Club on March 28, 2015. Lisa Besemer and Sharon Weinkauf warmed up the room with their opening comments. They both shared how Mary Ellen encouraged them to grow, to seek out more possibilities in their work and led by example. Mary Ellen followed up with an inspiring presentation about her career, her life and about all the people that motivated her to make her world broader and brighter.

It was great to see how many lives Mary Ellen touched with her encouragement and her enthusiasm. What a great crowd! Thank you to everyone that came!

APRIL 2015 // ANNUAL BOOK SALE and MN DISASTERS EXHIBIT

This year's book sale was a great success. We raised $2,558.63 through sales and donations! Thank you to everyone who donated their used books throughout the year. The variety that you supplied made for a more interesting selection for our shoppers. We received an enormous book donation from Sven Eelma of 2498 new books from his bookstore, which added even more variety to our sale! Many thanks, Sven!
Booksale continued....

We wouldn't even know where to start to get this sale together if it weren't for our book sale committee core volunteers, Kathy Drexler, Mary Kluge and Marlene Johnson. They work so hard and so thoughtfully, they are always coming up with new ideas and solutions on how to improve and streamline our sale. They also coordinate an amazing group of volunteers to sort, stack and sell books! Thank you to Marie Gulden, Sue Beran, Mary Polta, Dena Sievert, Marilyn Stuckey, Holly Postal, Vicki Pieser, Barb Runck, Dick Seeboth, Sharon Seeboth, Sue Paulson, Joan Hoffman, and Tom Johnson for all of your hard work and dedication.

Work Study student Samantha Sievert, Research Librarian Darla Gebhard, Collections Curator Marilyn Hesse, Larry Earl, two MHS Traveling Exhibits Coordinators and Bob Burgess (not pictured), put together our Minnesota Disasters traveling exhibit, which was open from April 1-August 1. This exhibit touched on all types of disasters from the small pox outbreak to the grasshopper plague to the cyclone of 1881 to the 35-W bridge collapse and more. We had many photographs re-sized, printed and mounted to complement the traveling portion of the exhibit to help illustrate our regional disasters. We are thankful to have had great participation throughout the county to obtain a broader range of photographs. Many thanks to Sleepy Eye Historical Society, Marianne and Stan Schotzko, Dale Cordes, Loren & Pat Renberg, and Apitz Printing for their contributions to make this exhibit successful. Even though the traveling part of the exhibit is gone, you can still see the contributions specific to our county through mid-November! Come on in!

In April, during Spring Boutique Week, we had the pleasure of hosting Kathleen Backer as she gave a wonderful presentation called FASHION EVOLVES - Changing Society Influences Fashion. We squeezed 30 people into one of our 2nd floor corners and Kathleen came equipped with many hats, dresses and even a couple of parasols! We hope to be able to host many more presentations like this.

JUNE // ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE EXPERIENCE

We had a wonderful One Room School House attendance this year! Sixteen participants from ages 5-12 walked the dusty road to the school house eager to dip back in time. A couple of the children claimed that they rode their horses the whole way! Head teacher Miss Biebl was ready with new lessons in math, history (of life in 1860s), reading and memorization. Miss Weber taught new games including “Plink ta Plonk” where the children learned to speak some German. We are already looking forward to next year’s experience and what these excellent teachers will come up with!

Call or email Meghan if you would like advance notice of this event.
507.233.2616  // officemanager@browncountyhistorymnusa.org
REMEMBERING ALLAN GEBHARD

If a cherrypicker parked at the museum parking lot took restoration professionals to the top gables of the building, chances were that Allan Gebhard was in it, pointing out problems and adding an engineering perspective to fixing them.

When the BCHS was transforming the Post Office building, Allan photographed the renovation project through every phase. After the BCHS moved, he would visit and notice the problems with heating and cooling systems. With a degree in physics, he was interested in the electronics and the hazards of lack of temperature and humidity control. Allan began poring over blueprints and manuals and meeting with the various contractors, a relief to staff and Board members.

For a brief time, Allan was an administrative assistant, converting the book keeping system to a computerized format and assisting with grants for building repair. Continuing his volunteer work, his focus covered every aspect of the building, computers, and the HVAC system. Contractors and staff relied upon him to analyze, suggest, and break down difficult situations.

Growing up in New Ulm as the only child of Mary Ann and Roy Gebhard, Allan was surrounded by local history. His father worked at the New Ulm and Eagle Roller Mill and was a relative of dentist L.A. Gebhard, the victim of a notorious, unsolved murder in New Ulm in 1904.

Allan’s early research at the BCHS in the 1980’s centered on the Gebhard Murder. Living in Shoreview, MN and working for Federal Cartridge he traveled to New Ulm to care for his mother and continue his interests in photography and trains, train bridges and yards. His later expanded research stored on his database would be used for exhibit materials. Selections of his vast collection of photographs appeared in books, on bookcovers and calendars, and on walls of commercial buildings. He contributed his images to books on railroads which are still a resource to railroading enthusiasts. Most recently, a photograph he took in the Iberia Cemetery appeared on the cover of “The Bluem Family of Brown County: A Painful Story of the U.S.–Dakota War” by Gary Wiltscheck and published by the BCHS.

Not only did Allan look backward at history, he also looked forward at the future of historical preservation. Seeing the need for the BCHS to enter the computer age, he donated a computer to the museum. He looked at physical and technological changes with an eye to future developments.

Allan Gebhard married Darla Cordes Schnurrer in 1990; they recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. They supported and contributed to each other’s work in preservation of county history.

As Donna Weber wrote in memory of her friend, “Allan was a kind and gentle man. His camera is now still. The trains he photographed are moving down the tracks to destinations unknown while passengers—family, friends—in Allan’s railroad of life continue the journey. They carry with them carloads of memories that can be treasured…”

Staff and members of the Brown County Historical Society will continue to benefit from Allan Gebhard’s work at the BCHS and will miss his company, talents, and generosity.

Gifts given in memory of Allan


Thank you.
Volunteer Lissa Biebl lends her experience in working with children, creating arts and craft projects, and her imagination to the BCHS Program Committee. She moved back to New Ulm after a long teaching career in the Twin Cities area and is discovering new interests and new connections in her old home. Lissa’s mother, Evelyn Biebl, was a long-time BCHS volunteer whose computer skills benefitted the cataloguing of the collection.

CHILDHOOD:
“T grew up in New Ulm in the house my great grandfather, Andrew Biebl, built on North Franklin Street. There are many happy memories of that house and neighborhood. We spent all summer biking to the outdoor pool, the library, and to the park. I remember the museum in the basement of the library. It seemed a dark and scary place back then.”

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:
“I graduated from Cathedral High School and went on to get a degree in Elementary and Special Education from St. Cloud State and eventually a master’s degree in Special Education from St. Thomas while I was teaching full time. I spent the majority of my career in the Twin Cities area teaching second grade, or the learning disabled, or students with behavior problems. I retired from Central Park STEM school in Apple Valley after 36 years of teaching.”

COMING HOME:
“After retirement, I moved back to New Ulm because it has always been “home”. My roots, family, and history of New Ulm are a part of my background and getting involved with the BCHS seemed like a natural fit. Plus, since working with kids is my expertise, getting involved with children’s programs is also a good fit.”

PRESENT FOCUS:
“I have always been interested in art, trying drawing, water color, and chalk. Wood carving was a former hobby. (I have a loon somewhere that needs eyes and a few more stripes!) I also used to sew a lot and make jewelry on occasion. The fun is in the creation, not necessarily finishing “a work of art.” I am just getting started on rug making on a large loom. Weaving seems to have endless possibilities in color and design.”

Thank you Lissa! Thanks to Vicki Pieser for taking the time to get this great interview!

The children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews in your life, have the opportunity to experience Lissa’s teaching and community commitment through our One Room Schoolhouse program! The children get a chance to see what life was like in an authentic one room schoolhouse setting complete with chalkboards and a wood burning stove. They experience a normal school day in the 1860s, complete with chores, lessons and games. Contact Meghan at the Museum to be on the list for advance notice of this wonderful program.

Looking for a place to utilize your talents and time? The Brown County Historical Society is very much in need of great volunteers like you! Definitely interested or even a little curious, just give us a call! We can flourish with your help! 507.233.2616
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK:

We have had a busy spring and summer completing our Legacy program grant work on the museum’s heating and air conditioning system. Thank you all including staff and visitors who had a great deal of patience with contractors activity and changes in our schedule during this work. It will be well worth the time and effort.

We are approaching completion of the latest project and already we are noting improvements especially in our third floor exhibit area where temperatures are being held more constant. Not only will the new system provide a more stable environment for our exhibits but more importantly we have seen improvements in the collections storage rooms and a moderation of both temperature and humidity that will benefit our collection for many years to come.

A number of our building improvements were made possible by grant work done by BCHS President Anne Earl as well as staff and volunteers. The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund from the State of Minnesota provided much of this support along with cash matches and in-kind labor help from several sources.

-Bob
THANK YOU very much to all of our renewing members! All of your continued support keeps us going and drives us to create new exhibits and programs to entertain you and to enrich our community's love for local history!

We are starting a new program in which we provide a complimentary membership to teachers that are interested in history and in providing students with access to the programs, archives and exhibits at the Brown County Historical Society with hopes that these teachers can become informal liaisons to others in the teaching community. We hope to offer a membership per month and rotate this offer to the public and parochial schools of Brown County.

Our first membership of this program welcomes Annette & Ken Lux! Annette teaches Elementary Music Instruction, 6th grade Social Studies and Jr. High Choir at St. Mary's Catholic School in Sleepy Eye.

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Many thanks to the following for their generosity:

Kathy Drexler and Larry Earl for their participation in the 3M Volunteer Match Program and selecting the BCHS as their site, we received $500! Half will go to the Annual Book Sale and half to a possible future landscaping project.

D & A Trucking-New Ulm who provided packing, storage, loading and tracking services to help the Museum ship five historic markers back to the manufacturer for refinishing. The markers arrived back to Brown County and were re-installed thanks to Sylvan Schumacher, Rick Moe and volunteers just in time for the 2015 tourist season and they look great!

Lisa Besemer and New Ulm Real Estate for their generous donation to get the Popcorn Wagon thoroughly supplied and ready to pop this summer! Don't forget, the Popcorn Wagon will be out on Saturday, October 3 from 10am-2pm. Come out and say hello to our volunteers, Don & Mick Wendel!

Jerry Weldy for a wonderful donation he gave during our August commemoration events. A great start to get plotting out next year's events. Thank you!

A very kind donor, that wishes to remain anonymous, paid for local business A to Zinnia to fill our concrete planters near our front entrance. They've created something beautiful and eyecatching. We hope you will take notice on your next stop in to the museum. Many thanks to this generous member for this thoughtful gift!

MEMORIALS

In memory of Alon Chambard   Marilyn Hesse
In memory of Dale Krueger Wally & Karen Sagmoen
In memory of Delbert Lambrecht Frederick & Phyllis Juni,
Carl & Lida Rolloff
In memory of Marion Melzer Marlene & Elmer Rolloff
In memory of Lorraine Olson Christine Rahn
In memory of Jim Blackstad Wally & Karen Sagmoen
In memory of Christine Carmichel Dr. Charles & Roberta
Hintz, Dick & Sharon Seebold
In memory of Rich Ruch Anne & Larry Earl, Marlene &
Elmer Rolloff, Carl & Lida Rolloff
In memory of Wm. Billy Green Marlene & Elmer Rolloff
In memory of Lorraine Gulden Dick & Sharon Seebold
In memory of Richard Gulden In memory of Beverly Earl
Marilyn Hesse, Brenda Ruch
In memory of Richard Holm Frederick & Phyllis Juni
In memory of Judy Beech Dick & Sharon Seebold

In memory of Nancy Porter Marion Rolloff
In memory of LaDonna Meyer George & Sharon Glotzbach
In memory of Jim Roberts Marlene & Elmer Rolloff
In memory of Muriel Jeske Paulsen Darla Gebhard, Bruce &
Nancy Schmiesing, George & Sharon Glotzbach, Julie
Crowley, Duwayne & Gudrun Kjelshus, Shirley Olson,
David & Mary Lee Leske, Harvey & LaDonna Lilleodden,
Inez & Waldemar Schmiesing, Dianna Peterson,
Algot & Bonita Blomquist, the Muriel Jeske Paulsen Family.
Agatha Domeier Fund

From Marlene Domeier in memory of : Tom Horsman,
Richard Gulden, Beverly Earl, Robert Lindquist, Johnny Gag,
Richard LeGare, Charles Brust.

Thank you to all of our donors.
BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2 North Broadway Street, New Ulm, MN 56073  507-233-2616
www.browncountyhistorymn.org

2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
All memberships run from January 1 to December 31.

I/We are:  ☐ New Member(s)  ☐ RENEWAL
Membership:  ☐ Individual, $25  ☐ Joint, $30  ☐ Golden, $50  ☐ Business, $50
  ☐ Century, $100  ☐ Benefactor, $500 +
** Children and students always have free admission to the museum**

Name(s): _______________________________________________________Telephone: ___________________________
Address: _____________________________________City: _______________________ST: ________ Zip: ____________
*Please include your email address as we are increasing our digital output to better serve you. We use it for advance
notice of events as needed. (We never sell or distribute our lists to a third party.) Thank you!
*EMAIL :___________________________________________________________________________________

Membership Benefits:
☐ Free admission to the museum ☐ Advance notice of special events
☐ 15% discount on most items in Museum Gift Shop ☐ Mileposts : The BCHS Newsletter! & Email Updates
☐ Access to Genealogical and Archival Records ☐ Business Membership includes 6 museum passes

Please accept my additional tax-deductible 501(c) (3) contribution, I am enclosing $ ______________________________
I am a Life Member and wish to donate the following $ _____________________________________________________
I am interested in volunteering for the _____________________________________________________________