Guests Entertained with Apron Program

Guests at the Tribute to Mothers Luncheon were entertained by presenter, Yvonne Cory. Cory displayed her extensive collection of aprons and told about the styles and shapes of aprons and how designs evolved over the years. Some aprons were basic and others were fancy: decorated with hand-made lace.

Those attending the event were encouraged to wear aprons; many wore aprons once worn by their mothers or grandmothers. They shared memories of the aprons they wore with the audience.

Above: Beverly Luke tells about an apron she wore as a child.

Left: Yvonne Cory presenting her program about aprons.
Remembering Great Aunt Ida

“The bride was most becomingly attired in a handsome gown of white Lansdowne.” With those words the New Ulm Review described Ida Hermine Stork’s appearance on the day of her wedding to Edward Hudson Ozias. The event took place March 1, 1910, at the South Washington Street home of her parents, August and Fredericka Stork. In a visit to the Brown County Historical Society Museum May 21, 2018, Ida’s great nephew, Philip Kanning, and his wife, Marianne, viewed Ida’s wedding dress and other mementos of Ida’s life. With her parents, Ida immigrated to America from Germany at age seven. While she grew up in New Ulm and started a business career and family, she never forgot her relatives and friends in the old country. Her efforts to help those suffering from the effects of war in Germany and Austria during World War I earned her a medal and a citation from the German Red Cross to thank her. During their visit, the Kannings saw Ida’s award and leafed through a few letters preserved from the many that Ida exchanged with relatives and friends in Germany.

BCHS Director Kathleen Backer reminds readers how the museum’s treasures tell stories of those who have gone before. Research Librarian Darla Gebhard and Curator Marilyn Hesse are ready with their staffs of volunteers to help visitors view these artifacts. Above: Wedding Photo of Ida Stork Ozias Right: Ida Ozias’ Medal & Citation from German Red Cross
The Brown County Historical Society received two awards this year for the exhibit “Loyalty and Dissent – Brown County and WWI.” The exhibit, which is located on the second floor of the museum opened in May of 2017. The exhibit continues to attract the attention of tourists and educational groups.

The first award was presented in March by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. MALM is a statewide organization that seeks to nurture and encourage an appreciation of Minnesota’s local history by providing a structure to foster professionalism and excellent work among local and specialized historical organizations in Minnesota. MALM created the Minnesota History awards in 2009 to honor the excellent work performed in Minnesota’s public history community. President Lisa Besemer accepted the award in April at the MALM Conference in Marshall MN.

In June the BCHS received the Leadership in History award from the American Association of State and Local History for its exhibit “Loyalty and Dissent – Brown County and WWI.” This award will be presented at a special banquet on September 28 in Kansas City MO. The AASHL Leadership in History Award is the nation’s most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history. The BCHS was congratulated for the hard work that brought this honor to the society and museum.

The exhibit “Flying For Freedom: Robert F. Niemann MIA” opened at the BCHS on May 12 with members of the Niemann family in attendance. After a military memorial service at the City Cemetery and a family lunch at the annex, the Niemann family walked through an honor guard at the front door of the museum provided by local veterans. Ann Bakkensen, daughter of Robert Niemann, opened the exhibit by removing a drape from the entry exhibit panel. The exhibit follows stages of Niemann’s life, including his childhood in New Ulm, his high school days at NUHS and his studies at West Point. Another section covers his family life and his career in the military. It closes with his service in Korea, his final flight and MIA (missing in action) status. The Niemann family graciously visited with guests and answered questions about the exhibit.

At 2 pm, guests were invited to the annex for a speech by Ann Bakkensen. She carefully detailed how for years her family has been trying to find answers to Niemann’s fate after he was shot down over North Korea in 1953. Ann travelled to North Korea with a Defense Department Delegation in 1998 and visited an MIA recovery site. She has gathered information from archives in China and Russia. Perhaps one of the most unsettling documents uncovered was a list of the co-MIA recovery site. She has gathered information from archives in China and Russia. Perhaps one of the most unsettling documents uncovered was a list of the co-

Bakensen visiting with a guest at the museum.

**SAVE THE DATE** – 2018 A Night at the Museum – September 22, 2018
Lowell Bobleter Artwork Donated

The Brown County Historical Society has received a gift of 63 etchings, 18 drawings and 2 etching plates from Virginia Rahja, who worked with Bobleter at Hamline University and later at the School of Associated Arts, where she served on the board of directors.

Bobleter was born in New Ulm in 1902 and took classes at the St. Paul School of Fine Arts. Later, he studied etching with George E. Resler. Etching is a form of printmaking that involves coating a copper or zinc plate with a thin, waxy surface and drawing on the surface with an etching needle. The plate is dipped into an acid bath that bites through the drawn lines and eats into the plate. The plate is then used to print the image.

Bobleter’s prints included many Minnesota scenes and were shown in galleries in the United States and abroad. By 1948 Bobleter had won more than 30 major awards and held exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, and were shown in galleries in the United States and abroad. By 1948 Bobleter had won more than 30 major awards and held exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, and the School of Associated Arts, later named The College of Visual Arts. The school closed in 2013. This recent donation will complement other Bobleter prints donated to the BCHS when the college closed.

Source: Julie L. Enfant, “Patterns of Silence: The Prints of Lowell S. Bobleter” Minnesota History 64, no. 6 (Summer, 2015), 234–247.

Welcome New Members:

Stephanie Chappell
Rosemary Geer
Norma Hanson
Katelyn Juni
Beverly Luke
Dave Nelson
John & Nancy Paulson
Sandra Paulson
Marge Schmidt
Bill & Jane Steinke

Consider giving a BCHS membership as a gift to family and friends.

Memorials and Honorariums

Memorials:
Carlos Contag - Theodore & Karen Contag, Harley & Joan Vogel
Stan Dürrich - Don & Opal Dewanz, Marion Rolloff
Elmer Guggisberg - Carl & Lida Rolloff, Marion Rolloff
Phyllis Juni - Joan Berdan, Jeremy & Tracy Berg, Gary & Jerilyn Current, Frederick Juri, Carl & Lida Rolloff, Marion Rolloff, Harley & Joan Vogel
Tom Lindemann - Bill & Vicki Eichten
Wayne Peters - Marion Rolloff
Marcy Sueher - Joel & Rhetta Albrecht
Marvin Wendland - Harley & Joan Vogel
Alize Zeig - Harley & Joan Vogel

Honorarium:
Robert F. Niemann Exhibit - Larry & Andrea Kent

Acknowledgement

The BCHS gratefully acknowledge the 2018 popcorn wagon donors. Their help, in the form of monetary and in-kind gifts, will greatly contribute to the successful operation of the popcorn wagon. They are:

A to Zinnia Florals and Gifts
Thrivent Financial
AMPI
Scott and Pat Sparlin
Harvest Specialties
Hy Vee
Cash Wise

On June 4, the 2018 popcorn season was off to a rousing start when the BCHS partnered with the New Ulm Public Library for the kick-off of their children’s summer reading program. Over 200 people toured the afternoon and the popcorn courtesy of the BCHS. This popcorn wagon year of creating generations of a fitting tribute to the BCHS. This popcorn wagon generation of year’s popcorn below. Please clip refrigerator or come enjoy some and a soft drink summer and fall from popcorn wagon sales benefit the mission of the BCHS and support its educational programs. Last year, over $4,200 were raised thanks to the assistance of 27 volunteers who worked a total of 280 hours.