



NOBLES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

407 12th Street, Suite 2
Worthington, Minnesota 56187
507-376-4431

nchsociety@gmail.com
www.noblescountyhistory.org

June 2018 - *Dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Nobles County Minnesota* - Volume 28, Issue 2

Historical Society Office, Research Room & Museum

Office, Research Library & Museum
Open Monday through Friday
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Lower level of the
Nobles County Library
407 12th Street, Worthington

Schedule of Events at Pioneer Village

June 12-21

Redeemer's Song Ministry Filming
(Village still open to visitors)

June 22

Family Night - 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

July 4

Old fashioned 4th Of July

See Page 3 for Schedule of Events

July 20

Family Night - 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

August 17

Family Night - 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

October 27

Halloween At Pioneer Village

December 7 -- 5:30-8:30 PM

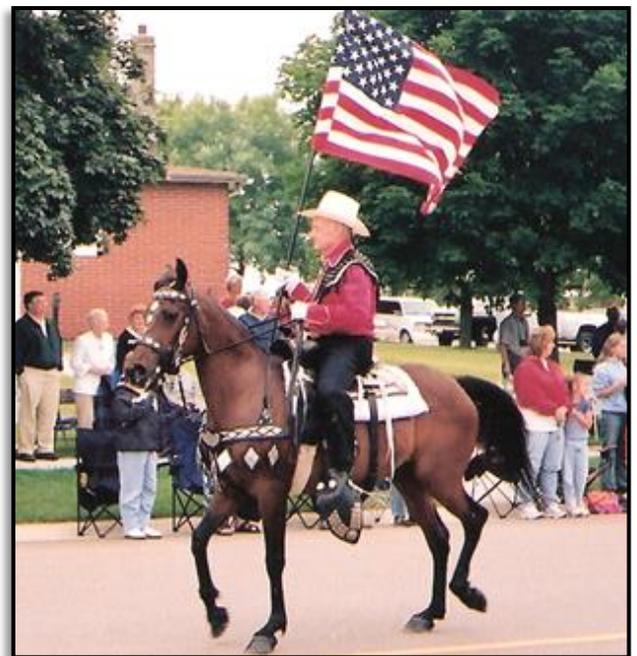
December 8 -- 3:00-7:00 PM

Christmas At Pioneer Village

Leota 4th of July Celebration

Did you know that the town of Leota first celebrated the Fourth of July in 1894? That's right. Three years after Leota was settled in 1891, the town celebrated their first Fourth of July. The Reformed Church of Leota decided to have a Mission Fest Celebration on the 4th of July. At that time, the celebration was held on the then Menning farm, one-half mile east of Leota. The next year the celebration was moved into Leota where it remained. Later the Christian Reformed Church decided to also have a Mission Fest. These celebrations were also held on the 4th of July, but on different farmsteads north of Leota. At some point, the two churches decided to combine their celebrations, and for many years it was known as the Leota Picnic. The hat was passed during the celebration, and any funds collected were divided between the two churches for their mission programs.

The celebration gradually changed to a 4th of July Independence Day Celebration. There were games and contests of the era, such as pillow fights on a suspended pole, tug of war, and a contest called "lighting the pipe on the run". The younger generation tried their best, but could not compete against the oldtimers who had lit many a



pipe while working in the ever present Minnesota wind. Entertainment included demolition derbies, sprint car races, and model airplane shows, just to name a few.

During the early years, impromptu parades were held. Young fellows would drive their decorated and polished buggies up and down main street, trying to impress young ladies. Since 1949, when Leota held their first formal parade, there has been a parade every year. The parade has always drawn large crowds to see the high quality of the many homemade floats. For many years Gary Hulstein and his horse (pictured above) have led the Leota parade.

Submitted by Roger Zarn

Board of Directors

Justin Ahlers	360-7818
David Benson	683-2853
Patrick Demuth	360-9016
Margaret Erickson	376-3215
Jerry Fiola	350-9808
Art Frame	376-4928
Naomi Hill	370-1006
Monica King Von Holtum	360-5433
Jay Milbrandt	740-7200
Jacoba Nagel	370-3727
Shari Nelson	360-9564
Alan Oberloh	329-1092
Rod Sankey	360-4855
Michael Vosburgh	360-5800
Ron Wood	360-9771
Sandy Wood	360-5460

Staff

NCHS Office	376-4431
Mary Rydeen, Office	

New Board Members & Retiree

Naomi Hill: My interest in NCHS comes from a basic interest in history in general and the fact that my great-grandfather, Paul Henry Ivers, was an early Rushmore settler and established a butcher/meat market there. He died in 1933 and, along with many other relatives, is buried in the Sunset Rest Cemetery near Rushmore. I enjoy helping at Pioneer Village in the summer and meeting others who are interested in our history. Even though I am busier than ever, I am looking forward to serving on the NCHS Board.

Alan Oberloh: A life-long resident of Nobles County, Al currently serves on the Worthington City Council and brings a wealth of experience that incorporates all of Nobles County.

Ron Wood: It is an honor to serve on the NCHS Board. My interest is in preserving history and the artifacts that support it. After 45 years in higher education I have come to believe that history gives us a window into the future. We learn from our successes and failures of yesterday. Looking forward to working with the Board to keep our heritage alive.

Roger Zarn recently retired as Collections Assistant but remains busy volunteering and offering his knowledge and expertise to staff at NCHS. Thank you, Roger, for your time and efforts and we look forward to your continued involvement at NCHS.

Annual Meeting Showcases Potential Future Site Of NCHS Museum

It was more than just business as usual at Nobles County Historical Society's (NCHS) annual meeting held on Sunday, April 22, in the former Worthington National Guard Armory. Each year, NCHS's entire membership is invited to take part in the organization's yearly business meeting. This year was no different. The attendees received a detailed written report highlighting NCHS's activities and accomplishments of the previous 12 months. The members also heard an update on the Society's financial status as of December 31, 2017. The business meeting was concluded shortly after three individuals - Naomi Hill, Al Oberloh, Ron Wood - were elected to serve a three-year term on the NCHS board of directors.

However, it was probably the location of this year's meeting, the former Worthington National Guard Armory, that attracted many of the 55 people who were present, making it the best attended annual meeting in recent years. In November 2017, with the financial support of a Legacy Fund grant, NCHS was able to get the Armory building listed on the U. S. Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places. Now, this historic structure is being considered as a potential site for NCHS's museum and offices.

Once the annual business meeting was officially adjourned, there was a special Power Point presentation describing the Society's current need for more space as well a brief history of the Armory building and the unique role it played in the history of the community and in the lives of local residents. After this program, people were given an opportunity to tour the three-story facility.

The feasibility of using the Armory to house the Historical Society operations was recently studied by the LHB architectural firm. Their findings were published in a comprehensive report prepared for NCHS and the property owner, Nobles County. Over the next several months, the NCHS board will continue dialoging about the possible relocation of NCHS with the county commissioners.



Submitted by Jerry Fiola



Nobles County Historical Society and Prairie Reapers Power Reunion

2018 Old-Fashioned Celebration

Wednesday, July 4th -- 9:30 am– 4:30 pm at Pioneer Village

Schedule of Events

- 9:45 -- Klassen Family Singers in the Barn
- 10:00 -- Antique Tractor Pull
- 10:30 -- Melodrama - Barn
- 11:30 -- Jim Kraph – German Immigrants Letters
- 12:00 -- Tractor Parade
- 1:00 -- Kiddie Pedal Pull
- 1:15 -- Jim Kraph – German Immigrants Letters
- 1:45 -- Melodrama - Barn
- 2:45 -- Klassen Family Singers in the Barn
- 3:00 -- Watermelon Feed in the Tractor Pull Area

31st Annual Melodrama



“Mine, All Mine or...From Ghost Town to Kaboom Town”

by Denise K. Buhr

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc, Denver, Colorado.

Performances at 10:30 and 1:45

Directed by Shari Nelson

Food available in the Fire Hall and near the Tractor Pull Area.

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Pop, Water, and Root Beer Floats for Sale

Various Demonstrations and Vendors on the show grounds all

32nd Annual Power Reunion's
Featured Tractors:
Massey Ferguson &
Massey Harris

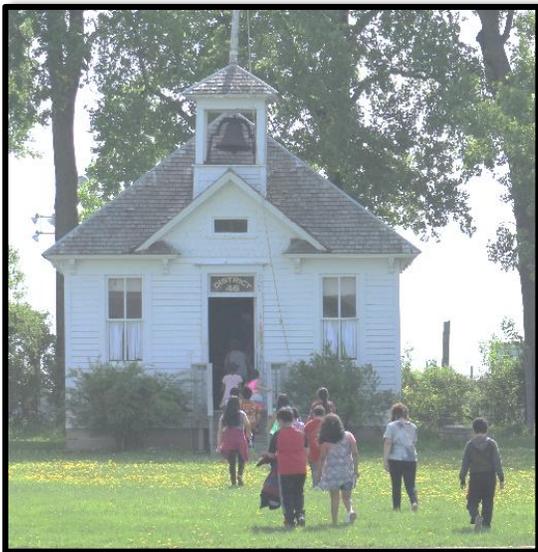


Volunteers, by definition, are people who freely offer to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. NCHS is very grateful to the many volunteers who give freely of their time and energy and help us complete new projects and carry on historical activities. Jacoba Nagel, PV Chairperson, along with Gary Brandt, Caretaker, wish to highlight those volunteers who assisted with activities at Pioneer Village this spring. The Nobles/Rock Correction crews, Newport Lab crew, Early Risers Kiwanis, Danielle & Jenna Klassen, and 3 members of the PV committee worked diligently on general cleaning, painting and repairs. Jessie Leopold and Ron Wood have been manning the mowers, and members of the Worthington Garden Club have cleaned and spruced up the flower beds and landscape. Sharon Fritz and Carol Wiese helped with the many school tours. Justin Ahlers assisted in getting extra chairs and tables needed for events. The maintenance crew from Bedford Industries painted the Ludlow House and also donated lumber and repaired areas of the boardwalk to ensure the safety of visitors.



Opportunities abound for volunteers of all ages and skills at the NCHS Office as well as Pioneer Village. If you have time to spare to help us preserve history, please stop by or give us a call at 507-376-4431. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills and have included a “Volunteer Application” insert to help get you started. Of particular need:

- Pioneer Village: Helping with special events, summer volunteering on weekdays and weekends covering the Office, open and closing, and basic cleaning of buildings and grounds.
- Museum Office: helping with data collection, data entry, photography, assisting with setting up displays, scanning, indexing, cataloging, research, and much more. The Museum office staff will teach you how to use some of the new computer equipment obtained through grants.
- Currently looking for donations to help purchase 8ft tables for events in the Village barn.



Field trips continue to be a great source of learning and adventure for almost 600 students. This year, schools from Sioux Falls, Estherville, Edgerton, Fairmont, Hills-Beaver Creek, and Worthington came to the Village to tour the various buildings and participate in some hands-on activities from days gone by.

Summer fun continues at the Village with Family Nights scheduled monthly on June 22nd, July 20th, and August 17th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Special family price of \$15.00 regardless of family size. Attendees will have an opportunity to explore the Village and participate in specially planned activities from the past. For additional information call Jacoba Nagel at 370-3727.

Books available include: Images of America, Nobles County which sells for \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members and Railroads, Trains, and Depots: The Way It Was by Ray Crippen – softcover \$20. We have a few hardcover books left for \$30. NCHS also has several additional books available as well as a collection of notecards. Feel free to check out these items either at the Museum Office or Pioneer Village. The Museum also has some new acquisitions on display.

New and Renewing Members

We are proud to introduce our new and renewing members through May 31, 2018. Please notify the Office staff if your name was omitted, misspelled, or is in the wrong category.

Settler

Justin Ahlers
 Allen County Library
 Paula J. Ausham
 Marion Cashel
 Dr. Greg Clark
 Lois Graf
 Brenda Hurlbut
 George W. McKinney
 Dorothy Nord
 Dale Peters
 Rodella Roquemore
 Maree Rose
 Mary Rydeen

Sodbuster

Audrey Brake
 Gary and Mary Brandt
 Harris I Darling
 Claire & Jo Gerber
 James & Kimberly Kazemba
 Mary Langseth

Sodbuster, cont

Florian & Mary Loosbrock
 Terry Morrison
 Charles & Myrna Nystrom
 Alan & Janice Oberloh
 Ron Prins
 Roland Thomsen
 Mary M. Von Holtum
 Larry & Amy Yeske

Homesteader

Janna Christensen
 Bernard & Diane Thier
 Worthington Federal Savings
 Sandy & Ron Wood

Pioneer

Arthur Frame
 Bill & Judi Hoebet

Memorial Donations

Joseph Fenstermacher in memory of:
 John E. Fenstermacher

Dorothy Nord in memory of:
 Delores Amundson
 Gloria Widboom
 Herb Stromquist

Jacoba Nagel in memory of:
 Jim Thill
 Helen Jean Schaap
 Donna Miller
 Karen Coddington
 Gordon Varuska

Dorothy Sietsema in memory of:
 Ken Moser

Thank You

Nobles County Historical Society Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- _____ **Settler - \$20.00** per year gives you a season pass to Pioneer Village, 1 daily guest pass and a subscription to the Society's newsletter.
- _____ **Sodbuster - \$40.00** per year gives your family household a season pass to Pioneer Village, 2 daily guest passes and a subscription to the Society's newsletter.
- _____ **Homesteader - \$100.00** per year gives your family household a season pass to Pioneer Village, 4 daily guest passes to Pioneer Village and a subscription to the Society's newsletter. **Special rental rates (10% off) on the Pioneer Village Buildings. (i.e. Weddings, Reunions, Receptions, Birthdays, Company Picnics, Annual Meetings, . . .)**
- _____ **Pioneer - \$200.00** per year gives your family household a season pass to Pioneer Village, 4 daily guest passes to Pioneer Village, Special rental fees on Pioneer Village Buildings, and a subscription to the Society's newsletter. **Special rental rates (20% off) on the Pioneer Village Buildings. (i.e. Weddings, Reunions, Receptions, Birthdays, Company Picnics, Annual Meetings, . . .)**
- _____ **Prairie Builder - \$500.00** per year gives your family household a season pass to Pioneer Village, 6 daily guest passes to Pioneer Village, Special rental fees on Pioneer Village Buildings, and a subscription to the Society's newsletter. **Special rental rates (30% off) on the Pioneer Village Buildings. (i.e. Weddings, Reunions, Receptions, Birthdays, Company Picnics, Annual Meetings, . . .)**
- _____ **Village Builder - \$1,000.00** per year. This is for Businesses and Individuals who have come over the top with support for the Historical Society. A subscription to the Society's newsletter. A Plaque will be placed on the building of choice (if available) at Pioneer Village to acknowledge this support.

Heritage Preservation Grants



NCHS has just received its microfilm reader through funding from the Heritage Preservation Grant.

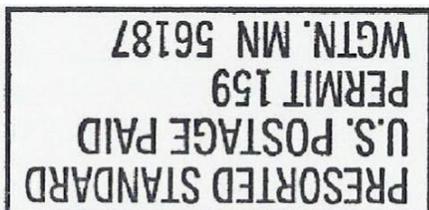
This microfilm reader/printer/scanner will be used in our archives to assist the residents of Nobles County in research. Mary Rydeen and Paul Hoffman getting hands-on experience and training from Phillip Czechowicz of RMC Imaging, Inc.



NCHS was also recently awarded additional grant monies from the Heritage Preservation Grant to purchase 103 rolls of microfilm of the Worthington Daily Globe from 1939 to 1972. The next grant proposal will focus on the smaller town newspapers published in Nobles County.

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

Submitted by Sandy Wood



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