



Volume 98 February 2020  
9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983 Open 2nd Sunday of the month

### Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society

#### OFFICERS

- President: Al Madsen
- Vice President: Caroline Schaefer
- Secretary: Joyce Deane
- Treasurer: Patty Reuter
- Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing
- Web page designer: Steve Briggs
- <http://www.maplegrovmnhistory.org>

**Purpose:** To collect and preserve information and artifacts and to educate the community of the history of Maple Grove, MN.



#### Regular

#### Events

**Open House:** the Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house on the second Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Monthly Meeting:** The third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the History Museum. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join us!

**Quarterly Newsletter:**

**Topic for May: Who originally settled the property Where I Live Now**  
See what fascinating history we can find

**Ox Cart site and territorial downtown Maple Grove:**  
15310 Territorial Rd (0.7 mi. w. of Fernbrook Lane N. Maple Grove, MN.

**Pierre Bottineau House :** Elm Creek Park Reserve:  
12400 James Deane Parkway, Maple Grove, MN.

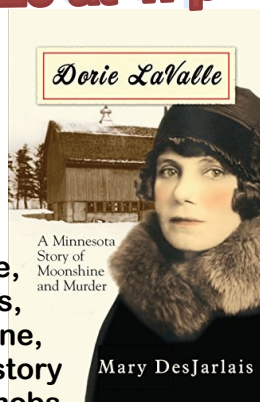
**4 History Display Cases at M.G. Government Center:**  
12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy N. Maple Grove, MN.

January: Annual dues  
October: Election of officers at regular meeting

## Join us April 4th, 2020 at 1: pm

Author

### Mary DesJarlais



Will enchant us with her story about her great aunt Dori LaValle, who lived in the Osseo gravel pits, and became a maker of moonshine, and along with an embellished story of Prohibition and the Chicago mobs that creates the era of the story.

“Married to Louie LaValle, a local man with an inherited farm but not the talent or stamina to run it... Prohibition and desperation inspire her to make and sell moonshine to the men in town. ... ..To expand production, she enlists free-wheeling Victor, who builds a secret distillery in the woods.  
from Amazon website

**Meeting Room Maple Grove Library**  
**8001 Main Street Maple Grove**

# Family History

**Emily Koehler Amann**

**- an avid Maple Grove Historian**

by Joyce Deane

Emily arrived October 26, 1937 and passed away November 22, 2019 in Maple Grove - in the same house in which she was born. She loved antiques and preserving the history of Maple Grove. After her teaching career was over she continued her education attending conferences learning things to do to achieve a successful history group within our city. She chose the name of our group - Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society. She enjoyed photographing many of the donated articles before we had a museum. Presiding as our president for many years she was instrumental in providing the "blueprint" guiding us in the correct way to run a historical society.



*"If a body meet a body  
Comin' through the rye."*

"By 1830, the average American over 15 years old consumed nearly seven gallons of pure alcohol a year – the lives of many were ruined, particularly women who had few legal rights and were dependent on their husbands. Some abolitionists saw drink as great an evil, as slavery. Some of the Baptist and Methodist clergy preached on getting rid of liquor.

After the Civil War, immigrants from Europe – crowded into the American cities, they worked hard to assimilate, but often retained many national habits and customs .The brewing business boomed as German-American brewers tried to provide millions of gallons of beer."



Museum member Pat Ruffing standing next to WCTU display at "American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition," at the Minnesota History Center, Nov. 9, 2013 – March 16, 2014

Her mother was a member of the WCTU.

"The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), wanted to protect families and children. They allied themselves with "The Anti-Saloon League" which was the most successful single issue lobbying organization in American history . It's only goal: a constitutional amendment that would ban the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol.

In 1913, the income tax amendment was ratified, and the Federal Government was able to fund its programs without the liquor taxes .

As anti-German fervor rose to a near frenzy with the American entry into the First World War, and in 1917 the 18th amendment sailed through both houses of Congress; it was ratified by the states in just 13 months.

12:01 A.M. on January 17, 1920, the amendment went into effect America had become officially, dry."

Wikipedia and historian Michael Lehner Historian

**AL's Big Dream-  
\$400,000 in cash**



**to build an addition on the Museum**

**Support Al: Attend MG Council Meeting**

**Feb 3 at 6:45 pm**

Congress passed the Volstead Act, the popular name for the National Prohibition Act, over President Wilson's veto on October 28, 1919, and established the legal definition of intoxicating liquor, as well as penalties for producing it.

In 1918, Minnesota failed to pass the 18th Amendment, but the next year Minnesota's legislature ratified it, becoming the 39th state to do so on January 17, 1919. Thirteen years later, more than 65% of Minnesotans voted for repeal.



“Andrew Volstead, a Republican from Minnesota's 7th Congressional District, penned the legislation that allowed for the enforcement of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. And his bill quickly became one of the most well-known in American history: the Volstead Act.” MNopedia

### Oscar Martinson Sherriff of Hennepin County

“Just sixty-six days into Prohibition in 1920 federal liquor agents arrested Oscar Martinson, sheriff of Hennepin County. Next came William M. Nash, Hennepin County Attorney, indicted April 6, arrested May 13.

Indicted by Federal Grand Jury for violation of the Prohibition law in a whiskey conspiracy The plot that brought them down involved just three shipments: 74 barrels of whiskey from Winnipeg hidden in gondola cars of scrap metal and delivered to a Minneapolis scrap yard. Martinson readily agreed to provide guards — himself and two of his deputies — while the liquor was unloaded. Nash was needed to be on call so that if federal agents appeared the men unloading could quickly be charged in state court, rather than federal court Martinson admitted his rather minor role and got a sentence of two years prison, the maximum.

Martinson pleaded guilty. Nash was acquitted, but Governor J. A. A. Burnquist removed him from office. Nash and Martinson were the highest-ranking Minnesota law enforcement officials prosecuted under Prohibition.” MN Posts

### Hooch

Low-quality liquor, usually whiskey. The term originated in the late 1800s as a shortened version of “Hoochinoo,” a distilled beverage from Alaska that became popular during the Klondike gold rush. The phrase came back into heavy use in the 1920s.

### The History of the Earl Brown Farm by Brooklyn Historical Society 1983

“On page p 21 of the book “Earl Brown was asked to be Sheriff by the members of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners' because Sheriff Oscar Martinson was found guilty of violating the Prohibition Law in a whiskey conspiracy. “

Here is Sheriff Earle Brown destroying a still in the Camden area of Minneapolis in the 1920s. Photo from Henn. Co. Library Collection of photos.



### Joel Princeton shares the Stories he heard about Prohibition.

His parents, William and Cora Princeton purchased an old tavern in 1926 and turned it into a restaurant and confectionary, along the Central Avenue of Osseo. Times were tough and a \$1.50 might be the total income for the day at the restaurant. Joel remembers his mother talking about driving the Model T Ford to Stearns County to bring back the “Hooch” which the family sold out of their home. Beer making and liquor was very much a part of the German and Polish Heritage. They had one close call the day the Revenue Agents showed up at their family home. They did not get arrested. The usual sentence was a “year and a day in Leavenworth”. Another relative in Shakopee, MN was not so lucky, as he was sentenced to Leavenworth for a year and a day.

Minnesota 14 was a corn whiskey which was produced during Prohibition and is still made today. Joel heard that it was sold in Ireland during the Prohibition, because there were no Prohibition laws there.

Another family story was of the young priest who heard confessions where parishioners confessed their sins in the moonshine business. The young priest asked the older priest what should he say to the penitents? The older priest said “Ask them how much for the liquor!”

In 1934, the Princeton Restaurant transitioned into a tavern. In 1966, Princeton's expanded into an off-sale store next to the tavern, and in 1979, the family opened a second liquor store in Maple Grove.

**PROHIBITION IN MAPLE GROVE** *By George "Bill" Bergquist*

Born ten years after the end of prohibition (1920-1933), this is not a first hand account, but stories shared over the dinner table. Stories about a deputy, the Eagle Lake Pavilion and booze.

Knowledge of prohibition in the 1950s came in highly sensational radio shows, the cinema and television, but for me it came about quite by accident. Mom, reorganizing a dresser drawer, pulled out a nickel plated 38 "police special", a badge, a cosh, brass knuckles and a flask. Wow! What a treasure trove for a young boy! Quizzing Mom about them only got a calm response, "They belong to Dad." And no they weren't toys and no I could not play with them. Bummer!

In my eyes my Dad hardly fit the stereotype of crime fighter. He was very easy going and I never once saw him confront anyone. Of course he was a big man – 6 foot plus and heavily muscled. Since his teens he worked as a marble setter, first as his Dad's helper and later as a Mason. So at the dinner table I anxiously asked about the gun, badge, cosh, brass knuckles and flask. "Well," he began in his easy-going manner, "back in the twenties, before the Depression hit, you know I worked as a marble setter helping my Dad. This was the "golden age" of small town, local banks. My Dad and I travelled all over the midwest mostly installing marble to convince the patrons that the banks were solvent and a safe place to leave their hard earned dollars."

"Were you a "bank dick" then as well?" I interjected – remembering the famous bank heists of this era. And, one of my favorite W.C. Fields movies.

"No, no. Be patient. I'm getting to that part. During the 20s, even though I was young – late teens and twenties - I made enough money to buy five acres of property on Eagle Lake. Then when the stock market collapsed, banks stopped being built. They stopped altogether. The marble business ground quickly to a halt. So my Dad and I

was always a popular place. Liquor, of course, was illegal, but in the 20s and early 30s no "hip" gentleman was without his flask on Friday and Saturday night."

"So, you busted the guys who had booze?"

"Well, not exactly," he replied to my disappointment.

"I was a Deputy and arresting people wasn't my remit. Besides, the drinking was done on the "QT" and I wasn't about to start anything. I was there to ensure no one else started anything – trouble, I mean."

"Fights, I bet, broke out though," I prompted, "with all those guys drinking on the "QT" and girls and all."

"Well, you would be right about that, and that's where I came in."

"Did you shoot anyone?" I asked breathlessly.

"Nooooo. Never even drew my gun. "He must have seen the disappointment on my face because he quickly added, "This," he said lifting up the cosh – a nasty looking thing about 18 inches long, a lead pipe in a leather sleeve with a handle wrapped in twine, with a loop to go over the wrist.

"One look at this usually took all the fight out of 'em. If they wanted to settle things outside that was fine with me but not in the Pavillion."

"What about the brass knuckles, you use them?"

"No, no. Those aren't mine, just borrowed them from a guy who wanted to go outside to settle something so I borrowed them – just to even up the sides. Funny thing, he never did come back for them."

"So did you like being a Deputy? I mean, there must have been a lot of guys plenty scared of you."

"Well, you know being feared isn't the same thing as being respected. Most people want to do the right thing and they want to know that the people there to protect them would also do the right thing."

"But if you didn't enforce the law?" I questioned. "Did they respect that?"

"Good question. Most of them did, you see the law was very unpopular because for most people having a "nip" from their flask on the "QT" was just part of having a good time. Ironically, I think it being illegal even gave it more of a rush. I knew people who had a flask that weren't drinkers. Heck, I was one of them.

Interested in an in-depth dive into Prohibition in Minnesota: A thorough study of prohibition in Stearns County by Elaine Davis entitled *Minnesota 13: Stearns County "Wet" Wild Prohibition Days*, written in 2007, is an excellent illustration of what could be done for Hennepin County or more specifically Maple Grove. The author offers an analysis of the county-wide vote, by religion, ethnicity, and state of the local farm economy. Hennepin County voted in favor of Prohibition 33,541 to 26,610, total 60,151, a majority of 6,931, a margin of 11.5%. Ramsey County, by contrast, voted against Prohibition 16,610 to 13,709, a total vote of 30,319, a majority of 2,901 or 9.5%. Clearly the number, cultural heritage, and religion of residents of each county dramatically influenced the vote.



*The Minneapolis Star, September 4, 1920*

built the house and barn on the property across the road from one of the fields that were part of the Eagle Lake Pavillion grounds; and to bring in some money, I took on a job there.

The Pavillion was already built when I bought the property serving as a major venue for company picnics, banquets, social gatherings and Friday and Saturday night dance hall. It was only a little over an hour drive north of the city so it

## 200-Gallon Still Is Seized in Maple Grove Farm Raid

Federal prohibition agents staged a raid on a farm house in Maple Grove township Monday afternoon, made two arrests and seized a 200-gallon still. Fred Holford and Louis Herman were taken into custody and 40 barrels of mash and a quantity of moonshine were destroyed.

Star Tribune, May 27, 1924



## Rogers, Hassan Township and Fletcher Remembered

Paula Skaie Bell on p. 60 in her book says: "Joe Rouillard was a beer man in Rogers. He distributed for Grain Belt. Joe had a milk route before he had a beer route. In 1933, Joe emptied milk cans at creamery in Minneapolis and during Prohibition, dried some and filled them with sugar for the bootleggers." On p. 88 she talks about the dance hall in Rogers, and Rouillard would tell Louie Arentz, the owner, when the undercover officers were at dance hall". On p 89 she writes: "County Rd. 144 was a "moonshine road" There were six farms along the road , and four of them made moonshine in the 1920's during Prohibition.

L.J. Weber told stories how he delivered his moonshine wrapped in the middle of the newspaper... when Weber's wife had their last baby she was bed-ridden. She put the bottles around her in bed."

Also there was a lot of maple syrup in the area- some bottles for maple syrup and moonshine- if it splashed it was moonshine!



## Woman's 'Faints' Fail to Save Her From Workhouse

Fainting twice in the arms of skeptical deputy sheriffs, a woman who gave her name as Mrs. Dorothy Boettcher failed to escape conviction on a liquor peddling charge and later was sent to the workhouse, where she and her husband, Louis Boettcher, will remain for 60 days.

The two were arrested in Maple Grove township when deputies found they had been selling liquor, trav-

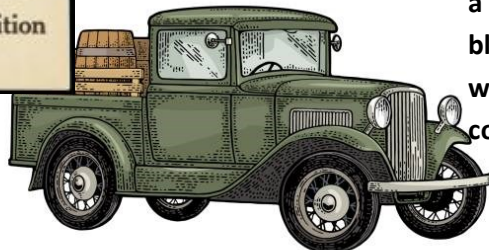
eling about the country with an automobile. The woman fainted when arrested and was taken to General hospital. After a period of observation, hospital attendants reported that her fainting condition was assumed.

Arraigned before R. W. Meeker, justice of the peace in Richfield, she "fainted" again when she heard the sentence. Deputies took her outside the town hall and put her in their car. She revived and put up a struggle, but the officers held her while her husband was being tried. Both then were taken to the workhouse.

Tribune Want Ads bring results.

Star Tribune, August 29, 1928

It's a long way to Prohibition,  
It's the wrong way to go.  
It's a sure way to bring Perdition  
To the greatest State I know.  
Let's all stick together,  
Let this be our cry--  
"It's a long, long way to Prohibition  
And we'll not go dry."



The image of the Roaring Twenties nowadays is one of jazz clubs and glamor, but when St Paul writer Mary DesJarlais needed a character for her first novel, she had to go no further than a photograph of her great aunts. "Her great aunt Dorie stood off to one side in the photo, looking determined". She lived in rural Osseo in the 1920. Dorie and her husband Louie LaValle were farmers on the land that did not grow potatoes well. Dorie dreamed of owning a store with silk stockings and fragrant soaps but lives in tiny Osseo area in a world of poverty, flour sack dresses and threadbare bloomers, delivering babies and moonshine. Many were looking for moonshine: neighbors, gangsters, cops, and Feds. So Mary's novel sets the tone, capturing how tough women like Dorie had to be.

“One of the few bootleggers ever to tell his story, he wrote five front page articles in The Washington Post. He estimated that eighty percent of congressmen and senators drank, even though these same people were the ones passing dry laws. This had a significant impact on the mid-term election, which saw Congress shift from a dry Republican majority to a wet Democratic majority. The Democrats understood that Prohibition was unpopular and called for its repeal.

On March 22, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an amendment to the Volstead Act known as the Cullen-Harrison Act, allowing the manufacture and sale of “3.2 beer” and light wines. He said: Upon signing the amendment, Roosevelt made his famous remark:”



Wikipedia

“I think this would be a good time for a beer.”

Minnesota was the 26th state to ratify the  
21st Amendment  
Oct 10,1933

Seventy-second Congress of the United States of America;  
At the Second Session,

Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fifth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by conventions in three-fourths of the several States:

“ARTICLE —

“SECTION 1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

“SEC. 2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

“SEC. 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.”

*W. H. Gurnea*  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

From National Archives



The Story of the Budweiser Clydesdales started back in 1933.

“When Franklin Delano Roosevelt repealed Prohibition, the near-decade ban on alcohol was lifted, and Anheuser-Busch, today the largest brewing company in the world, celebrated by premiering their beautiful new horse team.

The horses were given as a celebratory gift to August Anheuser-Busch by his son, and were sent across the country ending their tour by bringing a case of beer to FDR at the White House.

From that moment on, Clydesdales were a powerful symbol linked strongly to the brand.” Anheuser website

“Prohibition's supporters expected sales of clothing and household goods to skyrocket. Real estate developers and landlords expected rents to rise as saloons closed and neighborhoods improved. Chewing gum, grape juice, and soft drink companies all expected growth. Theater producers expected new crowds as Americans looked for new ways to entertain themselves without alcohol.

Instead amusement and entertainment industries declined. Restaurants failed, as they could no longer make a profit without legal liquor sales. Theater revenues declined.

The effects of Prohibition on law enforcement were also negative. The sums of money being exchanged during the dry era proved a corrupting influence in both the federal Bureau of Prohibition and at the state and local level. Police officers and Prohibition agents alike were frequently tempted by bribes or the lucrative opportunity to go into bootlegging themselves. The growth of the illegal liquor trade under Prohibition made criminals of millions of Americans. As the decade progressed, court rooms and jails overflowed, and the legal system failed to keep up.

The greatest unintended consequence of Prohibition however, was the plainest to see. For over a decade, the law that was meant to foster temperance instead fostered intemperance and excess” Michael Lehner Historian

By Michael Lerner, historian

Letters to George by Ellen Nelles Leger

(Ed Nelles who lived in Fletcher, MN wrote letters to friend George LaBissonere who had moved out of state.)

George writes "I went to the old French town Dayton... dances today are different...when I was young and handsome I didn't dare take even a little drink for fear the sweet little thing might smell it; you know when they insisted on a goodnight kiss. But now days , since woman and girls have equal rights to step in any place, boy, they all smell alike."

...We went to a dance in St. Michael some time ago; you ought to have seen how they swish it down...The bar is about 40 feet long the was always lined at least two deep all the way down; just as many women and girls as men. They drank four barrels of beer that night besides the red eye...It's that way almost any where you go into drinking places when there are dances pulled off. You will find just as many women and girls as men red cheeks, fiery eyes, smoking cigarettes, acting absolutely free. When I see that I wonder what will their children be when they grow up?

P 52 Jan 25, 1934



Hanover Corner Bar

Christ Lieder owned the Corner Bar 1924-1935. His son Bernard reports that local law enforcement usually looked the other way. But selling bootleg liquor and beer was how the bar owners made a living during Prohibition. "The booze was hid in two different places in the bar; one in the banister near a door, and another part carved out of the wainscoting rail on the wall that now is the River Inn dining room" p 80

"We used to know in advance when the sheriff's department of Feds were coming...Nobody would look any further than the front bar" .p 81 "There were two stills in town and everybody knew about them.

"Practically no one had a radio during Prohibition time, but we had one in the back of the bar. I think most everybody was aware of Prohibition's end. For some reason it was late afternoon or close to six o'clock because everybody was standing around our radio. My impression was that we had a stronger beer readily available to be tapped and as soon as they heard the word that Prohibition was over, everyone in here had a glass of beer and made a lot of noise!" p.82 From "Safe from the Outside World" by Mary Coons



## Will The Chicken be with Grandma

By James F Weber

On p. 97 James talks about his neighbor and the federal agent.

"Our neighbors to the west... sold moon, not the kind in the sky, but the kind that was in a bottle. Prohibition had been over for several years. But people continued to make and drink moonshine. The neighbors had a small service garage for fixing cars. A customer could drive their car into the garage, get a jug or bottle of moon and drive away. The 1930's equivalent of the drive-in liquor store."

On p.193 James writes about "Pete, the Moonshine Man"

"He buried five-gallon jugs all over the area near his place; only the cork in the neck of the jug was visible. During the night when the shipment came in, they would take the cans and a funnel and fill his storage jugs. When he had a customer he would take a bottle and fill it with a squeeze bulb pump from one of his jugs. This provided an income for Pete and a steady supply of moon for his own use".



## Test your Prohibition I.Q

1. Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ was the sponsor of the law that led to the implementation of Prohibition.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment in 19\_\_ that banned the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages in the United States.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Experiment was another name for National Prohibition.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment in 19\_\_ repealed the National Prohibition.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who illegally makes, transports or sells alcoholic beverages.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the common name for illegally produced beverage alcohol, frequently tainted.
7. Bill McCoy was a bootlegger well known for selling quality imported goods: Hence the popular term \_\_\_\_\_
8. Blind pig is another name for \_\_\_\_\_ called a blind pig because the establishment turned a "blind eye" to Prohibition or because consuming the often contaminated illegal alcohol beverages sold there sometimes caused blindness. Speakeasies were illegal drinking establishments that were so called because one typically had to whisper a code word or name through a slot in a locked door to gain admittance.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ got its name from the fact that alcohol, glycerine and juniper juice was mixed in bottles or jugs too tall to be filled with water from a sink tap so they were commonly filled under a bathtub tap.
10. It was \_\_\_ legal or \_\_\_ not legal to have prescription for medicinal alcohol from a physician
11. \_\_\_\_\_ A non-alcohol beverage that was developed by temperance activists in the naive hope that it would replace real beer in popularity
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is a personification of alcoholic beverages.
13. People who approved of alcoholic beverages and opposed prohibition were \_\_\_\_\_. It also refers to any geographic area in which the purchase of alcoholic beverages is legally prohibited. \_\_\_\_\_ was a person who supported prohibition and a dry area is one in which the purchase of alcoholic beverage is legally prohibited.

14. Dried compressed blocks or "bricks" of \_\_\_ were widely sold during Prohibition because it was not illegal to produce wine at home for personal consumption. The bricks were reconstituted with water and used to make wine.

15. WCTU stands for \_\_\_\_\_ a large and powerful group that promoted National Prohibition.

From website <https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/>

1. Volstead 2. 18th 3. Noble 4. 21st 1933 5. Bootlegger 6. Moonshine 7. The Real McCoy 8. Speakeasy 9. Bathtub gin 10. legal 11. Root beer 12. John Barley Corn 13. wet, dry 14. wine 15. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

## MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

City of Maple Grove Government Center  
12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove MN 55369-7064

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

(renewable each January)

Annual Membership (tax deductible)

- \$15 Individual/Senior
- \$30 Family
- \$100 Supporting Member

I am interested in helping with

- Writing article
- Historic site maintenance
- Displays
- Educational Programs
- Publicity
- Cataloging artifacts
- Calling

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

