



Maple Grove

Historical Preservation Society

No. 76 August 2014

Happenings

Looking for volunteers to organize display cases at city hall. If interested contact Caroline ph.763-425-2279.

Historical Society dues are due in January of each year:
Students/Seniors(65 and over) \$10
Individual; \$25 Family; \$15 Individual;
Supporting Member \$100.

Next Historical meeting is August 21, 2014, at 7:00 PM, 9030 Forestview LN.

Oxcart Site

Bricks for the Territorial site are for sale at \$50 for 4"X8" brick and \$100 for an 8"X8" brick. Contact Historical Preservation Society for details.

Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society

Vice President- Don Kisch

Secretary-Joyce Deane Treasurer-
Patty Reuter

President- Open Position

Board Members- Virginia Hoppenrath &
Earl Hoppenrath Editor- Scott Smith
763-420-8834

Mailing Address-P.O. Box 1180, Maple
Grove, MN 55311

www.maplegrovmnhistory.org

**President's Position
Open** This position on the board is open for anyone willing to donate their efforts and passion to history in Maple Grove.

HISTORY MUSEUM

The dream of a Museum is a reality and is currently a work in progress. We have 2000 square feet of space in the newly remodeled Public Works building. We have a room for storage and display as well as an office. It is located at 9030 Forestview Lane N. There is a door for the public to enter on the south side of the building. Artifacts have been moved from the Government Center to the Museum. **Our monthly meetings will now be at this location.**

A reminder that the Museum is always open the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 PM.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

We meet monthly on the third Thursday at the new Museum located within the remodeled Public Works building at 9030 Forestview Lane

Brief synopsis from minutes, Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society:

July 17, 2014 Caroline called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Jim & Joyce Deane, Don Kisch, Mary Moyle, Verdell Schleif, June Lanners, Fred Biederman, Carl Pheil, Al Madsen, Roger McHugh and Addie Maser. Guests - Zach Geraghty and his Grandmother.

Old Business

Zach Geraghty explained the process of obtaining his Eagle Scout...He coordinated the updating of the Historic site. This meant all the pavers had to be removed because weeds were thriving in the present condition. The area had to be dug down 9" and filled with a classified base as well as coarse sand. Then the pavers were returned to their original place. The landscaping was updated with some new plants and shrubs. Weeds were removed all with the help of Zach and his crew of Scouts which he directed.



Al is looking for a rock suitable for the site that will fit our needs. A decision on the type of plaque to be placed on the rock will be made later... Information could also be etched into the stone.

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Eight new pavers will be ordered next week. Caroline is assembling the order. We talked about the current kiosk. Most members were in agreement that the plexiglass could be replaced and preserve the enclosed information.

New Business

The annual picnic will be **Thursday, August 21** in our museum location. Social hour will be 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. with a potluck picnic served at 6:00 p.m. We have cupcakes and cookies for dessert, so you need not bring dessert.

Maple Grove Days Business Expo – visitors came to our booth, and it was decided we could benefit with an interactive activity. The Museum Open house on Sunday was well attended, but because we were spread out with 2 locations it did not seem like as many people. The children who participated in the yoke/water activity enjoyed it, but we did not have many children at the event. The wedding display was well received --- perhaps it can be repeated in future years with different gowns. Buster Spears came willing to entertain guests, but there was not an area in which people gathered for long. We appreciate his willingness to perform.

Lee Schreiber set up an interesting display of movie projectors showing how they have evolved. The school pictures were moved to display frames. The

recently donated Joyner school pictures completed the display.

We learned how to put up a pup up tent which Walter Schumacher brought... Our efforts on Mary's tent needed help... We found we did not have adequate knowledge to get the thing up. Roger brought an umbrella for Carl and Sharon to sit under for the yoke/water activity

The gravel mining area display was fantastic with huge earth moving equipment as well as the 1st road grader that Charlie McCrossan purchased in 1937. We are sending an article to the Press saying we will be open Sunday, July 27 so others can see this display before it leaves. Caroline, Joyce and Al will be there to welcome guests. Pictures of these machines were in the Osseo Press. Caroline will get flyers to the Farmers Market to further promote this open house.

Fred is assembling the evaluation information. He has the e-mails of some of the visitors as well. We will get the full report at the next meeting. Or if he sends it to me, I can share it with all of you.

At the open house we had visitors wanting to make donations to our society... One was Al Colberg who lives at 12004 89th ave north – the former Dick Scott residence which was built in 1847... He felt it would be a good location for the museum ---

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Parking????????? Several women mentioned they had a wedding gown to donate...

Jean Morehouse has items to donate as well and would like to have someone get them – a sled and a chicken crate???

Addie has a towel from Washington's inaugural.

Because of a mix up at CUB on our cookie order we got our cookies free, When Caroline went to pick them up, the manager realized he misplaced the order... So he quickly assembled a box of cookies and cupcakes and gave them to Caroline and wrote NO CHARGE on the box.

“Thank yous” are being sent to Tiller, McCrossan, and Buster Spears for their willingness to make this event successful

We talked about the necessity of perhaps placing food items on a napkin by those with plastic gloves on their hands... This would discourage guests from just grabbing. We decided that we are good will ambassadors for our History Society and the city of Maple Grove when we host events like this.

We discussed sending a newsletter to the names of people who expressed interest on the evaluation. It could be a sample copy.... But we would prefer to have members receive it who support our organization.

Roger -- who comes under “Other” on the agenda explained the correct way of cataloging articles that are donated. Each item will have a separate # and the year it is donated in.

September will be moving month for the items at the government center... We will need lots of help.

MONTHLY OPEN HOUSES

We have had our museum open every second Sunday of the month since September 2013.

We had our Annual Open House on Sunday July 13 during Maple Grove Days. Large displays by companies of the gravel mining industry were displayed. We also had a display of bridal apparel from the past. There were displays such as the kitchen and farm. The photo below is from the Museum display in July.



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EAGLE LAKE SCHOOL

By George Wm. Bergquist

With contributions from Cathy Fyten Johnson and Pat Rogich Porter

Do you know where the Eagle Lake School House is located? That's right. The children living on and around Eagle Lake had their own school house, a "one" room school house serving all grades. And, what's more, the school house is still there although it hasn't served as a school since the mid-1950s.

If you would like to see what a "one" room school house looked like it is located at 10052 73rd Avenue, not far from where Magda Drive and 73rd Avenue merge. It is the small square brick building on the north side of the road backing up to Highway 694.

Of course, when I attended the school, along with all my friends from the neighborhood, there was no Highway 694. The school house backed up to a farm field that ran out as far as the gravel pit adjacent to what is now Arbor Lakes Shopping Center. None of the houses that are now on the lakeside of Magda Drive and 73rd Avenue, north of Shingle Creek were there either. The lake swamp ran right up to the road and the area opposite the school was home to the Minnesota state flower...the quite rare and protected Lady's Slipper.

How did we get to school? First, there was no bus service. We either walked or, if your parents had the means, time and inclination, you might be able to get a ride. In the fall and spring, and for that matter much of the winter, I preferred to walk. Living at the top of the hill where North Eagle Lake Drive makes a sharp right angle turn, it was downhill the first stretch of the way where I could pick up Cliff Nagengast and Denny Osterberg.

It was great to have company because along the way - it's just about a mile walk - there were a lot of distractions. The first was the ruins of an old ice house on the lake side a couple hundred feet from where North Eagle Lake Drive merged with Magda Drive. Prior to rural electrification, ice was harvested from the lake with saws and tongs and pulled by sled to the ice house where it was stored until delivered to local homeowners over the summer. All that remained of the ice house in the early 1950s was the foundation and some thick pilings, but it made for a great fort.

Further along was the best distraction of all: Shingle Creek. No matter what the season it offered young boys great temptation. Many were the school days that began with a squishing sound as we marched to our desks.

During the colder months if our clothes got wet building snow forts, or jumping on the spongy ice, we were not sent home, but rather to the basement. A steep staircase led to a large room with one corner partitioned off which housed a huge furnace. Here we would slip off our wet outer garments and hang them up to dry. Of course this was a boys' thing as I never recall girls being sent to the basement, except of course, when the large room was being used to rehearse for our various holiday pageants.

When school was in session we were seated with our age group; in 1950, for example, there were 22 students, with four of us in the second grade. The teacher was Mrs. Grey and she would set the assignments with the expectation that we would "buckle" down to business without any fuss, once we had all recited in unison the pledge of allegiance. My recollection is that everyone usually complied because the penalty, forfeiture of recess, was something you didn't want to bear.

The subject matter focused on the three R's, reading, writing and arithmetic. The textbooks were simple and straightforward without benefit of all the research that has shaped today's texts. We all got very familiar with Dick and Jane and

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(Eage Lake Scool Contd.)

their dog Spot. Today extensive research tells us that the best predictor of future academic performance is reading level, comprehension and vocabulary by grade three, but at that time there was no such emphasis and very little pressure.

The one skill given a great deal of attention that we hardly find today was penmanship. We even received specially lined paper to help us create properly sized capital letters and their lower case equivalents. Printing and cursive examples were provided on large charts and we were graded on how clearly we could reproduce the same results at our desk.

Not all the learning went on in the classroom. At recess it was not uncommon to play "organized" games without the teacher's supervision. Indeed, Mrs. Grey - and the other teachers we had over the years - seldom came outside during recess unless, of course, there was an altercation which I must say rarely occurred.

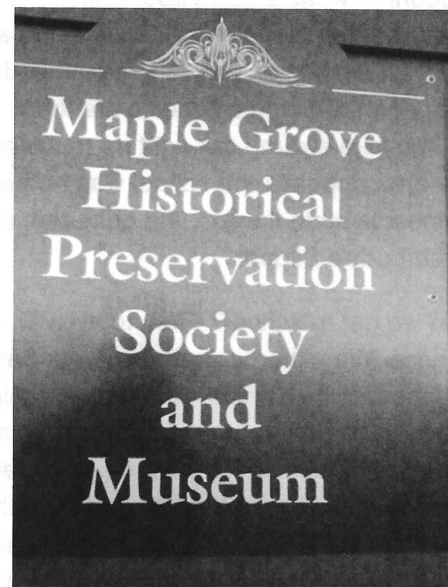
One of the favorite games, and there were many, was "Red Rover Red Rover, send (name of student) right over." Two opposing lines were formed with members of each line holding hands. The person requested to be sent over tried to break through the opposing line. If successful they could take back to their line someone of their choosing from the line broken. The object was to acquire the most players and hence have the longest line. Strategy focused on getting those with the strongest grips and breaking through the line at the perceived weakest link, but strangely, to the eyes of the youngest, often times girls and boys chose to attack the line where their opposite age group members were aligned and often they all tumbled to the ground pulling down much of the line on top of them. Go figure!

Today if you drive by the Eagle Lake School House you won't see the old merry-go-round (a disc with bars you pushed to spin), the swings, or the old outhouse. But the small square brick structure is still there and you can populate it with your own experience and imagination. For those who attended it still holds a multitude of magical memories.

NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES Please forward me any articles, events/items and historical Maple Grove photos that you might want included in the newsletter. Your Editor, Scott Smith 763-420-8834 or email at straightshooter45@comcast.net. This newsletter is published quarterly with the next one to come out about mid November, 2014. Get me articles by November 1st at the latest.

P.S. Beautiful article by Wm. Bergquist! I've driven by that building for the last 35 years. He has added special life to it for me. Editor



Maple Grove Historical Preservation Sign Posted at 9030 Forestview Lane outside the Museum (May 2013)

**MAPLE GROVE
HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

PURPOSE: To collect and preserve information and artifacts and to educate the community of the history of Maple Grove, Minnesota.

CURRENT PUBLIC DISPLAYS:

THE HISTORIC SITE
 Located on Territorial Road
 (1 mile west of Fernbrook Ln.)
 This is along the Ox Cart Trail that was traveled by Pierre Bottineau on the way from North Dakota to St. Anthony.

DISPAY CASES
 Located at the
 Maple Grove Government Center
 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway
 Open Govt. Center hours
 These displays show some of the many artifacts we have from the early history of the area. Changes are made periodically.

**Ways to volunteer
your time and talents.**

Write Newsletter articles

Design the displays in the cases

Design educational programs

Garden maintenance at historic site

Help with publicity of the organization and its events

Help with cataloging artifacts

Periodic calling of members

Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at the Maple Grove Government Center (12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway) (August & December special events)

Be a part of Maple Grove History...
 purchase a Paver brick to be placed at the historic site. (order forms available)

Booklets available:

- "Maple Grove Memories" \$8.00
- "100 Years of Osseo History" \$8.00
- "The Story of Pierre Bottineau" \$5.00
- Set of all three booklets \$20.00

**MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P. O. Box 1180
Maple Grove, MN 55311**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM
(Renewable each January)**

- Annual Membership:
- \$15 Individual
 - \$25 Family
 - \$10 Seniors/Students
 - \$100 Supporting Member

- I am interested in helping with:
- Writing articles
 - Historic site maintenance
 - Displays
 - Educational Programs
 - Publicity
 - Cataloging artifacts
 - Calling

Name: _____
 (Please Print)
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Note: Actually meeting is at the Museum, 9030

Forestview Lane North, Maple Grove, MN