

Maple Grove

Historical Preservation Society

No. 79 May 2015

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: Students/Seniors(65 and over) \$10 Individual; \$25 Family; \$15 Individual; Supporting Member \$100. Please help out treasurer by paying early.

Next Historical meeting is May 21, 2015, at 7:00 PM, 9030 Forestview LN.

Oxcart Site

A plaque will be designed to be placed on the new rock.

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 remodeled Public Works building. It is located at 9030 Forestview Lane N. **Our monthly meetings are now held 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 the minutes, Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society:

The Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society met Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. .

The treasurer’s report showed a balance of \$1,132.22 which included membership dues of \$145.00. Expenses were \$46.00 – mileage for Caroline.

Money Market Balance is \$5067.09 which earned .57 interest. A summary of 2014 was also provided by Patty --- Income was \$1,459.00 and expense was \$990.53. Expenses are as such because our location is in a city facility – heat, electric, etc. are covered.

Old Business

Patty, Fred and Lois Biederman hosted the April open house... no visitors, but much cleaning

was done. Volunteers for the May 10th open house will be Mary Moyle and Caroline . Al and Sharon are available also.

Someone is needed to coordinate the purchase of the plaque that will be put on the rock at the historic site.. Please – do you have time to do this? A tree limb needs to be removed from the history site.... This has been done.....

The Student Art Show facilitator has asked to use our display cases in the government center for smaller items. They are welcome to use them, but any damage which could occur will be their responsibility to repair. Art Show coordinator (Lori Link) will be asked to sign a paper accepting responsibility.

New Business

Maple Grove Business Expo is Saturday, July 11 and our open house is Sunday, July 12. A suggestion for the expo activity is a display of wash tub, wash board, lye soap – clothes line , clothes pins to hang small items on line... perhaps this could be an interactive activity... to be discussed further.....

The Open House on Sunday, July 12 will feature the Fire Department 40th anniversary display as well as our toys, parlor, kitchen laundry and farm/garden tools. Walter Schumacher volunteered to make a free standing fence to be placed around the garden tools. We also need a flyer to be handed out at the expo.

Inventory Progress Report.

Volunteers (3) have more than 75 hours in working on this and there is a lot more to do to complete the task. Shelves upstairs in storage area are now ready to have items moved up to store there. Shelves will be labeled the last week of April. 1 trunk had 60 items in it – all needing to be labeled. Several items have no tags or identification as to where they came from.

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(Minutes continued)

The new computer has arrived – Thank you to the city and Ad Madsen. We also need a printer. Several members indicated they might have one to donate.

Room floor must be cleaned so the displays can be up by late June. Al will have the public works cleaning crew take care of this.

Collections review Board --- A 1917 map from Kitterman's, plus a box of tags good for 5 cents trade at Bredenberg's store.. The long police coat will be given to the police department. Discussion got stated on the first murder in Maple Grove – the Oswald family at the Alvin Schutte home .

MONTHLY OPEN HOUSES

We have our museum open every second Sunday of the month. ***The Open House on July 12, 1:00PM to 5:00PM, will include the Maple Grove Fire Department with a big 40th Anniversary display of their history, in the garage bay. Also included will be country parlor items, well-loved toys, farm tools, and vintage laundry display.***

OLD SAYINGS

A part of Americana – by Jim Sable

The other day I was talking with one of the students/kids over at the Plymouth Gun Club and it gave me an idea. This boy was dressed in a T-shirt and it was 48 degrees. I said aren't you cold? No, he responded, it's nice out. I said that's a great way to catch a cold. Why don't you put a sweatshirt on?

He had one tied around his waist.) I said, you know an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

{He looked at me and said, what?} What does that mean? I asked if he had never heard that before. His answer was NO.

People in my age bracket were raised with sayings like that. An apple a day keeps the doctor away. Pennywise and pound foolish. It occurred to me this is another part of Americana that is being lost and we might be able to bring it back by making it a fun part of our newsletter.

What if readers were invited to submit some of the old sayings they were raised with. It would be fun to hear some of them again. After one of my grandmothers friends had left the house after doing a lot of bragging about her grandchildren, my mother said; "Every crow thinks hers are the whitest"

Submitted By Al Madsen

-Can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

-The cat's meow.

-Out of the frying pan and into the fire.

-Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

-Horsefeathers.

-A diamond in the rough.

-Everything but the kitchen sink.

-Can't cut the mustard.

-Paint the town red.

-Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.

-Garlic makes a man wink, drink, and stink.

-Close but no cigar.

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ARTICLE FROM THE OSSEO REVIEW

JULY 29, 1908

The Sunday Tribune printed a picture of the stone crusher at the Odenbreit gravel pit one mile west of Osseo which is supplying Hennepin County for its roads near Osseo, and when completed will be considered the best in the state. Hennepin County is spending \$25,000 on roads in the vicinity. Nearing the pit one is greeted by the noise of the crusher, the same is supplied by a string of teams hauling rocks and gravel. After this mixture is crushed and mixed it is elevated to a large chute where the gravel wagons are loaded automatically and then conveyed to the roads. This mixture is then dumped and spread on the road and the big 13 Ton roller owned by the County, rolled over it.

The gravel in this pit is heavy and coarse and does not contain a grain of sand. Gleason, Turnam, Talbret and A. Buckley of Mpls. Have the County contracts. Wm. Kerr for the County is crusher expert. Mr. Page, Assistant County Surveyor, has charge of the road work while Frank Haycock, County Surveyor, drew plans and specifications which will make the best macadamized roads in the state.

About 100 men are employed and 40 teams. Farms around Osseo the past few years have doubled in value and \$100 to \$150 per acre are some samples of prices that farms have been sold at. When one consider the fact that a farmer can haul 125 bushels of potatoes on one load for five or six miles to the Osseo potato market, it means a big saving and a road that means a money-maker to the farmer. When these roads are completed it means thousands of dollars saved for the County, a boon to the

farmer in the way of adding to farm values, and a great help to all concerned.

Editor's Note: According to Wikipedia, Macadamized roads were pioneered in 1802 by Scottish engineer John Loudon McAdam. The method simplified what had been considered state of the art at that point. Single-sized aggregate layers of small stones, with a coating of binder as a cementing agent, are mixed in an open-structured roadway. The first such stretch of road was Marsh Road, Ashton Gate, Bristol, England about 1816. SS

The red, not the blue , sweater incident – 1949 Dist. 46 Fish Lake School.

The second week of August 1949 was upon us. This year both I, Sharon and my younger brother Billy would both be attending Mrs. Shiffmann's one room Dist. 46 Fish Lake School That week the family went into Osseo to shop for new clothes especially for Billy and I who would be off to school in a few weeks. Shopping began. A beautiful blue cardigan sweater with Mary and her little lamb was bought for me. The same sweater in red was bought for my younger sister Dianne. I liked the red one the best but Mom always said "blue for blondes and red for brunettes" I didn't care I wanted the red one even though I wasn't a brunette. That shopping trip finally ended with a trip to the Osseo hardware store to pick out lunch pails which we both did.

Finally the first day of school 1949 arrived. Billy in his new blue jeans and light jacket and me in my new dress and red Mary and her little lamb sweater. Whoops, me in my sister's red Mary and her little lamb sweater. It had taken a lot of convincing on my part to talk my mom in to letting me wear it instead of the blue one. I promised that I would take very, very good care of it so she said ok. This year mom didn't have to walk with us because Billy, I and the neighbor girl across the road, Carol Seibert, could walk down the mile long dirt road to District 46 Fish Lake School together and be safe. During that walk all I thought about was taking good care of

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(Red Sweater Incident continued)

that red sweater. We got to the school and out in the playground other kids were playing. I stood by the school door so as not to get any dirt on that new red, Mary and her little lamb, sweater. Our teacher Mrs. Shiffmann finally rang her hand bell and school began in earnest. After about an hour a toilet break was needed on my part. I raised my hand for permission to go to the outhouse. Now Mrs. Shiffmann had a rule and that rule was that no one went out to the outhouse without a partner. This was a good rule as the person in the desk next to mine, my best friend Kathy McKee was also in 2nd grade raised her hand to go too. Out we went, laughing and having a great time enjoying the fact we were no longer in the classroom. We arrived at the outhouse and although it had two holes we still argued who would use it first and who would wait outside. I won. In I went, now ever mindful for that red sweater and the trust that had been laid upon me to take care of it carefully. I took off the red sweater, folded it neatly and laid it down just out of reach of the toilet hole. After completing the reason I was there, it was my friend's turn to come in while I waited outside. Just as I was reaching to unlatch the hook that kept the door locked from the inside I brushed against that beautiful red sweater with Mary and her little lamb on the front and YES!!! Down the hole it went. NO!!! Yes!!! Kathy and I looked at each other, then we looked down that hole, then we looked at each other again. This was not funny. I was supposed to take care of that sweater and not it floated at the bottom of the hold in a liquid pile of not nice smelling liquidy stuff. NO!NO! No, no. What to do? Neither of us could come up with an answer. I was I in near tears. All of a sudden there was a knock on the door. It was our teacher Mrs. Schiffmann "girls is there a

problem" Well, yes, there was. We unlocked the door and showed Mrs. Shiffmann what happened. Now I was totally in tears. Mrs. Shiffmann looked down the hole, then looked at both of us. "Stay here she said. "I'll be right back "and she was, this time with a metal coat hanger. She opened that coat hanger up and now she had a long wire with a hook on the end. She carefully reached into the deep dark hole, hooked that beautiful red sweater with Mary and her little lamb on it lifted it out of the hole. It was ruined. I was sure of it. It smelled BAD! I cried harder. I had failed in my task. My sister's sweater was ruined. I was sure of that. It was all my fault. What would I tell my mother? Mrs. Shiffmann realizing my discomfort said "Don't worry, we will drape it over a bush to dry during the rest of the day and then I will wrap it up for you and you can take it home" The school day finally came to an end. Dear Mrs. Shiffmann wrapped that no longer beautiful red sweater with Mary and her little lamb on it in a newspaper tied it with string and handed it to me to carry home.

Have you ever walked a mile on a warm September day carrying a package that smelled like????? Well you know what. My dear brother Billy and friend Carol, from across the road refused to walk by me. They ran ahead and were heard laughing, at a safe distance, at my humiliation. Then after all that and knowing I was going to have some explaining to do to my mother I arrived home.

Once there I explained the whole sordid story. Was she angry? No!! No? She burst into laughter. That's ok" she said between peals of laughter, "Not to worry, The sweater is cotton and it will wash up nicely" and even though it did, I only wore the blue , my blue, Mary and her little lamb sweater in 1949 while attending Maple Grove's District 46 Fish Lake School.

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Life on the Farm – by LeRoy Bonn

My twin sister Leona and I were born August 9, 1937. My sisters Lorraine and Arlene came later. The first sixteen years of our lives was spent on the farm in (Maple Grove township) as it was called then. Three generations of our family lived together, Walter and Clara, our parents, George and Sarah our grandparents.

We all had chores to do, by the time I was six, I was carrying milk cans from the pump house to the barn. We did not have indoor plumbing so all water was carried from the pump house. Since we didn't have electricity we used lanterns in the house and barn.

My sisters and I walked the one mile to the one room school house. Our teacher taught all 8 grades. On our way to school in the winter we tunneled through the snow drifts. The hot summer days brought more work. By the time I was eleven I would husk corn until the wagon was full and there was grain to shuck.

Since I was the only boy, a lot of the heavy work was left for me. It was my job to get the horses ready and haul the grain buckets to the thrashing machine. I used the John Deere B tractor to cultivate the corn. Every two weeks my grandpa George and I would go to Osseo to get coal for cooking and heating. He would treat me to an ice cream cone and bottle of pop. I really loved my grandpa. Sometimes we would sit out on the long porch and watch the sky. Grandpa would tell us about the clouds and what kind of weather to expect.

The radio brought lots of entertainment. On Saturday nights the whole family sat by the radio and listened to B Bar B Riders, Grand Old Opry, Barn Dance and Slim Jim.

We didn't get an allowance for all the hard work, everybody did their part. Our reward was helping to provide for the family. My Dad, Walter and I graded the gravel roads in Maple Grove and put up snow fences to get ready for the winters.

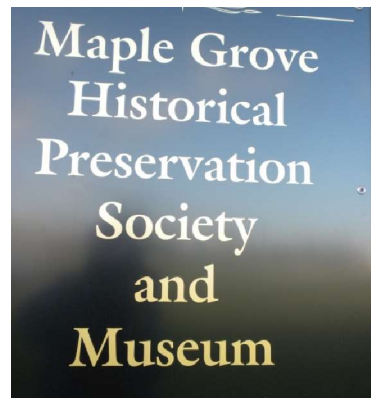
A special memory I have is when my sister Lorraine and Sandra Roeder would walk their doll buggies down the gravel road.

Life's lessons learned on the farm prepared me for the years ahead. I still appreciate the meaning of family and simple pleasures.

In 1953 the farm was sold and my family moved to Osseo. Most things were sold at the auction but our memories will forever be with us.

NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES Please forward me any articles, events/items and historical Maple Grove photos that you might want included in the newsletter to your Editor, Scott Smith ph. 763-420-8834. The best way is through email at straightshooter45@comcast.net. This newsletter is published quarterly with the next expected to come out by mid May , 2015. Please get me your articles by May 1st at the latest. How about more "Sayings"?



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**