



MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN 55311



MAPLE GROVE HISTORY MUSEUM
9030 Forestview Lane N, Door J, Maple Grove MN 55369

<https://www.maplegrovehistory.org/>

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

LIVING OUR HISTORY

VOLUME 120

AUGUST 2025

Living Our History:

Our July Open House showcased many different facets of Maple Grove History and also called to mind that our Nation's 250 year celebration has started with the founding of the Army, Navy and Marines in 1775.

Gardening and farming were highlighted by the U of M display of 3 Minnesota seed catalog banners and our vintage tools display.

Tick tock! We had a collection of clocks and watches on loan for the day, and from our storage area we pulled out our diverse exhibit crocks- who could survive without several.

Guessing how our cachet of mystery items were used in everyday life was popular, Other exhibit favorites were the country school room and our array of dolls. We displayed the colorful story of the Campbell Soup Kids in our "Labels for Education" display.

Produced by her children and donated to the Museum was the story of Justine Gould, a Maple Grove farm woman's story, she was both talented and brilliant.



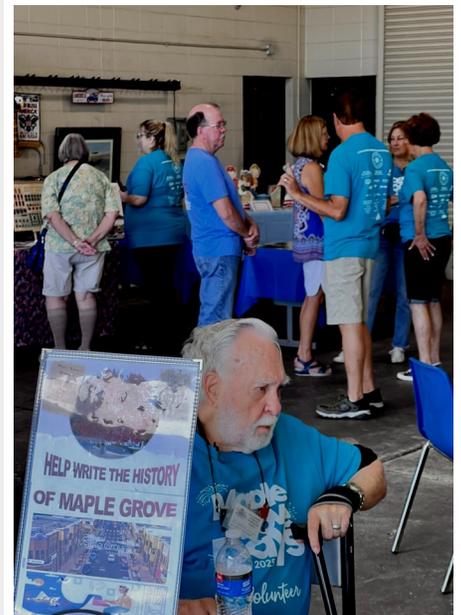
Bring your favorite dish

August 21, 2025

6:00 pm

Interested in Maple Grove History?

We are writing a history of the township/city of Maple Grove. What a fascinating way it will be to learn the history of your community. The book project will require individuals interested in writing a chapter or chapters, photo researchers, caption writers, permission manager, proof readers, page layout and designers, grant writer, fundraiser and more. Interested? Email: gwbergquist@gmail.com. We also invite you to join our ongoing meetings at the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society Museum, 9030 Forestview Lane N., Maple Grove.





2025 MAPLE GROVE PARADE



July 16th, 2025 Maple Grove Days Parade route was along 89th Avenue from Zachary Lane to Elm Creek Blvd. Eager viewers watched elected officials and area politicians begin the parade at 6:10pm, followed by the rest of the parade units: clubs, schools, churches, and sports teams, and they relived our history with the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society, driving by in the Kisch vintage vehicles!

2025 GRAND MARSHALS: Mike Kinnan and Buzz Weber Maple Grove Fire Fighters for 36 and 37 years respectively.



water – washboard – wooden-tub wringer – woof – Whirlpool – work –

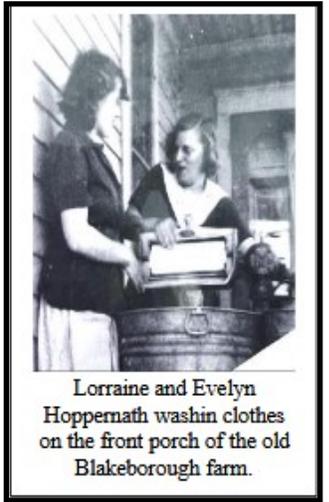
The word LAUNDRY does not contain the letter 'W'. It doesn't need to. The word laundry is already surrounded by loads and loads of 'W's, from wishy to washy to wrinkly, with methods ranging from washboards to wringers to Whirlpool. But Woof? Lassie did laundry? The laundry exhibit at our Maple Grove Days Open House was a big hit for kids and adults alike. Emmy, Joyce Deane's granddaughter, made sure that everyone enjoyed the challenge of doing laundry 'the old fashioned way', thanks Emmy for your extraordinary work as a volunteer! Now, about that laundry, and the letter 'W' ... Before the 'new-fangled' electric washers and dryers of



store-bought soap families had to make their own. [After soaking wood ashes to make 'lye water', and rendering beet fat for tallow, the lye and tallow were boiled together in cast-iron pots. The liquid was poured into molds to fully harden, then removed and cut into bars.] Laundry was considered 'women's work', and it often took days to accomplish. Dirty clothes were hand-scrubbed on washboards in wooden tubs filled with water, and the wet clothing was wrung out by hand.

The next phase of washing technology was still hands-on but hand-powered wooden devices using a crank rotated the cylinders inside a tin washtub on legs. The first wringer washing machine was invented in 1888 by Ellen Eglin, an African-American housekeeper. A hand-cranked two-cylinder wringer was placed atop the tub and when wet

clothes were hand inserted between the two rollers, the excess water was wrung out via the crank handle. By the end of the 19th century, roughly 2,000 patents had been taken out in the U.S. for mechanical washers. Steam-powered machines were used in commercial laundries but were too large and dangerous for household use, so until the early 1910's, most washing was still powered manually.



Lorraine and Evelyn Hoppemath washin clothes on the front porch of the old Blakeborough farm.

OK, but . . . in a parade of laundry related 'W's, where and when does Woof fit in? Well, in the late 1800s, someone with a sense of humor and an eye for practicality thought 'if horses and oxen were useful for pulling and powering farm equipment, shouldn't the family dog carry his fair share, too? Sure, he might be busy herding sheep, but that doesn't take all day. How about putting that energy to use in other ways?' So, he created a dog treadmill-powered washing machine! The machine was made of wood and metal. It worked by harnessing a dog to it and having the dog walk on the attached treadmill to power the machine. MGHPS member, Kathy Bjorkland, recalls that their family dog, named



Teddy, headed for the treadmill as soon as he heard Kathy's grandmother began to fill the wash tub. He knew it was time to get to work. The Whirlpool Corporation was established in 1911, however the first electric washing machine was introduced by

the Hurley Machine Company in 1908. Hurley named that first electric washer "Thor". Perhaps they should have considered the name "Teddy"? While we don't know if Lassie did laundry, we do know Teddy did. "Teddy, the Working Woof, was 'such a good boy'.

Kate Wodtke





Cupcakes and Conversation

What Lessons You Can Learn From our Maple Grove Area Cemeteries?

October 22, 2025 1-2:30 PM

Are you a Taphophile? A person, who loves to learn the stories of the lives of those buried in our 11 Maple Grove area cemeteries. They are-visual reminders that every life has a story, is an outdoor museum. Old cemetery headstones provide clues to the past through symbols, epitaphs, and dates: from immigrant settlers, to Civil War soldiers, to our first City founders, to membership in fraternal organizations, to religions or a veteran status.

Maybe you have just driven past a cemetery and wondered why it was there. 55+ Registration through Maple Grove Park & Recreation



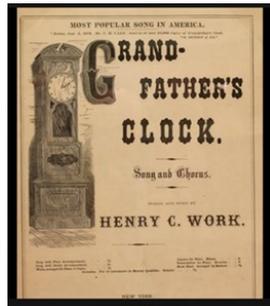
Lois and Earl Caswell with their lifetime collection of clocks

Humans have always measured time. Perhaps they started with the sun, moon and stars moving across the sky, then on to sundials, hourglasses, water clocks, mechanical moving, pendulating clocks and watches, the Black Forest cuckoo clock, analog clocks, digital and atomic clocks, and now smart phones and watches.

As a child I had never seen a grandfather clock and I don't recall a picture in our songbooks, but I knew what it was. As a child in the public schools in 1940s and 1950's we learned the song

"My Grandfather's Clock"

"My grandfather's clock was too large for the shelf,
 So it stood ninety years on the floor;
 It was taller by half than the old man himself,
 Though it weighed not a penny-weight more.
 It was bought on the morn of the day that he was born,
 And was always his treasure and pride;
 But it stopp'd short — never to go again —
 When the old man died.
 Ninety years without slumbering (tick, tock, tick, tock),
 His life seconds numbering, (tick, tock, tick, tock),
 It stopped short never to go again when the old man died."



When I looked "Grandfather's Clock up in Wikipedia I was surprised to learn its popular history: There was a "The Czech version, sung by the country band Taxmeni,. My Grandfather's Clock" was often played in Britain on *Children's Favourites* . . . Johnny Cash covered the song on his 1959 album *Songs of Our Soil*. . . Evelyn Knight recorded the song for Decca Records. In 1959, it was included on the Four Lads' album, *Swing Along*. . . in Japan, singer Ken

Hirai performed a cover, which became massively popular in 2002. In March 1961, on his album *Swing Low*, Sam Cooke sang the song. . . Bing Crosby sang the song in a medley on his album *101 Gang Songs* (1961). The song was the inspiration for the 1963 *Twilight Zone* episode "Ninety Years Without Slumbering". The Big 3 recorded the song in their album "Live at the Recording Studio" in 1964. Garrison Keillor and the cast of the radio show *A Prairie Home Companion* recorded a parody titled "My Grandmother's Cat", telling the story of an old woman who overfed her cat until it was big enough to knock her down and try to eat her.

"My Grandfather's Clock" is a playable song in the 2008 video game *Wii Music*. This song was also used in the video game, *Five Nights at Freddy's 2*, made by Scott Cawthon. It was released on November 10, 2014.

The chorus of the song plays whenever a music box is wound up to keep one of the game's animatronic enemies away. It was also sung by Maple and Cinnamon in the third volume of *Nekopara* visual novel series. Fisher-Price from 1962-1968, had a toy clock when the dial turned, the music box played the song along with clock-like ticking and moving hands on the face of the clock." en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grandfather_clock Pat Ruffing



My great-grandfather, Andrew W. Crouch, was a Civil War Veteran born in 1849 traded this clock for a cow probably in the mid-1870's. It has been passed down in my family. As a child my grandfather, Oscar Crouch would hold me up and grandpa would make the clock spring "ping" for me. Kathy Bjorklund



What is It? table was a success again this year. Items on our table were picked up, turned over, tapped on the table and thoroughly inspected and a guess made. Lots of laughs and surprised looks were experienced when the answers were given. There were many correct answers also given by the guessers and our treat candy dish was soon depleted. Kathy Bjorklund

This is the story of America

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history—250 years of American Independence. "With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history," said President Trump of this momentous anniversary.

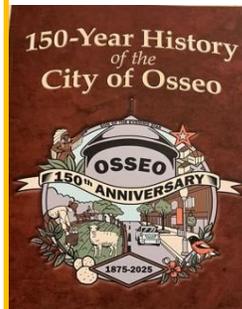


Call to Duty

Ron Wodtke, proud Marine Veteran at our display honoring "THE U.S. ARMY AMERICA'S FIRST NATIONAL INSTITUTION" Since its official establishment, June 14, 1775 — more than a year before the Declaration of Independence — the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation.



Osseo LIONS ROAR Weekend - Sept 5th & 6th



The book is a work of the Osseo 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee members.



A Modern Pioneer Woman

Maple Grove has had many valiant pioneer women, who were known only to their family and neighborhood.

The Maple Grove Historical Society recently received a gift from the family of Justine K Gould (1931-2019) one of these pioneer women, shown here.



Her family knew her as just “Mom” not a cool or ordinary mom, but one who worked with her hands all year. She spent January washing raw wool from her sheep, carding, spinning and knitting it into three-dimensional clothing.

February found her pouring over the voluminous seed catalogs that arrived by mail. She worked with the U of M Extension Program planning her summer gardens. March was her time for making maple syrup, the kind tapped in the local trees, and not the good kind like “Mrs. Butterworth” that could be bought at the grocery store.

The months of May through July were a time for planting, growing, picking fruits and vegetables, and preserving them. Justine was the leader of the Hennessy Hill 4-H Club and was on the Hennepin County Fair Board. She was a purple ribbon winner at the Minnesota State Fair for a crocheted bed spread. She was a gifted artist in textiles, which her kids didn’t appreciate because their home sewn patterns did not have designer labels. In fact, they had no clue their mother had been a Danforth girl. only one of 48 girls nationwide to attend a week-long camp to be a leader. They only knew that their mom had given their dad a red and white checkered tie; a gift mom had received from a Mr. Danforth (owner) of Purina Company.

August became apple season. October was pumpkin picking time; In November she would be seen selling wares at craft fairs, or being a Hennepin County Election Judge.

Winter she was inside making soap, rag rugs and spinning at her wheel near the fire place.

Their mom was a fabulous cook which as kids they didn’t recognize. They were used to eating like that every day. She made her own bread, homemade fresh jam, and had honey from her bees. She kept a hen house for eggs and chicken dinners! In her refrigerator she had a side of bacon wrapped in a towel, as she processed her own meat.

They also remember how much their mom loved words. She seemed to taste each word as she pronounced it. She wore her hair in a bun all her adult life. Lillies of the Valley her only perfume and on very select occasions she wore red lipstick. They were not sure they were proud of their mom as children. She was different!

Justine K Gould was a gift to her children and to us!





Minnesota Seedswomen 1890s-1900s”.

The Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society has been selected by the University of Minnesota’s Digital Library to be the inaugural host of the University’s newest traveling exhibit:. “ Seed catalogues were once a staple on everyone’s parlor table, town-folk, and farmers alike. Brimming with exquisite plant portraits and folk art they highlighted rural society’s interests, needs, and enterprises. Part of the University’s extensive online collection, their traveling banner-based exhibit highlights the little-known history of three Minnesota businesswomen in the seed & nursery trade at the turn of the 20th century. According to Molly Huber, MDL Outreach Coordinator for the Minnesota Digital Library, *“the traveling exhibit consists of three pop-up banners highlighting three seedhouses owned and run by Mrs. Jessie Prior, Miss Emma V. White and Miss Carrie Lippincott.”*

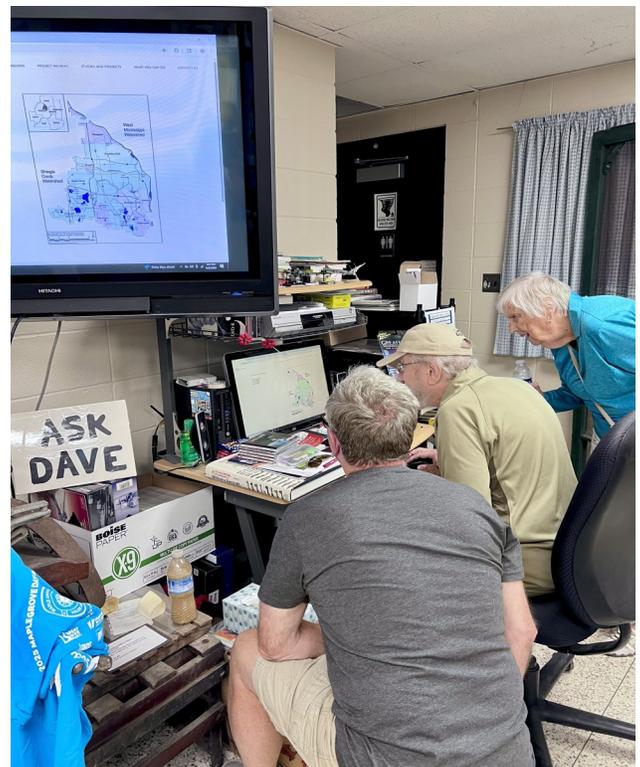
Al Madsen, President of the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society, and retired Maple Grove City Administrator, stated *“With agriculture a key factor in the early development of our community, we are honored to partner with the University of Minnesota as the inaugural host of this premier traveling exhibit. We’re excited that our residents are first to have the opportunity to view it in person at our museum’s Open House Events .”*



Karen De Haven and guest volunteer

Ask Dave

Dave was super busy looking up maps and properties on the computer.





November Newsletter

Making Maple Grove History at the 250th Anniversary of the United States

Please submit articles and photos about changes in Maple Grove History from 1776-2026. And how we would like to celebrate!

1776- The Dakota indigenous people lived in this area in the "big woods". The French voyageurs and fur traders were travelling through the area., Maple Grove lies West of the Mississippi River being part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

1826 In 1836 Maple Grove was part of the Wisconsin Territory. By 1844 ox carts start coming on the "woods trail" to St Paul. Pierre Gervais in 1851 was first settler in Maple Grove.

1876 Lumbering and milling big industries along with bigger farms in Maple Grove. The railroad and steamboats change transportation and the car and airplane are invented

1926 Prohibition 1920-1933, Women get to vote, WW I and II, Osseo 1924 is the 1st High School in the area.

1954 city incorporated. Maple Grove was still an agricultural community. Civil Rights movement. Korean Conflict and Vietnam War happen. 1974 Maple Grove becomes a city.

1976 1970s major freeways 94, 694, 494, 169 starts rapid growth of Maple Grove. Leader in gravel mining area in Metro. Population of MG increasing: housing, schools and churches were built. The Gulf War 1990 and Iraq War 2003 happen.

2026 "Maple Grove is fantastic retail, cultural, medical community with over 1600 businesses; outstanding Community Center with expansive park and recreation programs; largest Hindu Temple in Minnesota; a wide range of housing options; the beauty of many lakes; and yes "the restaurant capital of Minnesota!"

*History is a novel
for which the
people is the author."*

Maple Grove

Historical Preservation Society Officers

President - Al Madsen

Vice President - Pat Ruffing

Secretary - Karen Brajdich

Treasurer - Kathy Bjorklund

Virginia Hoppenrath

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 _____