

Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

35/2: Spring, 2014

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Membership Update & Donations

For the most up to date information:

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Happy Retirement Marlene

The end of April will mark the end of an era as our long term researcher Marlene Magnuson will retire, to spend more time with her family.

Marlene joined the Carver County Historical Society in 1998. She has been the voice for researchers' needs and the point person for research, and genealogy since then. There are many who have found themselves at a dead end, looking for a missing person in the family tree. Marlene has time and again found people that others have long since given up finding. A good example of this talent is illustrated in the center section of this newsletter, with "Finally, an Answer".



Marilyn and Marlene Menth

Marlene and her twin sister Marilyn were born near Watertown, to the parents, Roy and Luella Menth. She married Dale Magnuson and lived in Plymouth, Chanhassen and Mayer. Her lifetime of knowledge has been a blessing many times over in the research library. She has spent many hours working with the Watertown Area Historical Society and led the monthly Genealogy Club at the CCHS.



It is the intention of the CCHS to continue with the quality work Marlene has done over the years. It just might take us a little while to catch up. One thing is for sure, we will never be able to replace her.

All our best from everyone at the CCHS. Marlene has asked that she not have a retirement party but if you would like to stop in to wish her well....psst her last day is April 30th— she leaves at 3.

SNIPPETS

Please Welcome to our New Board Members

Wendy Petersen Biorn

I have been asked time and again in the last few months, "What is going on at the farm?" The farm, meaning the Peterson Farm. My standard answer is that I will give you all the facts I can, but will not go into the area of conjecture. As member, you deserve to know the facts. Here they are as of today.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, long-time CCHS supporter Ward Holasek died in December, 2013. The CCHS was listed in his will to receive various items including land and buildings that make up much of the historic Peterson Farm. As with any donation, large or small, our duty is to follow the donor's requests to the best of our ability.

Members of Ward's family are contesting the will, which means the court is now involved. The court is in the process of naming a neutral Special Administrator to help administer Ward's estate. The first person asked, turned down the position. Once an Administrator is named the probate process will be able to move forward. Ultimately, the court will resolve any open questions and rule on any disputes. We have full confidence in the court's ability to handle this matter fairly.

Out of respect for Ward, the CCHS has remained as quiet as possible with the press. We know our members are as passionate as we are about our community and its history, but we hope you will agree that we all owe it to Ward to remain focused on his vision for the Peterson Farm and to publicly express nothing but our sincerest gratitude for his generosity to the entire community. Getting caught up in speculation or accusation would serve no purpose and would be disrespectful to Ward's memory. It would also give the court no credit for its ability to sort things out.

Please be assured that we will keep you, our members, as informed as we can while honoring Ward and staying true to our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Carver County for generations to come.

Peter E. Gustafson

Peter is the Principal at the Clearwater Middle school in Waconia. This spring he will be retiring from this position and shifting to working with the CCHS. He has already agreed to be our Secretary. Peter bring to the table a wonderful knowledge of school programming and fundraising. He and his wife live in Waconia. In his spare time, what there is of it, he enjoying playing music and writing.

Richard Scott

Richard is the Director of Grants and Development for the Waconia Public Schools and the President of the Waconia-West Rotary. He has served on numerous non-profit boards over his career and is currently working on his Doctorate in Education. Richard is married to Debbie Scott who serves as a nurse manager at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. He has two sons. His oldest, Kris graduated from Iowa State, and is working as a design engineer at Garman. His youngest, Jeremy is currently in his second year at University of Minnesota pursuing a Bachelors of Arts degree in Language Arts and Theatre. His work with the CCHS has begun in earnest as he fills the big shoes of Treasurer David Porath, who passed away in 2013.

Mike Coleman

Mike is a long time member of the CCHS. He retired from the printing business portion of the Waconia Patriot, ten years ago. He and his wife Kathy have two children and one grandchild, who will soon be a year old. He has been a member of the East Union Church since 1976. There he has been researching the family history of the people who are buried at the East Union Cemetery. He has been a member of the cemetery committee for 20 years and is a committed genealogist.

News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society

Watertown Area Historical Society Presents 2014 Rails to Trails Events



During Watertown's Rails to Trails summer festival, the Watertown Area Historical Society, in collaboration with the River City Theatre Company, will present "A Cabin on Swede Lake." The play tells the story of the Justus family, the first white settlers in Watertown Township. There will also be an exhibit, live music, children's activities, silent auction and free refreshments. The events will take place at the Community Center. Dates and times are:

July 18: Performances at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hours 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

July 19: Performances at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Exhibit Hours 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Spring Cleaning?

Not sure what to do with that pile of old books? Or those old photos? Considering donating them!

What do historical societies want?

- High-school yearbooks
- Photographs and portraits— must be identified
- Civic group or club records and memorabilia
- Copies of family histories
- All items must have Carver County history



News from the Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society

Antique Calendars on Display

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society is currently displaying a collection of Antique Calendars dating back to 1905. The collection consists of forty-one (41) calendars from businesses that once existed in NYA, and some that still are here. Intricate designs vary from elegant to artistic to religious. The calendars will be on display through May. The Heritage Center is located at 102 E Main St. NYA and is open Tues. - Sat. 10:00 - 2:00. For Private tours call the Center at 952-467-4227

The Heritage Center is beginning to work on the display for this year's Stiftungsfest Heritage Tent Display. This year's title/theme has not been decided yet, but the plan is to do Gas Stations and Taverns of the past. If anyone has memorabilia or information on any of these types of businesses and would like to have your items displayed, please contact the Heritage Center. If you would like to do your own display and are hesitant about putting a display together, one of our current volunteers will be available to assist you.

Come visit us and experience a nostalgic journey down memory lane.

Finally, an Answer

The Vietnam War, like all wars, haunts those who fought. Those who were left behind and those who you will never know what happened to, are the most haunting. "Doc" Hall was a medic in 1970. He contacted the Carver County Historical Society looking for answers to a haunting question. What had happened to the "new guy", whom he treated and had air lifted out? The CCHS researcher, Marlene Magnuson, found the answer he had been looking for, for 44 years. He emailed the below account of that June 15th day in 1970, and gave permission to reprint it. We are proud to play a small part in this Veteran's search for answers and peace.



"Doc" Hall

MEDEVAC June 15, 1970

*Bravo Co. 1st platoon 2/35th June 15, 1970 stopped for noon break (map coordinates PL 247747) off of FSB Lance. Perimeter was hosed down at 1215 hrs. Three guys wounded (Herbie ****, Gary *****, and "new guy").*

Experience tells older guys that it is wise to lie down while eating in the field. "New Guys" haven't learned this lesson yet.

Result was that the "new guy" was hit inside the elbow resulting in a near traumatic amputation.

Arm was tourniqueted, bandaged and wrapped to body. Morphine given for pain. Dustoff requested.

Gary suffered a chest wound. Examination showed that for whatever reason the projectile did not penetrate completely into the body cavity and small completely round wound was bleeding but not profusely and there was no evidence of froth as from sucking chest. Wound was cleaned and bandaged and patient calmed. Not deemed serious but needed to be evacuated.

Dustoff on station at 1305 but no clearing large enough to accommodate. Jungle penetrator lowered from 50 feet to jungle floor.

Then followed the biggest goof of this medic's life.

The penetrator was lowered through a hole in the trees and landed in a large jumble of fallen trees and branches.

To accommodate getting "new guy" to the penetrator this medic had a couple of men walk through the jumble to the penetrator, pick it up and moved it 15 - 20 feet closer to "New Guy".

"New guy" was strapped to penetrator and lift was begun.

Laws of physics quickly kicked in. Not sure of the exact law but something to the affect of a pendulum moved off of dead center will over correct both ways when freed from obstructions.

As the lift began and grip was lost on the "new guy" and the penetrator this law was demonstrated in a horrible fashion.

Immediately upon lift penetrator and "new guy" swung wildly in the opposite direction of center from where we were standing. The "new guy" achieved a height of perhaps 6 - 8 feet when penetrator and "new guys" body banged into a tree.

The lift continued through this as the pendulum swung back toward us and then back toward the tree a 2nd time. Fortunately much of the sideways momentum had been scrubbed by the initial impact and the 2nd swing only brushed tree slightly as the lift continued.

A third swing in the direction of the offending tree didn't quite reach it and the penetrator arrived at the chopper and "new guy" was pulled on board.

All this with a near traumatic amputation! The only redeeming fact in the whole circus was that affects of the morphine had apparently set in by this time.

I was dazed and embarrassed (as I am to this day) by the entire spectacle.

But life wouldn't wait. I still had work to do.

The plans were to send out the new guy via the penetrator but to wait for the chest wound until we could find a suitable area to actually land a chopper. I deemed Gary ambulatory enough to walk assisted for a short period rather than to risk more than one man on the penetrator in a questionably secure area.