



Volume 24, Issue 2
September 2019

Upcoming Events

- *Henderson Roll-in EVERY Tuesday through October*
- *Southern Minnesota Book Fair—Henderson Event Center Saturday October 5th*

Museum open EVERY Sunday 2-5 PM through October

Sibley County Historical Society Newsletter

Every Piece Has A Story: The Crazy Quilt

The Sibley County Museum features hundreds if not thousands of pieces donated from all across the region. Each piece tells a story not only about its original holder, but also a more important story about its era and uses.

A feature item to be kept for display and accession into the museum is a beautifully made Victorian era "Crazy Quilt". It has been offered by Terry

Dempsey of New Ulm. He has stated that it was made by Fanny Lawrence. He remembers her living in Henderson with his grandparents, John and Christie Dempsey. Christy Oberst Dempsey was the niece of Miss Lawrence.

"Crazy" in the name of textiles of this type, refers to the random shapes of multiple fabrics and embellishments used in these



An intricate pattern seems to be quite random, but was actually meticulously thought out. These quilts were of course made by hand and are hard to come by.

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Every Piece Has It's Story: Crazy Quilt Cont.

projects. Fanny Lawrence had been a dressmaker and must have saved scraps of velvet, brocade, satin, silk and ribbon from her work, which she then used in crafting this example.

Crazy quilts were popular from the late 1870s to 1900. Early quilts made in the crazy style were more show pieces than functional and were often made as smaller unquilted "lap robes" that were used to decorate the parlor. They were fitting showpieces for the lavish interior decoration of the day. These quilts were usually made using velvet, silk and brocade fabric, cut and pieced in random shapes.

Members of a special interest group from the Scott County Historical Society recently visited the museum to view this quilt in August and stated that it was one of the most unique pieces they have ever seen.

Originally these quilts were made by those women in the wealthy classes who had the time and the money for the expensive fabric. Before long, other women got in on the fad and found ways to make their own crazies. Also packets of silk scraps from mills and factories were sold inexpensively through mail order were sold making this style of quilting affordable for more women.

Due to the nature of most of these quilts being made of silk, they can deteriorate rather quickly. It is important that we keep this piece in the pristine condition that it is. The quilt is not yet on display in the museum but once able to be accessioned it will have a proper place on display. If stopping by and you would like to see it, make sure to ask a guide!



More images of the crazy quilt. There is no exact way in which these were done, but often it was meticulously planned where each piece would go.



Harvest before Machinery

Could you imagine harvesting a crop of corn by hand? Of course before machinery was around things like that were always done by hand. To make the process easier a glove or a tool like the one on the right was attached to your hand to assist with the shucking of corn. Back in the era before

machines, crops were a lot smaller and it was not uncommon to grow only to sustain your family and your animals.

The museum is is full of lots of machinery and tools from Sibley County's early stages and can be found in the basement. Make sure to check them out and schedule a tour today!



Gloves and tools like the one of the right have been used since the 19th century in various forms. Dependent upon what you could afford some families used them well into the 1950's

Sibley County Fair 2019 was a Success!



Hopefully you were able to make it to the 150th anniversary of the first ever Sibley County Fair. There was a great turnout this year with over 800 visitors signed into the guestbook. There were visitors from both near and far. The furthest visitor was from St. Petersburg, Russia! If you were unable to attend there

were WWI uniforms presented along with an interactive display of making corn meal and making thread from flax. Our featured flax boards date back to the late 1700s to early 1800s and were brought here by the Frenzel family.

The corn grinder was used to process and make corn into corn meal.

There was also a game in which guests were asked to guess what an item was and there were a lot of great entries but the closest ones as well as pictures of what they were are featured on page 4.

It was another great year at the fair and yet again the volunteers did an exceptional job putting on a great display and explaining some Sibley County history!



A Major Project is Underway: Progress makes Perfect



Luke Koran (left) and Todd Sasse add items to the museum's catalog.

Starting in February a major project began at the Sibley County Historical Society. A team has documented and cataloged over 9,500 objects. It is expected that by the end of their two year project they will have cataloged over 20,000 items in the museum. This project is funded by a nearly

\$100,000 grant from the Minnesota historical Society. There are items in the basement, main floors or the museum as well as multiple rooms up stairs and a very large attic. Each item is being added to a spreadsheet to be used for future reference to quickly locate an item in the Museum's possession.

Mission Statement

The objective of the Historical Society shall be the collection, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Sibley County and to relate it to the history of Minnesota.

Membership Fees

\$25 per year

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?????

Museum Hours

The museum opens on Memorial Day and continues Sundays
2:00 — 5:00 P M

Admission

Members are admitted free & Non-member cost is \$5 per person.

Meet Your Research Committee!

They are here for your convenience! Together the ladies have been volunteering at the museum for a combined 65 years. These wonderful ladies welcome visitors on Thursdays, as well as by appointment when requested in advance. They have access to ancestry files as well as catalogs dating back to early settlers.



Don't forget about Genealogical Resources!

Genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country! We are so very fortunate that our new office addition allows for us to better serve those who are seeking genealogy information. We have volunteers who will do research. For said services, a \$10/hour fee is assessed or the purchase of a Sibley County Historical Society membership is requested.

If you are interested in doing your own research, an appointment can be made for a volunteer to be available to assist you. The fee for this service is \$10.00 per hour as well, plus \$.50 per copy of requested material. A research request form is available on the Historical Society website, you may also send your request via email at: sibleycountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

507-248-3434

Call to schedule an appointment today!

Do you know what these items are?



Winners!

Item 1: Wallace Olson—Cokato

Item 2: John Niebuhr—Gibbon

At the Sibley County Fair this year there was a contest to guess what these items from history are. There were hundreds of guesses and now is the time to find out what they are! The item on the left is a clay brick... not just any clay brick but one used for polishing silver. The item on the right is a tool that was used to sharpen a cross cut saw! The winners received a year's complementary membership.

Gaylord Eggstrvaganza Exhibit



This year at Eggstrvaganza the them was Boots on the Ground, which paid tribute to

those who saved in all wars. This year the Historical society was asked to loan out some items from our collection to be on display during the festival. Our volunteers were present to answer questions and tell about the pieces on display. The museum has a new approval process for loaning out items such as these. We love to show what we have at the museum, although we prefer you see it in person, with proper approval items like These war



memorabilia can be loaned out. For more information please call the museum at 507-248-3434.

Research Happenings





A fun example of what the research committee can do using our access to genealogical resources is to access ancestry.com. One of the researchers looked up a family name from Sibley County and came across the John Pomplun family. His lineage dates back to Prussia in 1918 where and when he was born. At age 56, he embarked on a journey across the sea and arrived home in Arlington where he lived up until his death at the age of 63, in December of 1881. He was married to Wilhelmina and had 10 children. His family tree is shown to the right. The research committee uses all kinds of methods to track down information when

requested. For this search they checked Sibley County Land Patents, and then confirmed the named and dates with the courthouse in Sibley County. There are other things to check for more information such as surname files, which may include obituaries and our local newspaper articles, the Family History Book Collection, church records and what ever else they may know of that could lead to findings on a given name. If you wish to place your own Family History for posterity at the museum or wish to help with research please phone the museum at 507-248-3434 or email sibley-countyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Family

Parents

Spouse & Children

-  **Wilhelmine/Wilhelmina**
1829-1898
-  **Wilhelm/William B Pomplun**
1847-1904
-  **Herman/Edward Pomplun/Pumplun**
1852-1916
-  **Karoline Augusta Amalie Pomplun**
1855-
-  **Wilhelmine Pomplun**
1858-
-  **Emilie Pomplun/Pomplin/Pomplum/Pumplum**
1861-
-  **Alvina/Elvina Pomplun/Pumplun**
1864-1925
-  **Amalia Pomplun/Pomplin/Pomplum/Pumplum**
1865-
-  **Otilia Pomplun/Pumplun**
1866-
-  **Edward Pomplun**
1869-1940
-  **Lousia/Louise Pumplun**
1872-1875



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