

# SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter ~ September 2020

700 Main Street \* P.O. Box 407 \* Henderson, Minnesota 56044  
 Phone: (507) 248-3434 \* www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com \* schs1@frontiernet.net



### From the President:

WELCOME TO AUTUMN IN SIBLEY COUNTY!

Dear Friends,

As we are kept apart from one another during these unprecedented times, the SCHS Board has agreed that the Museum remain closed until the end of January 2021. At that time, we will reassess the situation. As a board, we take quite seriously the health and safety of our members, our visitors, and our volunteers and came to the decision to remain closed mainly due to close quarters of stairs and hallways, it is difficult to stay six feet apart and adequately social distance.

Even though the museum is not open, there are still ongoing expenses and scheduled projects. Utilities and maintenance continue, and the entrance exterior steps and iron hand railing leading to the front porch are desperately in need of repair and painting. This will begin by the time this newsletter reaches you. To assist us with our porch project and to help cover expenses until we can open our doors again, please consider making a financial gift to the Museum. Please send the form below with any donation to: Sibley County Historical Society, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

As we anxiously await the reopening of the Museum, and keep busy planning new exhibits to whet your appetite and extoll the rich historical fabric of our wonderful community; the first day of fall is in our midst and we bid summer farewell. Pumpkins and mums will soon appear on our front stoops. Scarecrows, too! Please stay safe and know how much we miss seeing you.

Sincerely,  
 Jeff DuCharme

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THIS GIFT TO SUPPORT SCHS IS FROM:

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form with your gift.

History is not for you to like or dislike. It is for you to learn from. And if it offends you even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to us all.  
 Unsourced quote

## Women's Suffrage – The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Some women in the US were thinking and saying that women should have the right to vote years before passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an early leader in the suffrage movement. When the last of her brothers died in 1826, the one who had finished college and returned home to study law under Judge Stanton, their father said, "Oh, my daughter, I Wish you were a boy!" There were no women in legal practice in that era, "but why not," she must have asked herself.

Through the subsequent years she and like-minded women tried to get attention to the many rights denied, especially to married women. An example, inherited property upon marriage became the property of the husband to sell or use any way he wished. Even children were "property" of the father. The right to vote seemed to become the main goal that led to the suffrage movement. When colored people in the south were freed because of Lincoln's 1864 Emancipation Proclamation, during Civil War, black men were given the right to vote, but voting was still denied to all women, white or colored.

After the US entered "the War to End all Wars" in 1917 President Wilson spoke to congress in support for women's suffrage, describing it as a war measure. During the war, millions of men left their jobs for military service. Women were left to fill those jobs and provide care for their families. The attempt in congress to pass the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment failed. Advocates tried again; it passed in congress and was ratified by the required three fourths of the states. Tennessee had the honor of being the 36<sup>th</sup> and final state needed as there were 48 states then. In 1920 the law of the land stated, **"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."**

An August 15, 1906, letter of explanation from the Minnesota Attorney General E.T. Young stated: *I have therefore concluded, under the circumstances, for reasons stated, to recommend, that the votes of women be received at the coming primary, using separate ballots and separate boxes, so that if, after the election, any interested party desires to take the question into the courts it can be conveniently done.*

Very conspicuous in the display is a pink ballot box! It is a recent donation from the City of Henderson. Can it be assumed this box was prepared for local ladies to use in 1906? Pink, since ancient times, has been the color denoting femininity. This pink ballot box had been stored in a dark corner in the basement of the 1879 Sibley County Courthouse, now the Henderson Community Building and Henderson City offices.

By 1920 the Suffragists had prevailed. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment had become part of the Constitution. Pink ballot boxes were no longer needed.

Form No. 1.  
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This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is governed by the regulations of the sender in the face of the conditions stated above.

THOS. T. BOBERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ REF. BY \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED at 11 36 Collected 11 36

Dated Nov 1 1894

To Attorney General  
Henderson Minn.

*Attorney General has held that women should use regular ballot*  
Andrew Erwin Clerk

This telegram in museum archives, dated November 1, 1894, was the official notice to the Sibley County Auditor that this year, "women should use the regular ballot" and it is assumed that in this election, the same ballot box could be used by men and women.



### NEW AUBURN VOTING BOOTH Research Committee

New Auburn Township was officially established in 1858 with settlement beginning in 1855. Area residents voted in "High Island Precinct" according to the *Sibley County Independent*, the only newspaper in the county at the time.

Museum visitors will see a new display which includes a New Auburn Township voting booth donated in 2018. It is in good condition and has a patent date of 1888 underneath the desk surface. The name of the township officer to whom the booth was shipped is also very legible. The green cloth privacy curtains appear to be replacements. The main subject of the display is the long struggle for Women's Suffrage, resulting 100 years ago in ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.

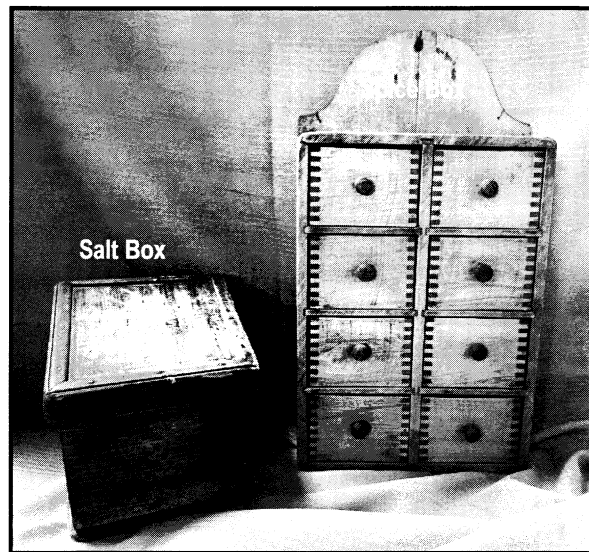
## Summer Brings Abundance

Long ago life in Sibley County was ordered by the season. Town or country, seed time or harvest mattered to businesses, gardeners, farmers, and every school! Production, harvest, and preservation of food for humans and animals was seasonal, the necessary activities were time sensitive. Especially at harvest time, children were kept at home to help. School attendance was less important than helping get those rows of filled canning jars marching like soldiers on cellar shelving. For farm families nothing was more important than "bringing in the sheaves". Methods of harvest and threshing changed with machinery development but all methods were labor intensive.

### An Old Spice Box by Arlene Busse

There is an old spice box, one of which I have, but the museum does not, which I will offer to the collections committee for consideration. A question of that committee is always, "What is the connection of this object to Sibley County?" The answer will be, "It was found in Gaylord in a shed at the home of Flossie Harper Miller after her death in 1965."

The census of 1895 finds Flossie's family living with her grandparents, Fred and Mary Korth in Henderson. The 1910 census shows Flossie, age 16, living in Gaylord with her divorced mother, Rosa Harper, her brother and their widowed grandmother, Mary Korth. Perhaps the spice box of interest here, came along from the Korth home in Henderson



In the era of common use of spice boxes, each drawer had its own spice source such as nutmegs, cinnamon sticks, vanilla beans, and peppercorns. Kitchens, at that time, would have had spice grinders and graters. Dried herbs from garden or store and spices and flavorings were kept in special boxes and containers.

Salt had its own lidded box because of the quantity needed. Food processing (especially meats) and mealtime flavoring required extra salt.

## Summer Kitchens

### *Summer Kitchen in the Poehler Home*

Construction of the August Poehler home in Henderson was completed in 1884. At the west end of the house was a room they called, "the summer kitchen". There is a photograph of the house, from the late 1880's, showing the summer kitchen section. Armin Poehler, one of the sons of August and Emily, visited his childhood home many years ago after it had become the Sibley County Museum.

He was interviewed during his visit and confirmed that his family used the summer kitchen during the hot summer months. He explained that the big cookstove from the kitchen was moved into the summer kitchen. The protective cover over the hole for the stove pipe (called a "thimble") was removed and the crimped end of the stove pipe pushed into the hole.

The summer kitchen had two doors and two windows, one pair facing south, the other facing north, allowing for cross ventilation. The wash lines were reached via the north door by the "hired girl" of the time, employed to help his mother. The hired girl very likely built a fire in the stove every morning and kept it going all day for meal preparation, for baking, canning, and for heating water for laundry and for use in the upstairs bathroom. A door between the kitchens kept the interior of the house a little more comfortable. Family meals were eaten in the main kitchen: company joined adults in the dining room at meal time.

### *Other Summer Kitchens*

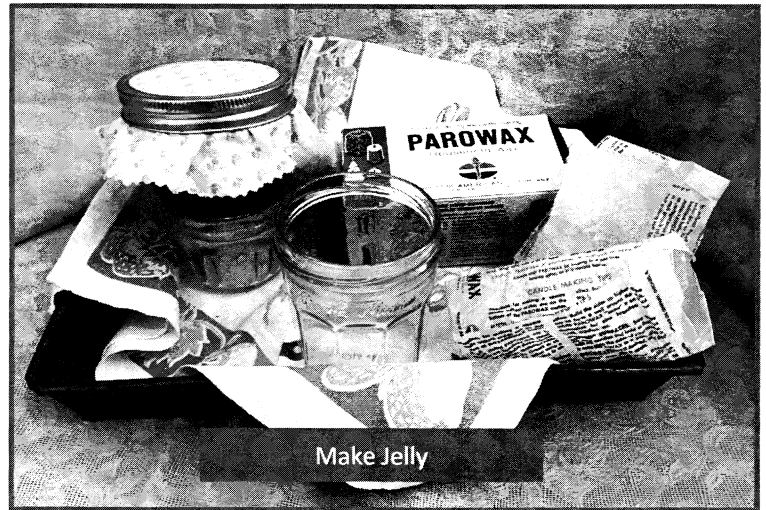
Summer kitchens may have been considered a luxury but on large farms they were almost a necessity. They provided a place where a farm wife could do her canning and cooking, clean garden produce and feed groups of hired men several times a day. For large groups as at harvest time, food was prepared in the summer kitchen and served outside under a nearby shade tree.

The little building was located close to the main house. Using it helped keep the home's kitchen clean and during the hot summer days of farm work, a little cooler.

# 1860-1960 SIBLEY COUNTY



Apple Cider Press

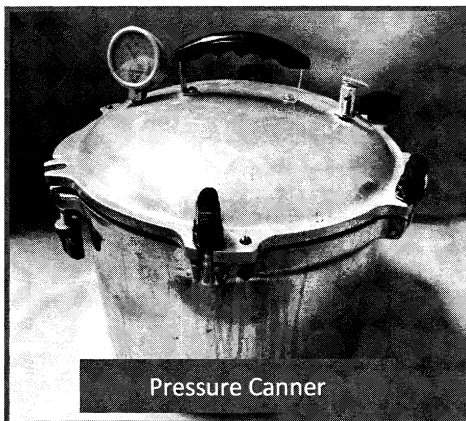


Make Jelly

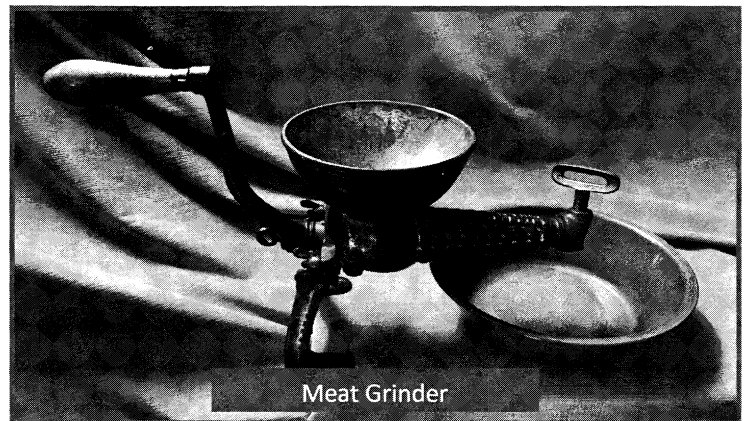


Cabbage Cutters

1. An apple press could help with preservation. Apple juice, apple cider, apple butter, would all taste good in the winter.
2. Making jam or jelly provided a sweet treat for breakfast or for those school lunch box sandwiches. Wax for sealing jelly glasses or jam jars came from bee hives or grocery stores.
3. Cabbage cutters came in several sizes and were needed in producing sauerkraut. For some families kraut may have been their main winter source for vitamin C.
4. Pressure canners were recommended for safe preservation of low acid vegetables and all types of meat.
5. Hog butchering often happened on a cold November day. "Odds and ends" of pork were ground and casings stuffed at the same time, producing sausage links. A meat grinder did the job.
6. Dozens of stoneware or glass jars full of fruit, vegetables or meat were a necessity for every family.



Pressure Canner



Meat Grinder

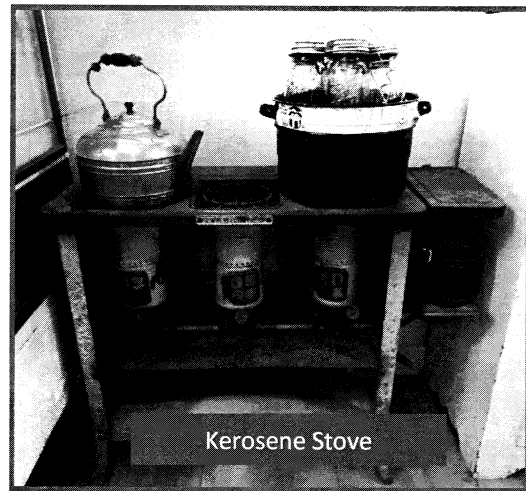
Just  
Think...

No electricity was used for food preservation in the hay day of summer. Items shown came from Sibley County donors. Mc

# MUSEUM'S SUMMER KITCHEN

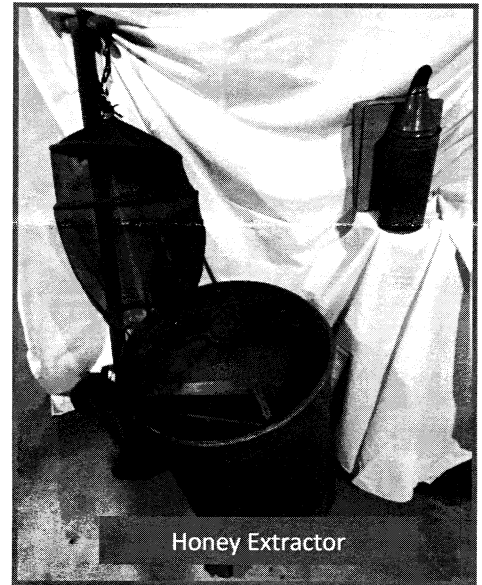


Stoneware Jars

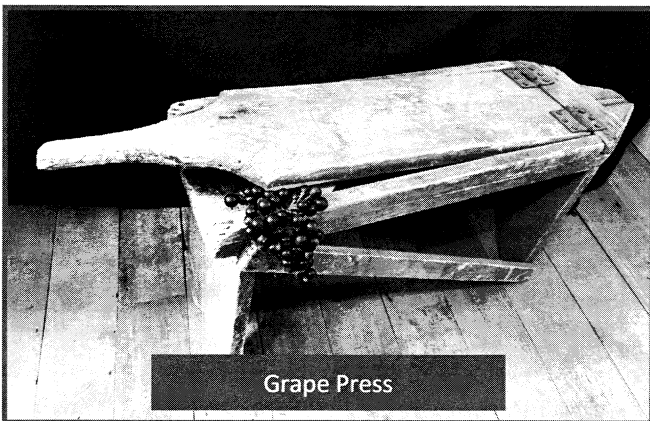


Kerosene Stove

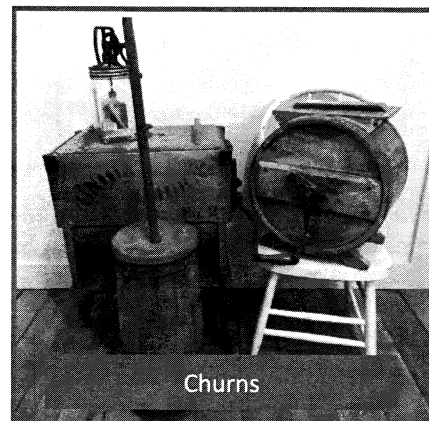
7. Kerosene stoves were found in many summer kitchens, used for meal preparation and food processing, heating the wash boiler or pressure cooker.
8. This honey extractor had a messy job, separating that golden honey from wax combs. A beehive with hundreds of worker bees provided the labor force for a very labor intensive preservation job.
9. Small blue grapes grew wild, nurseries sold stock for home vineyards. A grape press was needed to produce grape juice in quantity. Grape juice, grape jelly, grape wine, all were found on dinner tables
10. Herds of milk cows lived at every farm, many town families had one cow in the back yard. Cream was removed from milk by machine or skimmed from containers when a layer of cream rose to the top. Butter in large quantities was churned for large families or for barter at the general store. Churns of differing ages and materials are exhibited here.



Honey Extractor



Grape Press



Churns

er kitchens. No plastic containers or plastic wrap boxes were found in pioneer kitchens. items were used between 1860 and 1960 and could still be used today.

## Veterans Day—11-11-11

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the armistice with Germany went into effect. November 11th, 1919 marked the first observance of Armistice Day in the United State. However, it was not until congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926 requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue a proclamation calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies to honor World War I veterans. A congressional act approved on May 13, 1938, made each November 11 a legal holiday. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day which honors those who died while in military service, and all who have died. In May, civilians and veteran are remembered with visits to local cemeteries and placement of flowers on graves of loved ones, In most cemeteries, small U.S. flags are placed on graves of veterans from every war. Civil War veterans can be found in most Sibley County cemeteries.

### **WEAR A POPPY: to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform**

A red poppy on any day can make a patriot feel reverent and appreciative for the sacrifices made by the U.S. servicemembers killed in the line of duty. Since 1921 the poppy has been the official flower of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Millions of ALA red crepe paper poppies, most of which are handmade, are distributed nationwide for donations. The money collected directly supports veterans and their families. At one time, only military veterans were allowed to make poppies as a form of rehabilitation. They were and are paid for making poppies. However, today, anyone can coordinate with an Auxiliary unit to make poppies.

A U.S. Air Force veteran from Iowa Veterans' Home tells of his poppy-time since 1979.

*I'm 80 years old and I am still going, making these poppies. I will keep going until my hands won't let me. I could probably make them in my sleep after doing it for so many years. I wake up sometimes and I realize I just dreamt about making poppies! These days I mostly make the large, long-stemmed red poppies. It takes a lot of time and a lot of patience to make them. It's as therapy to help us out.*

*My poppy production averages at about 2,000 per month. It keeps me busy. The Auxiliary supports us here with donations to the veterans' home. Yeah, I'm kind of proud to make these flowers. I know they help people all over who are like me.*

Excerpt from Auxiliary magazine/May 2020—UNKOWN VETERAN

*Flowers of Remembrance covered the hastily dug graves with bright flowers. Each spring the poppies return as if to perpetuate a pledge that freedom should never die.*

WE SHALL NOT SLEEP  
In Flanders fields  
the poppies blow  
Between the Crosses,  
row on row,

That mark our place;  
and in the sky  
The larks still bravely  
singing fly,  
Scarce heard amidst  
the guns below.

We are the dead,  
Short days ago we lived,  
felt dawn,  
saw sunset glow.  
Loved and were loved,  
and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel  
with the foe,  
To you from falling hands  
we throw the Torch  
be yours to hold it high;  
IF ye break faith  
with us who die,

We shall not sleep.  
though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."

"We Shall Not Sleep"  
By Col. John Mac Crae  
WWI Canadian Surgeon

**Share Your Talents...**Please Contact the Museum  
SCHS/Displays, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044

There is excitement to find if YOU are anxious to help capitalize on this magnificent inventory in order TO CREATE DISPLAYS. Two volunteers, Arlene and Marie, prefer to assist others with these displays and then become more semi-retired. The challenge is (1) to develop a theme—large or small, (2) design an arrangement, (3) locate items to showcase, and (4) move items into a setting. The museum's itemized inventory is stored on the computer. Locations are given to find what is needed. Leg-work is required to retrieve items then record their new location. And of course, there come (5) time to dismantle displays.

If you are waiting to participate in these future exhibit projects, please contact SCHS!

## Jeff Steinborn's Discovery

June 27, 28, 29, 2020, history will tell of another Henderson story. A cave (pot hole) appeared in the parking lot at 305 Main Street. Exploration began with Don Boehne excavating and revealing the makings of a 1950's Bomb Shelter. Jenny Tesch Sissons fulfilled a dream of becoming an archeologist by descending down a ladder into this shelter.

From --Henderson Then and Now p. 655

### *Buesing's Bomb Shelter*

*The house once at 305 Main Street was owned by the late Albert Buesing. During the "cold war" after the 1950's Korean Conflict, Civil Defense advisors began to encourage preparation for atomic warfare. Buesing had a bomb shelter prepared in the yard near his house. It was a fairly elaborate underground structure built by cement mason LeRoy Kahle of Henderson Township. The remains of it were demolished by Dewaine Olson when the car wash was erected in 1979.*

The 30 inch thick cement walls formed a small room intended for protection from any Cold War dramatic happenings. Several cement steps were dug up which must have served as one entry way. More exciting was the culvert coming from the house to allow tunnel travel between house and shelter.

Two single beds, a full-size cook stove with a large vent, corn sheller machine, several milk cans were the large artifacts discovered and photographed by Jenny. One wall had a door which led to a possible, small closet. Another wall had a dangling shelf. Hooks and nails were so placed into the cement to hang-up something?



Interesting latches were observed; three milk cans survived. No gun was discovered but a gun cleaning brush was hanging near the stove. Jenny wore high water boots to explore the shelter hoping for more treasures. She tried to rescue some old wet newspapers which crumbled after being dried out.

The ceilings consisted of steel beams with alternating wood panels. Each of the four

corners had vents extended to the outside. Interesting speculation was that the shelling machine shelled corn so cobs would be burned in the stove. Some straw was noted on the springs of one bed perhaps serving as mattress filler. A few empty jars with lids appeared. Did the milk cans contain their water supply?



The three rescued remnants of Buesing's shelter are a rusty milk can, the cement steps, and the cook stove's crumpled vent.

### **"Duck and Cover"**

The 50's also introduced the "Duck and Cover" drills in schools. When alerted, people were instructed to hold their hands and arms over their head and neck then duck under a piece of furniture to create protection from potential enemy bombings. Drills aimed to educate the public on what ordinary people could do to protect themselves. They were a part of President Truman's Federal Civil Defense Administration.

In 1951, the FDCA hired an ad agency to create a film illustrating Duck and Cover procedures. As cheery music played, the animated hero, Bert the Turtle, drops to the ground ("Duck!!") and retreats into his shell ("Cover!!") after an explosion. Thus the students learned to act like Bert. In the early 50's, Americans were aware of what actually could happen when an atomic bomb exploded. The "Duck and Cover" drill was the idea to warn not frighten school children while taking part in these drills.

Thank you, Jenny Sisson, for your exploration, photographs, and sketch!!