

# BCHS NEWSLINES

MARCH 2009

## BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

### 2009 "WOMEN MAKING HISTORY" HONOREES

The Women Making History Banquet was Sunday, March 29, 2009!

A social hour, then our luncheon with stuffed chicken breast was served. The programming included the debut of the Benton County History PowerPoint .

The Women Making History were honored, with biographies read by the Board Members and they all received plaques and a pottery gift!

A great time was had by all!

Our honorees this year were: Marilyn Kaschmitter, Elizabeth "Libby" Levinski, Mary Linn, Sue Turch and our Junior Honoree was Amanda Woolsey!

On pages two and three of this newsletter you will be able to find the biographical information on all our great honorees!



Congratulations to our 2009 Women Making History nominees!

### Upcoming Workshop with Minnesota Historical

Bob Herskovitz, from Minnesota Historical Society will be at our Museum on May 13th, 2009 to do a workshop on preservation of heirloom artifacts. The programming: "Preserving Family History; Minnesota's Greatest Generation" will start at 1:30pm and be approximately 2 hours long. We have limited spacing for this event, but have a few spots open, so bring a friend and some of your items to learn how to preserve them!

**No cost to participants, but please register at 253-9614 or by email at : [bchsmus@charterinternet.com](mailto:bchsmus@charterinternet.com).**

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**“Pure love is a willingness to give without a thought of receiving anything in return.”  
-Peace Pilgrim and pacifist**

### Mary Linn

Mary Linn has been a lifelong resident of Rice, Minnesota. She and her husband Art raised two daughters.

Her dedication to community involvement can be noted in a number of ways!

She served as a sacristan for more than 15 years at Immaculate Conception Church and received the Medal of Merit from Bishop Hanus in 1989. Mary also served as Eucharist Minister and Host Counter for several years.

Mary worked at the Rice Ele-

mentary School in which she cooked and served lunch for the children at Rice Elementary School for 18 years.

In the last 15 years of her life she has used her love for serving the community to make baby quilts. She has donated 50 to 60 a year to New Beginnings and the Mission office.

Mary sews the quilts at home and ties them with the Church In The Pines women group for donations

to homeless shelters.

Mary has also served an election judge for the City of Rice.



### Elizabeth “Libby” Levinski

Libby Levinski has lived in Rice approximately 48 year! She has made the area her home in more ways that one!

She is currently a member of and participating in the following community activities: RSVP, Election Judge, Sauk Rapids VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 6992, Rice American Legion Auxiliary Post 473, CERT and Immaculate Conception Christian Women. She retired in 2004, but after retirement she read an

article in the local newspaper recruiting volunteers through Catholic Charities for a foster Grandparents program. Libby inquired to see if this program was available at the Rice Elementary School. Libby was involved in bringing the program to the school. She thought the teachers could use the additional help, and that it would be a great way to be involved with the community. Libby assists with

reading, math, learning to count, alphabet, and word cards. The program currently has a total of 3 foster Grandparents at the school committing 15 hours a week. You will find Libby at the program on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. She also can be found helping at Kids Club and Summer School as she feels these programs are very challenging and rewarding.

### Marilyn Kaschmitter

Marilyn’s contributions to the community started with her interest as a Benton County 4-H leader in the Sauk Rapids community.

Volunteering for 4-H she was involved in the Home Economics committee, poultry, rabbit leadership, and helping area youth exhibit their projects. In 1996, she received the “Honorary 4-H Member” award

and in 2005, she awarded the “Benton County Pioneer” honor.

Marilyn is also involved with the Benton County Agricultural Society. She has served as a Fair board Member for 26 years.

Besides being a Fair Board Member, she also has been involved with Benton/Mille Lacs County Farm Bureau

helping with their educational Scavenger Hunt.

Marilyn continues her volunteer service by supporting Birthline since 1973. In the present time, she is involved with their “Stepping Stones” program .

Volunteering at church is completes her volunteering working with the Widow’s Support Group making Prayer blankets for the sick.

### Sue Turch

Sue Turch was married Al Turch in 1937 and they built their life in the Sauk Rapids community raising children and running their business of Turch Jewelry for many years.

Sue has been involved in education and politics for as many years.

Her devotion to the community reached beyond the borders of the local community as she started an Education Group for the Independent Republicans in the 1940's. She continued as an energetic advocate for the Re-

publican Party, holding district meetings at her home, trying to instill into people the importance of having respect and being involved in your community.

Attending the National Women's Conference in the 70's as a delegate, two Presidential inaugurations, and a Life Member with Charter Member Honor Roll Award of the Republican Presidential Task Force are just a few of the highlights from her volunteering.

Sue participated as a delegate of the Daughters of Isabella earning Sue an outstanding achievement award

In 1991 she received the Life Human Action Council's distinguished Award for "Outstanding Efforts to Defend the God Given Right To Life".

She also taught religion classes at Sacred Heart, St Augusta and Royalton.



Volunteering helps everyone!

### Amanda Woolsey

Amanda Woolsey is the daughter of Amy and Bill Woolsey of Sauk Rapids. Two siblings, Amelia and Will complete the family.

Amanda is a Junior at Sauk Rapids - Rice High School. She is very involved in the community and at school. Out in the community she helps out on Wednesdays at her church. She is the leader of 2nd graders for a program they call RAD. She is part of the youth group/service team and teaches Vacation Bible School for a week each summer. She volunteers at Trout Lake Camps for a few weeks each summer as either a counselor or staff member

working where she is needed at the camp.

Amanda has been on two Mission trips: one to New Mexico to build houses and the other to Toronto working in the inner city with the homeless. She says both were amazing experiences!

In her School life she manages to be part of the Swim Team and is the Swimming and Diving Captain. She is also part of the National Honor Society. Amanda participates in the LINK program which introduces Freshman students to the High School program.

She also serves with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and finds time to participate in the Service Club at Sauk Rapids-Rice.

In the time she has left between school and community, she works at the YMCA as a life-guard!

Her free time she says she loves to be outdoors and with friends.

Thanks to Amanda for being our Junior Honoree for 2009!

## Volunteer Appreciation Week- April 19th-25th



During the week of April 19th-25th, we will be taking the time to honor all the volunteers that helped us at the Benton County Historical Society!

We will have cookies and coffee at the Museum and are holding a small dinner for our volunteers! We will be sending out invitations for our Banquet!

There are many things that would not be possible without our volunteers participating in helping out with events, in the museum, folding newsletters, walking cemeteries, cleaning, sorting donations, office help, transcribing oral interviews and working on display projects!

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!**

### Board Members Wanted!



Do you have the interest to be a Board of Director Member?

The Board recently accepted the resignations of two of our Board Members at our March 2009 meeting.

Ken Schiller and Bob Moon have resigned as of February, 2009, both quoting: "personal reasons."

The Board and Members of Benton County Historical Society would like to thank them for the donation of time and energy to the organization over their years of service!

The Board of Directors will now be considering applications ap-

pointing new Board Members to complete the terms of Ken Schiller ( until Sept .-2009) and Bob Moon. ( until Sept.-2010).

We have applications for Board Member positions available at the Museum for members who would like to fill them out for Board consideration. We can also mail, email or fax a copy to you if you are interested in joining the BCHS Board!

Here's the information you may need to know:

- 1. You must be member of the BCHS organization.
- 2. You must be a resident of Benton County **OR** have owned an established business in Benton County for a minimum of 10 consecutive years. Only 2 members of the Board can be non-resident members.
- 3. Time availability on the third Tuesday of every month for a monthly Board Meeting and special events.

### Memberships Renewed and New-Thank You!

#### RENEWED

Bernie Wesenberg  
 Cecil Wade  
 Mary Agnes Shimota  
 Granite Care Home  
 Sauk Rapids Herald  
 St. Cloud Retired Educators Ass. Of MN  
 Robert E. Rofidal  
 Steve Warzecha  
 Arnold & Ardelle Evensen

Robert & Patricia Danaher  
 Deidre Brossard

#### NEW

James & Pamela McMahon  
 Sauk Rapids American Legion

**Members  
 are  
 essential  
 to our  
 success!**



Every little bit counts!

### Fundraising-Cub Foods

We are still collecting Cub Food receipts every quarter in order to help our fundraising efforts! We are getting some regular people stopping by with them and can always use more!

This program provides a great opportunity to raise some money while we are shopping in our community.

We will be turning in the first

quarter of receipts during the first part of April.

The next quarter receipts we will be collecting are: **April, May and June.**

We have a green jar at the front door to collect them, and so it just takes a quick trip in the Museum to drop them off.

For those of you who do

not travel past the Museum, please feel free to put them in an envelope and mail them to:

BCHS  
 PO Box 426  
 Sauk Rapids, MN 56379.

### *Executive Director's Notes*

*It has been a very busy month over here at the Museum, and we had 92 people that stopped by to see us last month! It is one of the reasons why the newsletter is a little late! We are pleased to see that the Benton County "quest" for information is stepping up!*

*We enjoyed the Sunday celebration of "Women Making History" out at Henry's Catering in Foley! Although I was walking around trying to keep the flow of everything; the people that I did touch base with were having a great time; with good conversations and some good food. We are very fortunate to have such great honorees again this year! We have already started looking for nominees for next year, so if you have a woman in mind, please get me the information!*

*We debuted the Benton County History PowerPoint as the programming for the event! There was a lot of conversation about that! I especially enjoyed when one of the people attending the event saw two of their grandparents in the pictures in the show! There was a delightful squeal of "there is my grandpa!" and then, "there is my other grandpa!" There was also quite a bit of pointing, toe tapping, and smiling going on! The comments and input afterwards were great- thank you- to everyone who shared a story about the people or place in the different pictures, or commented on how interesting it was.*

*The Benton County History PowerPoint reflects pieces of Benton County with pictures of people, events, cities, townships, businesses, buildings and a lot of the things that make up Benton County's identity and history. Set to music that works with the pictures and categories of life in Benton County, the frames work together to tell a story.*

*Two of the Board Members called me after the event and like myself, were reminded by the use of the PowerPoint how the story unfolds. How many great supportive people have brought Benton County, since 1849, into its own identity and place in this area. The buildings, the events, the churches, people who fought wars, built businesses and weaved the Benton County tapestry of life into what it is today!*

*It was "a grandpa", and "the other grandpa", women making history, heartbreak in death, love marriage and children that moved it all forward. It is all about the people, the community and the area they made a difference in; all of it is "Benton County".*

*The people of Benton County have contributed to that over the years and we thank them. We will continue to follow our mission, but would like to invite all of you to contribute pictures, stories, family histories and any information that you may have to build that.*

*Mary Ostby*

**"One generation plants the tree and the next gets the shade..."**

**Chinese Proverb**



Thank you to everyone who has donated to preserve the past, and the present, for the future!

### Donations

**Wendy Wheeler:** Pictures from 1978 yearbook, Picture of Julia Rooney from 1928. copies of notebooks of Isabel Wheeler, Rajkowski & Stoffel Prayer Cards

**Chuck Latterell:** acrylic display case, 2 Plat Books 2 Auto Registrations Books

**James McMahon:** 8/29/1943 "the Register" newspaper, Cathedral Class of 1940-Reunion Paper, 1939 silver Jubilee Reunion 1936,37,38,39,49 Yearbooks

**Jan Rothanburg:** Schultz and Rothanburg wedding picture, Rothanburg Farm house pictures, District 52 School -2 Pictures & Class List, 1921 Almanac, Cedric Adams Cookbook, birth registration , 1934 "Successful Farming" book, January 1951 calendar, modern "Sewing Methods" a Century of St Cloud Memories,

**Cecil Wade** Copy of "Emmis" historical novel for our library

**Bernandine Wesenberg** Photo album documenting building of New Sauk Rapids bridge

**Lorraine Potuzak:** Farm Seeder circa 1920, small farm wagon and sleigh

**Cliff Johnson:** C.A. Coborn promotional plate (circa 1905) Sauk Rapids Program Cookbook, Maywood Covenant Church cookbook, Salem Lutheran church Cookbook, Gambles-Sviehl Hardware promotional item, Kay's Motel ashtray

**Jim Hovda:** Four Sheriff election campaign signs

**Linda Maguire:** embroidered silk pictures

**John Stafney:** computer tower, monitor and keyboard for the indexing/networking

### WE NEED YOUR TALENT!!!!!!

We are looking for people who have talents in crocheting, knitting, weaving, quilting, trundle sewing, spinning wool, making butter and any other thing that people would like to teach/show at the Benton County Fair. We will be in the Heritage Building as we have been in years past, and have the stage to fill with events for education. There was a great response from people at the Fair wanting to know about the items listed above.

We have some people scheduled already to do a Lefse making demonstration, spinning wool for an afternoon, but have time slots to fill. Please give me a call at 253-9614 if you would like to work at educating the public on home-stead art that you may know how to do or make!

### Membership Information

<u>Household</u>	<u>Business</u>
Seniors- \$9.00	Annual- \$50.00
Single- \$13.00	Supporting- \$75.00
Family- \$18.00	Maintaining- \$100.00
Contributor- \$27.00	Patron- \$150.00
Supporter- \$50.00	Benefactor- \$500.00

Board of Director meeting is held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at the BCHS Museum at 218 1st Street North, Sauk Rapids. Members and the public are always welcome!

Next dates for meetings:  
April 21, 2009  
May 18,2009

**"Be the change you would like to see in the world"**

**Mahatma Gandhi**

## John, Our “Guardian Angel” of Technology!

John Stafney, walked into our Museum last month....

I asked him, as I do everyone, “If there was anything we could help him with?” with a smile. There was no hesitation when the answer came back to me that he may be able to help us; with a huge smile on his face! He continued on; to tell me that he was thinking that there may be a need for us to have a computer database for indexing the resources in the Museum! In further conversation, with the two of us sitting down at a computer; I realized he had already started building it, and what he started would be great! We talked; added a few technical ideas of networking the other computers, and John began working with the database!

I have dubbed John our “Guardian Angel of Technology” that was sent to make our lives better and have shared that with **everyone** since he walked through our front door!!

John; ever so humble; said he would not go that far in believing he was an angel. **In the past month he has moved BCHS years forward years in indexing and organizing information in the Museum!** What we all believed to be a long term goal/dream is now already started and will be is in use!

We are ever so excited by John’s talents, and he has been working diligently to put the indexes and information into the database as we are processing it.

John has donated a computer tower, keyboard and monitor that we integrated to the other computers in the building. Three out of four computers are set up and networked. The networking will allow more users simutaniously to put information in. Four people working on importing data is going to help make the process faster.

John is also building an administrative tool for staff and volunteers at the museum to import, and edit. This way, there is no transferring files around the system, it will be all in one system for everyone’s access.

We are on our way to building something that will be easier to do research, faster to find items in our resource materials, inventory all items and materials that are in our possession and preserve and protect original documents for the future!

THANK YOU JOHN! You are OUR “Guardian Angel of Technology”!



**All God’s angels  
come to us  
disguised....  
James Russell  
Lowell**

## Cemetery Updates Progressing!!!!

We have been contacting the local cemetery records caretakers to get updates on our records. Most of the records had not been updated for many years.

Many thanks to volunteer, **Bill Holroyd** for his participation in helping us get information on Mound Cemetery in Maywood township! Bill has been instrumental in getting the updated information to us to put it in spreadsheet format. His familiarity with the people of the area and the cemetery itself has been great to work with!

**Lorane Walsh**, another of our dedicated cemetery volunteers has been working on Benton County Cemetery. Lorane is just waiting

for the nicer weather to come in to get back to the business of information gathering!

**Lowell Huston** who is in charge of the Langola Cemetery very graciously brought his records into the Museum. Lowell allowed us to update those records, make copies of the death and burial certificates to complete the surname files and brought along a huge drafted map that he had made with the locations of all the graves and names!

**A HUGE THANK YOU to Bill Holroyd, Lorane Walsh and Lowell Huston for helping BCHS out with the most current information, and for helping us retain and preserve the information for the future!**

We will continue organizing the older records, putting all of it on spreadsheet, then onto discs, and making it more efficient for us and the people who are coming in to the Museum looking for the information!

If you are a caretaker, or know a cemetery caretaker, please let them know we are looking to work with them on this project. I

It is to the community’s benefit to have the records in two locations for safe-keeping and references. There have been times in history when all records have been lost due to flood, fire, or other weather hazards. We are willing to organize and hold them for the community as well as safe keeping for the long term!

**PRESERVING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE....**

**BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

P.O. Box 426  
218 1st St. N.  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsm)

**Board Members**

Ernie Wollak President  
Char Dhein Vice-President  
Renee Kampa Treasurer  
Michelle Watercott Secretary  
Earl "Butch" Bukowski Director  
Melissa Keller Director  
Bud Lubbesmeier Director

**Volunteers**

Fred Joesting -Research  
Marjean Keehr -Research  
Andy Schwalboski- Research  
Caren Kalenda - Data Entry  
Jack Toliver -Military  
Nellie Henry- Cemeteries Support  
Lorane Walsh -Cemeteries Support  
Jenny DeWenter -Museum Support  
John Stafney- Database Support  
Ron Zurek -Website

**Staff**

Mary Ostby Executive Director  
Meredith DePree

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