

Women In History Honorees— March 21, 2010

Our annual Women Making History event is coming up on Sunday, March 21, 2010.

The Women Honorees for the event this year will be : **Nancy Anderson, Marjean Keehr , Joan Neyssen and Merlin Youso and Junior Honoree: Chelsea Lesniak.**

We will be featuring the full bios of all the women in the next newsletter, but a “little bit” before the event:

Nancy Anderson: Former Mayor of Rice, involved with Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Memorial Day events., Easter Egg Hunt, Lions Breakfast, Arts & Crafts at School, American Legion Auxiliary, Flag Etiquette, Day Camps— she is one busy lady!

Marjean Keehr— Married to Lloyd Keehr & mother of three; native of Sauk Rapids, worked in her parent's bakery (Wippich's Bakery), worked as Sauk Rapids High School offices as a Secretary for Superintendent. Altar Guild, Chairman of Centennial Celebration at Trinity Lutheran, Volunteer at BCHS and a member of St. Cloud genealogists.

Joan Neyssen—Benton County Treasurer since 1974 (Auditor added in 1998) she has held these positions for 47 years, and was involved with church choir, Sunday school and Vacation bible school.

Merlin Youso— Foley Garden Club, Foley Adventurous homemakers, St. John's Church, volunteered as clerical support for Social Services program, did the “Locals” contact for Benton County News, served as a 4-H leader, was employed by the Foley School District for 25 years, Foley Produce Companies of Abe's and Fischer's

Chelsea Lesniak—Junior at Foley High School, Math League, Junior auxiliary Member, National Honor Society, volunteers, plans to go to college and pursue a career in a medical field.

Women In History Luncheon Tickets Available!

This year our luncheon will be held at the Sauk Rapids VFW— 901 Benton Drive North, Sauk Rapids. We usually run a short social time for everyone arriving from 12:30-1:00. Lunch will be served at 1:00pm. Our meal this year will include: chicken & ham, potato, vegetable, salad and rolls and the cost of a ticket is \$9.00. Please consider joining us at this year's event to honor the women of our county who have done so much for their communities! If you would like tickets: Call 253-9614, Email us at : bchsmus@charterinternet.com, stop by the museum or send in your money to: BCHS PO Box 426, Sauk Rapids, MN. 56379 and we will get them to you by mail!

Unidentified house



*We are in
community each
time we find a
place where we
belong
Peter F. Black*

In our unidentified books, we picked this picture out. A couple of children in the front yard with Grandpa or Dad on the left of the house in the picture. It is believed to be from Foley because of the other pictures that it was with- any help in identifying it would be great!

Benton County Fair Demonstrators-2010

This is the time of year that we begin to look for demonstrators of at the Heritage Building at the Benton County Fair. The Benton County Fair this year will be August 4-8th, 2010. If you have a skill like crocheting, quilting, knitting, spinning, making butter, woodcarving, making lefse, pickling, processing honey, or any other thing that the public may find interesting, please let me know! We try to schedule 2 hour or more time slots for the activities (but you can do more or less) and I will be working on the schedule for the coming Heritage Building events! Call 253-9614 ask for Mary or email me at the Museum: bchsmus@charterinternet.com

Unidentified Picture

This house picture is also unidentified in our files.

We believe it to be in Sauk Rapids, but again, it may not be.

We are looking for someone to identify it no matter where it is in Benton County.

The date on the corner of the picture says 8/24/94, but we cannot see a number of the house or the mailbox hanging on the steps on the boulevard. We also have a side view of the house with the two windowed attic there existing there also. If anyone has information, please let us know!!!



Community Dollars Funding Loss

We were informed by a letter from Cub Foods in St. Cloud that the last date of the fundraising program would be in January. As of January, 2010 we will no longer be collecting Cub Food receipts from the public to convert into our fundraising program. Thanks to all who donated as we collected \$73.16 during the 2009 year with the last check forthcoming, as of this writing. We appreciate Cub Foods offering the program to the community!

We will be looking to find some new fundraising ideas for this year and in the future as we have also taken cuts from Benton County and the City of Sauk Rapids for 2010. If the members have any great ideas, we would like to hear them! We are fortunate to have the

I am a part of all that

I met.

Alfred Tennyson

Museum Information

Hours
10am-4pm– Monday –Friday

Appointments are available for after hours– tours, visits and travel requests, please call 320-253-9614

Contact Information:

Phone: 320 253-9614

Email: bchsmus@charterinternet.com

Web:
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsm



Come on over to see us!

Wildwood School- Granite Ledge Township



Bill Holroyd dropped off this picture of Wildwood School for us! We had a request for school districts in Granite Ledge township and did not have a District number for this one until Bill stopped by the Museum one day and gave us a little lesson in history.

We are always looking for stories on the one-room schoolhouse years. If you attended one, have a story, or a picture of the schoolhouse you attended, or can just jot down some information to add to our resources.

We know there are lots of people who have attended schools in Benton County, and we would like to have as much information on each district as possible.

Pictured at the left- Wildwood School
House in Granite Ledge Township
Picture courtesy of Bill Holroyd

Believe and act as if it
were impossible to fail
Charles F. Kettering

Volunteers & Staff

- | | |
|--|---|
| Fred Joesting – Research Specialist | Ron Zurek – Webmaster |
| Marjean Keehr – Research | |
| Andy Schwalboski – Research & displays | Staff: |
| Caren Kalenda – Oral Interviews/ Data Input | Mary Ostby Executive Director |
| Jenny DeWenter -Museum support | Meredith DePree– Office Support |
| John Stafney -Database Support | Miles Christie– Office / Military Support |
| Lorane Walsh – Cemetery Support | Jack Toliver– Military Support |
| Maureen Athman – Transcriber | Thanks to all the volunteers! |

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION:

I have had a few people through the museum that asked about places and things that we would like to know more about if anyone has the information. Here's the list:

- Picture of the Foley Coborn's– Pat Markfort winning car at opening of Coborns-1964**
- Sauk Rapids Brewery information**
- East Side St. Cloud Railroad crossing guard building**
- **“Williamsville” history– East Benton County**

Executive Directors Corner

The weather is warm and sunny today! (Supposed to be all week-Yay!)

This is great when I compare it to the last time I was writing a newsletter. For those that did not get a chance to read about it; we were under a “dreaded” winter weather advisory; cold, snowing and blowing... (gives me a chill just to think about that week.) I know, I know, we live in Minnesota.....

The nicer, warmer weather has brought a few more people, more often, into the museum. It is a pleasure to see smiling faces that are either looking for information or delivering information to us! We were pleasantly surprised with donations of pictures, cemetery records, and a very special Memorial Donation from **Margaret Selander’s** family to the Watab District Schoolhouse program at the fairgrounds!

We have been busy putting things together for the Women In History luncheon on March 21st. The exceptional women that we are honoring are listed on the front page. I hope that everyone thinks about coming to join us! The nicer spring weather gives all of us a chance to get out, see some people and enjoy a change of pace, while celebrating these five women!

Last newsletter I closed with two items that I needed to be taken care of by the end of my day. In response to those two things I am hoping that everyone did have a great holiday season and did get a chance to make some memories! (which was item one)

The second item that I wrote was to make a *wish to Santa* to find a picture of the “Railroad track-shack” that I wrote about. With the holidays and family coming home, I did not get a chance to make too many phone calls or focus on that. I did, however, take a few phone calls from family(thank Grandma, Mom, Mary and Connie) who were delighted with remembering the shack and the holiday snowmobiling. Good memories for more than just me, which is what those “flashes in time” should be all about!

Now, all of you know how things just sometimes work out without trying too hard... Well, I put the memory of the “track-shack” on hold, got through the holidays, and then, I picked up the mail and there was a card with a partial picture of “the railroad track-shack” in its place behind the garage at Grandpa & Grandma’s backyard in Foley, with some of the grandkids! The card said that my “Santa’s wish” could be crossed off my list and out fell the picture that is below! So, the story of it in this case was a happy ending! Until next time and best wishes to all, *Mary Ostby*

Railroad track-shack picture→

There were four little windows, a doorway, a small woodstove and a couple of benches (one on each side with the woodstove in the middle.)

This picture is only the front right corner of the building with some very happy grandchildren!

On the top left we have **Jason Walters** and next to him on the right we have **Mark Erickson**. The bottom trio: from left to right are: **Russell Walters, Scott Erickson** and yes, that is me, **Mary Kay** (I am still Mary Kay to this day amongst family) on the right side. Dog’s name not remembered by me

Thanks to “**Aunt**” **Connie Lewandowski** for being my “Santa” and sending this picture to me after reading the Executive Directors’ Corner last issue!





Thank you to all members who support BCHS!

*Seeds of faith are
always within us;
sometimes it takes
a crisis to nourish
and encourage
their growth
~Susan Taylor*

Watab
District
Number 2



Membership Renewed for 2010

Don Abfalter	Jim & Jan Hovda	Gordon & Dolores Rehder
Don & Carol Adamson	Dick Kampa	George & Ann Rice
Donna Barnickol	Gerald Keeville	Jan & Tom Rothanburg
Carol Behrendt	Sandie & Kevin Lahr	Rip & Marion Sartell
Shirley Benoit	Dennis & Marella Larson	Sauk Rapids Herald
Ear “Butch” & Carol Bukowski	Harold & Annette Legatt	Randy & Donna Schafer
Benton Cooperative Telephone	Elizabeth “Libby” Levinski	Lyle Schmidt
Benton County News	Pat Lezer	Janet C. Schnabel
Dede Brossard	Dan & Karen Lieser	Andy & Bob Schwalboski
Bruce’s Outboard Motor	Jerome “Bud” Lubbesmeier	Mary Agnes Shimota
Sharon Cairns	Col. John MacGregor	Jan Sorell
City of Foley	Jim & Pam McMahon	Lester & Eva Sova
Kathleen Chmielewski	Ed & Helen Maier	Dick & Pat Soyka
Coborns– Sauk Rapids	Joann Marshall	Chuck & Jean Stark
Robert & Patricia Danaher	Jerome & Glenice Mehrwerth	Harold Storkamp
Meredith DePree	Midway Iron & Metal	Merle Stowe
Alice Engelmeyer	Bill Morgan	Simon Thielen
Arnie & Ardelle Evensen	Jim & Geri Moshier	Michael E. Theis
First National Bank of Milaca	Margaret Neary	Lawrence & Jane Thell
Elaine Fleck	Vernon & Luverne Neils	Then Installation
Foley Lions Club	Mary Neiman	Conrad & Linda Urbik
Frandsen Bank & Trust	Joan Neyssen	VFW– of Sauk Rapids
Veronica Friehammer	Michael O'Donnell	Connie Viere
Art Gratchek	Dorrain Petron	Steve Warzecha-SubRapids
Darlene Gronau	M. Lucille Peschl	Darrell & Michelle Watercott
Helgeson Farms	Dorothy Piasecki	Paul Weber
Nellie Henry	Lorraine Potuzak	Wendy Wheeler
Polly Hoover	Rapids Plating Terry & Jean Yager	Williams-Dingmann Funeral Homes
Bill & Kathy Holroyd	Chris Rasmussen	Wollak Construction-Ernie & Terri Wollak

History Items Donated

- Family Members of Margaret Selander** made a memorial donation of \$150.00 designated donation to the Schoolhouse fund !
- Lu Neils**– Hermes 3000 typewriter
- Cliff Johnson**– Billy & Ike tray East St. Cloud, Coborns/Cashwise advertising items, Knotty Pine Liquor store– advertising shot glass, Farmer Merchant State Bank, Pictures First Baptist Church-Discovery and C.B. Jensen receipt book
- Beverly Ophaven Ewing**- 23 pictures of Warner family and Sauk Rapids buildings, houses
- Wendy Wheeler**– 1900 Vintage loveseat
- Edward Evans**- Black and white military “knitted” socks, knitted by Edward’s mother and others for the soldiers in WWII
- Bill Holroyd**– pictures of Wildwood Schoolhouse, article on Bill’s pictures and magazine article

Board Members Article-Char Dhein

I have lived in Sauk Rapids for the better part of my life. (other than going to college) I am married, have 6 children, and have worked in the Sauk Rapids community my whole life. I was brought up with a heavy sense of history in my life as we own the business of **Granite Care Home** in Sauk Rapids. The Background on the Granite Care building is that it is **National Historical Property** better known in Sauk Rapids history as the **Robinson-Stanton** house. Having grown up in the house with its granite block architecture, leaves me, still today, a sense of awe at the history it has encompassed over time. I have always had an interest in history because of this and attended college for a degree in America Studies because of it. Building preservation is of importance to me and in what I envision our organization participating in at some time in the future. I enjoy participating with the Board and encourage people of the community to join us in preserving the history of Benton County. I also will encourage members to drive past our business and see what inspired me in our building, as the giant granite blocks are still visible from the exterior along with the old hitching post in our front yard!

The Orphan Train has been an topic of discussion for a few years in the genealogy world. This past winter there was an author; *Renée Wendinger* who released a book concerning a collection of stories about these children. I scanned the postcard into the newsletter for anyone who would like the information on how to acquire the book, or be aware that people are writing about these subjects now!

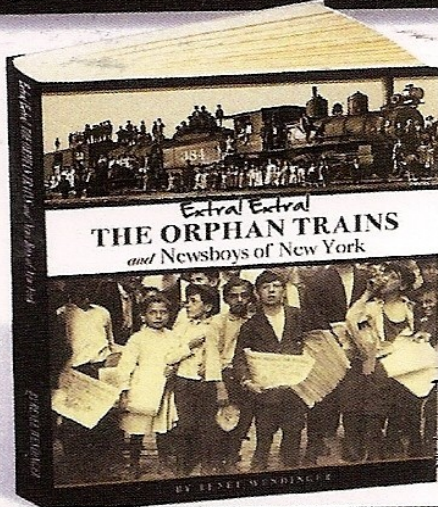
Extra! Extra! NEW RELEASE!

Announcing the release of

**EXTRA! EXTRA! THE ORPHAN TRAINS
AND NEWSBOYS OF NEW YORK**

by **Renée Wendinger**

A collection of stories of children who faced nearly insurmountable odds. From agonizing letters written by desperate mothers, to news stories of the latest train or of the newsboys looking out for each other, the humanity of individuals caught up in the sweep of history is unmistakable.



Publisher: Legendary Publications
Historical nonfiction
Book size: 8.5 x 11

©Copyright 2009 Renée Wendinger
Language: English
Hard cover price: \$34.95

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Number of pages 180
Soft cover price: \$29.95

Send check to Legendary Publications, PO Box 482, Sleepy Eye, MN. 56085 (add \$5.00 S & H).
 Order online at <http://www.theorphantrain.com>

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

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

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

Phone: 320-253-9614
Email: bchsmus@charterinternet.com



Board Members

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Treasurer: Renee Kampa
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Director: Earl "Butch" Bukowski
Director: Pat Gerchy
Director: Bud Lubbesmeier
Director: Randy Schafer
Director: Merle Stowe

Board Meetings- Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm
2010 Meeting Schedule (Tentative schedule- may change due to weather or Board decision)

March 16, 2010
April 20, 2010
May 18, 2010
June 15, 2010
July 20, 2010
August 17, 2010
September 21, 2010
October 19, 2010
November 16, 2010
December 21, 2010