

The Prairie Traveler

Quarterly newsletter of the Pipestone County Historical Society

Volume XLI, Issue II

Summer 2023

Pipestone County Historical Society Pipestone County Museum

Pipestone County Museum
113 South Hiawatha Avenue
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

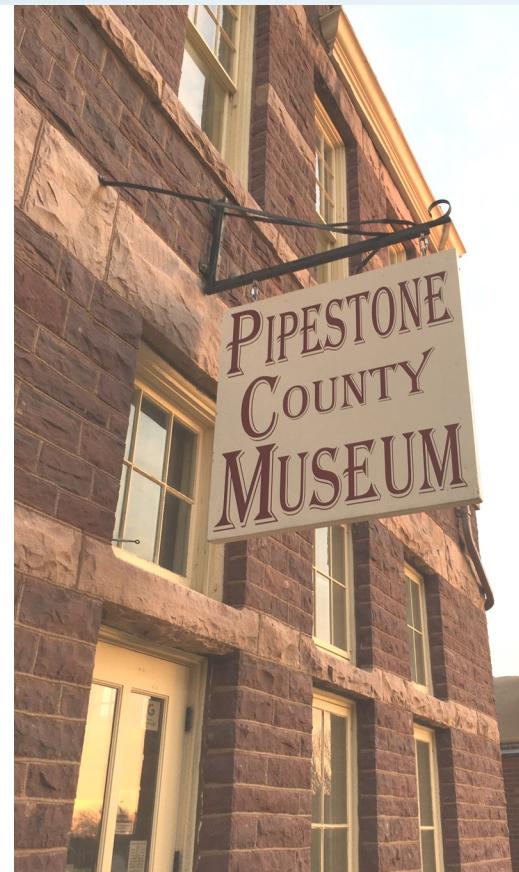
pipctymu@iw.net
507-825-2563
www.pipestonecountymuseum.com



Download the PocketSights app from www.pocketsights.com and search for Pipestone, Minnesota to find our digital tour of Pipestone's Downtown Historic District.

Coming soon— we will be releasing a Pipestone County Sioux quartzite digital tour and we are also working on a Cemeteries tour!

You can browse our tours for Free on your phone or your computer!



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Ferris Grand Project

Work has begun on the Ferris Grand rehabilitation project! Equity Builders & Construction Services of Rosemount, MN got to work June 1 grinding out the old mortar. Work ceased during the second half of the month while awaiting a mortar report and approval by the state to proceed. This procedure assures that the appropriate mortar, matching the original as much as possible, will be

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



used in the rehabilitation. Equity Builders & Construction Services was the contractor at work on the recent Bauman Hall preservation work done last year.

Recently, the parapet was inspected by removing the Sioux quartzite capstones and peeling back the roof membrane. The stonework was found to be secure, however there was a considerable lean above the roofline. The parapet will probably need to be removed and rebuilt plumb in order to stabilize it for another 125 years! All in all the work is proceeding well.

Summer Museum Programming.....by Trava Olivier

With the spring field trip season behind us, summer programming is under way. Schoolyard Games began June 8th in Moore Park, just outside the District #3 Schoolhouse. Following the games, our dedicated volunteer Diane Hansen opened the school for its first session of the summer with 27 students in attendance that day! Games will be held beginning at 12:30 and school will be in session from 1:00- 3:00pm each Thursday through August 31st.

Summer also brings the return of Cemetery Tours. We held the first of the season at the East Eden Cemetery on June 10th with 25 guests joining us to hear the stories of ten of the earliest settlers in that section of the county. The cemetery is located to the north and east of Jasper and is located in the church yard of the East Eden Lutheran Church. While the church has been closed since 1923, when members voted to join the Lutheran congregation in Jasper, the church building itself remains standing. The East Eden church and cemetery association host an annual service in the sanctuary with a pot-luck meal following on the church lawn. Burials still occur in the cemetery; many being descendants of the former church members.



The calendar fills in for the remainder of the summer with our monthly Coffee Talk presentations at the Museum and weekly presentations off-site at the senior living facilities. Research has also begun for the next Small Town Series booklet to be released this fall. The featured community for the 2023 booklet is Ruthon, Minnesota. Watch your email inbox, our Facebook page, and our website for details of its release.

Collections

Collections Spotlight



This brown felt hat came from The Golden Rule Department Store in St. Paul, MN. The store was founded by three Ohio men in 1886. It was often called "The Santa Claus Store" due to a large St. Nicholas figure displayed at the store's entrance during the holidays and its large toy selection. In 1928, Golden Rule and Donaldsons, another Twin Cities department store, were acquired by the nationwide chain Hahn's Department Stores. The name was changed to Donaldson-Golden Rule in 1961 and Golden Rule was dropped off the name in 1970.

There is a building in Jasper, on the north side of Wall Street, that is referred to as the Golden Rule Block. It was built in 1913 and prior to 1937 it housed a general merchandise store. Perhaps it was a franchise of the Golden Rule Department Store?



New newspaper storage shelves, in memory of Lorraine Draper

The last year has seen a lot of action in the Museum's collections storage. Last fall the textiles were moved from the storage room on the second floor of the museum to the third floor of the Ferris Grand. The secured archive on the first floor which housed the bound newspapers, photographs, glass plate negatives, and paper documents- was then moved into the second-floor (formerly textile) storage in the museum. This allowed for the removal of the archive space on the first floor and provided more space and an open layout for the first-floor exhibit gallery. The moves also provided a larger storage space for both the textiles and the secured archive and led to getting new, appropriate shelving to house the bound newspaper collection. Both moves involved many trips up and down the stairs hauling up hundreds of boxes of varying sizes, along with books, bound newspapers, and shelving. It was a lot of work but was helped along majorly by some great volunteers.

This spring another storage project was started when we received surplus shelving from another museum. This allowed us to replace some of the shelving in the museum's third-floor attic storage. We are in the middle of this project right now. It has involved moving artifacts off the old shelving and removing the old shelving. Some final items are being moved and clean-up work done before

the new shelving is moved into the attic. Then the artifacts can be returned to shelves, and the process will be repeated with a second row of shelving. All of the moving projects have provided the opportunity to work on better organizing and cataloging the collection which is an ongoing process.

The Collections Committee has been staying busy as they now meet monthly. There are the same six meetings, every other month, to review items for accessioning. In the other months, the committee meets and discusses collections procedures, policy, storage, etc. This has been beneficial to talk about all aspects of the collections process from reviewing items to proper storage and conservation.



New textile storage

YouTube Channel

Did you know the Pipestone County Historical Society has a YouTube channel? Our first post was in August 2021 when we shared a presentations on local Bank Robberies. Since then, over 150 of you have watched that episode!



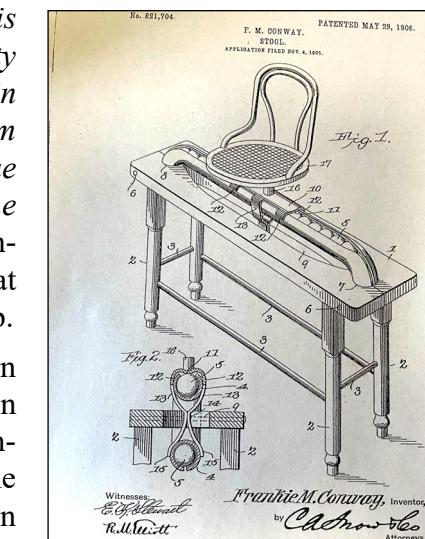
We consistently post presentations on our YouTube page monthly, usually speakers at our 'Coffee Talk' program. Since 2021 our top three postings have been Bank Robberies presented by our own Trava Olivier; the Schroder Center, information on the new senior center by Steve & Joann Weets; and the Pipestone Indian Training School presented by Gabe Yellowhawk. Our latest posting was a recording of our June Coffee Talk by Museum Educator, Trava Olivier, on the topic of Prohibition in Pipestone County.

Look for more content to come soon, in the form of video 'shorts' where we share short history tidbits that we come across in our research at the Pipestone County Museum!

Frankie May Conway's 1906 Patent

In 1906, May Conway was awarded a patent for her invention of a 'Stool.' But it was not just any Stool. This Stool solved a problem she had faced in her work as a bookkeeper. According to the patent: *"The object of the invention is in a novel and practical manner to obviate the necessity of a bookkeeper dismounting from his stool or seat in order to examine a book located at some distance from the point at which he is working, whereby the fatigue attending such procedure is obviated and loss of time consequent thereto is prevented."* The Stool itself consisted of a seat mounted upon a ball bearing track so that it could be pushed from side to side without standing up.

We don't know a lot about May Conway. She was born in Iowa around 1877 and spent some of her youth in Pipestone. The 1905 census enumerated her in Ortonville, but in 1910 she was again living in Pipestone. She apparently went by her middle name, alternately known as 'Frankie May' and 'Fanny May.' It appears she never married, and supported herself as a stenographer and bookkeeper. She died in 1966 and was buried at Old Woodlawn cemetery in Pipestone with her parents. It is not known if her invention was ever manufactured.



Hollyhock: the Dance that Started it All ...By Tony Texley

Sometimes when you are searching for something you find something else totally unsuspected. So was the case when I came across a 1933 Al Menke Orchestra dance card. Upon examining the dance card, I realized it had a play date for the Hollyhock Ballroom on the card. Not only that, but it was the Grand Opening Night Dance at the Hollyhock. What an amazing 90-year-old piece of history in near mint condition. I knew it was going in my collection. And now, on with the story.

This upcoming dance created a buzz of excitement in the local community, after all the new dance hall was a mere 8 miles from Pipestone. Little did the inhabitants of Pipestone County know that by the end of the month, this new entertainment business that opened in the small village named Hatfield, would become one of the most revered sites in music history in the upper Midwest and its fame would eventually be known throughout the country.

In Hatfield, a onetime blacksmith & repair shop was converted in 1931 to a dance hall by owners Don & Effie Shadek and remodeled again into a dance pavilion in 1933. The Shadek's named this new ballroom the "Hollyhock" and determined their grand opening night dance was going to be July 31, 1933. The event was publicized with ads on the local radio, newspapers & dance cards.

A seasoned performer and favorite in the region was selected to entertain for the evening. That honor went to the Al Menke Orchestra from Fairmont, Minnesota. Al's tagline was "A Band With a Million Friends."

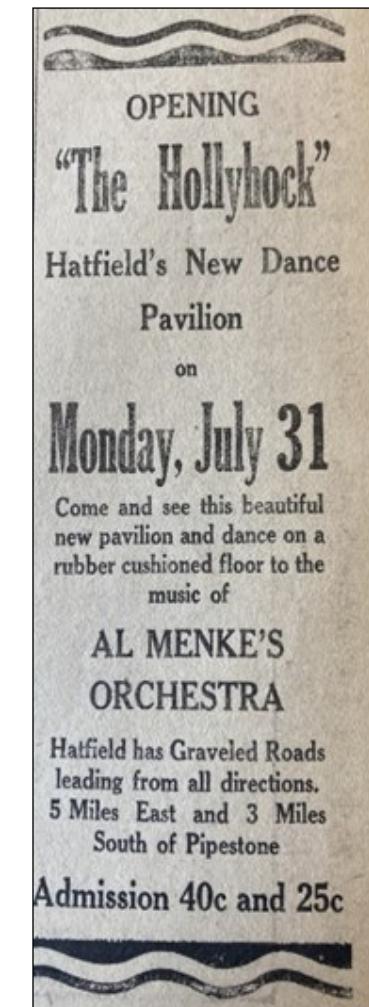
Al traveled in his passenger bus that had enough room to haul the 13-member orchestra, plus instruments and props. The



Original 1933 Dance Card showing Hollyhock's opening night. From the author's collection.

orchestra had performed the previous evening at Hardegger's Ballroom, Lake Jefferson near Cleveland, MN. Unlike Hollyhock, where rumors abounded about the dance floor being built on top of rubber tires, a different story came to light when the Hardegger was torn down in 1946 and discovered it had been built on top of empty beer kegs.

And that night, the Al Menke Orchestra had the opportunity to entertain the Pipestone area dancing public in a brand-new ballroom for only \$.40. With a new wooden



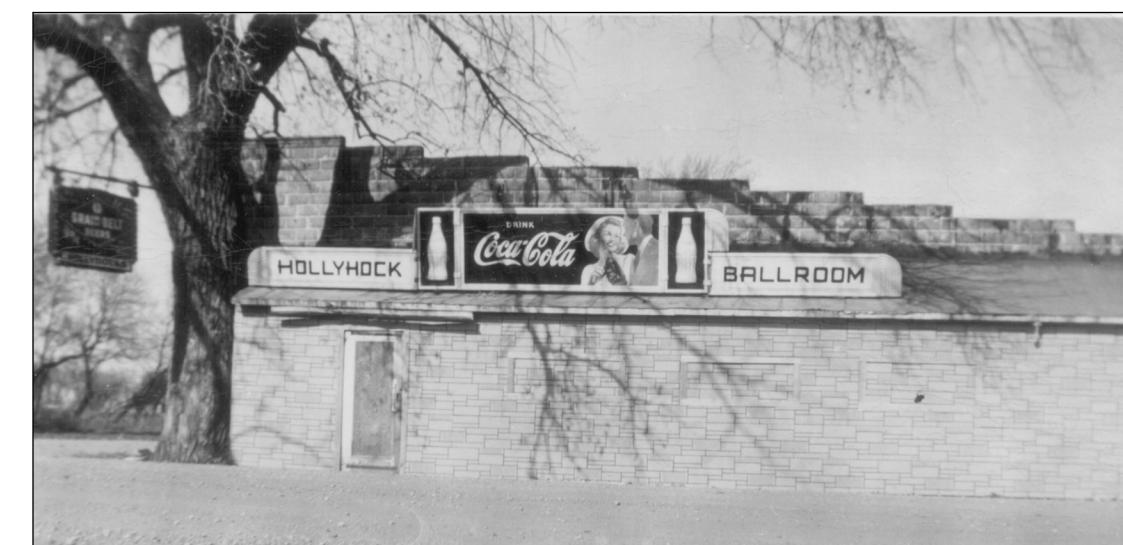
floor installed for the opening night and a gas-powered generator running the lights, it was showtime.

For many attending the grand opening dance, when that music started, whatever worries or burdens of the day that weighed upon their souls, were spirited away in an evening of laughs, friendships, dancing, with the possibilities of new adventures and romance. I find no record of attendance numbers that night but I'm sure it was a packed house.

For the Al Menke Orchestra, the engagement at the Hollyhock was just another night, but for the Hollyhock it was the beginning of greater things to come. As soon as the dance was behind him, Al would be looking ahead to the next night's engagement in Altura, Minnesota.

The Al Menke Orchestra became a crowd favorite and went on to perform an amazing 30 times at the Hollyhock. Through the years, the lure of the Hollyhock would continue through remodels, changes in owners, music, and finally into legendary status. But it was that night in July 1933, with the Al Menke Orchestra, that started it all.

1933 Newspaper Clipping, "Opening the Hollyhock."
From the author's collection.



The Hollyhock Ballroom, Hatfield. Undated. From the collection of the Pipestone County Museum.

For Your Consideration:

- Portable Marschner Map for Education:**

The PCHS Education Department has developed a geography program for grades 3 & 4. A portable Marschner Map for classroom use would be a great addition to the lesson. The Marschner Map illustrates the original vegetation of Minnesota.

Digital image, printed on 5' x 4' canvas: \$150



This spring we presented the Pipestone 4th grade classes with a geography program in the classroom. They participated with much interest and were especially enamored with the historical plat maps. A portable Marschner Map of Minnesota's original vegetation would be a great addition for learning!

Project Completed with Your Help:



Thank you to The Texley Family for making a donation for the re-framing of the Marschner Map of Minnesota's original vegetation in memory of Ed & Ardith Texley. It is now on display in the first floor exhibit gallery.

- Re-Frame the Marschner Map for Exhibit**

The Marschner Map is an important artifact from the Museum's collection. To continue to allow it to be exhibited for the public, it is displayed in an appropriate frame.



Donations..... May- June 2023

PCHS relies on the generosity of our members not only to meet the general budget but also to maintain our five historic properties and to accomplish special projects. Thank you.

General Fund

SWMN CEO Business Class; Deanna McQueen; Carla Barkley; Robert Vatne

Special Projects

Sioux Valley Energy

Business Membership Drive

Business memberships in 2023 supported new exhibits in renovated Museum galleries and helped us reach over 500 local schoolchildren in outreach presentations & tours as well as programming in the classroom. We also visited three senior living facilities in the community on a monthly basis and served over 2500 members of the public with speaker presentations, demonstrations and workshops.

Our 2024 Business Membership Drive will kick off in August. We currently have 41 Business Members and hope to retain those and increase the memberships by 10%.

New for 2024, we offer three levels of business membership, so that businesses can choose one that works for them. Along with regular membership benefits, Business Members also receive an Ad in our Small Town Series booklet, and the ads also run in the Museum gallery slide show.

We are sending invitations out to businesses throughout the County soon.

Small Town Series

Our Small Town Series of booklets featuring communities throughout Pipestone County are directly supported by Business Memberships. Created six years ago to supply information on the smaller towns throughout the County, especially those which had not produced a centennial book, the Small Town Series has proven to be extremely popular.

To date, booklets have been produced on Woodstock, Hatfield, Cazenovia, Holland, Trosky, and Ihlen. New in 2024 will be Ruthton!

These booklets are available at the Pipestone County Museum Gift Shop, and online at www.pipestonemuseum.com by clicking on 'gift shop.' They are great for your home library of local history and make remarkable gifts too!

Membership: By the Numbers

The 2023 membership currently sits at 317— including 182 annual members, 94 life members (honored but no longer offered) and 41 business members.

In fact, we already have 17 NEW members this year!

Our Annual Memberships run on the calendar year, January–December. Look for a renewal notice in your mailbox in November!



Exhibit Spotlight



On exhibit now: The World War One army uniform of Louis C. Winsel of Holland, MN. As a private, first class of Company A, 130th Infantry, Louis entered the service on February 25, 1918 and trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He departed overseas on May 16, 1918 and saw action in the battles of Verdun, Meuse, Argonne, Somme, Albert and Marlancourt.



Reimagined Exhibits.....Noah Burris

With the recent renovations to the first and second floors, several new and reimagined exhibits have been installed in the last year. Now we can take some time to highlight the exhibits individually. The first exhibit highlighted is the World War I in Pipestone County exhibit. The exhibit examines Pipestone County's involvement during the war, retells stories of events from the home front, and provides the opportunity to learn about the men and women who served from Pipestone County.



Multiple U.S. uniforms on display from county residents help to tell the story of the fighting in Europe. While other topics are examined to show what was happening here in the county during the war. Learn about the five liberty loan campaigns and the county's overwhelming response that led to the naming of the cargo ship Pipestone County. The exhibit also includes information about the ladies' military organization, the Woodstock Guards of Loyalty. The organization was formed to carry on the work of the men who were called to war, help the United States in the prosecution of the war, and if need be, go on the battle line to fight. Other topics examined included the Pipestone County Red Cross Chapter and Gold Star Mothers.

All combined the artifacts, information, and photos help to tell the story of World War I and pay tribute to the men and women who served from Pipestone County. This exhibit has been open for a number of years and has been reimagined to continue on exhibit.



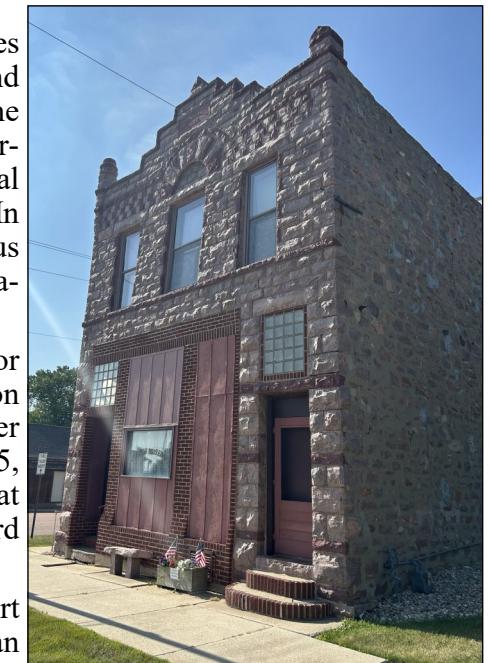
Jasper Area Historical Society.....by Briana Conrad

This April, the Jasper Area Historical Society (JAHS) received a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete a Building Conditions Assessment on the Poorbaugh Building, home of the Jasper Museum. Among the proposals received, JAHS selected the service offered by the historic preservation team from LHB Minneapolis.

A Conditions Assessment is a report that summarizes a property's current condition and helps us understand how it was constructed, used and maintained over the years. From this report we will gain a deeper understanding of the Poorbaugh Building's current physical structure and materials used in its construction. In turn, the conditions assessment report will help us prioritize and plan for future preservation or restoration projects, like tuckpointing or repointing.

The Jasper Museum is open by appointment for groups or individuals who wish to see our collection or conduct research, and annually during Jasper Quartzsiter Days (this year it is Saturday, July 15, 2023 from 9 am to 1 pm.) Call the City of Jasper at 507-348-3701 to get in touch with a JAHS board member for a tour!

JAHS appreciates the community's continued support to maintain the buildings and exhibits. Donations can be mailed to: Jasper Area Historical Society, PO Box 156, Jasper, MN 56144.



1950s Ruthon, MN

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Ruthon resident, Julia Lundholm photo-documented the town with her new camera. In 2009 those photographs were donated to the Pipestone County Museum. You can see many of them on the website (www.pipestonecountymuseum.com) by clicking on "More" and then "Slide Through History."

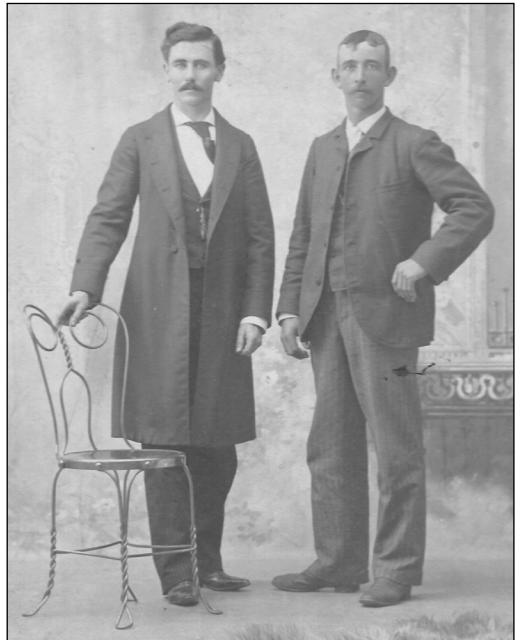


Above Photo, Left: Café owned and operated by Ray Weeks. Middle: Built before 1896 and had been C.M. Christensen's Meat Market. It became the Post Office, with John Christensen postmaster and Floyd Park mail carrier. Right: Lillie Carter's Dress Shop, the Roy Carter Real Estate. It became a barber shop and was razed in 1987.

Ruthon, MN is located in Aetna Township. It was founded in 1888 as a railroad town along the Willmar & Sioux Falls Railroad, which later became the Great Northern. In the 1950 U.S. Census, the population of Ruthon, MN was at a high-point of 534.

First Successful Operation in Pipestone

The first successful operation in Pipestone County was performed by Dr. Alexander Brown in 1896. The patient was William Roberts (Billie) of Fountain Prairie Township. Billie had a large, fatty tumor located in the center of his back, directly over the spinal cord. Dr. Brown decided that the tumor needed to be surgically removed. George Clark's parlor room in his apartment above his feedstore in Pipestone was converted into an operating room. Billie was given anesthetic by Dr. Carr, and Dr. William Brown assisted his brother, Dr. Alexander Brown, in the procedure. Dr. Brown's niece, Lizzie Best, also assisted.

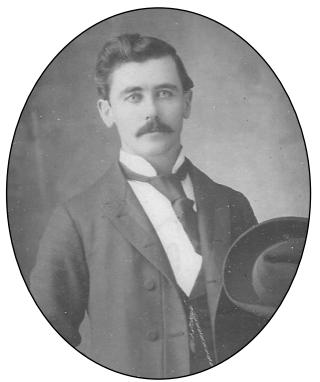


Left: Dr. Alexander Brown posed with patient William Roberts after the successful surgical procedure.

The Pipestone County Star newspaper reported that two days after the operation Billie was up and walking around. Five months later, Billie had to have another tumor removed from his shoulder blade. This operation was also successful and he was reported to have been up and walking around town only hours after the operation.

William Roberts was a pioneer resident of Pipestone County. He had immigrated from England and settled near Holland, MN. He married Minnie Meyer of Fountain Prairie Township. William Roberts died April 17, 1949 at the age of 84 years and 6 months. He was buried at Graceville Cemetery in Big Stone County, MN.

Dr. Alexander H. Brown



Dr. A.H. Brown,
circa 1896.

Dr. A.H. Brown was born in Canada in 1865. He came to Pipestone, via Wisconsin, in 1881. He and his brother William studied at Toronto Veterinary College, graduated in 1891 and practiced as veterinarians in Luverne, MN. The untimely death of their sister, Belle McGillivray, kindled their interest in studying human medicine. Alex attended Chicago Medical College and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, graduating in 1895. He returned to Pipestone and opened his own practice.

Dr. Brown worked to keep up with the newest technological advances of the time. He installed the first X-ray machine in his office in 1902, and built the first modern hospital in the city of Pipestone in 1916. Dr. Alexander H. Brown practiced medicine in Pipestone for 50 years. He retired in 1945 and passed away at the age of 89 in 1954.

Memorials



Memorials are a special way of remembering a friend or loved one with your gift to PCHS. This gift is given in their memory and a letter is sent to the family of the deceased noting your gift- but never its size. Memorials of \$100 or more will be registered on a plaque in the Museum. Let us know the person to be memorialized, the amount of the memorial and who to send the memorial letter to along with their mailing address.

In Memory of
Estella Vis
by Bud Vis

In Memory of
Ed & Ardith Texley
by the Texley Family

In Memory of
Jean Jones
by Daryl & Jan Stueven

Membership Renewals

May- June 2023
* = new member

Benefactor

Chuck & Dorie Sendelbach- Pipestone

Century

*Karen Amdahl- Pipestone
*Valerie Meyer Holthus- Andover, MN

Supporting

Madge Hanson- Minneapolis, MN
Janet VanderPlaats- Hatfield
Larry & Suzanne Fuller- Sioux Falls, SD
Barbara Strommer- Lakeville, MN

Friend

*Linda McGinty- Luverne, MN
*Tim Roberts- New London, WI

Looking for something to do this summer?

The Pipestone County Museum is offering History BINGO for youth through age 12. Pick up a BINGO card at the Museum or download the card from the Museum website (pipestonecountymuseum.com between June 1 and August 30, 2023. Earn a BINGO and bring your completed card to the Museum to receive a prize! One prize per youth per summer.

Shout-Out to Dari King of Pipestone for donating prizes for the Museum's Summer History Bingo!

Schoolhouse Open for the Summer!



We are happy to have Mrs. Diane Hansen once again volunteering at the District #3 Country Schoolhouse at L.H. Moore Park in Pipestone. She has school open on Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm through Memorial Day. She offers activities for children of all ages to participate while visiting 'school.' Come for the entire session or just drop in for a few minutes. Mrs. Hansen is a beloved former teacher who taught first grade for years.

Schoolyard Games are now offered every Thursday at 12:30. This activity is held in the 'schoolyard' at L.H. Moore Park in Pipestone for the half hour before 'school' starts. Museum staff leads group games, individual activities and sometimes even science experiments! Participate in the entire session or just jump in on a few games before the school bell rings.

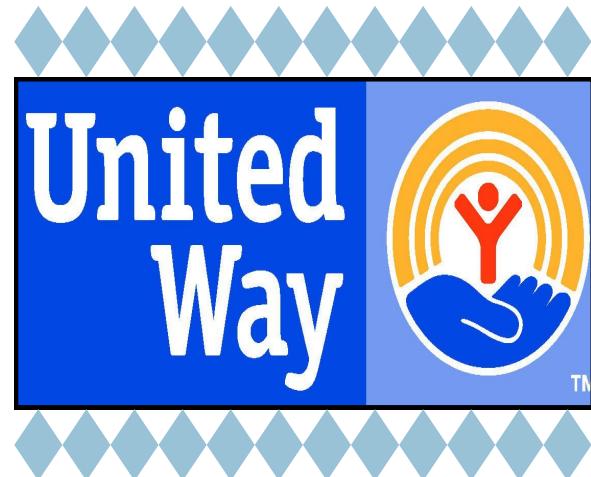


The Railroad reached Trosky in September 1884. A sidetrack was laid on October 10 and a railroad car set on it to serve as the first depot. Regular rail service began to Trosky that month and by the end of the year the railroad put up a depot and named M.E. Phillips as the agent.

PCHS is looking for two members to fill open board seats. Currently, the board meets the third Saturday of the month at 9am.

2023 PCHS Board

- Sue Parsley- President
- Gen Lustfield- Vice President
- Staci Burmeister- Secretary
- Chris Hollingsworth- Treasurer
 - Shannen Muller
 - Chuck Ness
 - JoLynn Nangle
 - Open
 - Open



Check out our
YouTube page!
At Pipestone County
Museum
On youtube.com



Pipestone County Historical Society Membership & Donation Form

Annual Membership Categories

- Friend \$15-\$24
- Household \$25-\$49
- Supporting \$50-\$99
- Century \$100-\$249
- Patron \$250-\$499
- Benefactor \$500 & Up

Additional Donation: _____ (please fill in amount)

Name: _____

Address: _____

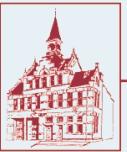
Email: _____

Membership Benefits include ...
Free Admission to Exhibit Galleries & Research Archives,
10% discount at Gift Shop,
Subscription to the Prairie Traveler newsletter,
Discounts on Research, Copies & Photo Reprints



Pipestone County
Historical Society

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Pipestone, MN 56164



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Pipestone, MN 56164
Permit #002

pipctymu@iw.net
www.pipestonecountymuseum.com



PIPESTONE COUNTY MUSEUM UPCOMING CALENDAR

July 8, 2:00pm: Walking Tour- Trosky Cemetery

July 11, 6:30pm: "Jesse James"- Russ Swanson

July 20, 9:45am: Coffee Talk- Meinders Library

August 12, 2:00pm: Walking Tour- New Woodlawn

August 17, Coffee Talk- TBA

September 9, 2:00pm: Walking Tour- St. Martin's

September 21, 9:45am: Coffee Talk- TBA

Schoolyard Games

Thursdays 12:30– 1:00pm
June, July, August

At Moore Park

With Trava Olivier, Museum Educator!

District #3 Schoolhouse

Open Thursdays 1-3pm
June, July, August

With Mrs. Diane Hansen, Teacher!

Pipestone County Museum

Open Tuesday-Saturday
9am-4pm

Admission \$3, Members FREE!

