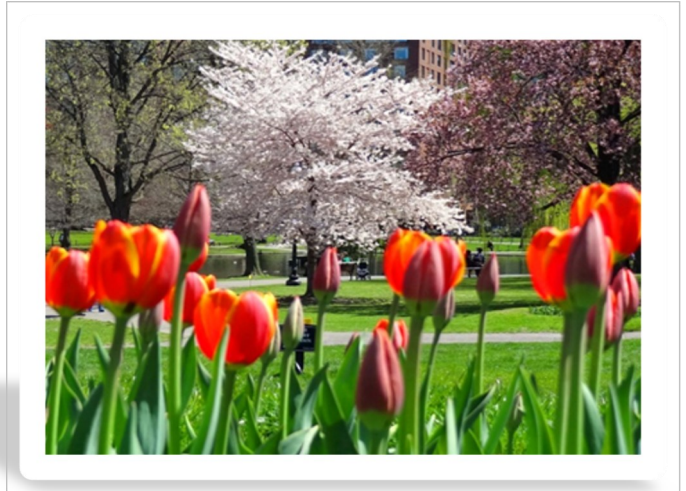


President's Corner

Spring has been busy at the Museum. The volunteers have been setting up new displays: the Main Street display, new mercantile area, new welcome table. We have also celebrated May Day event and 2 more local artist receptions.

The Main St. display is in the Heritage room where we recently had dresses. Taking down the displays and returning them to the right boxes with archival tissue paper takes quite a while. Putting up the Main Street display required locating all the items in the museum, going through files of pictures and information. Then we decide how to display items— should it go on the wall or in a display case? If you haven't been in to see the Main Street display yet please stop by!



We have been gifted two antique hutches for the Mercantile Store. Some heavy lifting was required by volunteers along with refinishing work. We have set up the new area with merchandise and discussed what could be added. Do you have an idea for new items to sell? We would love to add a chandelier to the welcome area along with the new round oak table.

About 30 people attended our May Day event on April 26th and created May baskets. Nicole Krienke, Muir Library Director, gave us a short history of May Day in two versions; kid friendly for the 1:00 - 3:00 session and the adult version at the 4:00 to 6:00 session. Punch and mocktails were served and everyone had fun.

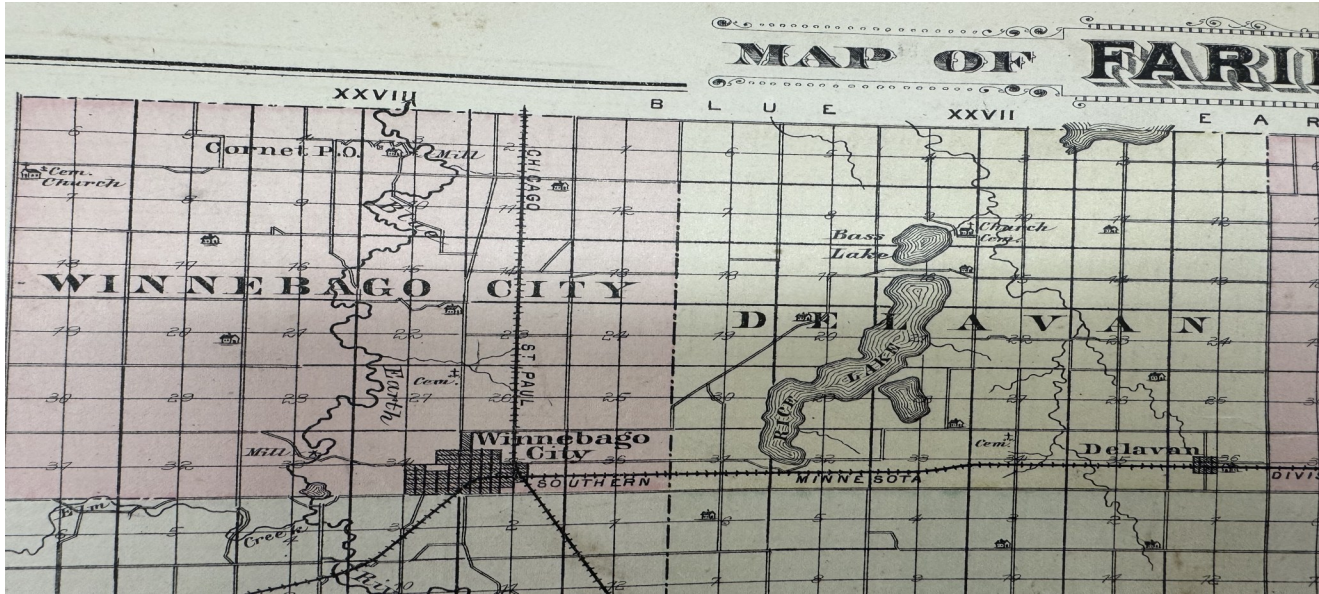
Since the beginning of the year we have had three artist receptions. In January it was Joy Marsh and her beautiful oil paintings. In March we had Kim Allevan showing her Pysanky egg paintings. Our most recent reception was for Shelley Caldwell and her wonderful mixed media abstract works. We have been delighted that each artist has brought in new visitors.

On March 18th we had a very successful Goulash Supper fundraising night. The Heritage Room tables were decorated with Winnebago High School Smorgasbord memories. The dinner included the recipe of fluffy fruit salad from the smorgasbord and we had a slide show of pictures from those times. Attendance was slightly down, but everyone gave generously. All donations went to the roof fund and music at the museum. We have one more roof to complete, but we do have music playing outside of the museum now.

Summer is looking busy and we look forward to seeing you!

Merodee Grannis, President

Our Ghost Towns



From time to time a discussion will start here at the museum about a town that used to exist in our area. Sometimes people come in asking us about these phantom villages, so it was suggested that our newsletter might use this as a topic.

I'm relying heavily on information printed in the Faribault County Register in 1985 and also 1992. I thought we could look at the villages closest to our area, the west side of the county. The above picture is from the 1886 plat book.

Three miles north of Winnebago was a settlement called Pioneer Riversides. It existed during the 1920's and was centered around a new school. Also in Winnebago City Township on the river closer to the Blue Earth County line, was Coronet (or Cornet). We have more information about that little settlement than most of the others. In the 1870's it had a post office, a mill, general store and blacksmith shop to bring people to this center. Its schoolhouse was moved to our fairgrounds in 1985, The land is now owned by Jeff and Joan Slama who say the timbers of the mill foundation are still visible when the river is low. Coronet was at a place in the river where fording was usually possible, but in 1886 the Woodland bridge was built nearby and it actually made it easier to get to Winnebago which was booming. The town's post office was active from 1874-1894 or 97. The mill burnt in 1899, This area was also referred to as Woodland.

Bass Lake was a settlement on the east side of the lake (Delavan Township). Scottish families had settled that area as well as Mapleton. There was a school as well as the church and cemetery that you can still find there. The school was converted to a house. Bass Lake had a post office from 1858 to 1875. When Delavan was founded in 1870, Bass Lake village began to fade.

Prescott Township had an area called Bassett's Grove used by picnickers and a Colfax which had a post office for two years, 1863-65. Also there was a post office in a spot named Prescott during the Civil War but the precise location of these places is lost to history. Winnebago City Township at one time had a 'Jerico' but it did not have a post office. 'Jerusalem' was located in what is now Nashville township, but at one time Faribault County extended over that far. Jerusalem had a cemetery that was later moved to the old North Cemetery (on 169 north

Ghost Towns cont'd

of Winnebago.

Oak Grove was a settlement three miles east of Blue Earth. Marna was midway between Frost and Blue Earth. Named by the rail road company, Marna had for many years an elevator, depot, stockyards and general store.

Pilot Grove was southwest of Blue Earth. The name came from landmark trees on the shore of a lost lake. It had a post office from 1866—1895 as well as many other businesses.

Verona (named for a Shakespeare drama!) just south of Winnebago was started by Henry Stoddard in 1855 before Blue Earth or Winnebago were started. At one time it was the third largest settlement in Faribault County. Eventually Winnebago drew too much of the trade and Verona died. The school was converted to a house.

So what caused these places that live on in memory to wither? It occurred to me while working on this that where railroads went through or didn't go through probably had quite a bit to do with a settlement thriving or folding. Also things like the Civil War or WWI that removed man power for a time could have been a cause.

If you have stories from these or other vanished towns, let us know. It might be interesting to drive these areas and let your imagination take you back in time to see what you can envision or what you might hear on the wind.

By Hazel McCrury

Fun Fest is coming right up. June 13th—15th.

Plan to stop by the Museum for a Root Beer Float on Saturday

and to check out exhibits you may not have seen or

want to peruse again.

The Board of Directors has been discussing ways of communicating with our members and the general public. We recently voted to use Mailchimp as an e-mail marketing application and will have the ability to update all of you on a more frequent basis regarding our latest news at the museum! More updates coming soon!

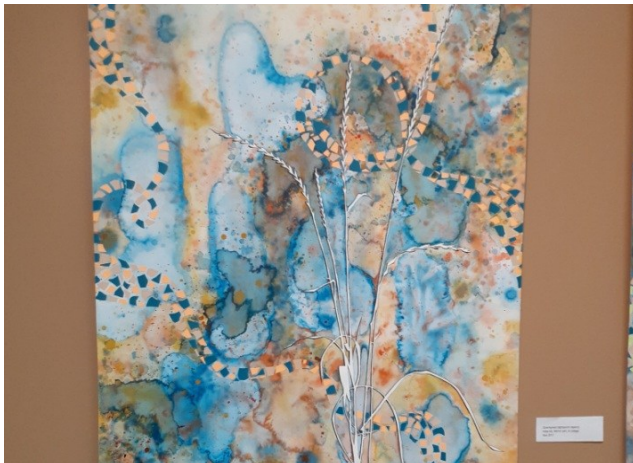
Sights and Events at the Museum



May Basket Event



Check out - new exhibit on Main Street



Shelley Caldwell Art



Ribbon Cutting. Our corner office is rented.



Preparing for the Goulash supper in March.

Don't miss the June event —

Arn Kind will speak on

The Viking Age

Thursday, June 12th 6 p.m.

At the Museum

Meet Your Board Member

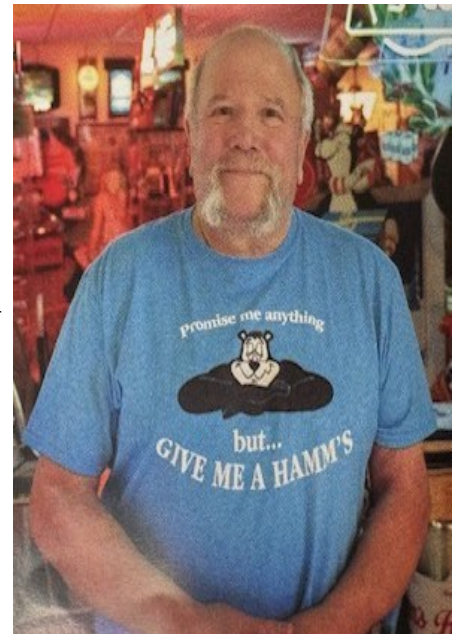
In this newsletter meet your board member I interviewed someone I know quite well. My name is Stevan Miner, and I joined the museum staff 4 years ago shortly after I retired from the automotive industry running Miner Auto Service on Main Street of Winnebago for close to 35 years buying the business from my father in 1985. Born and raised in Winnebago, I attended the Winnebago School system graduating in 1972. I worked for Chrysler, GMC, and Pontiac before deciding to come back home and operate my father's service station. Almost immediately after joining the museum staff, became a board member and shortly after that moved into the Vice President position which I remain today. Married to the former Susan Nelson whose parents Harold and Lylah operated Nelson Drug for many years on Main Street of Winnebago.

I am currently in charge of accessions at the museum which consists of checking in each item that is brought into the museum. We assign the item a number based on the donor, fill out necessary forms and catalog each item.

What is the best part of doing this is I get to see every great item that we get from all our fantastic donors. Still amazed at all the items we have here. I also help with the tech side of operations with computers, electronics, and other modern conveniences we happen to have at the museum. I really enjoy showing people around when they come in for a visit. They are always amazed on how big and how many items we have for a "small" town museum. We are all quite proud of it here and are always happy to share our knowledge and items with visitors. What really amazes me is how everyone here works together, all having an area of expertise and knowledge.

I have always been proud of my hometown and throughout the years have tried to pay back by volunteering for as many community services as possible. I joined the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce serving as president for 4 years. I was on the Winnebago Moto-Fest committee every year until 2006 serving as chairperson 5 years. In 2006 I was also on the Winnebago Sesquicentennial committee in charge of the car show and the commemorative prints. I served as a volunteer firefighter and served on the cities EDA and Planning Commissions. I currently am the head Deacon at Our Saviors Lutheran church.

In my spare time I enjoy collecting Hamm's Beer brewery items, everything included from glasses, coasters, neon and moving signs. I have a sign shop called Hamm It Up right across the street from the museum where I do my beer sign business, buying, selling, and repairing beer signs. I also collect and restore vintage jukeboxes. In fact, we have a 1950 Seeburg Model B jukebox in our downstairs Vic's Café display that I restored and have full of vintage 45 RPM records that visitors can play while visiting the downstairs displays. At my shop 7 days a week so if you see the flag flying out outside stop by for a tour and visit. I am also a huge Minnesota Twins baseball fan and have an extensive collection of memorabilia from them also in addition to several Mopar muscle cars. In the Winter I am a CCHA hockey referee, working for Minnesota State-Mankato hockey team the Mavericks. So much for retirement. Stop in and check out the museum and play a few oldies on the jukebox.



By Steve Miner

Winnebago Area Museum

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Email: wmuseum@bevcomm.net

Mission:

The mission of the Winnebago Area Museum is to conserve research, interpret, and exhibit the artifacts and historical items from the area and share them with the public for the purpose of study, education and enjoyment.

Board of Directors

Merodee Grannis, President
Stevan Miner, Vice President
Colette Meidinger, Secretary
Jean Anderson, Treasurer
Jerome Behnke, Board Member
Jim Grannis, Board Member
Pete Haight, Board Member
Hazel McCrury, Board Member
Herb Pederson, Board Member
Mark Peterson, Board Member
Danny Rynearson, Board Member

Be a Volunteer—

We are always seeking volunteers to join us to do the background work of a museum— keeping records straight (archiving), designing exhibits, newsletter design and publicity. Whatever your interests may be, we can find a place for you! Just come in on a Tuesday morning or Thursday afternoon or call us about another time.



<<Part of new
Mercantile area.
Stop in for
Pottery
Jewelry
School Annuals
Pencil sharpeners
And more

Be a Member—Basic Membership amount is just \$35 per year. Membership entitles you to a discount on the rental of the Heritage Room..

We are grateful for your support at any level you choose.

Upcoming Events:

May—June— Art by Shell Caldwell
June 12— Talk on Vikings by Arn Kind
June 14— Root Beer floats for Fun Fest
? Jello in July??

The Museum has a PayPal account for on-line donations. Please support your local Winnebago Area Museum.

