



Paddlewheel Press

Grand Forks County Historical Society Fall/Winter 2024

Making an Impact

The Grand Forks County Historical Society relies on, and is thankful for, the community we reside in. Maintenance on our historic buildings is not small task and often times come with a large price tag. Roofs leak, furnaces wear out, cameras and alarms get old, and paint peels. Without donations, benefactions, gifts, and grants we apply for; we would not be able to do the upkeep necessary to preserve Grand Forks County history.

In 2007, The Grand Forks County Historical Society partnered with The Community Foundation of Grand Forks-East Grand Forks. While the Foundation helps us to establish and grow charitable funds, it may also provide additional tax benefits to those making charitable gifts. When donors contribute to the Grand Forks County Historical Society Fund, their gift will generally qualify for a deduction on both federal and state income tax returns.

Continued on page 2

A Decade of Projects

Over the last decade the Grand Forks County Historical Society has aggressively embarked on a program to build, repair, modify and maintain its facilities. With the exception of the Myra Auto Livery, all of our buildings are old and in constant need of repair and maintenance. In this issue of the Paddlewheel Press we will share information about some of our projects.



Men Pouring Concrete in front of the Myra Museum Entryway

PARKING LOT RESURFACING

In 2017 Opp Construction resurfaced our parking lot at a cost of \$39,800.

THIS WALL HAS TO GO!

Our Entertaining History presentations often attract 50 to 100 guests which require adequate seating in the Myra Museum. The Myra Museum presentation area had a wall splitting the room into two sections. The wall was removed opening the space for large group presentations.

ANYONE NEED A LIFT?

An elevator was installed making our lower exhibition area handicap accessible.

HOMELESS ANTIQUE CARS

Our Ford Model A car and 1965 Ford police car were homeless. The Model A was housed in the Myra Carriage House and the police car was stored off site. A decision was made to construct a building (Myra Auto Livery) to house our automobiles and provide storage for Museum artifacts.

POST OFFICE BULGE

The 156 year old walls in our Post Office had several rotting logs and a growing bulge in the north wall. Artisan Restoration, from southern Minnesota, was hired to replace the rotting logs and reinforce the north wall.

(Continued on page 3)

Making Homemade Butter

Impact Continued...

If you are a North Dakota taxpayer, you may be eligible to claim a credit of 40% on a minimum donation of \$5,000 to our endowment at the Community Foundation through the ND Charitable Income Tax Credit.

By taking advantage of both the state and federal tax deduction you can significantly lower the net cost of your contribution and triple its impact.* Donations to our endowment fund at the Community Foundation can be made on line at www.gofoundation.org/give-fund or by calling 701-746-0668.

*This is information purposes only. Please consult your own attorney, accountant or financial advisor for advice on your situation.



February 13th, 2025

Early Donations will be accepted starting on January 13 with the event ending on the official Giving Hearts Day. This will be the second year of participation for our organization.

Visitors to the Campbell House kitchen can view what farm families used to make their own butter: cream crocks and cream separator, butter churn, large wooden bowl and special wooden paddle, butter molds.

Butter is made from cream, but the cream must be separated from the milk. Because cream is lighter than milk, when milk is allowed to stand in crocks, the cream rises to the top and can be skimmed off for making butter. The task is easier with a cream separator. Both crocks and cream separator are on display. A cream separator uses a series of spinning disks and centrifugal force to separate the cream from the milk. Lighter than milk, the cream comes from the upper spout and runs into a container and the skim milk runs into another.

The cream is then poured into a butter churn. The churn on display is a large, square jar with a hand-cranked mechanism on top that turns the paddles in the churn. The paddles agitate the cream and soon blobs of butter are formed. When all the butter is formed, the liquid, now buttermilk, is poured off. Buttermilk is nutritious and can be drunk, but, it does not have a pleasing taste.

The butter must now be worked with the wooden paddle in the large wooden bowl to press out every bit of the buttermilk. Salt can be added, if desired. The butter can now be packed into butter molds, the ones on

display leave an attractive impression in the butter. The homemade butter made by some families could be identified by the symbol when sold or traded at the store for groceries or other items.

Farmers often “traded” cream, butter, or eggs at the grocery store for items not produced on the farm, such as coffee, sugar, spices, and other cooking and baking ingredients. A common question asked by farmwives in their conversations was “where do you do your trading,” meaning, where do you buy your groceries.

Creamery butter is nutritious and it has a pleasing taste and it is also convenient. But the taste of homemade butter was enhanced by knowing that it was made from cream produced on the farm and that it had been churned in the farm kitchen.



(Continued from page 1)

The gable ends of the building were redone using weather resistant cedar material. This work was done by volunteers as a separate project.

WHY IS THE PAVEMENT MOVING?

The frost had moved the concrete landing by the front door. It had literally moved inches away from the building. The concrete slab was removed and replaced with a structural reinforced slab with pier anchoring.

DON'T TRIP!

The Myra Museum sidewalk brick pavers were uneven and presented a trip hazard. The pavers were removed, and a concrete sidewalk was installed.

GAZEBO REPAIRS

The Gazebo railings were rotting, and the structure needed painting. Volunteers crafted new railing pieces and installed them. Painters were hired to paint the structure. The roof requires special attention and paint and will be a project for 2025.

LUSTRON HOUSE ROOF REPAIR

The metal roof panels of the Lustron House were coming loose and needed refastening. This project was done with volunteers.

PAINT OR SIDING?

The Myra Museum had its soffit and fascia replaced in 2021, but the siding was in need of painting or replacement. The wood siding was removed and replaced with steel siding.

TOO HOT - TOO COLD

The Museum has 3 furnaces, two of which needed replacing. Our air conditioners were old and failed in August 2023. Both furnaces and air conditioners were replaced.

WHERE IS THE FIRE? 2023-2024

Our existing fire alarm system was failing, obsolete and not repairable. A new fire alarm sys-



tem was installed but the project encountered huge, unexpected expenses. The underground wiring connecting all of the buildings had deteriorated and was unusable. This required installing new underground wire encased in plastic conduit. A simple \$5,000 project mushroomed to a \$30,000 project. This project was funded by GFCHS building funds.

These projects were funded through a combination of grants from the Myra Foundation, the Nash Foundation and State Historical Society of North Dakota, community donations, Grand Forks County Historical Society building funds and an Anonymous donor. Thank you.

Upcoming Entertaining History

Sunday, Oct. 20, Gordon Iseminger "The New Northwest; Where is it?" 2 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24, Joel Medd "History of the Northwest Angle." 2 p.m.

Sunday Dec. 15, Ty Reese "Alexander Henry and Red River Abundance." 2 p.m.



Grand Forks County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2405 Belmont Road, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Grand Forks, ND
58201
Permit no. 31



Grand Forks County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Not a member? Please join us!

Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$25 Individual**
- \$50 Family**
- \$100 Corporate**
- _____ **Other**

Members receive free admission, our organizational newsletter and museum shop discounts.

Please make checks payable to the Grand Forks County Historical Society. Membership is fully deductible as allowed by law.

Membership runs for one year from receipt of dues.

The Grand Forks County Historical Society is a registered 501 (c) (3) Organization

The Grand Forks County Historical Society provides education, research assistance and a valuable tourism destination for our community. Please show your support by becoming a member today!