



# Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library & Village

1031 Bridge Avenue Albert Lea, MN 56007  
(507)373-8003 Fax: (507)552-1269 Website: <http://www.fchm.us>

Vol. XXX1, No. 3

September, October, & November 2017

Kim Nelson/Travis Drescher, Co - Editor

## **“Autumn in the Village” Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Come join us for “Autumn in the Village”. We have extended the hours and moved the celebration of history to a Saturday. You will be able to take a walk back in time strolling through our historical village, and seeing demonstrations and exhibits from the past. This is an opportunity for families to experience history together. There will be live music in the church, corn shelling and grinding, rope making, weaving and spinning. Demonstrations in our village woodworking shop, old fashioned photos in the photography shop, and wagon rides. Activities for the whole family will be available in our children’s learning lab across from the reception desk in the lower level of the museum, and in the one room school house. Candy and trinkets will be for sale in our General Store as well.

Plan on having lunch with us that day. We will be serving the ever popular Sarsaparilla along with sandwiches, hot dogs, salads, chips, apple pie, ice cream, pop, water, and coffee. A special Thank you to Hy-Vee, Mrs. Gerry’s Salads, and Trails Restaurant for donating the food for our event.

Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$2.00 for students 12 to 18 years of age, members and children 11 and under are admitted free. This is one of the FCHM’s largest fundraisers planned for 2017. Please come and support the museum and enjoy the celebration of history.

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION IS LOCATED ON PAGE 2 AND 7 OF THIS NEWSLETTER. Our annual membership fund drive for 2018 began September 1<sup>st</sup>. Help us reduce cost and plan our programs for 2018 by renewing your membership now!



## FREEBORN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Mission Statement:

It shall be the mission of the Freeborn County Historical Society to collect, preserve, and protect a record of Freeborn County and its people; and make this history known through the establishment and development of the Freeborn County Museum and Historical Village and related archives, activities, and displays – for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of the citizens of Freeborn County and all who share an interest in history.

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

Brad Kirchner - President  
Mark Light – Vice President  
Jennifer Levisen – Secretary/Treasurer

#### Board Members

Karen Callahan	Mim Crow-Reinhart
Mona Hobbiebrunken	Tom Jacobson
Dean Johnson	Jerry Meyer
Jerry Monson	Jennifer Nelson
Bev Leonard	Gary Schindler
Jason Taylor	

#### Staff

Kim Nelson-Executive Director  
Linda Evenson – Librarian  
Hattie Phillips –Exhibit Designer  
Travis Drescher – Administrative Assistant  
Lois Lunn – Housekeeping  
Gary Thofson-Maintenance

\*\*\*\*\*

### MUSEUM HOURS

Museum & Library Open Year Round  
Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Library closed each day 1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

VILLAGE OPEN May – September:  
Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SPECIAL THANKS TO JENSALES, INC.  
FOR DONATING THE  
PRINTING OF THE QUARTERLY  
FCHM NEWSLETTER!

### Membership:

- Free admission
- Reduced rates for museum-sponsored events
- Quarterly newsletter

Because of your support, the museum and library are open for you.

Please let us know if you are moving for the winter, so we can continue to get your newsletter to you!

### Membership levels for 2018

___ Individual (\$25)	___ Patron (\$50)
___ Family (\$35 Household)	___ Col. Albert Lea (\$250)
___ Sustaining (\$100)	___ Heritage Club (\$1000)
___ Leader (\$500)	

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FCHM and mail to 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea MN 56007. **THANK YOU!!**

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Please consider donating a portion of your estate towards the preservation of your history, either through our Operating Fund, Building Fund; a Designated Fund; or the FCHS Foundation, which we receive annual grants based on the interest income. Thank ou!





*Notes from the director...*

It has been a year since I took the position as Executive Director of the museum. It has been indeed a great honor to serve the residents of Freeborn County this past year. I have learned so much and continue to learn daily. I want to thank Linda, Hattie, and Lois for showing me the ropes. A special thank you goes out to the board of directors and specifically the executive board; Brad, Dean, Jennifer, and Mark. Your guidance and patience have such a blessing as I embarked into uncharted territory.

We continue to evaluate and try to take advantage of opportunities that come our way. This past year we have seen the start of our Jr. Historian program, increase in family memberships, additions to our exhibits, the largest Christmas Gathering that the museum has had, and the addition of the "The Rock". We have also worked to start to secure funds for interactive displays as well as redesigning our web site to be launched in September 2017.

You can expect much of the same as we enter this busy fall season. Please consider volunteering at the museum for the upcoming events; Autumn in the Village, Discover History Days, Jr. Historian and the Christmas Gathering. We are always looking for volunteers to help with tours, stuff newsletters, and help at the desk. We would love to have you.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter as well as read my article in the Tribune and listen to me on the radio!

*Making Memories Everyday!*

*Kim Nelson*

*Executive Director*



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**DISCOVER History Day's  
switching to the fall for the  
2017-2018 School Year!  
September 26, 27, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Please consider helping during  
these three very busy days!**



***A Huge Thank you to all of our  
volunteers during the fair. We had  
over 1400 visitors to the museum  
and Heritage Barn during the "6  
Best Days of Summer"!***

The museum continues to look for an Outboard Motor Stand. You have one that you do not need, please consider donating one.

## **FCHM Lecture Series**

**Location: FCHM**

**Meeting Room**

**Dates: October 14<sup>th</sup> and  
November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**from 9:00 – 10:30 am**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>: *Travis Drescher* will  
present on “Rosemary Kennedy’s-  
a life with a lasting legacy for those  
with intellectual and developmental  
disabilities”**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>: *Rick Mammel* will  
present on “Spies of the Civil War”**

**Both Lectures are free to members  
and just \$5.00 for non-members.**

**Come join us this fall for the  
Lecture Series!**



### **Museum Day Live!**

**Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, Museum Day Live  
is a nationwide event where  
participating museums and cultural  
institutions across the country offer  
free admission on September 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
2017 to anyone visiting that day!**

## **Museum Closings**

The Museum, Library & Village will be **closed**  
Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>,  
and Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>, in observance of the  
Thanksgiving holiday.

### **Adopt a building**

The Freeborn County Historical Society has  
18 buildings in their historical village. We  
are looking for groups and or families to  
adopt a building to care for. This would  
include small repairs, painting and cleaning.

An example would be to paint shutters,  
steps, and railings, wash windows, and keep  
the general appearance pleasant for  
museum visitors. If you would be interested  
as a family or maybe have a couple friends  
that would like to work with you on a  
building, please contact the museum and we  
will set up a time to visit with you about a  
building of your choice. The village is open  
May through September. The buildings are  
opened in April and closed in October for the  
season. Contact 373-8003 if you are  
interested.

#### ***Building currently available are:***

***Telephone Office***

***Carpenter***

***Mill***

***Shoe Shop***

***Red Barn***

***Jail***

***Photography***

***Bank***

***Barber***

From the Desk of the Librarian, *Linda Evenson*

**Back to School...**

In 1857, sixteen school districts were formed in Freeborn County. District No. 17 was added in February 1858. By September 1859, the number of districts had reached 45. The growth of school districts within the county continued. When the Freeborn County Superintendent of Schools filed his report for the winter term of 1881-82, there were 111 school districts. The average number of students in each was 29. In his report, Superintendent C. W. Levens outlined the "Program of Daily Exercises" for the schools.

Hour	Grade	Exercises	Hour	Grade	Exercises
9:00	All	Opening Exercises	1:00	1	1st Reader & Spelling
9:05	1	Oral Number Lesson	1:10	2	2nd Reader & Spelling
9:15	2	2nd Reader & Spelling	1:25	4	"A" Geography
9:30	3	3rd Reader	1:40	5	History
9:45	4	4th Reader	2:00	3&4	"B" Spelling
10:05	5	"A" Practical Arithmetic	2:10	All	Writing
10:30	...	RECESS	2:30	...	RECESS
10:45	1	1st Reader & Spelling	2:45	1	1st Reader & Spelling
10:55	2	Oral Geography	2:55	2	Oral Arithmetic
11:05	3	Primary Arithmetic	3:10	4	Lanugage Lessons
11:20	4	"B" Practical Arithmetic	3:30	3	Primary Geography
11:40	5	"A" Grammar	3:45	4&5	"A" Spelling

Program of Daily Exercises for Freeborn County School Districts, 1882

From the Desk of the Designer, *Hattie Phillips*

"As this very busy summer stretches into fall, I would first like to say thank you to *all of the volunteers* who braved the heat and humidity to help out the museum over the last season. **Thank you!**

One of our most cumulative and intensive projects this summer was once again furnishing the Heritage Barn for the Freeborn County Fair. We worked with them to provide Freeborn County related memorabilia, items and photographs.

This year, the Heritage Barn space was a pastiche of the continuing growth of the collection at the museum as well as a celebration of the magnificent items and treasures that we already hold.

After Fair Week, we had over 600 visitors to the Heritage Barn and over 700 visitors to the Museum grounds. I am so thankful for all the visitors who took the time to check out our exhibits and space in both locations!"

## MUSEUM'S WISH LIST

- Copy Paper – we use large amounts of white and colored paper for flyers and projects
- Toilet Paper
- Keurig Coffee Pods
- Bleach, Mr. Clean and/or Lysol Cleaner
- Clorox Disinfectant Wipes
- Garbage Sacks - 39 gallon size
- Paper Towels/Kleenex/Laundry Detergent
- Gift Cards-Home Depot/Office Max for supplies
- Zep/Step 3 Floor Finish (available Home Depot)
- Flash Drives
- Freeborn County High School Year Books
- Freeborn County Elementary School Year Books.
- Photos of Freeborn County Rural Schools
- Black Sunday Tornado Pictures (April 30, 1967)
- Dixon's Drive-In Pictures

The books & photos would be great to have in FCHM's Library, and the other items for the Museum to help us direct more funding toward programming.

A **BIG** Thank You to all who donated supplies to the museum.  
We truly appreciate your support of our Historical Museum, Library, and Village.

**Please let us know your address if you are moving or if you go south for the winter months, so we can mail your newsletter to the correct address.**  
**Thank you!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Books for Sale:*

1. *Images of Freeborn County*: A photo narrative of the County, divided by Townships-**\$10.00**
2. *Glimpses of Freeborn County: 1930-1980*: The story of fifty years of significant change and the memories of today's older generation.-**\$10.00\***
3. *Albert Lea Remembers*: Collected stories of 82 people who lived or worked in Albert Lea and its surrounding area throughout the better part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.-**\$15.00 \***
4. *1882 History of Freeborn County*: The Freeborn County section of Minnesota history.-**\$44.99\***
5. *History of Freeborn County Schools*: Documentation of 141 county schools and the location of the country school houses from 1857 to 1954-**\$20.00\***
6. *Remembering Glenville*: Life in a Mid-Twentieth Century Minnesota Village-**\$29.95\***
7. *A History in Story and Picture of the Clarks Grove Area*-**\$20.00\***
8. *Take Two: A Love Story for Grown-Ups*: The true story of Alicia Ross Erickson's life-**\$16.00\***
9. *Clarks Grove Baptist Church*: A history of the church-**\$20.00\***
10. *History of Myrtle, Minnesota and the Czech Community*-**\$25.00\***
11. *Eat and Explore Minnesota*: A Cook Book-**\$18.95\***
12. *Tumbleweeds Burning: Book 1 & 2*-An epic family saga of grit and courage in a strange new world-**\$19.00\*** each
13. *Albert Lea High School Yearbooks*-**\$20.00**

## *Other Items:*

1. Building of Broadway DVD-**\$20.00\***
2. Eddie Cochran Memorabilia: T-Shirts, Mugs, Posters, Cassettes, and Records.
3. 1886 Court House Cutting Board-**\$30.00\***
4. FCHM Souvenirs: Mugs, Pencils, and Shot Glasses
5. Candy and Souvenirs
6. Postcards Printed by Albert Lea's Lewis Printing Company

\*Tax is 7.875%

**FREEBORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, LIBRARY & VILLAGE  
2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

\$1000.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Heritage Club  
\$ 500.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Leader  
\$ 250.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Col. Albert Miller Lea/Business  
\$ 100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining  
\$ 50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron  
\$ 35.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family  
\$ 25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Friend

Membership levels \$100.00 and above, include nameplate on membership board.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to FCHM. Mail to: Freeborn County Historical Museum  
1031 Bridge Avenue  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

\*\*\*\*\*

2017 has been an exciting year with changes in staff, exhibits and programs. We continue to look for new ways to reach our community members with new projects, exhibits and collaborations. We look forward to increasing our museum memberships and offering new options for becoming involved with Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village. We hope you will continue to support the museum and help us as we "Build the Future by Preserving the Past." Remember, what happens today is history tomorrow!

By renewing your 2018 membership now you are helping us to save printing, paper, staff time, and postage, as well as helping us to plan our budget for next year. We appreciate your assistance and hope you will renew your membership and possibly give a gift membership to a friend or family member.



Freeborn County Historical  
Museum, Library & Village  
1031 Bridge Avenue  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Non Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALBERT LEA, MN  
56007  
PERMIT NO. 351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Museum Calendar of Events**

September 8<sup>th</sup> Program Committee, 8:00 am – 9:30 am  
September 8<sup>th</sup> Education Committee, 9:30 am – 11:00 am  
September 11<sup>th</sup> Freeborn County Genealogy Society 7:00 pm  
September 12<sup>th</sup> Sons of Norway meeting  
SHPO Conference September 13-15<sup>th</sup> Downtown Albert Lea  
September 16<sup>th</sup> "Autumn in the Village", 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> "Museum Day Live" – Free admission to the museum, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
September 26<sup>th</sup> FCHM Board Meeting 5:30 – 6:30 pm  
September 26, 27, 28<sup>th</sup> DISCOVER HISTORY DAYS  
October 9<sup>th</sup> Freeborn County Genealogy Society 7:00 pm  
October 10<sup>th</sup> Sons of Norway 7:00 pm  
October 13<sup>th</sup> Program Committee, 8:00 am – 9:30 am  
October 14<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Museum meeting room  
October 20<sup>th</sup> Sons of Norway, Leif Erickson Banquet 6:00 pm  
October 21<sup>st</sup> Jr. Historians 9:00 – 11:30 am, Children's Learning Lab  
October 21<sup>st</sup> Tea with Family & Friends – Choose Civility, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
October 24<sup>th</sup> FCHM Board Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm  
November 10<sup>th</sup> Program Committee, 8:00 am – 9:30 am  
November 10<sup>th</sup> Education Committee, 9:30-11:00 am  
November 11<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series 9:00 am – 10:30 am  
November 13<sup>th</sup> Freeborn County Genealogy Society 7:00 pm  
November 14<sup>th</sup> Sons of Norway 7:00 – 9:00pm  
November 18<sup>th</sup> Jr Historian 9:00 – 11:30 am, Children's Learning Lab  
November 23, 24, 25<sup>th</sup>, Happy Thanksgiving-Museum Closed  
November 28<sup>th</sup> FCHM Board Meeting 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Gathering 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.