

Heritage Happenings



Woodbury Heritage Society

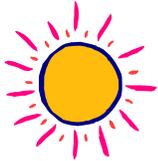
Vol. 31 no. 2 Winter 2014

Heritage Happenings is published three times each year by the Woodbury Heritage Society

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Click on the WHS website for the latest information.
www.woodburyheritage.org



ATTENTION MEMBERS

The Heritage Society needs a new Sunshine Lady or Gentleman. This person will send a bereavement card to the family of a member who has passed away or a get-well card to one who is ill.

Miller Barn Project



For the last several years the Society has been attempting to save several historic buildings in Woodbury. The Society is now pursuing the preservation of the August Miller Family barn located at 8186 Afton Road (Valley Creek Road). The barn is an excellent example of the early barns of Woodbury. Its post and beam construction and the use of wooden pegs for joinery make it an iconic and classic bank Woodbury barn. Wooden pegs were thought to be a superior over the use of nails. Nail could rust through the wood weakening the connections. Whereas wooden pegs make a wood to wood connection, swelling and contracting

at the same rates, if the grain is lined up just right as well, it swells perfectly together, over the years the joint gets tighter instead of looser, and makes for buildings that if done right can last a millennium. The city has purchased the Miller farmstead as part of the Valley Creek Open Space. The barn is still standing in reasonable good condition. The WHS Board has been meeting with Bob Klatt, Parks and Recreation Director for the city of Woodbury regarding the preservation of the Miller Barn. The Board envisions that the barn would be an excellent venue to display the large items currently in storage. This would include such farm

items as plows, planters, fanning mills and Woodbury's first road grader. The Board envisions entering into a partnership with the city for an eventual multi-use of the barn.

The city has commissioned the Instecta-Homes of America, Inc. perform a structural inspection of the barn. The most immediate concern is the roof which is much deteriorated, leaking and with some structural decay. The Board hopes to work with the Parks and Recreation Department to raise funds to reroof. WHS will apply for grants to secure our share of the necessary funds.



A committee of the board, headed by Bill Schrankler is researching the history of the barn. The preliminary investigations indicate that the following families owned the barn: Helena and Victor Munson, August Miller, Lehart J. Friedrich, Barb Jankovich and Dan & Debbie Raleigh. Member Em Urtel contacted Barb Jankovich regarding the barn. Jankovich sent us the following interesting information about the barn. "We bought the farm in Woodbury in May of 1965. We had our work cut out for us. All the property around the house and barn was plowed up. The house sat empty for over a year and it looked so sad. The barn was good for us, as we had 5 horses and they needed a home. We had rented a farm on Co Rd 19 (Woodbury Dr) for three years and then my Uncle Paul Emerson told us about the Miller farm being for sale. We contacted Lehart Friedrich and we agreed on a price and with that, we started working and working. August Miller had someone build two big tie stalls in the front of the barn, for his two draft horses. It was also enclosed, so the horses kept it warm w/ their own heat. The west side of the barn was all stanchions and cement mangers. Not a good design for we were happy to have our farm and spent lots of time working on fixing things up. We seeded down the lawn, planted oats behind the barn and built fences, etc. There was a barn cleaning cable on the west side of the barn. It went all the way to the back of the barn, so worked great for cleaning stalls. We did remove it a couple of years later, cause it was just too old and falling apart. I don't remember the year we put a new roof on the East side of the barn. Sure

did make a big difference in the rainy season. We cut the hay field, baled it and put it in the haymow. Orrin Horrisberger cut and baled the hay. He was a great friend and he taught us about farming. We replaced all the windows in the barn and that sure did dress the barn up. Let more light in also. The barn was also home to a couple of cats.

We painted the inside of the barn white, and painted the outside red, but I don't remember the year we did that. The barn was also home to a few calves that we bottle fed until they could go outside. One heifer in particular named Stroft was the start of our cattle herd. They had one side of the barn as their place of shelter from bugs, rain and snow. Those cattle really had it made in the barn. We always had at least two calves each year. Boy, if that barn could talk, the stories it could tell. St John Lutheran Church (our church) stored the big altar in our haymow until the new church was completed. You could say, the Barn was blessed...

We do know the BARN was built in 1920-1921 and put together with wooden pegs. Tall, strong and sturdy barn. It should be saved for others to see what barns were like. City people do not realize what life was about when there were farms in what is now called "WOODBURY". Beautiful farming community. My parents moved into Woodbury in 1951, on which happens to be the old Urtel farm."

Thank you Em and Barb for gaining this very important information.

Bill Schrankler

Announcements



Heritage Society Members:
 Mark your calendar for The **Annual Holiday Potluck luncheon**
 Bring a dish to share and meet at 12:30,
January 11, 2015, at St. John’s Lutheran
 Church, 1975 S. John’s Drive.
 Woodbury historians Inez Oehlke and Lorraine
 Raths will be the guest speakers



Lorraine



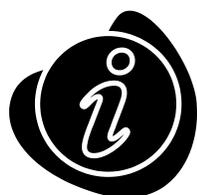
Inez

Dick Bielenberg or Dick Raths will be on hand
 at the Woodbury Heritage Society office
 between 2 and 4 pm Wednesdays. The office is
 located on the second floor of Woodbury City
 Hall; telephone: 651-714- 3564.

REMINDER TO ALL HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS:

It’s time to renew your membership and remit
 your dues for 2015.
 Please send to: Woodbury Heritage Society,
 John Seeman, Membership Chair, City Hall,
 8301 Valley Creek Rd., Woodbury, MN 55125.
 Amount: \$10 per individual

Renewal information and form is
 on page four



Sure Sign of the Holidays



Heritage House has taken on a festive holiday look thanks to the Raths family’s “Hanging of the Greens.” Ruth Raths Duncan, who loved this annual event, was sadly missed this year.

The Heritage House serves as a marker signaling the start of the holiday season in Woodbury. The traditional decorations on the house with garland, wreaths and bows put our city in a festive mood. Hats off to the Raths family for their work in the “hanging of the green” on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The house was the first house/log cabin of the Raths family when settling in Woodbury over a century ago. The Board and members of the society appreciate all of your labors.

WOODBURY EMPLOYEES RECRUIT ARTISTS

The Artist in Residence program at Heritage House last summer was a success thanks to a group of City of Woodbury employees. Emma Jarrett, Jason Egerstrom and Megan Beck coordinated the program, wherein several artists from this area displayed their talents by actually creating drawings and paintings on site during Sunday visiting hours.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the program—Woodbury employees and artists alike. Your work is much appreciated.

Margaret Wachholz

Woodbury Heritage Society

8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
651.714.3564



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2015

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

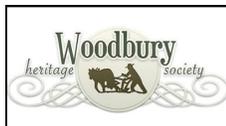
**MEMBERSHIPS ARE BASED
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR AND
MUST BE RENEWED**

MEMBERSHIP CATAGORY (Check appropriate box)

\$10 per individual (Annual Dues for the Calendar Year)

Additional Gift

Donations are tax deductible



Send application & check or money order to:

*Woodbury Heritage Society
John Seemann, Membership Chair
City Hall
8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125*