

History Center News

Belle Creek Belvidere Cannon Falls Central Point Cherry Grove Featherstone Florence Goodhue Hay Creek Holden Kenyon Lake City Leon Minneola **Pine Island Red Wing** Roscoe Stanton Vasa Wacouta Wanamingo Warsaw Welch **Zumbrota**

Volume 50 No. 3– Summer 2016 Newsletter of the Goodhue County Historical Society

Red Wing's Historic Baseball Past By Afton Esson

This article originally appeared in the June 2016 edition of It's Red Wing Magazine. Reused with permission.

The early years of industrial expansion in the city brought many people to the area. These new Red Wing citizens began to look for activities to do outside of work with many of them settling on the sport of baseball. Baseball was a great way to pass the time not only for players, but for the spectators as well, and was a fixture of Red Wing's historic past.

Baseball in the Red Wing area is nearly as old as the sport itself. People were playing ball as early as 1859 in the county. During the years of industrial expansion local businessmen engaged in friendly competitions. The

(Continued on page 3)



East End Ballpark which was located between East 5th Street and Green Street - Photo from the Phil Revoir Collection

The mission of the Goodhue County Historical Society is to serve as the steward for county history by collecting, preserving, and promoting the natural and cultural history of Goodhue County and its people.

Goodhue County History Center 1166 Oak Street Red Wing, Minnesota, 55066

651-388-6024 Website: www.goodhuecountyhistory.org General information via email: info@goodhistory.org

Open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Mondays & Holidays

<u>Staff</u>

Executive Director: **Dustin Heckman** Curator of Objects & Exhibits: **Casey Mathern** Archives & Library Manager: **Afton Esson** Education & Outreach Coordinator: **James Clinton**

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History Center News is produced quarterly by the Goodhue County Historical Society. Opinions expressed by authors or in quotations do not necessarily represent those of the Society, its Directors or staff. The Society welcomes your comments and suggestions. Except otherwise noted, all photos are from the Goodhue County Historical Society's Photograph Collection.

Executive Director's Column By Dustin Heckman

2016 may go down as one of the most ambitious years in recent memory for the Goodhue County Historical Society. By the end of the year, we will have done the following: hosted or created seven exhibits, completed or participated in over 100 programs and outreach events, and held the largest fundraiser for our organization since 2009. About half of what I just described, will be taking place in the next six months!

The only way we can accomplish this is with your help. Some of these upcoming events will be held over multiple days. If you have ever thought about volunteering with the Goodhue County Historical Society, here is your chance. Check out these events where help will be crucial:

River City Days - August 6 & 7

We will have a booth in Bay Point Park on Saturday (10 a.m. to dusk) and Sunday (12 to 6 p.m.). There is a need for 8 to 12 volunteers in order to fully staff the booth. Most of the work here is talking with people as they wander through Bay Point.

Goodhue County Fair - August 10 to 14

This year, we will have a tent outside of the one room school selling items and talking about the historical society. We also will be operating the one room school with games and information. There will be a total of 10 shifts during the Fair with each shift needing two to three people.

Viva Las Vegas Gala - November 19

For the first time since 2009, we will be having a gala event at Treasure Island Resort & Casino. To help with this event, we are looking for people willing to serve in multiple capacities. Our greatest need is for table host/ hostesses who can help recruit family, friends, and neighbors to attend the event and fill a 10 person table.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of nonprofit organizations. To signup for River City Days or the Goodhue County Fair, contact James. To help with the gala, contact Dustin.

Help us make our ambitious goals come true!

(Continued from page 1)

scrimmages were halted for several years during the Civil War, but eventually began to pick up and thrive. By 1870 the first true baseball team to carry Red Wing's name was organized. The star pitcher of the team was Martin S. Chandler, Goodhue County's first sheriff. By 1877, Red Wing had a champion team. The team was able to pull off impressive victories of Lake City and Hastings, both of which were bitter diamond rivals.

By 1892 Red Wing firmly established itself in the world of baseball with a team that many local historians still consider as one

of the best ever to represent the city. This team was considered one of the greatest hitting, fielding, and running baseball clubs not only in Minnesota, but in the entire Midwest. Unfortunately, because of their exceptional talent, the team disbanded the following year when several players left to become salaried players on the team in Rosemount, MN.

Red Wing was not limited to just one ball club. Teams were organized in all parts of the city and the rivalry between East, South, West, and Central Red Wing was unusually intense. Neighborhood boys would form their own teams and many local businessmen sponsored these teams composed of 9 to 18 year old boys. Several of these "Kid Nine" teams were the Young Sand Hill Crescents, the Sand Hill Sluggers, the South End Stars, the West End Colts, the College Hill Pickets, Wermuth's Best, Ladner Brothers' Nine, and the Home Brands. All these teams tore up the diamonds, competing with one another to be crowned the champions of the city of Red Wing.

Heading into the 20th century the young Pickets team began to stand alone from the rest. Due to their talent they were able to be the representative baseball team of Red Wing. This also garnered attention from a generous local business which offered to sponsor the team. Their name was then changed to the Remmler's Brewers. The team stayed together for several more years all the while winning two Southeastern Minnesota championships before disbanding in 1904.

By 1910, Red Wing considered itself big enough in the baseball world to support a class D league baseball team. A baseball

Base !	Ball		
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Friday, Jul	y 15, 18	98	
1		TICKETS	10 CENTS.

Ticket from a Red Wing base ball game in 1898.

association was then formed and a board of directors was established. At that time Red Wing was the smallest city in the upper Midwest to sponsor the project of everyday baseball. The city was able to secure a franchise in the small Minnesota-Wisconsin baseball league which in 1910 was made up of eight teams. The Red Wing baseball association then hired manager Mike Malloy, who in turn took responsibility of hiring the players for the team.

The new team had a dismal first season *(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

which ended with a record of 57 wins and 69 loses. This was one of the very few losing records ever posted by a Red Wing team up until that point. The following season did not bring much improvement. The team began losing support of the Red Wing business community and due to the lack of support the team was disbanded in June of 1911. Another attempt was made at a semi-professional team in 1916, but once again due to a lack of patronage it disbanded a season later. World War I also played a factor in its disbandment.

Baseball struggled for a good decade and a half to regain its early momentum, but by the mid-1930s it was once again back in the spotlight. It was around this time that the American Legion began sponsoring amateur ball throughout the state, including Red Wing. Several small Red Wing teams were started including the Old Style Lagers and Schacht's Insurance Agency.

As the Second World War commenced many feared Red Wing baseball would head down the same path as it did during World War I, but fortunately this was not the case. Red Wing baseball went into full stride following the war and in 1946 the Red Wing Amateur Baseball Association was established. The organizers of the group emphasized that the association should be made up of all Red Wing baseball fans with the main goal of keeping at least one representative baseball team in Red Wing every year.

The Red Wing Baseball Association and the American Legion sponsorships have been a major success in keeping baseball in Red Wing over the years. The Red Wing Aces were conceived during the early stages of the Red Wing Baseball Association and continue to thrive to this day. There have been several players that played for the major league Minnesota Twins organization that were products of Red Wing's town ball teams, though they only played for the Twin's minor league affiliates.

Red Wing certainly has a rich history in baseball. The strong support of the high school and amateur teams in the area show that excitement around Red Wing baseball will not be ceasing anytime soon.

Afton Esson is the Archives & Library Manager of the Goodhue County Historical Society.

New Microfilm Titles Available for Research Patrons!

With the help of a grant from the Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grants Program administered by the Minnesota Historical Society, the Research Library now has 126 new rolls of microfilm available! These rolls filled gaps in existing holdings as well as added new titles.

Here is a list of the new titles available:

Minnesota Gazette - 1857 Svenska Minnesota Bladet - 1869 Red Wing North Star - 1871 to 1872 Red Wing Sun - 1884 to 1885 Red Wing Times - 1897 Red Wing Republican - 1902 to 1941 Republican Eagle daily - 1940 to 1968 Goodhue County Free Press - 1883 Zumbrota News - 1885 to 1890 Zumbrota Free Press - 1913 The Riverside - 1936 to 1940

WANTED: NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS!



Do you like to write? Do you like researching or telling local history? The Goodhue County Historical Society is looking for interested individuals to submit articles for our quarterly newsletter. Article content must be Goodhue County based but can be on any topic that the writer chooses. Our deadline for the fall newsletter is **4 p.m. on Friday, September 16**.

For more information and guidelines on how to submit an article, contact Dustin at (651) 388-6024 or by email: director@goodhistory.org.

Articles will be printed as space allows and may be edited to fit space constraints by the Goodhue County Historical Society staff.

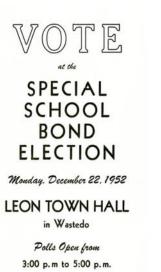


arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

We are a participating Blue Star Museum in 2016!

Once again in 2016, the Goodhue County Historical Society is participating in the Blue Star Museums program. This program offers free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Military personnel just need to show an approved Military ID to have the admission waived.

Exhibits on View





Check out these exhibits from July through September!



Leon Township | Ends July 30

They Played for the Love of the Game Adding to the Legacy of Minnesota Black Baseball



Sundberg's Food Market: The Summer 2016 Personal Collection By Janet Daley



Debbie Eppen's personal collection of Sundberg's Food Market items will be on display at the Goodhue County History Center through mid-September.

Debbie Eppen is the proud owner of many fine items connected to Sundberg's Food Market, once located on the corner of Main and Plum Streets in Red Wing, Minnesota.

In 1921, Eppen's grandfather Elmer Ottoson began working for Harold and Elroy Sundberg, co-owners of Sundberg's Food Market. The grocery store became known as Sundberg Brothers. On January 1, 1925, the Sundberg brothers purchased the meat market business of Lewis and Gilbertson. On February 1, 1926 the meat market expanded and an office was created in the adjacent building when Johnson Tire vacated. A bakery was added in 1931. Within 17 years, the small Sundberg Brothers store expanded to five locations.

Back in the 1920s customers would order groceries by phone. Ottoson helped deliver groceries in sturdy wooden boxes like the crate on display at the History Center. Elmer Ottoson bought into the store when Harold Sundberg was ill and wanted to retire. Elmer recalled: "The Sundbergs were super salesmen. They offered summer sausage and slab bacon (they had no slicer). They went to the country and purchased a few cattle [to butcher]. At this time there were thirty stores in Red Wing. Four of them were meat markets. They also carried bulk coffee and the grinder was going all the time. They had two National Cash Registers. No adding machines in those days. Both Harold and Elroy were sharp in adding and multiplying. Harold & Lillian Sundberg were extra good to me and our family."

Eppen recalls that when she was around 8 years old, living in Winona, her parents Wanda and Dick Ottoson put her on the train headed to Red Wing to visit her grandparents for the weekend. Eppen fondly remembers getting dressed up and curling her hair so that her grandmother could show her off at the store while she helped serve coffee and cookies to the customers.

Eppen's two most treasured items in the collection are a newspaper advertisement with a photo of her grandfather and a 1948 Christmas ad that provides a list of store employees. Eppen's father and grandfather are among the employees. The 1953 advertisement celebrating the 100th anniversary of Goodhue County was rescued from a stack of old newspapers by a friend of Eppen. The ad has been framed and will always be cherished by Eppen's family. Three Red Wing Pottery pieces given as customer appreciation gifts are displayed here, along with a lamp base assembled by Stephen Shore containing a potsherd from one of these pieces.

Remember three or more items makes a collection; if you or someone you know has a personal collection and would like to share it, contact Janet Daley at (651) 388-4556.

WATER WAYS

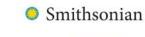
"no water, no life," no blue, no green"

-Sylvia Earle, oceanographer

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A new traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution featuring a local exhibit, interactive displays, events, and programs about the future of water in our community.

October I Through November 13 at the Goodhue County History Center













Vace/Ways has been made possible in Minnesco by the Minnesco Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesco Allostorial Society, Minnesco Allostorial Minnesco Al



Saturday, Sept. 17th *Water/Ways* Community Clean-up Kick-off! Bay Point Park, Red Wing | Clean-up: 12-3pm, Kick-off Celebration: 3:30-6pm

Thursday, Sept. 29th A Taste of History: Beer Brewing in Red Wing through the Years Red Wing Brewery, 1411 Old W. Main St, Red Wing | 1-3pm

Water/Ways opens at the Goodhue County Historical Society on Saturday, October 1

Saturday, Oct. Ist: WaterTalks at the Saint James Hotel The Saint James Hotel, 406 Main Street, Red Wing | Doors: 3:30pm, Program: 4-6pm

Wednesday, Oct. 6th Introductory Rain Garden Workshop Goodhue County Historical Society, 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing | Time: TBD

Wednesday, Oct. 13th Advanced Rain Garden Workshop Goodhue County Historical Society, 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing | Time: TBD

Saturday, Oct. 15th Walk into Local History: Walking the Jordan Creek Tour departs from City Hall, 315 W. 4th Street, Red Wing | Tours depart at 10 am and 1 pm

A Tale of 3 River Towns Winona, Read's Landing, & Red Wing Sunday, Oct. 16th | Wabasha County Historical Society, 70537 206th Avenue, Read's Landing | 2pm Thursday, Oct. 18th | Goodhue County Historical Society, 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing | 6pm

Thursday, October 20th Habitat Restoration for Streambanks & Shorelines: A Guided Discussion Goodhue County Historical Society, 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing | 6pm

Saturday, Oct. 22nd Habitat Restoration for Streambanks & Shorelines: Hands-on Workshop at Villa Maria Villa Maria Retreat Center, 29847 County 2 Blvd, Frontenac | 9am

Thursday, October 27th Water, Art, and Biology: *Water/Ways* at the Anderson Center The Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, 163 Tower View Dr, Red Wing | 2-4pm

Saturday, October 29th Water Plant Tours Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant, 1020 E. 5th Street Red Wing | Tours offered: 9am-3pm

Tuesday, November 1st The National Eagle Center at the Goodhue County History Center! Goodhue County Historical Society, 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing | Time: TBD

Saturday, November 5th 2016 Water Summit at the Anderson Center The Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, 163 Tower View Dr, Red Wing | 1-4pm

Wednesday, November 9th Shaped by Water: The Southeast Technical Community engages with *Water/Ways* Goodhue County Historical Society, 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing | 6-8pm

Program dates and times are subject to change. Please visit goodhuecountyhistory.org for full program descriptions #waterwaysmn #wearewatermn #thinkwater

Wacouta Township



Membership Application Yes! I want to be a member of the Goodhue County Historical Society at the following level (please check Name one): Contact Person (Business only)_____ □ Individual \$35 Address_____ □ Family \$50 □ Basic Business \$50 □ Supporting \$100 Phone (____) _____ □ Contributing \$250 E-mail □ Rev. J.W. Hancock Society (life) \$5,000 Would you like to receive the GCHS newsletter by email? Would you like to receive event and program notices by email? Please make checks payable to: New 🗆 Renew 🗆 **Goodhue County Historical Society** My check is enclosed \Box Please debit my credit card \Box Mail applications to: **Goodhue County Historical Society** Card Number 1166 Oak Street Red Wing, MN 55066 Expiration Date CCV/CVV # Authorized Signature

Meeting Room is Available for Rent!

The Goodhue County Historical Society has meeting space available for rent! Our lower level meeting room can accommodate small to medium sized groups or open house functions. Amenities include WiFi access, reception area directly adjacent to meeting room, coat rack, small kitchenette, projector, and laptop (if needed). Rentals can be for one-time or regular use. Reasonable rates and members receive a discount on rental!

To check meeting space availability and reserve your event date, contact Dustin at (651) 388-6024 or by email: director@goodhistory.org.

HELP US WITH OUR MAILING LIST!

A number of our mailings are returned with incomplete or undeliverable addresses. If you have moved, or have a winter or summer address, please notify us. Even if you have moved to a new apartment in the same building/complex, please give us your new address.

If you would like to save a tree, and help us save on the cost of bulk mailing, you can receive the newsletter by email. Please send an email to: info@goodhistory.org with *Paperless Newsletter* in the subject line to start receiving the newsletter by email. If you have changed your email address as well, please let us know your new address. If you have notified us but have not received the newsletter, check your bulk mail inbox and spam filter settings in your email program. All lists are current from April 1 to June 30, 2016—Thank you!

<u>Memorials &</u> Honorariums

In Memory of Homer Anderson Given by Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of Eugene McClelland Given by Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of Bob Bosshart Given by Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of Gary Fitschen Given by Dennis & Shirley Schultz

In Memory of

Adeline Deden Given by Howard Burfeind Mike & Sandy Livermore Scott & Mary Ellen Halverson

In Memory of

Sharon Rusch Given by Rita Manco Pam Huppert

Deceased Members

Robert Bremer Cliff Ekdahl Sharon Rusch Virginia Walls

We apologize if there are any errors or omissions.

Mix up your lunch routine with a



The Historical Society proudly presents "History Break," a lunchtime learning program series. Every third Wednesday of the month at noon, bring your lunch to the Historical Society for a FREE hour long program on national, state, and local history.

Wednesday, July 20

Bad Animals: Predators in American Life *featuring Kim Todd*

Award-winning author and University of Minnesota Professor Kim Todd was an artist in residence at the Anderson Center during the spring of 2016, and is sharing her new work, *Bad Animals: Predators in American Life*. Her new work focuses on how our understanding and perception of predators has changed over time, and how our perceptions have influenced the well-being of countless animal species.

Wednesday, August 17

Music Made Through the Years: Exploring Historic Red Wing Organs featuring Tom Erickson

Red Wing native Tom Erickson leads an engaging discussion on Red Wing's historic organs, and will discuss how the instruments operate. Erickson has been collecting and studying organs for many years, and has a unique perspective on this fascinating slice of local material history.





Photo from the Phil Revoir Collection

Wednesday, September 21

Mussels, the Mississippi, and More with the Minnesota DNR *featuring Mike Davis*

Mike Davis, of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources office in Lake City, visits the History Center to discuss his work in preserving and protecting the ecology of the Mississippi and Cannon Rivers. Specifically, Davis will discuss freshwater mussels in the Mississippi River, industry's historic impact on local rivers, and the state of the Upper Mississippi today.



Other Upcoming Programs

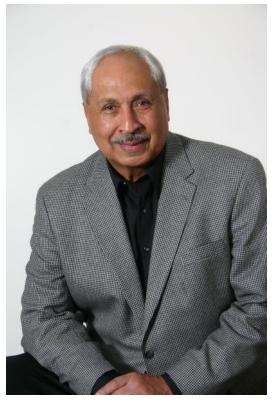
Saturday, July 23, 2:30 p.m.

They Played for Love of the Game featuring author Frank White

Free to members and students and \$5 for non-members

Author Frank White discusses his new book, *They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota,* at the Goodhue County History Center. In the book, White—the son of a Minnesota Black Baseball legend—recounts a series of stories from Black baseball players and teams across Minnesota. These players battled discrimination and many other hardships to play the game they loved, and were never written about or discussed - until now.

From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the same day, Frank White will be at Fair Trade Books in downtown Red Wing for a book signing.



{free} Family Fun Day @ the Goodhue County Historical Society

Enjoy free admission and family activities each month on Free Family Fun Day!

Exhibit Exploration Sunday, August 7, 1-5p.m.

Take a break from River City Days and explore the exhibits at the Goodhue County History Center. From Archaeology to Agriculture, the Sea Wing to Stoneware, the History Center brings Goodhue County's past to life with three floors of fascinating exhibits. Make sure to check out our featured summer lobby exhibit: They Played for the Love of the Game, an exhibit that tells the stories of Black baseball players from Minnesota during the early 20th century.

All Aboard! Riding the Rails at the History Center Sunday, September 4, 1-5p.m.

Back by popular demand, the Gandy Dancer Model Railroad Club of Red Wing brings their exciting collection of model railroads to the History Center on September 4th. The Gandy Dancers will have several different railroad stations for kids - and adults! - to explore and experiment with different railroad designs. The Gandy Dancers will even have a special LEGO railroad set so kids can build their own routes! This can't-miss event is fun for the whole family.

Water Tables, Zumbro Zoe, and Water/Ways Sunday, October 2, 1-5p.m.

Celebrate the new Smithsonian exhibit Water/Ways free of charge on October 2nd! All three components of *Water/Ways* exhibit will be open free of charge, and Winona State University will provide water tables so the entire family can experiment with and explore the nature of how water flows. Downstairs, the Zumbro River Watershed Partnership - along with their six-foot tall otter Zumbro Zoe - will host a game show every half hour with kids as the contestants.









Bluffs & Brews

Bluffs & Brews is a collaborative program between the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center and the Goodhue County Historical Society. Embark on an outdoor adventure and learn local history in a unique way. Following the outdoor adventure, the group convenes at a local restaurant to reflect on the experience, and for an opportunity to win a free pair of Vasque shoes.

Price per program: Members: \$15 | Non-members: \$25 Program cost includes equipment rental. Each program will last about 3 1/2 hours, including the social hour.

Paddling the Chippewa River to Lake Pepin

Saturday, July 16, 3 p.m.

The second *Bluffs & Brews* program shifts to a Wisconsin river. The group will go on a journey along the Chippewa all the way to the entrance of Lake Pepin. This program will focus on Lake Pepin, and the pre-contact Native American groups that made Lake Pepin a cultural center for hundreds of years before white settlement.



Paddling the Mississippi River Backwaters & Learning about "Big Muddy"

Saturday, August 27, 3 p.m.

The final *Bluffs & Brews* program of 2016 takes the group along the backwaters of North America's mightiest river: the Mississippi. Learn about the Upper Mississippi River's influence on Red Wing, and what makes the stretch of the river from Saint Anthony Falls to Cairo, IL, so unique.





Goodhue County Historical Society 1166 Oak Street Red Wing, MN 55066

Summer 2016

Minnesota's first county historical society, est. 1869



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 305 Red Wing, MN



Historic Home & Building Tour

Weekend of September 10 & 11

The Goodhue County Historical Society will be conducting a historic home and building tour this fall. We are looking for interested property owners to participate in the tour.

If you are interested, please contact the Historical Society at (651) 388-6024.