

# The Scribe

HISTORY CENTER OF OLMSTED COUNTY

## SUMMER 2022 Newsletter



**HISTORY CENTER**  
OF OLMSTED COUNTY

### WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Letter from the President .....	1
Is a Barn Just a Barn? The Meaning of Historic Farmstead is Different for Everyone. ....	4
Comings and Goings: New Faces and Fond Farewells .....	6
Local Spotlight: The Nuss Collection .....	6
Looking Ahead: Fall Events Lineup .....	7
Confessions of an Archivist: Misconceptions Demystified .....	9
Volunteer Spotlight .....	10
2022 Events & Programs .....	11

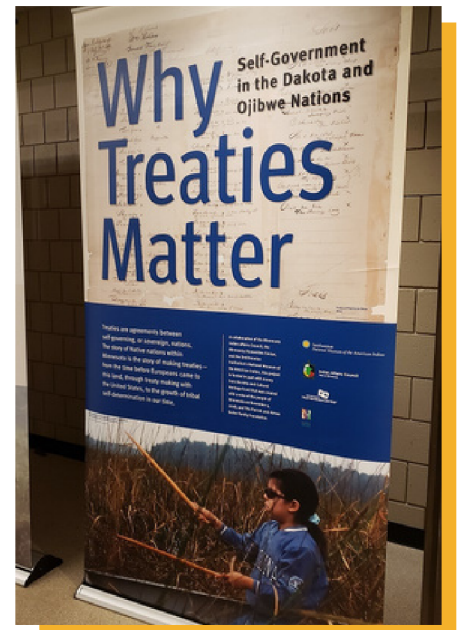
**REMINDER: Please make sure we have the most up-to-date email and mailing address for you. Thanks!**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: SUMMER AT HCOC

By Roger Stahl, Board President

After what seemed like the longest winter ever, summer has finally arrived. For many of us that may mean that life slows down a little bit and we take time to relax at the lake or on the course.

At your History Center of Olmsted County though, summer means the start (or continuation really), of a schedule of great events to tell the stories of our history. As an attorney, I am particularly interested in our new exhibit, Why Treaties Matter – Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations. This travelling exhibit provides an important perspective on the history of Minnesota's Indigenous peoples through an exploration of various legal treaties; treaties that still have relevance for us all today. The exhibit is open now and continues through July 22.




Why Treaties Matter - Exhibit through July 22nd

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - continued

What's summer without a cook-out? On June 11, the History Center of Olmsted County co-hosted an event at LTS Brewing Company which featured German beers and sausages along with presentations on German music, dance and more! If you missed this event, don't worry because the beer and cook out theme continues later this summer with the History Center's third annual Hootenanny in September – stay in touch for further details.


**"After what seemed like the longest winter ever, summer has finally arrived."**



**HOOTENANNY!**  
AT THE  
**HISTORY CENTER**  
9.17.22  
BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY, AND MORE AT  
THE HISTORIC STOPPEL FARMSTEAD

**MUSIC FROM**  
**THE PISTOL**  
**WHIPPIN**  
**PARTY**  
**PENGUINS**

**FOOD TRUCKS BY**  
**BOB'S SMOKE**  
**STACK RIBS**  
+  
**JERSEY JO'S**  
**CHEESESTEAKS**

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OF OLMSTED COUNTY Rochester, MN 55902  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.OLMSTEDHISTORY.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.OLMSTEDHISTORY.COM/EVENTS)

The Hootenanny is coming!

It wouldn't be summer without a new History Mystery, and once again our mysterious (and awesome) anonymous donor with match up to \$10,000 in donations from the community. This year's History Mystery will be all about the smokehouse at the historic George Stoppel farm, as the History Center of Olmsted County prepares to launch a major restoration project aimed at preserving the farmstead for the future, starting with the smokehouse.



 **HISTORY CENTER** presents  
OF OLMSTED COUNTY

**HISTORY MYSTERY**

**YOUR TAX-DEDUCTABLE DONATION WILL BE  
MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR BY OUR  
MYSTERIOUS DONOR, UP TO \$10,000!**

History Mystery 2022



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - continued



Mayowood Historic Home

Finally, if you have not been on a tour of Mayowood for a while, let me commend this to you as a lovely summer event for you and your family. The Mayowood mansion grounds are stunning this time of year and the History Center continues to re-introduce many restored original artifacts to the Mayowood tours.

I am honored to be serving this year as the new President of the board of directors and am grateful for the steadfast efforts which past President Christine Rule has poured into the History Center – and grateful to for her continued service on the board. I am also pleased to have new board members Jean Marvin, Dan Penz, Paul Scanlon (Vice President), and Dr. Mark Warner, joining an already strong group of directors. I look forward to serving together to continue our mission of telling the stories of Olmsted County's history.



For tickets to  
events and  
more info, visit

[olmstedhistory.com/  
mayowood](http://olmstedhistory.com/mayowood)

## 2022 MAYOWOOD EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| July 30      | ○ | Conserving Mayowood Tour: Past, Present, & Future     |
| August 27    | ○ | Beautiful Inside and Out: Mayowood Arts & Garden Tour |
| September 24 | ○ | Conserving Mayowood Tour: Past, Present, & Future     |
| October 22   | ○ | Influential Friends at Mayowood                       |

# IS A BARN JUST A BARN? THE MEANING OF HISTORIC FARMSTEAD IS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE

By Wayne Gannaway, Executive Director

"A barn is a barn is a barn."

"If you've seen one farm house, you've seen them all."

Have you heard these before?

It's true that agricultural buildings are a common sight in Greater Minnesota (although farmsteads from the 1800s are becoming vanishingly rare). In reality, each of us views a place like the George Stoppel farmstead differently. This is especially true in an increasingly diverse and growing area, such as Rochester and Olmsted County. As the History Center figures out how to tell the story of the Stoppel farmstead (which includes the land, the farm, and the history), the first job is to nail down the "big idea."

"What is "the big idea" for the Stoppel farmstead, you ask? We are teaming up with community partners and an exhibit consulting firm, the 106 Group, to answer this question, among others. Knowing what the big idea is helps us answer the "so what?" question. This is an early step in creating what we call an interpretive plan, which is like a road map for helping us decide what stories to tell about the Stoppel farmstead and how to tell them. The Minnesota Humanities Commission awarded us a grant for this phase one of interpretive planning work.



**Community members participating in one of our focus groups.**

**"If you are of the mind that 'If you've seen one barn, you've seen them all,' take a moment to think again."**

As part of that first phase of planning, we organized focus groups in alignment with the historical topics that are most associated with the farmstead: agriculture and immigration. In addition to staff, volunteers, and board members, our focus groups included area farmers, a Stoppel descendant, and first-generation immigrants. Because the Stoppel family bought the land from the federal government while Minnesota was still a territory, members of Dakota communities also participated. The feedback we received will help us view the farmstead through different cultural lenses.



## IS A BARN JUST A BARN? - continued

But let's return to the notion that "a barn is a barn is a barn." During the focus groups, we asked participants to share a word or phrase that they associate with the words: land, farm, immigration. For "land," associations included "ownership," "freedom," "ancestors," and "safety;" the cultural lens of other participants yielded different views, such as "profit," and "stolen."

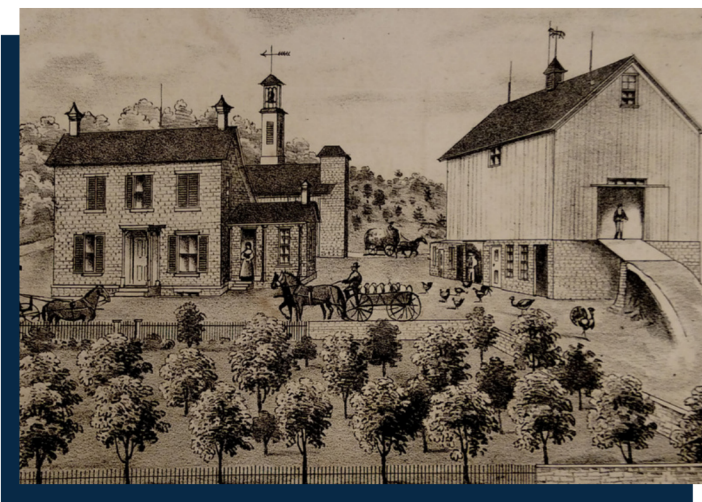
Similarly for the word "farm": suggested associations included "family," "simpler times," "hard work," "technology," and "environmental impact." If you are of the mind that "If you've seen one barn, you've seen them all," take a moment to think again.

Consider how a child who has never been in an agricultural barn might view it. A recent immigrant who's interested in farming. How about an elder who grew up on a farm? Or a farmer whose livelihood is tethered to agricultural productivity? One commonality we all share is that each of us depends on the food and other agricultural products raised on farms. At the same time, we likely view a barn or a farm differently.



**The Stoppel barn today**

Part of our job as a museum and historic site is to help people to have "ah-ha!" moments in places that perhaps they weren't expecting. Although this is just a sample of the phase one interpretive planning, it provides a hint of what's to come as we develop the "big idea" for the historic Stoppel farmstead. If our grant request for phase two is awarded, we'll begin that phase later this year or early next.



**The Stoppel Farmstead as it appears in the 1874 Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota by A. T. Andreas**

# COMINGS AND GOINGS: A NEW FACE AND A FOND FAREWELL

We'd like to introduce you to Caleb Baumgartner, our new Communications Coordinator! Caleb's experience in marketing and content development, coupled with his love of history, will help us to develop new strategies to bring our mission to the Olmsted community.

Caleb's background includes music, journalism, content creation, audio and video editing, and search engine optimization. Of all the shows he covered over the years, his favorite was Paul McCartney, because "you don't get a lot of opportunities to see a living legend live."

Caleb moved to Rochester from Hollandale, MN and is quickly getting acclimated to a more hectic pace. His favorite spots in town are Gray Duck Theater and Coffeehouse and the numerous thrift shops in town.

While we say hello to a new team member, we also want to wish farewell and congratulations to Kevin Whaley, our former collections manager who has taken a wonderful opportunity working for the Indiana State Museum.

Kevin has had his hands on many exhibits over the years, but the one he was most proud of was the Women's Suffrage exhibit.

Kevin was an invaluable part of the team for many years and his presence will be missed! Thank you, Kevin!

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## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: THE NUSS COLLECTION



Nuss Truck and Equipment brings trucking history to Olmsted County with a beautiful collection of the vehicles that built America in the 20th century.

This collection focuses on Mack trucks and their legacy, with a wide array of vehicles to appreciate and a unique story behind each one.

From dump trucks to construction vehicles and more, there is something for every enthusiast of American history.

Visit <https://www.nussbuildingamerica.com/> to learn more about this unique museum and schedule a tour! Admission is free!



# LOOKING AHEAD: FALL EVENTS LINE UP

By Abby Currier, Community Engagement & Events Coordinator

As the weather finally gets warm, everyone's thoughts turn to fun summertime activities like getting to the lake or grilling in the backyard. Yet here at the History Center, we are already thinking ahead and planning out our fall lineup of activities. A lot of our bigger events happen in the fall and they take months of planning to get off of the ground. That means that while people are finishing up their spring cleaning, we are already working on what will happen when the leaves start to fall.

We are excited to be bringing back the Creepy Doll Cocktail Party and dolls have already started asking who will be entered in this year's competition.

After three years of dolls competing, the competition has gotten quite fierce and we want to make sure that we are only highlighting the best of the best in our collection. Who will we get to meet this year and what spooky stories will they have to share with us?

We are working on locking down some really fantastic activities for the party, including booking DJ Laidee P to provide entertainment for the evening.

There will be plenty of spooktacular surprises in store for the evening and you will not want to miss this!

The Creepy Doll Cocktail Party will take place on October 29th at the Rochester Art Center in downtown Rochester.

**"While people are finishing up their spring cleaning, we are already working on what will happen when the leaves start to fall."**



Creepy Doll Contest and Cocktail Party





**This year's Hootenanny entertainment: The Pistol Whippin Party Penguins**

Also coming up this fall is our third annual Hootenanny at the History Center!

This year, we are delighted to be working with the Drifters Car Club to be hosting a day bursting with activities. The Drifters Car Club will have their second classic car show here during the day and then the afternoon will be spent out by our farmstead listening to the unique stylings of The Pistol Whippin Party Penguins, a group which combines the sounds of bluegrass, rock, blues and folk, the perfect blend of genres for any folksy gathering. The Hootenanny will fall on September 17th this year, so mark your calendar!

To stay up to date on all of our upcoming programs, check out our website at [olmstedhistory.com/events](http://olmstedhistory.com/events). We cannot wait to see you at our next event!



**The Hootenanny on the Stoppel Farmstead**



# CONFESSION OF AN ARCHIVIST: MISCONCEPTIONS DEMYSTIFIED

By Krista Lewis, Archivist, CA

An archive is home to the puzzle pieces of history and it's up to the researcher to put those pieces together. An archivist is there to lead researchers to the different pieces they need, not provide them with the finished puzzle. Speaking from my own experience, it's a lot more fun to figure out the puzzle yourself!

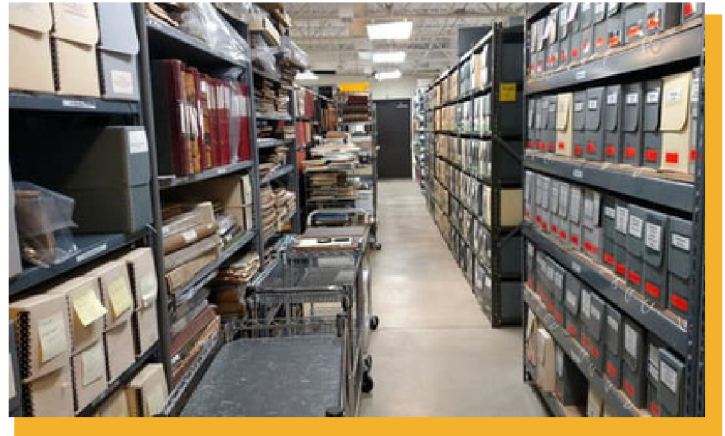
And since we archivists aren't experts, you'll do yourself and the archivist a favor if you talk to them about your research interest before visiting. We're happy to help whenever needed, but advance notice ensures that the archivist won't be in the middle of another task and all the resources you need will be ready when you arrive.

With this in mind, we're experimenting with a new process in the Research Center. When we reopened during the pandemic, we required researchers to make advance appointments because we had to limit the number of visitors. Now we'd like to make this a permanent change, and to make it easier, we've begun using an online system that allows you to book time in the Research Center. We won't refuse unscheduled visitors, but we hope advance scheduling becomes routine. Visit our Research page ([www.olmstedhistory.com/resources-wicklund](http://www.olmstedhistory.com/resources-wicklund)) to see more. We look forward to seeing you!

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Just one hall of the HCOC archives

**"An archive is  
home to the  
puzzle pieces of  
history"**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARCIA AND ERIC GOODMANSON

Marcia and her son Eric Goodmanson have been long time volunteers at the History Center in a variety of ways. Both Marcia and Eric help out weekly in our collections department, cataloging hundreds of items and assessing them for damage. Lately the pair have been working on our textile collection as we try to rehouse some of our more delicate objects to better protect them. They have done amazing work on our collections and have been a huge help to Kevin Whaley and Dan Nowakowski as we try to get a grip on all of our 3-D artifacts.

They both also volunteer at different events, offering to help out wherever is needed. Marcia in particular is always very helpful with this and we often call on her for assistance with different school tours that come to visit the History Center. The kids love getting to talk with her about either the Dee Cabin or the School House and we love having her out there. Next time you are out here and checking out the cool artifacts that we have on display, you might take a minute to think about all of the time that went into cataloging and preserving that artifact for you. The work we do would not be possible without the capable assistance of our valuable volunteers like Marcia and Eric.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HCOC needs YOU to help with a variety of projects and programs.  
We cannot operate without YOUR support.  
We have work for all kinds of people and can find a job that will best fit YOU!

**Areas where you can volunteer:**

- Outdoor Work
- Storytelling
- Indoor Work
- Archives and Library
- Exhibits
- Collections
- Ambassador

To learn more, check out [olmstedhistory.com/volunteer](https://olmstedhistory.com/volunteer) and fill out an application! We cannot wait to see you!





## 2022 EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Please check our website and Facebook regularly as the schedule is subject to change, [olmstedhistory.com/events](http://olmstedhistory.com/events).

- July 9 ○○ Drifters Car Show
- July 14 ○○ Hannah's Dream Ride
- August 10 ○○ Leaf Trace/Land Trace Activity
- August 13 & 14 ○○ Days of Yesteryear
- August 20 ○○ Cemetery Walk
- September 17 ○○ Hootenanny/Car Show
- September 27 ○○ Quarter 3 Members Meeting
- October 20 ○○ Fall Fest
- October 29 ○○ Creepy Doll Cocktail Party
- December 6 ○○ Quarter 4 Members Meeting

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The Stoppel Farmstead



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