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## A History of the Rochester Airport By Lee Hilgendorf

With the help of local sponsors, the first airplane flight in Rochester took place in September 1911, when the Rochester Model Aeroplane Club secured the Curtiss Biplane of Mr. Kenworthy and Mr. Thomas McGoey for a flying demonstration at the Olmsted County School Fair. For three days, three times a day, McGoey flew the Curtiss; climbing, diving, and circling over the crowds, occasionally buzzing Broadway. On the last day, at an altitude of about 1500 feet, McGoey's engine stalled. The Curtiss glided safely to an open field near the fair grounds. Someone had yelled, "He's over in Graham's field." When fairgoers arrived, they found McGoey casually looking over the engine; he had run out of fuel.



First flight in 1911

Graham Field, part of a farm owned by Dr. Christopher Graham, became Rochester's unofficial flying field. From 1911 to 1928, it was the preferred flying field for all crafts. Several flying schools based at the fairgrounds used the field, and some offered Sunday afternoon airplane rides for \$1.50.



Rochester Airport, 1928

1928 was a pivotal time for aviation in Rochester. Dr. Henry Plummer advised the Doctors Mayo that transportation was the lifeblood that would keep Rochester and their clinic growing. He believed Rochester should be the first town in southeast Minnesota to have a permanent airport. Mayo Properties incorporated the Rochester Airport Company with Albert Lobb as president and began the search for suitable sites.

A *Rochester Post-Bulletin* story dated March 10, 1928, announced "A squadron of twenty-five of the latest commercial and passenger airplanes will visit Rochester on June 14," provided there would be a place to land. The tour was arranged to stimulate interest in commercial aviation and the building of airports. Around the same time, Jefferson Highway Transportation Co. president E. F. Zelle announced the formation of Jefferson Airways Inc. The bus company had ordered a new Ford Tri-motor airplane at a cost of \$45,000. Jefferson Airways' plan was to have two round trip flights per day between St. Paul to Rochester. The flight would take 45 minutes at a cost of \$10 one way. Between those flights, the plane would be available for sightseeing trips.

On March 24, buoyed by the plans of the commercial air tour and Jefferson Airways, Lester Fiegel, Henry Postier, Dr. T. J. Moore, Jess

## From The Director's Desk



Pat Carlson,  
Executive Director

Planning for HCOC is much easier when it feels like spring will be here sooner than later. We have some great news for gardeners! We are expanding our community garden rental plots. Several of the plots will be reserved for teaching children and non-gardening adults what is all about. Thank you, Master Gardeners! Check out the information on page 10.

Living History Fair plans are underway for July and it looks to be bigger than ever. We are hoping to engage a Medicine Show for more entertainment.

One of the additions to our newsletter will be articles from our HCOC partners. We hope to have an article from all our partners in the next issue. Let us know what you think!

Mark your calendars! We will be holding the Annual Meeting of the Olmsted County Historical Society on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm with a speaker at 7:00 pm.

We are accepting applications from individuals who are interested in serving on the History Center's Board of Directors. Please contact me at [director@olmstedhistory.com](mailto:director@olmstedhistory.com) or 507-282-9447 and I will relay your interest to the Nominating Committee.

Enjoy the advent of Spring and stop by and say 'Hey'.

## From the Board President



Doug Boese  
Board President

I tried a case in mid-February. It concerned the right to use trails on property in High Forest Township here in Olmsted County. High Forest Township is that little panhandle of land in the far southwest corner of the county. I learned, as I prepared for the trial, that the panhandle was created because the first legislator elected to represent Olmsted County lived in that area. When he got to St. Paul to be seated his right to sit was challenged because he did not live in Olmsted County. A review showed High Forest was not part of Olmsted County. Some quick and fancy legislating changed the boundary to make that area a part of Olmsted County and he was able to be seated.

History sneaks up on you when you least expect it. Preserving history is important. People like you make it possible for people like me to use historical records in our occupations. The newly enacted tax bill raises issues about what support we might receive from future generations who are less interested in preserving history than people like you. The new tax bill eliminates the benefit you get from making a charitable contribution to non-profit organizations like HCOC. That causes concern as the Board attempts to project what income we might count on from donors as we do our financial planning. It might be preaching to the choir but preservation of history is important. We appreciate your support and hope you will tell everyone you know what a gem of a facility we have in the History Center.

Speaking of history sneaking up on you, did you realize it was 40 years ago the City of Rochester suffered a terrible flood. I didn't move to town until a couple of years later. However, I was with some friends recently who experienced it. They talked about walking with others from their apartment building arm-in-arm down Third Street Southeast with water up to their waists to escape. They talked about what an impact that event had on their lives. We need to save the stories like that. We can only do that with the help of people like you.

We hope you see us as having been good stewards of your investment in us. We will strive to continuing saving the stories of Olmsted County with your help.

*Continued from Page 1*

Herron and George Steinke announced the incorporation of Rochester Airways for the purpose of promoting aviation in Rochester. The group raised \$15,000 and leased a 40-acre farm one mile west of Saint Marys Hospital on Highway 14 for their airport. Work began immediately on a hanger and passenger building. Within forty-five days, Rochester Airways was up and running; offering charter flights, a flight school, storage and repair facilities.

The commercial air tour arrived on June 14, landing at the new Rochester Airways field. On June 15, 1928, Rochester mayor Fred Haase dedicated Rochester Airways as the city's municipal airport. On that day, an estimated 20,000 people parked on the roads for 3 miles in all directions to witness the "greatest air show in Northwest history" when 13% of the US Army air combat force flew into Rochester with their program of mock aerial dog fighting.

On July 9, Jefferson Airway president E. F. Zelle and his pilot Pat Gallup arrived in Rochester with their new tri-motor airplane to inspect proposed landing fields. Gallup snubbed Rochester Airways field claiming that the bluff across the road from the south end of the field was too close to allow safe takeoffs into a south wind. Instead, Gallup chose the old Graham Field at the fairgrounds. Four days later, on July 13, 1928, Jefferson Airways began Rochester's first scheduled passenger service when Gallup arrived from St. Paul and landed at Graham Field.

The crowd that gathered to meet that inaugural flight was also met with the news that Mayo Properties had purchased 285 acres of land across the road from the fairgrounds for building a new, permanent airport. Rochester Airport Company president Albert Lobb announced that Jefferson Airways president E. F. Zelle would be the new airports manager and extended an invitation to all members of the aviation community to use the new airport.



Albert Lobb, 1953

Three days later, Lester Fiegel, Henry Postier and Jess Herron mortgaged their airplanes and the buildings at Rochester Airways to raise funds to continue operations there.

On November 21, 1928, the Rochester Airport Company opened the new Rochester Airport. Mayo Clinic's new airport received an A1A rating, the highest rating given to private airports. A day later, all flying activities at Graham Field were transferred to the new airport, and Graham Field was permanently closed to air traffic.

Also on November 21, Rochester became a stop for Universal Airways service between Minneapolis and Chicago. Universal, an Ohio-based air carrier, maintained a ticket office in the Kahler Hotel where customers could board a bus to the passenger station located on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street SE. From there, they were shuttled via Yellow Cab to the flying field to board waiting aircraft. A one-way ticket to Minneapolis was \$7.50 and to Chicago was \$32.50. By the end of the month, Rochester Airways shut down operations at their field west of Rochester, opting to move to the new airfield, and Jefferson Airways stopped their flights.

In Spring 1929, Detroit-based Northwest Airways moved their operations to St. Paul and started expanding their air routes. On May 1, the renamed Northwest Airlines bought out Universal Airways' routes and took over operations in Rochester. In their first full year of operation, Northwest serviced 420 passengers through Rochester.

That summer, construction began on the first permanent building at the airport. A brick hanger measuring 132 x 84 feet would offer a passenger waiting room and house classroom. It was completed and opened to the public on October 10, 1929.

On June 11, 1929, as part of Rochester's Diamond Jubilee, Dr. Charles H. Mayo gave the dedication speech at the new airport. During the day's festivities, Charles "Speed" Holman, a well-known stunt and racing pilot and Northwest Airlines' first commercial pilot, put on a flying exhibition at the airport. As Holman was taking off and starting a turn, a gas line on his airplane broke, the engine stalled and the airplane sideslipped, crashing 200 feet to the ground. Holman's passenger on the flight, Jack Rettinger of Rochester, was taken to

*Continued on Page 4*

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Colonial Hospital with minor injuries while the uninjured Holman was taken to a dinner at the high school to tell stories of his adventures.

By the late 1930s, the Rochester Airport was showing its age. General aviation use was on the rise. Northwest Airlines was serving 10,000 passengers a year in Rochester, and the facility still had grass runways. In July 1939, more land was purchased, bringing the total to 370 acres. Four runways, each 3500 feet long, were laid out and paved. Northwest Airlines built a new, larger passenger terminal, and new radio guidance equipment was added.



Edith Mayo, 1940

On August 4, 1940, an estimated 25,000 people, paying 10 cents each, attended the dedication of the newly expanded Rochester Airport. VIPs from Northwest Airlines, American Airlines, United, Mid-Continent, and Braniff were on hand, each bringing the latest in modern aircraft for public display. As a show of respect to the Mayo Clinic for the newly renovated airport, Northwest Airlines brought a new DC-3 passenger plane named "City of Rochester" to the event. The plane was christened by Edith Mayo, the widow of Dr. C. H. Mayo and the newly named "American Mother of the Year."

Almost immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mario Fontana moved his Fontana School of Aeronautics from Michigan to Rochester where he took advantage of the radio guidance equipment and better snow removal at Rochester's airport. With little fanfare, he began training pilots to be instructors for the U. S. Army Air Corp.

Although most commercial flights were grounded during the early days of the war, the Rochester airport was still a very busy place. In May 1942, Fontana's school was chosen to train glider pilots. More than 200 cadets would master a "dead stick" power off landing, simulating the true glider experience. Sadly, on November 9, one day before the glider school was to be inactivated, a cadet lost his life while finishing the last half hour of his training.

In fall 1942, construction began on a series of barracks at the north end of the airport. It would be the base for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ferrying Service Detachment, Air Transport Command. Fighter planes from factories on the East Coast began to arrive in Rochester bound for Russia. Piloting most of those planes were Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPS. That October, a new control tower was built on the corner of the hanger, necessitated by the fact that more than 250 aircraft were using the airport each day. Three of the four runways were extended to 4200 feet. Extra land was purchased, which then brought the airport's total to 600 acres.

Then, on August 14, 1945, the last P-63 "Kingcobra" left the Rochester base. Its pilot could not resist "buzzing" Broadway in a victory celebration. It was a reminder to the local residents of the more than 10,000 military aircraft that had used the Rochester Airport per year for the war effort.

Albert J. Lobb, who had been president of the Rochester Airport Co. since its inception in 1928, retired in 1949. Three years later, the city renamed the airport Lobb Field in his honor. However, Lobb Field's future looked dim. With jet aircraft on the horizon and no room to expand, a totally new airport was a must. By 1957, construction began on a \$4 million development 8 miles south of Rochester that would become Rochester International Airport.



Rochester Airport 1960

On October 17, 1960, the runways at Lobb Field were marked with large X's, indicating that the old airport was closed to all air traffic.

Today, Graham Field is home to Friedell Middle School and Denny's along South Broadway. Rochester Airways was located at the northeast corner of Second Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW. Lobb Field is now Meadow Park, a sub-division that is home to thousands of people who have little knowledge of the history of their neighborhood.

## **Mechanical History Round Table (MHRT): From Seed Time to Harvest By: Ted Kueker, MRHT Historian**

For MHRT, the first rite of spring is the seeding of the oats, since that crop needs to be ripe, bundled, and dried for threshing during the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Days of Yesteryear show on August 11 and 12. That means the ideal time for seeding is late March to early April. The Fields Committee will plant approximately four acres of oats near the Ralph Stoppel buildings, where the threshing show will be held. The MHRT field crew will plant cleaned seed donated through the generosity of Progressive Ag, a grain and seed merchant located in Stewartville.



We will be using 1950s farming methods and mostly 1950s equipment in preparing the soil, growing, and harvesting the crops as we have in past years. The fields were plowed last fall and will be tilled before seeding by disking or by digging with a field cultivator. A grain drill will be used to inject the seed oats into the soil. All horse power used will be of the mechanical variety, including MHRT's 1949 Farmall H, the brand of tractor that will be featured in this year's show. As recently as the early 1950s, some farmers, including the author's grandfather, did the small grain seeding using an endgate seeder, a broadcast seeder which fit into the endgate position of a wagon box. One such seeder is on exhibit in the sawmill building. The wagon with the seeder was drawn by a team of horses trained to follow the previous year's corn rows down the field, leaving the farmer free to shovel seed oats into the hopper of the seeder which broadcast about three bushels of seed per acre. Following the seeding, a ten-foot disc drawn by a four-horse team was used to cut up the previous year's corn stalks and to cover the seed oats with top soil.

In today's age of cash crop farming, most acres are covered by corn and soybeans, and a field of oats is a rare sight. In the days of yesteryear, oats provided much of the fuel for the horse power that farmed the land. Oats were also used to feed the dairy cattle, swine and poultry flocks that were part of almost every family farm, and the straw was excellent livestock bedding. But oats still have an important role in human nourishment. Almost everyone knows the Quaker image that has been on oatmeal boxes for generations, several brands of cereals are breakfast favorites, and granola products are on everyone's health food list.

The remaining arable HCOC acres will be planted with soybeans in late April or early May. The seed for that planting is being generously donated by Cliff Feltis & Family Seed Co. Spectators and volunteers are welcome at seed time as well as at harvest time. And if you're qualified and able, you may have a chance to drive that 1949 Farmall H tractor!

### **Plans for Days of Yesteryear 2018:**

Doc Mueller is planning and ordering the Buttons and T-shirts that will display the image of the 1964 Farmall 706 gas powered tractor owned by Tom Dubbels of Eyota. The driver is MHRT member Dale Heintz of Eyota.

Food service for this year's show has been contracted with the Eyota Fire Department.

There are tentative plans to construct a room in the lean-to part of the Ralph Stoppel barn to store and exhibit equipment and materials for the broom-making portion of the show.

MHRT is issuing this appeal for volunteer workers at these parts of the Days of Yesteryear show: Blacksmith Shop; Summer Kitchen; Saw Milling.



## Educational Programming

*By Aaron Saterdalen, Education & Program Coordinator*

The 2018 Princess Café monthly lecture series is in progress. In April, the scheduled speaker is Corky Gaskell (aka Goose) presenting, “We Knew it as Base Ball, Before Baseball. The History of the Game.” Virginia Wentzel presents, “WWII Japanese Internment Camps” in May. In June, Dana Knaak will present, “The Plummer House.” Princess Café takes place on the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. The 2018 Princess Café lecture series schedule is available on the HCOC website, or pick up a copy of the schedule at our front desk.



History Hay Rides will happen once again this summer. Through a 90-minute tour of the History Center grounds, you will learn more about the George Stoppel Farm, the William Dee Log Cabin, the Hadley School House and the Ralph Stoppel Farm. Cost is \$8/adults, \$4/children and HCOC Members. History Hay Rides take place every Tuesday from June 12 through August 14

Mark your calendars now for the Living History Fair on July 14 and 15 at the History Center. We are currently seeking volunteers to help with admissions, visitor parking, volunteer gate/parking, and concessions at the Roost during Living History Fair weekend. Please contact Aaron at the History Center for more information at 507-282-9447 or [programs@olmstedhistory.com](mailto:programs@olmstedhistory.com)

## Olmsted County Genealogical Society

The Olmsted County Genealogical Society meets once a month at the History Center of Olmsted County’s Research Center on the second Thursday of the Month. The Research Center opens at 6 p.m. followed by a program at 7 p.m. Here are some of the upcoming programs for the Society:

April 12: Presentation by Virginia Wentzel, COURAGE AND COMPASSION: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience.

Telling the story of the student nurses of Japanese ancestry of Saint Marys and the Kahler Schools of Nursing.

May 10: Presentation by Karl Shidler. Genealogy Research and the Internet

A number of free websites will be reviewed ONLINE with live research examples. Site examples will include “World Cat”, “Google Books”. “USGenweb” and the Library of Congress.



All who are interested in genealogy are welcome!

## Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is best known for his “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington held on August 28, 1963, which still resonates today. Unfortunately, despite Dr. King’s advocacy of nonviolence, his assassination on April 4, 1968, set off demonstrations and violence in more than 100 cities across the United States, including Washington DC.

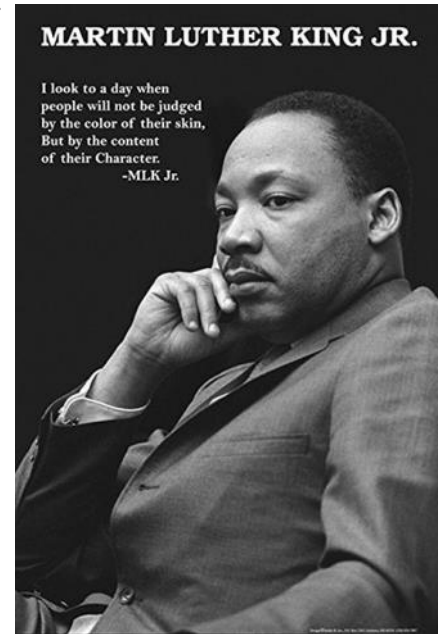
But his last speech ended on a personal reflection. Dr. King was in Memphis to speak in support of the sanitation workers strike. He encouraged the United States to live up to its values, including equality and fairness and to pursue the issues with non-violent means. He spoke about working together to get there together. He closed his speech with prophetic comments:

*“Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.*

*And I don't mind.*

*Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!”*

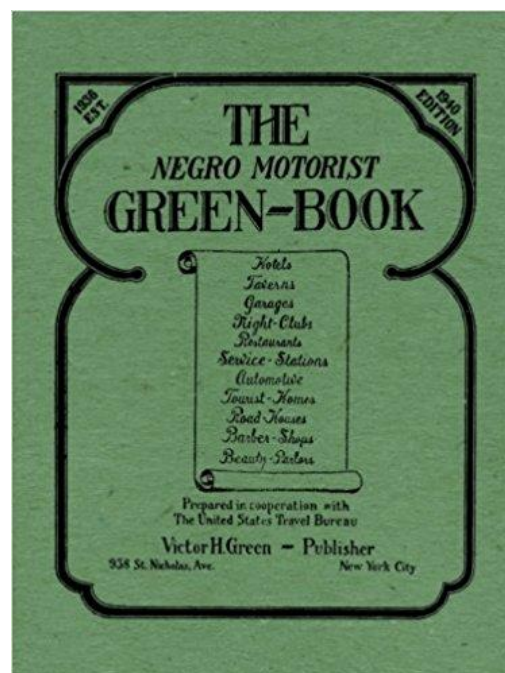
Excerpt from Dr. King’s April 3, 1968, speech in Memphis



## A new venture for the History Center

The History Center would like to announce its participation in the Green Book Project. The Green Book Project is a cooperative effort by several Rochester non-profit organizations and community members to educate the public on the existence of the *Green Book for Negro Motorists*. The Green Book was a travel book for African Americans during the 1930s to the 1960s. At this time, because of segregation and heightened racism, African Americans had difficulty and often encountered dangers while traveling. The Green Book helped them travel by listing places that were friendly to black people. Rochester appeared in the Green Book, with its sole entry for the Avalon Hotel.

As part of this project, the History Center is designing an exhibit for February 2019. However, we need help from our community to make this exhibit happen. The History Center is in need history on the Avalon Hotel and artifacts from the hotel. If you have any items from the Avalon and are willing to share



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Lee Hilgendorf

Lee Hilgendorf grew up in Iowa and moved to Rochester in 1986 with his wife, Kay. Lee was teaching business methods at a massage school in Rochester when he decided he wanted to know more about massage school history here in Rochester. That project led him to additional research into car dealerships and a suggestion to volunteer at the History Center.

Lee has been volunteering for HCOC for about 7 years. About 3 years ago, he took on the weekly *Post Bulletin* column, "Lens on History," combining his interest in past things with their photographs. His current task is to scan the History Center's historic images and he states, "If you look at old photos, you realize that there are things that have disappeared."

In addition, Lee has written clues for the Scavenger Hunt, presented his research for the Princess Café, and continued his work with photos in the archives.



## Board Member Spotlight

### Kirk Schumacher



Kirk Schumacher grew up on a small farm near Spring Valley. He attended college at the University of Minnesota for a few years before returning home to work full time at the cannery that is now Seneca Foods, where he had worked summers as a teen. He was lead mechanic of the can filling and seaming operation when he moved to Rochester. He retired early from Seneca Foods so he could enjoy summer once again. During the summer months, they worked long hours at the cannery. Once he retired, Kirk felt that he should do volunteer work. He saw an ad for the History Center looking volunteers to drive tractors for history hayrides. He started doing hayrides and helped on other tours as well. He also joined the Mechanical History Round Table (MHRT), the

club that owned the tractors used on the tours. Kirk now serves on the MHRT board, and is a member of the HCOC Board of Directors as the MHRT representative.

## A Visit to the Gift Shop

New to the gift shop this season is "United States Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters in Naval Warfare, 1790-1918," by local author Thomas Ostrom. Also new in the gift shop is an assortment of collectible stuffed animals dressed in a variety of costumes. Please stop by and check it out today!

We are in the process of beginning a regular email correspondence to our members. When you renew, please update your email address to stay up-to-date with all the happenings at HCOC





# Digitization Legacy Grant

by Krista Lewis, Archivist

By this time next year, the Archives will have a large and hitherto unusable collection of film and tape available for research. This is due to our receiving a Legacy Grant funded by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). The collection consists of KTTC news outtakes dating from 1976 to 1991 and recorded on 605 16mm film reels and 534 U-matic tapes. Without any equipment to view this collection, it had long ago become one of many “down-the-road” projects in the Archives. An email last April from the Grants Office at MNHS is what brought it to the forefront. They had recently gone through their records and noticed that we received a grant several years before to rehouse the collection.



Stressing the time sensitive nature of film preservation, they wanted to know if we planned to digitize the collection and encouraged us to apply for a grant to do so. Spurred on by this query, I set to work. After much consultation with film digitization specialists and several application drafts, I submitted the pre-application for a large Legacy Grant in mid-July. After receiving comments and suggestions in mid-August, I submitted the final application in early September. After this, we just had to



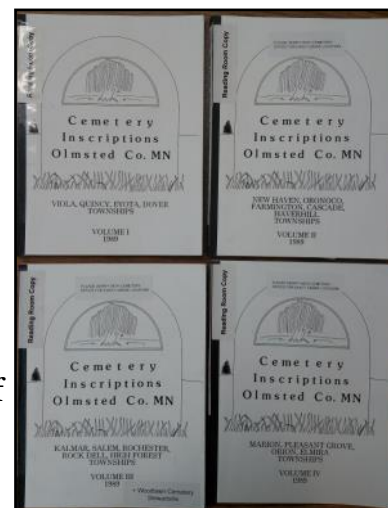
wait. Finally, in early December we received the good news that our grant had been approved for the full amount of \$96,000. Since then, I've been compiling data about the collection for use by the digitization firm we selected to complete this project. Next will be packaging the reels and tapes for shipment in April. The digitization process will likely take at least six months, and there will be much work to do after digitization, like cataloging and indexing. About two-

thirds of the films have no index, which means we know nothing of their contents. And that's why this project will be so valuable to the Archives. Upon completion, we will know much more about this collection, but more importantly, after more than 20 years on the shelves, it will finally be accessible.

## A Visit to the Research Center

Thanks to the hard work of the Olmsted County Genealogical Society, the Research Center is home to the cemetery inscriptions of numerous final resting places in Olmsted County. They provide the essential facts of an individual's name, life dates, and location within the given cemetery. Wherever possible, a brief history of each cemetery is provided as well. With every passing day, the stones on which these inscriptions are carved are weathering away, becoming that much harder to decipher, which is what makes these records indispensable.

Moreover, some of the cemeteries are very small and have not been active in decades, making them all but forgotten if not for records of this kind. Thanks to Gladys Hammel's recent effort, our inscriptions for Oakwood Cemetery are now current and revised. With the better part of 30 years passing since the inscriptions were first recorded, perhaps it's time to take Gladys's lead and update the inscriptions of the other active cemeteries, as well.



## Master Gardeners Make the Grounds Shine!

There are four different types of gardens that are kept by the Olmsted County Extension Master Gardeners (OCEMG). They are as follows:

### Dyers Garden:

This garden has plants that were commonly used to dye fibers in the past. OCEMGs provide educational sessions on garden design, plant choices for our area and dyeing different fibers (woolens, cottons and silks). Annuals and perennials are chosen for their color palette and hardiness in our zone.

### Medicinal Garden:

This garden features plants used for medicine in historical times. Most of the plants are perennial and include both plants native to North America and those brought by immigrants from a variety of ethnic groups. Programming efforts are in process.

### Heritage Garden:

The Heritage Garden is about preserving flowers and vegetables that are suited to our area and come directly from heirloom plants and seeds. This 40' x 52' garden features only heirloom vegetables of varieties that are greater than fifty years old for demonstration and educational purpose. Over 200 varieties of heirloom vegetables, flowers, and herbs, all grown from seed, are cultivated in the straw-mulched beds of this demonstration garden. Heirloom seeds are those that have been in cultivated for a minimum of 50 years and reproduce true to the parent plant because they are open-pollinated, that is pollinated by natural means such as wind, water, insects, birds, and mammals. This is in contrast to hybridized or human-engineered crosses that mean seed must be purchased each year from dealers who "own the seed." Other reasons for growing heirlooms include superior taste and scent packaged in an amazing variety of colors, sizes and textures. The plants in this garden come from all over the world and all carry rich historical "roots" that tell the story of people of a particular time or place. Produce from this garden is donated to the Channel 1 Food Shelf.



### Channel One Garden:

This 80' x 100' garden provides thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to the Channel 1 Food Shelf each summer. Olmsted County Extension Master Gardeners work with community volunteers to plant, maintain and harvest the garden. School and community service groups are welcome to volunteer, too. No gardening experience necessary!

## Garden Plots for Rent!

The History Center is increasing the number of community plots. We plan to have about 40 more plots for rent with 3 for teaching purposes.

New rates will go into effect this year. Current members and those who join at the time of rental will have priority to secure spots. Previous non-member renters will be second priority. Rates are: \$60 for HCOC Members, \$75.00 for non-members and a special, one time offer for a plot and membership at \$85.

We will take applications and payments beginning April 15. You may call or visit the History Center in person to get your plot. The gardens will be available by May 1, depending on when they are dry enough to till.

We are looking for volunteers to help manage the work of the expanded gardens. Call 507-282-9447 if interested



# Nurse Anesthesia and Mayo Clinic

By Dan Nowakowski, Curators of Collections and Exhibits

In April, the History Center of Olmsted County is partnering with the St. Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association to host a new national traveling exhibition. This exhibit was created by Go For Broke National Education Center. The exhibit titled, *Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience* will debut at the History Center April 12, 2018 for a member's opening. The exhibit will then be open April 13 until June 17, 2018. The exhibit was created in partnership with ten communities across the country. Each of these communities are sharing their stories of the compassion shown to Japanese Americans during World War II. Rather than letting the Japanese Americans be forced into the internment camps, people in those communities welcomed them as fellow Americans.



Rochester's part in the exhibit lies with the St. Marys School of Nursing. Once the Japanese Americans were sent to the internment camps, young men and women could leave to attend college if they could find a college to accept them. St. Marys School of Nursing was one of the few schools to open their doors to allow Japanese Americans to further their careers education when many other hospitals and nurse training schools would not. In late 1942, St. Marys was approved to accept Japanese American women as students. The school not only provided education, but also helped these women

find places to stay in the community. After the Cadet Nurse Corp was formed in 1943, and even more Japanese American women were enrolled, St. Mary's School of Nursing accepted the most Japanese American women into their nursing program in the United States. After completing their training at St. Marys, many of these nurses went on to work at medical facilities across the country and became highly respected medical professionals.

As part of our partnership with the St. Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association, the History Center is holding a special Grand Opening on May 4, as an early start to National Nurses Week.

## A Visit to Mayowood

Save the date! Regular season Mayowood Mansion tours start on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Tickets cost \$17 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger.

Tours occur on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:00 pm. On Saturdays, tours are at 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, and 2:00 pm. On Sundays, tours are at 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, and 2:00 pm.

As we start planning for Christmas tours this year, we will be looking for more wonderful volunteers to assist with the decorating of Mayowood. If you're interested, email Erica LeClaire at [mayowood@olmstedhistory.com](mailto:mayowood@olmstedhistory.com) or contact the History Center at 507-282-9447.



History Center of Olmsted County  
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Rochester, MN 55902

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## HCOC Programs and Events Calendar

### **April:**

11 - Princess Café: Corky Gaskell presents “We Knew it as Base Ball Before it was Baseball: The History of the Game” 9 a.m.

12 - *Courage and Compassion* Member Exhibit Opening, 5 p.m., remarks at 6 p.m.

13 - *Courage and Compassion* Exhibit Opens for Everyone, 9 a.m.

15 - Opening date for garden plot rentals

18 - Mayowood opens for the season, 11 a.m.

20 - History Happy Hour: Al Smith, “Sketching the Stories of Vietnam Veterans” 6 p.m.

### **May:**

4 - *Courage and Compassion* Grand Opening for Nurses Week, 5:30 p.m., remarks at 6 p.m.

9 - Princess Café: Virginia Wentzel presents “WWII Japanese American Internment Camps” 9 a.m.

16 - Annual Meeting, 6 p.m.

### **June:**

2 - Garden Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

12 - History Hay Rides begin 10 a.m.

13 - Princess Café: Dana Knaak presents “The Plummer Building” 9 a.m.

17 - *Courage and Compassion* Closes, 5 p.m.

*For a complete list of upcoming events and more information, visit our website at [www.olmstedhistory.com](http://www.olmstedhistory.com)*