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*Visit***Steele County Historical Society**

1700 Austin Rd | Owatonna, MN

Hours (Open year-round)Tues., Wed. & Fri. **10 a.m.–4 p.m.**Thurs. **10 a.m.–8 p.m.**Sat. **10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Closed holidays

Admission

Adult Admission: \$5

Children: 7–16 \$3

Six & under: FREE

SCHS Members: FREE

Group Rates Available

Visit our website:

steelehistorymuseum.org

History in the Making: Being Muslim in Minnesota

As the number of refugees and immigrants from the Middle East and Africa grows, so, it seems, does the fear of Muslims. In Minnesota, followers of Islam are establishing their place within the state's communities—as leaders and entrepreneurs and innovators—even amid growing tensions from neighbors struggling to adjust to a state whose demographics continue to evolve. Hanadi Chehabeddine

understands the worries that many Americans harbor about terrorism and national security. She urges us to fight fear and ask questions.

Hanadi Chehabeddine, a Lebanese-born journalist, public speaker, wife and mother of three, has lived in the U.S. since 2008. She is Muslim and now an American citizen. She feels compelled to reach out to her fellow Americans to help bridge an understanding of her religion and way of life. Chehabeddine opened her presentation at the History Center with a simple statement, “we are afraid too.”

Local residents who filled the Wenger room at the Steele County History Center sought clarification on many questions about Islam: How do Muslims regard Jesus? Why do many Muslim immigrants seem standoffish?

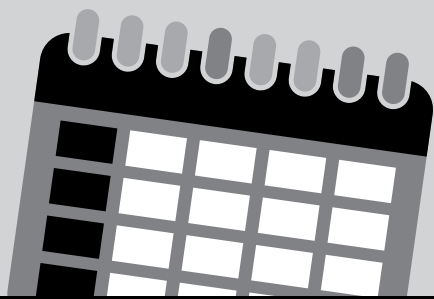
Chehabeddine explained Jesus, the central figure in Christianity, is also a key prophet of Islam, she said, although Muslims do not believe in his death and resurrection as Christians do, they believe he ascended into heaven and will return one day. “A Muslim cannot be a Muslim if he does not believe in Jesus, peace be upon him,” she said.

“The Society feels it is important to not only look at our past, but to look at history in the making,” said Stephanie Kibler, Manager of Meetings and Events at SCHS. “Conflict surrounding immigrants is nothing new to Steele County, our exhibit Over Here, Over There: The Great War 100, addresses issues that arose in 1917 revolving around immigration.”

Chehabeddine is a branding expert fluent in Arabic, English, and French who has been published in Cosmopolitan magazine, The Washington Times, the Huffington Post, MinnPost, the American Diversity Report, and on her own blog, www.hanadispeaksout.com. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Leadership at the University of St. Thomas while changing the perception of Muslims in the corporate world as a diversity trainer.

This lecture was sponsored by the United Way of Steele County through the generous support of a Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant.

Preserving *and* sharing *history* today *for tomorrow.*



Calendar of Events

April

- 10 What's New in Family Research
- 14 Americana Showcase:
Weep & Willow
- 18 Autos and Roads exhibit closes
- 23 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- 24 Researching at the
County Courthouse
- 26 100 Years of Immigration

May

- 1 SCHS Genealogy Club
- 3 Jr. History Detectives and
History Detectives
- 3 Steele County in the Civil War book
release and signing
- 7 1st Monday Coffee volunteers
encouraged to bring a friend
interested in volunteering
- 12 Toys and Play, 1970 to Today
grand opening
- 13 Village tours free for mom
- 17 WWI Battlefield Medicine

June

- 4 1st Monday Coffee
- 5 SCHS Genealogy Club
- 7 Jr. History Detectives and
History Detectives
- 17 Village tours free for dad
- 21 History Uncorked
- 23 Ellendale Area Heritage Society
Historical Tour

Upcoming Events at the Steele County Historical Society

Save the Dates:



History Detectives and **Jr. History Detectives** will set out on adventures on **May 3** and **June 7**. This is a **FREE** interactive program for Pre-K and K-Grade 6.

The **SCHS Genealogy Club** will host two brown bag lunch presentations. **What's New in Family Research, April 10**, and **Researching at the**

County Courthouse, April 24. Both sessions will be held at noon. Feel free to bring your lunch. **FREE** for SCHS members; \$5 for nonmembers.

Americana Showcase presents **Weep and Willow on April 14**. Doors open at 6:30 PM, music begins at 7:30 PM. \$15 for SCHS members; \$20 for nonmembers.

SCHS will host our **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 23, 11:30 AM**. If you volunteer at SCHS, please RSVP to MaryAnne.

100 Years of Immigration - Dreamers from WWI to Today, April 26, 7 PM.

Steele County in the Civil War **book release and signing** is scheduled for **May 3**. More information will be released. **FREE** for SCHS members; \$5 for nonmembers.



Toys and Play, 1970 to Today exhibit opens **May 12, 2 PM**.

In recognition of **Mother's Day, May 13**, mom tours the Village of Yesteryear for **FREE!**

Historian Mike Eckers will present WWI – Battlefield Medicine on **May 17, 7:00 PM**, an exploration of what medical care was like 100 years ago on the battlefields of World War I. Arrive early and tour Over Here, Over There: The Great War 100. **FREE** for SCHS members; \$5 for nonmembers.

In recognition of **Father's Day, June 1**, dad tours the Village of Yesteryear for **FREE!**



History Uncorked, our quarterly series where we explore Steele County history in new and fun ways, while enjoying beer, wine, or soda will be held on **June 21, 7:00PM**. Tickets are \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Ticket includes one beverage of your choice.



Greetings from...

THE PRESIDENT



Here we are, already three months into the New Year, a lot has happened and a lot more to come. We have our new Executive Director, James Lundgren, on board and he is doing a tremendous job taking on his new responsibilities. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself and meet James at any time.

One significant project we are working on, is replacing the boardwalk circle in the Village of Yesteryear. Some boards are rotting and others are becoming a safety issue. The plan is to replace the wooden boards with a longer lasting product. The existing names will be engraved into the replacement boards. This is a costly but necessary project. The new boards will last for a much longer time than treated wood.

Just remember, if you would like to get involved at the SCHS just stop by and talk to any of our staff and they will help get you started.

–Bill Hartle, President



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My name is James Lundgren, and I took over as Executive Director back in January. I have had the opportunity to meet some of you and look forward to meeting many more as the year goes on. The first couple of months have passed very quickly. The last issue of the newsletter was sent out just before I started and suddenly it is time for the spring newsletter.

Some of you are likely wondering what I have been doing since starting. First, there is the learning curve of meeting key people, attending programs and committee meetings, and simply getting organized so I know where to find the resources to get work done. Next was diving into the more time sensitive projects of the annual budget, re-organizing the chart of accounts and seeking event and program sponsorships.

I am thankful that Joanne Giga and Jerry Ganfield, the past and incoming treasurers, spent many hours working on the draft budget. We have made some changes in the accounting systems that will help the board better understand the financial picture. This takes a little bit of effort at the start, but once in place will be a valuable tool for financial oversight.

A new fund development committee is being established. They produced a sponsorship brochure that was mailed out to over 1000 contacts. The Committee and Board are now following up by contacting past and prospective donors about the various opportunities. If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact me at the office, or any board member can be of assistance as well.

The SCHS is seeking nominations for the 2018 preservation awards. This annual program acknowledges the important preservation work performed within the county. The deadline to submit is the end of April. More information about nominating someone can be found on the web page.

Cheers,

James C. Lundgren, Executive Director

Board & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Matt Kottke

Vice President

Janet Mealey

Secretary

Jerry Ganfield

Treasurer

Past President

Kaye Fransen

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Technology Director**

Stephanie Kibler
**Meetings & Special
Events Manager**

MaryAnne Higgins

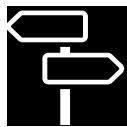
Volunteer Coordinator

Robyn Ladd-Moeckly

Archives Assistant

Bev Vettrus

Custodian



DUNNELL KITCHEN RESTORATION TO FOLLOW ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN



Dunnell House 1868-1968 at 357, E. Main St.

When the Dunnell House was moved from its original location at 357 E. Main Street, Owatonna, to the Village of Yesteryear in January 1969, the Society had a challenge to restore much of its interior after its having been sold to Pillsbury Academy and Pillsbury Baptist College for use as a student dormitory. In addition the Society converted the original kitchen, back room and two upstairs rooms to create a caretaker's apartment, later to become the Society's office. In 1999 the upstairs rooms were restored through the generosity of the Pillsbury Military Academy Alumni Association.

That modern office has continued to occupy the main floor's original kitchen until recently, when board approved restoring the room to its original purpose. Thus the kitchen artifacts will shift to the original kitchen, the dining room will shift to the original fireplace dining room and the current dining room will revert to the women's parlor of the original floor plan.



Dunnell family kitchen, circa 1930s showing sink, backsplash and gas stove



*Mark Hill Dunnell
U.S. Congressman
1871-1883, 1889-1891*

With this restoration, tourists will more clearly understand the relationship of the house's floor plan for the working household servants, the separation of the kitchen from the dining area and the function of the three "parlors" in the household of a distinguished U.S. Congressman such as Mark Hill Dunnell.

Because the rear of the household also must serve for current events, the rearmost room will continue to house the contemporary kitchen having refrigerator, stove and sink with access from the back door that has not recently been used.



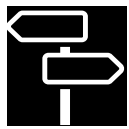
View of the original dining room from the main hall, circa 1930



Mark Hill's second son, lawyer & author Mark Boothby Dunnell sits by doorway into women's parlor



Dunnell dining room table in room now exhibiting kitchen items.



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: 100 YEARS OF IMMIGRATION-DREAMERS FROM WWI TO TODAY

The Steele County Historical Society will host the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota for a discussion on 100 Years of Immigration – Dreamers from WWI to Today on April 26, 7:00 PM.

All immigrants coming to the US have a dream. This lecture will discuss the history of dreamers from 1917 to today, with a focus on the most recent group of dreamers and DACA.

In response to the failure of the DREAM Act legislation to pass both houses of Congress, President Obama initiated the immigration policy known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals in 2012.

Approximately 800,000 young people have been granted legal protections under DACA. Each one paid a stiff application fee, underwent a background check and submitted several identifying documents. Now those registered face an uncertain future.

WARTIME BRINGS CHANGE AND HOME GUARD OCCUPATION TO MINNESOTA HOMEFRONT

As the United States entered WWI, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety was created to provide swift war-time government. With broad authority, the Commission oversaw everything from education, food production, to alcohol consumption.

The legal status of alcohol was among the most controversial topics they worked on. Alcohol was such a powerful issue that six of the Commission's first ten orders dealt with the drink. Three reasons were given to justify the Commission's actions to regulate alcohol. First, the military complained that intoxicated soldiers were harder to train. Second, industry claimed sober workers produce more in less time. Finally, due to regional prohibition, the general public reported safety concerns. This third concern prompted the Commission to act right here in Steele County.

In 1917 Steele County was a wet county - purchase and consumption of alcohol was legal. However, much of Southern Minnesota and all of Iowa were dry. The village of Blooming Prairie, due to its location, found itself surrounded by customers looking for a drink. And local businesses were quick to capitalize.

However, late in 1917, the Commission received a petition from residents of Blooming Prairie and the surrounding area. The petition requested action be taken to stop dangerous joy-riders and bootleggers streaming to the village in droves.

On December 5, 1917, Order 17, required all saloons in Blooming Prairie to close at 5PM and forbade the sale of alcohol for off-site consumption. Largely, the order was ignored. In May of 1918, Order 34 demanded that all saloons in Blooming close completely. This did not sit well with the owners of local establishments. An agent of the Commission was sent to work with county law enforcement, but he simply became the latest patron of the establishments.

On advice of legal representation, P.F. Coggins petitioned for a restraining order against Governor Burnquist (the Chair of the Commission) in June 1917. His case stated that his business was operating within the constitution and legislated laws of MN, Steele County, and Blooming Prairie. Therefore the Governor had no cause to interfere.

The Commission (and Governor) responded on July 13. They sent 25-30 members of the Home Guard to Blooming Prairie to prevent anyone from entering the offending saloons. The Commission also issued Order 48, declaring immediate and complete prohibition in the village of Blooming Prairie for the duration of the war plus three months. All permits for alcohol sales in Blooming Prairie were rescinded. While the saloons stayed closed, area farmers soon noted increased traffic on rural roads...

If you have not toured our exhibit, Over Here, Over There: The Great War 100, be sure to visit this summer. Here you can read more details of this case and many more topics. While our research comes straight out of the Great War era, much of it will sound very familiar. Be sure to visit.



Better Together

In first quarter as of 3/23/18, volunteers donated 1988 hours of their time to help SCHS achieve our mission to preserve and share history today for tomorrow. We appreciate the many volunteer hours spent as archivists, researchers, special event workers, maintenance helpers, receptionists, oral/video historians, acquisition processors, document scanners, transcriptionists and more. You are the heart and soul of this organization through volunteerism and support of our mission. On behalf of the board and staff, we extend a HUGE THANK YOU for all that you do!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VILLAGE OF YESTERYEAR SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH AT 9:00 AM



This crew of volunteers will be dusting, sweeping floors, washing windows, shaking rugs, vacuuming rugs/floors, and mopping floors of the many buildings of the Village of Yesteryear. Cleaning supplies

are provided, you want to have work gloves for some jobs. Please sign-up by calling MaryAnne Higgins at 451-1420 or by email at maryanne.higgins@steelehistorymuseum.org. In the past, some area groups have used this project as a team building activity. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Dunnell House. We will be gathering in the Dunnell House at 9:00 AM.



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

1ST MONDAY COFFEE MONDAY, MAY 7TH, 10 AM

Current volunteers are encouraged to bring a friend to first Monday morning coffee who may be interested in volunteering time at SCHS. If you bring a friend to this event, your name will be put into a random drawing for a gift. We have opportunities in several areas in the GAR room from transcriptionists to researchers to scanners. Throughout the summer, building hosts are needed for Extravaganza and the Steele County Free Fair; also volunteers are needed to play the piano in the Dunnell House; serve food at events; or help with set-up/clean-up associated with each event. If you know of someone who may be interested in volunteering their time at SCHS, who is not able to attend this event, please have them stop into the History Center for more information. Contact MaryAnne Higgins at 451-1420 or email maryanne.higgins@steelehistorymuseum.org for more information regarding opportunities available.



Education and Outreach

SCHOOL TOURS

The Steele County Historical Society is excited to bring local history to area school children by providing opportunities for them to visit the History Center and Village of Yesteryear. Each spring area elementary schools visit the SCHS campus to see history come alive through our Village Interpreters. During these tours, Village Interpreters tell their story to school children as they represent periods of history or recreate the lives of common villagers from the past.

Reservations are currently being taken for school tours this spring. Please help promote this educational opportunity to area teachers and parents by advocating for a field trip to SCHS; these field trips are free to Steele County school groups. Elementary school field trips are an example of how the SCHS makes an effort to make history accessible to people of all ages. If you are interested in underwriting the cost of this service or would like to donate time by being a Village Interpreter, please give MaryAnne a call at 451-1420 for more information.





In Memory/In Honor

The community and the Society have lost the following friends for whom memorials have been given since our last newsletter.

IN MEMORY OF

Allen Johnson

Betty Thon

Byron Hanson

Calvin Paulson

Eileen Schmidt

Ethel Quimby

Eugene Trom

Frank M Johnson

Jan Boe

Jeff Kath

Jerry Peters

Jim Hines

Jim Johns

Jon Peglow

Patricia Oeltjenbruns

Richard Johnson

Roger Soukup

Roger Voll

Sally Dressel

Sam Peterson

Carole Nordlie

Dorothy Smith

Dianna Maas

IN HONOR OF

Bruce & Rose Kubicek

Marion McDilda

GIVEN BY

Jim and Jo Hartle

Richard Thamert

Reuben & LaDonna Ebeling

Darwin & Barb Kasper

Mark Moonan Walbran

Mark Moonan Walbran

Sandra Blaha

Bernadette Jensen

Mary Larson

Darlene Schmidt

Eugene Spindler

George & Karen Von Ruden

Alice Wiese

Darlene Schmidt

Mark Moonan Walbran

Jacqueline Nelson

Bill & Jody Hartle

Jim & Jo Hartle

Lyle & Gloria Meschke

Steven & Morene Rohlik

Berniece Schroht

Jeffrey & Julie Wanous

Jacqueline Nelson

Chad & Karen Lange

Charles & Joan Mosher

Lloyd Kaplan

Jim & Jo Hartle

Corey & Sara Ihrke

David & Dorothy Jackel

David & Shirley Pfeifer

Richard Thamert

Jim & Jo Hartle

Loren & Beverly Krause

Brad & Sherry Ahrens

Larry & Diane Kuchenbecker

LaRae Nordlie

Barb Lewis

John Smith

Larry & Diane Kuchenbecker

GIVEN BY

Steven & Morene Rohlik

Lyle & Gloria Meschke



New Member Spotlight

Welcome New Members

Since our last newsletter, we've had a number of new members join the SCHS. A hearty welcome to those who recently joined. Our sincere thanks to all who have renewed their memberships. It is much appreciated!

Individual Memberships

Andrew Lolwell

Bonnie Joachim

Clark & Janice Gustafson

David & Dorothy Jackel

James & Gail Tratz

Jeff & Pat Jerde

Jeremy Borgstahl

Mary Groff

Michael Holm

Robert & Joanne Nahlovsky

Sharon Langerfeld

Stacey Deobald

Todd & Lori Buegler

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum

Warren Abraham

Legacy Donors

January 1, – March 20, 2018

Steven & Barbara Judd

Virginia Thompson

Jeanne Brick

Sandra Blaha



Wish List

The Garden Committee is looking for some items to be used in maintaining the historic gardens in the Village.

Rain Barrel

Gardening Hand Tools

Spade

Chicken wire

STEELE COUNTY



HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

It's About Time...

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**Toys
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David Otterson

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