



The Window

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BROOKINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Outdoor tractor/plow display greets visitors

An outdoor display has been added to the historical collection at the Brookings County Museum on Volga's Samara Avenue.

The display is a steel-cleated 1933 Farmall F-12 tractor hitched to a two-bottom International Harvester plow.

The display was planned and instituted by retired Sinai farmer Marv Hope, who now lives in Volga and serves on the

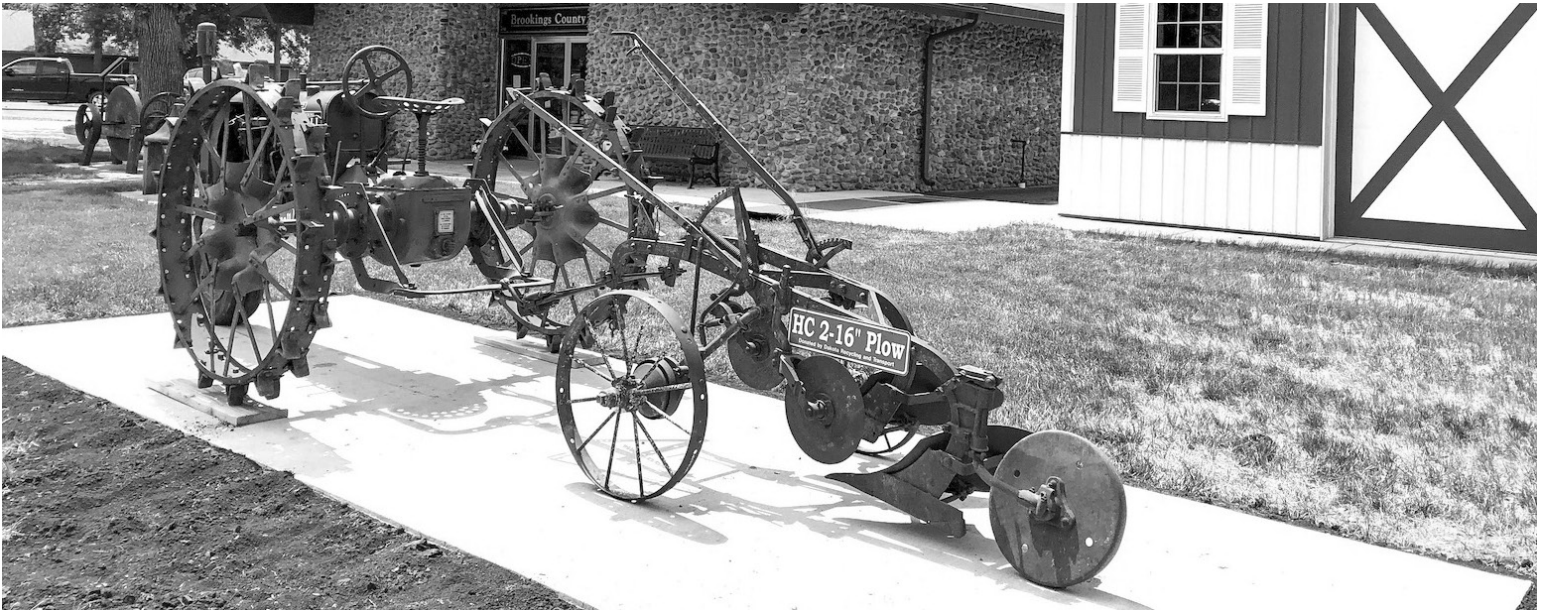
Brookings County Museum Board of Directors.

The 2,700-pound F-12 was donated by Ryan Olson of rural Nunda. It was one of about 123,000 tractors manufactured from 1932 to 1938 when a newer F-14 came on the line. The earlier models were painted gray, as is the museum tractor. In 1936, the Farmall tractor color was changed by International Harvester to bright red.

The F-12 had a gross power of 14 horsepower with a drawbar power rating of 12.31 horsepower.

The two-bottom plow was donated to the museum by Dakota Recycling and Transport of Volga. Moving it and the tractor onto the cement slab was done with the help of Volga welder Scott Blase and his front-end loader.

In 1933, the F-12 sold for about \$600. ❁



This new drive-by display greets visitors at the Brookings County Museum in Volga. The museum is open daily from 1 to 4 p.m. through September 4.

Scholten elected to Museum Board

Lisa Scholten has been elected to the board of directors of the Brookings County Historical Society and its museum in Volga.

"We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Scholten to the board," said society and museum President Shirley Deethardt of Aurora. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and

experience in fundraising, museum collections and management."

Mrs. Scholten is a native of Lyndhurst, Ohio, and earned her BA degree from Ashland University. She later earned her master of science degree from The Ohio University.



Lisa Scholten

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New Board member

Continued from front page

Scholten served as an assistant professor at South Dakota State University from 1988 to 1996 and as curator of the Marghab Linen Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum from 1997 to 1999. She served as the Museum's coordinator of collections and internship coordinator from 1999 to 2018 when she retired. While at the Museum she was also instrumental in grant writing.

She is currently researching and writing a book about Brookings visionary Edwin Ellis Gaylord, who arrived in Brookings in early 1880. He led the construction of the Gaylord Block on lots six and seven of present day 310 and 312 Main Street in Brookings.

Most of that research has been in reviewing books and documents in the Brookings County Museum archives.

Scholten is a member of the American Alliance of Museums and serves as a collections stewardship reviewer and institutional assessment team leader. She is also a member of its accreditations team and serves as a national conference presenter. Scholten also served on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Art Conservation Center.

She and her husband Bill are enjoying retirement in rural Brookings. 🌿

History in Print

Courtesy of the Brookings Register
July 28, 1932

Fire burns shocks in field

To stop work in the harvest to watch a mail plane pass overhead and then look back on their work to see a shock on fire was the experience of James Wilson and Weldon Faulkner last Friday afternoon on the A. C. Wilson farm south of Lake Oakwood.

Water, or firefighting equipment of any kind, was miles away. What to do in the emergency was the question. Something had to be done quickly.

Finally, overalls came off both men and were used to beat out the flames. Twelve shocks of grain in a group were consumed before the fire was extinguished.

How the fire was started is a mystery. The two men had not been smoking.

Someone, their theory is, must have thrown a lighted cigarette or cigar butt out of the open cockpit mail plane as it passed over their heads.

Volunteers invest 100+ hours



LEFT: Volunteers Dennis and Kathy Hanson lend a hand to museum visitor Beverly Wosje, former Sinai resident now living in Brookings. Wosje was researching family history in the museum's archive collection. RIGHT: Veteran volunteers Floyd and Cheryl Havrevold of Volga have a long history of serving the Brookings County Museum, devoting hours to grounds-keeping, helping with special events and devoting one day each week during the summer as museum greeters and guides.

Volga residents Floyd and Cheryl Havrevold and Dennis and Kathy Hanson volunteer and serve the Brookings County Museum well above and beyond the usual call of duty every year.

The Havrevolds have been generous, spending time keeping the museum's antique farm equipment outdoor area at the west end of the main museum free of leaves and trash. They have also been serving as museum "meeters and greeters," staffing the museum one full day a week throughout the last six summer seasons.

Additionally, Floyd has for the past few years supervised much of the work of refurbishing the now completed James Hauxhurst House. He has also served six years as museum director, never missing a meeting.

Dennis and Kathy Hanson have for the past two years served as guides and greeters one day each week each season. Dennis also serves on the board of directors, and he and Kathy

are always there when volunteer help is needed.

"We enjoy it," said Floyd of his and Cheryl's volunteer work. "We get to meet some wonderful museum visitors, and it's fun meeting and visiting with people from this area as well as from other areas of South Dakota and many from other states and even other countries."

The Hansons also enjoy their museum afternoons one day each week during the summer. "We get to meet new friends and to see old friends," said Dennis. "When we're not busy with that, there's a lot of interesting reading about Brookings history in the museum archives section, and we enjoy that."

In all, about forty or fifty volunteers keep the museum campus maintained, humming, and well staffed, and all are necessary and appreciated. But the Havrevolds and Hansons easily hold the record for total museum volunteer hours invested each museum season. 🌿

Brookingscountymuseum.org

Where history comes alive online.



The Brookings County Museum's newly constructed clothing and accessories display showcases vintage women's wear. Helping organize the first clothing display are, at left, museum volunteer Karen Hampton of Brookings, and at right, museum board member and treasurer Darla Strande, also of Brookings.

Once dark, dimly lighted

Museum area now showcases beautiful display

A new showcase in the Brookings County Museum has been created by Board Member Larry Ust.

He designed and almost single-handedly constructed the beautiful case where the museum can now display its large collection of vintage women's wear and accessories.

Men's clothing will not be forgotten, with displays of military uniforms and sports activities being planned.

When the museum's first building was built in the late 1960s, it included a rear entrance with an overhead garage door so that large artifacts could easily be moved into the building. In 2003, because that area was no longer needed, and to save on energy costs, the decision was made to permanently close it off.

Even though the space was still part of the museum, lighting was poor and it was never redeveloped to house any displays.

Recent vintage women's wear donations were assigned to a store-room clothing rack, creating an apparent need for a display.

Ust envisioned a case in that little-used area about the length and height of a garage door. He designed a plan that met with museum's standards.

Next, Ust set to work making it happen, calling on volunteers for the heavy lifting,



Designer/Builder Larry Ust

but basically building the new case all by himself. Interestingly, for some of the finishing work, he used lumber milled from the trimmings of an old oak tree that once grew within 15 feet from where it is now an attractive display case frame.

Major gifts from Sioux Valley Energy's Round Up program and funds from the estate of the late Clair Husby paid for most of the lumber, carpeting, glass windows and updated lighting.

But the labor costs and the cabinet-making talent all came to the museum without charge, thanks to Larry Ust's vision and generosity.

Stocking the new case with mannequins is a matter still to be resolved. The museum has several female mannequins in various states of repair and is also in need of two or three new male mannequins that would be available for display case service. ❁

Exploring the art of cursive handwriting

by Chuck Cecil, editor

I don't think schools teach penmanship these days.

Penmanship class was a part of my schooling, but it sure didn't help much.

I often jot down items, but the next day I wonder how a chicken got into my shirt pocket.

I envied my grade school penmanship teacher. She transposed written sentences into works of art. Today, with computers, text messaging and cell phones, cursive handwriting is nearly obsolete.

I thought about all that the other day as I paged through the precise handwritten minutes of the Brookings County Commissioners meetings in the 1880s. The men met in the county offices on the lot where Jim's Tap in Brookings is now located. In beautiful handwriting I learned that the county paid local attorneys George Mathews and James O. B. Scobey \$37.50 a month rent for the south half of that building they owned. The checks were written by transferring ink to paper via a turkey feather pen.

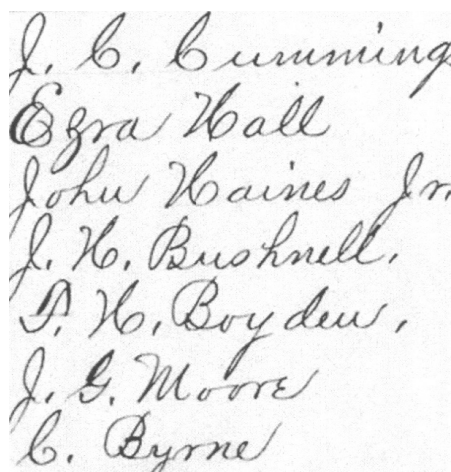
Among the expenses recorded was money for "lamp oil," and \$4.50 so the sheriff could buy a pair of handcuffs.

Most of the county business then revolved around building bridges and caring for the unfortunate. There were road supervisors in every township to help with bridge

concerns, and there was even a county Board of Insanity.

A bridge back then could be built for about \$100 to \$200, but the first bridge over the Sioux River between Brookings and Volga cost taxpayers \$250.

Citizens of the county were generous to those in need, but the names of paupers, invalids, orphans and the insane were written out in the county minutes for all to see.



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A smallpox epidemic visited Brookings County in the mid-1880s, and there is mention of buying groceries and a \$6.50 wool mattress for a smallpox victim, and paying to have smallpox homes disinfected.

The Hammond family was particularly devastated by smallpox, and there is a payment from the county of \$2 to have a grave dug for a Hammond who died, and another allocation of \$10 for a coffin.

Commissioner Thomas Qualey submitted a bill of \$2 for payment of shoes he purchased for Sammy Smith, who was listed in the minutes as "a pauper." A man named Peterson cared for the two Fjeseth orphans and received a monthly stipend from the county to help cover the cost of keeping them in his home.

A bonanza for the county coffers was the sale of liquor licenses for \$500 a year.

In early January 1885, commissioners approved nine liquor licenses, two in Volga, three in Elkton, one in Aurora and three in Brookings. The saloon keepers in White and Bruce probably got theirs in February.

Up to that time it was a fairly simple matter to get a liquor license, but after some prohibitionists showed up in 1884 and shook their fists (the written record called it a "remonstrance") at the commissioners and demanded changes. They were somewhat successful.

Commissioners ruled that before a citizen could get a liquor license, the applicant had to be judged by the commissioners to be a "proper person." So far as I know, Brookings County has never had an "improper person" apply for a license.

And all of them probably filled out their license applications in beautiful cursive handwriting like these writing samples of jury members copied from the 1884 minutes. ❀



Estelline Care Center visit

Arnold Johnson, 101, retired Estelline area farmer, seated at right, was among a group of residents of the Estelline Care Center who toured the Brookings County Museum June 29. Here, Johnson jokes with Karen Algood of Volga, left, and museum treasurer Darla Strande, center, who also helped during the Estelline visit. Standing are Joan Bjorklund, museum volunteer, and Landon Hanssen, both of Volga, who helped Johnson navigate the six building complex in the Volga City Park. Hanssen is the son of Estelline Care Center Director Jason Hanssen.

Museum summer season ends Sept. 4

The end of the museum season is nearing.

The Brookings County Museum's last day of being open for business will be Labor Day, September 4 with open hours from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The museum has traditionally opened its doors for the season on Memorial Day and ended the season with the Labor Day finale.

Special touring groups are invited to arrange visits to the museum throughout the year. For more information, call the museum at 605-827-2303. ❁

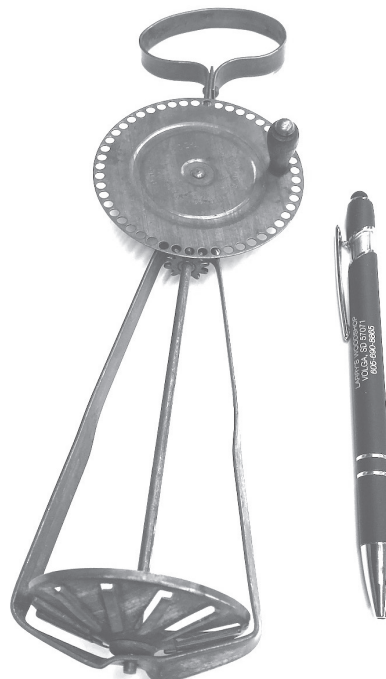
Rare finds on display at the Museum



CLOCKWISE TOP LEFT: The late Floyd Engels stands on the steps of the Fountain School with his beloved baritone during an impromptu concert by the School/Community band in the 1920s. Due to space limitation in the last issue, this photo was withheld. Look for the baritone on display in the museum.

TOP RIGHT: A wheeled, hand-crafted baby crib was donated to the museum by Robert and Verdus Broschat of Brookings. Notice the storage shelf built into the base.

BOTTOM RIGHT: This unusual egg beater believed to be from the 1920s was recently donated to the museum by Larry Ust of rural Volga. Most egg beaters have spinning blades, but this relic has a round, vented spinning beater.



History in Print

Courtesy of the Brookings Register

July 8, 1926

New dam planned

A new dam will be constructed at the north end of Lake Campbell this summer. It will increase the depth of the lake in some places by up to four feet.

The dam will be located at the outlet of the lake into the Sioux River and will be 110 feet long by eight feet high.

September 29, 1932

Onion Champion?

Ole Lund of Sinai can almost claim to be the champion onion grower in these parts. He has a pair of onions on exhibit at the Register that are fair samples of his efforts. One measures 15 inches in circumference and weighs 2.25 pounds. His onions this season, of the Spanish sweet variety, generally weigh in at about 3 pounds.

October 29, 1932

Fish planted at Lake Campbell

Robert Ripple and his son Lester were in Brookings Tuesday with a truckload of small fish which they were showing off to interested citizens before planting them in Lake Campbell.

One smaller tank held 1,200 bullheads. In a larger tank were some 800 crappies with various numbers of silver and black bass and some northern pike.

William Hackensick, who has a resort on the lake, was happy to see the fish planted in Lake Campbell as the seining and freezing last winter took every fish out. Mr. Ripple secured the fish from rivers and lakes that were drying up. He called them "rescue fish."

August 29, 1933

Music, dancing end; fines issued

A number of complaints reached State's Attorney Casper Aaberg last week and in company with Sheriff Walter Lunden, he started on a tour of the county to investigate barn dances.

Friday night the two county officials visited the Barney Scofield barn where a dance was in progress. Saturday night the Earl McKeown farm was visited where a barn dance was also underway. Both dances were shut down and both Scofield and McKeown were tagged.

Other places in the county will be visited this weekend. State law provides that licenses be obtained from the county commissioners for all dances held outside corporate limits of towns and cities.

The Brookings County commissioners do not issue licenses for dances, hence there is a ban on all barn dances held in this county.



The first floor of the historic 1884 James Hauxhurst house is finally complete. It moved from its Brookings site across the street south of the Brookings Library back in 2011. The last coat of paint for a small room (not pictured here) was applied in late May. The small room is now used to display kitchen items from the time the home of the county commissioners first clerk, James Hauxhurst and his family lived in the house. A group

of Brookings citizens funded the move of the old house in 2011 to the museum site in Volga. The group also paid for the home's foundation as well as sponsoring the necessary move of the museum's nearby country school to make room for the new Hauxhurst house. More than \$50,000 was then raised over the next dozen years to refurbish the home for the displays it now houses.

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EDITOR: Chuck Cecil, Brookings
DESIGNER: Mary Bjerke, Volga
Museum Phone: 605-827-2303
Website: brookingscountymuseum.org
Memorial Day through Labor Day
1:00 - 4:00 pm daily
IRS Tax Exempt: 23-7018164