

YAY! It's SPRING! Come shop the Sale!

The Eden Prairie Historical Society invites you to tour the charming Cummins-Phipps-Grill House and shop antiques and vintage finds from **The PROP SHOP**

CUMMINS FARMHOUSE MARKET AND Vintage Sale

9th Annual Sale! FREE ADMISSION

May 12 & 13, 2023
Fri. 12-7 • Sat. 10-3

13600 PIONEER TRAIL • EDEN PRAIRIE

Built in 1879
CPG HOUSE
Cummins-Phipps-Grill House
EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



A rare antique Native American doll has been added to the Eden Prairie Historical Museum's collection in February. The creator of this doll was Rebecca Blue Cloud (1883-1944). She was a member of the Upper Sioux Indian Community. This incredible and interesting woman supported her family in the 1920s and 1930s by creating dolls to sell to tourists. The Eden Prairie Historical society proudly displays this piece of Native American History in the museum, which is located on the lower level of city hall.

www.edenprairiehistory.org

Rosa Schneider St. Margarethen • Germany Agnes Lackovic

Members are cordially invited to
EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S Annual Meeting
Thurs., April 20th 2023 • 6:00PM
Cummins-Phipps-Grill House
13600 Pioneer Trail • Eden Prairie
SOCIAL & REFRESHMENTS

Become a MEMBER AT THE DOOR Only \$20 per year per household

Rosa's Miracle Mouse Books will be available for purchase for \$14 each. Cash or check only please

KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARGARET PLANK
Shares stories about her mother, Agnes Lackovic Daluge, that saved hundreds of lives during WWII as an undercover teenager during dangerous times in Munich, Germany.
• Artifacts from the Daluge family that have been donated to The Eden Prairie Historical Society will also be displayed during the meeting. •

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CPG HOUSE
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EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Please let us know of any changes or corrections to your mailing or email address by emailing us at: info@edenprairiehistory.org

HISTORY MUSEUM
HOURS: Mondays 2 - 5pm
LOWER LEVEL OF CITY HALL
(952) 949-8580

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Prairie View

Spring 2023

With the responsibility to protect its past, the Society's mission is to: gather, preserve and protect Eden Prairie's historic artifacts and memorabilia; share the stories of its people and places with audiences of all ages; and foster an understanding and appreciation for historic preservation.

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Historical Society Members,

Spring is almost here and we are excited to invite you to our **2023 Annual Meeting** at the Historic Cummins-Phipps-Grill Homestead on **Thursday, April 20th at 6:00pm** for social time, followed by our meeting. We welcome our guest speaker Margaret Plank. Margaret is the daughter of Agnes Daluge who lived in Eden Prairie for over 30 years. As a child, Agnes helped save hundreds of Jewish people and downed airmen escape though her Aunt Rosa's villa in the Bavarian Alps. Come hear her amazing story, and see the many artifacts Margaret donated to the Eden Prairie Historical Society.

This winter we rented the house to "Santa" (Arlyn Grussing) and we hosted an Estate Sale. The profits made helped pay for the main level of the CPG house floors to get refinished. They look beautiful and are ready for another 20 years of guests to the house!

Board Members Paul Thorpe and Bob Bowes volunteered to repaint the kitchen the original harvest gold. The kitchen and hired man's attic is an addition to the JR Cummins home that Edwin Phipps built in the early 1900s to accommodate the many hired men that helped harvest over 250 acres of asparagus each spring. Take note of the large cast iron stove, ice closet, hired man's sink and table, as well as the roll top desk similar to the one Pappy Grill would have used to do the books.

We are so grateful for the many wonderful donations this last year. David Fouxe and Bruce Balfanz recently donated beautiful antique chairs. They will be of good use at the CPG and Dorenkemper homesteads.

The Board is grateful for the many years Valerie Ross and Katie Qualey served as Directors and Vice President to the Society. Each donated their time and talent that will be forever appreciated for years to come. Val helped create a rental policy and introduced us to "Santa". Katie created two beautiful and educational timelines, designed our newsletters, and all graphics, as well as a Feldmann Kiosk at RT Anderson Park. We are so thankful for their time on the Board as they retire.

We hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting!

Kathie Case, President
Eden Prairie Historical Society

PAUL THORP, TOP
BOB BOWES, BOTTOM
PAINTING THE KITCHEN AT CPG



THE RAILROAD and life at Eden Prairie Road in 1871

Big changes to Eden Prairie as recorded in the Historical Society's 1970's archives

Eden Prairie was one of the first settlements in Hennepin County because of its location on the Minnesota River. Along with the land speculators came the people who wanted to own land, farm, and make this their permanent home.

Beginning with a subsistence type of farming it developed into commercial farming devoted largely to one single crop "wheat" which was shipped down the river by keelboats and barges. During the harvest season it was a common sight to see a number of these boats and barges tied up at Hennepin Landing on the Minnesota River. Along with the wheat some farmers

sent quantities of hay. Eden Mills shipped barrels of flour down the river to St. Anthony.

This center of commerce gradually disappeared after the Minneapolis and St. Louis RR was built in 1871. This railroad enters the town on the north near the northwest corner of section 3 and passes out in the southwest through section 30. A depot was built near the middle of the town in section 17 just east of County Road 4 (the old Murphy Ferry Road). Art Miller remembers the first railroad tracks which were built with local labor using wheel-barrows, wagon, oxen and the few horses that could be rounded up. It was a very winding track with the steep grades out of Chaska. When an engine was hauling a long string of cars the engineer often would take some of the cars up the grade and put them on the side track and return for the rest of the cars. There was a big trestle over Hwy. 101 near Shakopee and another one over Purgatory Creek at the Stacy Place. These trestles were built of heavy timbers. In 1901-02 the railroad was straightened by the Walsh Construction Co. and the trestles were filled with dirt. Art remembers the camps of railroad workers along the track, 200 or more men. His father the proprietor of the Miller Brothers General Store furnished supplies for these



camps. The men worked with dump cars and steam shovels.

The first trains had steam boilers and were fired by wood. Art's father sold wood to the RR. Piles of cord-wood lined the tracks. There was a water tank and pumping station north of the tracks.

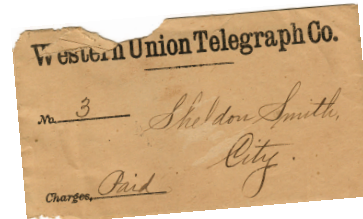
A Mr. Pollack was the pumper. He would pump water for the trains at Eden Prairie and then ride up to Marion Junction and pump for the trains up there. He would then catch a train back to Eden Prairie and start pumping all over again. There was a ditch from Red Rock Lake to

the tank by the tracks. A windmill was first used to pump there. After the railroad was straightened a new water tank was built and a six inch well drilled. Now the water was pumped by a steam motor. The six inch well is still by the tracks.



The Railroad played a big part in the Smith family. Sheldon Smith pre-empted land north of Duck Lake in 1855. Records show he served as Township Treasurer for several years. His daughter Amie, married David Frank Douglas, a teacher in 1890 at the Jarrett one room school. The Smiths built the beautiful red brick house with white trim located on County Rd 4.

Mr. Smith built 5 bedrooms upstairs to accommodate travelers who got off at the RR Station. At this time, the only way for people to get to the Chanhassen-Excelsior area was to get off in Eden Prairie. They often stayed at the Smith home and the stage coach would take them to their destination.



The first depot agent in Eden Prairie was R.O. Reed, followed by Sheldon Smith, Amie Smith Douglas, Becky Hunter Hamilton and Miss Newell and Agnes Jarrett. Amie trained all telegraphers who served as depot

agents. The mail came by train and delivered to the four Post Offices in EP. Rowland, Tuckey, Staring and Washburn. Later, all were closed except Washburn which became Miller Bros General Store. The Creamery, Blacksmith shop, Grain Elevator and the Cattle pens by the tracks were all along old Eden Prairie Road #Hwy 4.

Amie's son Sheldon Douglas served a few years on the School Board during the years of consolidating the 4 one room schools. The main choice to build on his land was because of the accessibility to the railroad. Each year about three car loads of coal were placed on the side track. Local people bid on hauling the coal and filling the bins at the school. This was done by wagon and in winter by sled.

Sheldon remembers the fascination the trains had for the growing boys in the area and the fun they had swimming in the water tank. However, they had to be on the alert for the train might come along and take the water before they had a chance to get out!!



Amie Smith Douglas and her son Sheldon Douglas were both telegraphers that served as depot agents.

MAKING NEW HISTORY ON RED ROCK LAKE

There's a sleepy little lake in Eden Prairie named Red Rock Lake, but in the month of February it comes alive. This is history in the making. The lake association, Friends of Red Rock Lake (FORRL) hosts an annual winter celebration every year. It's a festival of sorts and celebrates the winter season with sledding, ice fishing and kite flying. Friends from far and wide come to roast hot dogs, enjoy a smore or two and hit the 250-foot sledding hill. Matt Adam, the president of the association coordinates the event and has noticed an uptick in the attendance.

The rising number in attendance is no surprise especially since they've added a new attraction this year in the form of an ice carousel. An ice carousel is a large floating disc that is cut into the ice and then the circle of ice is propelled in rotation with an outboard motor. Viola, you have your very own amusement ride. The size of this particular ice carousel was 32 feet in diameter and weighed approximately 60,000 pounds. This project was the brainchild of Matt Geist, a Red Rock Lake resident.

It took quite a bit of manpower to cut through 15 inches of ice, but now that Geist perfected his craft, there are plans on making another ice carousel next year, maybe even a double. This group of lakeshore residents are making the best of winter and making history at the same time.



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