

## CELEBRATE FALL WITH THE HISTORIC SOCIETY



**HARVEST TO HALLOWEEN**  
**October 14th**  
**1-5pm**  
 Tour the **Geisler-Dorenkemper**  
 House at Riley Lake Park



**HISTORIC GHOST WALK**  
**October 21st**  
**7-9pm**  
**CPG House**  
 Tours are given in groups of 10.  
 Appropriate for all ages



### VINTAGE SALE

**November 10th & 11th**  
**Fri: 12pm-7pm Sat. 10am-3pm**

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**.



## HOOKEM SAVED

Duane, a long-time Eden Prairie resident and 1972 graduate, joined the Eden Prairie Historical Society Board in April, following in the footsteps of his mother, Allene, and daughter-in-law, Aubrey, who also served on the board. In June, he experienced a heart attack while leaving the opening of the cricket fields at Nesbitt Park. Quick-thinking bystanders, including Molly Menton, assisted by Chief of Police Matt Sackett and Fire Chief Scott Gerber, administered CPR and used an AED before Duane underwent successful bypass surgery at Methodist Hospital. He has made an incredible recovery and continues to contribute to the Historical Society as a board member and volunteer on Monday afternoons at the History Museum in City Hall. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the responders, medical professionals, and supporters who aided Duane during this challenging time



Mayor Ron Case, EPPD Chief Matt Sackett, Duan Hooke, Molly Menton, Menton's son, EP Fire Chief Scott Gerber at City Hall on August 15th.



Katie Qualey holding her Heritage Preservation Award

## QUALEY HONORED

On May 16th, 2023, our EPHS Board Member Katie Qualey is awarded the **Heritage Preservation Award**. Katie was nominated by the EPHS Board, and the award was presented from the Heritage Preservation Commission. We are so grateful for the ten years Katie dedicated her time and many talents to the EPHS. Her beautifully designed "Timelines" for the Cummins-Phipps-Grill and Smith-Douglas-More house, as well as the Feldmen Kiosk at RT Anderson Park, to name a few, will carry on her legacy of our EP History. Katie's work on our Newsletters and Event flyers was impeccable. As she leaves the Board this year, we thank her for her great service to our History.

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY • (952) 949-8580  
 8080 Mitchell Road • Eden Prairie, MN 55344-4485  
 The Prairie View Editor, Brianna Collett • caliokie@gmail.com  
 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- 1:30-4:30pm**  
 LOWER LEVEL OF CITY HALL  
**(952) 949-8580**

## EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# The Prairie View

FALL 2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Historical Society Members,*

We are grateful for your membership! The artifact donations keep coming into the Museum on Mondays. Your many gifts are appreciated to help share the stories with the community.

It is a busy time of year for the Board. The Cummins-Phipps-Grill house is looking beautiful and ready for the fall and winter events.

We welcome back the **Eden Prairie Players** for our **Ghost Walk** on October 21st. There is no charge if you are a member. You can become a member at the door for \$20 per household a year, or \$5 per person. The EP Players do a great job sharing stories from our real cast of characters from the CPG house!

We welcome a new **Santa**, John Hall, and thank Arlyn Grussing for his many years as Santa at the CPG house. Santa brings 4,000 visitors a year into our historic home.

The Board experienced the beautiful story of the **Red Rock** with Sheldon Wolfchild and Betty Curle Baxter. We "followed the good road", as quoted by Sheldon. We were invited to a private ceremony on the lower Sioux Dakota Reservation.

I would like to acknowledge our new Webmaster, Brianna Collett. Brianna lives in Eden Prairie, and works for Eden Prairie Local News (EPLN). She is doing a great job with our new site. You can now pay dues and make donations online as well as by contacting us. There is a lot of information for you to explore. Interviews from our Museum Director, Tom, will be coming soon.



Brianna Collett, Webmaster

Thank you to Jim Clark who has managed this site for over 10 years. Jim has served on the HS Board, served as Treasurer and as an Honorary Member, and continued helping us with the Website that Ernie Shuldhiess created in the 90's.

Katie Qualey has retired from the Board. We already miss her and are so thankful for her many talents she brought to us. Her graphics, Timelines and Kiosks are only a few of her many legacies.

**Kathie Case, President**  
 Eden Prairie Historical Society





## MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This has been a wonderful summer at the Eden Prairie History Museum! Every week revealed a new donation, a new shared story, and from time to time, a new volunteer ready to jump in and do the exciting work of history.



Among the donations this summer: Rare photos of Phyllis George (**Miss America, 1971**) and the **Eden Prairie Mall opening** in 1976 donated by the Brill family, an original painting of the **Anderson Dairy Farm** shared by Tracey and Steve Hope, Rich Weaver brought in **The Gem Roller Organ** (it works!) and Cheri Robertson Miller donated her 1976-1977 **Edenettes** letter jacket.



Haarika Prafulla

But that's just the tip of the iceberg! Volunteers worked very hard every Monday at the museum. Sasha Alexander, President of the Eden Prairie High School History Club, completed a video of Em Stark. Haarika Prafulla interviewed her neighbors.

Mary Meier began the detailed process of organizing our photo files. Duane Hookom shared legacy stories of Eden Prairie, Paul Thorp was at the ready with maps. Chris Honaas-Wildfang made sure our bills were paid, and Kathie Case continued to reach out and connect with the community.



Jill Schwartz Grier, Cheri Robertson Miller, and Kathy Robertson Schwartz

My favorite part of working at the museum is when people stop by and share their favorite Eden Prairie memory or simply want to know more about its history. Jill Schwartz Grier, Cheri Robertson Miller, and Kathy Robertson Schwartz recounted stories of the Schwartz family and the Wye. Pam Hagen Roberts, Floyd Hagen, and Jacqueline Hagen have lived in Eden Prairie since the 1960's and Jacqueline remembered the one and only Eden Prairie Arts and Music Festival held at the Hustad farm in 1971. The Eden Prairie High School History Club visited for a tour of the museum and other Eden Prairie historic sites. So much energy and conversation!

**Tom Achartz, Museum Director**  
Eden Prairie Historical Society  
952-949-8580



Tom Achartz, Kathie Case with the Eden Prairie High School History Club



Pam Hagen Roberts, Floyd Hagen, and Jacqueline Hagen

## RED ROCK FEATURE

This story is very emotional to our EPHS Board. Getting to know Sheldon Wolfchild was very special and a great honor. The Federal re-patriation law came into place in 1990. All things "sacred" belong to it's people. The beautiful Red Rock is home and a part of celebration once again.

### ★ StarTribune



Curt Brown

The red sandstone boulder in Eden Prairie was more than just a marker along an old Dakota trail between Shakopee and Lake Minnetonka. Left by ice age glaciers 10,000 years ago, the 4- by 3-foot rock became a sacred touchstone to the Dakota — connecting them to their creation story.

**READ THE ARTICLE:** <https://www.startribune.com/eden-prairies-ancient-red-rock-returned-to-dakota-hands/600299981/>



## VINTAGE MAPS ILLUMINATE EP'S HISTORY



In June, EPHS board members Paul Thorp and Kelley Regan discovered two vintage framed Minnesota maps at a local auction house. One, from 1850, details the Minnesota Territory and Native American Territories extending into North Dakota. The second, dated 1862, illustrates Minnesota's 87 counties. Although not the originals, these prints from the 1920s captivate with their intricate details and vibrant colors, elevating them to fine art status. The Eden Prairie Historical Society is dedicated to finding and preserving such artifacts and information, enhancing the displays in the city hall's history museum on the first floor.

## PASSING THE REIGNS

After more than a decade of serving as Santa Claus at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill North Pole Experience, Arlyn Grussing is passing the torch to John Hall. Arlyn has welcomed over 4,000 guests to the house each Christmas season, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere loved by visitors and children alike. We thank Arlyn for bringing joy to families and promoting the Cummins homestead. The Eden Prairie Optimist Club, committed to children's well-being, has cherished our partnership with the Cummins home, selling Christmas Trees during the holidays. Unfortunately, this tradition is ending, and we appreciate their past support. Scout Troop 695 will continue tree sales at Cummins and Speedway, generously contributing to our Sharing Tree initiative. We embrace their involvement!



Arlyn Grussing and John Hall

**Volunteers needed:** Help document events, archive newspaper clippings, record donations, assist with offsite events.



Kathie Case and Carol Kissner

## GENEALOGY CLINIC

Do you have broken twigs in your family tree? Carol Kissner (aka The Cemetery Lady) will host a **Genealogy Clinic** offered each 3rd Monday of the month at the Eden Prairie History Museum located at 8080 Mitchell Road, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. She can offer suggestions and help you navigate sites to be more proficient at your own searches. It is helpful (but not essential) if you bring your laptop. A jump drive is also useful for transferring found items



## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Time to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Consolidated School! The Eden Prairie School District will be celebrating all year long. On **May 17th** there will be a family event with food trucks, tours including the Historical Society's Gymnasium tour with old photos and artifacts to share with you.

On **May 18th** the **100 Year Prom** will be held in the Gym. Wondercure will play 50's music on the Stage. More information to come. There will be 299 tickets for sale, we will let our members know as soon as they are available.