

The Prairie View

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2010



are you ready for the 4th annual antique fair?
AUGUST 14TH FROM 9:00~4:00

The historic Smith Douglas More House will again host the Eden Prairie Antique Fair. Co-sponsored by M&I Bank, Dunn Bros Coffee, the Eden Prairie Historical Society, Eden Prairie News, T-ShirtLady.Biz and the City of Eden Prairie, the day promises to be filled with fun and festivities. Spend the day shopping for antiques, vintage furnishings and collectibles while enjoying live music, warm weather and good company. Dunn Bros will have wine, beer, food and their famous coffee available all day.



For our most purposeful shoppers, join us while the vendors are setting up ... to see and buy before the general public! The EARLY BIRD SPECIAL begins bright and early at 8:00 (rather than 9:00), costs \$10.00 and early birds receive a free tote bag from T-ShirtLady.Biz while supplies last. *This year, vendors will display their wares in the great big backyard only.*

Also, back by popular demand, Laverna of Liepolds in Excelsior will be doing free antique appraisals from 1:00-3:00. Plan ahead, there will be a line!

The Annual Antique Fair is a fundraiser for The Historical Society. Members will be selling books (see list in HISTORY CENTER NEWS), accepting donations and answering questions. Proceeds will benefit Historical Society projects (like those written about in FROM THE PRESIDENT, both on page 3).

mark your calendar

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE GOOD TIMES

Sunbonnet Day & Dorenkemper Open House at Riley Park
Saturday, September 11

Ghost Walk and Apple Pie at the Cummins Phipps Grill House

Saturday, October 16

Choose 2:00 or 6:30 - Reservations Required

ADMISSION: \$10 adults, \$5 children/students & seniors (half price for Eden Prairie Historical Society members)

Hear the voices of Eden Prairie's historical figures as

they come to life in and around the Cummins Phipps Grill house. You'll walk the old homestead and hear amazing tales of life as it was. Then enjoy fresh apple pie and cider or coffee just like Martha would have made for husband, pioneer John Cummins.

For reservations: cumminshse@edenprairiehistory.org or 952.949.8300.



a peek into the past

AUTUMN, A TIME OF EXPECTATION

Webster's Dictionary defines autumn as the season between winter and summer. For generations of Eden Prairie farmers like mine, autumn was the busiest and most important season of the year as it ushered in the harvest, a time of preserving the fruits of our labor, with the expectation that there would be a sufficiency to last through the cold winter months and beyond. Peeking into my Eden Prairie past, I remember that new crop apples were



The Long family in 1926: Marion, Reuel Senior and our author.

likely stored out in the oat bin in the barn. Other ripened fruit was preserved in the kitchen without electricity or refrigeration, like ours in the 1930's. Home canning had little to do with cans actually; glass jars such a Kerr or Ball being used almost exclusively. Examples of my mother's canning efforts included choke cherry jelly, wild grape and wild plum jams, rhubarb preserves, apple sauce and apple butter. Remember any of these?

Other staples she canned included cooked chicken, tomatoes and pickles, while carrots and parsnips stayed fresh in a barrel of sand in our basement garage. Potatoes

were stacked in a cool basement corner and squash kept well wherever it landed.

All of this produce was available, grown and preserved on Eden Prairie farms of yesteryear. Outside, silos needed filling and the remainders of the crops "brought in." And as the days got shorter and nights got colder mountains of firewood had to be split and stacked, an ongoing chore that was often rewarded with a slice of freshly baked bread with homemade jelly.

Reuel Long, a graduate of Eden Prairie High School, class of 1942 and a Director of the EPHS

rehabilitation for the cummins phipps grill house

THANKS TO THE STOEBNERS

The U.S. Government's Department of the Interior defines REHABILITATION as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values."

At the Eden Prairie Historical Society's Annual Meeting on April 29, Carol and Joe Stoebner enabled the Historical Society to launch the ongoing process of rehabilitating the National Registry-listed Cummins Phipps Grill House. Their magnanimous \$50,000 gift will be used for years to ensure that the Eden Prairie community will be able to learn from and enjoy this national and local treasure. Pictured are Kathie Case, Jan Mosman and the Stoebners.

Folk cookery historian and writer William Weaver waxes poetic about sampling history in one's own kitchen in his book **America Eats**. As if to complement Reuel Long's *A Peek Into the Past*, Weaver explains that "... folk cookery of Early America was based on connectedness, an affiliation with place, a direct link with nature and a strong bond between people. These are qualities that go beyond time and cultural boundaries." As if singling out early Eden Prairie, he describes connectedness as that direct tie to one's natural surroundings: the woods, the pastures, the steams and the kitchen garden. We seem to have come full circle in appreciating what we have in our own backyards.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have regional and/or family recipes that are a sampling of history? I'd love to see them to possibly share with other Historical Society members. Please send recipes with whatever back story you'd like to include to me at betsyadams@comcast.net or Betsy Adams, Eden Prairie Historical Society, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Thank you.



gifts from past antique fairs
FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we look forward to the 4th Annual Antique Fair this August 14th, the Historical Society would like to report to our members and community what we've proudly accomplished with the funds raised at last year's Antique Fair. In 2007 and 2008 we donated a porch swing and a picnic table to the Smith-Douglas-More Homestead and this last year we worked with Huber Funeral home to re-place a photo that has been missing on Etta Smith's gravestone for many, many years.

After much research we learned the story of the Smith family. Sheldon and Mary Smith arrived in Eden Prairie in 1857. Their first home was a cabin built by Round Lake. Their first child Nettie Smith died at age 3 in 1861. In 1877 they built the beautiful brick home which houses Dunn Bros. Coffee today. Sheldon was Postmaster Depot agent for the new train depot next door.

Sheldon and Mary had two more daughters, Amie (1862-1950) and Juliette "Etta" born in 1865. Sadly Etta passed away in 1881 from tuberculosis at age 16. Numerous letters were found in the attic of the old Smith home; many written by Amie and Etta. There are references to Etta's illness and the sadness caused by her death. Relatives came from New York to see her and get a clipping of her hair for their lockets. Her body was on ice in the parlour for days. Reading those letters, most not opened for 130 years, made me feel the pain of such a loss for the family and community.

Her lovely marble gravestone is located in the Eden Prairie Cemetery. Daylilies are carved on one side and a lovely poem on the other ... and once again her picture.



The poem reads:
*She was but as a smile,
which glistens in a tear,
seen but a little while,
But oh! How loved! How dear!*
Author Unknown

Kathie Case, President

curator's corner
HISTORY CENTER NEWS

Happy summer to you all! I hope this time of year finds you sitting outside enjoying the beautiful weather, with a tall glass of lemonade. Another great way to enjoy this time of year is to stop by the Antique Fair on Saturday Aug. 14th. We'll have available for purchase all the books we offer for sale at the History Center:

- Eden Prairie, The First 100 Years** by Helen Holden Anderson, \$20.00
- Book of Days** by Ernie Shuldhiess \$5.00
- Picture This Eden Prairie** by Ernie Shuldhiess, \$10.00
- Tales As Old As Time** by Hannah Slinkard and Ummul Kathawalla, \$8.00
- Once Upon A Time** by Lorraine Sohm, \$25.00

Things at the History Center are sure heating up. There will be many changes over the next year. Before I go on any further about that, I'd like to introduce Gina King. Gina is our new Exhibit Design volunteer. She has 15 years experience in this field and has worked in the US, UK and



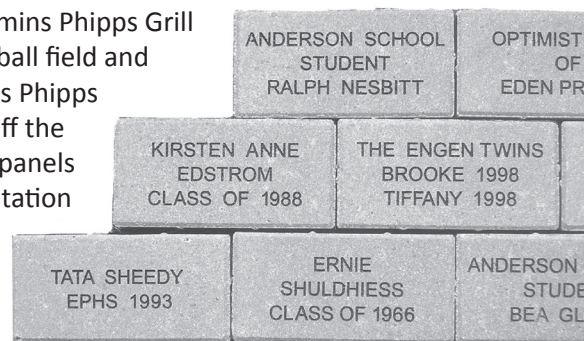
Europe. Currently, she is a graduate student at the U of M studying museum exhibit design and historic preservation. We are so lucky to have her working with us at the History Center. Our first project is just getting underway. It's a wonderful display of the interior of an Eden Prairie one-room schoolhouse. It will be set up to look like an actual classroom from the early 1900s. During our transformations, please feel free to stop by and ask questions! Until further notice we plan on remaining open as usual, Mondays from 11:00 to 1:00 at the City Center.

Kim Carlander, Curator

bricks to be installed soon

CUMMINS ENTRANCE PATIO

The plan is to have the Anderson Schoolhouse bricks installed at the Cummins Phipps Grill house this Fall. Progress is being made on the Pioneer Trail widening and ball field and parking lot projects. Part of that multi-faceted undertaking is the Cummins Phipps Grill Site Restoration Plan. The Plan includes a wonderful entrance patio off the parking area. The patio space will have seating and historical interpretive panels and be large enough to accommodate small groups and provide site orientation and information before visiting the homestead. That new space will be paved with the bricks you all so generously ordered for the now-retired Anderson Schoolhouse project. The bricks are all engraved and waiting for installation. We'll alert the papers when the work is complete so that you can come see ... and search for your brick!



technology

UPDATE

Technology and the Historical Society in the same breath?! I know, it seems counter intuitive but the Eden Prairie Historical has embraced the 21st century, thanks to Board member Jim Clark.

Our website, always a work in progress, Jim reminds us, is www.edenprairiehistory.org. There you will find events, news and the Society Blog. Historic Documents and Photos will soon be found at gallery.edenprairiehistory.org. The lion's share of the inspiration and work done on documents and photos is thanks to our friend and Board member, the late Ernie Schuldheiss.

You can visit us on Facebook by searching "Eden Prairie Historical Society" within Facebook. And take a few minutes to watch a wonderful video of highlights from this year's Annual Meeting, contributed by Jeff Strate. Go to Youtube.com and search "Eden Prairie Historical Society." Click on the first video.

tell us your EP story

SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

When Marmy Nelson Holloway ordered two commemorative bricks in 2006 to support the Anderson Schoolhouse project she sent this wonderful letter.

I'm glad I happened to read the article in the Star Tribune about the Buy a Brick program for the Anderson School. Although our family didn't move to Eden Prairie until 1955, my parents were very involved in the Eden Prairie School system and it seems only fitting for them to each have a brick.

My dad, Norman Nelson, was the Principal from 1955-77. When he came in 1955, he was the only Principal, since there only was one school [the Consolidated School, now the administration building]. As the school population grew he transitioned to being the High School Principal which was grades 7-12 in what is now the Central Middle School. And he also taught 9th grade science. My mother Marjorie Nelson was the head of the school lunch program for many years, first at the original building then at the "'new" High School. I remember her delight in 1959 when they built the red brick addition on to the original school and she got a big kitchen. As a child growing up, I fondly remember the tin of leftover cookies she always kept in the freezer to offer to the janitors for their coffee breaks (and me too).

I can remember too, when the bus garage at the original school held all 4 school buses. It was a big day when they got the 6th bus to transport all the kids who lived in the new houses in Forest Hills.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have an Eden Prairie story to share? Please send it to me at the address below.

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.

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