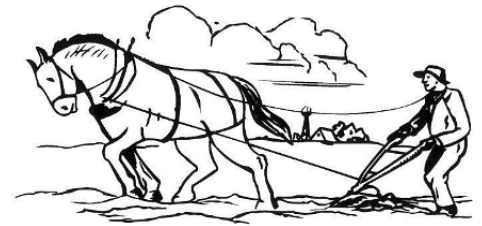


MEMO



Founded in 1977

Have you ever been told to "keep your nose to the grindstone"?

By Nancy Adomeit

What does it mean? The most common definition is "keep focused and work hard." Implied is that you will get ahead; you will achieve good grades, a better wage, a nicer house. But where did this phrase originate? The first known citation is in a 1532 essay by John Frith: "[They] *holdeth their noses so hard to the grindstone, that it clean disfigureth their faces.*"¹



A 1910 photo, probably done as a joke to illustrate "keeping your nose to the grindstone"

So what is a grindstone and why hold your nose to it?

"Knives and tools were sharpened on a grinding wheel, or 'Grindstone,' that was operated by a foot treadle. These things were massive and heavy, slightly more than two feet in diameter. In order to keep it spinning, the person doing the sharpening had to sit in front of it, with his (almost never her) legs straddling it and pumping the treadle. In this position, when sharpening a blade, the sharpener's nose was in a position a few inches above the grindstone. If he didn't have 'his nose to the grindstone,' he was just sitting there, not working."

(credit: Charles Aylworth)



Example of a 19th century foot treadle grindstone.

Almost every farm and business had a grindstone to keep knives, axes and other tools sharp. As electricity and technology spread to rural areas, the foot treadle grindstone frame was reconfigured with a belt-driven engine.

Continued Page 4

Officers

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651-485-6060

Robert Niederkorn
Vice President
651-494-0661

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Heritage Director
651-335-1267

LaVerne Dickhudt
Archivist
651-484-4146

Judy McCauley
Secretary
651-774-1229

Beverly Kroschel
Treasurer/Communications
651-484-1708

Committee Chairs

Betty Danks
Historian
651-484-9572

Monica Muckala
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651-489-7293

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Membership
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Please leave a message

¹ John Frith, a 16th century scholar and a martyr during the Reformation in England. He wrote this essay during his imprisonment.

President's Message

We are about 3 months into our permanent home now and it looks like we have been there for a while. The shelves and cabinets are organized with beautiful artifacts. If you have not stopped by, please do so. A doorbell has been installed to announce your arrival.



Our December membership meeting was catered by Byerly's in Roseville. There was no cost to members and \$10.00 for non-members. This was compliments to Sharon Pillen, our heritage director, who tirelessly bakes, cans, and sells products at craft sales to support the Roseville Historical Society. We dined on sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh grilled green beans, dinner rolls and fresh baked cookies. This was the first time for a catered meal verses potluck. We are planning on continuing this for our summer picnic. If cooking or baking was keeping you from meetings, now there is not any excuses. More details will follow for the summer picnic as to the time and location and food.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers who would give 2 hours a week. No past experience is necessary, we will train. Nancy and Dick Wenkel donated a grindstone wheel which is a permanent display just outside our entrance. The story of grindstones is on page 1.

Looking forward to seeing you at our February 17th meeting.

Rynetta Renford

Important Dates

Membership Meetings

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Election of Officers

Monday, May 18, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

December 7, 2020 – Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Membership meetings are held in the Fireside Room at the Oval. Door prizes, snacks and fellowship provided at all meetings.

Summer Picnic

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 – More Information in May MEMO

Board Meetings:

Thursday, April 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Board meetings are held in the Aspen room at City Hall.

February Program

Devin Paulsen whose official title at Lunds-Byerlys is Soode Expert will be the guest speaker at our February 17 meeting. She will explain what her title means.

Devin will educate us on what the nutrition labels on containers mean. She will also talk to us about cooking for one or two people and how to makes these meals nutritious.



Volunteers worked 2,204 hours in 2019
at the Roseville Historical Society!

Archivist Report

By LaVerne Dickhudt

My how time flies when you are having fun. It's Feb 2020 already.

We've gotten some nice things donated to the historical society in the last three months.

Don Black donated many Roseville Youth Hockey patches.

Nancy Wenkel gave us a metal kerosene lamp which brings back a lot of memories for me. We had one just like it at home when I was young. She also gave us vintage MacDonald's paper cups and a beautiful June Demos punch bowl and cups bought at her garage sale when she moved to California. Thanks very much.

All the books are now in the bookcase and the boxes are out of the storage room.

We obtained a satin 1930's wedding dress. It needs a lot of steaming to get all the creases out, but it will look nice when it's done.

I changed a couple of the paintings by Bill Brown in the hallway by our office and showroom. There are a few more that can be changed.

Have a good rest of the winter and enjoy our lovely Minnesota spring.



Heritage Report

By Sharon Pillen

Success and fun have been an experience since April of this past year. Organizing the artifacts and putting up displays to enjoy Roseville's history has just begun. Displays will continue to change as we share history throughout the years. Roseville residents have started to loan and display some of their family heritage. We now have a collection of model tractors used during the farming days, so stop in to see and explore.



During the year while at craft shows and art fairs, we get many opportunities to talk about the Roseville Historical Society and what the museum has to offer. This year with the help of our volunteers we were able to raise \$4,241.00 dollars. The profits allowed us to buy the needed items for the office and to give back to the members for their generous donations and help. All enjoyed a turkey dinner from Byerlys this year and will look forward to doing something for the summer picnic gathering at the park.

This past year a couple of options for getting rhubarb discontinued, so I am looking to find new resources. If you have neighbors or friends that can help us out, just give the office a call. There is always a need of supplies to help with the cost of making items and doing displays.

Items needed: sugar, jars of all sizes, small to medium size gift cans for candies and cookies, decorative cups and saucers, Christmas cups and small glass dishes. Grannies attic with its many new and slightly used items continues to bring sales to the museum during the year. We have our gift shop open during 10am to 2pm daily. Jams, pickled items and our special ginger bread are always available for purchase. If you need a quick something for a friend be sure and stop by and check us out.

The volunteers have been very helpful with ongoing projects ---many hands make the work load light. Thank you all for our success of making extra funds to support our museum. Anyone who has an idea for doing something creative I would love to hear from you. A new adventure is always fun to try. Please stop by and chat---let us know how we are doing and what you would like to see in our display cabinets in the future.

A thought for the day: In the midst of winter there is a fresh spring and summer day to come our way soon.

Did You Know? Spam?

8,000,000,000 cans of Spam sold worldwide since 1937.

133 million cans of Spam fed soldiers and civilians overseas from 1940 to 1945.

Spam fed soldiers during WWII and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.

Five ingredients in Spam when it hit the shelves July 5, 1937: pork, salt, water, sugar and sodium nitrate. In 2009 Hormel added a sixth – potato starch – to soak up the unsightly gelatin that forms in the can.

Grindstones Continued

In the late 19th century manufacturers started producing cast-iron grindstone frames.

Such is the story of the grindstone displayed outside the door of the new Historical Society digs. As you examine this relic, you immediately notice how the stone does not fill the frame, the stone being only 20" in diameter. When new, the stone would have been 30" in diameter. Its large dimension indicates it is more of an industrial model. This fits with the "plausible speculation" to its history as told by Nancy and Dick Wenkel at the time of their donation.

According to the RHS archives, "the grindstone was acquired in 1976 from an old building at 1938 Lake Street, Roseville. It had belonged to James Haley (died 1943), Nancy (Miley) Wenkel's maternal grandfather. It was moved to 1825 N. Fairview Avenue, restored and stored until October 2019 when it was donated to the RHS.

"James Haley was a steam engineer with the engineering department at the University of Minnesota. Such a grindstone might well have been part of the engineering shop equipment. An accident (2 legs missing when found), normal wear to the stone, conversion from line shaft power to electric power may have, singly or in combination, rendered the grindstone obsolete. At this point it may have been discarded or sold and that is how James Haley acquired it."

Having been carefully restored by the Wenkels, the grindstone is now fully operational and portable and can be used for demonstrations.

Visit the Roseville Historical Society (City Hall, lower level) to see this grindstone and to read more about the frame's manufacturer from the archives.



The frame by W & B Douglas Company (Middletown, CT) and grindstone displayed outside the door of the Historical Society.

Donated by Nancy and Dick Wenkel.



From Our Files

Ed Barthol in his 1935 automobile.



Treasurer's Report

By Beverly Kroschel
January 9, 2020

Checking	\$ 18,715.48
CDs	<u>16,257.05</u>
Total	\$ 34,972.53

Roseville Historical Society

Membership Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by President Rynetta Renford.

Minutes of September meeting approved as printed in the MEMO.

Treasurer's Report – Filed as printed in the MEMO.

Membership Report – Beverly Kroschel reported 53 members had paid 2020 dues, and 6 members have paid 2021 dues. She thanked members for paying their dues early. Total membership is 32 families and 56 individuals.

Archivist LaVerne Dickhudt reported news as printed in the MEMO.

Heritage Director, Sharon Pillen, reported on the sales at the Craft Fair at city hall. Sales were \$1,902.50 after expenses. This was better than last year by about \$500. Sharon thanked members for donating sugar, flour and jars. This keeps her expenses at a minimum. President Renford thanked Sharon for all her hard work to make the craft sales a success.

Cheer – get well card was sent to Bob Niederkorn.

Old Business: The move to city hall was completed and an Open House held on October 24. It was well attended with speeches given by Betty Wolfangle, Lonnie Brokke, Pat Trudgeon and Mayor Dan Roe.

New Business: Volunteers are still needed to fill in time slots on Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Herb Dickhudt gave an update on work he has been doing with the help Dick Wenkel and volunteers to take down shelving in Fire Station #2 and build an enclosure in the police garage for storing supplies and large items that are not used regularly. Thank you, Herb!

The February meeting will be election of officers – President, Heritage Director and Secretary will be elected.

Next meeting, Monday, February 17, 2020.
Recorder, Beverly Kroschel

Graf's Tavern

It was at 1961 Rice Street. Frank and Stella Graf ran Graf's Tavern from approximately mid 1930's until Circa late 1950's.

They had an active business and both Graf's & Dean's across the street had 3.2 licenses. Rice Street wasn't so busy then and the customers would party at both places at the same time

Al Garlough's (former member) mother, Merle, was the bartender. Stella Graf ran the business. Frank Graf worked for Schroeder's Dairy. As the story goes, Frank would be so tired from getting up at 3 or 4 am, worked his milk route and then changed into a white shirt and tie to be behind the bar at the tavern that he would sleep standing up. People would draw their own beer and put the money on the bar. (Wouldn't be able to do that today.)



Graf's has another story it is told: there was a coat rack in the tavern with a long black man's coat on it and nobody ever took it home. As the story goes, there was a bottle of liquor in each pocket and if anyone would like to spike their drink, they would go over to the coat and open a bottle and help themselves. (This was a 3.2 tavern remember. Pretty nice, huh?)

The tavern was sold to a John Yorga by the Graf's in the circa late 1950's.

In the 1970's Yorga closed and sold it to what was called Silver Bullet Delivery, which in turn sold it to an insurance company that is still there.

Roseville Historical Society Membership Form

Send to:
Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Annual Membership
___\$10 Individual
___\$15 Family

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Check if new address

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Check if new email address

Dues for calendar year(s) 20 _____ 20 _____

Date _____

Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Next meeting: Monday, February 17, 2020. 7:00 p.m.- Roseville Oval Fireside Room