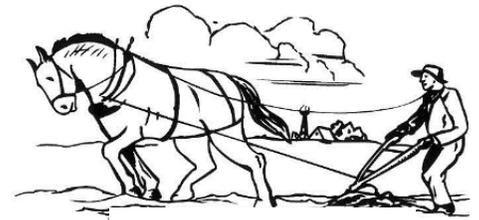


May, 2023

## Roseville Historical Society

# MEMO



Founded in 1977

### Lake Bennett

By Nancy Adomeit

Bennett Lake or Lake Bennett – either way it is an integral part of our Roseville community. Perhaps you have, as I have, strolled the paths, enjoyed watching and feeding the ducks and geese, biked the pathway, attended a concert, watched fireworks, had a picnic, or cast a line into the water. No matter how you have enjoyed the greenspace around the lake we have forward thinking people to thank.



My curiosity was piqued when someone said the lake area had once been farmland. Really? Off I went to the files at the Roseville Historical Society. First, I looked at the Central Park files. There I found the "Plan: Central Park Roseville, MN August 1975" report prepared by Minnesota

Environmental Sciences Foundation, Inc. It was thick with details about the land, line drawings of the proposed paths, etc., and showing an outline of Bennett Lake as we know it today. And no explanation of how it got there.

The first map was of Rose Township in 1898. Sure enough, there was no lake! That led me upstairs in City Hall to the City Planning Commission office. There I met Gerry Proulx (building inspector). He was also intrigued by my question. He said, "I'll be right back". After not too long a wait he came back with three printed aerial maps. The first was from 1940, same thing no lake! The fuzzy image showed that the area was perhaps wetlands with farm buildings and a plowed field to the southwest. Hard to be sure. Then he handed me a 1953 map which showed the area is clearly wet, but still not a lake. Finally, the 1974 map clearly showed a lake. It was even close to the outline we recognize today as Bennett Lake.

So, what happened between 1953 and 1974?  
Roseville happened! We became a town and then a city. (Cont. page 4)

### Officers

Alyssa Kroschel  
President/Website Manager

Dick Wenkel  
Vice President

Sharon Pillen  
Jonn Pillen  
Co-Heritage Directors

Judith Payne  
Archivist

Judy McCauley  
Secretary

Beverly Kroschel  
Treasurer/Communications

Director-at-Large  
Mark Lowe

Director-at-Large  
Dallas Leier

### Committee Chairs

Volunteer Needed  
Historian

Ila Black  
Cheer

Sharon Pillen  
Hospitality

Judith Payne  
Greeter

Mailing Address  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113

Email  
[rosevillemnhistory@gmail.com](mailto:rosevillemnhistory@gmail.com)  
Website: [rhsmn.org](http://rhsmn.org)  
Phone: 651-792-7440  
Please leave a message.

## President's Message



By Alyssa Kroschel

Hello Everybody,

Happy Spring! We finally made it out of winter and can enjoy a little feel of spring

weather.

The office has been busy with the grant money we received to update a few things. News signs are in place on the street.

Don't forget we have a membership meeting Monday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.

See you soon.

Alyssa

## Important Dates

### Membership Meetings

Monday, May 15, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Program: Quilting as an Art Form

Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

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

### **Summer Picnic** in Central Park Jaycee Shelter

Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 5:30

Jersey Mike's subs, chips and drinks

Members pay \$3.00 each.

Non-members pay \$6.00 each.

Reservations needed: Message - 651-792-7440

Email - [rosevillemnhistory@gmail.com](mailto:rosevillemnhistory@gmail.com)

### Board Meetings:

Thursday, April 13, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 10, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

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



## May Program

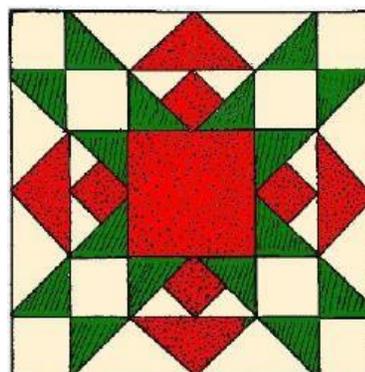
### Quilting as an Art Form

Judith Payne, Presenter

Quilts have been made for thousands of years. The first quilting was done to keep people warm, either by way of blankets or clothing. The old quilts consisted of two pieces of fabric (usually old) that were filled with wool, animal hair, or grasses. The blankets were made of used materials as no useable material was wasted. Clothing was constructed of new material stuffed very firmly with animal hair. These clothes were used for warmth and protection. Old, quilted jackets could stop arrows from getting to the body.

This talk will focus on quilts as works of art and concentrated on nineteenth and early twentieth century quilting. Women on the frontier often led lonely and isolated lives with only their families for company. In the evening hours they would assemble quilt blocks from the good sections of worn-out clothing. Many times, the patterns they used came from the sounds and sights of their surroundings. When enough blocks had been assembled and sewn into a quilt top, a quilting bee was organized. These became community events and made for a festive day.

The speaker will have her quilts available for viewing and members are invited to bring their quilts. There will be resources for research as well as resources for conservation and preservation of quilts.



## Heritage Report

By Sharon Pillen



Spring is slowly coming and our gardens with rhubarb need some warm weather and sunshine for the jam making. If you have a garden this year and would like to share your items for canning let us know.

New products are available at the office for sale—come visit and have coffee with us. Mother's Day is coming and our items would make nice gifts.

Donations for product are always needed. You can drop off your jars—all sizes, sugar and flour. Please save your decorative tin and Christmas tins for the sugar cookies. You can drop off your items at the office or front desk at city hall.

New and next to new items for Grannies attic are always needed, so remember the historical society as you size down. You can give us a call at the office and we will be happy to answer your questions for items. All your donations help with our fundraiser in the fall. I would like your ideas for us to be successful.

The week of Rosefest is the last week of June – mark your calendar. We will have a special park event July 22 along with our Fourth of July table. It was a lot of fun last year and with the 75th anniversary celebration this year we will include more things. Come see us there.

Along with our Rhubarb jam there will be some new items on hand to share or use as a gift.

Bread and butter pickles

Pickled asparagus

Pear Butter

Pear Apple sauce—condiment for your table

Blackberry syrup—for your favorite dessert or waffle

Strawberry syrup—a favorite topping for your favorite dish

We are in need of a hospitality assistant for our quarterly meetings – are you available to help? I would love to have your help at our membership meetings.

At our membership meetings, we will have items for sale. Come visit us during our new hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 10am to 3pm and Fridays 10 to noon. We have our cookies and canned items along with books and gift items to browse through.

We have new displays on going for you to enjoy. The museum is a wonderful library to do research of your home, families and the Roseville area ---come in and we will help you. We are a wonderful resource with our articles, pictures, maps and books.

Did you know?

It takes 64 muscles to make a frown and only 13 to make a smile.

Make new friends, but keep the old, ---one is silver and the other is gold. Bring a friend to our membership meeting to have fun and enjoy our programs.



### Lemon Lime Summer drink

1 cup of lemon juice

¼ cup lime juice

1 cup sugar

6 cups of water

In a 2-quart pitcher stir lemon and lime juice together until sugar is dissolved. Add the water and stir.

Serve over ice---store in refrigerator.

Sharon

## Archivist Report

By Judy Payne

This is my first update for you since becoming archivist for the society. I have spent most of the past month familiarizing myself with the society and its collections. I have been impressed by all of the work that has been done and have enjoyed getting to know all of you. We have accepted a number of items and many documents. I will spend most of my time cataloguing what was here that had not been done and getting the rest done as well. We have accepted documents from an organization that no longer exists, documents from the Roseville School District, a number of homecoming buttons from Ramsey Senior High School, a teapot, and some very lovely china.

Sharon Pillen and I have worked on changing some of the exhibits and have plans for more. We put together an exhibit on food preservation and are working on a teacup and history of tea exhibit.

Next month will see a more detailed report and hope fully some photos of the items we have accepted. If you have questions about the collections, are doing research on Roseville history, or have something to donate please feel free to contact me at the historical society or at [payne.judith@comcast.net](mailto:payne.judith@comcast.net). I will try to answer your questions.

See you at the membership meeting.  
Judy Payne



Lake Bennett Fishing Pier

## Lake Bennett continued from page 1

New housing was being built, streets, businesses and parking lots were needed to accommodate the growth. I was still at City Hall, so I went to the Engineering Department and met Ryan Johnson, Environmental Engineer.

The city built storm sewers to Bennett Lake in 1965 as the residential housing was developing in the area. Once the infrastructure was connected into the wetland, it transformed into the 25-acre water body that we know today. Currently, 780 acres drain to the lake. From there the southeast shore it goes through Frog Pond under Victoria Street and then into Lake Owasso. Once the water is in Owasso, an outlet controls the elevation before it flows into Shoreview as part of the Capitol Region Watershed District.

Also, Bennett Lake's elevation used to be controlled by a lift station that would pump water out when it got to a certain point, but the system was modified in 1996 so that now water flows by gravity through a pipe.

Frog Pond historically was also part of the overall wetland but was excavated to create the shape and depth that it is today. We don't have a construction date for the pond, but it was around 1985.

During my research I was asked about the viability of fishing in the lake. During some winters the lake has been aerated, presumably to keep fish alive. There have been unsuccessful attempts to stock the lake, but it is only about 8-9 feet deep in the deepest spot. Perfect for muskrat and turtles, but not so much for fish.

As for the name of the lake... within one document, I saw this body of water referred to as both Bennett Lake and Lake Bennett. What is your preference?

## Meet Your New Board Members

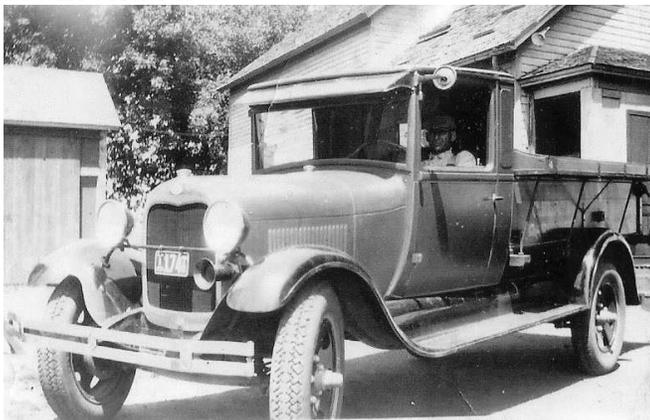
### Judith Payne, Archivist

When LaVerne Dickhudt left her position as archivist, the Society was in need of someone to fill her position. Judy had just joined the society and agreed to fill that position. She has worked for 25 years in various museums in the Twin Cities as museum director, museum educator, curator of artifacts and registrar. She started her career in museums as a volunteer at the Gibbs Farm Museum and ended her career at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota.

Over her years in museums, she attended a number of workshops sponsored by The American Association for State and Local History and the American Association of Museums. She was also a consultant with the American Association for Museums visiting small museums and historical societies. During these visits she evaluated the organizations and made suggestions for the care of artifact collections, archives, and photographs.

Judy is happy to be back working with historic objects and helping to pass on the history of Roseville. Many thanks to LaVerne for all of her work over the many years she was active with the society. She has designed a very good system for the archives.

### From the Files



**Conrad Klatt and his 1929 Model A FORD**

### Dallas Leier, Director-at-Large

Our family moved to Rose Township in 1939. I went to Lexington grade school starting in first grade and graduated from eight grade. I spent my freshmen year at St. Paul Central high school, as there was no high school here in Roseville yet. Graduated from Alexander Ramsey High School in 1956, this was the second graduating class. Our three children went to and graduated from Lexington and Alexander Ramsey High School also. Also, our four grandchildren and one great granddaughter graduated from Alexander Ramsey now known as Roseville Area High School.

I have volunteered with several past organizations: Boy Scout NW Area recruitment Arrowhead Council, Greater Twin Cities Area Muscular Dystrophy Association and United Way.

I am still active with: Minnesota Street Rod, Buick Club of America, Gopher State Buick Club, High Plains Regional Rendezvous and Twin Cities Muzzleloaders Gun Club.

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

**LaVerne Dickhudt**

LaVerne began volunteering as Archivist for the society in 2000. She had been active as an officer until 2023.

LaVerne assisted in cataloging pictures and artifacts and helped with many office moves.

She willingly took on tasks to help preserve Roseville history.

LaVerne was a cheerful and friendly member of the office staff.

Thank you LaVerne for your service to the Roseville Historical Society.

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form with your check to: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual membership \$10.00/year  
Roseville Historical Society \_\_\_\_\_ Family membership \$15.00/year  
2660 Civic Center Drive \_\_\_\_\_ Donation  
Roseville, MN 55113

The Roseville Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Money given above membership amount is tax deductible. All memberships are for the calendar year (January – December).

Roseville Historical Society  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113