
Bonanzaville Times

The Newsletter of Cass County Historical Society at Bonanzaville

Spring 2017

Sneak Peek: South Pleasant Church Renovations

Continual progress is being made at South Pleasant Church. Renovations began February 6 and haven't skipped a beat since. The construction crew is working hard to open the church as early as possible.

"This 1890 prairie church is a unique and historically significant addition to the Bonanzaville Village," said Brenda Warren, Executive Director of Bonanzaville. "Historic restoration makes it possible to adapt this church for future event usages such as weddings, family reunions and much more, while protecting its heritage value."

Project manager and architect, Julie Rokke, created a plan that updates the church's electrical, plumbing and HVAC. Other renovations include a new basement with a kitchen, windows, bathrooms, stairs, doors and trim that produce the feeling of modern comfort while maintaining the style of the 1890's. Julie Rokke has restored over 100 prairie churches.

In the 1930s the pastor's four-year-old son fell over the balcony railing. His mother was directing the choir and he unfortunately leaned too far over which resulted in a frightening tumble — don't



Special thanks to Naseth Construction for helping us revive history.

worry though! He ended up being okay and part of the renovations will include Plexiglas to raise the upstairs railing in order to prevent history from repeating itself.

South Pleasant Church was donated to Bonanzaville from

Christine, North Dakota after St. John's church burnt down in 2014.

St. John's steeple bell was recovered from the fire and will eventually be featured in South Pleasant's courtyard.

Volunteer Opportunities at Bonanzaville

Do you have a passion for the history of the Red River Valley? Are you enthusiastic about meeting new people? Are you interested in volunteering at Bonanzaville?

If you can answer "yes," to any of these three questions, volunteering with Bonanzaville is right for you.

Opportunities include, but are not limited to, cleaning up the Village as we get closer to opening, helping guide school tours throughout May, or with evening and weekend special events.

For more information, check out the Curator's Corner below or visit [Bonanzaville's volunteer page](#).

NDSU Students Visit Hunter Times



Dr. Suzanne Kelly, editor-in-chief at NDSU Press (middle-right), with her students after a fun and educational day at the Hunter Times.

Students working with NDSU Press visited Bonanzaville's Hunter Times to start printing a chapbook entitled "Thunderbird". The students produced over 200 copies of the chapbook's cover page using a hand-operated press.

Allan Burke, editor emeritus and owner of the Emmons County Record, guided the students as they learned about the evolution of the printing process.

Thank You for Your Contributions

We've been blessed with four significant gifts this year. The Jon Wanzek Family donated \$65,000 with \$50,000 going towards the church and the remainder replacing two roofs in the Village.

The Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Fund donated \$31,500 and the Doug Burgum Family Fund donated \$12,500 for repairs and restoration to the Houston Mansion and Arthur Town Hall.

The Jim, Bob, Sue, and Nancy Berg Family from Starkweather donated \$20,000 in honor of their deceased parents, Bjarne and Hazel Berg.

These funds will be used for the restoration of the church.

Fifty-seven of you made donations on Giving Hearts Day, which totaled almost \$10,000.

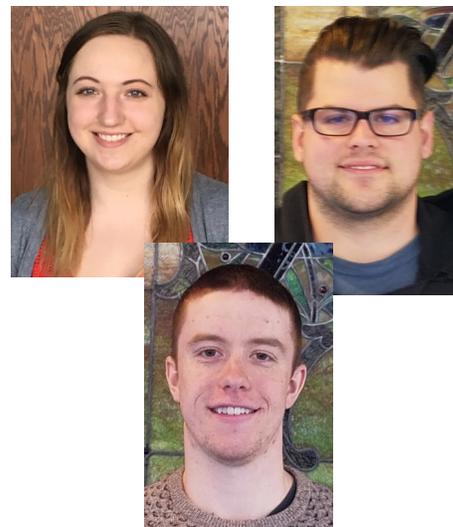
Our historic Village comes to life in large measure from the benevolence of these donors and everyone that has given a gift, large or small. One of the greatest legacies we can leave is the gift of history. Most importantly, these gifts, and future gifts, profoundly impact CCHS-Bonanzaville and serve a cornerstone of strength for the next 100 years. From our hearts, we thank each and every donor for your generosity.

Curator's Corner

One of your curator's duties is organizing internships for both high school and college students interested in various facets of museum work. This semester alone, we have Brett Mills focusing on artifacts and educational programming, Alexius Rahn on special events, and Sam Caspers working on all sorts of written and design based projects, including this newsletter.

A second opportunity is school tours. Each year thousands of children tour Bonanzaville with their classes. Volunteers can enjoy leading our hands-on activity stations. As a curator and educator, these opportunities for intergenerational learning make me smile.

Alexius (left), Sam (middle) and Brett (right).



Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting

April 19

Veteran's Event

May 25

BBQ picnic and much more