Plainview Area History Center Newsletter

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Plainview Area History Center
40 4th St. SW
Plainview, MN 55964

plainviewmnhistory@gmail.com

The History Center Is Active and Open for Appointments

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the History Center is not keeping its regular hours for visitors but that does not mean the organization has gone dormant. The rest of this newsletter will let you know about all of the work that volunteers are performing to enhance the History Center's offerings and resources.

In addition, the History Center is open by appointment for those who want to visit the museum exhibits or conduct research. The History Center's board of directors made this decision to help limit the number of visitors to a safe level and ensure compliance with government guidelines.

Minnesota Historical Society Grant Enables New Equipment and Microfilm Reader

Did you ever wish you could crop and make your own digital copies of historical newspaper microfilm articles to save to a flash drive or email to yourself or relatives? Recent grants have allowed us to purchase more newspaper microfilm and a digital microfilm reader-printer-scanner. The new microfilm equipment fills a gap in our collection, specifically, copies of the Elgin Monitor and Elgin Free Press newspapers from 1897 to 1942. The new reader-printer-scanner allows you to search our microfilm archives and browse, print, save, and share high quality images directly from the film. Since we are still closed to the public except by appointment, please contact the History Center if you would like to come in and see the new equipment or use microfilm. If you have a specific request for an article and know the general date(s) the article may have appeared, you can e-mail us and History Center personnel will search for and email you the article if it is found.

These projects were made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through grants funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Old Fashioned Christmas 2020: Due to the current government guidelines concerning COVID-19, the History Center will remain closed for December.

The History Center Is Getting a Facelift

After many years of enduring harsh Minnesota weather conditions, the History Center's exterior was due for a new coat of paint. With the help of a number of generous donations, we contracted to have the exterior painted. The facelift was completed in November and provides a very noticeable improvement to the History Center and its neighborhood.

If you would like to make a donation to support this painting project, we would welcome the help! Please mail donations to the History Center.

We Have Upgraded Our Online Resources

Now is great time to view all the website improvements we have made over the last few months at www.plainviewareahistorycenter.org. We have updated all of the individual pages with a fresh look and new menu choices. Take your time and visit all the pages – you will find some surprises!

- The Archives indexes that are continually updated and kept in a binder at the History Center are now available online. These online indexes will help anyone who is conducting research to understand what is available from the archives before making a visit or requesting information.
- We have added pages for all townships in Wabasha County and Whitewater Township in Winona County. Currently, the Wabasha County township pages have links to individual cities and unincorporated communities, and additional links will be provided as we acquire more information. Important: If anyone has printed material that may be of interest to everyone that is related to these individual townships or communities please contact our volunteers.
- The history of Beaver continues to be of special interest to many people. We have added links to newspaper articles and other information that was previously only available in printed material. This information can now be accessed with a click. A pdf file is produced that can be viewed, searched, and printed for locating specific facts about Beaver.
- The Old Settlers of Greenwood Prairie printed documents have been made available online.
- Diaries on many of Plainview's early families (such as Harriet Macy Gearey, John Horn, Wright Miller and Washington Rollins) are available on-line.
- The Media page has been revised to consolidate all currently available media in one place.
- The Bookstore page has been changed to allow full access to many of our printed documents. A pdf file is produced which can be viewed, searched and printed.

We hope that you find these resources to be useful!

Whitewater Valley Cemetery Research

History Center volunteers are working to locate and catalogue cemeteries located in the Whitewater Valley. The project is one of the more adventurous History Center undertakings to date, with experiences that seem to come out of an Indiana Jones movie. Volunteers have found grave markers moved and overgrown cemeteries now inhabited by rattlesnakes. So far, everyone has stayed safe and we hope to have more information on these cemeteries available in the History Center in the near future.

Recent visitors to the Plainview Area History Center

Masked and distancing, Carley B. Watts and family were visitors to the Plainview Area History Center on July 11, 2020. She is the great niece of James A Carley.

Carley and family also stayed two nights at Carley State Park. She and her family had stayed there when she was younger.

The Plainview Area History Center provided her with articles, pictures, and a photograph of the Carley home in Plainview, MN.

They were then directed up the street to JT's Variety, (former offices of James A. Carley). The walk-in safe is still at the store and bears the James A. Carley name. Plainview's first telephone system was organized by Carley and located in his office building.

Born near Oronoco, MN: Carley attended the Farm Hill School in Farmington Township.

James A Carley was a Plainview School teacher, a lawyer, and served for fifteen years in the Minnesota Legislature. He was also a Wabasha County Attorney and Plainview Mayor. He and Ernestina Bolt donated land for a state park near Plainview, MN.

During the depression, his name appears on several plots around Plainview, as he assisted farmers overcome a threat of losing their farms.

Plainview Area History Center

40 4th Street SW
Plainview, MN 55964
"Where past meets present on Fourth Street"

Membership Benefits

1. Newsletter updates three times a year
2. Free research! No cost access to obituaries and wedding files of the Plainview News, maps, histories, high school yearbooks, etc!
3. Reduced copy cost on reprinting research materials.
4. Reduced prices on many special events and printed materials in the bookstore.
5. Great satisfaction in knowing that your membership makes a difference!

Check out our website at:

plainviewareahistorycenter.org

Hours:

Saturdays 1 - 4 PM (currently closed)
Closed Holidays

Membership Form

Type of Membership: (Circle all that apply)	Individual $12/year	Family $24/year	New Membership	Renewed Membership

Name: _____

Please list family member's names if selecting a family membership.
_____

Address:_____City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____
If you choose not to become a member at this time, would you consider giving a one time gift to the History Center? Your gift is tax deductible.

Mission Statement:

The Plainview Area History Center is committed to telling the stories and preserving the history of people and events of the Plainview area, believing an understanding of the past will enrich our present and future.