

To all members and friends of the **Harmony Area Historical Society**: Here's an update on what's currently being worked on. Continuing our mission to help celebrate the heritage of Harmony and memorialize the events which have formed the character of the city and surrounding area.

Current Activities:



Military Display Dedication: Scheduled for May 28, 2016, 10:30am. The display will be dedicated to honor all military personnel from the Harmony area and those who were killed in action since WWI. Included in the display are mementos from the Vietnam War when local resident David Michel, son of George Michel, was killed in military action. The general public is invited.



Oral History Project – We've begun to document an oral history of Harmony through the eyes of older residents. Harmony native Amy Hahn has established a program through which we can capture these memories before they are lost forever. A portion of the first interview will be available on our website.

Ongoing & Future Activities:



Gausta Exhibit — This display of paintings and drawings from the famed Norwegian artist Herbjörn Gausta are featured along with commentary from Gausta historians.

Gausta paintings are prominently displayed in many churches around southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. The Gausta family lived near Harmony and is buried in the Greenfield cemetery. A Gausta event is being planned for 2017.



Hmong Exhibit: A display featuring a wall hanging created by Hmong immigrants who briefly settled in the Harmony area along with explanatory supporting documents; the display will be scheduled for a later date.



HAHS has received fossils and artifacts from George Michel and will place them on display; these will complement the plans for an interpretive "Fossil Trail". The Society is also investigating the feasibility of restoring the elevator, at the entrance of town, as a historical site.

The Society continues to index donated items and welcomes members to donate and utilize these files for research. Some suggested guidelines for selecting items to donate are:

Scrapbooks, photos, obituaries both recent and early, marriages to include wedding photos, events pertaining to Harmony businesses, schools and area people, historical documents to include family histories that document arrival and settlement of southeast, Minnesota, family genealogical records. Potential donors should consider donating any item that you want to preserve and share with others in the future. Due to limited storage space the Society must evaluate each item offered. Many families have photos of unidentified people which take up space and are of questionable use in the collection.

Some of the indexed items available:

File 29, Articles

- Greenfield Village, by William Willford dated 1906
- The First School House in Fillmore Co. by William Willford.
- Past Bridges to the Present, by Ida Johnson
- Pioneer Days in Fillmore Co. by Mrs. C. H. Brightman
- Memories of Early Years in Harmony, by Anna Aaberg Jacobson.
- Fillmore County town Names prior to 1858.

File 42, Plat Books

- 1878 Fillmore County, the earliest, and others.

File 6 and 38, Military

- WWII letters to the editor indexed by name, and letters to families documenting service locations and dates.
- Government records, burned in 1973, for Army and Air Force members.

The display areas of the Historical Society are open to the public at the Harmony Visitor Center daily during the Tourist Season (May–October) and Wednesday mornings during the Off Season.

The Society is seeking new members who are interested in documenting the area history and also those that wish to share in the work to store and index the material. The Society Collections members work every Wednesday from 9 AM to Noon and the Society holds a monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9 AM. All members are invited to attend monthly meetings. Anyone interested in getting access to the collection may contact Marvin Wicks, 507 886 2912.