



History Museum
230 1st Ave. N., Perham, MN

History and Cultural Association Of East Otter Tail County

GAZETTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER, 2013-14



ITOW Veterans Museum
805 W. Main, Perham, MN

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Happy Holidays! From the jolly ol' elf herself

Holidays remind me of being snuggled in my mom's lap listening to *The Night Before Christmas*, and later reading and re-reading the story to my daughter. Traditions are an important part of our history. Our museums have their own stories to tell— and they are alive with new tales that are entrusted to us all the time. We need your help to make sure our valuable community information is passed along for generations to come.

On Christmas eve, I would pray that if Santa brought me what I wanted, I'd promise to be good the entire year, which turned out to be very hard to do. The History and Cultural Association of East Otter Tail County seeks to work hard on commitments that can be fulfilled. The first one is to not over-promise. We have great potential, but after nearly closing the doors on one of our museums in early 2013, our expectations have become more realistic. We will be clear when we are asking for help to complete the ITOW Veterans Museum building campaign, when we are having a membership drive, and when, like this month, we are asking for your annual support. We are endeavoring to communicate better, and seek input from individuals and organizations throughout West Central Minnesota and beyond.

After strengthening our board of directors, working on finances and putting new policies in place, we are now reviewing our possible involvement in some exciting new projects— rejoining our non-profit with the Historical Society of East Otter Tail County and taking a leadership role with Perham's Pioneer Grounds. We are taking steps towards creating a more structured education program for the ITOW Veteran's Museum and the History Museum in the future. Both museums will open new exhibits this year, and we are starting arts and craft classes in combination with our thrift store operation. Our program committees are scheduling public events each month at both museums. Our museums are peaceful, thought-provoking places, but we are exuberantly busy behind the scenes. We adopted a new name— the History and Cultural Association of East Otter Tail County- to represent the broader role these activities represent.

Remember in the Christmas classic *It's A Wonderful Life*, where the town chipped in to help George Bailey? The great thing is, if everyone chips in across our vast townships, even at the minimal level, we can preserve our treasures, tell our stories and fulfill our promise to do good throughout the year for the community.

I still believe in Santa in the spirit of the holidays. It's a time of good will and to remember end of the year tax deductions. And I promise to be good...or at least try my very best. From myself and the Board of Directors, may you have a joyous holiday season, filled with treasured memories.



Visit Us on the Web:
www.historymuesumeot.com
www.itowmuseum.org

Facebook
facebook.com/historymuesumeot
facebook.com/itowveteransmuseum

Essential Info

The History & Cultural Association of East Otter Tail County (formerly Friends of the Museum) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization formed for charitable and educational purposes.

**History Museum
of East Otter Tail County**
(and HACA mailing address)
230 1st Ave. N.
Perham, MN 56573
218-346-7676

ITOW Veterans Museum
830 West Main
Perham, MN 56573
218-346-7678

December Hours:
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday– Friday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday

Both museums will be **CLOSED**
for inventory and holidays
Dec 22—Jan. 1

Winter Hours
January 2—March 31
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday—Friday
10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Saturday

Admission for both museums is
by free-will donation

Group tours can be
arranged outside of
museum hours

To rent meeting space at the
ITOW, please call
218-346-7678

THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

This quarter we welcome **NEW** faces to our dedicated group, including Marion Johnson, Shirlee Taylor, Christy and Will Knott, Dennis Cheney, Gary and Nancy Christen, Garry Manz, Syd MacLean and newly returning volunteers Diane Rux, Kathy Guck and Irene Sweere.

Have four hours a week to volunteer? Both museums and the White Elephant Thrift Store need your help!

Email darlaellingson@itowmuseum.org

The History Museum of East Otter Tail County

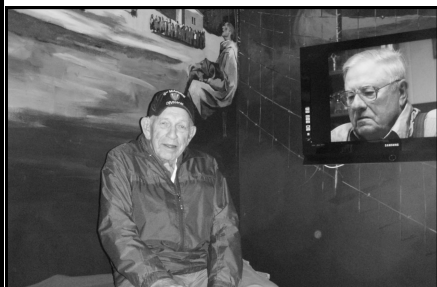
RSVP Now for Upcoming Genealogy Workshop



If you'd like to learn more about your family's history, whether you're a beginner or a veteran researcher who has hit a few "brick walls," join us January 11 from 10am to 2pm for a genealogy gathering at the History Museum! It's a great opportunity to ask questions and network with others digging at those family "roots." We encourage you to bring your laptop (we will have a few computers here as well), as we have ancestry.com available and can introduce you to other valuable internet resources such as familysearch.org. If you're new to ancestor hunting, we will be happy to help you get started in your search. Call 218-346-7676 to save your spot.

Trace your family history any time at the Genealogy Lab. Our staff is happy to help you research and create your own family tree utilizing the resources of the History Museum's Genealogy Lab. Learn how to research your family history and make connections to resources locally to worldwide in paper, microfilm and web site formats, including the sites found on the new History Museum web site at historymuseum.eot.com.

In Their Own Words Veterans Museum



Paul Ceynowa talks about Anton Cichy.

A Veteran Reflects on POW Exhibit

"When going through the (ITOW Veterans) Museum, one combat veteran's experience stood out far above all the rest— Anton Cichy," said Paul Ceynowa, a decorated WWII Veteran.

Army and Marine units in the Philippines were forced to surrender to the Japanese during WWII due to lack of food and supplies. Prisoners were forced to march 55 miles in over 100 degree heat. Those that floundered were killed immediately.

Cichy was a prisoner of war for three and a half years. Given a handful of rice periodically, he would supplement it with blades of grass, dandelion leaves and other greens he could pick through his wired cell, and harvest earthworms after each rain and eat them for protein.

"It was his resourcefulness that kept him alive," said Ceynowa. "His daily sacrifice is such a remarkable example of the spirit that thrives in most Americans."

Visit the ITOW to listen to Cichy and other veteran stories.

Volunteer Spotlight

Marion Johnson discovered the History Museum while researching family history. "I found out my great grandfather lived in New York Mills for 20 years," said Marion "The museum is a neat little place."

We discovered that Marion is a whiz with computer databases— helping to sort through the museums mailing lists. She also started helping the Tech committee complete a data transfer of our on-line catalog, finding hundreds of records thought to be missing. In November, she was asked and accepted a volunteer position on the Board of Directors, but you can still find her volunteering at the History Museum on Fridays.

Marion's background includes 25 years working with databases. She most recently was staffing coordinator for the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis before retiring five years ago and moving permanently to the Rose Lake home she has owned with husband Ken since 2002. Welcome Marion!





ITOW Veterans Museum & History Museum of East Otter Tail Co.

Did you know more people visit museums in America than attend major sporting events and theme parks combined? Museums contribute directly to the economy and tourism, and enhance educational opportunities and cultural discovery for people of all ages.

In 2013 we have been able to:

- Stabilize museum operations and provide consistent hours for the public
- Make improvements to History Museum and ITOW Veterans Museum displays
- Create a monthly speaker's series at the History Museum and monthly events at the ITOW
- Welcome monthly meetings at ITOW, including the Perham VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Otter Tail County Veterans Services, Order of the Purple Heart, MN Assistance Council for Veterans and the Perham Masonic Lodge
- Serve hundreds of veterans and visitors each year, including 200 veterans and their families on Veterans Day 2013
- Serve as East Otter Tail County's repository for the responsible care of donated artifacts, protecting and preserving our history.

Both museums operate five days a week with an all-volunteer staff. Only 27% of our operating budget is contributed public funds. The rest must be raised each year through our funding mix of earned income, events and fundraising. Our 2014 fundraising goal for operations is \$16,700.

Thank you for your consideration. Donations postmarked by December 31st can be credited in your 2013 taxes (even if we receive it in 2014). We also welcome your support in January and throughout the year. We look forward to the journey ahead with your support.

YES, I want to support the museums.

Please accept my gift in the amount of: ☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$500 ☐\$1000 ☐Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

☐ Charge my gift to ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Card # _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please list me/us in any recognition materials as _____

☐ Keep my gift anonymous ☐ I wish to talk to someone about making a gift. Contact me at _____

Please Remit To:
HACA
230 1st N.
Perham, MN 56573

**History & Cultural Association
Of East Otter Tail County**

230 1st Ave North
Perham, MN 56573

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

YOU'RE INVITED!

The History Museum and ITOW Veteran's Museum each invite you to stop by for a holiday treat, good conversation, a free tour and gift shop sale. See what's new at the museums and find unique gifts for family and friends.

**Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 4pm—7pm
History Museum of EOTC**

**Thursday Dec. 12th, 4pm –7pm
ITOW Veterans Museum**

JANUARY:

**Genealogy Workshop at the
History Museum
1/11/13 10a-2p**

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**Movie Day at ITOW
Vintage WWII comedy & cartoon!
1/18/13 11:30a - 1p**

*Every Tuesday is Senior Day in the
White Elephant Thrift Store— 25% off for those
65 or better!*

SNEAK PEAKS: New Exhibits

On Display NOW at the History Museum: Service Through Four Generations

Albert Meyer (pictured on the right changing a tire in the 1940's) purchased the Guse Service Station in Perham in 1939. See how the service station has changed and grown over four generations through a new display at the History Museum, assembled by resident historian Sara Canada.



*Program Committee chair, Syd MacLean,
reviews artifacts with donor Ronni Nordby.*

In Development at ITOW

It may have been weather, or a faulty engine. A US Air Force crew of ten left England on January 10, 1945 for a bombing run over Germany during WWII. Crashing just after take-off with a full load of bombs, only six returned.

One of the survivors was Ronni Nordby's dad, Staff Sergeant) Arthur J Dobias.

Nordby has shared numerous artifacts with the In Their Own Words Veteran's Museum for a future display. The process of creating this exhibit will be shared during ITOW's Holiday Open House Dec. 12.