

Paddlewheel Press

Grand Forks County Historical Society Fall/Winter 2025

Fall Events

♦ ♦ ♦

Legends of Terror

Oct. 24 & 25,
8 p.m. to Midnight
Tour the "Haunted"
buildings of the Soci-
ety if you dare. This
event is intended for
ages 12 and up. Tick-
ets are \$10 at the
door. Cards accepted.

Half Pint Haunt

Sunday, Oct. 26,
2-5 p.m.

A fun Trick or Treat
event for families with
children. Meet friendly
"ghosts" and see the
historic buildings.
Free will admission.

Craft Sale

The Craft Guild Holi-
day Sale will be held
on Saturday Nov. 8,
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Guild has a great
variety of crafts for
gifts and decorating
along with an assort-
ment of baked items
and jellies. We'll see
you in November!

Family Entertainment in the Campbell House

The wood-framed addition to the log portion of the Campbell house was built in 1900. Grand Forks; with its churches, banks, busi-
nesses, and city and county of-
fices, was three miles to the
north.

Travel to Grand Forks for the
Campbell family could be difficult
at best and hazardous at worst,
especially in the winter with its
deep snow, its intense cold, and
its long hours of darkness. Given
these conditions, it is likely that
Campbell family members pro-
vided their own entertainment with
some of the items on display in
the house today.

Stereoscope: A stereoscope
may be the most remarkable de-
vice for providing family entertain-
ment now on display in the Camp-
bell house. Stereoscopes, with a
cabinet of stereoscopic cards,
were once a common item in
homes and provided family enter-
tainment, much as television or
going to the movies once did.

A stereoscope is an optical view-
ing device that makes photo-
graphs seem to have three dimen-
sions. An ordinary photograph
shows objects only on a flat plain
and not in the round the way hu-
man eyes see them. Two cam-



eras can work like a pair of human
eyes. Set a few inches apart, the
special cameras had lenses that
mimic how human eyes see the
world through two eyes. The two
cameras can photograph the
same object at the same time.
The two photographs are then
mounted side by side on a rigid
card and viewed through a combi-
nation of the lenses and the
prisms of the stereoscope.

The views then enter the
viewer's eyes without strain and
the image appears to have three
dimensions. Everything is seen in
the round, and viewers become
deeply immersed in what they are
viewing, as if they are in the
scene being viewed.

The stereoscope was a mechanism
with which to view stereoscopic
cards that were published with the

(Continued on page 3)



Giving Hearts Day

The Grand Forks Historical Society will participate in the Giving Hearts Day event, which will be held on February 12, 2026. Giving Hearts Day is 24-hour fund raising event for local non-profits. This unique fundraising concept around Valentines Day each year asks people to show affection to not only people they love but to charities, too.

Donations are vital to our organization as they provide financial resources needed for preserving our historic buildings and artifacts, as well maintaining our beautiful grounds.

Donating during the GHD event on February 12th can be done with cash, a check payable to the Grand Forks County Historical Society, or on-line at givinghearts-day.org.

Please keep us in your hearts on February 12, 2026.

Marilyn Hagerty



Forever in our Hearts. Marilyn was one of our first volunteers and served on our Board. Rest in Peace.

Turkey Tales

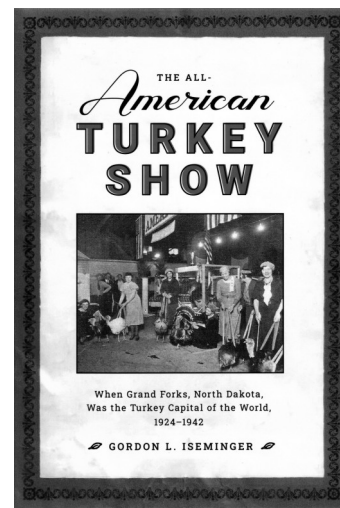
Gordon L. Iseminger, *The All-American Turkey Show: When Grand Forks, North Dakota, was the Turkey Capital of the World* (2024). Available for sale in the Myra Museum.

Why is this bird, native to North America, named after that Anatolian nation? What do turkeys have to do with growing tobacco? And how did Grand Forks, North Dakota, become the turkey capital of the world? These and many other questions are answered in Prof. Iseminger's latest book.

The author chronicles the nineteen Grand Forks farm shows (1924-1942) devoted to improved breeding and marketing of turkeys. This volume is an impressive work of research, especially considering that the records of the All-American Turkey Show Association have been lost, probably destroyed during the flood of '97.

The book supplies plenty of background information on turkeys, and Iseminger gives the reader a sense of the cultural context of Grand Forks between the wars when the city auditorium on 5th and 5th was a center of activity.

The turkey shows were held in January or early February so the organizers and atten-



dees often battled intense cold and even blizzards to bring off a successful exhibition. Most of the people who actually raised the turkeys were farm wives, and the book provides a glimpse of feminism between the first and second wave.

The All-American Turkey Show is evidence that the nonagenarian Professor Iseminger is still an active scholar contributing to our region's historiography.

Nelson Rosit

Entertaining History

Our first Entertaining History program for the 2025-2026 Schedule will feature Greg Vettel on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.:

"The only Battleship that Never Fired a Shot in Anger."

Additional programs TBA

(Continued from page 1)

caption under the photograph and an explanation on the back of the scene pictured on the side towards the viewer. The stereoscope was of wood and consisted of a handle for holding the device and a rack for holding the card. The viewer looked through the eyepiece, while adjusting the distance from the eyes to the card to bring the image into focus. The viewer then saw the two photographs as one photograph.

Cabinets of cards could be purchased in sets, depicting such events as World War One or famous works of art. The cards on display in the Campbell house were of the wonders of the world, such as Windsor castle, the city of Hamburg, the Grand Canyon, and the Chicago stockyard.

With their stereoscope, Campbell family members could spend long winter evenings touring the world's wonders from the comfort of their living room, warmed by the large coal-burning heater with the isinglass in the doors through which the flames and hot coals could be seen.

Magic Lantern:

The magic lantern, developed in the seventeenth century and commonly used for education or entertainment purposes, is an early type of slide projector. It used one or more lenses and a light source with which to project images onto a screen or light-colored wall. The images were printed or hand-painted on transparent glass plates.

The magic lantern on display in the Campbell house is a unit made of sturdy metal that houses the lenses, the light source, and a small fuel tank. The light source is a flame, fueled by kerosene or other fuel. The unit has a small chimney, to allow fumes and heat to escape, but the unit must still have been hot enough to cause burns.

The few dozen glass slides on display in the Campbell house, with the magic lantern, depict figures from nursery rhymes and folk tales. They were apparently meant to amuse and

educate children.

Magic lanterns were in wide use from the eighteenth century until the mid-twentieth century, when they were superseded by slide projectors.

With their magic lantern and glass slides, the Campbells could entertain children and also educate them, using the images depicted on the slides to explain a nursery rhyme or the moral of a folk tale.

Gordon Iseminger.



Magic Lantern in the Campbell House



Slide from Magic Lantern showing a Tropical Volcano

Myra Foundation Grant

This fall a new burglar alarm system was installed to better secure the Society's buildings and historical collections.

Also, the Pavilion's roof was painted to prevent rust. *Thank you Myra Foundation!*



Grand Forks County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2405 Belmont Road, Grand Forks, ND 58201

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Grand Forks County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

☐ **Not a member? Please join us!**

Name _____

Address: _____

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Email _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- ☐ **\$25 Individual**
- ☐ **\$50 Family**
- ☐ **\$100 Corporate**
- ☐ _____ **Other**

Members receive free admission, our organizational newsletter and museum shop discounts.

Please make checks payable to the Grand Forks County Historical Society. Membership is fully deductible as allowed by law.

Membership runs for one year from receipt of dues.

The Grand Forks County Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3) Organization

The Grand Forks County Historical Society provides life long learning opportunities and a valuable tourism destination for our community. Please show your support by becoming a member today!