Paddlewheel Press

Grand Forks County Historical Society Spring 2025

Museum Open Daily from 1-5 p.m. Through Sept. 15th

City Band

The City Band will perform four concerts this summer in the Myra Pavilion:
June 12 and 26
July 17 and 31
Programs start at 7 p.m.

Summer Performing Arts (SPA) Bands on the Red Concert
June 16th, 7 p.m. in the Myra Pavilion

In Memory

We are sad for the passing of Jerry Foote. Jerry served on the Society's Board from 2003 to 2010 and as President from 2008-2010

Blooming 47 Schoolhouse Bell Restoration

After founding Society member Miriam Ugland passed away, her son donated a bell that came from a school she attended as a young girl. The bell was then mounted above the door of our Blooming 47 schoolhouse.

During the summer of 2022 the bell supports gave way and the bell was found on the ground. The cast iron mount for the bell broke during the fall. Grand Forks Welding rebuilt the mount.

Richard Ray built a new cupola during the winter of 2023-2024. Rod Klug and Jim Watt assisted Richard in in painting and preparing the cupola for installation. Mak Construction donated the time and equipment necessary to hoist the cupola into place in October 2024.

Bell Cupola Ready for Installation

Mak Construction Operating Lift

Blooming 47 School in its Original Location near the Eccles Farm in Grand Forks County, ca 1935

Mission Accomplished

Thank you to all who assisted in the project.

Wash Day in the Campbell House

Visitors to the log kitchen of the Campbell House can see what people used to wash clothes before there were modern washing machines.

Wash day was Monday, an old tradition based on pure practicality. Before there were automatic washing machines, washing clothes was an all-day job. Drying and ironing might take most of the rest of the week and all this had to be done by Sunday, a day of rest.

Because wood-fired cook stoves, such as the one on the north wall of the log portion of the Campbell House, were needed on Mondays to heat the water for washing clothes, no hot food could be prepared or cooked on Mondays.

Meals on Mondays, were, therefore, often cold leftovers from Sundays. The water was heated on the stove in large metal wash tubs (the best were galvanized) or wash boilers (quality ones were of copper). The water had to be carried into the house in buckets from streams, wells, cisterns, or rain barrels, taxing backs, arms, and legs.

Soap had to be added to the hot water in order to remove the dirt from the clothes and settlers made their own from lye, animal fat (lard or tallow) and water. The mixture was cooked to the consistency of a thick pudding, poured into molds, and, when cooled and hardened, cut into large bricks. This soap, a bar is on display, was grated to make soap flakes to be added to the heated water.

Before the introduction of washing machines, people washed their clothes by hand using a number of devices. Two of the devices are on display: a posser and a wash board.

The posser is a metal, cone shaped affair with a long wooden handle used with a plunging, pumping action in a tub of soapy water and clothing. Baffles inside the cone forced soapy water through the clothing to remove the soil.

Continued on page 4

Laundry Equipment in the Campbell House

Gas Station Roof Re-shingled

Last fall a leak in the Gas Station roof was discovered by members of the Antique Automobile Club of America, North Dakota Chapter (AACA), who donated the station and use it for their monthly meetings.

The repair required the complete replacement of the cedar shingles of the station. Work not regularly sought by local roofing companies. Club members made personal monetary contributions in order to help the Society pay for the work. It looks great and will remain a popular attraction for the community.

Roof Work Completed by J. Pierson Construction

History Rocks 2005-2025

Kenny and the Classics

Cars Parked by Campbell House 2006

Special Thanks

The **Myra Foundation** has been a vital partner of the Grand Forks County Historical Society, since the restoration of the Campbell House in 1971. They have been a generous and consistent benefactor, recently helping replace our HVAC system and security alarms. **Thank You Myra Foundation.**

♦ ♦ ♦

Thank you **Lawn King** for keeping the Historical Society looking great!

2005-2025

August 24, 2025

with

Kenny and the Classics

Vehicle Registration $20
Begins at 10AM
Trophies, door Prizes
General Admission $5

Grand Forks County Historical Society
2405 Belmont Road
gfhistory@midconetwork.com
(701) 775-2216

Food Available for Purchase
Musical Entertainment
begins at Noon

Changes in the Myra Museum

We have redesigned the Gift Shop for patrons to enjoy the variety of souvenirs we have to offer, including the award-winning *All American Turkey Show* book by Dr. Gordon Iseminger.

Near the Quiet Room a music parlor has been created featuring the Trepanier Family's antique piano and several other instruments. Volunteers are welcome to come and play the piano afternoons, sharing their talents with other visitors.

In the military section a new display in development focuses on Grand Forks County residents who served in the Vietnam War.

Dal Segno Music Camp

Members of the Northern Valley Youth Orchestra, under the direction of Naomi Welsh, will hold their annual Music Camp August 11-15 at the Historical Society grounds.

Campers in grades 5-11 rehearse and enjoy outdoor activities during the week, working with professional coaches and volunteers.

On Friday August 15th the campers will perform a free public concert from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from the porch of the Campbell House. Please plan to attend! For more information go to www.nvyo.com.

'Wash Day' Continued from page 2

The wash board consists of a rectangular wooden frame holding a ribbed glass or metal panel. A ledge across the top holds the bar of soap. The wash board was placed in a tub of water on its legs and items of clothing were rubbed against the wash board's ridges to press the soapy water through the material to remove the soil.

Using either device, each item, including sheets, had to be wrung by hand and rinsed in clean water then wrung again by hand to remove as much water as possible. Fortunate indeed was the household that had a wringer for this purpose, such as the free-standing one on display.

A wringer consisted of two rollers, one on top of the other, and turned with a crank. Clothing was run between the rollers and into a tub of rinse water. The soapy water ran back into the tub to be used for the next load and the rinsed clothes were then run through the wringer.

Because washing clothes with either device was strenuous work, it is small wonder that women suffered from back aches and complained of having sore arms and legs.

Washing machines eliminated some of the drudgery associated with washing clothes by hand. An agitator in the tub forced soapy water through the clothes to remove the soil and a wringer replaced wringing the clothes by hand. The one on display, missing a wringer, has a V-belt pulley, suggesting that it had been powered by a small motor, or possible, by a treadmill turned by a goat or a large dog.

To save water, all clothes were washed in the same water. White clothes were washed first, less soiled clothes were washed next, then heavily soiled work clothes. Diapers were washed last. When the washing was done, the water was used for watering gardens or trees.

Once washed, clothes were hung on lines outside to dry. Clothes dried in this way acquire a unique and distinctive fragrance that cannot be reproduced in a laboratory, bottled, and sold.

The fragrance comes from a photochemical reaction produced by a combination of airflow, solar rays acting on wet fabric, and the natural environment. But, it does not do to attempt to explain this fragrance, any more than one should try to explain the heady fragrance of a rose on a warm, sunny day. Both sniffing roses and sleeping between line-dried sheets are pure bliss.

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: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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!