



The Heritage

www.goesselmuseum.com

Spring 2020

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Kansas and Among Mennonites by Donna Becker

Mennonite men began voting as early as 1876. The idea of voting privilege for women would not have entered their minds – men or women.

Suffrage for women amendments were submitted to the Kansas Legislature in 1897 and 1912. In both cases, Mennonites voted against adoption of the amendment. Even when Kansas granted women the vote in 1912, few Mennonite women participated. Both genders agreed that a woman's place was in the home.

Other women campaigned for women's suffrage, including the indomitable Susan B. Anthony, even before the Mennonites arrived in 1874. Carrie Chapman Catt was instrumental in securing the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution in 1920. Prior to the final passage, she traveled across Kansas, speaking in 102 of the 105 counties. She enlisted the help many times of Kansan Laura Johns of Salina who was chair of the Suffrage Campaign and of the Republican Women's Association. Many other Kansas women gave to the suffrage cause.

Kansas (men) gave women the right to vote in school elections in 1861. In the late 1880's women were given the vote in municipal elections, with a number of small towns electing women mayors. Included in this number were Argonia (the first in the country), Canton, Cottonwood Falls and Baldwin.

The road to equal suffrage was long and arduous, encountering fierce opposition from men in general and also women, religious, economic and industrial leaders, and the long standing view of women as less than men. Carrie's story will reveal the courage and fortitude of thousands of women over a course of 72 years to achieve this basic civil right. Mrs. Catt will be portrayed by Goessel's own Donna Unruh Becker for the 2020 Heritage Dinner on March 13, 2020. She is a certified first-person historical performer with the company Historical Echoes. Her purpose is to promote the impact of women in history who have expanded the role and voice of women to the benefit of all society.



Catt in 1911, image
wisconsinhistory.org

Contact the museum at (620) 367-8200 to reserve your tickets by Monday, March 9. See pg 3 for more details.

Low German Saying:

Schokel, schokel, scheia / Ostre aet wie Eia. / Pingsta aet wie wittet Brot. / Stoaw wie nich, dann woa wie grot.
Lullaby, lullaby, baby / At Eastertime we eat eggs. / At Pentecost we eat white bread. / Unless we die, we will grow up.

Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum Board Members:

Steve Banman, President; John Janzen, Vice President; Anne Harvey, Secretary; Aileen Esau*, Treasurer; Fern Bartel*, Museum Director; Roger Bartel, Myron Goertzen, Don Herrick, Ladene Herrick, John Koehn, Nelson Voth, Connie Wiens, and James Wiens. *Non-voting members

Upcoming Events:

Museum Hours

See pg 4 for our
spring hours

Heritage Dinner Fundraiser

Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
See pg 1 & 3 for details

4th Annual Art Show

April through June
Marie & Martha Voth's
artwork

13th Annual Car & Truck Show

Saturday, June 20

Second Monday Family History & Genealogy Group

7 pm, Goessel City Building

March – Brian Stucky,
Catlin Cemetary Stone

April – Clarice Voth,
Journal of a Family Tragedy

May – Art Show at Museum

Country Threshing Days

July 31 - August 2

Ditt unt Daut (this and that) by Fern Bartel, Museum Director



I would like to say a few words about two museum board members who are leaving the board. Howard and Anna Beth Birky have served on the museum board for untold years. Howard has been on the grounds mowing crew, keeping the museum campus looking good, and delivering promotional posters for special events.

Anna Beth has served as board secretary, keeping and

organizing meeting minutes. She is the consummate hostess and served as a stronghold at museum events--many have enjoyed her baking. She supplied the museum store with handmade items.

Both spent countless hours volunteering at the museum, including staffing Saturday open hours. A big "Thank You!" to both Birkys! We look forward to their continued involvement with the museum.

As Museum Director, I get to meet some wonderful individuals that I would never be able to meet otherwise. Such is the guest I was able to meet a couple of weeks ago.

Tomasz Wicherkiexiczia is a professor from Poland who is visiting the United States. He found out about our museum by way of Facebook. Tomasz is fascinated by the Mennonites who lived in his country for 200 to 250 years. So he came to the middle of Kansas to learn of Polish history.



After the museum, he toured Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, talking with folk historian Judy Unruh. He enjoyed his time at the church and museum and said, "It was like visiting family members I have never met before."

One Sunday afternoon, I happened to be at the museum when two visitors from Australia stopped by! They wondered about the difference between Mennonite and Amish, and were looking for handcrafted items to take home as souvenirs. I was glad to have been here!

Spring Art Show - April, May, June, featuring Marie and Martha Voth's artwork



Marie & Martha Voth

Recently, Fern was struck by the thought of how many works of art twins Marie and Martha Voth created in their lives. Nurses by profession, they also had a long career creating wonderful watercolor paintings, wheat weaving, and cloth banners for church sanctuaries. Family members received handmade Christmas cards. Wheat marquetry is the media they were best-known for. Their talent with wheat straw is legendary. Marie passed away in 2016; Martha is retired.

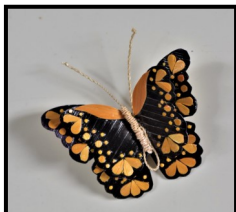
Do you have a Marie and Martha artwork to lend for this show? Call the museum at 620-367-8200 to discuss details. Fern would like to arrange the show in March and display it through the car show in June.

13th Annual Car & Truck Show - June 20, 2020

Kendall Heinrichs won the 2019 First Place Award and the 2019 People's Choice Award for his '58 Ford Edsel. Start thinking now what you would like to enter this year! Museum admittance is free during this event.



Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church wheat marquetry (above) and butterfly (right) by Marie & Martha Voth



Kendall Heinrichs



2020 Heritage Dinner

Tabor Mennonite Church
Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.



**Special
Presenter:**

**Donna
Becker**
as Suffrage
Leader
**Carrie
Chapman
Catt**

Ticket price: \$50 per person
(Ages 12 and under: \$5)

Will you be attending the
Heritage Dinner for the first time?
Only \$25 per person

To reserve your tickets, contact the
museum by Monday, March 9.

Call 620-367-8200 or
email: goesselmuseum@gmail.com

Mystery Table Donated

A small table was donated from the Raymond F. Wiebe estate. "Alexanderwohl Table 1890" is stenciled on it. Nothing much is known about this table, although a similar table is in the Sunday school office at Alexanderwohl. If anyone has any ideas as to its history, please let the museum know.



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Museum's 2020 Annual Meeting was held at the Goessel Mennonite Church on Sunday afternoon, January 19, 2020. John Koehn was elected to the museum board. Others renewing their terms as board members were Anne Harvey, John Janzen, and Nelson Voth. Don Herick was appointed to fill out the remaining year of Howard Birky's term.

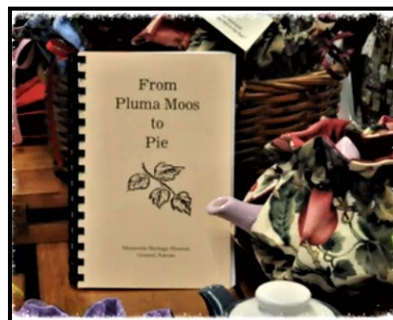
After the business meeting, D.J. & Marilyn Unruh Flaming and Myron & Ruth Goertzen recounted their 2018 trip to Poland, sharing many photos. It was a historic tour to the land where our Mennonite ancestors lived for over 200 years. Much visiting followed the program, and, of course, faspa.

What is Faspa?

When submitting news releases to the local newspapers about the annual meeting, one reporter called and inquired what the word "faspa" meant. According to the museum's *From Pluma Moos to Pie* cookbook:

"Faspa is one of those Low German words for which there is no direct English translation. Faspa meant a light lunch about 4 p.m. on workdays. Faspa also meant the gathering of family and friends, usually at 4 p.m. Sunday, for a light meal and fellowship, with an emphasis on fellowship. The meal always included zwieback and coffee and might also include cheese, cold cuts, and jelly."

Many remember the menu also including more sweets such as cookies and cakes, especially after cake mixes became popular. To honor Sunday as a day of rest, food preparations were done ahead. Visiting others was common on Sunday afternoons, so having surprise guests was taken in stride. Do you have any faspa stories to share?



The *From Pluma Moos to Pie* cookbook is available in the museum store.



Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.goesselmuseum.com



Museum Hours:
March, April, October,
& November:
Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm
Closed Sundays & Mondays
Open by appointment only in
January & February
May - September:
Tues - Sat: 10 am - 5 pm

The Heritage

Written by:
Fern Bartel, Director
Editorial Staff:
Museum Board Members
Mayleen Vinson

Become a Museum Member!

It's easy to become a member. Choose a membership level below, fill out the form, and return it with your check payable to MHAM to: Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum, P.O. Box 231, Goessel, KS 67053.

Individual \$15 Couple \$30 Family \$40 (Includes children and grandchildren age 18 and younger)

Annual memberships run from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31.

Benefits of annual membership

- Unlimited free visits to the museum
- 10% discount on museum store purchases
- One guest pass (two guest passes for couple and family memberships. Not valid for Country Threshing Days)

Life memberships \$500 / person

- Membership fee is added to museum endowment fund
- Unlimited free visits to museum
- 15% discount on museum store purchases
- Five guest passes per year (Not valid for Country Threshing Days)
- No annual membership renewal

I would like an annual membership ____ Individual \$15 ____ Couple \$30 ____ Family \$40

I would like a life membership ____ \$500 / person Telephone: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Please send future newsletters to my email address: _____