

# BHS NEWSLETTER

B L O O M I N G T O N   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y

## *2021 Annual Report*

Dear members and Friends of the Bloomington Historical Society,

This has been an “interesting” year to say the least. Our board of directors took over the operation of the Old Town Hall Museum in January 2020, only to have the museum closed to staff and public in mid March. Even our staff were not allowed in the building for many weeks. In spite of that, volunteers worked over 950 hours at the museum from Jan. through Sept.

We have used the closure to work on inventorying our collection, updating and renewing exhibits to be able to have visitors maintain social distancing, and upgrading our technology with new computers. Some of the computers were donated and some purchased thanks to your generosity in responding to our appeal in August 2020.

We were saddened at the passing of one of our founders, Larry Granger, in July. We have been blessed to be the recipient of memorial donations for him. We have divided the donations into three categories. One group will enable us to upgrade our inventory to Collective Access software, which will allow us to be able to highlight items in the collection on our website. Another group will purchase archival preservation materials for textiles, paper items, and other fragile holdings. The third group may be used for honoraria for speakers/entertainers.

We were allowed to open our doors to visitors once again on July 7, 2021. As of this writing we have had nearly 120 visitors over the 36 days we have been open. This is a great improvement over the numbers in 2019.

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During parts of July and August, I made the acquaintance of several nurses and aides at Presbyterian Homes who are immigrants. Some of them have agreed to be interviewed about what brought them to Bloomington, and some of their cultural traditions. We hope to spotlight some of the cultures which enrich our city with an exhibit either in the museum or at Civic Plaza.

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, the Board of Directors has again chosen to conduct a virtual annual meeting by sending you this newsletter along with a post-card ballot to return for the election of the half of our Directors whose terms are expiring. We hope to be able to host an in-person meeting of our membership next year on the first Sunday afternoon of November 2022.

Yours for Bloomington History,  
Frances Stachour, Bloomington Historical Society President

## 2021 Annual Meeting

### VISIT US!

- Wednesday  
1-5 pm
- Thursday  
1-8 pm
- Saturday  
1-5 pm
- By appointment: call  
952-881-4114  
during open  
hours, or  
email  
bloomitarian  
@gmail.com  
to schedule  
your visit.

The Bloomington Historical Society Annual meeting for all Members will be held by mail again this year. All current 2021 members and life members are receiving a main-in ballot with this newsletter.

Annual memberships expire Dec. 31st. Your membership renewal can be sent in by mail along with your completed ballot. New members who wish to vote in the board election should turn in their membership dues no later than November 7, 2021. Membership forms and ballots are available at Old Town Hall Museum during open hours, or may be requested by email: bloomitarian@gmail.com. Your questions, concerns and offers to volunteer are welcomed.

Ballots must be returned by Nov. 7th to be counted. You may write-in candidates, including yourself, who are willing to serve a two-year term on our Board of Directors. You may vote for up to six (6) board members. Mail ballots to the pre-printed return address, or you may drop your ballot off at Old Town Hall during open hours.

We sincerely appreciate your financial support. In addition to your dues, please consider sponsoring an archival box \$16 to \$36 each, printer ink \$55, archival page/photo protectors \$10/pkg or acid-free file folders \$21/pk of 25. Thank You.

## Upcoming Events

A new **display** was put up at **Civic Plaza** in October. It features the Bloomington Cemetery with a Halloween theme. Please stop in and take a look. The display will be changed again in mid-November. Displays at Civic Plaza this year included vintage toys, the Twins at the Met Stadium, and Tom Burnett & the 20th Anniversary of 9/11.

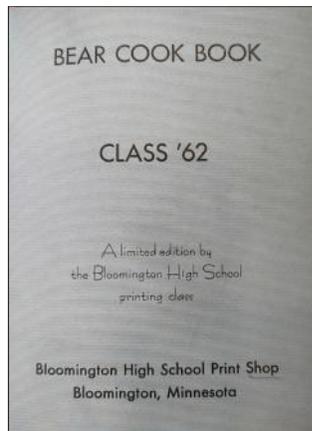
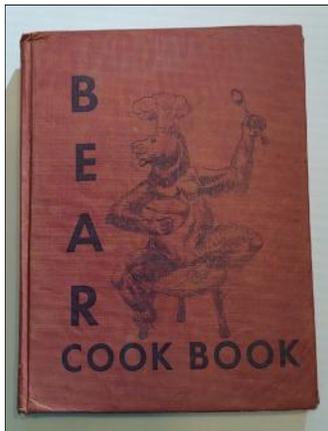
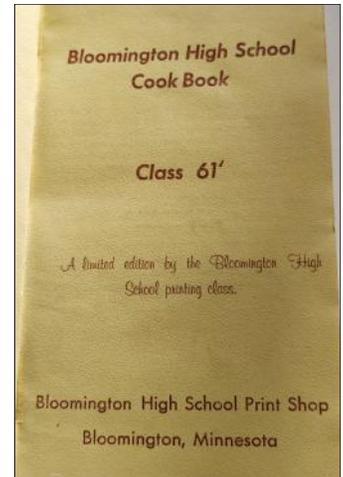
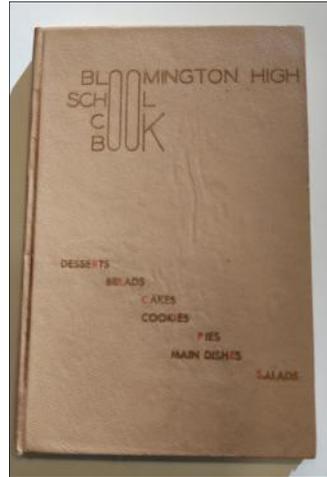
Rotating **displays** at Old Town Hall included vintage toys, Bloomington Picnic Grounds, and Back-to-School.

This year we provided research assistance to two **film projects**. A short documentary film was made by John Haley about the Met Stadium. It was shown at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival in May 2021.

A video piece about Bloomington Old Town Hall is planned to air on Bloomington Cable TV in October. A link will be added to our website after the program airs.

RECENT DONATION:  
BLOOMINGTON BEAR COOKBOOKS

One of the classes taught by Mr. Strand at the old Bloomington High School was Printing I. The class designed and printed a limited edition hard cover cookbook. Students gathered recipes from home. They all took part in printing, assembling, folding and binding the books. Recently the cookbooks from 1961 (one of only 125 printed) and 1962 (one of only 100 printed) were donated to the Old Town Hall Museum.



Gingerbread

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1/2 c. boiling water  | 1 1/2 c. flour         |
| 1/2 c. shortening     | 3/4 Tsp. salt          |
| 1/2 c. brown sugar    | 1/2 Tsp. baking powder |
| 1/2 c. light molasses | 1/2 Tsp. baking soda   |
| 1 well-beaten egg     | 3/4 Tsp. ginger        |
|                       | 1/2 Tsp. cinnamon      |

Pour water over shortening; add sugar, molasses and egg; beat well. Add sifted dry ingredients; beat until smooth. Bake in wax paper lined 8-inch square pan in moderate oven 350 degrees for 35 min.

Do you like to plan **events**? We need a couple of new volunteers to plan monthly programs and a special members-only event for next year. In the past we have had a good mix of speakers and musical entertainment. We are looking forward to being able to hold programs and events at Old Town Hall again soon.



Photo by Steve Johnson

# BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Old Town Hall Museum

Penn Avenue at Old Shakopee Road  
Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-5 pm  
Thursdays 1-8 pm

### Mailing address:

1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431  
Phone: 952-881-4114

Email: [bloomitarian@gmail.com](mailto:bloomitarian@gmail.com)

Facebook: [BloomingtonMNHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingtonMNHistoricalSociety)

Founded in 1964, the Bloomington Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the City of Bloomington.

Our mission is to collect, preserve and hold in the public trust the many artifacts, photographic images, memorabilia and life stories of the people who have lived in Bloomington.

The organization is run entirely by volunteers and we depend entirely upon your donations for our operations, programs and displays. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL— 2022

Annual memberships are for the calendar year and expire December 31, 2022.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \_\_\_\_ Individual      \$ 30.00
- \_\_\_\_ Family         \$ 50.00
- \_\_\_\_ Contributing    \$ 100.00
- \_\_\_\_ Life             \$ 250.00
- \_\_\_\_ Patron          \$ 500.00
- \_\_\_\_ Corporate      \$ 600.00
- \_\_\_\_ Benefactor     \$1,000.00

Additional donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Bloomington Historical Society

Mail to: Bloomington Historical Society  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431

Or

Drop off at Old Town Hall Museum  
Wed, Thurs or Sat. during open hours

\_\_\_\_ YES, I'd love to volunteer at the Old  
Town Hall Museum. I'm available: (circle)

Wednesday afternoon    Thursday afternoon

Thursday evening        Saturday afternoon

Other: \_\_\_\_\_