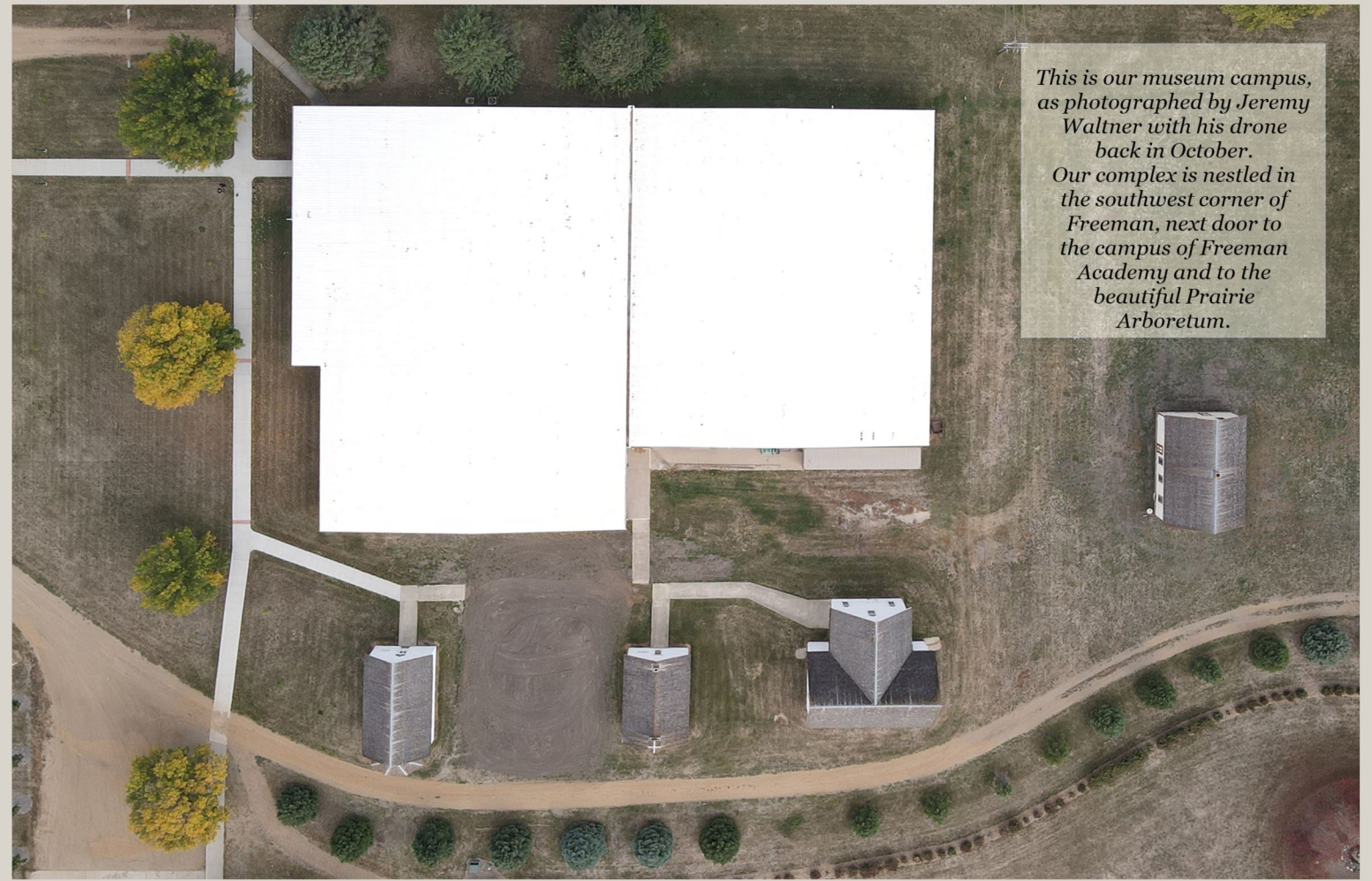


HERITAGE HALL

h e a d l i n e s

Fall 2020



This is our museum campus, as photographed by Jeremy Waltner with his drone back in October. Our complex is nestled in the southwest corner of Freeman, next door to the campus of Freeman Academy and to the beautiful Prairie Arboretum.

HHM&A: The View From Above

The view from above is different now. Our 1879 Deckert House sits alone just east of our main buildings, waiting for a barn to be placed directly north of it. Our hope is that these two structures will become the cornerstone of a farmstead setting that will pay homage to the many small farms that were scattered across the Great Plains in the early 20th century.

There is now an empty space where the pioneer home sat for the past four decades, awaiting new plans and a new purpose.

You will note that a section of our sidewalk was destroyed during the house move. A temporary walk will be put in place, as we do not know what damage will yet happen once the barn arrives!

Over the next year, we will work towards including our historical buildings in an overall security plan, building a sidewalk to connect to the farmstead site, landscaping with historically-accurate plantings, and the usual painting and maintenance tasks.

We welcome your input & ideas, as well as your gifts of time and money toward these projects!

Heritage Hall Museum & Archives
PO Box 693 880 S Cedar St. Freeman, SD 57029
(605) 925-7545 info@heritagehallmuseum.com www.heritagehallmuseum.com

From the Director

As we head into the holiday season, we are mindful that we do have a lot to be thankful for, even though our lives were turned upside-down by this pandemic.

I am thankful for a board that supports their staff. Months ago, as organizations across the U.S. were furloughing their workers, our museum board decided not to cut our hours even though the museum doors were closed to the public those first few months. They had confidence that the staff would make good use of their time, and I can guarantee you'll be amazed at what has been accomplished here these past few months! A board that is engaged in the mission and believes in its staff is so important.

And this is a great team! I am so thankful to have co-workers who are smart and who have so much to offer a museum like ours. Each person brings something unique to this place, and together, we are working to tell the story of this community and this region in a way that will educate and engage those who come to visit. What an awesome responsibility. I am so thankful for good people to work alongside.

We also have some incredible volunteers who come every week to help out as they can. Their willingness to lend a hand is crucial for an organization like ours and I cannot thank them enough!

And you ALL are important as well. Your support is key. You tell others about our museum. You donate funds. You give items for us to display. You share your stories. All of these things are so very important.

Right now we're working to create a gas station. Do you have pictures or information about some of the many gas stations that were in this area? Let us know! We are also planning a new display about the many church congregations that have existed in this region over the past 140 years. Do you have artifacts or photos or information that might be pertinent? We'd love to see!

Together we can do so much to preserve and celebrate the amazing story of this community. My thanks to you all!

Marnette D. Hofer

Our Mission is to preserve, educate and foster appreciation for the diverse natural and cultural history of the greater Freeman area, settled largely by Germans from Russia in the 1870s.

HERITAGE HALL Museum & ARCHIVES

Board of Directors

Linden Graber, <i>Chairman</i>	Jeri Butkus
Donovan Friesen, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Norma Hofer
Cheryl Koch, <i>Sec./Treas.</i>	David Schrag
Jeff Buechler	Mary Waltner

Staff

Roy Kaufman, *Curator* Terry Quam, *Curator*
Brian Skinner, *Facilities Manager*
Tim L. Waltner, *Education & Communications Coord.*
Marnette D. Hofer, *Director & Archivist*

Winter Hours October through April

Monday-Friday 12-4 p.m. (closed weekends & holidays)

Open daily May through September

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Weekends 1-5 p.m.

\$8 Adults, \$4 Students Grades 1-12
Senior Citizen & Family Rates Available

Wish List

We are currently looking for the following items -- please call if you can help us out!

- *small shed for mowers/snow blower
- *2-wheel dolly/cart
- *Paper shredder
- *Barber's pole for a barbershop display
- *Donation for new/add'l fire extinguishers
- *Freeman High School annuals
- *Old *Freeman Couriers* or *Marion Records*
- *Mid-sized to large plastic totes with lids
- *History-related books for annual book sale
- *Area histories and genealogies
- *Mannequins *Obituaries *Volunteers!



In the Archives...

2020 will be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected us all in one way or another. We are interested in gathering stories about how this pandemic has affected our extended community.

We would love to hear from you how this pandemic has changed your "normal." We will gather any stories we receive into a binder. Years from now (after we've forgotten the details!), these stories will give future generations a glimpse of what it was like to deal with a challenge such as the global pandemic of 2020.

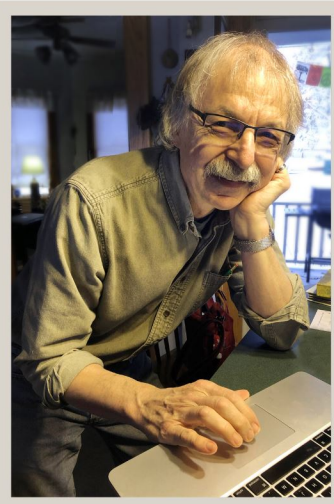
We are also taking part in a much larger pilot project called "Anabaptist History Today." Over a dozen organizations from across the U.S. and Canada with Anabaptist-related collections or archives are collaborating to record and archive online expressions of Anabaptist-lived experiences during the pandemic and following.

If you would like to share your story or browse some of the stories already shared, check out the Anabaptist History Today website at <https://aht.libraryhost.com>.

We hope to hear from you and please -- stay well.

New Staff Member Brings Expertise

We are pleased to announce a new addition to our team here at the museum! Tim L. Waltner has joined our staff in a part-time position as our Education & Communication Coordinator.



Tim recently retired from his position as editor & publisher of the *Freeman Courier*. With 48 years of experience in journalism, publishing, graphic design and marketing, Tim has a wealth of knowledge to draw from as he helps guide our messaging and how we present our museum to the world.

We are excited to have him on board!

A Big THANK-YOU to our annual Members! *(new since 9/1/2020)*



Homesteaders

(\$30 donation: getting us started)

Dee Millar *Freeman*

Marilyn (Hafner) Hanson *Huron*
(Archives)



Shopkeepers

(\$50 donation: supplying the basics)

Kathy Hacking *Sioux Falls*

Ralph & Lillian Schroeder *Sioux City, IA*
(Deckert House Project)

Gayle & Jana Preheim *Monument, CO*



Conductors

(\$100 donation: moving us forward)

Ardis Jantzen *Freeman*

Delmer & Shirley Hofer *Freeman*

Dennis & Shirley Ries *Freeman*

Warren Schwartz *Great Falls, MT*

James & Sharla Unruh *Marion*

Extra-Special Thanks to our Sponsors!



Bronze Level \$250 donation

Ron & Lois Preheim *Newton, KS*

Duane Schrag *Freeman*

Russell Waltner *Freeman*



Platinum Level \$1000 donation

LuVerna Goering *Moundridge, KS*

(Deckert House Project)



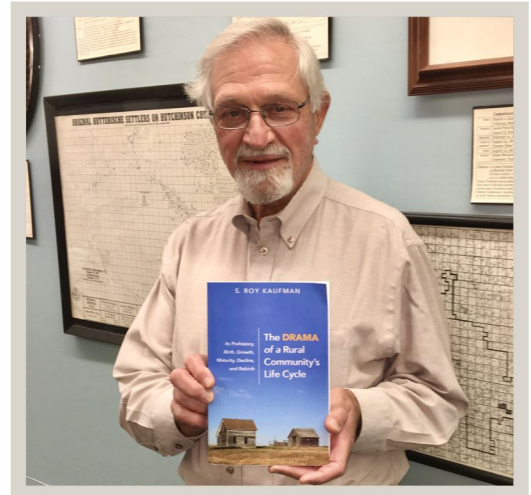
Gold Level \$750 donation

Marles Preheim *North Newton, KS*

Local History Published

S. Roy Kaufman has been our museum curator since 2012. In 2013, he published *Healing God's Earth*, and his latest book, *The Drama of a Rural Community's Life Cycle: Its Prehistory, Birth, Growth, Maturity, Decline, and Rebirth* is hot off the press and available in our mercantile! Although in normal times, we would host a book-signing and program, times are not normal, and we are looking at a virtual program after the first of the year -- we'll let you know in our next newsletter!

From the news release: "Rural communities depend on the health of the agrarian cultures that compose them. These cultures grow out of the symbiotic relationship between a particular landscape and the human community that lives on and uses the land.



"This is the story of the three Anabaptist agrarian cultures -- Swiss German, Low German and Hutterian -- of the Freeman, South Dakota, rural community, and their sojourn within the empires of civilization throughout the centuries.

"Here we see the agrarian cultures' struggle to adapt to the new environment of the Great Plains and to maintain their unique identity while living with American society. This is the drama of a rural community's life cycle!"



Check out the newsletter insert (or just stop by) to learn more about what's available in our Mercantile!

Looking Forward...

So much was upended this year because of the global pandemic, and our 2020 programming plans had to be put on hold. Recently, Freeman Academy announced that Schmeckfest 2021 will be very different, without the in-person activities we've grown accustomed to, and our activities will also be different. The experience of this pandemic has also made us very aware that many of you live at a distance and yet like staying in touch, so our long-range goal is to build a virtual component into future events. Stay tuned!













Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Total: \$ _____

We value your ongoing support through your memberships, donations and volunteer time. Please see the insert for a complete list of our 2020 members.
Thank you!

											
FOUNDER \$75,000+	DIAMOND \$50,000	SAPPHIRE \$25,000	RUBY \$10,000	EMERALD \$5,000	PLATINUM \$1,000	GOLD \$750	SILVER \$500	BRONZE \$250	CONDUCTOR \$100	SHOPKEEPER \$50	HOMESTEADER \$30

All members receive annual admission to the museum and archives, our quarterly newsletter and special pricing for museum events.
Shopkeepers: 2 annual admission passes; **Conductors:** 4 annual admission passes; **Bronze:** 6 annual admission passes.
Silver & Above: Additional passes and personal tours for six guests upon request. Recognition for **sponsoring businesses.**