



Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

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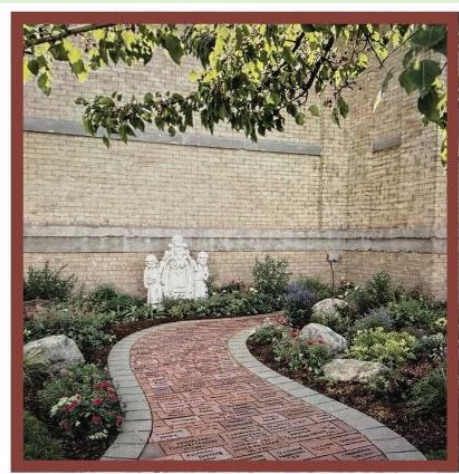


The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

March 2026

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Steve Westphal – President
Alex Kunkel – Vice President
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Jane Anderson- Board Member
Gary Sipe – Projects
Diana Hadley - Secretary
Ashley Haycock –
Administrator/Editor



AI-generated example of the brick pathway in the front flowerbed. Visit twinfallsmuseum.org/bricks or stop by the museum to order your bricks!

Fundraisers & Events!

The Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum is excited to officially announce our Buy-A-Brick fundraiser!

A new way to honor the pioneers, families, and farmers who shaped Magic Valley’s history.

Bricks are 4” by 8” and can be engraved with up to three lines of text with 18 characters per line.

Personalization can include your family name, farm name, business or organization, or in memory of a loved one.

The bricks are priced at \$100 each, and because we are a 501c3, your donation will be tax-deductible.

The bricks will become a permanent feature on the museum’s grounds, with the raised funds being used to further improve the landscaping.

We plan to start with a brick pathway leading up to the Washington School statue in the front flowerbeds.

Our Buy-A-Brick campaign is a simple but meaningful way to show your support for the museum and our area’s unique history.

A small brick that tells a story and becomes a path to local history.

Place your brick orders through our website at: twinfallsmuseum.org/bricks or in person at the Museum.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Museum will be having a Living History Day event, Saturday, May 2nd from 1:00-5 pm!

Take a step into the past with a day of educational fun for the whole family! This free event will offer live and hands-on demonstrations of skills and traditions from the past.

Try your hand at butter churning, clothes washing, and ropemaking, or enjoy live demonstrations of wool spinning and furniture caning.

Members of the Southern Idaho Muzzleloader Association will present knife and tomahawk throwing, fire starting, and muzzleloader firing. Civil War enthusiast Fletch Miller will also be offering demonstrations and sharing his knowledge on the Civil War.

Oh, and did we mention **there will be homemade ice cream?**

We hope to make Living History Day an annual event here at the museum, but we need your help to make it a success! This event is open to everyone, so spread the word to your friends, family, and fellow history-lovers.

For more information on our upcoming events, visit the events page on our website: twinfallsmuseum.org.

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Your Next Adventure Awaits at the Museum.

Learn how pioneers

Churned butter
Washed clothes
Made rope
Ground corn
Spun wool, and more



**FREE
ENTRY!**

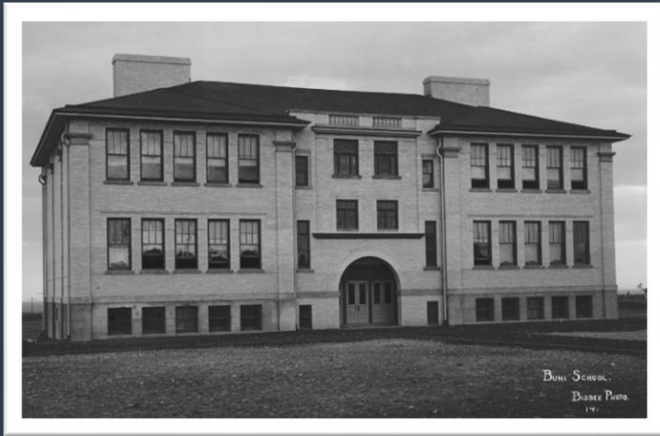
**Saturday, May 02, 2026
1 - 5 PM**

Enjoy games and ice cream!

Enjoy a demonstration by Southern Idaho Muzzleloaders as they show how to throw tomahawks and talk about the fur trade.

Item Highlight

The Bricks That Built Buhl



The F.H. Buhl School was built in 1908 using bricks from the Buhl brick factory. Bisbee photo #141 Courtesy of the Twin Falls Public Library



Buhl brick donated by Joseph Allan Bruffey. Many bricks were saved as souvenirs from the F.H. Buhl School.

Brick by brick, a short-lived business helped build the town of Buhl.

By 1962, the F.H. Buhl School had served its community for over 50 years.

The three-story brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1908 to accommodate the town's growing population.

The building was located on the block bordered by 8th Avenue, Maple Street, 9th Avenue, and Poplar Street, right beside the Buhl city park.

It was given its name in honor of Frank Henry Buhl, who donated the land and half of the building's construction cost.

In 1961, residents voted to construct a new elementary school and renovate the F.H. Buhl building to use as a junior high.

It was during this remodel that a piece of Buhl history was brought to light. Among the debris of the renovation, yellow clay bricks bearing the name of the town were discovered.

The story behind the bricks may have been lost to time entirely if not for the recollections of the town's pioneer residents.

George Layne, an early Buhl denizen, recalled that the idea for a brick plant was proposed and financially backed by Elliot A. Milner, brother of Stanley Milner, for whom the dam and town of Milner were named.

Buhl was a newly founded town full of promising business opportunities in the flurry of its construction. He had a sample of clay from the Melon Valley tested and discovered it was a good grade of fire clay.

With this knowledge, Milner decided to invest in the establishment of a brick factory in the up-and-coming town.

Milner's first order of business was to arrange for a train car of strong draft horses to be delivered from Idaho Falls. Specially designed wagons were constructed to transport the clay to the factory located near the railway on what is now Clear Lakes Road.

The company was run by Art and Ben Williamson and retailed its products locally.

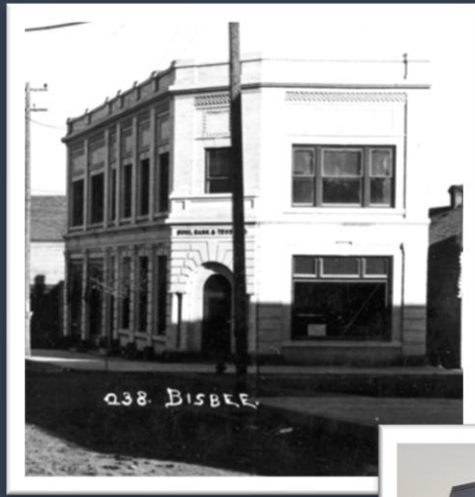
The business seemed to flourish in the beginning but would ultimately prove to be unprofitable. It is speculated that the added cost of hauling the clay and having to bring in coal from Salt Lake City led to its financial downfall.

The business's exact years of operation are unclear. It is first listed in the 1908 city directory and is gone by the 1910 issue.

At least three significant buildings in Buhl are confirmed to have been built with these bricks, but they were likely used in many of the buildings from this timeframe.

Two of the buildings are still standing in Buhl today.

The corner building that is now Vaquero restaurant was originally owned by Milner and was made using bricks from his factory. The bricks were also used in the construction of the building diagonally across from it, now the office of Sierra Delta Consultants



Bisbee Photo # 238 Courtesy of the Twin Falls Public Library

The building on the corner of Main and Broadway, originally a bank, was also constructed with Buhl bricks.



Place" in lovely Hagerman Plateau Valley where thousands have

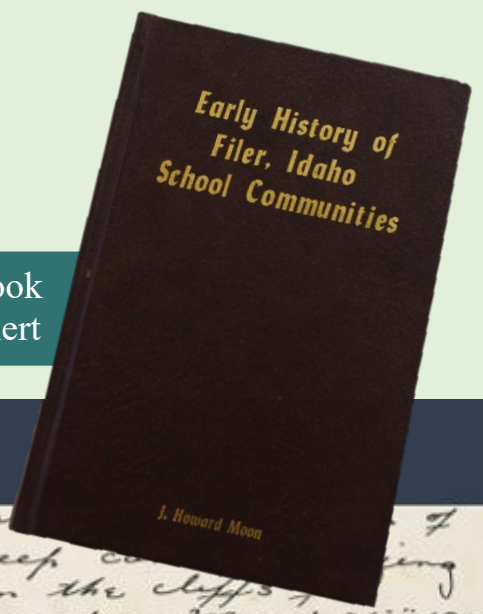
Donations

Want to Donate?
Give us a call or stop by the museum if you are interested in donating an item with county history. Keep in mind we only accept permanent donations.



Shoe molds, Army Signal Corps oil canteen, WWI water canteen donated by Waive Stager

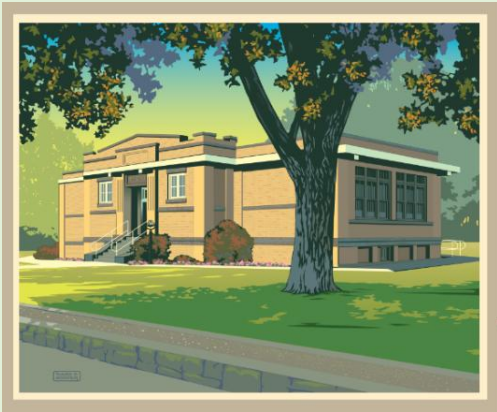
Early History of Filer book donated by Phyllis Kochert



A big thank you to Jane Anderson for her generous monetary donation!

water. Sunday - March 25 - 1923 Sunday - March 25 - 1923

Become a Board Member!



Are you passionate about preserving and promoting the history of Twin Falls County?

The Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum is looking for community members with an enthusiasm for history to join our board of directors. Interest forms are now available on our website: twinfallsmuseum.org.

Upcoming Lecture

Don't miss the last speaker for our winter/spring lecture series! A big thank you to all our speakers for their great presentations and to all who attended. We are hoping to resume weekend lectures in the fall, so keep an eye out.

If you have suggestions for speakers and topics that you would like to see, let us know!



Orton Botanical Garden

• **Saturday, March 21st 1:00** **Lewis & Clark in Idaho: The Botanical Contributions – Tom Schwartz**

Join us for a presentation on Lewis & Clark's contributions to our understanding of Idaho's native plants.

From ponderosa pine and Oregon grape to wild mock orange (our state flower), shrubby penstemon, and camas lily, Lewis and Clark carefully documented the native flora of our state.

Orton Botanical Garden's vice president, Tom Schwartz, will share how their exploration of Idaho impacted our knowledge of Idaho's botanicals.