



Highlights from History

Olmsted County Fair

1860 - 2010

1860 - First fair held in Rochester - October 3rd & 4th

1880's - Harness Racing was popular event, Rochester known as "Lexington of the West" because of fine facilities on our fairgrounds.

1900 - Fairgrounds sold for \$6425; Southern Minnesota Agricultural Association was dissolved.

1904 - 1911 - School Fairs were held under direction of County Superintendants George Howard and William Mercer.



1912 - Dr. Christopher Graham entered into a lease agreement with the re-formed

Agricultural Association to have the county fair on property he owned.

1919 - Dr. Graham gifted the property to Olmsted County to use for the County Fair and other agricultural and educational expositions.

1932 - 1934 - No fairs were held during the Depression years.

1940's - present - The Olmsted County Fair continues to be held in Rochester. 4-H, FFA, agriculture, horticulture and domestic arts and crafts displays continue to be the main attractions.

2010 - We celebrated 150 years of the Olmsted County Fair with special events and displays.

A Souvenir Book was printed containing fair history, photos and personal memories of people's fair experiences.

Copies are available for \$5.00 plus postage. If interested contact Tony & Barb Pagel at 507-282-3687 or bapagel3687@msn.com

