



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

Monday—Friday 8 am— 4 pm and Saturday 10 am—4 pm

Winter 2020

Give It Your Best Shot:

Focus on Cottonwood County's Agriculture

2020 Photo Show

January 19 – March 21, 2020

The exhibit in the Remick Gallery features 30 photographs of Cottonwood County taken by local photographers. The theme this year is "Agriculture". Great shots from throughout the county! Stop by and vote for your favorite photograph!



2019 Raffle Winner Announced

The 2019 raffle was a Hudson Bay blanket donated by Shawn & Jessie Colbert. The raffle was drawn on Monday, December 16, 2019. The lucky winner was Mary Brown of Mountain Lake.

Congratulations!

Limited Edition Ornament
Sixth in a Series
Pat's Grove County Park
42035-390th Avenue
Heron Lake, MN

Back reads:

Patrick Conlan, an Irish immigrant, settled in Cottonwood County in 1866, along with his nephew, Larry O'Rourke. He married Celia Schuster, an Austrian immigrant, and had one child, Peter. The stone house was built by Pat's son and nephew and was completed around 1900. Cottonwood County purchased the 80 acres for a county park in 1982. Upgrades occurred in 2019 with a new roof and tuck-pointing.



In the Remick Gallery:



“Festival of Trees”

Throughout the month of December, visitors enjoyed an array of 13 beautifully decorated Christmas Trees in the Remick Gallery. Below is the list of those who participated this year:

- * Windom Service Club
- * First United Methodist Church
- * Relay for Life
- * Compassionate Friends
- * Sons of Norway
- * Connie Voss
- * Marilee Strom-Jo Alink-Marlene Sherman
- * BARC
- * Windom Cotton Quilters
- * Prairie Arts Continuum
- * Cottonwood County Historical Society

Thank you to all who designed a tree and to those who visited the museum during December to view and vote for their favorite. We hope your favorite won! The winners this year were the Windom Cotton Quilters, First United Methodist Church, and the Windom Service Club. Each of the winners received Chamber Bucks. The remaining proceeds benefit the museum.

Fundraisers: A Recap

2019 Chocolate & Bling

Our Chocolate & Bling event was held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, with the theme “Puttin’ on the Glitz”. Ten beautifully decorated tables were viewed before an appetizer buffet followed by the chocolate dessert table. Activities included visiting the “Festival of Trees”, selecting items from the Bling and/or Scarf Tree, purchasing a raffle ticket and checking out the Silent Auction. To conclude the evening, 12 donated items were on a Live Auction with Donna Gravley as auctioneer and Lorri Cole as her assistant. We raised over \$2,700 for museum projects. Thank you to our many donors, committee, staff and volunteers who made the evening a success!

Simply Sweet Cheesecake Fundraiser:

Thank you to those who purchased a “6 pack” of cheesecake cupcakes in December. The museum received 20% of the proceeds or \$165. It was a delicious way to start the holidays!



Schmidt Foundation Grant Received

Improvement to our front doors is soon on the horizon. The announcement of the grant came just before the holidays. The grant allows the museum to purchase and install handicapped accessible front doors. Currently, if a visitor in a wheel chair comes to the museum, assistance is needed to open the doors. The grant provides \$10,000 of a \$12,500 project. We look forward to spring and getting to work!

Women's Right to Vote: A 100 Year Anniversary

By Janelle Kaye



2020 is a year of many celebrations, nationally and locally. One of these is a celebration of the granting of the women's right to vote, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which was ratified on August 18, 1920. This right, also known as women's suffrage, ended almost a century of protest.

During America's early history, women were not considered equal to white, male property owners. Women could not own property, had no legal claim to any money they might earn and could not vote. They also were not often afforded an opportunity to learn to read or to receive an education. Women were supposed to focus on motherhood and housework, not business and politics.

Starting in the 1820s, nearly 100 years before the passing of the 19th Amendment, women began resisting the idea that the ideal woman was a pious, submissive wife and mother concerned exclusively with home and family. Various reform groups including temperance leagues and the abolitionist movement proliferated across the U.S. in the decades before the Civil War.

It wasn't until 1848 that the movement for women's rights began to organize at the national level. In July of that year, reformers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York (where Stanton lived). More than 300 people—mostly women, but also some men—attended.

In addition to their belief that women should be afforded better opportunities for education and employment, most of the delegates at the Seneca Falls Convention agreed that American women were autonomous individuals who deserved their own political identities. Signs stated, "I have opinions!"

A group of delegates led by Stanton produced a "Declaration of Sentiments" document, modeled after the Declaration of Independence, which stated: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." What this meant, among other things, was that the delegates believed women should have the right to vote.

Another twenty years passed before Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) in 1869 with their eyes on a federal constitutional amendment that would grant women the right to vote. After various setbacks, the turn of the 20th century brought renewed momentum to the women's suffrage cause. Women's enfranchisement succeeded at state levels. Minnesota ratified the women's right to vote in 1919, the fifteenth state to do so.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified by U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby, and women finally achieved the long-sought right to vote throughout the United States.

On November 2, 1920, more than 8 million women across the U.S. voted in elections for the first time.

The 19 Amendment which grants women the right to vote, reads:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

This right was won because a few women at first, and then a few million women stood up and said, “I am equal, I am valuable, I have opinions, and I matter.”

The right to vote is now a fundamental right of every American woman. It was achieved on the backs of women who were injured in marches, arrested and jailed, in order for women to be able to vote. Let's protect that right and use that right honorably.

A temporary exhibit coming in November from the League of Women Voters will address the Suffrage Movement in Minnesota. Stay tuned.... Watch for our Spring newsletter for another article on Minnesota's women's suffrage history.



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Nick S. Meyer

[CCHS Thanks Member Upgraded to Lifetime:](#)

Dr. Michael R. Fisher

[CCHS Welcomes New Annual Members:](#)

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Melvin & Romelle Wojahn; Cheryl Hanson

[CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:](#)

Pam Gahler

General Fund Donations:

Donations made between October 19, 2019 – January 24, 2020:

Pam Nerhus in memory of Hilma Thompson; Sharon Diemer in memory of Lois Castledine; Sharon Diemer in memory of Ron Veenker; Sharon Diemer in memory of Doug Stemm; David & Marilee Strom in memory of Ron Veenker; Phyllis Kuehl in memory of Twila Mattison; Ruth Steinfeldt in memory of Paul Gohman; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Doug Stemm; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Ron Veenker; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Lois Castledine; Warren & Barbara Jeffers; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Joe Carpenter; Norma & Richard Loewen; Fritzie Stemm in memory of Doug Stemm; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Doug Stemm; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Pastor Joe Nystuen; Storden American Legion for Pat's Grove Markers, Military Exhibit, and Country School Booklet; Vernon & Joyce Youngren in memory of Audrey Youngren; Robert & Kathryn Valleau in honor of Fairland Management Co.; Stanley & Sallie Green in memory of Owen & Clarlyn Green; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Delores Horkey; Geof & Leann Johnson in memory of Jack Steinke; Richard & Wendy Meyer

Donations in Memory of Patrick Fitzgerald:

Wesley & Julie Reeves; Scott & Sarah Wade; Peter & Camille King; Joseph & Kathlyne Sevick; Vibrant Emotional Health; John & Ramona Moede; The Goddard Foundation; Cynthia Miner & William Schuette; Kevin & Julie Sevick; Ed Kanis; Michael & Dr. Kristi Bockorney; Diana Birch; Travis & Val Schafer; Mark Altier & Denise Chandler; Virginia & Bill O'Brien; Kelly Fiebiger; Maria Fitzgerald

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Donations Toward Handicapped Accessible Doors:

Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation; Anthony & Heather Smith

Donations Toward Spruce Pots:

Sharon Diemer

Donations Toward Pat's Grove:

Delbert Freking; Deborah Polzin; South Central Electric Association

In-Kind Donation:

Shawn Colbert of O'Malley's Storage & Rental for hanging outdoor banners



Cottonwood County Historical Society

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2020 Exhibits In the Remick Gallery:

**“Give It Your Best Shot:
Focus on Agriculture”**

January 19—March 21

“Cottonwood County Student Art Show”

March 29—April 25

“Knitting” by Jane Leverenz

May 3—July 25

“Stitched by Hand: Cottonwood County Quilts”

August 2—October 25

**“A Century of Engagement:
History of Women’s Suffrage”**

November 1—21

“Festival of Trees”

December 1—23