

# COTTONWOOD

## COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cottonwood County Historical Society

Fall 2014

### Cottonwood County Historical Society

## 113th Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the museum

### “Making a home on the prairie”

By Diane Dick

Members and guests are invited to attend the 114th Annual Meeting. Our featured presenter will be Diane Dick from Mt. Lake. Her drama portrays the immigration to Cottonwood County by her great, great grandmother. Using research from her books, Diane draws on her imagination to tell the story of her ancestor's journey to Minnesota and the process of settling on the prairie in Rosehill Township. She will also be available for book signing.

A short business meeting will begin the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. followed by our speaker. Refreshments provided include assorted sandwiches, homemade bars and coffee. Don't forget the door prizes!

*Then how do we know them?  
Those that came before us...  
Those who gave us our heritage...  
Those who pioneered?  
What can we learn?  
A name?  
A date?  
A story?  
If we see them through our eyes  
Can we see them as they were?  
If we imagine their lives  
Can we learn for our lives?  
Do they whisper to us...  
That which we need to know?*

*Excerpt from Diane Dick's book  
Journey of a Minnesota Family*



First Place—Mickey D's Red Hatters

## “Festival of Trees”

December 1-23, 2014

The Festival of Trees opens December 1st in the Remick Gallery. We encourage businesses, clubs and individuals to decorate a tree in the theme of their choice. Visitors vote for their favorite tree throughout the month of December. If you would like to decorate a tree or have questions, please contact the museum at 831-1134 or e-mail us at [cchs@windomnet.com](mailto:cchs@windomnet.com).



24" Wreath w/mixed greens, cones, & red velvet bow

## Scents of Christmas

*A Museum Fund-raiser*

The museum is selling evergreen decorations for the upcoming holiday season. These items are made at the Hacker's Tree Farm in Sleepy Eye and include the following:

Wreaths - 24" dia. - \$20

Designer Wreaths – 26" dia. - \$36

Garland made of Balsam Fir - 25 ft. roll - \$25

Mantle Piece - \$15

Balsam Fir Door Swag - \$15

Spruce tips (bundle of 10) - \$25

Spruce tips in 12" pot - \$30

Candy Cane - \$25

12" unbreakable ornament w/fresh greens - \$30

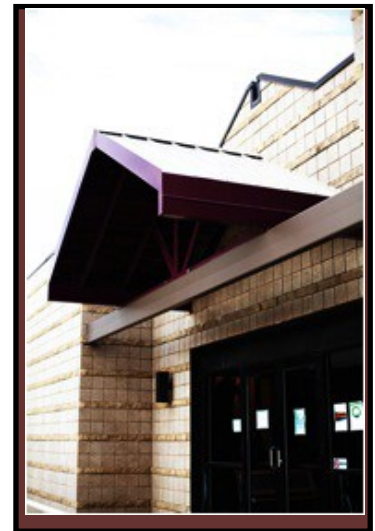
Other items are available upon request. You may place an order thru Monday, November 3 with payment due when you order. Items may be picked up Monday thru Wednesday after Thanksgiving at the museum. If you have any questions or would like to place an order, call us at 831-1134. The proceeds will go toward the museum landscaping projects.

## 2015 Photo Show...

**Give it your best shot!**

We are looking for local photographers to participate in the upcoming photo show. Think buildings...think details...think Cottonwood County! Where can your camera take you? Here are a few suggestions:

- City buildings in Cottonwood County
- Buildings in the country
- Houses, barns, churches, schools, town halls
- Up-close details of the above



### The Details...

Pick up a registration form at the museum. We ask for two 8" x 10" images of the same photo. One will be in the photo show and one will become part of the photograph collection at the museum. Maximum of one entry per photographer may be brought to the museum until January 10, 2015. No matting, framing or mounting of the photo! The goal of the show is to promote Cottonwood County and our local photographers.



## Wally Rohlfson Gift

The Cottonwood County Historical Society would like to gratefully acknowledge Wally Rohlfson for bequeathing a monetary donation to the museum upon his passing on July 21, 2014.

Wally was a regular at the museum attending the Windom Service Club meetings (formerly the Golden Kiwanis) every Monday morning regardless of snow, sleet, or prairie winds! He will be greatly missed.



## In the Remick Gallery

### "Rural Images"

*Linoleum Block Prints by Nan Karr Kaufenberg*

**September 14- November 22, 2014**

The current exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled *Rural Images* by Nan Karr Kaufenberg continues through November 22. These delightful images recall a bygone era from aprons hanging on a clothes line to the old garden gate. The exhibit showcases 25 works of art which are for sale.

If you are planning a visit to the gallery, our hours are Monday – Fridays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## From the Civil War to Early Post Office Research: A New Find

While searching for information on Civil War veteran Paul Seeger on Ancestry.com, a document appeared showing Seeger as the first postmaster of Mountain Lake. A click on “view original” and there appeared a listing of all the post offices in Cottonwood County from 1871-1881. Included in the list were names of postmasters, when they were appointed and when their job ended. Two of the rural post offices caught my attention.

In our research library at the museum we have a copy of John T. Smith’s application for the Big Bend Post Office. It was the first in the county and the application was dated 22 Aug 1870. Smith had established a General Store on the site of the post office which was in Section 6 of Great Bend Township. When the railroad decided to go through Windom and not around the big bend of the Des Moines River, Smith moved his operation to Heron Lake.

The Big Bend Post Office moved northeast across the river into Dale Township. The lack of bridges may have had something to do with its new location. In the book Cottonwood County History, 1870-1970, Hosea Eastgate is mentioned as the first postmaster beginning 4 Nov 1870. His farm was about a mile south of the present day Sun Valley Gun Club. The new document states Jeremiah Allen was postmaster from 11 Dec 1871 – 12 Oct 1874 and that Eastgate served once again after Allen. Allen’s homestead was in Section 30 of Dale Township across the road from the county landfill.

The biggest surprise in the list of Post Office sites was one named Cassel. We have no record of the Post Office in the county histories or was it mentioned in the newspaper. It operated in Section 30 of Germantown Township between 9 May 1878 and 3 Feb 1879 with Henry Graling as the postmaster. Henry was an educated German immigrant who first settled in the state of New York. He came to Germantown Township after the Civil War and became a progressive farmer. He milked 40 cows and developed a cheese factory that made 100 lbs. of cheese a day. He also started a German school which met evenings and had 20 students. Unfortunately, the family met with tragedy. In 1881, seven Graling children died of diphtheria. Three children survived whose descendants include a former Cottonwood County Attorney and a Green Bay Packer linebacker. Henry Graling died in 1912 and is buried in Lamberton.



# E-MAIL, NEWSLETTER, & 4th LOGO



To sign up to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [cchs@windomnet.com](mailto:cchs@windomnet.com). Receiving your newsletter via e-mail will save the Society the cost of paper, toner, postage along with volunteer and staff time. In addition, it may save a tree or two! If you find you do not like getting the newsletter via e-mail, just drop us a note and we will put you back on our mailing list. In addition, we are searching for an updated look for our newsletter. This is the

last of four new designs for the year. We would like to hear your comments. Which design is your favorite and why? Is it easier to read, more professional or just looks the best? In addition, Jessica Bak has created four different new logos for CCHS. The image above is her fourth logo. Any input or feedback will be appreciated. Then vote for the best logo at the end of the year!

## General Fund Donations

### Donations made between August 1 – October 6, 2014:

Wig & Wanda Turner in memory of Mary Simon; Wig & Wanda Turner in memory of Lois Overaas; Loy Storey in memory of Viola Menken; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Wallace Buhler; Duane & Barbara Pingeon in memory of Wallace Buhler; Grant & Dorothy Johnson in memory of Wally Rohlfen; Lula Leverenz; Lucille Nelson; Ray & Sharon Diemer in memory of Wallace Buhler; William & Ruth Steinfeldt; Omar & Rita Amundson; Arlene Burbank; Silliman Trust; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Richard Sykora; Cleo Jensen Olson in memory of Richard Sykora; Ray & Sharon Diemer in memory of Maynard Johnson; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Gail Schaffer; Robert & Fay Turner in memory of Maynard Johnson

### Landscaping Project:

Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Wally Rohlfen; David & Donna Sippel

### Special Gifts to the Museum:

Paper Towel Holder for Kitchen by Sandy Peterson

### CCHS Welcomes New Members:

*Richard & Dorothy Raverty*

### CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

*Carolyn Wheeler; Judy Kielty; Herman & Lylas Eigenberg; Zola Wood; Diane Potter; LaVern & Carol Christianson; Aaron Backman; Sharon Evers; Don & Jean Hoppe; Roxanne Potter; Don & Lee Ross*



# CCHS

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cchs@windomnet.com

## Address Service Requested

Check us out on **FACEBOOK**

[www.facebook.com/cottonwoodcountyhs](http://www.facebook.com/cottonwoodcountyhs)



Non-Profit Organization

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Windom, MN

Permit No. 6

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Jessica Bak:	Social Media Specialist

# HAPPY HARVEST!

## At the Museum -2014

- “Rural Images”  
Linoleum Block Prints by Nan Karr  
Kaufenberg  
Sept. 14-November 22
- Scents of Christmas: Hacker’s Greenery  
Orders due November 3
- CCHS Annual Meeting  
November 2 at 2:00 p.m.
- Festival of Trees  
December 1-23

Check out our website: [www.cchsmn1901.org](http://www.cchsmn1901.org)