



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

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

SPRING 2021

Coming Soon in the Remick Gallery

“Traditional Blacksmithing: Art in Everyday Objects”

Artist: Tom Sanders



Tom Sanders & Kyle Marks
Tom posing as a 19th century blacksmith at
Conner Prairie

The next exhibit coming to the Remick Gallery is entitled *Traditional Blacksmithing: Art in Everyday Objects*. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 2 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. with an artist talk at 3:00 p.m. The exhibit features over 25 works of art by Windom artist, Tom Sanders. Born and raised in Kokomo, Indiana, Tom began his museum career as lead blacksmith at Conner Prairie, an outdoor living history museum outside of Indianapolis. His main focus was reproducing artifacts to be used for programming in an 1836 Village. In 1988, he

became the lead blacksmith at Historic Fort Snelling. While working there, he completed his Master's Degree at the University of Minnesota in Interdisciplinary Archaeology. His thesis was entitled “Georgian Axes: A Study of Innovation”. Life took a different turn as he became the Site Manager of the Jeffers Petroglyphs in 1998. Since his retirement in 2016, his enthusiasm for blacksmithing has returned. In the exhibit, you will see hand forged tools, household items and decorative scroll work. This exhibit is the summer show and runs through August 28.

Cottonwood County Newspapers On-Line

The museum continues with the task of digitizing issues of the Cottonwood County newspapers to be available on-line through the Minnesota Historical Society website. The project began in 2017 when a donor provided funds for the project. This donor has continued her giving over the years and a few others have joined in this quest as well. To date we have on-line the earliest Cottonwood County newspaper, the *Windom Reporter* from 1871-1918.

By the end of 2021, the next seven years through 1925 will be available as well. If you love to read old newspapers, here is your chance to check out what it was like 100 years ago in Cottonwood County.

In the Remick Gallery

Winners Announced from Give It Your Best Shot

The Cottonwood County Historical Society congratulates the top three individuals whose photographs were chosen by the public in the last show entitled "Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Signs." The first place winner was Carmen Elston with her photograph entitled "Brambles & Briars" of an overgrown path and a sign 'Sleepy Hollow'. Second place honors go to Ashley Soleta for her photograph "Life's Path" of a sign warning of several curves up ahead. The third place is awarded to Rodney Nickel with his photograph title "Yellow-headed Blackbird Proficient in Sign Language" of a yellow headed blackbird who had stopped on top of a sign which reads "Stop Ahead". Congratulations! Thank you to the 20 photographers who submitted images and to those who stopped by the museum and voted for their favorite! The photographs from this show will be featured in a book coming out this summer. **Stay tuned....**



First Place : Carmen Elston



Second Place: Ashley Soleta



Third Place: Rodney Nickel

Cottonwood County Student Art Show – thru April 23



1st Place

"Floral" by Alexis Weber,
Red Rock Central High School

Once again the Cottonwood County art teachers have brought to the museum the best of their senior high art students work. It is an amazing show with close to sixty pieces in various mediums including pencil drawing, photography, stained glass, acrylic painting and mixed media. The Remick Committee, which is made up of local artists, picked the "Best of Show", "First Place" and 7 Honorable Mentions prior to the opening of the show. Stop by and vote for your favorite! The artist who has the most votes will win the "People's Choice Award". The top two winners receive Hobby Lobby gift cards while the Honorable Mention winners are given sketchbooks and colored pencils in the hope of encouraging their artistic spirit.

Highwater Creamery of Cottonwood County

A Brief History by Lowell Tjentland



Highwater Creamery Photograph from the CCHS Collection

This winter an old ledger from the Highwater Township Creamery dated 1896-1899 was donated to the museum by Lowell Osland of Storden Township. Lowell's grandfather, Ole Osland, was a member of this cooperative venture and also kept the books. He recorded the names of all the farmers along with the amount of cream sold and the proceeds of the sale. The amount of butter taken home was noted and it was not unusual for a family to use ten pounds of butter a week.

Within a year the creamery had over 50 farmers who were customers and most lived within 3 or 4 miles of the creamery. Names included Iverson, Bang, Johnson, Halvorsen, Quade, to name a few. Butterfat was purchased for 12 to 18 cents a pound

and butter was sold for 12 to 20 cents a pound. The butter that wasn't used locally was shipped to the Twin Cities from Lamberton.

The Highwater Creamery was located on the Northwest corner of Section 34 in Highwater Township. It replaced one that had operated a few years earlier to the west on the border of Ann Township. The Hoyt Store, Post Office and blacksmith shop were also near the Highwater Creamery. The first manager of the creamery was A.T. Lunde with Hans Nelson as the buttermaker for many years. The last one to run the churn was Holger Ries. We found no official record of when the creamery closed but in the 1950's Ole Monson wrote that he believed the creamery closed in 1915. By that time, a larger creamery had been built in Lamberton and also in the towns of Storden and Jeffers to the south. All these towns had rail connections for easy shipping for their butter.



1896 Highwater Township Plat Map with Creamery located in Section 34

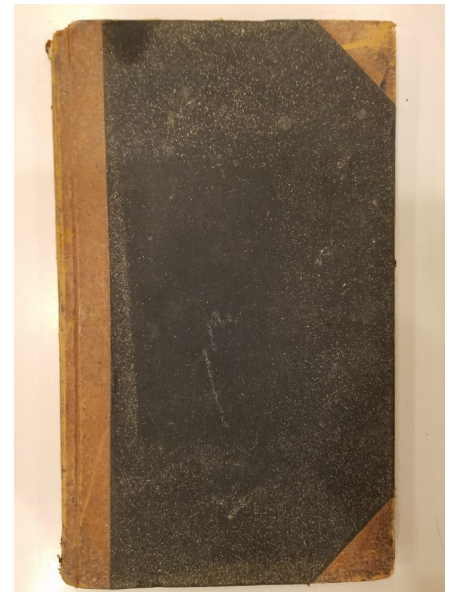
The Highwater Creamery was only one of several in Cottonwood County at the end of the 19th Century. There were creameries in Mountain Lake, Bingham Lake and Windom, which were the only towns in the county at that time. Creameries further north were at Amo, Copenhagen and Rosehill. There was also a skimming station in Delton Township which was owned by the Hakes Creamery of Bingham Lake. There was also a creamery on the northern border of Selma Township at Comfrey.

1901	3110	do	10	0.00	Feb 27	check	0.00	
Feb				10.00			10.00	
<hr/>								
1901	A. Ristgaard							
Feb	5	37.75	do	10	5.10	Mar 27	By check	4.10
March	1	17.50	do	10	2.70	Apr 25	check	7.20
				6.10				6.10
<hr/>								
1902	Spencer Swenson							
July	5	95.15	do	10	13.32	Aug 2	By check	13.32
Aug	1	32.75	do	10	4.91	Sept 1	check	3.40
				10.00		July	6 th butter a/c	0.96
1902				17.23				17.23
<hr/>								
May	1	70.00	do	10	2.70	June 3	By check	3.40
June	1	157.40	do	10	17.15	July	check	17.15
July	1	105.10	do	10	15.20	Aug	check	15.20
<hr/>								

Page from the Creamery Ledger

In 1883, the Kendall farm in Springfield Township had its own creamery and also bought cream from area farmers. At that time butter was worth 25 cents a pound. Kendall produced 400 pounds of butter every day and shipped it as far as Philadelphia in refrigerated train cars. There were also cheese factories in the county at this time. Henry Grahling of Germantown sold 6000 pounds of cheese from 40 cows in 1877. Frank Tripp had a cheese factory in Storden Township in the 1890's which burned and was never rebuilt.

Earlier in the 1880's some farmers made their own butter and shipped it to St. Paul or traded it for groceries at the local stores.



Creamery Ledger donated by Lowell Osland

Spring Cleaning?

Are you wondering what to do with that family heirloom that came from your grandmother? It seems a shame to throw it away. What do you do with it? You might consider donating it to the Historical Society.

The following items are always welcomed to add to our collection:

- ◆ Pictures of people, events, businesses, interiors, landscapes, and buildings.
- ◆ Household items used daily .
- ◆ Items such as the Highwater Creamery ledger that tell us about a period of our county history.

How do you decide to donate?

- ◆ Choose only items that are from someone who lived in Cottonwood County.
- ◆ Items that are in good condition.

How do you donate?

- ◆ Contact CCHS at 831-1134 M-F between 8 am – 4 pm to inquire about your gift.
- ◆ Arrange a time to bring your gift to CCHS.

We don't always accept everything that is brought to us because...

- ◆ We already have that item.
- ◆ Good condition is a key to accepting items into the collection.
- ◆ Not connected to the county.

How are your items used?

- ◆ In an exhibit or for research purposes.
- ◆ Stored for later use.

We strive to make the CCHS a place where we can all learn more about our county. Your items help us do that. Donations are much appreciated!

Tour Through County History

Due to the pandemic, the 3rd grade "Tour through County History" is cancelled once again this year. We contacted all the Third Grade teachers in March and most superintendents were not allowing field trips this year. We are saddened to have missed sharing Cottonwood County history with two years of 3rd graders. Hopefully next year we will be back on track!

Country School Book Research & Writing Continues

A big thank you to those of you who sent information regarding your country school memories. We are now searching for country school photographs of the following townships and district numbers:

- Ann Township – District #42
- Amboy Township – Districts #14 & #40
- Delton Township – Districts #31 & #46S
- Germantown Township – District #60
- Midway Township – Districts #15, #67, #70
- Selma Township – Districts #27 & #63
- Southbrook Township – District #19
- Springfield Township – Districts #17 & #17NW
- Storden Township – Districts #44 & #52
- Westbrook Township – District #57

If you have any of these and would be willing to have us use them in the book, please contact the museum.

MHS Grant

Nick Riordan was hired in March to research the next section in the Exhibit Hall "Lifestyles & Recreation". Nick graduated from Windom High School in 2012. He continued his education at Macalester College where he received his B.A. in Linguistics & Religious Studies followed by a Masters in Library & Information Science at Saint Catherine University. The first two topics he researched included the Cottonwood County Fair and the history of women's clubs in the county. In the coming weeks he plans to expand his focus to men's clubs. In his own words *"As a longtime Windom resident, it has been great to dig through the county's history and uncover the events and people that make this county unique."*

General Fund Donations:

Donations made from January 22, 2021 thru April 16, 2021

Doug & Joni Hanson in memory of Marie (Wray) Legg; Elite Mechanical Systems (Sponsored refreshments & matched donations for Christmas by Candlelight); Jerome & Carol Loomis; Richard & Wendy Meyer; Mary Ellen Stenzel in memory of Marie (Wray) Legg; Michael & Marjorie Eichner in memory of Don Rippie; Richard E. Olson; Earl & Judy Enstad; Kristen Juhlin; Dorothy Van Norman; Windom United Services Drive; Lula Leverenz Family in memory of Lula; Grant & Dorothy Johnson in memory of Jan Wassenaar; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Roger Nerhus; Pam Nerhus in memory of Roger Nerhus; Paul & Gerry Maras in memory of Jan Wassenaar

Donations in Memory of Ron Sampson:

Marilyn Wahl; LaVern & Carol Christianson; Duane & Lynette Tracy; Lee & Sandy Peterson; Ruth Steinfeldt; Gary & Gail Cheever; Grant & Dorothy Johnson; James & Mary Meyer; Marshall & Michelle Deters; Jan Sampson & Family; Duane & Barb Pingeon; Joe & Barb LaCanne

Donations in Memory of Howard Davis:

Richard & Wendy Meyer; Marilyn Wahl; Tom & Karen Wickie; Lee & Sandy Peterson; Anthony Ling; Joe & Barb LaCanne; ROMEO mens group; Duane & Barb Pingeon; Larry & Becky Stevens; Grant & Dorothy Johnson

CCHS Membership

CCHS Welcomes New Members:

Carol Lehman (Sponsor); Jerome & Carol Loomis (Family); Vicky Tucci (Sponsor)

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Windom Convention & Visitors Bureau; Loring & Marjorie Paschke; Earl & Judy Enstad; Ted & Diane Johnson; Joan Kaye; Adam & Lisa Brownell; Eileen Cushing; Shawn & Jessica Colbert

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

David Hendricks; Richard C. Olson; Joanne Kaiser; Peggy Eichner

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:

Lance Ludvigson



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2021 Exhibits in the Remick Gallery:

“Cottonwood County Student Art Show”
March 28 – April 24

**“Traditional Blacksmithing:
Art in Everyday Objects”**

by Thomas Sanders
May 2 – August 28

**“Stitched by Hand:
Cottonwood County Quilts”**
September 17 – November 20

“Festival of Trees”
December 1-23

