



# COTTONWOOD

## County Historical Society

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

Winter 2021

### In the Remick Gallery:

**Give It Your Best Shot:**

**Focus on Cottonwood County Signs**

**2021 Photo Show**

**February 7– March 20, 2021**

The upcoming exhibit in the Remick Gallery features photographs of Cottonwood County taken by local photographers. The theme this year is “signs” such as transportation signs, signage on buildings, signs in windows, etc. Great shots from throughout the county! Stop by and vote for your favorite photograph! The exhibit opening will be on February 7, 2021, from 2—4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!



**2020 Photo Book**

**Now Available**

**Give It Your Best Shot**

Focus on Cottonwood County's Agriculture  
Cottonwood County Historical Society



The 2020 photo show book “Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County’s Agriculture” was printed before the holidays and is now available. The book features 29 stunning photos relating to the theme of agriculture. The hard cover book is \$35 and the soft cover is \$25. Stop by and pick up your copy today!

## Minnesota Historical Society Grant Received

The Cottonwood County Historical Society has received a grant of \$9,900 to research a new exhibit in the Exhibit Hall. This project will cover what residents of Cottonwood County did in the past for fun and what they do today. Among other topics, the research will concentrate on town festivals, county fairs, town sports, clubs and organizations, county parks, and resorts. Under the general umbrella of leisure activities, we will include fishing, hunting, golfing, birdwatching, photography, music, as well as more recent phenomena such as video games and social media. The grant will be used to hire a researcher who will look through existing historical collections and conduct interviews with members of the community. The research grant, which will be completed in 2021, will serve as a foundation for developing an exhibit entitled “Lifestyles and Recreation” through a future grant. We look forward to getting to work!

*This project was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Heritage Fund.*

## New Upgrades in Exhibit Hall

This past year saw the installation of graphics in “The Three R’s of Country School: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic” and “Electrifying the Country” exhibits in the Exhibit Hall. These updated graphics help tell the Cottonwood County story. Stop by and check out the additions!



The museum exhibits are once again open as of January 11. Please continue to make an appointment if you would like to see the museum on Saturday or to do research in our Research Library.



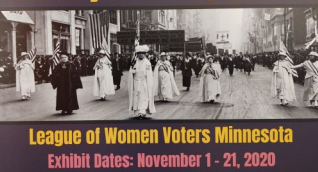
## Country School Book In the Works!

For the last year, CCHS, like many places, has been challenged by the pandemic. You may wonder what has been happening behind the closed doors. One answer is that a new book on country schools in Cottonwood County is emerging. Deb Haar, a volunteer from Westbrook, and Janelle Kaye, a staff member at CCHS, have been researching and writing a book detailing the growth of rural education in each of the townships from the 1870s to 1966 when the last rural school was consolidated into a town school. They hope that the book will be ready for publishing and release to the public later this year. If you have a country school memory that you would like to share, please send your remembrance to the museum via e-mail or snail mail by February 26.

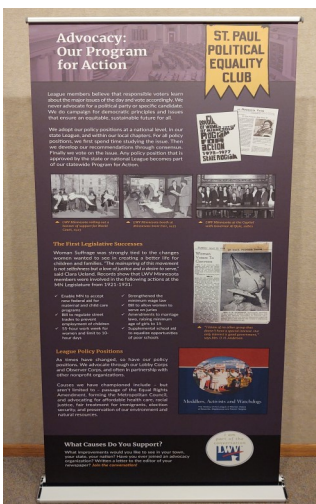


## Recap: League of Women Voter's Exhibit on Women's Suffrage in Minnesota

### A Century of Civic Engagement:



This three week traveling exhibit in the Remick Gallery told the story of the women in Minnesota who fought for women's right to vote in 1920. Here are a few photographs of the well done graphic panels that were on display this past November.



## New Ornament

## Available In the Gift Shop

Limited Edition Ornament  
Seventh in a Series  
Cottonwood County 150

Back reads:

Created on July 27, 1870, Cottonwood County was named after the Cottonwood River which touches the north-east corner of Germantown Township. The river was named this because of the abundance of cottonwood trees on its banks. Minnesota's 6th governor, Horace Austin, appointed three county commissioners with the first general election held in the fall of 1870. By 1871, the railroad was built through the county, and Windom was voted the county seat in 1872.

Cost: \$15



## Meet Your New Board Members



daughters and three grandchildren. After many years on their farm south of Storden, they now live in Mountain Lake.

**Wendy Meyer** is our new Board President. Wendy has helped with several projects at the Society through the years and served on the board many years ago. She retired in 2018 and now regularly volunteers at the museum. She and her husband Rich have two

**Carol Lehman**, who is from Mountain Lake, represents the 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioner District. She recently retired as Director from the Mountain Lake Public Library. She comes to us with much enthusiasm about local history and will be a great addition to the board.

### Museum Remembers Three Dedicated Volunteers

The museum lost three retired volunteers this year. **Lucille Lewis Nelson** was involved at the museum in many roles over the years. Most recently, she clipped articles from the old newspapers for our research and family files. She was very diligent, doing the job at the end with a magnifier. She loved Cottonwood County history and enjoyed sharing it with the community.

**Lula Leverenz** was a longtime member and volunteer at the museum. For over 20 years she hunted for obituaries in the local newspapers jotting down the pertinent information for the obituary file. At coffee time, she enjoyed sharing stories of growing up, her courtship to Orville and her life as a busy farm wife and mother.

**Marilyn Flatgard** enjoyed designing flyers and volunteering for our special events here at the museum. Whether it was the annual fall fundraiser or the bake sale, she was here to help. She also assisted with data entry of the collection inventory.

Lucille, Lula, and Marilyn will be missed.

### CCHS Membership

#### CCHS Thanks Members Upgraded to Lifetime:

Janelle Kaye; Lois Hansen

#### CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Les Knutson; Melvin Wojahn; David & Carolyn Van Loh; Lorin & Becky Epp; Joyce Nielsen; Joan Giese; Marilyn Nickel; Mary Kellen; Mary Christenson; Margaret McDonald; Ruth Steinfeldt; Denise Wolff; Dean R. Larsen; Marlene Smith; Michael & Marjorie Eichner; James & Sarah Wronski; Signe Pederson; Lee & Sandy Peterson; Murl & Mary Rupp; Allen County Public Library

#### CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

Cheryl Hanson; Geof & Leann Johnson

#### CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:

Donna Gravley



# General Fund Donations:

Donations made from October 23, 2020 thru January 21, 2021

Karen Kremmin in memory of Gloria Risgard Anderson; Joseph & Barbara LaCanne in memory of Scott Fredin; Michael & Marjorie Eichner in memory of Richard Hunter; Bruce Pankonin, Eileen Johnson & Kathie Stevens in memory of their father, George Pankonin; Larry & Melody Goeman in memory of Dick Jeffrey; Larry & Melody Goeman in memory of Curt Carter; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Lula Leverenz; Ann Miller Holman in memory of her mother, Phyllis Miller; Mary Benson in memory of Phyllis Miller; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Jack Kelly, Verlyn Ray, James Redding, Phyllis Miller, Arlene Bartosh, Edith Morphew, Marilyn Flatgard, Patricia Grant, Carol Hanson, Lorraine Anderson, Charles Elston and Dick Jeffrey; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in honor of Jim & Coralee Krueger's 60th wedding anniversary, Greg & Denise Winters and Brad & Kim Power's 40th (double wedding) anniversaries; Bruce Gross; Jan Wassenaar; David & Marilee Strom in memory of Lula Leverenz; Jack & Roxanne Potter in memory of Jason Harnack; Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Allen Webster; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Lula Leverenz & Ron Sampson



## Year-End Donations:

Joan Iverson; Eileen Cushing; Phil & Mary Anderson; James Miller & Mary Olson; Geof & Leann Johnson; LaVern & Carol Christianson; Jerry & Deanne Thompson; Eileen Johnson; Carol Kissner & Claude Buettner; Julie Gudmestad; Amy Gudmestad; Ernest Woizeschke; David & Donna Sippel; Richard & Norma Loewen; Ronald & Diane Kuecker in honor of their son, Lt. Colonel Dan Kuecker upon completion of 20 years in the U.S. Army JAG Corps.; James Dibble; James & Coralee Krueger; Jerry Moon; Ron & Margo Torkelson; Char & Doug Woizeschke; Phyllis Kuehl; Wiggins & Wanda Turner; Richard C. Olson; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson; David Hendricks; Kathryn Tewes; Carolyn Bondhus; Mary Lou Walinga; Virginia Galle; David & Phyllis Werness; David & Marilee Strom; Laura Williams; Jack Elness; Tyrone & Deidra Steen; Maria Fitzgerald in memory of her husband, Pat Fitzgerald; Roger & Pat Christensen in memory of Arthur & Norma Christensen, Arlan Christensen, Curtis Christensen, and Philip & Karen Christensen; Leland & Sigrid Johnson; Bruce & Elizabeth Pankonin; Dawn Bondhus Mueller; Steven & Karen Hartberg; James & Sarah Wronski



## Year-End Donations Designated towards Telephone System & Security System:

Pam Gahler; Ernest & Judith Dellinger; Marilyn Wahl; Anthony & Heather Smith; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in honor of CCHS's Sesquicentennial



# Cottonwood County Historical Society

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## STAFF:

LINDA FRANSEN:	DIRECTOR
SANDY PETERSON:	MUSEUM ASSISTANT
ANNA HOCHSTEIN:	HOUSEKEEPER
JANELLE KAYE:	RESEARCHER/GRANT WRITER
JESSICA BAK:	SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

## 2021 Exhibits in the Remick Gallery:

**"Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood  
County Signs"**

**February 7 – March 20**

**"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**