

# COTTONWOOD

## COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Spring 2016

### New Display in the Exhibit Hall

A new case in our Exhibit Hall showcases a wonderful array of hats from our permanent collection. Both men's and women's hats are featured with historical snippets about the style of each hat. Hat boxes are also shown as they advertised local places to purchase hats. Stop by and learn about

#### ***“Oh My...Hats, Hats and More Hats”***

*Thank you to the Windom Hospital Auxiliary for making this case available to the museum and to Howard Davis and Dave Vaupel for supervising the move from the hospital to the museum.*



### IN THE REMICK GALLERY



### FACETS OF INNER STRENGTH

The exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled *Facets of Inner Strength* opened Sunday, May 1. The exhibit features art work by Jolene Wirkus, a licensed psychologist who received her doctorate from the University of Minnesota as well as a minor in art. She states “Art has been a part of my life since I was old enough to hold a pencil or a crayon.” Her work consists of mixed media, acrylics, acrylic mediums and collage. In her artist statement she concludes:

***“Art is how I can show my inner voice when I fail to have words to express how I feel.”*** - Jolene Wirkus

**This exhibit is the summer show and runs through September 3, 2016.**

## Winners of the “Give it your best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Cemeteries”



Top Left:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
*“Lonely Boy”*  
Karla  
Ambrose

Right:  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**  
*“Beyond the  
Sunset”*  
Sandy  
Peterson

Bottom Left:  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**  
*“Forgotten  
Veteran”*  
Paul Buhler

Our theme this year of the **2016 Photo Show** was Cottonwood County Cemeteries, of which 20 photographers submitted images. Visitors to the exhibit were asked to vote for their favorite photograph for the duration of the show. The first place winner was Karla Ambrose with her photograph entitled “Lonely Boy”, a blustery winter shot of a gravestone in Dale Township. The second place honor went to Sandy Peterson with “Beyond the Sunset” which featured the Amo Township Cemetery taken on a snowy day at sunset. The third most popular photograph was by Paul Buhler with his image “Forgotten Veteran” taken in Lakeview Cemetery in Windom of a gravestone covered in lichen. The photographers were asked to provide two images – one for the show and one to be entered into the museum permanent photograph collection. Thank you to the 20 photographers who participated this year and showcased the cemeteries of Cottonwood County. A book containing the photographs of this show will be available by Riverfest.

## Tour Through County History

The 3rd grade annual visit to the Cottonwood County Historical Society, Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center take place on May 4th and 5th. Students from throughout the county visit the museum to see the Archaeologist, the Pioneer Lady, the Aristocratic Lady, the Rural School Teacher, the Fireman and the Fur Trapper. They then view the Cottonwood County Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center. Thank you to our volunteers for making this a great experience for the 3rd grade students.



# Cottonwood County Student Art Show Winners Announced:



**"Open Your Eyes"**  
Best of Show and People's Choice  
Abby Moller  
Pencil Drawing  
Mountain Lake Christian School

**Untitled**  
First Place  
Kennedy Her  
Colored Marker  
Westbrook Walnut Grove High School

The Cottonwood County Historical Society is pleased to announce the winners of the **Cottonwood County Student Art Show** which closed April 23, 2016. The "Best of Show" and "People's Choice Award" this year was awarded to Abby Moller of the Mountain Lake Christian School with her pencil drawing entitled *Open Your Eyes*. The "First Place" award went to Kennedy Her from Westbrook Walnut Grove High School with her untitled piece made of colored markers.

Those receiving honorable mention include Brandon Van Meveren, Anya Mattison and Conner Bottger of Red Rock Central High School and Jae-Yung Carlson, Brigitte Beall, Alexandra Brinkman of Windom Area High School. The exhibit featured art work of senior high students from throughout Cottonwood County. More than 60 works of art were displayed this year! Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to the teachers and students who participated.

## Riverfest Bake Sale Fund-raiser

**At the museum**

**Saturday, June 11**  
**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The Cottonwood County Historical Society will be having a Bake Sale Fund-raiser on Saturday, June 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during Riverfest.

The bake sale will feature an assortment of breads, pies, muffins, cookies and bars. Mark your calendars today! This event is sponsored by the museum volunteers with proceeds dedicated to upcoming projects at the museum.

## Other Riverfest Activities:

At the museum, enjoy Scandinavian delicacies made by members of the Sons of Norway located in the Meeting Room. In the Exhibit Hall, Interpreters share historical information about their life with visitors who walk through to see the exhibits.



## **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Talk & Tea: "The Charm of the Full Bib Apron"**  
**with Yvonne Cory**

**When:** Saturday, July 30, 2016

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10

*"The joys and tears in the aprons will never die, if memories are tied in the apron strings."*

## News Flash!! Competitive Legacy Grant Received!

The Cottonwood County Historical Society received a 2016 Legacy Competitive Grant for \$8000 from the Minnesota Humanities Center; this grant is through the Minnesota State Legacy Amendment Fund and is designed to support the Humanities Center's work with education and veterans. There were twenty-three applicants throughout the state, and CCHS is one of six applicants to receive a grant.

The grant project, "Living Legends," focuses on collecting the experiences of living war veterans and compiling that information into a book that will be distributed to the veterans involved. CCHS will be working with the American Legion Post #206 and with 11th grade Windom Area High School students and their English and Social Studies teachers, Lisa Letcher and Sheryl Hanefeld. Much of the planning for the project will be done this summer, and the interviewing, writing, publishing, and promotion of the book will be done in the fall.

Janelle Kaye, who conceived the idea for the project and wrote the grant, will be working with students and the American Legion throughout the project until its culmination in December 2016.

If you are a veteran and have some personal military stories or art work that you would like to share, we would appreciate hearing from you. If you would like more information, or if you would like to volunteer your help, contact Janelle through CCHS.

## MNopedia!

If you are online, you have probably heard of and used Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia. Now, there is also MNopedia, a curated digital encyclopedia of Minnesota history sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. Each article is written by an expert on the subject, is carefully edited and fact-checked for accuracy, and cannot be altered by the public. The goal is to make the website a statewide, comprehensive, authoritative resource for use by teachers, students, and researchers. Teachers look for local history topics to share with students to help spark their interest in learning more, and entries from county and local historical societies are especially valuable for that reason.

CCHS is looking for writers and history buffs to submit ideas and short articles for MNopedia about Cottonwood County. (We need stories about influential people, places, artifacts, buildings, events, eras, and more.) If you would like more information, contact Janelle Kaye through CCHS.

If you would like to check out MNopedia, go to <http://www.mnopedia.org/>.

## Volunteer Appreciation Month

**"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."**



## General Fund Donations: Donations made between January 28, 2016 – April 8, 2016

Grant & Dorothy Johnson in memory of Lois Molitor; Gary & Jody Vanderwerf in memory of Lois Molitor; Sharon Diemer in memory of Ray Diemer; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Lois Molitor; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of JoAnn Wisdorf; Joanne T. Meyer; James & Karen Dibble in memory of Eleanor Quincey; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Wendell Morfitt; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Doris Determan; Grant & Dorothy Johnson in memory of Wendell Morfitt; Wig & Wanda Turner in memory of Sharon Olson; Richard Jeffrey; Grant & Dorothy Johnson in memory of Nancy Steinke; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Sarah Regehr

### **Donation Designated for Lighting Project in Meeting Room:**

Judith Dellinger in memory of Shirley Flaskegaard

### **Thrivent Financial members who directed Choice Dollars to the Museum:**

Nancy Eike, Steven Grunewald, Duane & Barbara Pingeon

### **CCHS Welcomes New Annual Members:**

Jeffrey W. Langer; Avis Fett; Andrew Olson

### **CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:**

Allen County Public Library; Joanne Kaiser; Eileen Cushing; Joan Kaye

### **CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:**

David Hendricks; Richard C. Olson; Peggy Eichner

## Project Update: *Lighting*

This winter the Meeting Room was updated with new ceiling tile and LED lighting. In addition track lighting was added to showcase art work from the permanent collection. Fund-raisers over the past two years, private donations and support from the Cottonwood County Commissioners helped raise the necessary \$15,000 needed for the project. The adjacent storage room was also updated with new ceiling tile and florescent lighting.

We are still researching to determine the best options for new lighting in the Research Library. We will also replace the ceiling tile to match the front entry and meeting room. We will begin this year to fund-raise for this project. Please keep the museum in mind for the much needed donations.



# CCHS

COTTONWOOD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## STAFF

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JESSICA BAK:	SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

## WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

Are you wondering how you might volunteer some of your time? We have the answer to that! CCHS has a need for writers and proofreaders/editors. We are compiling a lot of information about veterans and other historical data for access online and would appreciate more volunteers to help us accomplish our goal of publishing our information online in the fall of 2016. Much of the work can be done on your computer at home. If you would like more information, contact Janelle Kaye through CCHS.

If you are a veteran, or know a veteran who has lived in Cottonwood County, who has not yet filled out a form regarding his or her military history, please do so by contacting CCHS and submitting your information soon. CCHS will be making this information public in their online database by the end of this year and would appreciate your submissions.

Don't forget to support CCHS by ordering from <http://smile.amazon.com/> We appreciate your help.