

COTTONWOOD

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

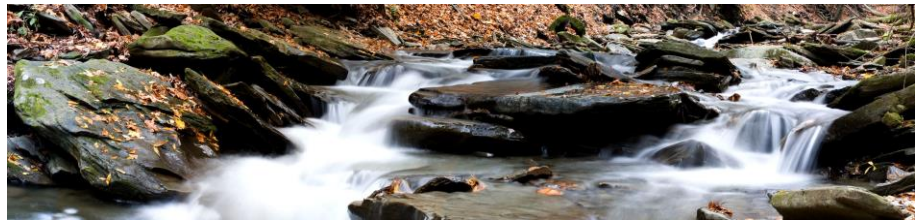
Spring 2017

New Display in the Exhibit Hall



The temporary case in our Exhibit Hall showcases a wonderful array of banking memorabilia from our permanent collection. We have items from over 10 banks located in Cottonwood County: First National of Windom, Farmers State Bank of Windom, Farmers State Bank of Mountain Lake, State Bank of Delft, First State Bank of Storden, Farmers State Bank of Jeffers, State Bank of Jeffers, First National Bank of Westbrook, Westbrook State Bank, Windom State Bank, Federal Land Bank, Southwest State Bank, Community First, First Bank of Windom, Bank Midwest, Bank of the West and United Prairie Bank. We have an assortment of artifacts including piggy banks, bank bags, counter checks, pens, calendars and more. Stop by and learn about “Cottonwood County Banks”.

IN THE REMICK GALLERY



HIDDEN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

The exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled *Hidden Nature* opens Saturday, May 6. The exhibit features over 50 photographs by Jessica Bak, a professional photographer and social media specialist here at the museum. She hails from Kentucky, but attended college in Rochester, New York, where she majored in photography and graphic design. She continued her studies focusing on business and art gallery management at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She says it best in her artist statement:

“So come take a journey with me through nature. My photographs portray the beauty that surround us but is often taken for granted. We simply forget to stop, look and say ‘breathtaking’.”

- Jessica Bak, 2017

This exhibit is the summer show and runs through September 2. 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.

Winners of the 2017 “Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Reflections”

Photographers submitted images for this year’s photo show, Cottonwood County Reflections. Visitors to the exhibit were asked to vote for their favorite photograph for the duration of the show. The first place winner was Sandy Peterson with her photograph entitled “Tipping the Scales”, a view of the Cottonwood County Courthouse as seen through water in a glass. The second place honor went to LeAnn Johnson with “Sunset on the Des Moines River” which featured a beautiful orange sunset with reflections of the river bank on the river. The third most popular photograph, by public vote, was by Tom Merchant with his image “Geese on the Des Moines” taken of a flock of geese standing on the frozen river. 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 Cottonwood County Reflections. A book containing the photographs of this show will be available by Riverfest.



Looking ahead to 2018...

Calling all Writers and Photographers in Cottonwood County! The winter show at Remick Gallery is entitled *Cottonwood County in Black and White*. We would like to encourage writers as well as black and white photographers to participate in this event starting on the 3rd Sunday in January 2018. If you are a photographer, your photograph needs to be taken in Cottonwood County. If you are a writer, submit your piece to Dir. Fransen at CCHS@windomnet.com by the first week in January. We welcome your stories, poems, or other creative ideas as long as they fit on one 8.5” by 11” page.

Tour Through County History

The 3rd grade annual visit to the Cottonwood County Historical Society, Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center is planned for May 10th and 11th. 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 Cottonwood County 3rd graders.

3rd Grade Tour Volunteers & Staff-2016



Cottonwood County Student Art Show in April

Since 2006, we have featured the ***Cottonwood County Student Art Show*** in April. Teachers from throughout the county bring in the best work from their senior high art students. Many different mediums are displayed including photography, acrylic painting, scratch art, stained glass, pencil drawing, sculpture and mixed media. Something for everyone! It is always exciting to see the talent of the local young people. The opening reception for the show is Sunday, April 2 from 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will run for 4 weeks from April 2 – 29, 2017.

The schools participating this year are Mountain Lake Public School, Mountain Lake Christian School, Red Rock Central Public School, Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center, Westbrook Walnut Grove Public School and Windom Area Public School. The Remick Committee judges this show picking the *Best of Show*, *First Place* and 6-8 *Honorable Mentions*. Visitors to the show can vote for a favorite in what we call the “*People’s Choice Award*”. The winning students are rewarded as the *The Best of Show* receives a \$50 Hobby Lobby gift card, *First Place* receives a \$25 Hobby Lobby gift card and the *People’s Choice Award* along with *Honorable Mention* winners receive art supplies. This promises to be a fun show so mark your calendar!



Staff Changes at the Museum

We say goodbye to Paul Deason, a Saturday worker who served as our maintenance man. He also reorganized the newspaper collection during his time here. Paul resigned in December to pursue travel adventures.

Janelle Kaye has been added to our Saturday staff as a grant writer and to help with family research. CCHS would like to collaborate with other organizations on creating projects that benefit the community and work within a historical or artistic context. If you have any ideas that might fit this mission, please come in and talk with Janelle. She would love to hear your ideas.



Riverfest Bake Sale Fund-raiser

At the museum

Saturday, June 10

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Cottonwood County Historical Society will be having our Bake Sale Fund-raiser on Saturday, June 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during Riverfest.

Our bake sale will have available 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.

Remembering World War I

A temporary exhibit is being planned for later this year to commemorate the beginning of the United States involvement in World War I in 1917. Cottonwood County lost 32 men and hundreds served. If you have any artifacts or personal information regarding this war, please contact Linda at the museum 507-831-1134 or e-mail her at cchs@windomnet.com. Thank you!

2017 Update on the CCHS Veteran's Project

For the past few years, volunteers at CCHS have been working hard to get a database ready for public viewing that includes all the veterans from the Civil War onward who have at some time lived in (or very near) Cottonwood County. This database is now available to the public for viewing in the exhibit hall of the museum and online. Check it out at <http://www.cchsmn1901.org/>. Click on research and then on military database. It is our hope to not only pay tribute to our county veterans, but also to increase the capacity of CCHS to make available its resources and information to those who are not able to physically access it.

Many of you have already contributed your family information and military stories to our database. Thank you! We would also like to encourage those of you who haven't, to please send us your military information. There are some forms available at the front desk at CCHS, or they could be sent to you via e-mail or hard copy. Let us know if you would like a form sent to you.

Amazing Facts: (The numbers listed below are approximate.)

There have been nearly 5,700 veterans from Cottonwood County since the Civil War.

- 300 veterans of the Civil War
- 30 veterans of the Spanish American War
- 900 veterans of WWI
- 1750 veterans of WWII
- 840 veterans of the Korean War
- 1400 veterans of the Vietnam War
- Many veterans who served in wars since Vietnam and in peace time.

We have already published over 2800 stories. Several volunteers have been working hard on this database for years. However, since we will always be accumulating new information, the project will never be complete! If you view the information for someone you know or for yourself, and find that information is missing or inaccurate, please let us know and we will make any corrections or additions. We also would like to have a military picture of each veteran if possible, to include with their story.

The stories that each veteran has to tell is worthy of documentation and tribute. Thank you for your contributions and support of this project!

The museum thanks Jim Vellema for sharing his woodworking expertise. He secured the two ipads with nicely made frames to the reading rail in the military exhibit. Stop in and check out this interactive display.

Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Jerald Jensen; Jack & Roxanne Potter in memory of Jerald Jensen; Wig & Wanda Turner in memory of Jerald Jensen; Carol Jensen in memory of Jerald Jensen; Ruth Steinfeldt in memory of Bill Steinfeldt; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Marilyn Stofferahn; Andrew & Nordis Olson; Gary & Jody Vanderwerf in memory of Gil Molitor; Margaret Horkey in memory of Gil Molitor; John & Patricia Collins in memory of Gil Molitor; Wig & Wanda Turner in memory of Francis Fett; Fett family in memory of Francis Fett; Phyllis Miller in memory of Opal Hayes, Phyllis Miller in memory of Gil Molitor

Designated for Office Lighting Project:

Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation

Year-End Donation:

Phyllis Miller

Thrivent Financial members who directed Choice Dollars to the Museum:

Duane & Barbara Pigeon

CCHS Welcomes New Business Sponsor Membership:

Windom Convention & Visitors Bureau

CCHS New Annual Family Membership:

Todd & Jody Johnson

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Murl Rupp; Eileen Cushing; Avis Fett; Joanne Kaiser

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

David Hendricks; Richard C. Olson; Peggy Eichner

Project Update: *Lighting for Research Room*

Office & Research Library Lighting Project.....Getting Closer

This past year raising \$10,000 for new lighting and ceiling tile in the Office & Research Library has been the primary fund-raising focus. Proceeds from the annual fund-raiser, the greenery sales and designated money from the annual appeal yielded \$3,400. In February, a grant was submitted to the Schmidt Foundation. They awarded \$5,000 to the project. We are grateful for their generosity. We are now on the home stretch so please keep the museum in mind for additional donations. Our goal is to have a nicely lighted space for staff, volunteers and visiting researchers to work. In addition, the LED lighting will be more efficient and will match the look of the front entry and the newly renovated Meeting Room.

CCHS

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VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

For some people
Volunteering is about giving
But for the likes of you
It is a way of living....

**Thank you, volunteers,
for making a difference!**



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