



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

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

Spring 2020

History in the Making!

So how will you remember 2020? For the museum, it will likely be remembered as the year of the pandemic. With most museum activities postponed or cancelled, it is difficult to plan for the future. For almost a month the staff and volunteers 'stayed home' as was directed by the State of Minnesota. In May, we resumed our regular work hours but remained closed to the public. We paid the bills, checked e-mails and answered research requests. We decided to work on large donations that require time and space to complete. This quiet time is also good for reflecting and planning for what the museum wants to accomplish next. The Board of Trustees decided to move forward with our projects for 2020 which include installing handicapped accessible doors, repairing the stone wall on the north side of the building and replacing the brown 'county museum' signs on Highway 60 & 71.

The covid-19 pandemic got me wondering about how the newspapers reported the Influenza outbreak of 1918. So to the newspapers I went, hunting for what our ancestors experienced. The reports are so similar to those we hear today. Headlines included "Uncle Sam's Advice on the Flu", "SPANISH INFLUENZA—WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT SHOULD BE TREATED", "A Public Menace", "Serum Received from Rochester", "Should the lid be raised for Thanksgiving Day?" and "Influenza Expected to Lurk for Months".

The Windom Board of Health on November 4, 1918, shut down the city for the "purpose of guarding the health of the community". As you can see in the announcement, all public gatherings were prohibited, no loafing or loitering, business owners were required to wear masks and schools were closed. This lasted about a month with the schools and churches opening their doors the first week in December. The influenza rarely made front page news, as we were in the midst of World War I and major fires in northern Minnesota for which donations were being collected. History is not only fascinating but puts life in perspective. This too will pass.

***"Grandma, Grandpa,
How did you spend
your time during the
pandemic?"***

Years from now, that question is sure to come up. CCHS wants to collect your stories. You may want to include what you did, how you felt, what you created, how your family fared, etc. Please send them to CCHS. Thank you!

ORDER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, VILLAGE WINDOM

The Board of Health of the Village of Windom, believing that it is necessary for the purpose of preventing the spreading of the epidemic of influenza now existing and for the purpose of guarding the health of the community, do therefore make the following order which shall become effective immediately and shall continue in force until the further order of the Board of Health:

First—All public gatherings, societies, lodges, clubs, church meetings, schools, public auctions, or any public gatherings or meetings in which a number of people usually congregate are hereby prohibited during the existence of the epidemic.

Second—All churches, halls, moving picture shows, and pool halls shall be closed; no crowds shall be permitted in any store or public office, and no one shall loaf or loiter therein; the public shall give their orders for goods by telephone when possible, or send written orders, if necessary, to make personal inspection; it shall be done by one member of the family as far as possible. No special sales shall be made or advertised during this epidemic. Delivery boys must not enter houses while delivering their parcels.

Third—All persons necessarily engaged in stores, offices or places of business, frequented by the public, shall wear masks such as now recommended by the Board of Health.

Fourth—That a portion of candy kitchens and ice cream parlors used for chairs and tables, shall be closed to the public.

Fifth—School children shall remain at home and shall not be allowed to be upon the public streets, except when on some necessary errand, and shall not be allowed to work in any public place while the schools are closed, but school boys may work on farms in the open air where no member of the family is afflicted with influenza, grip or colds, and the sleeping quarters are good.

Dated at Windom, Minnesota, this 4th day of November, 1918.

Board of Health of the Village of Windom.
By Joseph H. Dudley, Chmn.
Adelpha D. Nelson.
J. E. Foss.

Windom Reporter—Nov. 8, 1918

In the Remick Gallery:

Winners Announced from Give It Your Best Shot



Anita Perizzo, "Days Gone By"



Emily White, "Piper Barn"

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's Agriculture." The first place winner was Anita Perizzo with her photograph entitled "Days Gone By", of a farm place with building and a beautiful sunset. For the first time, we had a tie for second place.

The two photographs at second place by popular vote were "Piper Barn" by Emily White and "Luminous Light at Sunset" by Juane Elston. Congratulations! Thank you to the 29 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....

Remick Gallery Shows – An Update

Due to directives issued by the State of Minnesota, the Student Show was cancelled this year. We missed not seeing the art work of the students but wish them the best in their artistic endeavors. The knitting show "Knit Loud, Knit Often" by Jane Leverenz has been postponed with a tentative opening date of August 2, 2020. We hope to see you then!



Juane Elston, "Luminous Light at Sunset"

Exhibit Hall's Temporary Exhibit "The Days of Flax"

The temporary case in our Exhibit Hall showcases our county as the "Flax Capital of the World". Discussed in the display is the flax plant itself along with its various products, "Flax Days" held in the county from 1947-1956, and the Schweitzer Flax Plant under the leadership of Carl Schneider. We have an assortment of artifacts relating to Flax Days including buttons, programs and a dress donated by one of the Flax Queens, JoAnn Hanson of Bingham Lake. This will be our summer show, so stop by and check out the "The Days of Flax".

Tour Through County History

Due to the schools closing their doors in March and children learning from home, the 3rd grade tours were cancelled this year. All volunteers and interpreters were contacted. Everyone gets a year off. Hopefully with good behavior and social distancing, we will be back on track next year!



Women's Suffrage in Minnesota

By Janelle Kaye

Women in Minnesota, like women throughout the United States, advocated for the right to vote for decades before 1920 with letters, petitions, marches, rallies, appeals to the legislature, speeches, published pamphlets, and even jail time. They were dismissed, ridiculed, and often abused for their efforts. However, their cause was strong: they were not afforded the same rights as male white property owners and knew that the right to vote was their only hope of having equal rights at a national level. They persevered and organized and eventually won their fight. Their story is one of hope, courage, determination, organization, and perseverance.

In the 1870s, women across Minnesota organized local women's suffrage groups. As women shared their stories about the hardships they faced including having no money of their own, not being afforded an equal opportunity to learn or obtain a profession, or raising children on their own because of various life circumstances, they realized that their problems were shared by many. They decided to work together to solve their problems. Having a choice in elections would provide a voice for them to have their problems heard, understood, and create a possibility of a solution. Their efforts were rewarded in 1875 when the Minnesota Legislature recognized the right to vote in local school board elections.



Harriet Bishop

This first victory was small but mighty. With growing conviction about the power of voting and desire to have equal voting rights in all elections, women leaders in Minnesota organized a statewide agency, Minnesota Women's Suffrage Association in 1881 in Hastings. Among the founders were Harriet Bishop and Sarah Burger Stearns. Stearns became the first president of the organization, a group of fourteen women. By 1882, MWSA had two hundred members.



Sarah Burger Stearns



Martha Ripley

In 1885, Martha Ripley, the president of MWSA at the time, convinced the American Woman Suffrage Association to hold their annual convention in Minnesota. (This event brought Minnesota's suffrage efforts to national attention. The MWSA eventually became a chapter of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), which formed in 1890.

As early as 1893, the MWSA tried to pass an amendment guaranteeing women's suffrage but failed. For the next several years, the MWSA and its political ally, the Political Equality Club, placed women's suffrage before the state legislature every session with no success.



Continued.....



Clara Hampson Ueland

During the 1910s, the movement picked up momentum. In 1914 Clara Hampson Ueland organized a parade of over 2,000 woman suffrage supporters in Minneapolis, which brought renewed attention to the cause in Minnesota. Ueland became the MWSA president that same year. During this period, the MWSA contended with a rival organization, a Minnesota branch of the National Women's Party (NWP) which was a more radical organization that sometimes took direct action, such as hunger strikes. Even though they disagreed on tactics, the two organizations often worked together.

By 1919, thirty thousand women across the state officially belonged to local suffrage associations such as the MWSA, the NWP, and other organizations. Their numbers and continued activities convinced lawmakers to act. In 1919, the Minnesota Legislature recognized women's right to vote in presidential elections. The same year, the legislature

ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. It did not take effect until 1920, however, when the required two-thirds of the states approved it. With their right to vote secured, the MWSA became the Minnesota League of Women of Voters which continues today.

Minnesota's suffragettes fought a hard, prolonged fight for the right to vote. Let's not take that right lightly. Vote!

Primary Resources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota_Woman_Suffrage_Association;
<https://www.mnopedia.org/group/minnesota-woman-suffrage-association>; <https://libguides.mnhs.org/suffrage>



Note from Janelle to CCHS members:

While it is easy to find information about women's suffrage in Minnesota, it is not so easy to find information about how the women in Cottonwood County were involved in the suffrage movement. I asked my father once about my grandmother's involvement in the suffrage movement. He said, "She was a farmer's wife and didn't have time to be a suffragette." I was stunned. I had imagined all the women in Minnesota being a suffragette. After subsequent reading, I realized that what my father said about my grandmother, might be true about the women from Cottonwood County. I would like to be proven wrong. So, if you have any stories about women from Cottonwood County who were suffragettes or advocates in their own way about the right to vote, or who voted for the first time in 1920, I would like to see your stories and publish them in another newsletter. Contact cchs@windomnet.com. Thank you. I hope that the information about the suffragette movement nationally and regionally will prompt you to read about some of the extraordinary women who were our ancestors and their struggle to make better lives for all of us.

General Fund Donations:

Donations made between January 25—May 28, 2020:

Sharon Thompson; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Ruth Anderson; LaVonne Neerland in memory of Robert F. Stahl; Richard C. Olson; William & Marilyn Peterson in memory of Dorothy Hofflander; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Paul Steen; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Charles “Bud” Gove; Karen Kremmin in memory of Larry Smith; Karen Kremmin in memory of Charles “Bud” Gove; Karen Kremmin in memory of Ernest Deutschman; Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Lester Rupp; Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Lucille Lewis Nelson; Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Alvin Purrington; Karen Kremmin in memory of Randy Kaiser; James Dibble in memory of Leon Stalls; Ellen & René Perrance in memory of Charles “Bud” Gove; Gove Family in memory of Charles “Bud” Gove; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Joanne Cowan; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Ernie Swenson; Karen Skarphol; Merle Sykora; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Lucille Lewis Nelson; Hy-Vee; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Richard Stevens

Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial:

Duane & Barb Pingeon; Howard & Rosie Davis

Donations Toward Pat’s Grove:

Compeer Financial; Robert & Helen Remick Charitable Foundation Trust; Steven & Karen Hartberg; Kimberly McCutcheon

CCHS Membership

CCHS Thanks Member Upgraded to Lifetime:

Mary Klosterbuer

CCHS Thanks Business Annual Renewal:

Windom Convention & Visitors Bureau

CCHS Welcomes New Annual Members:

Jan Gove; René Perrance; Ellen Perrance

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Murl & Mary Rupp; Loring & Marjorie Paschke; Joan Kaye; Joanne Kaiser; Lisa & Adam Brownell; Eileen Cushing; Shawn & Jessica Colbert; Harvey & Esther Buller; Maxine Duncan; Linda Fransen & Tom Sanders; Terry & Jackie Jurgens; Dr. Timothy J. Kloberdanz; Jon Ross; Fritzie Stemm

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

David Hendricks; Peggy Eichner; Kathryn Tewes; Kristi Pasek

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:

Richard C. Olson; Lance Ludvigson



Cottonwood County Historical Society

812 4th Avenue
Windom, MN 56101
507-831-1134
cchs@windomnet.com
www.cchsmn1901.org
Check us out on Facebook
www.facebook.com/cottonwoodcountyhs

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

WINDOM, MN

PERMIT NO. 6

Address Service Requested



Board of Trustees:

THOMAS WICKIE:	PRESIDENT
DAMON WEINANDT:	1 ST VICE PRESIDENT
SHARON DIEMER:	2 ND VICE PRESIDENT
MARGARET MCDONALD:	TREASURER
ROSALEE DAVIS:	SECRETARY
SHAWN COLBERT:	1 ST COM. DISTRICT
DOUG JACOBSON:	2 ND COM. DISTRICT
MARILYN WAHL:	3 RD COM. DISTRICT
MARILYN NICKEL:	4 TH COM. DISTRICT
ESTHER BULLER:	5 TH COM. DISTRICT
KEVIN STEVENS:	COM. LIAISON

STAFF

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

Remick Gallery 2020 Exhibits

* "Knit Loud - Knit Often"
by Jane Leverenz

August 2 - October 25

* "A Century of
Engagement: History of
Women's Suffrage"

November 1 - 21

* Festival of Trees

December 1-23

