



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

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

Summer 2021

In the Remick Gallery

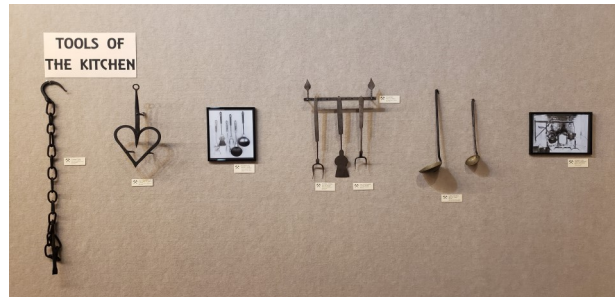


“Traditional Blacksmithing: Art in Everyday Objects”

By Tom Sanders

May 2 - August 28, 2021

In the early 1800s, blacksmiths were called upon to make many of the metal items used in everyday life from the kitchen cooking fork to the hammer. This display takes us back to techniques and designs before Cottonwood County existed. However, when Cottonwood County began in 1870, most communities had the local blacksmith to fix and repair that which was made of metal. The exhibit showcases over 60 items in the following categories: Tools of the Trade, Tools of the Kitchen, Lighting and Art.



This exhibit runs through August 28, 2021.

Coming in September....

“Stitched by Hand: Cottonwood County Quilts” From the Museum Collection September 19 – November 20, 2021

Enjoy the designs and colors of quilts stitched by hand from the Cottonwood County Historical Museum’s collection. Over 15 quilts will be showcased in our fall exhibit. The opening reception will be Sunday, September 19 from 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Stop by to see these works of art!



2021-2022 Museum Raffle

This year the raffle item is a jewelry box made from the original roof beams which were removed during the renovation of Pat's Grove Stone House in 2019. The exterior of these beams were extremely rotten but inside the white oak wood was still useable. The box was made at "The Blue Jay Wood Shop" by Mark Titus of Jackson. The laser engraving of the Stone House, done at "Knot Head Wood Working" in Sioux Falls, beautifully decorates the lid. The raffle began in August of 2021 with the lucky winning ticket to be drawn in 2022. The tickets are \$5.00 each. Buy a ticket and win a part of our local history!



Number of tickets _____ @ \$5.00 each

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

Send your checks to:

Cottonwood County Historical Society
812 Fourth Avenue
Windom, MN 56101

All proceeds benefit the museum!
Buy your raffle tickets today!

SAVE THE DATE



The Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on Monday evening, September 13 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Similar to last year, we will only have the **drive through** on the south side of the building. Tickets can be picked up at the museum prior to the event or that evening. **Support your local museum!**

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE GIFT SHOP



Check out our new mugs & magnets!



The 2021 Photo book "Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Signs" is now available in soft and hard cover to purchase at the museum! **Next year's photo theme is Cottonwood County Roads!**

Cottonwood County Newspapers On-line: An Update

In June, the Minnesota Historical Society placed on their website additional newspapers from Cottonwood County. The Windom Reporter can be viewed digitally from the years 1871 – 1925. A big thank you to Carol Kissner for spearheading this project! We've received many comments from people who have enjoyed reading the early newspapers.

A Canning Factory in Mountain Lake

By Wendy Meyer

Before EDA's existed there were independent groups of progress-minded citizens who attempted to expand business and employment opportunities in their communities. Some attempts were successful, others were not. One attempt that ultimately failed was the Mt. Lake Canning Factory that operated in 1907 and 1908 in Mt. Lake. While no records remain, the history of this short-lived enterprise can be traced through the *Mt. Lake View*, *Windom Reporter*, and *Cottonwood County Citizen* newspapers.



Photo courtesy of Mt. Lake Heritage Village

On Feb 21, 1907, stockholders met to organize the Mt. Lake Canning Company. It was incorporated as a 'non-assessable' company and a Board of Directors was elected. The stock sale, minimum investment \$100, raised \$12,000 and a building was constructed on the east side of Ninth Street, just north of the railroad tracks, about where Bluestem Seeds is now located.

In early May 1907, the wood frame building was completed. The factory intended to put up about 600,000 cans of vegetables. Fifty acres of tomatoes, 275 acres of corn, and 40 acres of green beans had been contracted.

From the beginning, not everyone thought the canning company was a good idea. While acknowledging the discouraging comments being made in the community, the local newspaper, *The Mt. Lake View*, assured its readers that the shareholders, successful farmers and businessmen, would make the factory a success. Once the plant opened, *The View* touted a farmer who cleared \$24 from green beans raised on 1/8th of an acre and took to task a farmer who had stated publicly he would rather pitch hay at 50 cents a day than pick beans at \$10 a day when he considered his back.

The factory opened on July 27, 1907 with 50 employees; 1,500 cans were filled with green beans that day and 3,000 cans the following day. On opening day, *The View* acknowledged that the canned produce had not yet found a market.

Sales and marketing would remain an issue.



Photo courtesy of Mt. Lake Heritage Village

Continued...



Can label courtesy of Mt. Lake Heritage Village

In August the plant had a short run of apples and then moved to sweet corn. There is no mention of any tomatoes being canned. By late September the first year of operation concluded. *The View* hints that 1907 was not a financial success. The manager still had vegetables to sell.

With a new manager, *The View* expected 1908 to be a good year in spite of unnamed 'unfavorable conditions'. Unfortunately there was a shortage of 'raw materials' and 1908 was not a success. A notice in early 1909 admits that 1908 payments to farmers have been delayed but would be paid once the 1908 production was sold. In early July it was announced that the cannery would not open in 1909.

In February 1910 the stockholders met. 'Canning Factory A Dead Issue' declared *The View* in its March 4 edition. The business had never been successful but no one seemed to know why. Money raised through stock sales had built the factory. The State Bank of Mt. Lake had loaned funds for operating; now the bank would take steps to 'bring about a settlement'.

The cannery was sold for \$2000 in early 1911 at a Sheriff's auction. The Windom Reporter found one bright spot; because the company had been organized as 'non-assessable', the shareholders could not be held responsible for the remaining debt. Although the Mt. Lake canning factory was short-lived, it's an interesting part of Mt. Lake's history.

Wendy Meyer is a volunteer at the museum and enjoys researching local history.

Can You Identify These Items?



These two items were bought at a local auction. If you have an idea of what they are, please contact the museum!



General Fund Donations:

Donations made from April 17, 2021 thru August 12, 2021

Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Roger Nerhus; Gerry Maras in memory of Jan Wassenaar; Pam Nerhus in memory of Roger Nerhus; Merle Sykora; René Perrance in memory of Marilyn Flatgard; Gary & Jody Vanderwerf in memory of Jan Wassenaar; Phyllis Kuehl; Anthony & Heather Smith; James & Jeanne in memory of Jane Sippel; Don Schultz; Jim & Kathy Glidden in memory of Jane Sippel; Ernest & Judith Dellinger in memory of Jane Sippel; Inge Lolacono in memory of Jane Sippel; Tom & Karen Anderson in memory of Erma Johnson; Richard & Wendy Meyer in memory of Linda White; Gary & Jody Vanderwerf in memory of Dr. Harold & Marge Basinger; Geof & Leann Johnson in memory of Ida Daberkow; Ruth Wohlfeil; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of John Helgeson; Roxanne Potter in memory of Gene Hildreth; Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Dr. Harold & Marge Basinger; Lee & Sandy Peterson in memory of Gladys Lillegaard; Loring & Marge Paschke in memory of Jane Sippel; Grant & Dorothy Johnson; Kate Schneider; Carol Kissner & Claude Buettner; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Melvin Wojahn; Lee & Sandy Peterson, Karen & Tom Anderson and Kevin Johnson in memory of Melvin Wojahn; Dr. Ronald & Dianne Kuecker in memory of Melvin Wojahn; Marilyn Wahl in memory of Melvin Wojahn; William & Marilyn Peterson in memory of Dr. Harold & Marge Basinger; Wojahn Family in memory of Melvin Wojahn; Craig Thiesen; Romelle Wojahn in memory of Joyce Zimmerman.

ONLINE NEWSPAPER PROJECT: Carol Kissner & Claude Buettner

CCHS Membership

CCHS Thanks Member Upgraded to Lifetime:

Dr. Peter & Marion Franz

CCHS Welcomes New Annual Members:

Cindy Goettig; Craig Thiesen; Dave & Beatty Muller; Robert & Lynette Ewert

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

René Perrance; Ellen Perrance; Linda Fransen & Tom Sanders; Harvey & Esther Buller; Maxine Duncan; Dr. Timothy J. Kloberdanz; Dale & Laura Tibodeau; Fritzie Stemm; Jon Ross; Kathryn Tewes; Joan Iverson; Wes & Elaine Kroeker; Dean & Kathy Kretsch; Terry & Jackie Jurgens; Norma Loewen; Don & Carolyn Enstad; Vay & Arleen Rodman; Patricia Holmes; Michael & Jean Foley; Laura Williams; Roxanne Potter; Marilyn Nickel

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CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewals

Kate Schneider; Ernest & Judith Dellinger; Lynne Kessler

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Business Renewal:

Maria Schneider

Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial:

Duane & Barb Pingeon



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2021 Exhibits in the Remick Gallery:

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

**by Thomas Sanders
May 2 – August 28**

**“Stitched by Hand: Cottonwood
County Quilts”**

September 19 – November 20

**“Festival of Trees”
December 1-23**

