

COTTONWOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Fall 2016



Cottonwood County Historical Society Annual Meeting 116th Annual Meeting Sunday, November 6, 2016 2:00 p.m. at the museum

“Railroads of Cottonwood County”
by Phil Anderson

Members and guest are invited to attend the 116th Annual Meeting. Our featured speaker is Phil Anderson, local railroad enthusiast. His love of trains goes back to his childhood growing up in Sioux Falls, the home of five railroads. He will share with us his knowledge of railroads as it relates to Cottonwood County as well as bring along railroad memorabilia for us to enjoy. A short business meeting will begin the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. followed by our speaker. Refreshments provided include sandwiches, homemade bars and coffee. Don't forget the door prizes!

Scents of Christmas: A Museum Fund-Raiser

The museum is selling evergreen decorations for the upcoming holiday season. These items are made at the Hacker's Tree Farm in Sleepy Eye and include the following:

- Wreaths - 24" dia. - \$20
- Designer Wreaths - 26" dia - \$36
- Garlands made of Balsam Fir 25 ft. roll - \$27
- Mantle Piece - \$17
- Balsam Fir Door Swag - \$17
- Spruce tips (bundle of 10) - \$25
- Spruce tips in 12" pot - \$30
- Candy Cane - \$25
- 2" unbreakable ornament w/fresh greens - \$32



Other items are available upon request. You may order from October 1 – 28 with payment due when you order. Items may be picked up on Monday, November 21 at the museum. If you have any questions or would like to place an order call us at 831-1134. Proceeds will go toward the office lighting project.

***“Festival of
Trees”
December
1-23, 2016***

The **Festival of Trees** opens December 1st in the Remick Gallery. We encourage businesses, clubs and individuals to decorate a tree in the theme of their choice. Visitors vote for their favorite tree throughout the month of December. If you would like to decorate a tree or have questions, please contact the museum at 831-1134 or e-mail us at cchs@windomnet.com

In the Remick Gallery ***“The Artful Life”***

*by Marget Floyd, Mary Christenson & Anita Skow
September 18- November 19, 2016*

The current exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled *The Artful Life* showcases art work by three Cottonwood County artists...Marget Floyd & Mary Christenson of Windom and Anita Skow of Moun-tain Lake. Over 30 works of art are currently displayed featuring pastels, acrylics, oils, pen & ink and watercolors. While all three women love art, they all bring something different to the exhibit. Christenson's portrait work is exceptional; Floyd's outdoor scenes have wonderful detail; and Skow's use of pastels brings her subject matter to life on canvas. This show runs through November 19, 2016.



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.

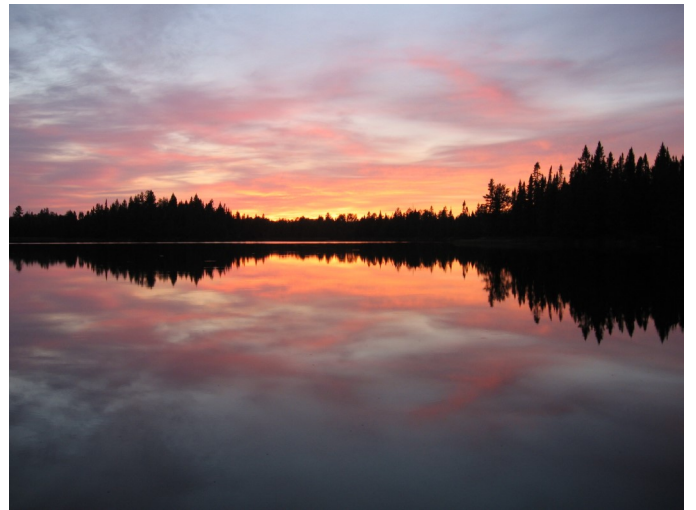
Coming in January ... “2017 Photo Show...Give it your best shot!”

We are looking for local photographers to participate in the upcoming photo show. Think reflection... think Cottonwood County! Where can your camera take you? Here are a few suggestions:

- Sunset/sunrises/moon reflecting on a lake
- Reflections from windows
- Mirror reflections

The Details...

Pick up a registration form at the museum. We ask for two 8” x 10” images of the same photo. One will be in the photo show and one will become part of the photograph collection at the museum. Maximum of one entry per photographer may be brought to the museum until January 13, 2017. No matting, framing or mounting of the photo! The goal of the show is to promote Cottonwood County and our local photographers.



Minnesota Humanities Grant Update: Living Legends in Cottonwood County

By Janelle Kaye

In Jan 2016, the CCHS, the American Legion Post #206 and WAHS received a grant from the MN Humanities Center through the Minnesota State Legacy Amendment Fund.

Out of a competitive pool of 23 applicants, only six projects from around Minnesota were awarded grants. These grant recipients support the Humanities Center's ongoing work in education and with veterans.

This grant project is the only one of its kind in MN. The purpose of the grant is to bring the entire 11th grade class in Windom together with veterans throughout Cottonwood County so that our veterans could share some of their military stories with the students through an interview process. After the interview, the students will write a narrative about their veteran and all the stories will be compiled and published. On 7 Dec 2016, the students and veterans will come together to celebrate and receive a free copy of their book, *Living Legends in Cottonwood County*. The grant money pays for the cost of publishing and distributing the book.

During the past summer months, Lisa Letcher, the 11th grade English and speech teacher and Sheryl Hanefeld, the 11th grade social studies teacher at WAHS, and Janelle Kaye, the writer of the grant project, met several times to plan for the project.

On the 8th of September, 50 veterans from Westbrook, Jeffers, Mt. Lake, Windom, and a few places in between met with the 11th grade students at WAHS. There were 12 WWII veterans, 11 Korean Conflict veterans, 16 Vietnam War veterans, 14 Peacetime & National Guard veterans and 4 veterans from all the wars from the Vietnam era to current day. Some veterans were counted twice because they participated in more than one war.

Dave Fjeld took pictures of the various groups of veterans for the *Citizen*, and for inclusion in the book. Babe Crowell brought a full complement of flags to the WAHS to be used as background for the pictures. Hy-Vee and WAHS provided refreshments. Dir. Linda Fransen and volunteer Ruth Steinfeldt from CCHS helped with the registration process.

The meeting of the students and veterans was heartwarming to observe. Many veterans brought pictures and memorabilia to share. Students learned about dog tags, propaganda dropped from the sky, tales of adventures on furloughs, saw pictures taken in foreign countries of sleeping quarters under what barely passed as a tent and much, much more.

Early in October, the pages of the book will be sent to a publisher along with a cover that was designed by Ruth Marks who was in the Navy from 1986-1996 and currently lives in Windom. Ruth was one of two women who will be noted in the book. The other woman is Marilyn Wahl who was a nurse during the Vietnam War and who currently lives in Windom.

There is much enthusiasm for this project and many people have offered their support and encouragement. Some have expressed their regret at not being a part of the project and not having a longer project where we can delve more deeply into storytelling. Maybe there will be some possibilities of that in the future? Stay tuned...

Minnesota Historical Society Grant Received

CCHS has been awarded a MN Historical and Culture Heritage Grant for \$4960 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the MN Historical Society. The grant is for the completion of 27 articles to be written by Carolyn Van Loh from Westbrook, Elaine Kroeker from Bingham Lake/Delft, and Janelle Kaye from Windom about historical events, people, places, buildings, and organizations that represent Cottonwood County history. Dave Van Loh will scan pictures for the group. The articles and pictures will be submitted to MNopedia <http://www.mnopedia.org/>, an online encyclopedia about Minnesota developed by the Minnesota Historical Society and its partners. It is a free, curated, and authoritative resource about our state. All of the MNopedia articles are prepared by historians, consulting experts, professional writers, and others who have been vetted by MNHS. MNopedia is rigorously fact-checked and is a tremendous resource for students and researchers of various ages.

The grant application was written by Janelle Kaye who is also the Project Director. During the time of September 1, 2016 to September 1, 2017, Janelle will be on sabbatical from her role as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for CCHS until the project is completed by September 2017. She will still act as a volunteer and continue her involvement in other projects. Carolyn, Elaine, and Janelle, are all published writers who have an ongoing interest in history, and members of an author's group, *A New Page*, which meets in Windom monthly.

If you are interested in this project, contact the CCHS or Janelle Kaye for more information.

Windom Public Library Hosts Authors at the Museum

The Windom Public Library is hosting two author events in October at the museum. Mark your calendars!

- Rena Olsen presents her debut novel **"The Girl Before"** - October 16 at 2:00 p.m. Rena was born in Windom and now lives in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Melanie Stringer presents her living history program **"Meet Laura"** - October 21 at 2:00 p.m. Stringer portrays Laura Ingalls Wilder as an adult, living with her husband in Mansfield, Missouri.

Both of these appearances are made possible through the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund, which dedicates funding to preserve Minnesota's arts & cultural heritage.

New Ornament Arriving in December

The museum started an ornament series three years ago that began with those sites on the National Register of Historic Places. The first ornament featured the Cottonwood County Courthouse which was built in 1904. The second ornament showcased the Westbrook Depot, which is now part of the Westbrook Heritage House Museum and has been on the National Register since 1986. Our third ornament is a site well known in the county—The Jeffers Petroglyphs. It is the largest concentration of carvings in Minnesota and was placed on the National Register in 1970. Check them out...these make great Christmas gifts!

Fall Fundraiser

The Cottonwood County Annual Fall Fund-raiser once again was a success with 185 meals served on September 12. Our featured artist in the Remick Gallery, Jolene Wirkus, was available in the gallery to visit about her art work with our visitors. Thank you to all the museum supporters who came to the event and to our volunteers who make it happen.



Money raised for the event will go toward our office lighting project.

Paint Party

Jolene Wirkus held a paint party at the museum on August 24 with 5 ladies enjoying a relaxing evening of painting and conversation. A light supper was provided. They all went home with a new piece of art to display in their home!



General Fund Donations:

Donations made between July 15 - September 22, 2016

Steven & Susan Hansen; Dorothy & Grant Johnson; Lucille Nelson; Duane & Barb Pigeon in memory of Helen Perrance; Karen Kremmin in memory of Margaret Will; Silliman Trust; Carol Kissner in memory of Bob & Wilma (Purrington) Kissner

In Memory of Bill Steinfeldt:

Lucille Nelson & Jane Faber; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson; Marilyn Wahl; Duane & Barb Pigeon; James & Coralee Krueger; Ron & Jan Sampson; Tom & Karen Wickie; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland; Sharon Diemer

Office Lighting Project

Marilyn Wahl in memory of Alvin "Bud" Fast; Janice & Nancy Saathoff in memory of Rosanne (Rossow) Nemitz

Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial

Marlow Nickel; Juane Elston

CCHS Membership

CCHS Welcomes New Annual Member:

Laura Williams

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Judy Kielty; Pattie Holmes; Herman & Lylas Eigenberg; Vay & Arleen Rodman; Zola Wood; LaVern & Carol Christianson; Sharon Evers; Don & Jean Hoppe; Roxanne Potter; Dorothy Fundahn; Lynn Kessler; Paul Buhler; Diane Potter

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

Ernest & Judith Dellinger

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewals:

Doris Schneider

**Cottonwood County
Historical Society**

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At the Museum - 2016



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Christmas Fundraiser:
Hacker's Greenery
Orders due October 28

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