



COTTONWOOD

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Fall 2017



Westbrook Red Cross Branch

Cottonwood County Historical Society Annual Meeting

116th Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 5, 2017
2:00 p.m. at the museum

“The Women of Southwest Minnesota in the Great War” by Dr. Anita Gaul

Members and guests are invited to attend the 116th Annual Meeting. Our featured speaker is Dr. Anita Gaul, a World War I scholar. Anita Talsma Gaul received her PhD in American History from the University of Iowa in 2009. She currently teaches in the History and Humanities programs at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, and also works part-time as curator of the Murray County Museums in Slayton. This presentation is part of a larger work soon to be published by the Society for the Study of Local and Regional History as part of its Rural and Regional Essay Series.

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!

CHOCOLATE & BLING EVENT

It's time for Chocolate & Bling at the museum on Thursday, November 30. The evening of fun and frivolity begins with a silent auction of new and vintage jewelry. Around 50 pieces will be available for a worthy bid. The jewelry tree returns this year with direct sales of items off the tree. The live auction with those items of greater value will follow after the meal. Guests will be encouraged to view the Festival of Trees exhibit in the Remick Gallery.

In the meeting room dinner will be served between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. at tables decorated for the holiday. Ten women will design their tables based on the theme “A Shimmering Holiday Showcase.” An assortment of chocolate desserts will complete the meal. Winners of the silent auction will be announced to conclude the evening. Tickets will be available on Wednesday, November 1st at the museum. Only 80 tickets are available! Cost is \$15. We encourage everyone to wear their bling!



If you have any jewelry you would be willing to donate, please contact Linda at the museum.



In the Remick Gallery:

“Return”

by Haley Tardiff

September 17-
November 18,
2017

The current exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled **“RETURN”** showcases art work by Haley Tardiff. Haley is a multi-disciplined artist who was born in South Carolina. As part of an Air Force family, she moved across the country more than once. Her family settled in Lakefield when she was in the 8th grade. She graduated from St. Cloud State University with a degree in Art Photography but also enjoys drawing and painting. The exhibit features over 30 works of art in a variety of mediums including acrylic paintings, digital paintings and drawings completed since 2010. This show runs through November 18, 2017.

If you are planning a visit to the gallery, our hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

“Festival of Trees” December 1-23, 2017

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

Coming in January ... “2018 Photo Show...Give it your best shot!”

We are looking for local photographers to participate in the upcoming photo show. Think black & white ...think Cottonwood County! Where can your camera take you?

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, 2018. No matting, framing or mounting of the photo! The goal of the show is to promote Cottonwood County and our local photographers.





Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Girls in 4-H Softball

By Coralee Krueger

Sometime in the mid-1940s 4-H softball teams in Cottonwood County began to include two female players. That was the rule. Dale Township was tough to beat in the '50s because of the Maras sisters. Some 30 or so years later it was the Piotter family who helped their team

cream their opponents. However, a few women remember that they themselves had shortcomings. One was **Myma Baarstad Anderson**, who was a member of the Westbrook Willing Workers. "I could catch the ball well and was a good hitter, but I couldn't throw very far," she said with a laugh. "I played in the outfield. I could catch a fly ball, but if it was a grounder, I'd throw it to the shortstop who came close to me and he would relay it." She also played on the girls' town team—first base. That way she didn't have to throw farther than the pitcher, second base or home. **Kathy Elston Glidden** was a Springfield Sparkler. She was one of three available players. "I was just 'there'—a left-fielder," she said. "Joanne Van Norman and Maggie Bartosh were the others. Maggie was very good. We had some really good guys playing, so we sparkled!" Other players included **Caryol Grams Einertson** and **Phyllis Nelson Bakken**. Caryol was a member of the Rosehill team. Phyllis was a Willing Worker. Caryol and her sister, Audrey, who is two years younger, played when they were about 14 or 15. "I probably played in the outfield because I remember the terrible fields with holes in the grass," she recalled. On the other hand, the Willing Workers enjoyed great conditions. "We played in the Westbrook City Park, where the city team played," Phyllis said. "We organized our games around their schedule."

Fast forward to the 1980s. **Robin Elston Snyder** played with the Springfield Sparklers for about 10 years on the junior and senior teams. "You could move a junior up to the senior team but not the other way around," she explained, "I was a horrible softball player. They put me in right field. Melinda and Marsha Jongma were good, though. By the late '80s more and more girls were available." To Robin, 4-H softball was the summer social event. The team got together every Friday night for the games as well as Mondays when they would practice on Barb and Clifford Hunter's pasture. While some areas of the state continue to play 4-H softball, Cottonwood County's final season was in 2014.

4-H Clubs

Boys' and girls' 4-H club work in Cottonwood County had its beginning in 1919. At that time it was county-wide and not divided into clubs. By the 1920s five clubs organized. A few discontinued and restarted.

The big year was 1930 with eight clubs starting. By 1967 4-H was at its height when there were 21 clubs, two of them in Selma Township.

Today nine clubs remain: Amboy Sunrisers, Delton Doers, Germantown Livewires, Highwater Lads and Lassies, Loyal Lakers/Carson Climbers, Midway Mountain Movers, Springfield Sparklers, Westbrook/Rosehill and Windom Workers/Dale Diggers.



A Christmas Activity: Gingerbread House – Make & Take

Join us at the museum for a fun morning making and decorating a gingerbread house for the holidays. The event is Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Meeting Room. An adult must accompany the child (must be 5 years of age and up). Due to space limitations, please call and reserve your spot. Cost: \$2.00. Don't miss this opportunity for family fun!!!



Fall Recap Fund-Raiser

The Cottonwood County Annual Fall Fund-raiser once again was a success with 171 meals served on September 11. Our exhibit in the Remick Gallery, Hidden Nature, was held over one week so visitors had one last chance to see photographs by local photographer Jessica Bak. Money raised for the event will go towards our office lighting fund. Thank you to all the museum supporters who came to the events, to our volunteers who make it happen and to Thrivent Financial for their monetary "start-up" contribution.



New Ornament Arriving in December

The museum started an ornament series three years ago that began with historic sites in Cottonwood County. The first ornament features 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. Our fourth ornament will be from the Mountain Lake area. Check them out...these make great Christmas gifts!

CCHS MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL FIELD TRIP

The first history bus tour to the Minnesota State Capitol occurred on September 7. The renovated Capitol was the highlight of the day with its newly painted ceilings and walls, regilded horses and conserved art work. Other stops on the beautiful fall day included the Minnesota History Center and Jim's Apple Barn.



General Fund Donations:

Donations made between July 1 - September 8, 2017

Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Betty Morfitt; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Dick Noyes; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Wilma Sogge; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Shirley Nelson; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Grace Clark; Grant & Dorothy Johnson in memory of Harry Bekx ; Donna Hanson; LaVonne Neerland in memory of Emma Lou Miller; Dallas & Joan Giese

Office Lighting Project

Leland & Marilyn Erickson

Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial

Harry & Shirley Schuur; Linda Fransen

CCHS Membership

CCHS Welcomes New Annual Members:

Judith Hintze; Jean Foley

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals

Norma Loewen; Patricia Holmes; David & Carolyn Van Loh; Vay & Arleen Rodman; Dean & Kathy Kretsch; Laura Williams; Neil Henry; Judy Kielty; Zola Wood; Dorothy Fundahn; Herman & Lylas Eigenberg; Roxanne Potter; Dallas & Joan Giese

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

Ernest & Judith Dellinger; David Mathiason

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewals:

Judy Woizeschke; Roselyn Friesen



**Cottonwood County
Historical Society**

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At the Museum - 2017

“Return”

By Haley Tardiff

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November 5, 2017 at 2:00 pm**

“Chocolate & Bling”

November 30, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Festival of Trees

December 1 –23, 2017

**“Gingerbread House— Make & Take”
December 2, 2017 at 10:00 am**