



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

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

Summer 2022



New Fundraising Event:

Art & History On-Line Auction Began August 4



The idea for a new fundraising event started with the renovation of the stone house at Pat's Grove County Park located in Cottonwood County. Some of the rotted roof beams were saved until Mark Titus, a Jackson woodworker and knife maker, found at the interior of the roof beams a small layer of usable white oak. From those boards he made a dozen or so knives with handles carved from the wood of the beams and the pins that hold the knife handle together are nails from the stone house. He also made jewelry boxes and Christmas ornaments which are etched with the stone house at Pat's Grove. These items along with art work and other contributions are now offered on an on-line

auction thru Kerkhoff Auctions website (<https://kerkhoffauctions.com>) which began on Thursday, August 4. The on-line bidding is available for two weeks and will end the night of our fundraising event on August 18 at the Cottonwood County Historical Society, 812 Fourth Avenue, Windom.



If you prefer live bidding, make plans to attend the fundraising event at the museum, Thursday night, August 18. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a Social Hour followed by tasty appetizers along with beverages served by The Botanist of Mountain Lake which will begin at 6:00 p.m. A cash bar will also be available. The live auction will begin at

7:00 p.m. and will include Pat's Grove knives, art work and other items. Cost for the event is \$15 and includes appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased at the Historical Society or from Board Members.

The Art & History Auction includes art work by local artists such as David Strom, Mitchell Boeck, Janice Polk White of Windom; Nancy Nelson and Steve Klassen of Mountain Lake; a turned wooden bowl by Roger Haar of Westbrook; and hand knitted items by Jane Leverenz of Mankato. Other items include quilts, home décor, gift baskets, and gift certificates contributed by local businesses and individuals.

For more details, contact the museum at 831-1134 or e-mail at cchs@windomnet.com.

More about the history of the Stone House:

Pat Conlan, an Irish immigrant, came to the United States in about 1856 at the age of 40 with his nephew. After some time in Iowa, he settled in Springfield Township, Cottonwood County, where he homesteaded in Section 25, receiving his patent in 1873. He built a dugout/cave where he lived the rest of his life. He married Celia Schuster in 1881 and they had one son, Peter. Around 1898 the son started constructing the stone house as the dugout was too damp for Pat's failing health. Pat died in 1900 at the age of 84 before the house was completed. The farm remained in the family until 1943. In 1982, the land was purchased by Cottonwood County for a county park.

REMICK GALLERY

“Genius Loci: Real & Imagined”

By David Strom

May 1 - September 3, 2022

David Strom's art show continues through the summer. It features over 20 works of art with themes that relate to the local landscape such as grain bins, wind towers and round hay bales. An assortment of mediums are in this show and include pen & ink drawings, acrylic paintings and the collage.



Coming in September...

“Realities of My Imagination”

By Ramiro Cerda Ramos &
Rosa Maria Cerda Rodriguez

September 18 - November 19, 2022

This father & daughter team will have around 40 oil paintings mostly featuring landscapes. Ramiro is attracted to nature and landscapes. At an early age, he enjoyed drawing and painting places that were part of his imagination using bright colors.

Rosa likes working with oil paints and mixing colors.

She returns to the Remick Gallery after having a solo show in 2018. The opening reception will be Sunday from 2-4 p.m. on September 18th. Come and meet the artists!



Save the Date

The Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on Monday evening, September 12 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. This year we will have both inside seating available along with the drive-thru on the south side of the building. Tickets are \$10 and can be picked up at the museum prior to the event or that evening. Supplemental funds provided by Thrivent Financial. Support your local museum!



A History Note

A Look at Some of the Oldest Carvings on the Red Rock Ridge

By Tom Sanders



The ecosystem along the Red Rock Ridge 9,000 to 11,000 years ago was a boreal forest populated with wood buffalo that fed on sedges and willows in a landscape dominated with spruce, fir, pine and birch. This same system is now found in northern Minnesota. A cousin of the plains buffalo, the wood buffalo is shown on the left with its more pronounced hump. An adaptation to feeding in deep snow, the powerful neck is used to sweep away the snow to get to the sedges below. Today the wood buffalo survives in the cold boreal forest of western Canada.

So how does this buffalo differ from the plains buffalo? In the photograph to the right, note that the plains buffalo's high point on its less prominent hump is straight above its front legs. The plains buffalo is adapted to prairie environments that replaced the boreal forest 9,000 years ago along the Red Rock Ridge.



How do we know there were wood buffalo along the Red Rock Ridge thousands of years ago? Below is the wood buffalo petroglyph found at the Nature Conservancy's Red Rock Prairie on the Red Rock Ridge that was carved by Indigenous people and includes the pronounced hump forward of its front legs. These carvings are among the oldest carvings on the Ridge.



Below is another wood buffalo petroglyph found at the Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site. This style of carving with its unique ball-shaped feet and fine pecking with crisp edges has been dated by archaeologists to be 11,500 years old.

Because there is no reliable way to scientifically date the carvings on the Ridge, these wood buffalo carvings are important because they are a way to date these ancient carvings. American Indians illustrated a species of buffalo that could only be found in southwest Minnesota 9,000-11,000 years ago. These carvings illustrate the climate change on the Ridge from a wet cold boreal forest to a dry warm prairie 9,000 years ago. Something scientists have documented analyzing pollen cored from local deep lakes. Because it is difficult to tell the difference between wood and plains buffalo though ancient skeletal remains, scientists have not been able to document wood buffalo in Minnesota. Now it seems they were here.



Tom Sanders is the retired Site Manager of the Jeffers Petroglyphs State Historic Site and continues his research through the Red Rock Ridge Research Group, whose mission is to preserve the Red Rock Ridge.

Grant Update

Lifestyles & Recreation Grant

In 2021, the museum received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to research for the next section in the Exhibit Hall entitled “Lifestyles & Recreation.” The question was “What do people past & present like to do when not working? Is it bowling, golf, listening to music, hunting, fishing etc.?” The list is endless. Nick Riordan, a 2012 Windom graduate, was hired to do the research. He delved into research on the county fair and organizations through our research and archival files. After three months, he accepted the job as Director of the Jackson County Historical Society. Janelle Kaye was then hired and continued the research looking at the newspapers for any articles pertaining to what people did for fun. The final report was submitted the end of June. This research will be used to decide the type of interpretation to be used in the lifestyle & recreation section of the Exhibit Hall. Since our space for this section is small, a set of rotating displays will be planned that showcases the activities of what people did for fun.

Microfilm Reader Grant Received



This spring the printer of our microfilm reader began to blink ‘low toner’. In trying to order a new toner cartridge, we discovered that the company quit making toner for this machine about three years ago. Since our machine was 10 years old, it was time to explore a new reader. Also, this machine is used on a daily basis to research an assortment of topics in the county newspapers. The next step was writing a grant to replace with a new and improved machine. We are pleased to report that a Minnesota Historical Society grant of \$10,000 was awarded for a new digital scanner microfilm reader which will be ordered shortly. The ScanPro reader is viewed on a computer screen and provides a clearer copy when printed. We look forward to this newer technology.

These grants were made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by the appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

2021 - 2022 Museum Raffle

A Piece of Local History

The raffle item for 2021-2022 is a wooden 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 a thin layer of 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 beautifully decorates the lid. The lucky winner will be drawn this year at the Cottonwood County Historical Society’s Annual Meeting in November. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to 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!

General Fund Donations:

Donations made between May 14, 2022 thru August 3, 2022

Geof & Leann Johnson in memory of Donna Hanson; Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Carol Brand; Anthony & Heather Smith; Tom & Karen Anderson in memory of Erma Johnson; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Susan Hanson; Karen Kremmin in memory of Donna Hanson; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Susan Hanson; René Perrance in memory of Marilyn Flatgard and David & Kay Campbell; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland; Clifford & Carol Rask in celebration of Lowell & Nancy Tjentland's 50th Anniversary; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Carol Jensen; Larry & Melody Goeman in memory of Carol Jensen; Catherine (Kate) Schneider; Larry & Melody Goeman in memory of Dr. James Klaassen; Karen Kremmin in memory of Jim Holt and Margaret Kipfer; Maria Schneider; David & Marilee Strom in memory of Margaret Kipfer

Donation for Technology Upgrades: Nancy Saathoff

CCHS Thanks Our Thrivent Choice Dollar Donors:

Rosie Davis, Harry Schuur, Marlow & Marilyn Nickel, Thomas & Karen Wickie

CCHS Memberships

CCHS Welcomes New Members:

Joy Minion, Terri Moore; Judith Wrase Nygard; Nancy Saathoff

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Harvey & Esther Buller; Jon Ross; Kathryn Tewes; Wes & Elaine Kroeker; Terry & Jackie Jurgens; Joan Iverson; Maxine Duncan; Dale & Laura Tibodeau; Martin & Anita Skow; Dean & Kathy Kretsch; René Perrance; Ellen Perrance; Norma Loewen; Don & Carolyn Enstad; Judith Hintze; Michael & Jean Foley; Patricia Holmes



CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

Maria Fitzgerald; Vera Rachuy; Vay & Arleen Rodman

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:

Ernest & Judith Dellinger; Catherine (Kate) Schneider; Maria Schneider



Saturday Staff Retires

Congratulations to Janelle Kaye, a Saturday greeter/grant writer, who retired in May. She along with Marget Floyd, kept the museum doors open on Saturday for many years. Janelle served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees prior to her employment. During her time here, she secured three grants that yielded two books and entries onto MNopedia, a Minnesota Historical Society supported website. We appreciated her love of research along with her writing skills. Marget Floyd retired during the Covid epidemic. She served on the Remick Committee for many years and is an artist herself. We thank both for their faithful service to the museum. You will be missed!

Cottonwood County Historical Society

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August

2022 Exhibits

In the Remick Gallery:

“Genius Loci: Real & Imagined”
by David Strom
May 1 - September 3

“Realities of My Imagination”
by Ramiro Cerda Ramos &
Rosa Maria Cerda Rodriguez
September 18 - November 19

“Festival of Trees”
December 1 - 23