



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

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

Winter 2023

Upcoming Program

FROZEN ON THE MINNESOTA PRAIRIE

with Carolyn Sowinski

March 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



The Cottonwood County Historical Society will host a book talk featuring Kandiyohi County native, Carolyn Mankell Sowinski, at the museum. She has written a book about a 3-day blizzard which occurred 150 years ago. In her book, **The Great Storm: Minnesota's Victims in the Blizzard of January 7, 1873**, Sowinski has identified 84 people from 31 counties in the state who died in this storm. In her presentation Sowinski will share the story of Cottonwood County

victim, William Norris, an Irish immigrant and Civil War veteran who lived in Springfield Township with his family. Sowinski will read excerpts about the storm, highlight some historic documents about the victim, and provide helpful hints when doing research. She will have books for sale at the event (cash or check). The author has five books about her ancestors and Minnesota history available on Amazon.com.



Excerpt from Windom Reporter—January 16, 1873

Last Week's Storm

The three day's storm of last week was one of the severest ever known in this section. It began on Tuesday afternoon, the wind changing from the south to the northwest in an instant and filling the air so full of snow that one could not see an object a rod (16.5 feet) distant. It continued its fury till Thursday night when it stopped for a "rest". The morning of Tuesday being very pleasant, farmers came to town and did not venture to go home but for one or two instances. The barns and blacksmith shops were crowded with horses and cattle and the hotels with men. At present writing we hear of but one person perishing in this vicinity. It seems that Wm. Norris, living a few miles west of here, had been absent, (we think at Heron Lake) and was returning home when the storm came up, and had come within 80 rods of his house, when he succumbed to death.

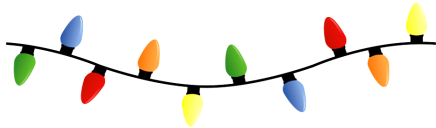
.....Mr. Grimes, of the Windom House, caused his family and friends some uneasiness by not returning from String Lakes on the memorable Tuesday night referred to, where he went in the morning. The storm found him and his team on the prairies, and being unable to "side track," kept along with the storm and ran into a stable about four o'clock where he remained till Calvin Rank shoveled him out on Wednesday evening. He came home on Thursday afternoon in as good spirits as ever.

IN THE REMICK GALLERY

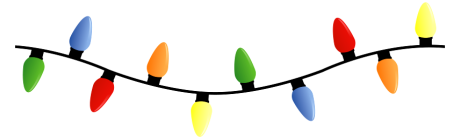
**Give It Your Best Shot:
Focus on Cottonwood County Celebrations
2023 Photo Show
January 22– March 25, 2023**



The current exhibit in the Remick Gallery features photographs of Cottonwood County taken by local photographers. The theme this year is “County Celebrations” such as Riverfest, Mountain Lake Heritage Fair, winter, friendship, etc. Great shots from throughout the county! We’ve even added a few vintage photos from the museum collection. Stop by and vote for your favorite photograph!



Festival of Trees



Throughout the month of December, visitors enjoyed an array of 12 beautifully decorated Christmas Trees in the Remick Gallery. Thank you to all who designed a tree, those who visited the museum during December and voted for their favorite. We hope your favorite won! The winners this year were the Windom Cotton Quilters, Sons of Norway, and Cleo Miranowski. Each received Chamber Bucks with the remaining proceeds benefiting the museum.

Below is the list of those who participated this year:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| * Windom Service Club | * Sons of Norway | * Southwest Minnesota Crisis Center |
| * Compassionate Friends | * Cleo Miranowski | * Windom Adventure Club |
| * Windom Cotton Quilters | * Prairie Arts Continuum | * Windom Chamber of Commerce |
| * Barb Pingeon | * Cottonwood County DAC | * Cottonwood County Historical Society |



Windom Cotton Quilters



Sons of Norway



Cleo Miranowski

An Indigenous Hero Story Carved on the Red Rock Ridge

By Tom Sanders



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.

The Ho Chunk and Iowa people who lived in southwestern Wisconsin and southern Minnesota tell stories of a hero named Red Horn. He was sent by the creator to protect the people. This story is more than a thousand years old. He was called Red Horn because he formed his hair into one long braid, stiffened it with fat, and painted it red. In the petroglyph photograph to the left you can see the image of a human with his head, arms and torso. It appears to be wearing large earrings and has one horn projecting from the side of his head. Red Horn wore large earrings in the shape of human heads. The horn in the image could represent Red

Horn's red braid. Some images adjacent to the possible Red Horn seem to tell elements of one of his adventures. Below and to our right is a giant human image with its head missing because the rock has broken away. Red Horn raced the giants to gain the hand of one of their daughters. To the right of the giant is an arrow. To win the race against the long-legged giants, he changed into an arrow, the fastest thing known to people at that time. To the right of the arrow is a wolf/dog about to follow a trail of an animal signified by the pairs of dots below it. In the stories, Wolf accompanied Red Horn on his hunts. To our left and below is a thunderbird, another companion of Red Horn, called Storms-as-he walks. Perhaps the large footprints near Red Horn represent the giants or footprints left in the ground after the race.

Inflation since 1940

By Lowell Tjntland

Inflation is a popular topic being talked about these days and will continue to be until it ceases to be a problem. We have noticed the prices of items have risen but so have wages. Let's take a look back in time. The 1940 Census asked what a person did for a living and how much money they made at their job. Here are some examples:

Mail Clerk	\$870	High School Principal	\$1300
Carpenter	\$900	Pastor	\$1550
Teacher	\$750-1200	Lumberyard Manager	\$1980
Mason	\$700	Bartender	\$ 600
Mechanic	\$780	Grocery Clerk	\$ 600
Plasterer	\$1000	Rural Mail Carrier	\$1600
Trapper	\$ 152	Buttermaker	\$1200

How does this compare with \$15 minimum wage and \$1000 signing bonuses?

Census



GIFT SHOP ITEMS

2022 Photo Book Available

The 2022 photo show book “Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Country Roads” is now available in soft cover. The book features 29 stunning photos relating to last years theme. Stop by and pick up your copy today!

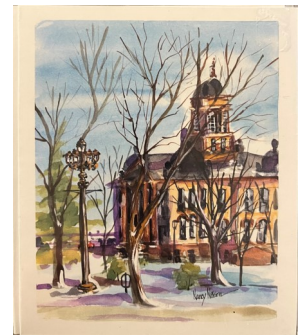


Check out the many wonderful things in our Gift Shop!! We have some unique, locally inspired items that would make great gifts for someone or just a treat for yourself! Some of the newer items are pictured below. Other items available are also listed:



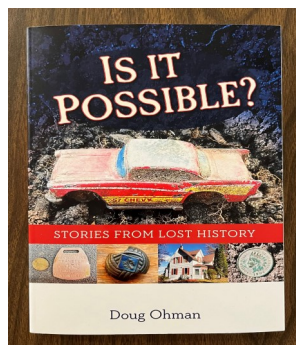
Pat's Grove T-shirts

- * Doug Ohman books & notecards
- * Vintage postcards
- * “Give it Your Best Shot” photo books
- * Artwork and notecards by Vera Rachuy



One of Nancy Nelson Notecards
(8 different scenes per pack)

- * Pat's Grove items
- * Various History books
- * Nancy Nelson notecards
(both Windom & Mt. Lake)



Doug Ohman Book

- * Cottonwood County Crocks
- * Precious Moments figurines
- * Books by Cottonwood County authors



NEW Jeffers Water Tower Ornament
(Mug available also)

- * County Landmark Mugs & Ornaments
- * Many interesting book releases
- * Notecards by Don Kennedy & Don Miller
- * Much more—too many to name them all!



Pat's Grove Wood Ornament

General Fund Donations:

Donations made between October 28, 2022 thru February 10, 2023:

Michael & Marjorie Eichner in memory of Loren Vosberg, Marian Hunter, and Austin Riemann; Patricia & Lyman Holmes in memory of Marian Hunter Bethel; Gary & Jody Vanderwerf in memory of David Muller; Romelle Wojahn in memory of Dianne Kuecker; Faye Turner, Kjell & Liz Turner, Joel & Samantha Turner in memory of Mina Stahl; Arlene Burbank Estate; David & Marilee Strom in memory of David Muller; Roxanne Potter in memory of David Muller; Patricia & Lyman Holmes in memory of Ronald Vought; Dorothy Fundahn in memory of June Richardson; Barb & Duane Pigeon in memory of Jean Willsher; Dr. Ronald Kuecker in memory of Dianne Kuecker, David Muller and Ronald Vought; Curtis Grant in honor of Goldie Grant; Kristen Juhlin; Leland & Marilyn Erickson (for Security System upgrades) in memory of Leo Bartosh, Jean Willsher, June Richardson and in honor of Windom Service Club (aka "Bald Eagles"); Family & friends in memory of David Muller; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Lana Tibodeau; Merle Sykora; Loring & Marjorie Paschke in memory of Jean Willsher; Don & Jean Hoppe in memory of Jean Willsher; Richard C. Olson; monetary donation from Karen Kremmin for the purchase of a high chair for the meeting room.

Year-End Donations:

Char & Doug Woizeschke; Sandra Grams; Beatrice Muller; Phil & Mary Anderson; Wes & Elaine Kroeker; Eileen Cushing; Judith Hintze; Geof & Leann Johnson (for Security System upgrades in memory of Dan Daberkow); David & Donna Sippel; Anthony & Heather Smith (for Security System upgrades); Earl & Judy Enstad; David & Nancy Erpestad; James Dibble; Willard & Margaret Dick; Amy Gudmestad, Julie Gudmestad; David & Phyllis Werness; Norma & Richard Loewen; Jack Elness; Barb & Duane Pigeon; Carol Christianson; Richard C. Olson; Leland & Sigrid Johnson; Rosemary Isackson; James & Coralee Krueger; Carolyn Bondhus; Roger & Pat Christensen in memory of Arthur, Norma, Arlen, Curtis and Philip & Karen Christensen; Ernest & Judith Dellinger; Larry & Melody Goeman in memory of Dean Kosel and Ronald Vought; Romelle Wojahn; David & Marilee Strom; Dorothy Van Norman; Laura Williams; Gil & Betty Wipf; Ronald Torkelson in memory of Margo Torkelson; Carol Lehman; Joanne Meyer; Stephen Schweyen; Bruce & Elizabeth Pankonin; William & Caran Riggs; Dawn Bondhus Mueller; Marilyn Wahl; Wanda Turner; Dr. James Miller & Dr. Mary Olson

**** Thank-you to Pam Gahler for her donation of a new paper shredder and organizational items for our office. ****

CCHS Membership

CCHS Thanks Members upgraded to Lifetime Membership:

Romelle Wojahn; Robert & Denise Wolff

CCHS Welcomes New Members:

David & Marlene Murphy; Jim Turner; Cathie Veenker

CCHS Welcomes New Business Member:

Frank's Shoe Repair

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Joyce Nielsen; Marlene Smith; Daniel Woolsey & Sandra Solem; Paul Buhler; Lorin & Becky Epp; Joan Giese; Mary Kellen; Dean R. Larsen; Robert & Tamara McMenimen; Les Knutson; Kevin & Lynel Stevens; Dan & Margaret McDonald; Ruth Steinfeldt; James & Sarah Wronski (in memory of Reed & Vi Skillingstad; Michael & Marjorie Eichner; Carol Lehman; Lee & Sandy Peterson; Geof & Leann Johnson; Windom Convention & Visitors Bureau; Allen County Public Library; Ted & Diane Johnson; Loring & Marjorie Paschke; Frances Swenson

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewal:

Cheryl Hanson; Richard C. Olson; David Hendricks; Earl & Judy Enstad

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewals:

Sonya Buller; Donna Gravley; Vicky Tucci



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2023 Exhibits in the Remick Gallery:

**"Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on
Cottonwood County Celebrations"**
January 22 – March 25

"Cottonwood County Student Art Show"
April 2 – April 29

"Salamagundi: A Collection"
by Anna Johannsen
May 7 – August 26

"Four Seasons"
by Eva Lopez
September 17 – November 18

"Festival of Trees"
December 1-23