



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

Monday—Friday 8 am— 4 pm and Saturday by appt.

Fall 2023



Cottonwood County Historical Society

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5, 2023

2:00 p.m. at the museum

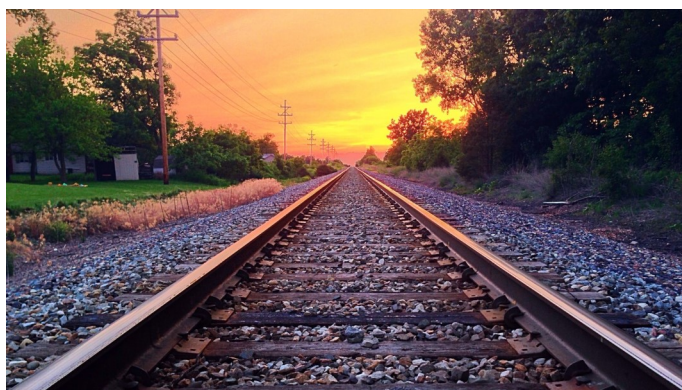
**“Hobos to High-heeled Women:
Riding the Currie Line”**

by Janet Timmerman

Members and guests are invited to attend the 122nd Annual Meeting. A short business meeting will begin the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. followed by our speaker Janet Timmerman. Her topic “Hobos to High-heeled Women” takes a look at the Currie Railroad line from Bingham Lake to Currie. From 1900 to 1979 the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Company ran a 38 mile spur line through Cottonwood County. The line had long been anticipated by the farmers and merchants along the track, especially in Currie. It created several new towns and moved the core of others close to the line that would tie them to the rest of the nation’s economy. The rail line moved people, from ride-hitching hobos to special train cars carrying baseball teams and fans to their next ball game. It hauled goods in and out of this small corner of Minnesota, allowing farm commodities to go to market and brought things back like ready-mades and the first radios that would connect them to the larger popular culture. Though the line was short lived it effected the region in ways that reverberate today. Our featured speaker, Janet Timmerman is the retired Director of Museums at Murray County Historical Museum in Slayton. She has worked in the field for over 25 years and holds an undergraduate degree in history from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall and a MA in history from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Light refreshments provided and don’t forget...there will be the door prizes!

***Members and prospective members
are invited to attend.***



In the Remick Gallery

“Four Seasons: Art in Paper”

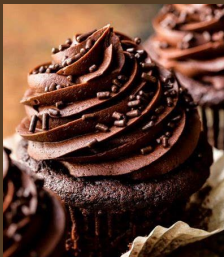
by Eva Lopez

October 1 - November 18, 2023

The current exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled ***Four Seasons: Art in Paper*** showcases art work by Eva Lopez. Over 30 pieces are on display of the unique art form using card stock paper transformed into beautiful flowers. Her inspiration comes from nature where all beauty begins. This show runs through November 18, 2023.

If you are planning a visit to the gallery, our hours are Monday – Fridays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Saturdays by appointment from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fundraiser



Save the Date Chocolate & Bling November 30, 2023



It's time for ***Chocolate & Bling*** at the museum on Thursday, November 30 for an evening of fun and relaxation. The evening begins with a silent auction of new and vintage jewelry. The jewelry tree returns this year with direct sales of items off the tree. Guests will be encouraged to preview the Festival of Trees exhibit in the Remick Gallery. In the meeting room, an extensive appetizer and chocolate buffet is included with the ticket price and will be available between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. at tables decorated for the holiday. Ten women will design tables based on the theme “Time to Sparkle & Shine.” The live auction with those items of greater value will follow the close of the silent auction. Winners of the silent auction will be announced to conclude the evening.

Tickets will be available on Monday, November 6 at the museum. Only 80 tickets are available! Cost is \$25. We encourage everyone to ‘sparkle & shine’ and wear your bling!

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

Happenings at the Museum

New Ornament Arriving in November



The museum started an ornament series ten years ago that began with historic sites in Cottonwood County. The ornament this year showcases the Bingham Lake Brick & Tile Factory. It was first built on the north side of Bingham Lake in 1900 and was a thriving business in the county. When the railroad would not run a spur to the lake, the factory moved one-half mile east of the village beside the tracks. It employed 11 men at its peak and made 6,000 to 8,000 tile a day. The plant closed in 1921 as the market for tile and brick

declined. Check out the ornament series in our Gift Shop...they make great Christmas gifts!

“Festival of Trees”

December 1-23, 2023

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.



“2024 Photo Show...Give it your best shot!”

We are looking for local photographers to participate in the upcoming photo show. The theme this year is parks...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 18. No matting, framing or mounting of the photo! The goal of the show is to promote Cottonwood County and our local photographers. The opening reception is on January 22, 2024.



2023 Museum Raffle



The raffle item for 2023 is a numbered print by John Cartwright of Shoreview, MN. He is the brother of Lindsey Cartwright who currently serves on the CCHS Board. John Cartwright is an Upper Midwest railroad expert and artist. The print he donated is of the Mountain Lake Depot which was the second depot to be built in Mountain Lake around 1900 and used until 1972. It is now part of the Heritage Village in Mountain Lake. The lucky winner will be drawn in December. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Buy a ticket for a chance to win a part of our railroad history.

Number of tickets _____ @ \$5.00 ea.

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!

Amo Township History

By Wendy Meyer



Ole Thompson shelling corn, 1950's

Early History: Amo Township was organized by the Commissioners at a board meeting held July 6, 1871, as Georgetown Township. Less than a year later a committee was formed to change the name to Amo, which in Latin means “I love” in a manner of friendship. The reason for the change is unknown. However, a resident of the county, W.H. Benbow, was from Amo, Hendricks County, Indiana. The first township meeting minutes that used “Amo” are dated July 4, 1873. In the 1890s the unincorporated village of Amo sat in the northwest corner of Section 22. Local businesses included an Ice House, the Amo Co-op Farmer’s Creamery, John F. Johnson Blacksmith Shop, store and a post office.

Rural Postal Delivery: Four post offices existed at various times in Amo from 1873-1907: the first Amo post office, Warren, Odell and the second Amo. Warren was named for the postmaster’s son; it is not known why the name Odell was selected. Postmasters were farmers or businessmen. There were no post offices in the township between 1876-1880 and 1893-1897. Points of Interest: Lake Augusta, covering 492 square acres, is located in parts of Sections 3, 10 & 11. It outlets to Highwater Creek in Section 20 of Storden Township. Adjacent to the lake is the 720 acre Martin J. Baker Waterfowl Production Area. Two churches have been a part of the township history—Amo Methodist and Amo Lutheran Church. Amo Methodist was orga-



Amo Township Cemetery



Amo Lutheran Church, 2005

nized in 1886 and closed its doors in 2014. The sanctuary, constructed in 1886-87 and extensively remodeled, still stands in Section 21, just west of where the village of Amo stood. In 1931, the church and it’s adjacent cemetery were separated. The cemetery continues to be overseen by an independent association. The Amo Lutheran Church is in Section 20 on County Road 5. It was organized in 1887 as part of the Old Westbrook parish. The building, constructed in 1915, has been expanded and remodeled over the years. They also have a cemetery east of the church.

General Fund Donations:

Donations made between August 25 - October 26, 2023

Arlene Burbank Estate; Richard & Wendy Meyer in memory of Norma "Jean" Willsher; Kate Schneider in memory of her mother, Doris Schneider; Stavanger Lodge 538 Sons of Norway; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Jan Yonker; Heidi Schneider in memory of her mother, Doris Schneider; Gus & Alecia Dotterweich in memory of Doris Schneider.

Thanks for direction of Thrivent Choice Dollars to CCHS:

Harry R. Schuur; Rosalee Davis

CCHS Membership

CCHS Thanks Our Member who upgraded to Lifetime Family Membership:

David & Nancy Erpestad

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Dorothy Fundahn; Don & Jean Hoppe; Frances Swenson; Zola Wood; Lou Masters; Klay & Jen Walinga; Richard & Dorothy Raverty; Judi Ray; Marlow & Marilyn Nickel

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

Rosemary Isackson; Mary Lou Walinga; Linda Mix

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:

Carol Christianson



Fall Recap

The Cottonwood County Annual Fall Fundraiser once again was a success with over 200 meals served on September 11. The exhibit in the Remick Gallery, "Salmagundi: A Collection" by Anna Johannsen, was an added attraction for the evening. Thank you to all the museum supporters who came to the event and to the Board of Trustees, staff, and our volunteers who worked the evening. The money raised will go toward museum projects.



Cottonwood County Historical Society

812 4th Avenue
Windom, MN 56101
cchs@windomnet.com
www.cchsmn1901.org
Ph. (507) 831-1134
www.facebook.com/cottonwoodcountyhs

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

WINDOM, MN

PERMIT NO. 6

Address Service Requested



Board of Trustees:

WENDY MEYER:	PRESIDENT
LINDSEY CARTWRIGHT:	1 ST VICE PRESIDENT
EARL ENSTAD:	2 ND VICE PRESIDENT
PAM GAHLER:	TREASURER
LAURA WILLIAMS:	SECRETARY
SHAWN COLBERT:	1 ST COM. DISTRICT
THOMAS WICKIE	2 ND COM. DISTRICT
MARILYN WAHL:	3 RD COM. DISTRICT
MARILYN NICKEL:	4 TH COM. DISTRICT
CAROL LEHMAN:	5 TH COM. DISTRICT
KEVIN STEVENS:	CO. COMMISSIONER. LIAISON

STAFF

LINDA FRANSEN:	DIRECTOR
SANDY PETERSON:	MUSEUM ASSISTANT
ANNA HOCHSTEIN:	HOUSEKEEPER
JESSICA BAK:	SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

2023 Events at the Museum

“Four Seasons: Art in Paper”
by Eva Lopez
October 1 – Nov. 18, 2023

CCHS Annual Meeting
“Hobos & High-heeled Women:
Riding the Currie Line”
by Janet Timmerman
November 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

“Chocolate & Bling:
Time to Sparkle & Shine”
November 30, at 5:30 p.m.

“Festival of Trees”
December 1-23