Chief Little Crow
Observance Program & Ceremony
Saturday, July 6th-1 PM
Stage area-Masonic West River Park
Inclement weather site- McLeod County Museum Meeting Room

According to Joseph N. Nicollet, the Dakota word for chief was "witshastaatapi," or "man of distinction." Dr. Thomas S. Williamson defined the same word as "men who are fathers." Chief Little Crow was both. July 3rd marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Chief Little Crow near the border of Meeker and McLeod County.

Little Crow grew up in the Dakota Tradition as leader and protector of his people. To lead he had to learn to live in two worlds, the white world that was consuming his people more and more every day, and the traditional Dakota world he had grown up in.

The pictures shown at the left show the two sides and two worlds of this complex leader. Little Crow was first and foremost a Dakota, and he died in his home land of Minnesota as a Dakota warrior.

We hope you will join Fern Cloud, the great, great granddaughter of Chief Little Crow; MN State Representative Dean Urdahl; Hutchinson Mayor, Steve Cook; and McLeod County Historical Society and Museum Director, Lori Pickell-Stangel as we observe the death of Chief Little Crow and remember the man who was a leader and a father to his Dakota people.

In this Issue:
Little Crow Monument Rededication & Dakota Ceremony……………………………………………………………………………….1
Saturday, July 6th-10:30 AM @ Masonic West River Park in Hutchinson, MN

Director's Review Book Release- “Images of Hutchinson” by Author Julie M. Jensen………………………………………………………2
Books available @ the Museum on Monday, July 15th!
Movie Premier of “The Midnight Gavel- the killing of Sheriff Rodgers in McLeod County”…………………………………………………3

Monday, July 29th-7PM - Museum Meeting Room
Historical Excerpts from, “Murder and Mayhem in McLeod County” - MCHS 2013 Theme Booklet………………………………………4-5
Free Community Workshop-Preserving Your Heritage & End of Life Planning………………………………………………………………..6

Wednesday, July 31st-6 PM- Museum Meeting Room
Donations, Memorials, Accessions & Artifact/s of the Month……………………………………………………………………………………7
Business Sponsors/KDUZ Radio Show………………………………………………………………………………………………..8
Mission Statement
The McLeod County Historical Society is dedicated to connecting with the past, understanding the present and making informed choices about the future by finding, preserving, explaining and sharing McLeod County history.

Membership Fees
Individual $20, Family $35
Business $200
Individual Lifetime $500

Board of Directors
Stan Ehrke, President
Karen Hendricksen, Vice President
Tara Russell, Secretary
Gerard Stifter, Treasurer
Dave Horrmann, Ray Pavlish, Anne Hahn, Scott Rehmann, and Lowell Ueland

Executive Director
Lori Pickell-Stangel
Assistant
Peggy Paulson

Volunteer Staff
Stan Ehrke, Tech Support
Bev Swenson, Collections
Marlys Fredrick, Research
Marge Ruzicka, Archivist
Liz Schwarze-3-D Artifacts

McLeod County Museum
380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(320) 587-2109
www.mcleodhistory.org
e-mail: info@hutchtel.net

Museum Hours
Monday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 1 to 4 p.m.
Also available by appointment
Closed:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday
The McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter is published eleven times per year, monthly except for December/January.

Board of Director’s Meeting
Fourth Monday of each Month at 7 P M
Museum Research Library

Presenting:

By Julie M. Jensen
For the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum

There is a story behind every city's name, and the tale of Hutchinson's founding can be told in music. It is the tale of a famous singing family from New England-Milford, New Hampshire, to be exact. The Hutchinson Family Singers enjoyed enormous success during the mid-1800s, and present-day re-enactors remind us of their idealism, talents, and achievements...The new village prospered in its early years until 1862, when its future was threatened with news of Indian unrest. In lieu of fleeing, the settlers built a stockade that offered them protection...Still, even in the face of subsequent hardships-grasshopper plagues, disease, drought, windstorms, floods, and fires-Hutchinson's settlers found ways to grow and prosper...

$24.00 per Book– Available on Monday, July 15th at the McLeod County Historical Museum Gift Shop, Call to reserve your copy today!

Director’s Review: I think it’s finally Summer! But rain or shine, here at the Museum, we will be having great programs and fundraisers that focus on our unique county history all season long, so don’t miss out on a thing.

I want to send out a special thanks to Chuck Thiel for entertaining the large crowd at our Annual Pork Chop Supper. Great job Chuck! I also want to thank all the devoted volunteers and local business sponsors that help us out each year to make this much needed fundraiser happen. Without all of you, it would not be possible and we appreciate it.

I want to apologize to all our guests for not being able to attend this years Pork Chop Supper Fundraiser, as my oldest daughter Ella decided to push her acrobatic skills to the limit on the monkey bars at daycare. This feat ended with a compound fracture to her left arm. Several breaks in all. It was one of those times when mommy just had to be there, and I thank Liz Schwarze for hosting for me so I could be with my daughter.
McLeod County Historical Society and Museum: Movie Premier
Showing Monday, July 29th – 7PM
Museum Meeting room
Tickets: $10 for adults & $8 for kids under 12 years

“The Midnight Gavel”
The murder of Sheriff Rodgers,
June 24th, 1896

The smell of popcorn and murder is in the air here at the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum. There’s nothing better than a thrilling Murder Mystery Movie with a big tub of buttery popcorn. But the best part of the premier of our Murder Mystery Movie, is that here at the Museum, our Murders are fact, not fiction!

Scott Rehmann, McLeod County Sheriff and history buff, has spent the past several years researching the various Murders that have befallen our local county communities. This spurred the Museum to make our 2013 Historical Theme, “Murder and Mayhem in McLeod County”. Although over 15 some Murders have occurred in McLeod County from 1887 to the 1950s, the Murder of Sheriff Rodger’s in the Summer 1896 is the one that first caught Scott’s imagination and started it all! See you at the Movie!!!

Upper Midwest A-C Collectors Club Presents:
The Annual Orange Spectacular at the McLeod County Fairgrounds
Open for Tours at the Museum
July 27-28-10AM to 4 PM

Allis-Chalmers Fuel Cell Tractor on loan from the Smithsonian at the Museum.
his intention to drive the Yellowstone Trail from Minneapolis to his home in McLeod County. His sister-in-law rode with him as far as Excelsior, then planned to board a streetcar and head back into the city.

Catching a ride west on the Yellowstone Trail

It was at Excelsior that two men dressed in military uniforms approached Mr. Larson about catching a ride west on the Yellowstone Trail. He agreed, and Larson’s sister-in-law boarded the streetcar for Minneapolis, while the two unknown soldiers climbed in the backseat of John Larson’s new automobile.

Along the way Larson and the two passengers stopped in Victoria to have a garage mechanic look at the steering gear of the car, which was acting up. This was the last known trace anyone had seen of John Gust Larson alive. After making the needed repairs to the steering gear, the group proceeded west on the trail. They reached Glencoe, MN just as the noon whistle blew and did not stop for lunch, but passed through the little hamlet. It was just two and half miles outside of town that the two uniformed men pulled out a gun and directed Larson to pull over the car. They forced Larson out of the car with his hands in the air and it was at this very moment that another automobile came whizzing over the hill at their rear. The armed bandit immediately ordered Mr. Larson to put his arms down and to remain still. Larson did as he was told and the car speeded past them down the Yellowstone Trail. The two men walked John Gust Larson into the nearby cornfield, forced him to his knees then gagged him and bound his hands and feet. Even though Larson begged the two men to take his car and all his money he had on him, they proceeded to retrieve the automobile crank from the car, using it to kill Larson by a blow to the head. Covering the body with Larson’s own raincoat, the
two men fled the cornfield, only to meet the gaze of another passing car on the busy Trail. The two men pretended to be inspecting the corn in the field and kept their backs to the road, until the car had passed. Fleeing in the new automobile, the two men proceeded west, hoping to reach South Dakota.

When Mr. Larson failed to reach his destination in a timely fashion, the police were notified and put out a search for the missing man and his new automobile. The car turned up in a Sisseton, South Dakota garage with a broken front axle, as police pieced together Larson's travels along the Yellowstone Trail. It was in Sisseton, South Dakota that Forbes and his accomplice, a man by the name of Armstrong, took refuge at a local boarding house. When Forbes was stopped for driving a car without a licenses, he took the police back to the boarding house and shouted to Armstrong that he was under arrest. This sent Armstrong, automatic guns in both hands, through the door, rescuing Forbes from the police and making their getaway. The car they had stolen from Larson was wrecked just outside of Sisseton, with the two escapes hijacking a farmer in another car. The two forced the farmer to drive them several miles before tying him to a tree and fleeing.

The police identified one of the passengers that Larson gave a ride to, as Charles Forbes. Forbes, who had several alias names, was a 27 year old soldier who fought in the Canadian army in France. He suffered injuries during his service, with a bullet to the leg that had not yet healed. Forbes’ trail was followed by police all the way to Glendive, Montana. It was here that detectives Duffy and McGuire, who had been trailing the killers for weeks, received their first big break. They discovered that Forbes had been receiving mail in this town and intercepted letters sent to and from Forbes and his wife in Minneapolis. The first letter they obtained from Forbes’ wife recounted how he and Armstrong had, “slugged the old man near Olivia and had thrown his body into the ditch and that they were going west with the car.” It was then at Glendive, Montana that the second letter was intercepted, and led police to the location of Forbes. Although Forbes was armed with a .38 caliber automatic, police quickly out gunned him and he was taken in without fire. Forbes was questioned and said he had parted ways with his partner in crime in Deer Lodge, Montana, after a fight over a woman.

I had no intention of killing the man...

Forbes confessed to everything except striking the death blow to John Larson, blaming Armstrong for killing the man. Forbes claimed that he had no intention of killing the man, only taking his money and car.

Forbes agreed to show the police where Larson’s body could be found along the Yellowstone Trail, but when searching, could not recall the exact spot. In the meantime, Sheriff Klaus and Sheriff Sunde phoned local farmers along the route to check their cornfields for the remains. Forbes was housed in the Renville County Jail overnight and the search began again in the morning, but it was not until 4:15 in the afternoon that the spot was finally found.

Just eighteen feet away from the Yellowstone Trail, John Gust Larson’s body was hidden by the high corn. The body had been exposed for over five weeks and it had already succumbed to decomposition. Only the flesh on his chest remained, being held to the body by a thick leather vest he had been wearing the day of the murder. His bleached skull was found five feet away from the body, along with several limbs. The Minneapolis detectives, Sheriff Klaus and County Attorney McNelly thoroughly searched the area, finding the gag and ties that were used to bind Larson.

Forbes was taken to Minneapolis on Saturday night by the two detectives on the case. They have promised that every effort would be made to get the name of his accomplice and partner in this terrible crime. The detectives believed that the two suspects were members of a local Minneapolis gang and had committed similar crimes in that city. Forbes claimed that his partner was a “Bad man”, and would not be taken alive.

After a co-operative search by Minneapolis detectives and the Tacoma, Washington authorities, Myron Bassett was taken into custody for the Murder of John Gust Larson on September 24th.

References:

Glencoe Enterprise, September 4, 1919
Glencoe Enterprise, October 2, 1919
Hutchinson Leader, December 12, 1919
Glencoe Enterprise, November 27, 1919
Hutchinson Leader, December 5, 1919

I had no intention of killing the man...

Forbes confessed to everything except striking the death blow to John Larson, blaming Armstrong for killing the man. Forbes claimed that he had no intention of killing the man, only taking his money and car.

Forbes agreed to show the police where Larson’s body could be found along the Yellowstone Trail, but when searching, could not recall the exact spot. In the meantime, Sheriff Klaus and Sheriff Sunde phoned local farmers along the route to check their cornfields for the remains. Forbes was housed in the Renville County Jail overnight and the search began again in the morning, but it was not until 4:15 in the afternoon that the spot was finally found.

Just eighteen feet away from the Yellowstone Trail, John Gust Larson’s body was hidden by the high corn. The body had been exposed for over five weeks and it had already succumbed to decomposition. Only the flesh on his chest remained, being held to the body by a thick leather vest he had been wearing the day of the murder. His bleached skull was found five feet away from the body, along with several limbs. The Minneapolis detectives, Sheriff Klaus and County Attorney McNelly thoroughly searched the area, finding the gag and ties that were used to bind Larson.

Forbes was taken to Minneapolis on Saturday night by the two detectives on the case. They have promised that every effort would be made to get the name of his accomplice and partner in this terrible crime. The detectives believed that the two suspects were members of a local Minneapolis gang and had committed similar crimes in that city. Forbes claimed that his partner was a “Bad man”, and would not be taken alive.

After a co-operative search by Minneapolis detectives and the Tacoma, Washington authorities, Myron Bassett was taken into custody for the Murder of John Gust Larson on September 24th.

References:

Glencoe Enterprise, September 4, 1919
Glencoe Enterprise, October 2, 1919
Hutchinson Leader, December 12, 1919
Glencoe Enterprise, November 27, 1919
Hutchinson Leader, December 5, 1919

I had no intention of killing the man...

Forbes confessed to everything except striking the death blow to John Larson, blaming Armstrong for killing the man. Forbes claimed that he had no intention of killing the man, only taking his money and car.

Forbes agreed to show the police where Larson’s body could be found along the Yellowstone Trail, but when searching, could not recall the exact spot. In the meantime, Sheriff Klaus and Sheriff Sunde phoned local farmers along the route to check their cornfields for the remains. Forbes was housed in the Renville County Jail overnight and the search began again in the morning, but it was not until 4:15 in the afternoon that the spot was finally found.

Just eighteen feet away from the Yellowstone Trail, John Gust Larson’s body was hidden by the high corn. The body had been exposed for over five weeks and it had already succumbed to decomposition. Only the flesh on his chest remained, being held to the body by a thick leather vest he had been wearing the day of the murder. His bleached skull was found five feet away from the body, along with several limbs. The Minneapolis detectives, Sheriff Klaus and County Attorney McNelly thoroughly searched the area, finding the gag and ties that were used to bind Larson.

Forbes was taken to Minneapolis on Saturday night by the two detectives on the case. They have promised that every effort would be made to get the name of his accomplice and partner in this terrible crime. The detectives believed that the two suspects were members of a local Minneapolis gang and had committed similar crimes in that city. Forbes claimed that his partner was a “Bad man”, and would not be taken alive.

After a co-operative search by Minneapolis detectives and the Tacoma, Washington authorities, Myron Bassett was taken into custody for the Murder of John Gust Larson on September 24th.

References:

Glencoe Enterprise, September 4, 1919
Glencoe Enterprise, October 2, 1919
Hutchinson Leader, December 12, 1919
Glencoe Enterprise, November 27, 1919
Hutchinson Leader, December 5, 1919

I had no intention of killing the man...

Forbes confessed to everything except striking the death blow to John Larson, blaming Armstrong for killing the man. Forbes claimed that he had no

McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter 5
and the Dobratz-Hantge Funeral Chapel
Invite you to a free community workshop...

"Preserving Your Heritage"

Wednesday, July 31, 2013
6:00 P.M.
McLeod County Museum
380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, Minnesota

Speakers Include...

Brenda Hornick, Certified Preplanning Counselor, will discuss the emotional and financial benefits of making funeral and or cremation directives in advance and provide some tips on how we can get started on this area of our estate planning.

Lori Pickell-Stangel, Executive Director McLeod County Historical Society will walk you through the preservation of family heirlooms. Everything from Great Aunt’s old quilt, Grandpa’s watch, Mom’s silver set, to Great Grandma’s wedding dress. Learn how these treasures can be preserved and ensure that they are around for many generations to come.

Ron McGraw, Attorney at Law, will share with us the importance of estate planning, including basic information about wills, trusts and powers of attorney.

Pat Zalusky, Laker Planning will discuss Medical Assistance and the 5 year “look back” period which makes it even harder to protect our assets from nursing home costs.

Dave Reedstrom, Disability Planning Specialist will discuss estate planning and how to set up funding that will last for those who are disabled.

Please call the funeral home at 320-587-2128 so that we may reserve your place. The seminar date is approaching quickly, so make your reservations today. If you cannot attend but would like to receive the FREE information, call the funeral home at the number listed above.

Call and reserve your place today!
320-587-2128
**Donations & Memorials:**

**Log Cabin Home:**
*In memory of Calvin “Kelly” West from Pat Schmidt*

**General Fund:**
*Congregational Women’s Fellowship; Thomas Daggett; Patrick Melvin; Joan & Barry Cotter; Thrivent Financial*

**Archives:**
*In memory of Grant Knutson from Ken & Jane Kirby*

**Heritage Garden:**

**Endowment Fund:**
*In memory of Calvin “Kelly” West from Frank & Georgia Forcier; In memory of Calvin “Kelly” West from Ron & Karen Sommerdorff; In memory of Grant Knutson from Lois & Roger Krantz; In memory of Harriet Schmidt, Janet Luedtke and Shari Witte from Roger & Shirley Karstens*

**Genealogy Fund:**

**Technology Fund:**

**Restoration Fund:**

**Annual Support Fund:**
*Marlys Fredrick; Ron & Karen Sommerdorff; Datalaf & Phyllis Weseloh; Fred Holasek & Son, Inc.; Rich Valley Township*

**Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser:**
*Benny’s Meat Market, Subway, Schwan’s, Kentucky Fried Chicken; McCormick’s Family Restaurant, Cash Wise, Econo Foods and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

---

**Welcome New and Life Members:**

*Joan & Barry Cotter, Evanston, Illinois; Debby Lemere Price, Highland, CA; Sarah Anderson, Windom, MN*

---

**Museum Artifact Donations:**  The society thanks you for your donation!

Robert Peterson  Viola Ziemer  Pearl Baysinger  Darlene Haag  Christel Navratil
Janice Rehman  Julie Jensen  Doris Rusch  Jon Marshall  Mavis Kottke
June McLean  Richard & Robert Hantge  Doris Reiner  Curtis Amdahl  Ronald Lyslo
Fay Fandrich  Eunice & Charles Warner  Dorothy Lindeman  Lois Droge  June Schulz
Don Krussow  Kyle Mackenzie Nowell  Scott Wallner  Louise Schroeder
Ann Kosel  MN Army National Guard  Ron Pulkrabek  Cynthia Fallon

---

**Artifact/s of the Month:**

**Donor:** Abby Andrews  **Accession #:** 1987-0777-001

**History:** Large beaded Victorian pincushion given to Simon Lauzer's parents by Chief Little Crow when he lived on their farm in Waverly, Minnesota, during the winter months. Has heavily beaded picture of two birds on a branch in the center with outer border of leaves that are also heavily beaded. Loops of beads form the fringe. Reverse is pale lavender stiff cloth. Beads are all clear except blue beads for the birds' eyes. Heavy stuffing (maybe sawdust?).

Simon Lauzer's parents were Mathias and Anna Lauzer who immigrated in 1857 from Bohemia. The donor Abby Lauzer Andrews was the daughter of Simon & Anna Tmey Lauzer and granddaughter of Mathias & Anna Lauzer. The Lauzers farmed in Section 26, Hutchinson Township from about 1880.

---

McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter
McLeod County Historical Museum’s
Historical Happenings Radio Show

Tune into AM 1260 KDUZ the last Friday afternoon of each month to catch the latest in Museum Programs & Events, Local History, and special topics on Preservation

Sponsored by:

Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

Downtown Office  South Office
320-587-2233  1-888-234-2910

www.cbhutch.com

McLeod County Historical Society Business Sponsors
(Please support the local businesses who support the preservation of McLeod County History)

~ Citizens Bank & Trust ~ Dundee Floral ~ Crow River Floral ~ Ace Hardware
~ The Village Shop ~ Blue Note Ballroom ~ Littfin Lumber Co. ~ Benny’s Meat Market ~

Return Service Requested