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**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**
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- 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 4 P.M
- Museum Research Library

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**Director’s Review:**
Can you hear the whistle of the train? Well here at the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum, the train is headed down the track, and it’s bringing all kinds of great history programs for 2014!

It is amazing how things can just fall into place, and I am speaking of our recent partnership with Heart of Hutchinson and the Hutchinson Library, for our One Book, One Community Read program. I jumped at the chance to work with these two great community organizations to inspire history, reading and community involvement. The goal of the program is to get everyone reading, discussing and learning about the same book, “Orphan Train” by Christina Baker Kline. This fit perfectly with our choice for our 2014 theme, “History of the Railroads of McLeod County”!

As seen on the right, we have already hosted programs on Train Depots, (Thank you Bill Schrankler) and the historical background on the Orphan Trains and their riders through a PBS special. We will also have one more Orphan Train presenter, Renee Wendinger, coming in February to share her book on the same topic. (See page 3) We have had a great turnout for our programs so far, despite the very severe weather. We hope you will join us in the book conversation and pick up a copy of “Orphan Train” from the Museum’s Gift Shop, while supplies last. Bill’s book, “Shadows of Time...Minnesota’s Surviving Depots” can also be purchased at the Museum’s Gift Shop.

Okay, cross your fingers!
I just sent in a grant to preserve, stabilize and protect our 900 year old Canoe. The grant will allow us to have an Objects Conservator clean and restore one end of the canoe. It will also pay to have a custom base and acrylic cover to protect the canoe, but still make it visible to guests touring the display.

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**Civil War Roundtable Club**

*Interested in the Civil War era? Next Meeting: Saturday, February 22nd at 2 PM-In the Museum Mtg. Room*

*If you would be interested in attending a meeting or learning more, please contact: Bruce Kottke Ph #: 920-639-7505 or via e-mail: b_kottke@hotmail.com*
In 1853 the US began evaluation of railroad routes to the Pacific with mapping announcements going to Europe and the rest of the world. Praises went forth of coming to America and obtaining free land. New York City served as America’s main point of entry for European immigrants receiving the largest number of immigrants. However, after many of these people arrived in the U.S., they faced difficult conditions and were not able to find employment due to the dramatic influx of laborers. Many immigrants made long overland journeys while countless others remained living in New York City. As a result, families were forced to give up their children handing off mere newborns to orphanages and releasing mere youths to fend for themselves on the streets of New York. Times were challenging but the truly visionary found ways to make a difference in children’s lives.

As of 1854-1929, over 200,000 children were placed out on orphan trains. The incredible journey for these children on the train belongs exclusively to those who rode the rails from the East Coast, particularly New York, to all points West across America to find family homes. The transfer was the first emigration plan and largest mass migration of children ever to take place on American soil.

Renée’s mother was one of the children of the orphan trains taking part in a phenomenal journey from New York City to America’s Heartland. Inspired by her mother to reveal the factual story of orphaned children of immigrant parents, Renée embraces a diverse non-fiction account by reflecting on the chronicles of past events and documenting experiences in her award winning book. Wendinger’s book is featured at Ellis Island, New York, is utilized as a resource for the New York Theatre Institute’s production play *Orphan Train* directed by four time Emmy Award winner, director and choreographer, Patricia Birch, and a concentrated graduate level study course has also been developed by professors of Brooklyn College, built on Wendinger’s book. This is a program you will not want to miss. Book signing following presentation.
The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum would like to introduce you to our 2014 Theme, “History of the Railroads of McLeod County”!

The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is filled with historical information about how the Railroads changed Minnesota and McLeod County forever, as well as artifacts and documents that show the progression of railroad technology and all the tools and schemes used to keep the rails running.

Each month, the Museum will feature an excerpt from our theme booklet, “History of the Railroads of McLeod County”, which will be available for purchase in the Museum’s gift shop. The Booklet will cover the early history of the railroad system in Minnesota, each of the railroad lines that ran through our county, plus the “Paper Rails” that were never to be. So come along with us, and ride the rails of history in 2014!

Taken from:
“Early Minnesota Railroads and the Quest for Settlers”
By Harold F. Peterson, Duke University-Durham, North Carolina, pp. 25-44

...European emigrants, impelled by the propaganda resulting from the earlier attitude and attracted by the vast, unclaimed regions in the West, flocked to the American shores by the tens of thousands. Added to the activities of governmental agencies to attract immigrants were the efforts of new and struggling railroads in the trans-Mississippi Territory to draw to that region passengers and potential shippers and consumers. Competition became keen, and the railroad companies of Minnesota, like those of other states, saw the feasibility, not to mention the necessity, of setting out upon a quest for settlers. The first rails in the state were laid in 1862, and after that, with the exception of the period of depression following the panic of 1873, construction proceeded with an ever increasing impetus, until, by 1880, the state had nearly thirty-one hundred miles of line, and its southern, central, and western portions were fairly well gridironed with rails. To be sure, there were still sections that were not adequately served by railroads, but for the most part the lines were so situated as to aid greatly in the continued flux of settlers and the export of indigenous products...

...Official encouragement of immigration to Minnesota began about the time of the organization of the territory in 1849 and continued throughout the territorial period. As competition for settlers grew keener among the states of the upper Mississippi Valley, the state government, which was established in 1858, developed the policy of encouragement originated by the territorial legislature and continued it through the sixties and seventies. Similar policies on the part of the railroad companies obviously could not come until after 1862, and, as a matter of fact, the roads took little active interest in promoting settlement until just before 1870. The possibility of synchronizing the efforts of state and railroad agencies early made itself apparent...

...The Northern Pacific Railroad Company in 1866, two years after its incorporation and four years before building operations actually started, contemplated the “establishment of a Bureau of Emigration for the purpose of settlement of the land of the Company”, and proposed sending a director to Germany and other parts of northern Europe. In order that the character of the mission might be made more impressive, the company endeavored to obtain official state recognition for an agent of this kind from Governor William R. Marshall of Minnesota, who responded that it afforded him “pleasure to give an official letter to such an agent with the view of inducing emigrants to settle upon the lands of the company in this state…”

McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter
Donations & Memorials:

**Log Cabin Home Fund:**
In memory of Don Baumetz from Bev & Mike Wangerin; In memory of Don Baumetz from Liz & Bill Schwarze
In memory of Dale Mackenthun from Pat Schmidt; In memory of Vern Hagen from Bev & Mike Wangerin

**General Fund:**
Dian Schwarze; Plum Creek Library System, Emmy Lindeman, Margaret Perry, Luella Sondergaard, Marilyn Krueger, Del & Ida Rutske,
Norma McNeil, Donald Rudy, In memory of Jim Urban from Janaita Urban; In memory of Roy Pikal from Val Pikal; Rachel & Dan Murphy; Mary Henke; Herbert & June Schulz; Lu Jacobson; Joyce Johnson; In memory of Maxine Ladd from Larry Ladd; In memory of Alvin Dummer from Carol Dummer; Margaret Hoffman; Kay Husfeldt; Marlys Fredrick; In memory of Gideon Kibbe Gilbert from Barbara Heidemann; Terry & Patrice Davis; Katherine Carrigan; Delores Gustafson; Karen Hendricksen & Ron Makovsky; Betty Pulkrabek; Roger & Lois Krantz; Luella Ristow; Ann Calvert; Wallace Oliva

**Archives Fund:**
In memory of Don Baumetz from Marlys Fredrick; In memory of Elaine Black from Marlys Fredrick
In memory of Mae Juul from Marlys Fredrick

**Heritage Garden Fund:**

**Endowment Fund:**
In memory of Don Baumetz from Dorothy Schwarze; In memory of Don Baumetz from Anne & Vern Hahn;
In memory of Don Baumetz from Bill & Joan Arndt; In memory of Robert Telecky and Lyle Christensen from Roger & Shirley Karstens; In memory of Donald Baumetz from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf; In memory of Don Baumetz from Leroy & Darlene Karg; In memory of Dale Mackenthun from Anne & Vern Hahn & family; In memory of Jean Peterson from Margaret Hoff- man, In memory of Cyril & Bruce Donnay from Leonna Donnay; In memory of Lyle Christenson from Gerald & Ida Karstens; In memory of Merlyn Danielson from Lucile Danielson; In memory of Loved Ones from Everett & Katherine Hantge; Jim & Shirley Schwarze; Julie Jensen; Darlene Fasching; Bethel Koeppen; Roger & Lois Krantz

**Technology Fund:**

**Restoration Fund:**

**Welcome New and Life Members:**
Susan Raveling, Hutchinson; Mavis Martens, Hobart, OK; Kristal Hauge, Fergus Falls, MN;
David Pikal, Brownton, MN; Ralph & Marietta Novotny, Hector, MN; John Hassinger, Hutchinson;
Darlene Ostrowski, Hutchinson; Jim & Arlene Field, Hutchinson

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

Dianne Bonniwell
Julie Jensen
Ronald Makovsky
Barbara Seeley Devlin
Steve Emmings
Darlene Karg
Dave Horrmann
Dan Kottke
Marlys Fredrick
Marilyn Krueger
Paul Radtke
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Dean Duesterhoeft
Scott Rehmann

**Artifact/s of the Month:**

**Donor:** Margaret Abbott

**Accession #:** 2007-0232-047-Silk Pillowcase
2007-0232-063-Necklace, 2007-0111-107-Photo of Joe Knaff in Military Army Uniform

**History:** White printed silk pillowcase cover with yellow fringe, has written on it “U. S. Army Sweetheart”. It was given to Lydia Prochnow by Joe Knaff during his service in World War II. The heart shaped pendant necklace with links of iridescent material, (may be Mother of pearl). The necklace was brought back from the South Pacific by Joe Knaff during his service in the U.S. Army in World War II. Photo is of Joe Knaff in his Army Military uniform. Joe was married to Lydia Prochnow on October 1st, 1944 by Rev. Schulze of Frieden’s Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN.
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

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