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$3 admission or $7 Per Appraisal Item, $15 for 3 Appraisal Items!

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Antique Appraisal & Preservation Fundraiser
Sunday, March 23rd-1-3 PM
Museum Educational Media Center

It’s time for the Annual McLeod County Historical Society Antique Appraisal Fundraiser! Each year we see great family heirlooms, collection items, and rare garage sale finds that our well trained appraisers identify and give a dollar value for either re-sale or for insurance coverage. Many guests though also want to know how they can preserve their antique treasures, so this year we are adding a preservation desk to the program. Advice on how to handle, store, and display items, as well as preservation product recommendations and treatments.

The appraisal program is narrated by auctioneer Kathy Krone. Kathy not only aids in appraising items, but picks out key items of value and/or interest and explains what makes the item valuable or unique. Kathy will be joined by appraisers Lynn Buck and Guste Blad. Lynn lives in Hutchinson, MN and specializes in quilts, textiles, china, glass, and flatware. Guste, who resides in Hector, MN, focuses on antique toys, metal signs, agricultural tools and manufacturing implements. We will also have guest appraisers from the Luce Line Railroad Club on hand to appraise railroad memorabilia and modeling items.

An appraisal costs just $7 per item, or $15 for three items. You can choose to have the item shown as a part of the program, or evaluated privately, and after your appraisal, you can get preservation advice for Free!!! If you have more than one item, you can save money with three items costing just $15.

Even if you don’t have an item, this program is a fun and educational way to learn more about antiques. Admission is just $3 for adults; children under the age of 12 are free. We hope you will join us!
McLeod County Historical Society

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
Anne Hahn, President
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Tara Russell, Secretary
Gary Ziener, Treasurer
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Lori Pickell-Stangel

Assistant
Peggy Paulson

Volunteer Staff
Gary Tessmer & 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 4 P.M.
Museum Research Library

Director’s Review:
What a spectacular turnout, and great speaker for our latest One Book, One Community Read event! Renee Wendinger,(seen on the right), stole the show with her historical background on the history of the Orphan Trains and her personal story of survival by her Mother who was herself an Orphan Train reader. Renee sold and signed her Fiction book, “Extra, Extra! Orphan Trains and the Newsboys of New York”, which she sold out of that day. She talked about her upcoming book, “Last Train Home,” which was not yet available when she came to the Museum to present. But we have now recently received a shipment of both books here in our Gift Shop! It, along with many other Train related books are available for purchase, so stop in and check them out. The next big program in our One Community Read is a Community Book Club meeting, (see page 3), hosted by the Hutchinson Public Library, to do a little Q &A on the “Orphan Train” book.

I am so happy to announce that the Museum has received a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant to preserve and safely house and exhibit our 900 year old Dugout Canoe! This grant will create a movable platform for the canoe to rest on, as well as an acrylic cover. The Cover will protect the canoe from dust and visitor contact that could cause the very old wood to crumble. The base will be painted to blend into the already existing mural wall behind the canoe, adding to the realistic feel of how the canoe was once used. This will be a great added feature to the Native American display area, and something to look forward to this Spring!

I want to commend and congratulate Bruce Kottke on his very successful second Civil War Roundtable Club meeting, (see photo at right). The meeting enjoyed a great turnout with many exciting ideas for the future!

Civil War Roundtable Club
Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th at 7 PM, in the Educational Media Center at the Museum.
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
Join us for our next COMMUNITY BOOK READ

Book Club

Discussion for “Orphan Train”

Sunday, March 30th-2-4 PM

Hutchinson Public Library

As a part of Hutchinson’s Community Book Read program, the Hutchinson Public Library will be opening their doors for a special one day community Book Club program. Book Clubs from around McLeod County will be attending. But even if you do not belong to a book club you will want to attend! There will be a special display of historical items from the McLeod County Historical Society, excerpt book readings, as well as Q & A discussion of the book.

Haven’t read the book yet? Copies can be purchased at the Village Shop, the McLeod County Historical Museum Gift Shop or checked out at your public Library!
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:

...The transition of Minnesota from a territory to a state organization occurred at the period when the whole republic was suffering from financial embarrassments.

By an act of congress approved by the president on the 5th of March, 1857, lands had been granted to Minnesota to aid in the construction of railways. During an extra session of the legislature of Minnesota, an act was passed in May, 1857, giving the congressional grant to certain corporations to build railroads.

A few months after, it was discovered that the cooperators had neither the money nor the credit to begin and complete these internal improvements. In the winter of 1858 the legislature again listened to the siren voices of the railway corporations, until their words to some members seemed like, “apples of gold in pictures of silver,” and an additional act was passed submitting to the people an amendment to the constitution which provided for the loan of the public credit to the land grant railroad companies to the amount of $5,000,000, upon condition that a certain amount of labor on the roads was performed.

Some of the citizens saw in the proposed measure, “a cloud no larger than a man’s hand,” which would lead to a terrific storm, and a large public meeting was convened at the capital in St. Paul, and addressed by ex-Governor Gorman, D. A. Roberson, William R. Marshall, and others depreciating the engraving of such a peculiar amendment into the constitution; but the people were poor and needy and deluded and would not listen; their hopes and happiness seemed to depend upon the plighted faith of railway corporations, and on April the 15th, the appointed election day, 25,023 votes were deposited for, while only 6,733 votes were cast against the amendment…

...Governor Ramsey, in an inaugural delivered on the second of January, 1860, devoted a large space to the discussion of the difficulties arising from the issue of the railroad bonds. He said: “It is extremely desirable to remove as speedily as possible so vexing a question from our state politics, and not allow it to remain for years to disturb our elections, possibly to divide our people into bond and anti-bond parties, and introduce, annually, into our legislative halls an element of discord and possibly of corruption, all to end just as similar complications in other states have ended…”

The legislature of this year passed a law submitting an amendment to the constitution which would prevent the issue of any more railroad bonds. At an election in November 1860, it was voted on, and reads as follows: “The credit of the state shall never be given on bonds in aid of any individual, association or corporation; nor shall there be any further issue of bonds denominated Minnesota state railroad bonds, under what purports to be an amendment to section ten, of article nine, is hereby expunged from the constitution, saving, excepting, and reserving to the state, nevertheless, all rights, remedies and forfeitures accruing under said amendment.”
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:
General Fund:
Singing Valentine from Anne & Vern Hahn; Our Savior’s Lutheran School;
Singing Valentine from Ron McGraw; Singing Valentine from Mary Ebent;
Crow River Floral & Gifts
Archives Fund:
Heritage Garden Fund:
Endowment Fund:
In memory of Mrs. Dorothy Plath from Datlaf & Phyllis Weseloh;
In memory of Millie Lokensgard from Bill & Joan Arndt; George Quast
Technology Fund:
In memory of Helen Stark and Floyd Kastens from Anne & Vern Hahn
Restoration Fund:
Genealogy Fund:

Welcome New and Life Members:

Eugene & Patricia Otto, Hutchinson;
Corinne Marz, Cottage Grove, MN;
Dorothy Dahlke, Glencoe

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

Scott Rehmann
Mavis Schwanke

Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor: Mary Frankenfield
Bonniwell
Accession #: Photo: 1985-1807-001
Railroad Spike: 1988-1650-001

History: Sepia toned photograph of train Engine No. 329, the first engine entering the village of Hutchinson. Taken September, 1886 by F. E. Houck of Hutchinson, MN. In the picture, left to right: Tommy (fireman), W. S. Bowhall (locomotive operator), W. T. Bonniwell, Agnes V. Bonniwell, David N. Correll (civil engineer).

Agnes Bonniwell drove the golden spike, shown at the right. This symbolic spike was an iron railroad spike painted gold and donated to the McLeod County Historical Society in September of 1943.

1886 saw the arrival of both the Milwaukee Road, a 13-mile link from Glencoe, and the Great Northern, a 40-mile link from Wayzata.
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:

McLeod County Historical Society Business Sponsors
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