The Rails changed everything for small early communities, like the ones in McLeod County. With the railroad came all the products of the east and a way to move the products of the prairie out to the cities. The picture shown above is one example of how the goods of the east were brought to the prairie: Taken around 1900, it shows Charley Senescall’s dray/freight wagon. The wagon is stacked high with salesmen’s trunks on their way to the Merchants Hotel where samples were to be viewed. The photo was taken in front of Schunemans General Store, the meeting hall of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Linne’s Bakery and Restaurant. Charley Senescall, operator of one of many dray line companies at that time, assisted traveling salesmen who arrived in Hutchinson by rail every three or four months. He would haul trunks filled with salesmen’s samples from the railroad depots to the Hotel where shopkeepers could come and view them and place their orders for new goods. Again the rails would be used to ship these goods to the stores and to the awaiting frontier families to purchase.

Journalist and railroad history buff Terry Davis will give us an inside look into just how McLeod County’s goods and people were moved by the rails, and how this one technology changed everything for the prairie communities like McLeod county.
SINGING FOR THE COWS

“Homesteading a Dream”

McLeod County, Minnesota
-One Woman Play Premiere in February, 2015-

SINGING FOR THE COWS is comprised of a series of stories, poems and songs accompanied by period photographs created by award winning New York writer/performer Deborah Jean Templin.

Deborah, while growing up on her family’s Bergen Township century farm in rural McLeod County, collected the wisdom and stories that would forever shape her life and the lives of a generation of rural McLeod County Minnesotans. Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in rural McLeod County, SINGING FOR THE COWS brings together the influence, history, stories and photographs of the Templin, Behlers and Kroppen Homesteads, Plato Go Getters 4-H Club, Luther League, Glencoe High School, District Six Country School and the roads and places traveled on “Joy Rides” with her mother Verda Templin.

It is wisdom from the land and the cows that make SINGING FOR THE COWS a must see play!

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SW Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
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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Volunteer Staff
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Bev Swenson, Collections
Marlys Fredrick, Research Currently Open, 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:
Wow! What a great turnout at our 2014 Annual Meeting. 102 guests filled the Museum’s Educational Media Center, showing that McLeod County history is very important to the citizens of our county. I am always amazed at the great support that we have from our members and communities, so keep it up, because 2015 is right around the corner and we will be bringing you a new year of history.

I want to thank the Hutch Café for a terrific meal! Our early sampling of Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie was delicious. A big thanks also for our guest speaker, Professor Don L. Hofsommer of St. Cloud State University. Professor Hofsommer gave us a history lesson on the Colonization of the West, via the Railroads. Our annual meeting is also an opportunity to highlight some great works done over the past year, with our Volunteer of the Year and Donor of the Year awards being given out. It’s always tough picking just one volunteer, as we have so many great volunteers that make history happen here at the Museum. But it was one volunteer’s turn this year, one who is always there for the Museum. Marlys Fredrick is a fixture at the Museum and goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to making sure the Museum runs like clockwork. (top right) Thanks Marlys!

Our Donor of the Year award went to a group of 3M retirees, who all together contributed $2,000 to purchase our eight new computer workstations to keep our technology goals on track. So thank you Donors of the Year: Joan and Bill Arndt, Fay Fandrich and Bev Baumentz,(shown third photo down on right) Germaine K. Troska,(not shown). We also honored our top six 7th Grade History Project winners. These six students from two history classes each won a cash prize from Hometown Bank and the McLeod County Historical Society for their great work! Congrats to the winners:

Mr. Schmidt’s class-1st-Abbie Hatlestad-2nd-Andret Mlinar-3rd-Lucas Schottmer
Ms. Mohr’s class-1st-Wyatt Thomas-2nd-Jaden Owen-3rd-Tyler Drey

Last, but not least, please remember to give to the Max on November 13th! Volunteer Gary Tessmer has been working hard to get our page up and ready for this great day of giving!
McLeod County Historical Society and Museum 2014 Historical Theme:

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 Glencoe Register, March 7th, 1872: Our Railroad

Mr. A. B. Rogers, Chief Engineer of the Hastings & Dakota Railroad, was in town last week to consult with our citizens in regard to locating their road to our village, and looked over the route from the village east to the county line.

It is now quite certain that the road will be located to our village if the right of way is guaranteed them through Helen and Glencoe, and unless our citizens do this, we cannot count on it. It is very likely that the route on the north side of the village will be adopted, if the right of way on that route can be secured. The land owners on the route south of the creek have nearly every one come forward and signed the right of way without confining them to lines, and

Taken from Glencoe Register, May 6th, 1872: Our Railroad

The engineers on the Hastings and Dakota Railway are surveying several lines for the road, through Glencoe, this week. The citizens of the town of Glencoe agree to give them the right of way through the towns of Helen and Glencoe, and suitable depot grounds, provided they run their road to this village. The building of the road through Glencoe is now a fixed fact, provided the owners of the town-site will give the Company such an interest in the place as they require on account of the difference in the expense of constructing the road via this point instead of the south route.

We are informed that in case this route is adopted, that they intend to complete the road to Glencoe by the 15th day of September, next, and that they will establish a Round House, Machine Shops, Car Shops, and Foundry in this village...

Taken from Glencoe Register, June 6th, 1872: Our Railroad

Grading will be commenced on Monday, June 10th, on the H. & D. R. R. west of Buffalo Creek. Work will be commenced all along the line within the next ten days. We understand that the road is to be graded to this place, ready for the rails, by the first of August. This will insure the completion of the road at the time promised, September 15th, 1872.
Welcome New and Life Members:

Catherine Dresl Cich, Minnetonka, MN
Robert Hatlestad, Glencoe, MN-Lifetime Membership

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

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<tr>
<th>Larry Macht</th>
<th>Linda Peterson</th>
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<td>Coventry Cowens</td>
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<td>Marilyn Stinson</td>
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<td>Grace Lutheran Church</td>
<td>June McNew</td>
<td>Carmen Reed Ziemer</td>
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<td>Julie Jensen</td>
<td>Pizza Hut</td>
<td>Marian Dvorak</td>
<td>Melvin Wolter</td>
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Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor: Mavis & Milton Kottke
Accession #’s: 2008-0169-016
History: Black and white photograph of a group of unidentified men and women with luggage standing outside the Brownton Railroad Depot. The women are wearing coats and hats and the men are dressed in suits and hats. Photo circa late nineteen teens or early nineteen twenties.
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 Guests!

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 ~ Main Street Sports Bar ~ Littfin Lumber Co. ~ Benny’s Meat Market ~
~ Family Farms Wholesale of Minnesota ~ Crow River Winery ~ McCormick’s ~

Make a donation, become a member or make a purchase from our Gift Shop, now accepting: