Christmas Silent Auction & Potluck Dinner Fundraiser

Silent Auction: December 14th thru December 21st
Potluck Dinner: Monday, December 21st from 5:30-7:30PM

Museum Educational Media Center

Santa came early to the McLeod County Historical Society! The Jolly old man has left some very generous gifts that can be yours! Just stop by the Museum to bid on some of the terrific gift items that have been donated to our Silent Auction Fundraiser. All items will be on display and open to bidding throughout the week of the 14th, with bidding ending on the 21st of December at our Potluck Dinner and live auction event at the Museum.

Our Christmas Potluck Dinner is filled with fun, good food! Cost of admission is a potluck dish to pass and a wrapped gift for the live auction. Gifts can be gag or white elephant, or a re-gift of something that you do not need?!? It’s loads of fun to auction off these wrapped gifts and watch as guests open them up to find out if the one they picked is a gag or a really great gift! What will you get for Christmas this year on the auction? We invite you to join us and find out!

All proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions go to support the operations of the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum, and we want to thank the many local businesses who have donated items this year. Please support the businesses that support McLeod County History!

Donor Business Gifts on Silent Auction:
Ace Hardware, Dominoes Pizza, Genesis-Enso Spa, Village Shop, Walgreens, Hager Jewelry, Benny’s Meat Market, Hutch Liquor, Lillian’s, Amazing Grace, Dundee Floral, Hutch Café, Crow River Winery, Clay Coyote, Elena’s Bakery, Running’s and more...

In this Issue:
Annual Christmas Auction Fundraiser & Potluck Dinner..................................................................................................................1
Silent Auction-Monday, December 14th-21st  Potluck Dinner-Monday, December 21st @ 5:30 PM
Director’s Review/ MCHS Volunteer Christmas Party..................................................................................................................2
Wednesday, December 16th –2 pm-Museum Educational Media Center
Burich Foundation Matching Grant/Les Kouba Wildlife Gallery Grand Re-Opening.................................................................3
Sunday, January 10th –2PM-Kouba Gallery
Matching Funds end in May 2016, so give now!
Historical Excerpts from- “History of the Country Schools of McLeod County” -MCHS 2015 Theme..................................................4-5
One Book, One Community Read- “History of the Fur Trade & Fur Bearing Animals”/Spotlight on the Collection.....6
Sunday, January 31st-2 PM –Museum Educational Media Center
Contributions, Memorials & Donations............................................................................................................................................7
Give the Gift of History -Christmas Gift Ideas................................................................................................................................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 $25
- Family $40
- Business $300
- Individual Lifetime $500

**Board of Directors**
- Anne Hahn, President
- Karen Hendricksen, Vice President
- Tara Russell, Secretary
- Bev Wangerin, Treasurer
- Mary Henke, Lowell Ueland
- Scott Rehmann and Bob Allison

**Executive Director**
Lori Pickell-Stangel

**Assistant**
Peggy Paulson

**Volunteer Staff**
- Gary Tessmer & Stan Ehrke, Tech Support
- 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**
Volunteer Days / 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:**
As we say goodbye to 2015 and all things Country School, I want to take a moment to thank all the volunteers who donated their time to help with the creation of our “History of the Country Schools of McLeod County” booklet and “Country School Memories” DVD. Every one here at the Museum has contributed some part, scanning photos, researching names, pulling artifacts for display, typing and organizing information for the book or sharing personal stories and experiences. So thank you for your help! The McLeod County Museum will now have an extensive record of the era of Country Schools to preserve and share for generations to come.

I want to also thank the director and producer of the “Little Crow and the Dakota War” documentary, Mark Dierdrick and Bill Weiss. The almost two hour film held an audience of 136 guests’ attention well past the end of the movie. The turnout at the Museum was great and it’s so wonderful to see the museum filled to the max with folks interested and riveted by our own local and state history!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

---

**McLeod County Historical Society Volunteer Christmas Party**
Wednesday, December 16th
2-4 pm Museum Media Center

Every year the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum receives over 7,000 hours of volunteer service and hard work to keep the Museum up and running and doing great things in our community! The Museum is so thankful for this dedication and have decided to put on a Volunteer Christmas Party with food, treats and fun for all! This is just one small gift that the Board and Staff can do for all the wonderful gifts you, our generous volunteers, give to the Museum each year! Please join us, bring nothing but your volunteer friends and a smile, we will take care of the rest. Thanks so much for all you do!
The Burich Foundation

The McLeod County Historical Society & Museum strives to preserve the photos, documents and objects that tell the history of the people and places of McLeod County. The Museum building is our largest and most important enclosure to help protect and preserve these priceless artifacts! If the windows and doors leak, letting in rain and snow, then the artifacts are at risk! Moisture is the biggest destroyer of paper, fabric and wood-most of the materials our collection is made of! The Museum has received bids that tell us that to replace our 43 windows and large inner and outer front doors will cost around $60,000.00. These are funds that the Museum does not currently have in our budget. These important structural fixes to our building must be taken care of to ensure the preservation of our historical artifacts now and for future generations!

The Burich Foundation understands how important and urgent this project is. This is why they are willing to help us raise the needed funds, with a dollar for dollar matching grant up to $30,000.00!

This is a great opportunity to make an end of year donation go twice as far! For every dollar you contribute, the Burich Foundation will donate a dollar to our Windows and Doors Project. Help us to continue our mission to Preserve the Past and Inspire the Future!

To learn more about the Burich Foundation, go to: https://www.cbhutch.com/about-us/foundations/
To make a Windows & Doors Matching Donation, go to: http://www.mcleodhistory.org/burich-foundation-windows-doors-matching-grant/

Les Kouba Art Gallery

Grand Re-Opening:
Sunday, January 10th-2 pm

Come visit the Les Kouba Wildlife Art Gallery for our Grand Re-opening. The Museum received a Southwest Minnesota Arts Council Legacy Grant to upgrade the lighting in the space from outdated florescent fixtures to energy efficient LED gallery lighting. This is a huge change for the guests who visit the space to see this home town artist’s work in it’s best possible light! We also want to thank our many volunteers who helped with this huge project!

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SW MN Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
The McLeod County Historical Society is thrilled to announce our 2015 Historical theme, “History of the Country Schools of McLeod County”! The Museum will feature the development of free public education in the state of Minnesota and in McLeod County. We will feature our collection of country school artifacts, photographs and documents that help tell the story of rural McLeod County education. We are also looking for your memories of teaching and/or attending a McLeod County country school. Contact us or go to our website to share your story! I think I hear the school bell ringing...so don’t be late for class—and be sure to join us for a year long look at all things country school!

District #4–Sumter Township:
Known as the “Fairview” School
Organized in 1859 closed in 1957
Taken from “Teaching in the Rural Schools of McLeod County,” by Ardis Zimmerman Weerts

My teaching career started in District 4 in McLeod County in 1933. As I think back, it seems a long time ago, and yet, I can hardly believe my teaching career will end at the close of this school year, 1979, forty-six short years later. There certainly has been a great change in our educational system in that span of years.

After completing one year of college at St. Cloud Teacher’s College, as it was called at that time, I was supposedly prepared to teach in the rural schools. Six weeks of the college year were devoted to teaching in a supervised one-room rural school near Princeton, Minnesota, along with another student teacher. As I recall, I taught fourth grade reading, fifth grade language and little else for the entire six weeks. How unprepared we teachers were compared to those who attended the normal training schools in Glencoe and Hutchinson under the able guidance of Susie Huff, Agnes Hatch, Hennie Burge and others. It was a good thing, I was blessed with bright pupils who learned in spite me! The first year was the most difficult – the teacher learning much more than the pupils.

Districts varied somewhat in size. My first year I had 24 pupils and all eight grades. We had spring primary for six weeks for the next fall’s beginners. The daily schedule was one of the many short classes, with no time between classes. I can’t recall students not being prepared for each class. If ever there were a reading problem, an older student would help that child by listening to him read, either in the cloak room or outside.

It wasn’t until I had burned all the wood meant for kindling wood and told the school board I needed more wood, that I learned I should have informed them of my need for coal! Most of the responsibility of running the school seemed to be in the hands of the teacher.

Back in the thirties, students had to pass state board exams before they could officially graduate from eighth grade. Some of the farm boys had to help with the work on the farm in the months of April, May and sometimes a month or two in the fall. So no way could they score high enough on the tests for a passing grade. Therefore, they had to repeat eighth until they were 16 or passed the exams, whichever came first. Very few students went on to high school, since there was no busing at that time and most
parents could neither afford to have their children room nor board in town on a daily basis.

Most teachers roomed and boarded in the district where each taught – a little heavier on the boarding! Those farm women could really cook – at least, Mrs. Herb Lee, Mrs. Clem Martin and Mrs. Chas. Grenke could. And how I loved to eat. Never thought of dieting, just buy a size bigger. The 12 dollars a month I paid for room and board my first year of teaching must have left Alma Lee in the red!

One of the biggest events of the year was the Christmas program. It took weeks of practice, using the language period and every other conceivable bit of time. Folding chairs were brought in, kerosene lamps cleaned, arrangements made for Santa to appear and school-made gifts wrapped for parents and grandparents. I can remember “setting” some of the girls’ hair the day of the program. The setting lotion was made by boiling water and flax seed. When the program was over, Santa mysteriously appeared with a bag of boxes of candy to be distributed to all children. He also passed out the gifts which were under the tree. Before everyone departed for home, there was homemade candy for all. That was all furnished by the teacher! How times have changed.

Each spring the students diligently studied for a spelling contest. The best spellers from my school met with those from other districts at the big new two-room school at Biscay. Winners from each group of districts met at the court house where the final spelling contest decided the winners to compete in state competition.

The normal training departments of Glencoe and Hutchinson farmed out the girls (maybe a boy now and then) to various districts where they were to get practice in rural teaching as part of their training. The first day the student teacher observed. The second day and all days following she taught reading to all grades. The third day she added the language to her teaching schedule, etc., until by the end of the week, she was handling all subjects in all grades. At least twice during the two weeks, the normal training teacher came to observe, encourage, criticize and whatever. The last day of the two weeks, the student teacher was left on her own, and the regular teacher was required to visit in the districts where there were no student teachers. It was almost like a day off!

In the spring and again in the fall we had a two day institute. The state supervisor of education spent Monday through Wednesday visiting rural schools with the County Superintendent. On Thursday and Friday we all gathered at the Court House where we spent a very enlightening two days getting new ideas and enjoying meeting again with all our teacher cohorts. We departed anxious to get back to school and put into practice some of the many things we learned at institute.

All year long we saved booklets, samples of penmanship, sewing, coping saw carpentry, posters and what have you for the McLeod County Fair. The fair was held in September and always there was a day off from school to attend. Admission was free to all students. Much of the teacher’s time at the fair was spent admiring any blue ribbon her group may have received and getting ideas for the next year’s Fair from the exhibits on display from all the other districts. The school exhibit building was a crowded place with all the students, parents and grandparents gathering there to admire work done, especially by the ones they were most interested in.

The grand finale of the year was the school picnic, held on the last day of school. It was an “all district affair”. Each child went home with a list of the food the family was to bring to the picnic. Why hadn’t pot-luck meals been thought of!! The school board furnished the ice cream. First we ate (around noon) and then we had contests with prizes – such as large five-cent candy bars! Then followed the softball game for the younger people, while the more elderly (some must have been in their thirties!) looked on and visited. Everyone departed for home, and back to the seeding. But this one day, no one was too busy to attend...
History of the Fur Trade and Fur Bearing Animals

Sunday, January 31st, 2016
2 PM-Museum Educational Media Center

with Lori Pickell-Stangel & Joe Stangel

As a part of this year’s Community Book Read, “Canoeing with the Cree”, the McLeod County Historical Museum will be holding a program on the History of the Fur Trade in Minnesota and the Fur Bearing Animals that fed this early industry.

Using artifacts from the Museum’s collection and furs of mink, muskrat, beaver, fox and more, Lori Pickell-Stangel and Joe Stangel will give a historical context to the book that focuses on the Fur Trade in Minnesota up to the 1930s.

As a part of the main characters canoeing adventure, the people they meet and the culture they encounter in Northern Minnesota, centers heavily on the history of the fur trade that developed a hundred years before the two young boys embarked on their canoeing adventure. Read the book and join us for all our book programs!

Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month:

Donor: Unknown
Accession #: 1977-0179-001

History: Sepia toned studio photograph of Liberty Hall, editor of the Glencoe Register newspaper from late 1860s to the late 1880s. He was the first active Superintendent of Schools in McLeod County. He later worked as editor of the Kansas City Star. He was also the first County Superintendent of Schools in McLeod County. He has a mustache and a very long beard. He is holding pencil in his right hand.

McLeod County Superintendents of Schools:

Franklin B. Dean-1860?
Liberty Hall-1867-1872
W.W. Pendergast-1872-1881
J. Chandler-1881?
Dr. J. H. Dorsey-1881-1885
L. P. Harrington-1885-1891
Carlos Avery-1891-1897
L. P. Harrington-1897-1908
F. A. Wilsman-1908-1911

Carl A. Anderson-1911-1915
George Munier-1915-1918
L. G. Karstens-1918-1931
Daniel Vorlicek-1931-1939
Albert Schauer-1939-1951
Carolyn Mehlhop-1951-1959
Violet Anderson-1959-1963
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:

General Fund:
Don & Shirley Padrnos; David Sanken; Roger & Shirley Karstens; Home State Bank
Pheasants Forever, Inc; Cynthia Coleman; Citizens Bank;
In memory of Alice Stuedemann from Dieter & Sharon Bargel

Archives Fund:

Heritage Garden Fund:

Endowment Fund:

Technology Fund:

Annual Support Fund:
Ron & Karen Sommerdorf

Restoration Fund:

Genealogy Fund:

Burich Matching Windows & Doors Fund:
Anne & Vern Hahn; Lowell & Marilyn Ueland; Annette Zimmerman; Judy Simons;
Jim & Shirley Schwarze; in memory of Phyllis Weseloh from Spencer & Joyce Beytien;
Ray & Carol Bayerl; in memory of Phyllis Weseloh from Joel & Sheila Griebie; in memory of Phyllis Weseloh from Lois Krantz;
In memory of Phyllis Weseloh from Alice and Franklin Boller; In memory of Phyllis Weseloh from Nancy Sahr Peterson;
In memory of Juanita Urban and Phyllis Weseloh from Liz & Bill Schwarze;
In memory of Eva Kadelbach from Bev Wangerin;
In memory of Phyllis Weseloh from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf

Welcome New and Life Members:

Alice Karg, Glencoe; Martha Schleuter, Mapleton, MN

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

Harlow Karg
Kathleen Luthens
Chip and Datlaf Weseloh
Minerva Stritesky
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Spencer and Joyce Beytien
Ron Pulkrabek
John and Jane Orvis
Louise Schroeder
Paul Otte
Beverly Graupmann
Val Pikal
Jeanette Meyer

JoAnn Mackey
Jeri Jo Redman
Anita Crosby
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Joan and William Arndt
Bruce Trafion
Gayle T. Zajicek
Debra Miller
Linda Dotson
Wichita Adult Literacy Council
Steven Barkley
Celia Hanson & Eggert Smykalski
Sherman Field
MCLEOD COUNTY MUSEUM GIFT SHOP:

The Museum would like to help you scratch a few names off your gift giving list, by offering our:

**GIFT OF HISTORY DOUBLE DEAL**

For every person you give a Gift Membership to this Christmas, we will give you and the person you signed up, a free coupon for $5 off any item in our gift shop! Just visit the Museum and ask for the **GIFT OF HISTORY DOUBLE DEAL**!

Donations in someone’s Name or a Membership to the Historical Society make a wonderful gift. The Museum will send out a Holiday acknowledgement of your generous donation and/or gift that is tax deductible. The Museum also has many great gift ideas in our gift shop for the history buff on your list.

---

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

- Square
- VISA
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover

---

Return Service Requested

320-587-2109 / asa@hutchtel.net

Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350
380 School Road NW

MCLEOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY