SINGING FOR THE COWS

“Homesteading a Dream”

Hutchinson Event Center
1005 Minnesota Hwy 15-Hutchinson, MN
Tickets: $10 Saturday, February 21st-7pm & Sunday, February 22nd– 2PM

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, 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!
SINGING FOR THE COWS
“Homesteading a Dream”

~CAKE & COWS~
Meet & Greet the Star of SINGING FOR THE COWS—Deborah Templin,
Get your photo taken in our Country School or Barn Display, & Eat delicious CAKE from Elena’s Bakery! -Ticket Price: $10 per person
At the Hutchinson Event Center following the last performance on Sunday, February 22nd

SINGING FOR THE COWS
“Homesteading a Dream”
- One Woman Historical Play ~ Special History Insert ~

THE TEMPLIN FAMILY
Taken from The 1978 History of McLeod County

Continued from our December/January Newsletter...Verda Templin’s Mother, Emma Behlers was a dressmaker in Glencoe for about nine years. She married Herman November 30, 1919. The five children of Herman and Emma Graupmann besides Verda were Achim, who married Frances Exsted, Carmen Holum, Hillard who married Rose Jensen, and Eldora King—”Dody”.

What progress we have seen since my mother, (Emma Graupmann) told of her father reading the Bible aloud to his family as they stripped feathers for down pillows by candle light. It took three days to travel to Carver for flour, and lard was used to grease the wagon axles. Dirt roads have become super highways and we have come from no radios to transistor Radios—electricity, to colored televisions—airplanes to put world travel into everyone’s reach—even missiles going to the moon—what next?

THE GRAUPMANN FAMILY
William Graupmann was one of six brothers and three sisters who came to the Glencoe area from Magdelburg, Scherwerin Germany in 1868.
He left Germany on November 3rd on the *Harmonia* and arrived in Minnesota December 3rd, 1868. After a short time he returned to St. Paul and worked in a woodyard there. One day he happened to be at the levee when a steamboat arrived from New Ulm, MN. He decided to try his hand at steam boating and made a trip up the river to New Ulm. He next made a trip to St. Louis and did not return to Minnesota for six years. In that time he was employed on steamboats on the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers, eventually becoming a First Mate. During one of these trips he made the acquaintance of Buffalo Bill, and being adventurous, became a U.S. Government scout under him with headquarters in Fort Kyle, Montana. On his return to Minnesota in 1874 his family persuaded him to remain here. A year later he married Mary Dittmer of Hamburg. He purchased 120 acres southeast of Glencoe in Helen Township for $1,400 from a man named Klanck. Klanck was a Civil War Veteran and had obtained the land with government script, or soldiers’ grant. The grant was signed by Abraham Lincoln and William and his family treasured that document. Little of the land was cleared and the young pioneer and his wife were forced to work hard and face privations. During the first year their log cabin home was destroyed by fire while they were attending a wedding. They lost everything but the clothes they were wearing. The husband had worked all winter the year before getting the logs out for the cabin, and now it was gone, up in flames. Undeterred, he immediately built another one. Their first crop yielded only 34 bushels of wheat. They became the parents of four sons and three daughters. William farmed the home place and was a McLeod County Commissioner. Herman, a Biscay farmer, was active in getting REA to this area. Albert farmed in the Hamburg area and also had a ditching business. Louis, a butter maker, retired as President of Marigold Dairies. The girls were: Emma Bergseth, Martha Muller, and Mary Gruenhagen.

Deborah Jean Templin has played leading roles at America's most prestigious theatre companies. During this past holiday season, Ms. Templin was featured in *Mary Poppins* as "Miss Andrew", "Queen Victoria" and "Bird Woman" at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre. Her national tours include *Mamma Mia!, Titanic, Baby, Annie* and *The Passion of Dracula*. Ms. Templin is the 2013 New Hampshire Theatre Award winner for her work as "Frau Blucher" in Brook/Meehan's *Young Frankenstein*. Ms. Templin was given Philadelphia's Barrymore Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her work as chanteuse "Kay Goodman" in Dennis Deal's *Nite Club Confidential*. The Los Angeles Arts Council awarded her the Richard Burton Award in Acting, and Deborah Jean is the proud product of rural McLeod County, Minnesota!
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!

Early Development of Minnesota and McLeod County Schools

Excerpts taken from the 1917 History of McLeod County by Franklin Curtiss-Wedge and Return I. Holcombe

It was a tradition of most future states to donate one section of land in each Township for the purpose of schools. The Territory of Minnesota felt so strongly in the power of education that they donated two sections, 16 and 36, to the purpose of schools, making it the first territory and later state to do so at that time.

Martin McLeod, early Minnesota Pioneer and for whom our County is named, served on the Territorial Council from 1849-1853. In 1849, in the first Territorial legislative session, he laid the foundation for a comprehensive school system for the territory. He is often called the Father of Minnesota Public Schools. He was the key writer of the “Act to Establish and Maintain Common Schools”, which authorized a tax of ¼ of 1%, and made the schools open free to all persons between the ages of 4 and 21 years. This act of Congress, authorizing a Territorial government for Minnesota was approved on March 3rd, 1849. The first legislative assembly of Minnesota enacted in 1849 a law for the support of common schools. A partial organization of the system was effected the following year, and in 1851 Rev. E. D. Neill was appointed Territorial Superintendent of Common Schools.

Together with Martin McLeod as a guide, who had explored the area that was to become McLeod County earlier, Col. Stevens founded the town of Glencoe, MN and established the Glencoe Town Site Company. Stevens also served as a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1857, and with McLeod, promoted the Glencoe and McLeod County area.

In 1852, due to the excellent reports of the Agricultural area in Glencoe by both Stevens and McLeod, the Territorial Legislature voted to establish the State’s first Agricultural College in Glencoe. Knowing the importance of education to the success of any settlement, Col. Stevens drafted the “Morrill Act”. The “Morrill Act” established the financing of an Agricultural College in Glencoe.

The early settlement of Minnesota was slow, so that in 1854 there were only five or six school districts in the territory, and not more than a half dozen log school houses, of very little value, with no organized public school system. There was at that time no public school fund.

In 1861 Governor Alexander Ramsey delivered a remarkable address to the legislature, in which he stated that he believed in fifty years from that time the three million acres of school land, when sold, would yield an annual revenue which would raise the Minnesota educational system above the level of that of any state in the Union. He spoke with almost prophetic foresight for the half century period, that would pass and that the state school fund alone, in 1917, in actual interest bearing securities, amounted to $21,500,000, and at that time there were still more than a million acres of land still unsold.

The social and economic life of a communi-
ty is most admirably reflected in its schools. The first school was in a log cabin in Glencoe in 1856. The early schools were held in the same kind of structures in which their pupils lived. Some were in granaries, some in log cabins, some in sod houses, and one or two in a brush or straw lean-to. The furniture in the pioneer schools were of a nondescript variety. Some schools had a bench running around three sides of the room, some had a few rough boards for tables. In the first school taught in the stockade, household furniture from the various cabins was used. In some early schools the children brought their chairs to school in the morning and took them back home at night. Some of the schools had fire places, some had a crude stove. The first text books were usually of a miscellaneous variety which the families had brought with them from older communities. The county was new, the pioneers were for the most part poor, they were compelled to make the best of circumstances as they found them, and the children likewise, in their schooling, were provided with such make-shifts as were available.

As the people prospered, the schoolhouses were improved, though it must be admitted, that the school facilities did not in all instances keep pace with developments along other lines, for in some neighborhoods the school house was the last building to be improved, and remained a crude box-like structure, a blot on the landscape, long after the farms were provided with magnificent barns and comfortable homes.

The first school house in McLeod County was erected of logs in Glencoe, in the summer of 1856. The seats were constructed of slabs with the flat side turned up, and supported by wooden legs. This school house was occupied for the various purposes of school room, church, court room and hall for political and other public meetings. The first term of school was taught in the late summer and early fall of 1856, by Kate Gibbs. The Glencoe school district, (District #1) had been created by the county commissioners at their first meeting on March 1st, 1856.

The second school in the county was at Hutchinson, in the fall of 1856, when William Todd taught a class of eleven pupils for a few months. The Hutchinson district, (District #2) was created by the county commissioners on July 25th, 1857. The schools at Glencoe and Hutchinson soon became flourishing institutions. Gradually, as the pioneers began to settle in the townships, the number of districts increased.

In 1865 education in Minnesota took on a new aspect. The Indian War was over. The soldiers had returned from the Civil War. New settlers were constantly pouring into McLeod County. The report made that year to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction was meagre and incomplete. It contains, however, many interesting facts. There were 18 school districts at that time. Nine rendered reports, six rendered partial reports and three failed to report at all. There were then in the county, 569 persons between the ages of 5 and 21, 300 being boys and 269 being girls. Of these only 216 attended school, of whom 110 were boys and 106 were girls. The average daily attendance was 118. There were 10 teachers, 2 were men and 8 were women. The teachers received an average salary of $897 a year. There were but six schoolhouses owned by the districts, one frame building and five log buildings. After the state had experimented with various methods of school supervision, a law was passed in 1864, authorizing the county commissioners of the various counties to appoint county superintendents. Acting under this law, the commissioners of McLeod County, on September 4th, 1867, appointed Liberty Hall, of Glencoe, as the first county superintendent of schools.
**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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**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

**Board of Director’s Meeting**
Fourth Monday of each Month at 4 P M
Museum Research Library

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**Join us for our 2015 COMMUNITY BOOK READ**

**The Historic Background: showing of the PBS program, “The 60’s”**
Date: February 8th at 2pm
Location: McLeod County Historical Society & Museum

**Community Book Discussion**
Date: March 22nd at 2pm
Location: Hutchinson Public Library

**Meet the Author: William Kent Krueger, Author of Ordinary Grace**
Date: April 19th at 2pm
Location: Event Center

Visit heartofhutch.com/bookread to register and learn more.

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**Director’s Review: Director’s Review...**

The McLeod County Historical Society is so excited to bring you this year’s theme: “History of the Country Schools of McLeod County”! I know for many this will bring back childhood memories, and for a few, their careers of teaching in these rural schools. As we start pulling out artifacts, photos and documents that will help us to tell the history of the schools, we hope you will also take the time to help us tell this part of our history, before it is forgotten. I myself did not attend county school, so for me, I rely on the stories my father told me about his experiences. My mom was a “town girl”, as my father always put it. Still even further removed, are my children’s ideas of what a rural school was like. This is why it is so important for you to share your stories and memories, so the next generation can learn and know just where they came from. We will have a page on our website: www.mcleodhistory.org to share your stories, so please feel free to type us your story via the web. You can also share your story by dropping off a typed or handwritten remembrance. Please remember to tell us where in McLeod County you went to school, district number, school name or area. If you can remember your teachers and what years you attended as well as any Classmates, that would be great. Of course we also want the fun stories...games played, homework, friends, and mischief! We hope to compile these stories into a video that we can use at the McLeod County Fair in August. Thanks for your help and we hope to see you at the Museum for our upcoming programs in 2015.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Help out by joining one of our annual committees. Pick from Displays, Finance, Maintenance, Accessions and Collections and Program Planning—there is something for everyone. Just give us a call, if you have questions, or to sign up! 1-320-587-2109

I want to apologize to Dorothy Klawitter for omitting her name in my Thank You to our 3M Volunteer Donors! Dorothy generously gave the Museum $250 to go towards the purchase of our new network computers. Thanks so much.
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:
In honor of Donald Huebert’s 90th birthday from Pat Schmidt

General Fund:
Hutchinson AAUW; In Honor of Chuck Warner from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf; Larry Karg; In honor of Charlotte Ehrke from Bill & Liz Schwarze; Kurt Angstman; First Minnesota Bank, Hutchinson; Lu Jacobson; Silver Lake Lions Club; Bernard Schulte, In memory of Jim Urban from Juanta Urban; Katherine Carrigan; Mary Henke; In memory of Woodrow Wright from Patsy Wright; Del and Ida Rutske; Larry & Joan Karg; Mary Alsleben; Marilyn Krueger; Annette Zimmerman; Robert Klitze; Fran Bax; Dorothy Lindeman; Ron Makovsky & Karen Hendrickssen; Orlando Ruschmeyer; In memory of Walt & Leona Korngiebel from John Korngiebel; Patrice & Terry Davis; Delores Gustafson; Jim & Donna Mills; Hutch Café; Barbara Heidemann; Emmy Lindeman; Charles and Carolyn Ulrich; Lyall Schwarzkopf; Martha Anderson; City of Stewart; Barb Peterson

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In memory of Isabel Betker, Allyn Ahlers and Dorothy Otto from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf;
In memory of Gerald Goldschmidt and LeRoy Christenson from Bill & Joan Arndt;
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In memory of Blanche Motley from Mary Ebent

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Outdoor Motion, Gert & Erma’s Coffee Shop, John Cartwright Artwork, Ace Hardware, Domino’s Pizza, Genesis-Enso Spa, Village Shop, Walgreens, Hager Jewelry, Benny’s Meat Market, Hutch Liquor, Purse-a-nalities, Lillian’s, Amazing Grace, Dundee Floral, Hutch Café and KFC

Welcome New and Life Members:
Mark Michaletz, Glencoe, MN; Bruce & Ellen Drahos, Hutchinson; Matt & Tracy Juhl, Hutchinson
Melanie & Tim Remple, Hutchinson

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

Donor:
Cecilia Grewe

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1987-0804-006

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:
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