The McLeod County Historical Society would like to invite you and your family to our Annual Pork Chop Supper Fundraiser, with musical guest-Wally Pikal!  Wally will be entertaining us with his one man band show. Mr. Pikal will feature many old time favorite tunes, that the whole family will enjoy.  Wally will be performing from 5-6 PM in the Museum’s Educational Media Center.

Once again, master griller, Bill Arndt will be overseeing the grilling and seasoning of the delicious pork chops!  Meals will be available for carryout or dining in at 4:30 PM, with extra pork chops for purchase with your meal or as a carryout for just $3 each.  Each meal will include:  A tasty Benny’s Meat Market Pork Chop, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans & Applesauce-all compliments of McCormick’s, French Bread from Subway, and to top it all off, an Ice Cream Sundae for dessert.  We hope to see you at the Museum for a great meal, outstanding music and a terrific cause-preserving our History!
**Director’s Review:**


Membership prices are going up! Last chance to renew at our annual $20 for an Individual membership-$35 for a Family and -$200 for a Business. We are extending this special offer of our old price until July 1st. After that- the price of an annual Individual membership will be-$30, Family-$40 and Business will be -$300. We hope you will renew your membership for one or two years and save a little cash in the long run. As always, thank you for supporting McLeod County History!

The winners of our 7th Grade History projects are still on display in the MCHS Educational Media Center, so stop by and see what our future Historians have created. Big thanks to Citizens Bank and Trust Co. and Home State Bank for being sponsors for this community program!

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**“Weseloh Wagon Repair”**

a Local Mini-Documentary

Thursday, June 4th 2015
7pm - 8:30pm at the MCHS Educational Media Center

Join us for a premier showing of this mini-documentary of local history! This half-hour program features Hutchinson native Datlaf Weseloh telling the story of his family’s century-old business.

**FREE ADMISSION**

Program premiers from 7-7:30pm, followed by a social hour to talk with the Weseloh’s and enjoy light refreshments.
The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is thrilled to announce the dedication of a historical marker for McLeod County Country School District #6. This small rural school is like so many that existed from the 1800s through the 1950s. Like many Districts in McLeod County, the schoolhouse is now gone—closing in 1954—with only a few foundation stones remaining. “Riverside or Koniska School”, as District #6 was once known, is unique in that the land where it once stood is now owned and managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The Rich Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA)-Virgil Voigt Tract- that was donated by the McLeod County Pheasants Forever chapter, is situated along the Crow River. The site is open to the public, making it the perfect location for our historical country school marker. This unique location gave the Museum the opportunity to mark the spot and commemorate the memory of not only District #6, but all rural country schools like it. As a part of our 2015 historical theme, “History of the Country Schools of McLeod County”, the Museum, with the help of the Minnesota DNR and our local Pheasants Forever Chapter, have created a marker that will ensure this part of our County’s educational history is never forgotten.

The sign will also showcase a project the Museum has been working on in 2015, collecting personal stories from Country school teachers and students. The sign will feature a QR code link, that when scanned by a smart phone, will share a personal story told by 8th grade graduate, Verda Graupman Templin. Verda was 95 years old when she made the video and will be one of many that will live on in the Museum’s collection. Verda will also be honored at this dedication for her lifelong support of education and her families involvement in the establishment of the rural bus service in the area. To share your story- call us to setup an interview, or go to our website: www.mcleodhistory.org and click on the Share your country school memories link on the home page.
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 # 21-Acoma Township:**

Known as the “Pierce School”
Organized in 1869 and closed in 1958  
*Taken from the Glencoe Register Newspaper, February 14th, 1889*

School Dist. No. 21 Acoma. School closed Feb. 4th, with 30 pupils enrolled; length of term was 4 months. Wages $35 per month; two visits were made by the clerk; two by the County Superintendent of Schools; five by other persons; four pupils in A grade; six in B grade; four in C grade; eight in D grade; and 17 in E grade. It is the Teachers fourth term in the district.

*May Dearbom, Teacher*

Photo of District # 21, “Pierce School”  
Group of school children in front of Brick Schoolhouse-District #21 School
Large group of Unidentified school children. Photo taken in 1905 in Acoma Township. Teacher is identified as Dorothy Jacobson Tews. It was Nina Dearborn’s first first year of school Photographed by C. N. Balswin, Hutchinson, MN –From the Dearborn Family photo collection  
*MCHS Photo Collection  
Accession # 2005-0121-022*
District # 84-Bergen Township:
Known as the “Kuhlmann or Whittier School”
Organized in 1902 and closed in 1954

Taken from Lester Prairie Community, 1886-1986
History Book, pp78-79

School District #84 was organized in 1902 in Section 16, Bergen Township on the northeast corner of the William Dammann farm. One half acre of land was secured at the cost of $17.42 with the stipulation in the contract that whenever not used for school purposes, it would revert back to the land owner. They had a gross of $1,061, borrowed $900 through the state school fund, and floated a bond for $200. The first school board was William Dammann, Henry Kuhlmann and August Boesche.

The first month of school 47 children were enrolled. The attendance was good considering the fact that work on the farms was late that fall and if a majority of the scholars attended school 40 days more that winter, the board would be able to draw sufficient state aid to almost pay the teacher’s salary. The first teacher was Sophia Enerson and her monthly wages were $35 the first year and $36 the second year.

When the enrollment dropped below 10 children in 1944, they closed the school and the children were transported to the public school in Lester Prairie. After the country schools consolidated with Lester Prairie Public School in 1954, the land reverted back to the William Dammann farm and the school building was moved to his farm and was used as a granary.
Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month:

**Donor:** Sandi Bullert Lietz  
**Accession #:** 2008-0408-001  

**Donor:** Karen Paehlke  
**Accession #:** 2008-0446-001  
**History:** 1905, 1906, 1907 Souvenir of Riverside School-District #6. Photo of Emily E. Jenson, Teacher, is on the front cover. School officers: Fred Hietz, Clerk, Joseph Kerchiel, Director, John Podhrasky, Treasurer, L.P. Harrington, County Superintendent. Pupils: Emily Miska, Stanley Pokorny, Alice Miska, Wilhemina Pokorny, Freddie Miska, Alice Kerchiel, Henrietta Pokorny, Mamie Bednar, Jennie Pokorny, Emma Havelka, Charley Pokorny, Joe Havelka, Rose Pessina, Eddie Ellis, Ella Pessina, Alice Podhrasky, Carrie Cacka, Arthur Kerchiel, Charley Podhrasky, EddieKerchiel, Mary Podhrasky, Johnnie Havelka, Helen Pulkrabek, Ethel Miska, Clara Pulkrabeck, Tony Pokorny, Joe Pessian, Mable Brabec, Theodore Pessina, Clarence Barbec.

**Donor:** William Schwarze  
**Accession #:** 2015-0023-001  
**Donations & Memorials:**

**Log Cabin Home Fund:**

**General Fund:**

In honor of Judy & Jerry Kadlac’s 50th wedding anniversary from Barb & Clyde Peterson; Ronald Paggen; Luella Ristow; Nancy Todd; Gilbert Debner

**Archives Fund:**

**Heritage Garden Fund:**

Louise Carlson

**Endowment Fund:**

In memory of Danny Rickert from Ron & Karen Sommerdorff

**Technology Fund:**

Gilbert Merkle

**Annual Support Fund:**

Helen Piehl; Robert & Jacqueline Pendergast; AEM Mechanical Services, Inc; Joan & Dale Egwalt; Mary Alsleben; Shirley Cutlar; Emmy Lindeman; Joan & Larry Karg; Leona Donnay; Hutch Café; NU-Telecom; Roger & Lois Krantz; Marlys Fredrick; Gary Halvorson; Jamie Mahoney; Robert & Susan Olson; Littfin Lumber Co; Eugene & Patricia Otto; Norma McNeil; Lyall Schwarzkopf; Margaret Hoffman; Larry Watson; Jay & Margaret Alrick; Dorothy Klawitter; Joyce & Les Young; Dobratz Hantge Chapel; Gerald & Ida Karstens

**Restoration Fund:**

Welcome New and Life Members:

Nancy Nelson, Elk River, MN; Marion Neisen, Hutchinson, MN
Mavis Wheeler, Hutchinson, MN
Carla Hooper and family, Hutchinson, MN

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

John Lyman
Julie Jensen
Carl Drahos
Annette Zimmerman
Karen & Glenn Paehlke
Hutchinson Health Auxiliary
Tom Mikulecky
Darrol Bussler
Beverly Baumentz
Marlys Fredrick
George Field
Melva Solseth
Lori Kramer
Nancy Todd
Alice Fransen
Brad & Bonnie Hahn
William & Joan Arndt
Ronald & Judy Ondracek

**Donations Needed for the Collection:**

The Museum is missing photos and stories from the following Country Schools:
Dist. #21, 23, 28, 43, 44, 45, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68, 70, 71, 75, 82
Announcing 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: