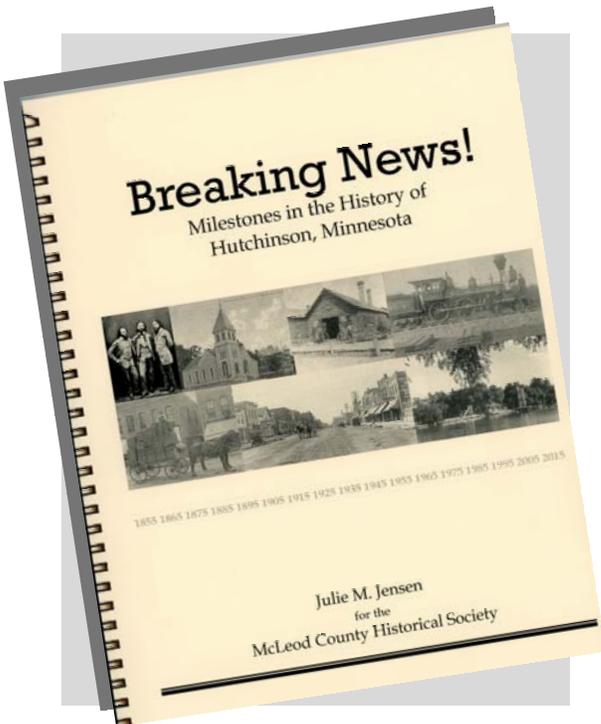




PRESERVING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Visit our Website: www.mcleodhistory.org
phone: 320-587-2109 e-mail: info@mcleodhistory.org



“Breaking News!”

Milestones in the History of Hutchinson, MN

Book Presentation by Julie Jensen
Sunday, May 17th 2-3 PM
Museum Educational Media Center

“Breaking News!” -Milestones in the History of Hutchinson, MN is our newest book by long time member and volunteer Julie Jensen. Julie has authored several books for the Historical Society, but her latest is a chronological walk through the history of Hutchinson, MN.

The book is setup as a timeline that takes you decade by decade through the people, places and events that made Hutchinson into the community that it is today. Unlike past publications that

Julie has authored for the Museum, this booklet was a collaborative effort on the design. Julie reached out to Amy Jo Maher, a Multimedia Design Technology instructor at Ridgewater College for some ideas. Amy used the Timeline book as a ‘real world’ project that was open to design submissions by all class members. Once a design was selected, Kayla, a student in the class, was selected as the project manager and the planning and finalization of the book’s design layout began.

Dr. Jensen will be presenting, “Breaking News!” by highlighting some of the research she did for the book, using the museum’s vast collection of photos, historical documents and three dimensional artifacts. We hope you will join us for this educational walk through Hutchinson history!

In this Issue:

“Breaking News! Milestones in the History of Hutchinson, MN” Author Program by Julie Jensen.....	1
Sunday, May 17th 2-3 PM Museum Educational Media Center	
Director’s Review	2
7th Grade History Projects & Historic Character Presentations.....	3
Monday, June 1st 6-8 PM Museum Educational Media Center	
Historical Excerpts from- <i>“History of the Country Schools of McLeod County”</i> -MCHS 2015 Theme.....	4-5
Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month	6
Contributions, Memorials & Donations.....	7
Business Sponsors/ “Historical Happenings”-KDUZ Radio Show.....	8

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
Karen Hendricksen, Vice President
Tara Russell, Secretary
Gary Ziemer, Treasurer
Dave Horrmann, Mary Henke,
Stan Ehrke, Scott Rehmann and
Lowell Ueland

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

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 enter into May, parents and especially students are thinking about getting out of school for summer break. But here at the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum, school, that is—country school, is just getting started!

Shown at the right are photos from our Komensky School, District # 11 program and tour. We packed the house with 80+ guests in attendance. Big thanks to Joleen Bentz and the Z.C.B.J. Lumir 34 for opening the doors and providing some delicious refreshments, Anne Hahn for her first hand account of attending Komensky as a child and Jim Pessek for loaning his country school desks that gave the space an authentic look and the kids loved sitting in!

F.Y.I—District # 54 will soon be taking center stage at the Museum, thanks to a donation by Bill and Joanne Arndt. Their donation of the school bell and tower from Dist. # 54 will be on display at the front of the Museum's overhead entryway—and we hope to show it off at this year's McLeod County Fair!



Darlene Pollmann, MCHS Member, Donor & Volunteer Passes...

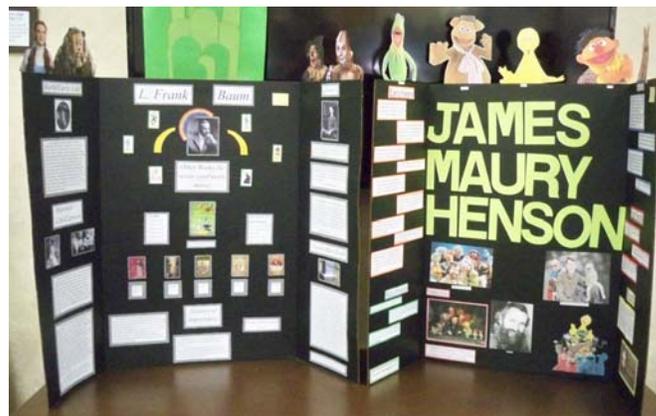
...at the age of 78 years old. Darlene Leona Pollmann was born September 25th, 1936, in Green Isle Township, Sibley County. She was the daughter of Elmer and Leona (Donnay) Whitthus. Darlene was baptized as an infant October 11th, 1936, and was later confirmed in her faith as a youth on April 2nd, 1950, both at St. John's Lutheran Church in Glencoe. She received her education in Glencoe and was a graduate of the Stevens Seminary School. On April 21st, 1956, Darlene was united in marriage to LaVerne Brede at St. John's Lutheran Church in Glencoe. This marriage was blessed with two daughters, Karen and Linda. On June 1st, 1974, Darlene was united in marriage to Lorin Pollmann at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. They resided in Hutchinson. Darlene and Lorin shared 26 years of marriage until Lorin passed away in 2000.

Darlene was employed at Tonka Toys Co. in Mound. She was also employed at 3M Co. in Hutchinson until she retired in May 1996. After Darlene retired, she worked part-time at Evenson's Hallmark Cards and Gifts in Hutchinson. She was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the McLeod County Historical Society, Hutchinson Health Auxillary, Red Hats, Fluffies and 3M Retiree Club. Darlene was a loyal donor and volunteer at the Museum, and her contributions to the historical museum & research library will live on forever. Thank you Darlene for your dedication and service!



7th Grade History Projects & Historic Character Presentations:

Monday, June 1st- 6 - 8 PM
Museum Educational
Media Center



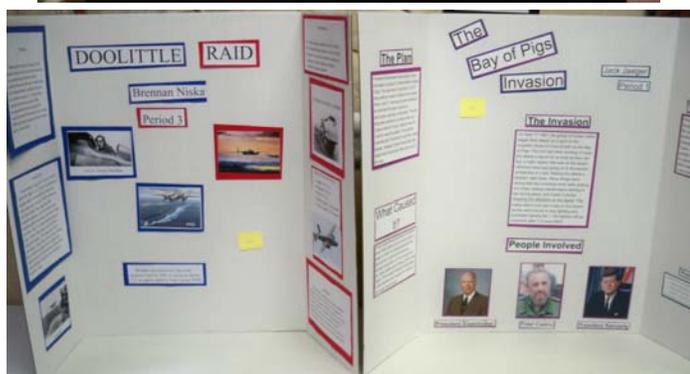
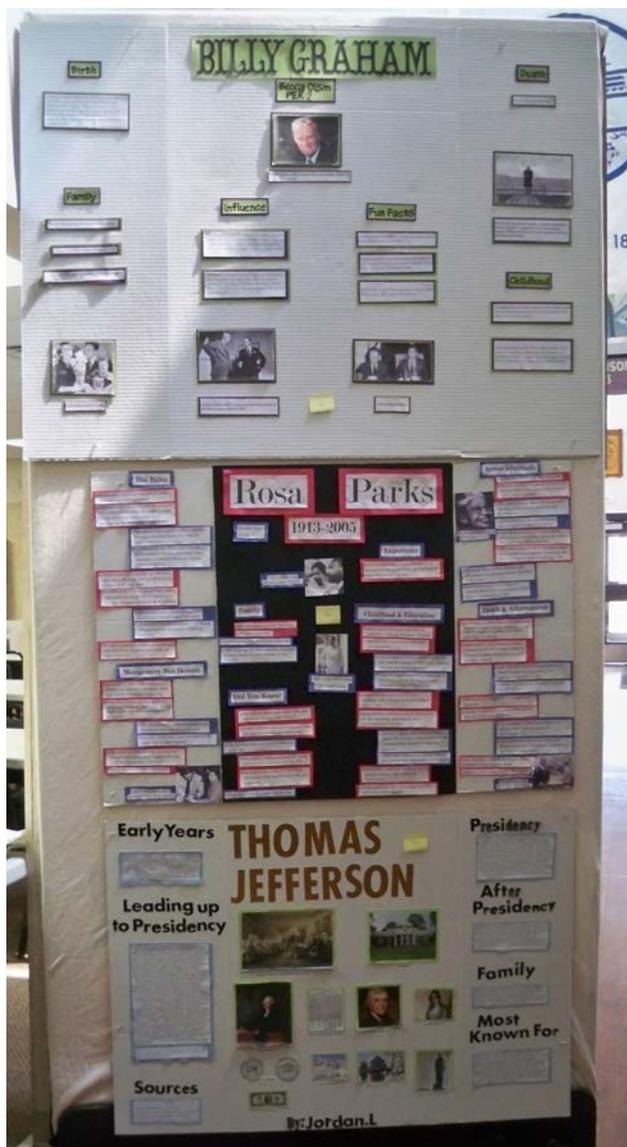
The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is thrilled to present our 2015 7th Grade History projects again this year. Each year the Hutchinson school's 7th grade American History class is assigned to complete a history project or historic character portrayal of their choice. There are two groups of 7th Graders who participate each year, 7 Alpha group and 7 Omega group. The Museum uses our Educational Media Center display space to show off the creative and insightful models and storyboards that have been completed by the students. The Museum has offered a cash award to the top three rated projects, as picked by a committee from the Museum's board of directors, over the past few years.

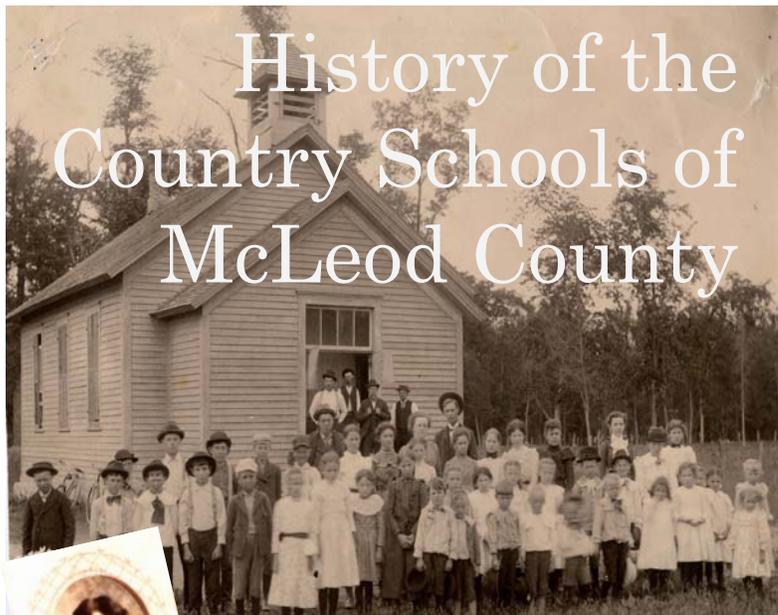
This year we have the added bonus of also showcasing the work done by the students who have chosen to do historic character portrayal presentations. These presentations are done in historical character by the students. Each student has researched an historic figure, put together a costume that would have been worn by that character and written a scripted Presentation, telling that person's life story.

This year's 7th grade class have chosen some outstanding historic figures to portray. Some of the presentations you could see at our program on June 1st are: Abraham Lincoln, Bonnie Parker, Al Capone, FDR, Sacagawea, Shirley Temple, JFK, Alice Paul, Theodore Roosevelt, the Statue of Liberty and Johnny Cash-complete with a song!

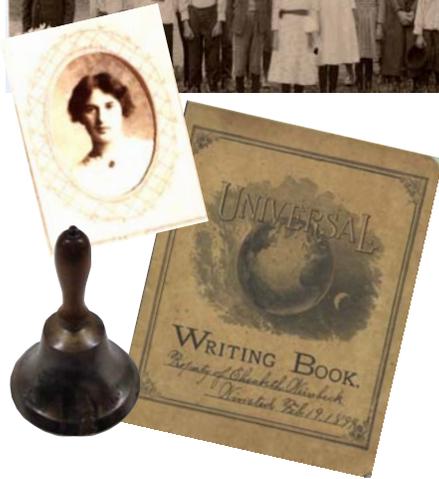
As with the historical storyboard projects, members of our committee will be judging the character portrayals and awarding a cash prize to the top three presentations of the evening.

Please help us to encourage the importance and love of history, by attending our 7th Grade History Project Tour & Historic Character Presentations!





History of the Country Schools of McLeod County



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!

rural schools in the county. What memories it brings! There were no black topped roads and few gravel roads in 1915 and in the spring the roads were very muddy.

Travel was by horse and buggy. In one instance the nearest farm was the Gustav Schlueters. In the spring I would leave my horse there and walk to the school. Winter time I stayed at the Schlueters and slept on a feather bed in an unheated room.

Upon arriving at the school my first task was to start the fire during cold weather. A typical day began with opening exercises at 9 a.m., which included, raising the Flag. There were 23 pupils enrolled in all grades Kindergarten through eighth. Subjects taught were: phonics, reading, spelling, history, geography and health. The lower grades listened to the upper grades recite and learned much in that way.

After school, I washed the blackboards, swept the floors, got in kindling wood and planned assignments for the next day. I took the pupils' daily papers home to grade at night by the light of a kerosene lamp. All at a salary of \$37.50 a month.

The foundation of our modern school system was built upon the old fashioned principles of readin', writin', and 'rithmetic. In many cases this education was as far as most pupils continued in school.

The words, “Honor”, “Respect” and “Dignity” were not just words found in books, but were practiced by the



District # 3-Acoma Township: Known as the “Little Brick School” Organized in 1862 and closed in 1959

Taken from “School Days” by Martha Prochnow

The “Little red schoolhouse” of yesterday has special meaning for me. I was not the first teacher of the little red brick schoolhouse of District #3, Acoma Township, or the first rural school built in the county, but it was my first teaching position.

It all started from the first Normal Training Department in Hutchinson and ended with a 30-year career of teaching in the

**Photo of District # 3, “Little Brick School”
circa 1914-1916**

**Group of school children and their Teacher
Martha Lemke Prochnow**

Front Row L-R: Frieda Albrecht, Louise Theuringer, Louise Schultz, Ella Schlueter, Emma Schultz, Rozella Froemming, Ella Kohn, Arthur Schmeling, George Baseman, Minnie Kohn, Edward Nass, Clara Baseman.

Back Row L-R: Anna Prochnow, Lydia Prochnow, Edna Schemling, Lorie Nass, Artthur Baseman, Rudolph Froemming, Walter Kuehl, Gust Kohn, William Schemling.

MCHS Photo Collection Accession # 1985-2915-001

teacher and pupils alike. There was a closeness and friendship between the pupils and teachers not duplicated in our large school system of today. The modern day teacher and pupils will perhaps not understand this experience but for those of us who were a part of it, there remains an unforgettable bit of Nostalgia.

As you can see, the country schools have a very special meaning for me.

District # 15-Acoma Township:
Known as the “Clear Lake” School
Organized in 1865 and closed in 1959

Taken from “Happy Rural School Days” by
 Edna Magdanz Vorlicek

At age 80, it's a real pleasure for me to recall the teaching days I had in School District # 15, Acoma Township, of McLeod County during the years 1918-1922. The school house was a fine, new brick building. It was a one-room with a fine large library and full basement with a wood and coal burning furnace. During those years the average school enrollment was 40 pupils in all grades -beginners spoke and understood only the German language so it was a real challenge to get them to read in English before the year's end. It helped that I was able to understand and speak the German language. Another challenge for me was to get the eighth graders, of which there were three or four, to pass the written Minnesota State Board Examinations so they'd be able to graduate in June. The pupils attended well to their studies without serious discipline problems. One learned from the other by hearing the various classes recite. It took concentration powers to study well while so much recitation and direction was always going on.

Recess time was a real fun time. The older girls and boys were always ready to continue with baseball in the Spring and Fall. The younger children had swings, teeter-totters, jump ropes and singing circle games for exercising. Every winter after a good snowfall they'd all help to build a huge snowman or snow-fort and play “Fox and Geese”.

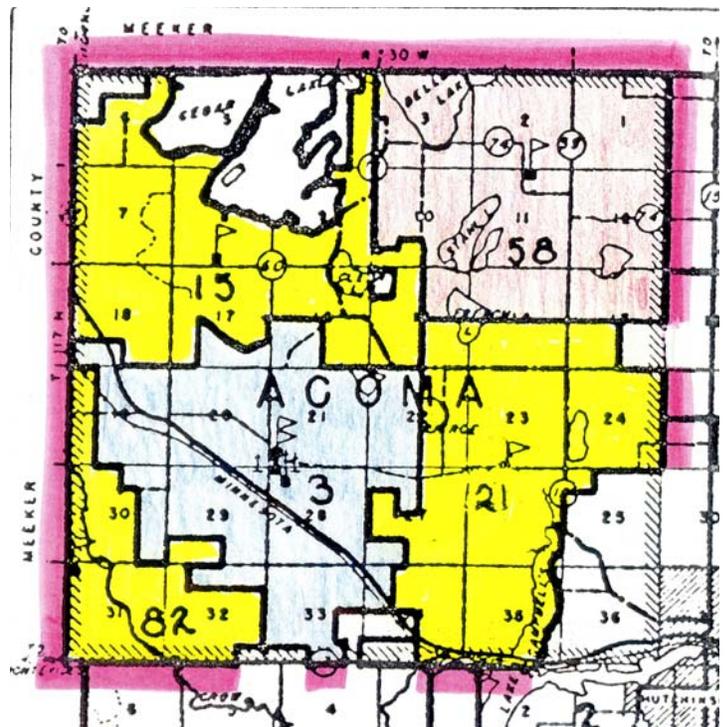
Our school day started at 9 A.M. I was always there by 8 A.M. as I had the fires to build to have the schoolroom warm. The first year I had a good mile to walk. In bad weather the William Freitages took me. The next three years I lived with the William Boldts who lived across the road from the school. At 8:30 and 9 A.M. the belfry pull bell was rung by the teacher. The day began with the Pledge to the Flag after which was music time. The school had a pump organ which I was able to play. I had several pupils to whom I gave piano

lessons, going to their homes and where I spent happy hours and overnight with the family.

Social events that were always looked forward to and enjoyed by the community were the Christmas programs, basket socials and the school picnic which ended the school year. Today the schoolhouse is being used for the Acoma Town Hall.



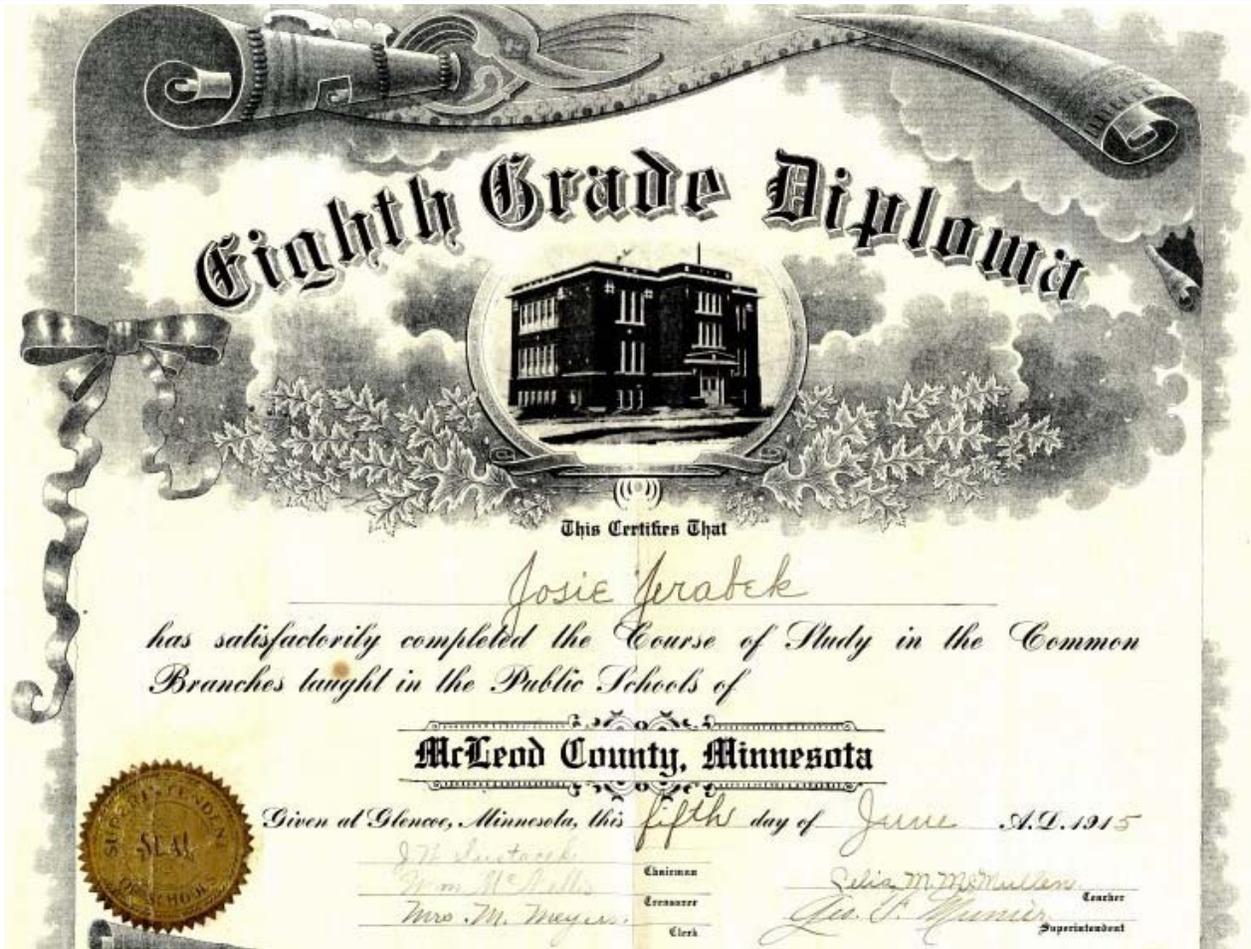
Photo of District # 15, “Clear Lake” Brick School
The large brick schoolhouse shows the rope attached to ring the bell in the belfry above.
An unidentified child is standing at the front entranceway.
MCHS Photo Collection Accession # 1985-0101-001



Acoma Township Rural Country Schools:

- District # 3
- District # 15
- District # 21
- District # 58
- District # 82
- Schoolhouse location = 

Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month:



Donor: Mildred Flacksbarth

Accession #: 2014-0138-001

History: Eighth grade diploma awarded to Josie Jerabek at Glencoe, MN on June 5, 1915.

Signed by J. W. Sustacek, Chairman; Wm. McNellis, Treasurer; Mrs. M. Meyers, Clerk; Celia M. McMullen, Teacher; Geo. F. Munier, Superintendent of Schools

The Diploma has a gold seal of the Superintendent of Schools. Josephine "Josie" & her twin Lucille "Lucy" were born June 23, 1903, daughters of Vincent James Jerabek and Emma Klima Jerabek. They were students at School District #14, Lake Hook school. Josie was the oldest of the twins.



Donor: Unknown

Accession #: 1985-2874-001

History: Reproduction photo of Lake Hook School District # 14, Hutchinson Township, McLeod County

The photo is undated, and shows a small group of unidentified children and two adults standing and sitting on the front steps. Note the well pump in the foreground.

Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:

General Fund:

Nancy Marth;

1st Congregational Church of Glencoe; Lynne Addair: Gaylene Poretti;

In memory of Verna Jensen from Dieter and Sharon Bargel;

In memory of Verna Jensen from Pat Peterson

Archives Fund:

Carol Dummer; In memory of Edna Loncorich from Margaret Hoffman; Judith Carl;

In memory of Patricia Wittman from Dieter & Sharon Bargel

Heritage Garden Fund:

Endowment Fund:

In memory of Barb Betker, Verna Jensen & Rudy Huls from Bill & Joan Arndt;

In memory of Myra Pribyl and Edna Loncorich from Margaret Abbott

Technology Fund:

Annual Support Fund:

Ellen Brecht, Hazel Sitz, Katherine Carrigan, Everett Hantge;

Margaret Abbott; Val Pikal;

Jim & Shirley Schwarze; Marlyn Krueger; Francis Eggert;

George Bonniwell; Del & Ida Rutske;

Bethel Koeppen; Delores & Virgil Goebel; John Bernhagen;

Barbara Olson; Mildred Flacksbarth;

Mary Henke; Terry & Patrice Davis; Dennis & Betty Rehmann;

Tri County Water Conditioning, Inc.

Restoration Fund:

Welcome New and Life Members:

Russ Nolan, Delano, MN; Lois Roepke & family, Buffalo Lake, MN;

Jean Carlson, Zimmerman, MN; Joleen Nowak, Silver Lake, MN

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

*Julie Jensen
Liz Schwarze
Alice Fransen
Elsa Young*

*William Seeley
Barbara Devlin
Annette Koehler
Ron Pulkrabek*

*Marlys Fredrick
Ron Sommerdorf
Susan Fischer Weigle*

Donations Needed for the Collection:

The Museum is missing photos 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



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:



Return Service Requested

320-587-2109 / asa@hutchtel.net
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350
380 School Road NW

**McLeod County
Historical Society**

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 82
HUTCHINSON, MN
55350