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Documentary Movie Premier:
Saturday, November 14th-7PM
Museum Educational Media Center

Join us for a special premier of “Little Crow-and the Dakota War” with Director and Producer commentary by Mark Diedrich and Bill Weiss

Please join us for the Documentary Movie Premier showing of “Little Crow- and Dakota War of 1862”. The Museum will be serving popcorn and refreshments during the event, with our Historical Gallery open for tours.

To read and see more about the film, check out the website addresses below:

https://www.facebook.com/littlecrowandthedakotawar
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70Yk267aUOE
**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
- Gary Ziener, 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 Educational Media Center

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**Director’s Review:**
What a nice program we had at our 2015 McLeod County Historical Society Annual Meeting. I was thrilled to see over 100 guests at the Winery on October 26th. Big thanks to Crow River Winery for donating the Box Elder Room and providing a lovely backdrop for us to have our meeting in. At the meeting, we said goodbye to board members Dave Horrmann and Stan Ehrke. We will miss them at monthly meetings, but hope they will stay on as volunteers! We welcomed Bob Allison, top right photo and Bev Wangerin, second photo on the right, as our newest board members, with Lowell Ueland voted in for a second term.

Another big thank you to our guest speakers, retired country school teachers Alice Boller and Dorothy Lindeman. Both gave personal accounts of what it was like to teach and attend these one room schoolhouses. It was also great to be visited by FDR, played by Isaac Wehler, one of the winners of our 7th grade historical character presentations. He did a great job!

As a part of our awards, we gave nine local 7th graders cash awards for their work on historical displays and historical presentations. Some of the funds came from a generous donation from Home State Bank & Citizens Bank & Trust. Congrats to our 2014-2015 winners:

1st place project - **Sarah Skrove**
2nd place project - **Erika Nelson-Troska**
3rd place project - **Connor Stadlander**
1st place project - **Jesse Reiner**
2nd place project - **Anastasia Benusa**
3rd place project - **Maisy Elder**

**Character presentations:**
1st place - **Sofie Fennell**
2nd place - **Shari McRaith**
3rd place - **Issac Wehler**

The Museum also honored a special Donor and Volunteer of the year. The Donor of the year award going to Art and Linda Benjamin, see right middle, for their large donation of items from the 103 year old Nemitz business. The new Nemitz store display is now open in our Historical Gallery! Our Volunteer of the year award went to Dave Horrmann, who really helped to get our new parking lot under way and completed-and so much more!
District #30 Country School Sign Dedication

Sunday, November 1st-2-3PM
Sumter Township
Wildlife Management Area

Directions to Sumter WMA:
From the Round-about on State Hwy 15-
Go East on County Road 8 - 1.96 miles
Then South on County Road 25 for 5.2 miles
Then East on 120th Street for 0.2 of a mile.
The parking area is on the North Side of 120th Street.

District #30 Country School was built on land donated by John Reimers for the purpose of building a schoolhouse in 1866. All eight grades attended the school until it closed in the 1953. As a part of our 2015 theme, we will mark this historic site and use it as an example for all of McLeod County’s Country Schools. We hope to ensure that the importance of the Country School to the students and communities that they served will never be forgotten.

We hope you will join us for our sign dedication program. We will hear personal stories from the Karstens family, who attended District #30 and Virgil Voigt, representative of the McLeod County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, who are funding our sign project.
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 #14—Hutchinson Township:
Known as the “Lake Hook” School
Organized in 1865 closed in 1959

Taken from Memories of Elaine Linder Lundeen, by daughter Sandy Meyer, November 2000
Accession # 2011-0131-028

I reminisced with my mother, Elaine Linder Lundeen, about her experiences as a country school teacher. She is 83 years old, but remembers well about those early years in her life. She stated that as a child she always wanted to be a teacher. She attended H. L. Merrill High School at Hutchinson and graduated in 1935. The following September of 1935 she was accepted in the Hutchinson Rural Teacher’s Training Program for the 9 month course. They called it Normal Training. In those days you didn’t have to pay for teacher’s training. According to the Hutchinson Leader, many applied but only a few met the requirements for acceptance into the program. There were 10 students in the class that attended from 1935-1936. The Hutchinson Leader stated that seven of the students were Hutchinson High School graduates: Elaine Linder, Josephine Swetland, June Anderson, Viola Luthens, Viola Semerau, Elise Whisler, and Bruce Brummond. Lorraine Kasper of Silver Lake, Esther Moline and Irene Homquist of Dassel were also in the class. Miss Jennie Burge was the instructor. Elaine remembers Miss Burge as being older, quite eccentric and wearing a wig. Their classroom was on the second floor of the H. L. Merrill High School. Mom practice taught for 2 weeks in the spring of 1936 at district #44, Austin School, which was a one room country schoolhouse north of Hutchinson. Agnes Mackendanz Bach was the teacher at that school.

In the fall of 1936 at age 19, Elaine started teaching country school. She would continue to teach for the next six years. She remained at her first school, district #14 Lake Hook School, for 3 years. Lake Hook School was a white clapboard one room school north of Hutchinson and just a few miles southwest of her parent’s home. She lived with her folks, George and Amy Linder, on their farm in the Bear Lake community of Hutchinson Township. She drove her Father’s car to school. Sometimes her Father would drive her. When the weather was bad, she stayed at the Marvins...
who lived not far from the school. A wood stove heated the school and there were outdoor toilets. There were about 24 kids at the school. She taught all 8 grades. She remembers teaching ten minutes per grade per subject each day. Some of the subjects were reading, language, spelling, arithmetic, and hygiene. There would be opening exercises every morning when they would either tell jokes and riddles or discuss current events from the Weekly Reader. On Fridays there would be sewing and manual training. The students would make things to take to the McLeod County Fair. Elaine would help setup the booth at the Fair where the students’ projects were displayed. The kids had duties such as cleaning the boards, dusting the erasers, and carrying in wood and water. Elaine thought the children at Lake Hook were very nice. She particularly remembers Alvin Henke. He was a first grader and she said he was such a sweet kid. While at Lake Hook, Elaine had a practice teacher, Ebon Dennis’ daughter, for a short time. The Superintendent of schools was Daniel Vor- licek. He would come visit the school for a day during the school year. The annual school Christmas program was a community event. Elaine would give each of the pupils a gift, such as games and books, which she ordered from a catalogue. The children would exchange names and gifts. Santa would hand out big bags of candy. Elaine remembers one year they presented a radio play. Charles Dobratz was the speaker on the microphone. Parade of Wooden Soldiers was presented. Elaine made the costumes. They wore red jackets with white pants. Gail Froemming, Bonnie Bonniwell, and all of the Henkes were in it. They tap danced to the music played on a record. Art Dobratz and George Brunberg attended the program and told Elaine it was the best program they had ever attended. Another event that was looked forward to was the annual spring rake day, and also the school picnic, which was attended by the community with potluck lunch, races and games...
Join us for a Historic Van Tour of New Ulm!
Hosted by the McLeod County Historical Partners

Sunday, November 15th, 2015
Cost: $30 per person includes all admission fees & transportation costs.
Lunch at Historic Turner Hall-not included in ticket price.
8:30 am: Pick up at McLeod County Historical Society & Museum
9 am: Pick Up at Glencoe City Center

Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month:

Donor: Raymond Pavlish
Accession #: 2005-0148-001
History: Green tin lunch pail used by Ray Pavlish when he went to Country School, District #51. On the lid is carved the initials R. P., on the side of the lid is a piece of tape with the name Dennis Pavlish written.

Donor: Laura Karg
Accession #: 2005-0063-000
History: Small slate with a wood frame. It has S. L. on the side. It also has a hole on the top for hanging. The L. R. stands for Lars Rasmussen, who attended Country School, District #45 from 1884-1892. He used the slate for writing and arithmetic as paper was scarce at the time. Laura Rasmussen Karg used the same slate from 1916-1924.

Payment can be mailed to:
McLeod County Historical Society & Museum
380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Or Payment by Phone:
(320) 587-2109
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:

General Fund:
Matthew Dostal; In honor of Jerry & Mary Haag from Leroy & Darlene Karg
Donald & Helene Spllettstazer; Kay & Virgil Voigt; Elizabeth Kurth; Allen Weseloh;
Delores Gustafson; Dan & Rachel Murphy; Joan & Larry Karg; Ken & Ann Schumann

Archives Fund:

Heritage Garden Fund:

Endowment Fund:
In memory of Lowell Nelson from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf

Technology Fund:

Annual Support Fund:

Restoration Fund:

Genealogy Fund:
Carol Jackson

Welcome New and Life Members:

Deb & Doug Matuska, St. Louis Park; Darlene Sell, Fairfax,
Robert Allison, Glencoe; Raymond Norton, Hutchinson;
Christina Miller, New Ulm

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

Harlow Karg Michael Dolan First Congregational UCC
Kathleen Luthens Clifford Johnson Spencer & Joyce Beytien
Datlaf and Chip Weseloh Norbert Doerr Ron Pulkrabek
Minerva Stritesky Lisa Christensen Jane Orvis
Margaret Hoffman St. Mathews Lutheran Louise Schroeder
William Froemming Church Paul Otte
Hutchinson High School Sandra Defries
Ronald McGraw Virginia Jerabek
Val Vikal Milton Brinkman

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, 62, 65, 68, 70, 71, 75, 82

Thank you to everyone who has helped us to gain more information on
the McLeod County Country Schools!

McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter
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: