



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

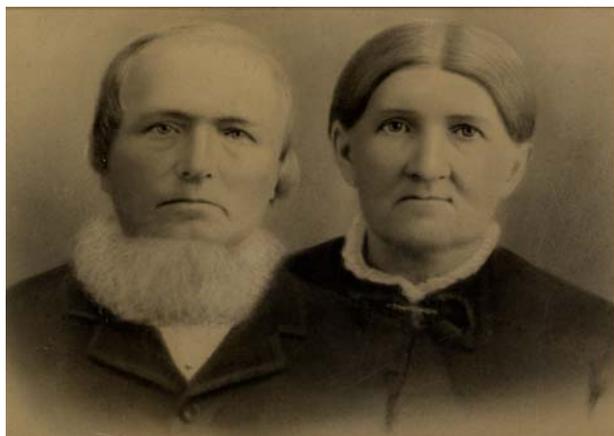
"Faces of the Past"

-19th Century Crayon Portraits from the MCHS Museum's Permanent Collection-

Exhibit @ The Hutchinson Center for the Arts 15 Franklin Street, SW- Hutchinson, MN Ph. 320-587-7278

Exhibit: September 7th-October 5th

Open House Presentation: Sunday, Sept. 13th- 2-4 PM



The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is pleased to be partnering with the Hutchinson Center for the Arts to present, "Faces of the Past". This is a small collection of Crayon Portraits that were done in the late 1800s by unknown artists. This innovative technique to make large portraits of McLeod County residents is a window into the culture and technology of the era and a gift to future generations, as the images of these everyday pioneers are still here to tell their stories.

We hope you will join us for our first ever art exhibit at the Hutchinson Center for the Arts on Sunday, Sept. 13th at 2pm.

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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 \$25, Family \$40
Business \$300
Individual Lifetime \$500

Board of Directors

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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

Director's Review:

What great fun we had at the McLeod County Fair this year! Our "History of Country Schools of McLeod County" theme brought back many memories, and we hope made a few for the kids who got a chance to ring the District #54 school bell. Yes, it was loud...but it's an experience, along with attending a country school, that kids today will no longer be able to have. We unveiled our theme booklet, and our DVD- "McLeod County Country School Memories" during the Fair. The booklets sold out quickly and we are currently gearing up for a second printing. So if you are on the waiting list you will have your copy soon, and if you would like a copy, just give us a call or stop in and we will get you one. The Booklet retails for \$25 and the DVD is just \$20, and features six personal McLeod County Country School memories and over 300 Country school photos from our collection.

Oh and did you guess the gadget? Anita Crosby did, and she won a year membership to the MCHS! The gadget was a snood that was used to hold a girl's curls in place while sleeping. We had 11 correct answers and many incorrect guesses, such as a mosquito net, garter, bra and chin strap! Thanks for playing along.



McLeod County Senior Expo:

Tuesday, September 22nd-8am to 2:30pm

Hutchinson Event Center

1005 State Highway 15 South

This year's theme is Navigating Life's Journey.

Tickets are \$8. For ticket availability, call 1- 320-864-7798.

The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum will be hosting a booth at the Senior Expo. We will also be presenting, "McLeod County History at your Fingertips", as a breakout sessions during the event.

The presentation will give guests the chance to see all the information that is available, via the internet, on McLeod County History. As a part of the presentation, we will take a journey of our own, through the fantastic history of McLeod County and its residents!

Award Winning Photography by Milt & Lydia Brinkman

Special Exhibit:

August 31st – September 30th

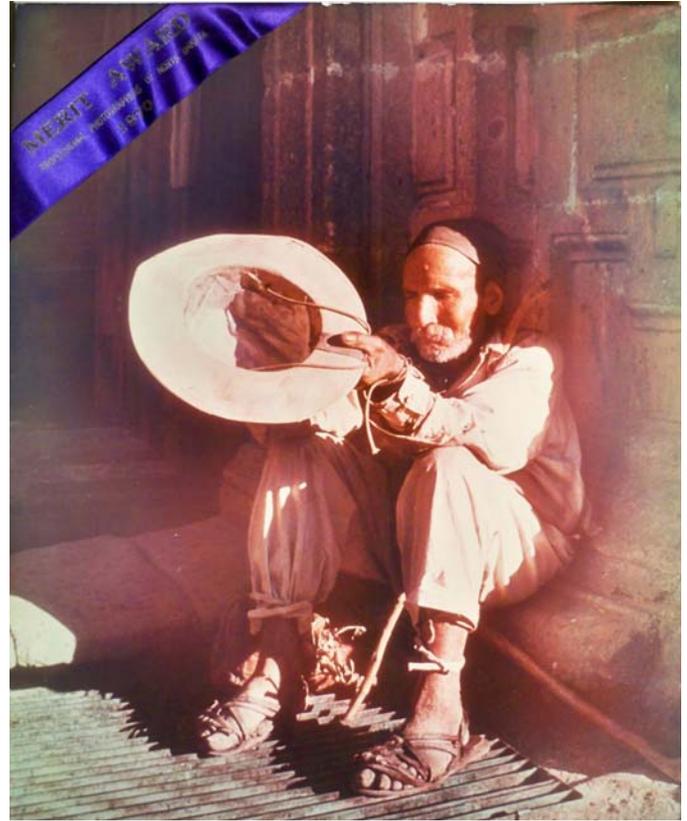
Open House:

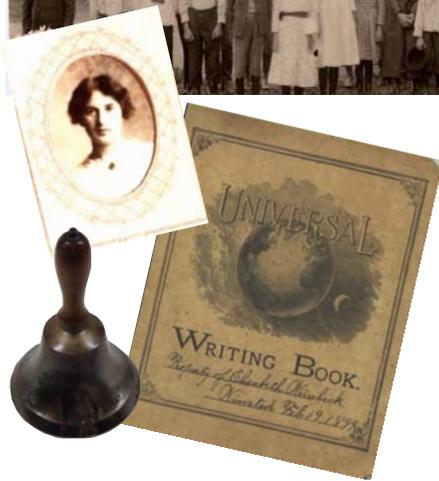
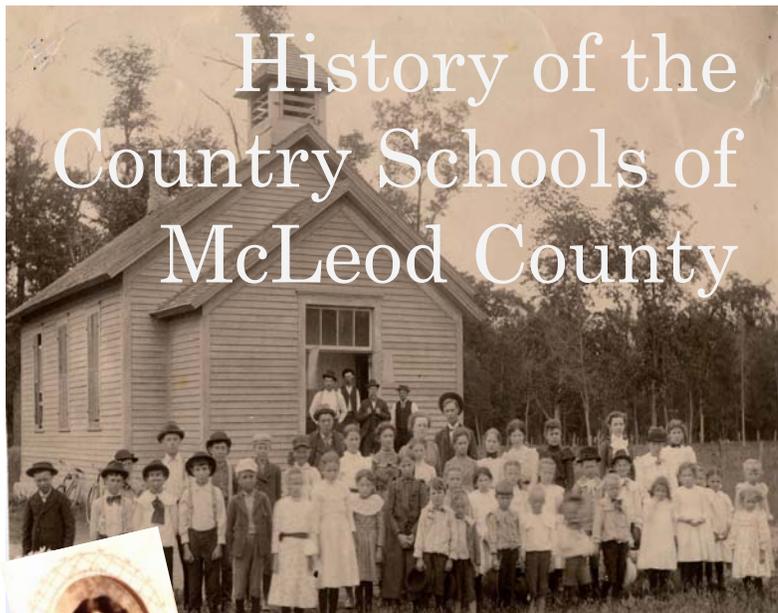
Sunday, Sept. 27th 2-4pm

Museum Educational Media Center

The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is pleased to bring you the private award winning photography collection of long time local photographers and artists, Milt & Lydia Brinkman.

Some of the Award winning artwork prints need to be identified. Many of the subjects are unknown, and it is Milt's wish to reunite the photos with the people who sat for the photographs. If you can help us with any information, please contact the Museum's Collection Manager Bev Swenson-320-587-2109 or artifactdonations@mcleodhistory.org





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 #27–Hale Township:

Known as the “Meadow Dale” School
Organized in 1866 closed in 1955

Taken from the website submitted Country School Memories of Beatrice Pishney Butryn 2/25/2015

I started first grade in 1947 at the age of 5 years old, (I would be six in December), at District #27 which was about two miles east of Silver Lake, MN on Hwy 7. It was a one-room country schoolhouse providing education for grades 1-8, although there never happened to be students in every grade during any given year. There were only two in my grade, another boy and myself. Imagine the teacher having to prepare

lessons for five or six different grade levels each day.

Mr. Henry Schultz was my teacher for grade 1-2. He then went on to the high school in Silver Lake where he became principal as well as teacher. It was ironic that he started me in first and second grades and then was one of my high school teachers.

Our one-room school had no running water, two outhouses for boys and girls bathrooms, a pump house where we got our water for drinking and hand washing from the well, and a small storage building for unused desks. It sat on about one acre of land so there was ample room for play during recesses where softball, hide and seek, dodge ball, and other games were played. The only playground equipment was a set of monkey bars.

To help operate this school, the children had chores or “duties” assigned on a weekly rotation. The bigger kids pumped and carried water from the pump house to the school room where it was poured into a large cooler for drinking and some stored in a pail at a wash station in the rear of the room. Another duty was to raise the flag on the outdoor flag pole each morning and take it down before we went home. Yet another duty was to clean erasers used on the blackboards each day...you took them outside and clapped them together to rid the chalk dust. There always seemed to be enough duties for everyone to have one.

One extraordinary memory about our country school



Photo of District #27, “Meadow Dale” School
Scanned black & white photograph of School District #27, Hale Township. Unidentified children are outside the wood frame building with shutters.
MCHS Photo Collection
Accession # 2010-0171-042

was that it had a big furnace that took up a corner of the school room to provide heat in the cold winter months. There were a few occasions when it failed to produce enough, or any heat at all. When that happened, one of the older boys would walk over to a nearby farm house to use the phone, (no phone at the school), to call one of the school board members who would come and fix the furnace. Meanwhile we all huddled around the furnace with our coats, scarves, and boots on trying to keep warm and waiting for it to be fixed.

I realize today that my experience of attending a country school was extraordinary, even amazing to modern children. I received a good education plus I learned responsibility and social skills with older and younger children. I wouldn't trade that background, or growing up on a farm as I did, for anything.

District #80–Hale Township:

Known as the (?) School
Organized in 1898

Taken from the article, “Good Old School Days” by Martha Carlson

My first year of teaching was in 1917 in a small one room school north of Silver Lake (District #80) I had 38 pupils with all eight grades. My salary was \$50 a month.

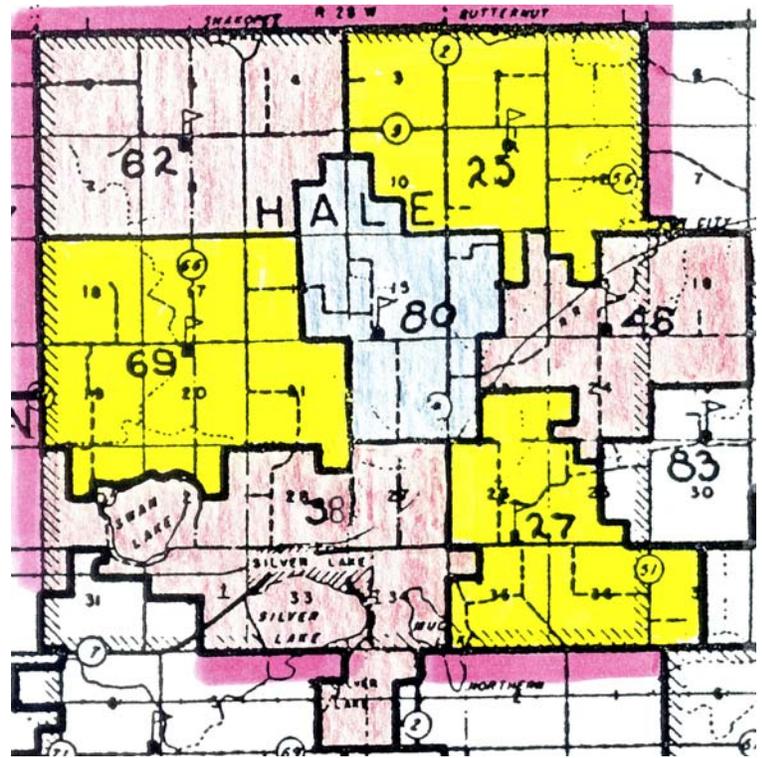
I lived with a Bohemian family one and a half miles from school. I walked this distance every morning and evening. No one ever had a ride to school, everybody walked. Fortunately I did have a janitor so the school room



Photo of District #80 School

Color photograph of the former site of School District #80, Hale Township, McLeod County. Taken by Ron Pulkrabek, April 1, 2015. The building was used as the Hale Township Hall until a new hall was built after 2004.

MCHS Photo Collection
Accession # 2015-0104-040



Hale Township Rural Country Schools

District #25	District #27	District #38
District #46	District #62	District #69
District #80		
Schoolhouse location =		

was always warm. About 15 minutes instruction each day was all each class could get, so some classes were combined to give them more time. Discipline in all the schools I taught was very good. Pupils were all very kind to me so I had no problem there.

We held Spelling Bees together with different schools in the area. This was very interesting. At Christmas time we always had a nice program, Christmas tree, Santa, and all the treats. Cold weather never kept anyone from attending. We also had basket socials for the young people. This was very enjoyable. Some baskets were sold for a high price. Money from our socials was used for Christmas treats and school supplies.

Every spring we had our picnic. The young people brought ice cream freezers from home and we made our own ice cream at school, which was good. We also had a booth at the County Fair where we exhibited articles made on Friday afternoons. Many prizes were won which made the pupils happy and enthusiastic.

Eighth grade graduation was also a happy time for the pupils who graduated. This was held at Glencoe. Pupils dressed up in nice dresses and suits and were proud to receive their diplomas and to have their picture taken.



Bill and Joan Arndt in front of the District #54 School Bell that was donated by them this year. The Bell is now a part of the Museum's Permanent Collection.

All Country School Class Reunion & District #54 Bell Dedication!

Sunday, September 20th-1-4PM
McLeod County Museum

- Hot dogs, Corn-on-the Cob and Refreshments
- Special Country School Displays
- Showing of the new MCHS Video,

"McLeod County Country School Memories"

Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month:

Donor: *Kenneth Dahlke*

Accession #: 2008-0320-002

History:

Framed collage of track ribbons and photographs from McLeod County Track Meets of 1919-1920-1921 won by Louis Dahlke for District 31 (Collins Township). Contains 3 red ribbons for 1919; 1 red ribbon and 7 blue ribbons for 1920; and 1 red ribbon and 6 blue ribbons for 1921.

His trainer was Lenard Rasmussen, Montevideo, Minn. and his teacher was Mrs. Nick Pichotta, the former Ida Bielke of Stewart.

The photographs are of Louis Dahlke; his loving cup trophy; District 31, Collins Twp, 1912 school group & teacher Eyetta Redlar (Mrs. Leo Plaisance) taken in front of the school; and District 31 school group with Ida Bielke teacher identified. Louis Dahlke (1904-1985) was the father of donor Kenneth Dahlke.



Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:

General Fund:

Cynthia Coleman; Paul & Kathleen Ulrich; Michael Dedrick

Archives Fund:

Heritage Garden Fund:

In memory of Audrey Lipke from Pat Schmidt

Endowment Fund:

*In memory of James Weis from Leona Donnay;
In memory of Loretta Hochsprung from Delores Gustafson
In memory of Loretta Hochsprung from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf*

Technology Fund:

Annual Support Fund:

Restoration Fund:

Welcome New and Life Members:

**JoEllen Kimball, Hutchinson;
Michael Dedrick, Seattle, WA**

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

Ron Pulkrabek

Ida Karstens

Doris Nelson

Agnes Rozeske Fiecke

Joan and William Arndt

Marjorie Huls

June Schulz

Beverly Baumetz

Jim Field

Mavis Kottke

Milton Field

Ron McGraw

Ruth & Marlin Torgerson

Shirley Cutlar

Marian Filk

Cathy Calabrese

Carmen Reed Zimmerman

John Lyman

Thomas Mielke

Sue Dwyer

McLeod County

Gwen Radke

Carole Steele

Charles Ulrich

Jeff Hoeft

Anne Hahn

Ida Buss Rutzke

City of Lester Prairie & Legion

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, 68, 70, 71, 75, 82*



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:



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**McLeod County
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