Tractors on Parade
The 21st Annual Antique Tractor Show

Once again the tractors were on parade at the Historical Society during the Mower County Fair. Case was the featured tractor this year AND there was even a Case Car on display. With over 65 tractors on display, it was by far the biggest show in many years.

The Case Corporation, founded in 1842 by Jerome Increases Case as the J.I. Case Threshing Machine Company, has a rich history. It operated under that name for almost a century. For another 66 years it was the J.I. Case Company, and was often called simply Case. By 1967, the company was majority-owned by Tenneco. In 1984, Tenneco bought International Harvester's agricultural equipment division and the farm brands were combined to form Case IH. In 1994, Case LLC merged with New Holland Agriculture to form CNH Global and is now owned by Fiat Industrial. Today the name Case lives on in two brands: Case CE and Case IH.

In the late 19th Century, Case was one of America’s largest builders of steam engines, producing self-propelled portable engines, tractor engines and steam tractors. It was a major producer of threshing machines and other harvesting equipment. They also produced various machinery for the military, including combat engineer equipment for the Marine Corps along with full-tracked tractors and scoop loaders for the U.S. Army. Case was also in the automobile industry between 1911-1925/1927.

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NEW Exhibits at the Fair
By Randal J. Forster, Executive Director - MCHS

The Great Mower County Get-Together, also known as the County Fair, brought young and old to the Historical Society this past August. Since this was my second official year at the fair, it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and share the many wonderful exhibits we have here at the Historical Society.

We officially opened two NEW exhibits during the fair. On August 5, Prehistoric Mower County-featuring the Maynard Green Collection was dedicated in the Administration Building. Donors and invited guests had the opportunity to see this new exhibit which explores the historical significance of the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry. This is truly an amazing exhibit and we are so excited to finally share it with everyone. AND since this exhibit is next to my office, feel free to stop by anytime and check it out.

Our second new exhibit is on the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion. This is a great addition to the Headquarters Building which already features artifacts & history from WWII and the Vietnam War. Every year during the fair we are honored to have local veterans volunteer their time to sit in the building and share information about local VFW and American Legion Posts.

I am pleased to report we had amazing attendance this year, with over 23,000 people walking through our gates, parking on our grounds, or visiting our buildings. It’s great to see so many people visiting our buildings. I even had people say to me, “I didn’t know you had this here” or “this place is amazing, why didn’t I visit sooner?” I would also like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who “made it all happen” during fair week. We couldn’t do it without you!

Save the date for next year’s fair which will be August 11-16, 2020

Wayne Hammon, American Legion 1st District Adjutant from Leroy and Dale Wellik, American Legion District Commander from Stewartville visit the Headquarters Building during the Fair.
Upcoming Events

October 11 9:00am-4:00pm
Vintage & Antique Sale
Pioneer Building
All proceeds from this special fund raising event will go towards the MCHS Endowment Fund.

October 12 9:00am-2:00pm

October 21 6:00pm
History Happy Hour
Hormel Historic Home
“100 Year History of the Volstead Act” by ‘Andrew Volstead’ himself

October 24 12:00 Noon
Lunchbox History Series
Pioneer Building
“History of Anderson Memorials” by Jeff Anderson

November 11 6:00pm
History Happy Hour
Hormel Historic Home
“In Honor of Veterans Day” by Dean Ulland

November 28 & 29 CLOSED
MCHS Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December 9 6:00pm
History Happy Hour
Hormel Historic Home
“Dickens of a Christmas” by Randal J. Forster & friends

December 13 3:00pm-5:30pm
Christmas in the County
Pre-Sale Bake Sale

December 14 11:00am 4:00pm
Christmas in the County
The Main Event
Raffle Drawing at 3:00pm
Silent Auction FINAL Bids at 3:30

December 24 & 25 CLOSED
MCHS Office Closed for Christmas

December 31 & Jan 1 CLOSED
MCHS Office Closed for New Years

SAVE THE DATE!

A Special THANK YOU to our 2019 Fair Volunteers.
“We couldn’t do it without you!”

Thanks for parking cars, counting people, driving tractors, watching buildings, bringing snacks, calling volunteers, moving farm equipment, AND helping to promote MCHS.


Thank You for volunteering your time & talent!
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Barbara K. Lewis, President of the MCHS

The past few days the Historical Society have been bursting at the seams. Thursday, September 26, the Pioneer Building was filled to capacity with people of all ages listening to Tom Trow talking about the discovery of the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry. What and awesome sighting to see so many people at a Lunchbox History program.

As soon as the program was over and the building was empty of people, the tables were loaded into a pickup and taken to the Ag Building to be set-up for the Fall Harvest Celebration. Saturday was another seam bursting day with families and friends of the Historical Society enjoying the beautiful fall weather and fun activities for all ages.

We are able to have these special events because of the many volunteers and the great board members who give of their time. Our Board of Directors is a volunteer group of people who do not receive any monetary pay for the many hours they give for meetings and events. When you see or talk to them be sure to tell them Thank You!

It is hard to be thinking about Christmas already but we have one of the biggest events on its way to us in December. Friday night, December 13th is the Pre-Sale Bake Sale and then on Saturday December 14th is The Main Event. The bake/cookie sale continues along with the silent auction, raffle ticket drawing, hot food, activities for the children, the blowing of the 1004 train engine, horse and mule drawn wagon rides, and time to get your special requests to Santa and Mrs. Claus.

We try to call for cookie bakers, but sometimes a baker gets missed.

“SO, I AM ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS BEFORE OR WOULD LIKE TO BAKE COOKIES & MAKE CANDY, LEFSE, KRAMKAKE, SPECIALTY CHRISTMAS GOODIES, OR BREADS TO PLEASE PUT DECEMBER 13TH ON YOUR CALENDAR & BAKE, BAKE, BAKE, FOR THE EVENT!”

You don’t need to plate your cookies. We put the big trays together with a variety of cookies & people tell us which goodies they would like. The cookies sell for $5.00 a dozen. Other items are priced separately.

Items should be brought to the Administration Building by Friday A.M.

This is also a great time to PURCHASE all those very special and delicious goodies for the holidays.

If you can help fill our tables with baked goods, PLEASE put on that apron and bake up some special treats for Christmas In the County.

The silent auction also helps to bring in revenue for the society. We are looking for baskets of items ready for the auction. Gift Cards or items to be placed into baskets are also welcome. If you would like to contribute something please bring it to the office by November 25, 2019.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thanks to the following townships for supporting MCHS in 2019

Adams Township
Bennington Township
Clayton Township
Dexter Township
Grand Meadow Township
Lansing Township
Lyle Township
Marshall Township
Nevada Township
Pleasant Valley Township
Racine Township
Red Rock Township
Sargeant Township
Udolpho Township
Waltham Township
Windom Township

Thank you for your support!
**Christmas in the County 2019 Raffle Prizes**

- Quilt “President’s Pride” 82x82
- Winemaker’s Tour at Four Daughters
- $100 Old Mill Gift Certificate
- $100 Weis Landscaping Gift Certificate
- $50 Olde Tyme Antiques Gift Certificate
- $50 ArtWorks center Gift Certificate
- Massage from Reeve Chiropractic
- Dairy Basket - Mower Co. Dairy Association
- $25 Kenny’s Oak Grill Gift Card
- Bubble’s Café - Pie of Choice
- Patriotic Barn Quilt 3’x3’
- T-Shirt & Family Membership to MCHS

**Raffle Drawing**
Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 3pm
Need not be present to win.
Must be 18 to purchase tickets/win

**Raffle Tickets $1.00**

**Purchase tickets from**
- MCHS Board Members
- OR stop in the office

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**“President’s Pride” Quilt**

Virginia Bissen has again made and donated a beautiful quilt as the grand prize for the Christmas in the County Raffle at the Historical Society.

There are over 200 different reproduction prints from the Kansas Troubles line of fabric in this 100% cotton quilt. Use as a comforter on a double or queen size bed.

AND, of course, Virginia has plenty of raffle tickets on hand to sell.

---

**Cookbooks are $10.00**

MCHS Cookbooks make a perfect gift for the holidays

Stop by the MCHS office or Sweet Reads Bookstore to get your copy today AND get started on your Holiday Shopping!
Disturbance at a Vacant Church
by Sue Doocy, Research and Archives Manager

A padlock pried open… The church door stood ajar….

On the Eve of Halloween in 1977, two Mower County Deputy Sheriffs were called to investigate a scene at the abandoned Hofland Swedish Lutheran Church north of Rose Creek along County Road 3. (The church had been closed since 1937.)

A passersby had reported that the door had been pried open. The deputies most likely hesitated at the church door, anticipating "a nocturnal visit from evil". They would have then paused again when they saw a coffin inside the abandoned church.

Inside, two candles burned at either end of a five-foot casket which was resting on the altar rail, draped in a brown cloth, with a sharpened stake that was red and dripping, which lent an added chill to the air. The temperature historically is around 53 degrees on October 30 in the area (and yes, I looked it up).

On closer inspection, the deputies observed that the casket had been made from Styrofoam and wrapped in wood-grain adhesive shelf paper and it was draped in a bedspread. The stake had been painted red. This was obviously a prank that at first glance looked like "a scene out of 'Dracula'" according to an Austin Daily Herald article on Halloween Day. They reported no damage to the church or the surrounding area.

The first Swedish immigrants who settled in Marshall Township began leaving Sweden in 1864. Their migration on the long trek to the Midwest lasted until 1902.

The Hoflanda Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, under the guidance of the Rev. Swan Anderson, was organized on March 2, 1883 and met in the nearby Corbitt School House, District 103, where they held their church services. The Marshall Township Swedish settlement began in the latter 1870’s and grew to 11 families by 1885, and in 1900, 19 Swedish families owned land in the area.

In June 1887, Peter Olson and his wife deeded land to the Hoflanda Lutheran Church containing the SW ¼ of Section 8 in town 102, range 16. The following year, Carl Peterson, a contractor, also from Sweden, built the church, after 98 families, companies, and people of other faiths provided the funds.

Once a month, the Rev. Swan Anderson, the first pastor from Dundas, Minnesota, traveled by train, taking room and board at each settler's home in turn while in the area, to conduct church services before returning to his home church near Dundas.

A barn and a row of lean-tos with room to feed the horses once stood alongside the outhouses, providing protection from the winter winds during services.

In 1937, the church closed when the congregation numbers declined and the Rev. E. Norsen left. Then, the church only opened its doors for an occasional wedding or funeral.

Sixteen years later, the remaining families met at the home of Anna Blom, a charter church member, who lived a half-mile south of the church. The purpose of the reunion and dinner was to ask the younger generation to take an active role in caring for the church and cemetery. They organized the Hoflanda Lutheran Cemetery Association to preserve the church, cemetery, and their heritage.

Every year they hold an annual meeting the first Saturday in May to discuss the needs of Hoflanda and to reunite with other descendants of the church family. Fundraisers have helped meet the needs of the church and cemetery, erect a fence, and create a trust fund.

In 1991, the Mower County Historical Society, led by Margie Meier and others, worked on nominating the church for the National Registry of Historic Places. Their research revealed that the church had been linked with Christala of Millersburg, located in Rice County, Minnesota, in a two-point parish, and had received aid as mission congregations. Though the church did not meet the immediate requirements of the National Registry, its history has been preserved for the future.

There remain many questions: Why did these Swedish immigrants leave their homeland and risk traveling the uncertain seas and plains for a future in an unknown land? What called them to the plains of Mower County? How many were lost and fell by the trail? What challenges did they face?

Could it be that we have another research project in our future? Time will only tell.

Today, the Hoflanda Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church stands with a new metal roof and a pristine white coat of paint along County Road 3. It serves as a reminder of a small Swedish immigrant settlement that remembers its ancestors and their heritage with pride and reverence.
Thank You

To everyone who donated to the 2019 Annual Donation Appeal

Ramona Swenson, United Farmers State Bank, Dean Johnson,
Jim & Milly Burroughs, Dean & Harriet Ulland, Robert & Colleen Weimer,
Peggy Benzkofer, Larry Pfeil, Gary & Pat Ray, Tradexpos. Inc.,
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Bobbie Mistretta & Bud Turner, Kathleen & Thomas Hart,
Nels & Yvonne Lee, Charles & Sharon Mills, Steve & Deb Thorson,
Don & Darlene Austin, Ruth Collette

We have currently raised $9760 towards our goal of $10,000
Thanks to everyone who contributed - no donation is too small or too large.
Collections Corner:
Historic Treasures in the Mower County Historical Society Collection
By: Jaimie Timm, MCHS Curator

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to start a new presentation series at the Hormel Historic Home, entitled “Historic Treasures.” Every other month, I’ll feature a few artifacts from the Historical Society’s collection. I love researching items in the collection – taking a deep dive into all different aspects of each item, including who used it, when it was made, the material it is made from, its relation to the culture of the time, and more. Below, I’ve highlighted a few of the items I featured in the presentation.

I hope you can join us for the next presentation on Thursday, November 14 at 11:30am at the Hormel Historic Home!

Custard Glass Sugar and Creamer Set

“Custard Glass” was originally created in Bohemia around 1870 as a “new” glass color (although, opaque yellow glass has been found in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt and in 16th century China pieces). It became popular in Britain around 1880, where it was marketed as “ivory glass” or “Queen’s Ivory Ware,” and spread to the U.S. a few years later. It is usually a pressed glass where a plunger is used to press or push molten glass into a mold. The color, which ranges anywhere from ivory or cream to a bright yellow or green) comes from uranium oxide that is added to the molten glass. As a result, most custard glass glows under a UV light. Pieces like these were very popular souvenirs.

This particular set was made by the Tarentum Glass Co. in Tarentum, PA around 1900. Tarentum Glass was founded in November 1893 by several prominent businessmen who had experience in the glassmaking industry. They purchased an old glassworks from a different company and began manufacturing in March 1894. They used all in-house designed molds and never purchased previously used molds or designs. This is the “Georgia Gem” pattern that is also known as “Georgia” and “Little Gem.”

The design features the Southern Minnesota Normal College which was founded in Austin in September 1897 (in 1913, it became the University of Southern Minnesota). Its motto was “You Learn By Doing It Yourself” and it emphasized practical education. Over the years, courses included teaching, business, stenography, steam engineering, penmanship, civil service, agriculture, fine arts, literature, shorthand, preparatory – Law, Commercial-Scientific, classical music, automotive and aeronautical engineering. The “courses” of study were relatively short (usually four, ten-week sessions) and were meant to be quick and thorough.

Enrollment declined in the early 1920’s when high schools and state universities started teaching many of the classes taught at the University of Southern Minnesota. In an effort to raise enrollment and convince other area businessmen to support the school, an Austin business man was quoted in the Mower County News in 1924, “I consider the University of Southern Minnesota one of the largest assets of Austin. Not only does the school turn out a well-trained and competent graduate but it preserves that spirit of wholesomeness which we find lacking in so many schools. The jazz-minded spirit doesn’t pervade this school. The young people at work out there seem to be intent on making every lesson hour count and to realize they are training for life work. The presence of these earnest young people in Austin is a good thing. They are fine folks to bring here and we should try to keep them.” Unfortunately, the school closed the following year.

Join Jaimie for the next

**HISTORIC TREASURES PRESENTATION**

at 11:30am on Thursday, November 14, 2020

at the Hormel Historic Home
7H117 “The Reporter” Telechron Alarm Clock

The Warren Clock Company (future Telechron) was founded in 1912 by Henry Ellis Warren in Ashland, Massachusetts. He initially made battery-powered clocks, but the batteries were unreliable and weakened quickly. In 1915, Warren invented a self-starting synchronous motor that consisted of a rotor and coil. The motor spins at the same rate as the cycle of the alternating current that powered it. Previous synchronous motors needed to be manually started. While it kept better time than his battery-powered clocks, it was still unreliable because the electrical current’s cycle was unreliable – different power grids in the U.S. had different “cycle rates” and could not easily be connected.

The next year, Warren invented the “Master Clock” which he installed in the Boston Edison Company. It had two movements – one driven by a synchronous motor connected to the current produced by a power plant and one driven by a traditional spring and pendulum. The traditional movement was adjusted twice a day according to signals received from the Naval Observatory. As long as the clock hands powered by the synchronous motor moved along perfectly with those of the traditional clock movement, the power produced by the Edison Company was uniform.

When the power current was uniform enough to accurately power his synchronous motor clocks, Warren invented a way to regulate electric power that made his clocks keep accurate time.

Telechron achieved huge successes in the 1920’s -1950’s, not only because of its technology but also because the company sought to design clocks according to the principles of the Art Deco movement with high quality materials like wood, brass, steel, and Bakelite. The Warren Clock Company focused on using high quality materials like wood, brass, steel, and Bakelite. The clocks were relatively expensive for the era. This clock, the “Reporter” model (which came in walnut or cream Bakelite, retailed for $2.95 in 1941 and was the most inexpensive clock manufactured by Telechron that year. In 2008, that would be about $30.00 which was relatively expensive compared to other clocks of the time.

Oil Painting by Hannah Reynolds, 1883

Hannah Reynolds parents, Amanda (an art teacher) and Alexander (a Methodist minister), came to Austin in 1873. Hannah followed in her mother’s footsteps as an artist and teacher. She studied at Northwestern University in Illinois from 1888-1891 where she also kept house for two of her brothers.

In July 1895, she opened an art studio in Austin over the Hall and West’s dry goods store. The newspaper mentioned a commission for a tapestry that was briefly displayed downtown the following year and art classes in oil and watercolors taught by Hannah. Hannah was also in charge of the Fine Arts building at the 1897 Mower County Fair. In her later years, she ran a boarding house at 204 W. Oakland Ave. and was involved with the Women’s Christian Temperance Union.

She painted this picture in 1883 based on an engraving she found. She names the engraving on the back, but the name of the engraving is illegible. One of the most interesting features of the painting is a small swan that is just visible in the water in the lower left-hand corner when you tilt the painting in the light. Apparently, Hannah painted the swan and then painted over it for some reason.
Thanks to all our Ag Sponsors!

2019 Ag Building Sponsors

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Mower County Dairy Association
Witt Fabrication
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Broskoff Structures
Lee J. Sackett

Thanks to all our Ag Sponsors!

21st Annual Antique Tractor Show during the Mower County Fair

Dedicated to
DeWayne Haberman
& Robert Reimers

MCHS was proud to honor DeWayne & Robert this year during the fair. They always supported the tractor show and enjoyed bringing their own restored tractors to the fair every year to be on display. They will be greatly missed!

The Mower County Historical Society
Lunchbox History Series

Join us for our last event of the series

October 24th
Jeff Anderson
“History of Anderson Memorials”

All events are held in the Pioneer Building on the grounds of the Historical Society at 12:00 Noon the Fourth Thursday of the month.

“Bring your lunch & Bring a friend!”

Save the DATES for next year

April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22

Thanks to our official Sponsor

Mayo Clinic Health System
Austin - Albert Lea
Thanks to the following donors!

Greg & Amy Baskin
Colleen Weimer
Barbara K. Lewis
SPAM Post #570
Walter Stevens
Sons of Norway

Jim & Milly Burroughs
Sue & Vern Grove
   in Memory of
   Nellie Croes

Joanne & Larry MacVey
John Locher
Lorena McGovern
Carolyn Kehret
   In Memory of
   Jerry Kehret

Schlichting Charitable Fund
   In Memory of
   Henry & Emma Schlichting

The City of Austin

Mower County

Thank You to those who joined the MCHS or renewed their membership!

Bronze Level
Janet Hokanson
Damel Corporation
Nelson Dental
Mower County Farm Bureau
Roberta Mistretta & Buddy Turner
IBI Data

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Individual Level
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Brian Voogd
Mary Landberg
Evelyn Schlichting
Lois Van Denover
Lavonna Johnson
Grace Conway
Vernon Hoffman
Julia Everson
Marlene Aurit
Paul Spyhalski

*** memberships listed are from 3rd Quarter only
July 1 thru September 30, 2019

Please contact the office if you are unsure about when to pay your membership dues.
Memberships are for 1 year and include your subscription to the Mower History Scribe!

Want to help us save postage and paper?
Sign up to TODAY to receive the newsletter digitally.

Seeking Artifacts for NEW Exhibit in 2020
“Suffragettes of Mower County”

Do you have any treasures such as banners, clothing, fashion, letters or photos that are related to Suffragettes OR the passing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote? MCHS needs your help as we research and make plans for a NEW exhibit set to open next August.

Please contact collections@mowercountyhistory.org

Thank You for being a MCHS Member!
“The mission of the Mower County Historical Society is to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history of Mower County and relate it to the history of Minnesota.”

Follow us @mowercohistory

Mower County Historical Society
1303 6th Ave. SW
Austin, MN 55912

Contact Us
To learn more about programs and events at the Mower County Historical Society, please feel free to contact us at anytime.

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Thanks for being a member of the Mower County Historical Society

Don’t forget the Vintage & Antique Sale | October 11 & 12, 2019