

History of Mower County

Mower County was officially formed on March 1, 1856, with the signature of Governor Willis A. Gorman. It was named Mower after John E. Mower, a territorial legislator. Until this time, Mower County was part of Wabasha County. Hunter Clark made the first settlement in the western part of the county, where Oakwood Cemetery is currently located in Austin.

The first Board of Commissioners met on April 7, 1856, in Frankford and located the county seat there. Since there was no official county building, all of the records were kept in a tin box. Wherever this tin box was located was where the county seat was established. A plot was designed to steal the box and relocate it to Austin. The plot was a success. In March 1857, the county board obtained the office of A.S.

Everest in Austin to be used as the county seat headquarters. An election followed on June 1, where the citizens of the county voted to have Austin established as the permanent county seat. The vote was split between the western residents and the eastern residents. In January 1868, the first courthouse was built.

Since that time, the county has grown tremendously. Austin is still the county seat and largest city.



Map to the Mower County Fairgrounds



Mower County Historical Society



Hours & Days:

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
(Nights & Weekends by Appointment)

Museum Tours:

\$5 per Adult
\$3 per Senior (60 & up)
Children under 17-years-old - Free
Group Rates are Available—Call for information

Mower County Historical Society

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Austin, MN 55912
(507) 437-6082

E-mail: mchs@smig.net

Website: <http://www.mowercountyhistory.org>





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The Rahilly Building is home to a vast array of horse drawn vehicles.



Check out the building where George Hormel started his company!

Research Library

Are you on the trail for family history or do you want to learn a little bit more about Mower County? Then check out our Research Library in the Administration Building. Our library is filled with vertical files (family, business, events, places), photo files, city directories, plat maps, newspapers (bound and microfilmed), and many history books. The staff at MCHS welcomes any opportunity to help out! The Research Library also carries a usage fee of \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.



Want to send some information and have us do the research for you? MCHS can do that too! Email us at mchs@smig.net with your information and we will email you with research fees before getting to work.



View Native American artifacts in the Herald J. Williams Indian Building.



The Pioneer Building is the original museum for the historical society.



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