

Museum Messenger

July 10 1-3 PM
Teddy Bear Picnic

July 28 12-1 PM
Lunchbox History Series:
Barry Adams "Minnesota at
Gettysburg"

August 9-14
Mower County Fair

August 25 12-1 PM
Lunchbox History Series:
Laura Helle "How Cy Thompson
Embezzled \$1.19 Million From
George A. Hormel & Co."

September 24 11 AM - 3 PM
Fall Harvest Celebration

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Summer 2011

Here Comes the 2011 Mower County Fair!

Summer is in full swing which means you can end your Tom Thumb Doughnut withdrawals and get ready for the Mower County Fair! The Fair is scheduled for August 9 to 14. Buildings will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 8 PM and Sunday from 1 to 5 PM. Volunteers are needed to fill shifts in the buildings and handle parking duties, so sign up now to get the slot and building that you want. To sign up for a building call the office at 437-6082; for parking spots call Barb Lewis at 433-4983.

Back by popular demand, the *Let's Dance* display, first opened at the 2010 Fair. It

featured during the *New Harmonies* exhibit at the Austin Public Library. The exhibit has been won public approval and will be located in the Pioneer Building during this year's fair. To go along with the exhibit, the Austin Big Band will perform on Thursday, August 11 at 5 PM next to the Sherman Tank.



To keep the entertainment rolling, MCHS will be hosting a

variety show on Saturday, August 13 from 5 to 7 PM. Acts will include musicians, dancers, and others. If you would like to participate, please contact Amanda Stoa at 434-2577 or Kris Allas at 433-3327.

The Ag Committee welcomes Fair visitors to join them for the 13th Annual Antique Tractor Show in the Ag Building. This year's feature will be the Ford tractors. If you would like to display in the show, contact Dave Spinler (433-3325), Don Chapek (433-4979), DeWayne Haberman (437-3805), or Joe Schechinger (433-3809).

See you at the Fair!

Fall Harvest Celebration is Set for Saturday, September 24

On September 24, there is going to be a celebration at MCHS. A Fall Harvest Celebration! From 11 AM to 3 PM, attendees will get to see first-hand how farmers worked to bring in the harvest. Living history demonstrations will make people appreciate what previous generations did on the family farm.

Volunteers will demonstrate threshing techniques, clothes washing, candle making, and many more tasks. If you

would like to volunteer with the farming demonstrations, please contact MCHS as we would like to have more volunteers with these activities.

At the Fall Harvest, visitors will be able to take home some fresh homemade fall treats from the bake sale! MCHS is looking for people that would like to donate fresh produce from their garden or orchard that can be sold at the bake sale. If you would like to bake something or donate items from your garden for the

event, please contact Barb Lewis (433-4983) or Kathy Paine (437-6256).

More info will be coming out on this event in September so watch your local paper, event flyers, and the MCHS website for updates closer to the event date.



Help MCHS by donating supplies for the office and fundraisers or make a special donation towards one of our special requests!

Regular Use Items

Reams of 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper Reams of 11 x 17 copy paper
 Reams of 8 1/2 x 11 color copy paper Post-it Notes
 Printer or Mailing labels 1 x 2 5/8
 Reams of 8 1/2 x 11 colored card stock
 Gift card, gift certificate, or Chamber Bucks to purchase supplies

(Staples, Sherwin Williams, Target, Walmart, D&G Hardware, Austin Builders, ProBuild, Walgreens, HyVee, Caseys, Kwik Trip, Ankeny's Mini-Marts, or Sterling Main Street are our most common vendors but will accept to any business within Mower County)

Stamps (most commonly used - 44¢, 28¢, \$1, 17¢, 5¢)

Fundraiser Supplies

Napkins **Plastic cups** **Large cookies trays with covers**
Plastic Cutlery **Coffee cups** **Regular size Paper Plates**
Cash box **Power strips** **LED Christmas lights**
Heavy duty extension cords **Regular & decaf coffee**

Special Requests - Persons wanting to help with these costs can make direct donations to MCHS to offset expenses.

Archival supplies **Museum Standards & Best Practices Manuals**

Newspapers on microfilm (avg. cost per roll is around \$60)

Ancestry.com subscription (paid annually, \$156 - US Records or \$300 - All records)

The Mower County Historical Society Board of Directors monthly meeting is held the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the Administration Building.

Members and the general public are welcome to attend any meeting.

Meeting Dates for this quarter:

July 27
 August 25
 September 28

2011 MCHS Board of Directors

Executive Board

Jeff Austin	President
Garry Ellingson	Vice President
Barbara Lewis	Secretary
Diana Witt	Treasurer

Directors

Kathy Paine	Cathy Roser
Dave Spinler	Miguel Garate
Don Konken	Jackie Holst

MCHS Staff

Dustin Heckman, Executive Director
 Sue Doocy, Curator



Mower County Fair parking passes are available beginning July 15 at MCHS!

MCHS will be selling parking on the historical society grounds during Fair Week again this year!

Daily passes \$5
 Season passes \$25

Stop by the MCHS office to purchase your pass!
 These passes are valid only on MCHS grounds.

Director's Dispatch—

Summer has finally arrived! The weather for the past month has been up and down but the calendar officially declares it summer. Looking at my own calendar that means 4th of July celebrations, a wedding or two, and a summer project list at home that needs to get completed somewhere in there. Here at the historical society, it means people and lots of them!

Over the next three months, we expect see more than 20,000 visitors for conventions, events, and, of course, the 2011 Mower County Fair. We look forward to the large influx in attendance every year but it takes quite a bit of manpower to make it an enjoyable and smooth experience. There are three large events where we will be needing the most volunteer help. They are: Thursday, July 21 - International Model T Club Convention, August 9-14 - 2011 Mower County Fair, and Saturday, September 24 - Fall Harvest Celebration.

For the Model T Club Convention, we are looking for people that can either be with us all day or take a 3 hour shift. Shifts will run from 10 AM to 1 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM. We will need minimally 14 volunteers but as many as 28 for the day. Duties will be similar to the Fair where some folks will monitor a building, while others will go around and check on volunteers to see if they need anything or just a break.

The Fair will be the same as it has in past years. We will have 3 shifts per day through Saturday and 2 shifts for Sunday. We have varying shifts for parking as well. Shifts start at 8 AM and go to 8 PM each day. All volunteers receive a free parking pass to park on the historical society grounds. It takes 18 people per shift to have the buildings open and 2 people per shift for parking. This means we need 66 people per day to allow fairgoers to see all that we have on Mower County's history! Call early if there is a specific building that you want or time slot as about 75% of the schedule will be filled by the last week of July so selection becomes scarce.

At the Fall Harvest Celebration, we are in need of volunteers to do multiple jobs. We need food stand helpers, bake sale operators, activity and craft helpers, parking attendants, and most of all, demonstration helpers. Each year we are in need of people that can help with our farming technique demonstrations. The last few years, we have had a dedicated crew of 3 to 5 people that have been handling this but they would welcome more help! So if you know how to thresh or want to learn, please let us know.

Our volunteers lend us tremendous support to pull off these huge events, but we are always in need of new volunteers who can help out when some of our regulars have other



Dustin B. Heckman
Executive Director
mchsdir@smig.net

commitments. The more people that we can teach Mower County's history through these events can open the door for new memberships, new donors, and even new volunteers. Think of it as playing a part in preserving Mower County's history for the future!

Looking through the newsletter you will see an order form for MCHS T-shirts. This was something we put together the week before the Fair last year to help volunteers distinguish themselves from regular fairgoers. For anyone who volunteers for 3 or more days during the Fair, they will receive a 15% discount off the cost of any MCHS T-shirts purchased! This is a great incentive to fill as many slots as possible.

See you at the Fair and don't forget to check out the Lunchbox History Series in July and August! Check out the flyer inserts for more details.

Membership & Donation information for April-May-June 2011

New & Renewed Members

Inman & Lois Hesla	Jean Legried
Ben & Arlene Bednar	Duane Felt
Pleasant Valley Township	Judy Bungum
Austin Daily Herald	Jeanne Poppe
Larry & Cindy Bellrichard	Joyce Peterson
Fuhrman Real Estate	Scott Murphy
Bill & Bev Houston	Lylealumni.com
Weldon Johnson	Karen Kendall
Wallace & Helen Malchow	Edwin Koppen
Frances Vander Stucken	Dexter Township
Lansing Township	Marty & Laura Helle
Austin Morning Lions Club	Tucker Company
Sarah Broadbent	Racine Township
Ann Hokanson	Shady Lane Farms
Miner's Outdoor & Rec	Ruth Wunderlich
Mower County Shopper	Kenny Dalager
Mike & Angie Bothun	Patrick Hansel
Joe & Kim Schechinger	Ben Roser
David & Millie Weness	Linda Madson
Harvey & Alice Sathre	Lou's Forever Framing
Red Rock Township	Viking Glass & Lock
Damel Corporation, Inc.	Studio Ten Design
Acme Bail Bonds, LLC	Dave's JDs
Travelin' Picnic Tables	Nystrom Signs
Blooming Prairie Times	Linda Forsman
Udolpho Township	

Home Federal Savings Bank
 Knights of Columbus #1201
 Hormel Foods Corporation
 Weis Landscaping & Design
 Mower County Farm Bureau
 Hanson Tire Service of Austin
 Klouse Concrete Construction
 David Spinler Construction Inc.
 Farmers & Merchants State Bank
 Hill, Larson, Walth & Benda, P.A.
 Pioneer Seed Sales Representatives
 Super Fresh Produce & Garden Center
 Austin Area Retired Educators Association
 Freeborn County Co-operative Oil Company
 Mower County Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.

Donations

Everett & Shirley DeYoung
 Barbara Langan
 Ben & Arlene Bednar
 Lillian Fetterly
 Frances Vander Stucken
 Jeanne Poppe
 Marty & Laura Helle
 Anonymous
 Robert & Colleen Weimer
 Stacy Bennett
 Austin Morning Lions Club
 Diana Tizard
 Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation

Memorials

Richard Cummings from Frank & Carol Bridges, Garry & Sharon Ellingson, Harold & Kathy Paine, Dustin & Lynn Heckman, Terry & Sue Doocy, Susan & David Goettsch, Frank & Judy Gerlach, Helen Knutson, Raymond & Carol Opsahl, Kermit & Ruth Hoversten, Bill & Sharon Lewis, Sara Sayles, Jerry & Mary Keenan, Janice Dennis, Greg & Lynee Larson, Edward & Patricia Heckman, Lora Lee Bauer, Bruce & Chris Henricks, Jeff & Diana Witt, Michael & Deloris Harber, Glenn & Judy Medgarden, Rosemary Naatz, Jacqueline Forcelle, Roger & Georgia Schramm, Anonymous, Edna Hill, Gene & Polly Jelinek, & the Dodge County Commissioners

Deceased Members

Harlan Boe	Mark Notestine
Helen Hocker	Leroy Van Proosdy

Nostalgic Moments

Working at the historical society keeps me in touch with the simple ways of life. I like turning the little crank on the pencil sharpener rather than using an electric sharpener and rolling down my truck window. Does that make me strange? Old fashion? I like opening a door by hand rather than have it automatically open for me. I know there are germs, but we don't melt by using soap and water. Plus, I like the exercise.

Remember when the first VCR players came out. Some people paid \$700-\$800 to have a more convenient way of watching a movie at home that wasn't already on the TV guide schedule, limiting the dressing up and driving to the movie theater. I was working at a local gas station and rented them out with the movies. Those machines were heavy and they came with a carrying case.

Recently, Afton and Thomas found a similar VCR player and case in our collection while conducting an inventory of MCHS' collections. This was a nostalgic moment for me. Has it been that long since those VCR players were introduced to the market? I figure about 25 years.

Checking out library books when I was a kid was quick and easy. Searching through the vast collection to locate that special book that would hopefully hold

my attention long enough so I could write a book report without falling asleep, and hold the attention of my fellow classmates during the presentation of the book report. After choosing a book, I pulled out the card from the paper pocket in the back, signed my name and handed it to the librarian. She wrote or stamped the date beside my name, placed it in a small file box and I was on my way to reading.

Walking into the library today, I pass through the security scanners and by the electronic check out stations while on my way to finding a book. I am grateful for the librarian's assistance with checking out books when the new technology beeps a warning that the electronic eye does not see my card or the book presented for check out.

Things have changed. Even applying and interviewing for a job is different. Applicants are filling out applications while at their home computers, logging on-line, or at kiosks in stores. Interviews are conducted with two to four members of the board of directors or company involved. A big change from early pioneer days when a person worked based on his or her performance, knowledge, and a handshake rather than listing their qualifications and skills. If the employee worked



Sue Doocy
Curator
mchs@smig.net

out the first day, they returned the next. Thus the saying, "A man's word is his bond."

In another example, Mike Cotter tells of his father wanting to buy a new car. He had the money in hand and the car picked out. He went to the car dealer and said, "I'd like to buy that car." The dealer responded, "Come right over here to my desk and I will fill out the loan paper work for you to sign." The man said, "No, I will pay in cash." The dealer said, "That's not the way we do it anymore." If he could not pay with cash, he wouldn't buy a car, and with that, he left without the car.

Here at the Mower County Historical Society, we blend the past with the present to tell the story of the people and historical events of Mower County. Is there an object, memory or a story you remember that you would like to revisit? Join us at the historical society and have your own nostalgic moment.

**What's happening at the museum?
Check out our event photos!**



Visitors view a scrapbook on display at the GAR Hall during the Meadowfest Open House. Greg Lorenzen of Grand Meadow won the raffle prize of a Civil War chess set.

Our 2011 Lunchbox History Series kicked off in June with author Gordon Fredrickson. Gordon told the story from his latest book, *A Farm Country Picnic*. He writes fictional stories about the family farm in 1950 that include historic facts and accurate portrayals of farm life.



Volunteers showed up in full force on our annual clean-up day. A lot of hard work was accomplished as well as some much needed repairs to buildings. Thank you to all the volunteers that showed up to help that day!



In June, families enjoyed the Austin Family Fun Day at the historical society. Visitors toured all of our museum buildings as well as participated in a scavenger hunt in the Ag Building and made Rice Krispie fire trucks. The weather was great and fun was had by all that attended the event!



The Hormel Historic Home's Royal Wedding Champagne Brunch in May featured wedding dresses, like the one above, from the MCHS collection. Come to the Fair and visit the Church to see more on display.

**BUY A RAFFLE TICKET TO
WIN OUR 2011 FAIR
DRAWING!**

GRAND PRIZE

Ertl John Deere 318D Skidsteer toy,
Mower County afghan, & MCHS T-shirt

1ST RUNNER-UP

Challenger MT675C Tractor toy &
MCHS T-Shirt

2ND RUNNER-UP

Bobcat 5600 Utility Work Machine toy

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5

**Buy your tickets today
or during Fair Week!**

**Become a member of
the Mower County
Genealogical Society
today!**

Dues are \$15 per year and
payable in October.
Meetings are held on the
1st Wednesday of the
month at the Austin Public
Library. Guests and queries
welcomed!

**Send your membership
dues to:
Mower County
Genealogical Society
PO Box 145
Austin, MN 55912.**

Memorial or Gift Donation

I'm happy to enclose a gift to be used by MCHS to carry forward the objectives of the society!

I've enclosed a \$ _____ memorial in abiding memory of _____ .

My name _____

Family Address _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

City/State/Zip _____

_____ Check here if you do not wish to have your name printed in the Museum Messenger with this gift.

Mail Donation to: Mower County Historical Society, 1303 6th Avenue SW, Austin, MN 55912

2011 Keep the Doors Open Sponsors

Platinum Level Sponsors

Barbara Lewis
Clayton Township
Lansing Township
Meyerhofer Steel & Construction
Nevada Township
Ruth Wunderlich

Diamond Level Sponsors

Udolpho Township

Gold Level Sponsors

Austin Daily Herald
Austin Township
Kathleen Sherman
Mildred Moeller
Mower County Shopper
Nystrom Signs
Racine Township
Stacy Bennett
Studio Ten Design
Tradexpos, Inc.
Travelin' Picnic Tables

Silver Level Sponsors

Akkerman, Inc.
Bill & Sharon Lewis
David Spinler Construction, Inc.
Dexter Township
Grand Meadow Township
Hormel Foods Corporation
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Pleasant Valley Township
Red Rock Township
Ulven's Ace Hardware
Viking Glass & Lock
Wagner Construction
Weis Landscaping & Design
Windom Township
Witt Fabrication

Bronze Level Sponsors

Acme Bail Bonds, LLC
Adams Township
Adams, Rizzi, & Sween, P.A.
Agri-Steel, Inc.
Ankeny's Mini Mart #5
Blooming Prairie Times
Carol Landgraf
Charles Wilson
Clair Allen
Damel Corporation, Inc.
David Ebertz
David & Millie Weness
Dick & Colette Chaffee
Don & Leah Konken
Dorothy Schulz
Dwight & Vickie Smith
Everett & Shirley DeYoung
Farmers & Merchants State Bank
Farmers State Bank of Elkton
First State Bank of Minnesota
Fox Electric
Frank & Carol Bridges
Fuhrman Real Estate
Greg & Amy Baskin
Hanson Tire Service of Austin
Harold & Kathy Paine
Harvey & Alice Sathre
Hill, Larson, Walth & Benda, P.A.
Holiday Inn
Home Federal Savings Bank
Ice Haus Bed & Breakfast
James Huntting
James Staley
Kenny's Oak Grill
Knights of Columbus #1201
Linda Forsman
Lloyd & Ramona Swenson
Mower County Farm Bureau
Mower County Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.
Mower Vehicle Registration Inc.
Robert & Colleen Weimer
Roger & Ila Johnson
Russell & Cheryl Potter
Sargeant Township
Super Fresh Produce & Garden Center
Thomas & Patricia Purcell
Twin Towers Craft Room

2011 Ag Building Sponsors

Absolute Energy	Boe Brothers Tiling Inc.	Broskoff Structures, Inc.	Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services
Hanson Tire Service of LeRoy	Mower County Corn & Soybean Producers	Mower County American Dairy Association	Northern Country Coop
R&S Grain Systems	Witt Fabrication	Freeborn County Co-operative Oil	Tucker Company
Shady Lane Farms	Dave's JDs	Klouse Concrete Construction	Pioneer Seed Sales Representatives



To all the Keep the Doors Open Sponsors, Ag Building Sponsors, and Life Members that contributed to our 2011 campaigns! Between the three groups, MCHS raised over \$31,000 in cash and in-kind contributions! Through these campaigns and direct solicitation for new memberships, we added 28 new memberships. Thank you to everyone that contributed and let's keep adding to the totals in 2012!

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Mower County Historical Society is to discover, collect, preserve and disseminate knowledge about the history of Mower County and to relate it to the history of the State of Minnesota.



1303 6th Avenue SW
Austin, MN 55912

Phone: 507-437-6082
E-mail: mchs@smig.net
Website: http://
www.mowercountyhistory.org



Mower County Historical Society's 2011 Business Membership Form

Are you a business that wants to show you support the preservation of history in Mower County? Consider becoming a business member of MCHS! Benefits include:

- Subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *The Museum Messenger*
- One free group tour for 25 people or less (great idea for an employee outing!)
- Reduced library access and research rates
- Automatic enrollment in the Time Travelers Program which entitles you to perks at over 265 museums in 41 states!
- Memberships run from January 1 to December 31
- Know that you are helping to preserve the history of Mower County!

Business memberships are \$60 per year.

Please return this portion with your membership

Enclosed you will find a check for \$_____ for our membership. In addition to our membership, a donation of \$_____ is included.

My business name is _____

Contact Person's name _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter: **Direct Mail** **Via Email**

Mower County Historical Society, 1303 6th Avenue SW., Austin, Minnesota 55912

Mission Statement

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Mower County Historical Society's 2011 Membership Form

Join today to help save the history of Mower County! Membership benefits for individual and families include:

- Subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *The Museum Messenger*
- Vote at our Annual Meeting (votes depend on membership level)
- Free tours for those listed on the membership
- Reduced library access and research rates
- Automatic enrollment in the Time Travelers Program which entitles you to perks at over 265 museums in 41 states!
- Memberships run from January 1 to December 31
- Know that you are helping to preserve the history of Mower County!



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



Please return this portion with your membership

Enclosed you will find a check for \$_____ for a **Individual/Family (please circle one)** membership. I have also enclosed a donation for \$_____ in addition to my membership dues.

My name is _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter: Direct Mail Via Email

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY, Please list any children in your household 18 years or younger that you wish to include with this membership.

Child 1: _____

Child 2: _____

Child 3: _____

Child 4: _____

Child 5: _____

Mower County Historical Society, 1303 6th Avenue SW., Austin, Minnesota 55912

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Austin, Minnesota
Permit No. 150

**MOWER COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

1303 6th Avenue SW
Austin, MN 55912

Phone: 507-437-6082
E-mail: mchs@smig.net
Website: <http://www.mowercountyhistory.org>

Open year round
Tuesday through Friday,
10 AM—4 PM



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 10 Teddy Bear Picnic 1 - 3 PM
*Participate in this family friendly event that includes activities and picnic lunch with paid admission. Every child receives a free teddy bear.

Thursday, July 28 Lunchbox History Series 12 - 1 PM
*Enjoy a presentation from Barry Adams on "Minnesota at Gettysburg". See the flyer insert for more information.

August 9-14 Mower County Fair
*Buildings will be open Tuesday through Saturday 1-8 PM and Sunday 1-5 PM. Parking is available on MCHS grounds for \$5 per day or a season's pass is \$25.

Thursday, August 25 Lunchbox History Series 12 - 1 PM
*Enjoy a presentation from Laura Helle on "The Cy Thompson Scandal". See the flyer insert for more information.

Saturday, September 24 Fall Harvest Celebration 11 AM - 3 PM
*Join us for our annual fall event! See the front page for more information.

Watch for press releases in your local paper about events or visit our website at www.mowercountyhistory.org

IS YOUR ADDRESS LABEL HIGHLIGHTED? THEN YOU NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It is time once again to renew your membership for 2011!
Memberships run from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.
Renewal forms for business members are on page 10 and for individual/family members on page 11.

Individual \$25 Family \$35 Club/Organization \$50
Business \$60 Keep the Doors Open Sponsor \$100 & up
Ag Building Sponsor \$250

If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact MCHS at (507) 437-6082 or via email at mchsdir@smig.net.