



**Crow Wing County Museum  
& Research Library  
Restored Sheriff's Residence**

## NEWSLETTER

# OPEN HOUSE

The society invites everyone to attend an open house on Saturday, October 12th to celebrate "What's New at the Museum." There will be an unveiling of the restored portrait of Lyman P. White, a book signing and sale of the "Brainerd" book, and a historic plaque put on the museum. Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Crow Wing County Historical Society is committed to preserving the history and telling the story of Crow Wing County.*

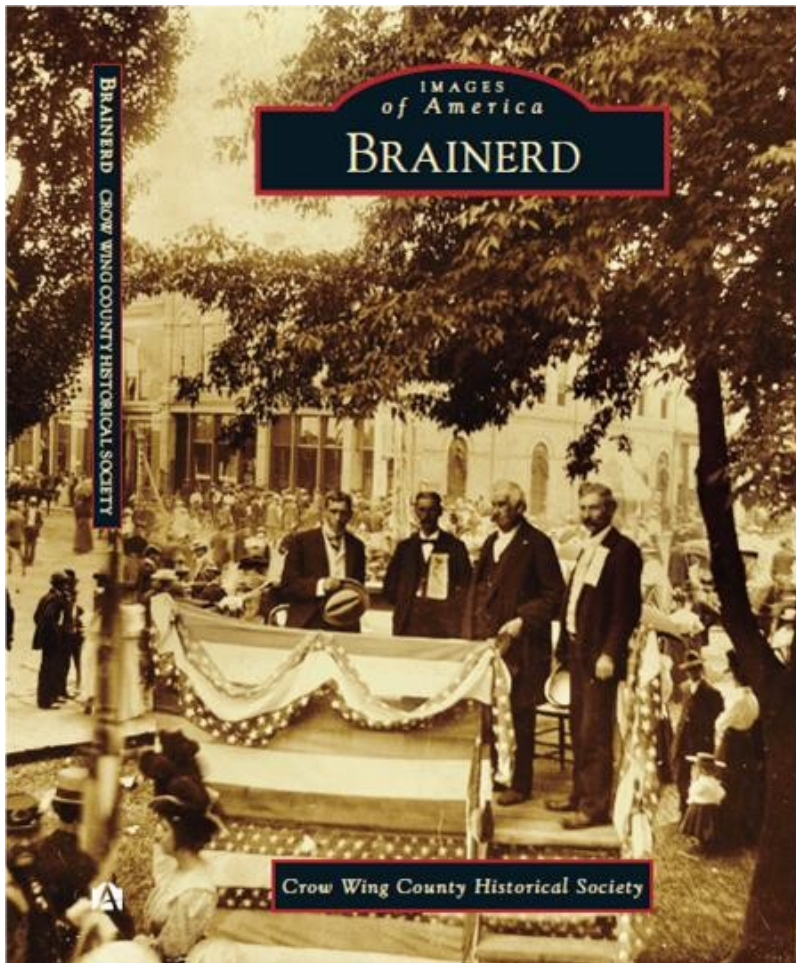
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*Pam Nelson  
Director/Administrator  
Newsletter Editor*

*Lynda Hall  
Assistant Administrator*

*Darla Sathre  
Administrative Assistant*

Experience Works Staff  
*Lyn Lybeck*



The much anticipated "Brainerd" book will be available to purchase beginning on October 12th! The book published by Arcadia Publishing is part of the Images of America series. The Crow Wing County Historical Society is the author of the book. Using over 200 archival photographs the book presents the distinctive stories from Brainerd's past that shaped the character of the community today.

## 2013 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

### President's Report

It's hard to believe that it's nearly time for the Crow Wing County Fair. These past few months there has been a lot going on. Our staff and volunteers have nearly completed some major remodeling and rearranging of many displays. The expansion of the third floor has given extra space for visitors to enjoy. An open house will take place on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Look for details in the Brainerd Dispatch or call our staff. Also see more information elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to joint efforts of the fair board and the historical society, a grant was received from the state to restore the Carbine house as close to original as possible. This major project will take place after the fair is over. We are still about \$4000 short of the total that we need, so any financial help would be appreciated. Restoring this 1800s historical log home is an important part of Brainerd history. Visitors to our museum have given a lot of praise to our facility and displays. The board thanks the townships and civic organizations, as well as local citizens for their continued support. See you at the Crow Wing County Fair and then on October 12<sup>th</sup> for a celebration of accomplishments.

Don Samuelson,  
Crow Wing County Historical Society  
Board President

### Thanks Volunteers!

*Doris Anderson  
Bill & Sandy Ash  
Jan Burton  
Dick Esser  
Carl Faust  
Mary Ann Frisch  
Ray Frisch  
Wanda Gallagher  
Deb Griffith  
Dick & Betty Hayes  
Peggy Hildebrandt  
George Hooper  
Ann Hutchings  
Howard Hutchins  
Tyler Jensen  
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### Greetings

**From Pamela Nelson,  
Director/Administrator**

Most of the exhibits at the museum are back on display after the refurbishing phase, and we are working on new exhibit signs. The new "From Pulp to Paper" exhibit is nearing completion. It showcases historic photos of the paper mill and the Potlatch Company. We would like to include more photos of the workers operating the machines. So we are sending out a request for photos. So far we have a photograph of my father, Norman Anderson, working on the cutters. He started in 1958 and worked for the Brainerd Paper Mill for almost 30 years. He remembers the guys in the back were allowed to be barefoot if they wanted to. Included in the exhibit is a photograph of men not wearing shoes. I think it was so they could grip the walkways better. So if you have a photo, please bring it in and we will make a copy of it and put it on display.

The historical society/museum will have an open house to celebrate the new exhibit area and refurbishing. So please set aside October 12<sup>th</sup> to come and celebrate with us. On the agenda for the day will be the unveiling of the newly restored large portrait of Lyman Partridge White (1810-1902). The painting is quite impressive. Mr. White is considered by some to be the "Father of Brainerd" for his involvement in the early days of Brainerd. We can thank Carl Faust's knowledge and zeal regarding Brainerd history that led him to the discovery of the painting and its detached frame in the museum's attic storage area. It was in very poor condition and has not been displayed since the 1970s. Because the historical society was fortunate to be the recipient of a Legacy Grant, we were financially able to have the portrait restored by the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis. In addition to the unveiling of the Lyman White portrait, our new book titled "Brainerd" will be available to purchase for a cover price of \$21.99 plus tax (members receive a 10% discount). The museum will host a book signing that same day by the authors. The book has over 200 photos of early Brainerd with captions. If you look at the front of this newsletter you will see Lyman White standing on the platform as well as other prominent early residents (read the book to find out who they were). We will also attach a bronze plaque designating that our building is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Watch for more details about our open house. Announcements will appear in the newspaper as well as on the radio. Flyers will be put up around town.

The Crow Wing County Fair Association in collaboration with the Historical Society, has received a County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant to restore the Carbine house located at the fairgrounds. The society

thanks all those involved with this project, especially Fair Board President Becky Joerger, for working with us to get the grant. We also thank the many individuals and organizations who donated funds. Once again, fairgoers will get to visit this historic log structure and experience the past. The restoration process will begin in August after fair time, so unfortunately the Carbine house will be closed this year.

The fair begins on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> and runs through Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. During the fair this year the blacksmith shop will be operating. The general store, the schoolhouse, and the Holsapple and Wohl houses will be open. The vintage tractors will be on display. It takes several volunteers to monitor the buildings. Please call the museum at 829-3268 to sign up. You can volunteer for as many hours as you want and it is much appreciated. Hope to see you at the fair!

The state grants for the restoration of the Lyman P. White portrait and the Carbine house were made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Department of Agriculture



Jean Murray celebrating her 95th birthday at the museum.

On behalf of the board of directors, staff, and volunteers of the society, I would like to extend our gratitude to Jean Murray for all her volunteer work at the museum. Jean was a greeter for over 25 years. We will certainly miss her!

Pam

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!**  
We need volunteers to greet visitors and answer the phone. Just one day a week for a few hours would be great! We especially need someone on **Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm**. Please call the museum at 829-3268 and ask for Pam or Lynda.





By: Lucille Kirkeby

**A BRAINERD WEDDING IN 1932**

Spring, especially June, is the month of weddings. In today's world those weddings can take place anywhere, not just in a local church, a private home

or in the judge's chambers. Weddings take place on the beach, on tops of mountains, on hot air balloon rides, and in a wedding chapel in Las Vegas. This ad appeared in the Brainerd Dispatch late in June 1932.

**Invite Couple to be Married in Mid-Air**

**Wanted: A couple willing to be married in mid-air during the flying circus to be held here July 3 and 4. License, minister and three months rent will be furnished to the couple free.**

**That's the invitation issued by sponsors of the flying circus. Complete details await anyone interested from a representative of the show at his office in The Daily Dispatch. Application must be made Thursday in order to comply with the five-day notice of intent to marry.**

Would there be any takers? After all it would be a rather unconventional wedding, perhaps even a little daring. Brainerd was having a 4<sup>th</sup> of July air show. The promoters advertised stunt flying, parachute jumps, night flying, aerial fireworks, and of course, the wedding. Passenger flights were offered for \$1.00 per person by a pioneer Northwest pilot.

To make the wedding offer attractive to the would-be bride and groom, a dozen Brainerd businesses offered gifts to the newlyweds. Gifts included 3 months free rent, groceries, a spring and mattress, kitchen utensils, a season's theater pass, as well as a wedding ring, a bridal bouquet, and transportation to the airport just to name some of the items. The *Dispatch* does not disclose how many couples vied for the prize. Chosen were Mary Aylward of DeGraff, MN and Henry Nolan of Brainerd.

The *Brainerd Dispatch* of 5 July 1932 gives a lengthy account of the wedding including the weather, the wedding attire, and the flowers. The wedding had the trappings of traditional weddings with a bridesmaid, best man, and a flower girl.

The wedding party boarded the plane along with a *Dispatch* reporter and Judge Kinder, who performed the ceremony. Once the couple was married, the plane flew low over the crowd and the bride threw out the bridal bouquet from a plane window.

Do we know any more about this couple? Yes, they spent the rest of their lives in Brainerd and raised a family here. They had three children: Dr. James R. Nolan, Congressman Richard M. Nolan and a daughter Mary Pat.

Brainerd Dispatch Tues. July 5, 1932

**HENRY NOLAN, MARY AYLWARD WED IN MID-AIR CEREMONY OVER AIRPORT**

Bright rays of sunlight through rain laden clouds smiled on Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nolan yesterday as they spoke their marriage vows. A few drops of rain had fallen, but not enough to dampen the spirit of the bridal party or to lessen the crowd at the airport. As the party stepped out of cars and into the plane, the sun suddenly darted through the musky sky and reflected on the metal surface of the giant tri-motor in glistening approval on its matrimonial journey.

Crowds awaiting the arrival of the bridal party were warned of its approach by the shrill sirens of the accompanying traffic patrol.

Two motorcycles broke through the steady flow of traffic, passed the groups gathered at the street corners, and wound onto the field, closely followed by three cars.

In the green hubmobile rode the bride-to-be, Miss Mary Jean Aylward of DeGraff, Minn. She was attired in a gown of orchid organdy embroidered with tiny flowers. The dress was enhanced by a cape effect at the neck, a sash, and, below the waist, a short flounce. The bride's hat was a most becoming white straw trimmed in white ribbon. Gloves and shoes of white completed the outfit, smart in its simplicity. Miss Aylward carried a bouquet of red roses and baby breath.

From this car also stepped Miss Leota Aylward, Brainerd, a cousin of the bride, who was maid of honor. Her flowers were larkspur and pink carnations. She wore a gown of beige silk crepe. It was fashioned with graceful, full sleeves to the elbow. From elbow to wrist, they were tight fitting and trimmed with buttons. The waist was tied with a sash, and the skirt was cut circular. Her accessories were white.

Miss Aylward and her bridesmaid were accompanied by a little flower girl, Juanita Clark, who was dressed in a white silk crepe frock. She carried a basket of pink roses and white daisies. James Henry Nolan, Brainerd, and George Weideman, best man, emerged from the new Ford, while Judge L. B. Kinder, joined the party from his car.

They proceeded to the waiting plane. The bridal couple and Judge Kinder occupied seats toward the back.

Gradually the giant tri-motor lifted from the field and nosed toward the sky. The motors roared. The crowd below dwindled into a minute section of landscape.

Upon a signal from the pilot, the bridal party rose. Deafening sounds almost drowned out the words of the justice, but the vows were spoken, the ring was slipped on, and the couple was pronounced man and wife.

The pilot flew the ship low over the crowd at the airport as Mrs. Nolan flung her bridal bouquet from the window.

Up again, sliding a little, and into a nose-dive, Mr. Ice looked back. The passengers including Mary Hawkins, society editor of the *Daily Dispatch*, were clinging to the sides, wide-eyed. Once more going higher, then the plane circled back to the field and down.

Green sections turned back into trees. Black blotches became the scattered crowds and automobiles again. On earth the newlyweds stepped from the plane amid congratulations of their friends.

## SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT



By Darla Sathre

When you tour our sheriff's house you'll see a framed wreath (73.865.1) in the parlor. Visitors guess that it's made of pipe cleaners, sticks, wire, or pinecones. Actually it's hair – human hair, made by Hanna Backen. Another framed hair wreath (73.116.10) was made by a grandmother of Henry Hill and his sister Grace from Lake Edward township. Hair wreaths, many embellished with beads, were made to adorn parlor walls during Victorian times. Sometimes they were made from the hair of several family members as a sort of family tree. Sometimes the hair was from a deceased loved one.

Some brooches were made to contain hair. We have one (73.732.1) with a painting of a young man, probably Mason Mills. A special compartment in the back holds a small braid of his hair. Wives and fiancées would wear these when their man went off to war or as a remembrance after his death.



The most popular jewelry pieces made from hair were watch chains. They were made for women as well as for men. Our oldest watch chain (73.603.1) was made in Germany around 1867. It was worn by a St. Mathias man, John Ellman, who died in 1923. Another (73.605.1) was worn by Josiah Hallett (1856-1907), a local locomotive engineer.

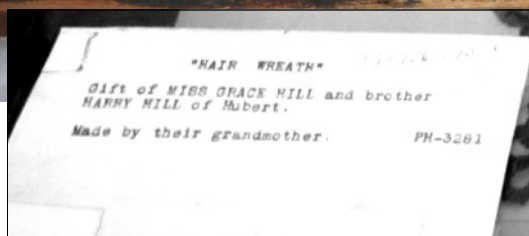


How was hair art made? Two common methods were palette work and table work. In palette work pieces of hair were manipulated on a surface, such as an artist palette. Hair was carefully heated, curled, shaped, and held with a special gum. After desired shapes (curls, leaves, feathers, etc.) were made they could be carefully removed and secured to a background with other shapes arranged into a design – perhaps into a flower, tree, pet, or basket.

Table worked hair was worked on a round table about 3 or 4 feet high with a 5 inch circular hole in the top. (Imagine a wooden bar stool with a hole cut into the top.) Balance weights were hung from strands of hair to keep them taut while being worked, while the other end of the strands were dropped (carefully!) down into the hole. Then it was a matter of following a pattern of how many strands should cross how many other strands, and which direction to cross them. Women's magazines in the 1800s were full of such patterns. One could make chains, bracelets, rings, earrings, and even purses if they had the proper mold. Most hair was worked around a mold (under the tabletop) which was removed after the hair piece was boiled and dried to fix its shape.

If a Victorian lady wanted hair jewelry without all the tedious and time-consuming work, she could hire it done by a hair weaving professional. She could send in the hair she wanted used or buy the hair needed. If she saved her own hair, where did she keep it until she had enough? Many people would reply, "in her hair receiver." Well, that might be true, but upon further research, I find that that may not have been the case. Hair stuffed into a hair receiver would get tangled and matted and difficult to separate into strands again. So it's more likely that hair stored in a hair receiver would be used as a ratt or toque to enhance your hair-do, adding fullness where needed. It's probable that they saved lengths of cut hair in envelopes, much as today parents save a lock from their child's first hair cut.

We may look upon hairwork as strange or gross or even morbid, but in the 1800s it was a personal and sentimental craft. It was no more strange than knitting or crocheting!



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and/or Donors**

THEY SUPPORT US. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM.

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\*Townships:

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Crow Wing | Platte Lake |
| Fairfield | St. Mathias |
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\*(Donations were designated for the Carbine house restoration.)

**NEW MEMBERS**

We thank you  
for your support!

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*Thank you...* to the following people who  
have given gifts to the Society in memory of  
friends & relatives

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*Given by: Mark Dunn*

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*Given by:*

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**MONETARY DONATIONS  
AND GIFTS IN KIND  
Thanks!**

***Evelyn Matthies (for repairing an oil  
painting)***

**For restoration of the Carbine house:**

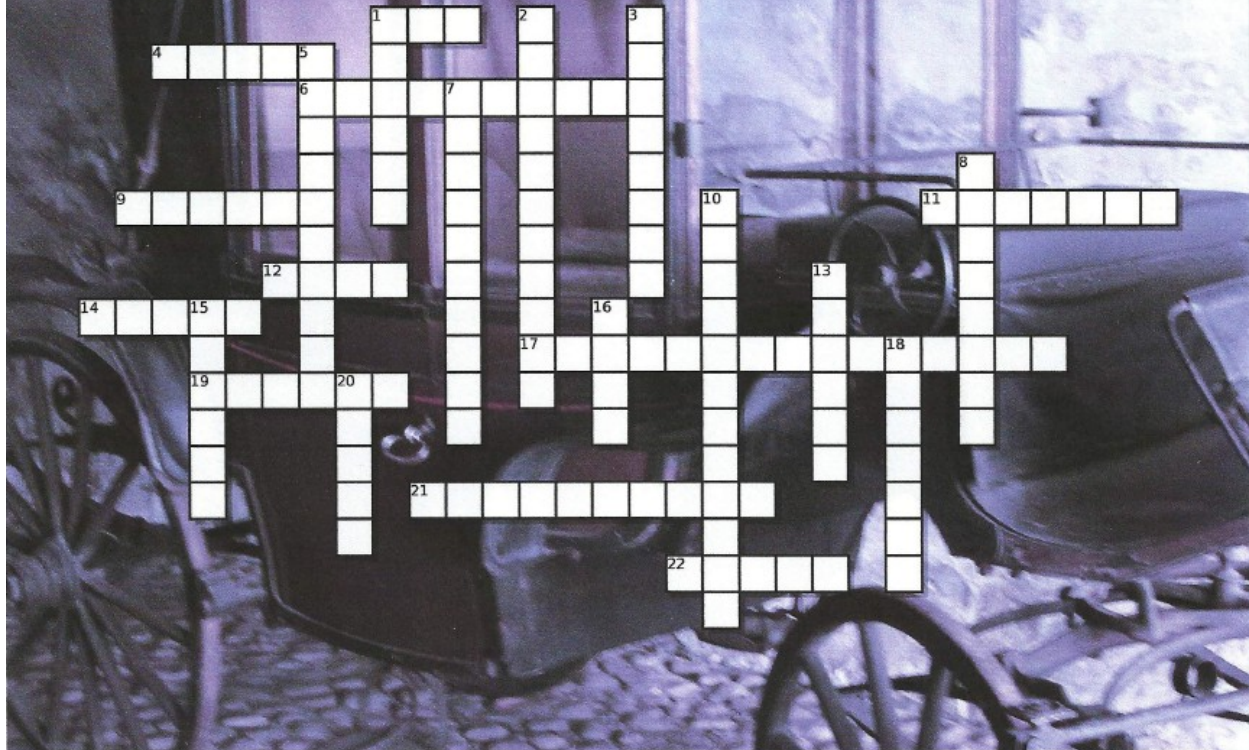
**Sertoma**  
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**State Farm Foundation (Lois  
Jubie's volunteer hours)**  
**Anonymous donor**

See our website for full listing of Carbine house donors



## Crow Wing County History Puzzle

Answers on back of newsletter



**ACROSS**

- 1 1907 park
- 4 Museum music maker
- 6 Man of folklore
- 9 County city, Ojibwe for "in the middle"
- 11 Old House
- 12 Cloth making apparatus
- 14 Pioneer priest
- 17 Early settlement
- 19 Director
- 21 Historic Brainerd landmark
- 22 Accessioner

**DOWN**

- 1 Museum street
- 2 Tall phone
- 3 Old hotel 1904-1975
- 5 Old-time entertainment venue
- 7 Horseshoe maker
- 8 Sawmill Inn, formerly
- 10 Indian Chief
- 13 Horse hotel
- 15 Old fort
- 16 Old house
- 18 Tree felling industry
- 20 Assistant Director

*Brian Marsh*

**WHAT IS HISTORY?**

That's a good question, and one in which the answer can vary, depending upon the person who is responding to it. One dictionary defines it as: That branch of knowledge which deals with past events; an account of past events in the life of a nation, community, institution, or the like; the sum total of past happenings. But, how might people define it? Some people may view history as names, dates, and places associated with events. Others see it as artifacts from the past or the evolution of mankind and the world. To some, it's the societal, political, or economic circumstances leading up to events. There are those that view it by what they see in photos of bygone days or past artwork. Yet, history is more than what can be written down, heard, or seen. Each of us has a personal history, defined in the memories of our life. There are the good, as well as the bad, events: the first romantic love, regretful decisions, marriage, terrible accidents, raising children, deaths, wonderful trips, etc. Whether it is worldly or personal, one thing is for sure: history is what it is. We can't change it, no matter how much we wish it were different.

So, what is history to you? Think about it.

*~Brian Marsh~*

# CROW WING COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY - EST. 1927

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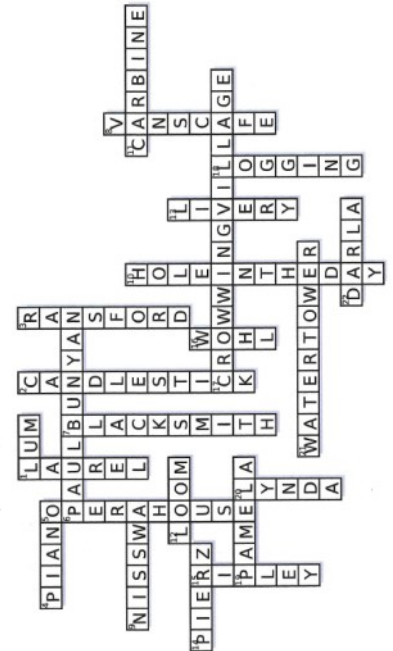
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To become a member of the Society, send your name, address, and telephone number along with your membership dues to the **Crow Wing County Historical Society, P.O. Box 722, Brainerd, MN 56401**. If you would like to give a gift membership to the Society, please send the name and address of the person for whom the membership is intended. Memorials of loved ones are also accepted. Donations can be sent to the same address and are tax deductible. Membership forms are available on our website or at the Museum.

Crow Wing County History Puzzle



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.