

NEWSLETTER



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

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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 Newsletter Editor*

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*Sue Duda
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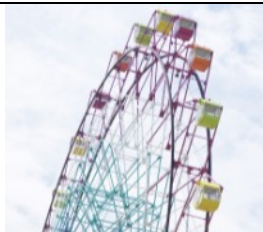


Pictured is Dale Edlund with Edlund Construction in the Carbine House

The Carbine House restoration project at the county fairgrounds is nearly completed. The numbered logs in the above photo designate the logs that were not replaced. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Thursday, June 19th at noon.

The Crow Wing County Fair is a recipient of a County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Carbine House Restoration project is funded, in part, by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature.

The Society is very grateful to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for their support.



Crow Wing County Fair
 Tuesday, July 29
 Thru Saturday, August 2
 Volunteers needed
 See you there!

2014 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

President's Report

Summer is here. The Society has had one of its best years. First of all, our annual meeting, dinner, and silent auction was one of our most successful ones. Many thanks to our staff and volunteers in making it all happen. Elaine Axtell and Shirley Jensen did a wonderful job decorating the Eagles Club as usual. Now we're coming up to an interesting month with History Week. Our day will be one of celebration on Thursday, June 19th in our buildings at the fairgrounds. I hope people will take the time to come out and enjoy some of the many interesting events that will be going on. Our Executive Director, Pam Nelson is working hard with the History Week committee to make the whole week interesting and successful. I would also like to report that the Crow Wing County Historical Foundation met and voted to assist the Museum with the upgrade of 3 new computers. If anyone would like more information on the Foundation contact the Museum.

Don Samuelson,
Crow Wing County Historical Society
Board President

CELEBRATING LOCAL LANDMARKS 100 YEARS
1914 - 2014

BRAINERD

HISTORY WEEK

If you love history, or would just like to discover our local history, this is the week to mark on your calendar!

June 16-22 2014

Let's have some old-fashioned fun!

NOTE:

We are asking members to let us know if they would like to receive the newsletter electronically. This would save the society postage and copy expenses. Just email us: history@crowwing.us

Crow Wing County Historical Society/Museum **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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Greetings

**From Pamela Nelson,
Director/Administrator**

We have so many things to share with you that we decided to publish the Summer Newsletter sooner than usual.

We have a new person on staff that replaced Administrative Assistant Darla Sathre. Her name is Sue Duda. She has lived in Brainerd most of her life. Sue and her husband have 2 grown children and one grandson. Welcome Sue! Darla and her husband's dream to move back to their hometown of Bemidji came true earlier than expected, due to unforeseen circumstances. We are happy for her but will greatly miss her!

Brainerd is planning a centennial birthday celebration commemorating the city hall and old fire station the week of June 16-22. There will be something for everyone. Each day will be filled with historic and fun events.

History Week Schedule:

Monday: Centennial birthday party for City Hall and Fire Hall

Tuesday: Railroad Day at the NP Center's new Event Center

Wednesday: Parade Day, kiddie parade, downtown Brainerd

Thursday: Historical Cemetery Tour, Evergreen Cemetery; Fairgrounds Events, CWC Historical Society

Friday: Downtown Day; tours, art and more!

Saturday: Gregory Park Day... the bandstand is 100 years old!

Sunday: Church Day in Gregory Park

See the full listing of events at:

brainerdhistoryweek.com

The Museum will be open *Monday thru Saturday* that week.

On Thursday, June 19, the society has planned "History at the Fairgrounds Day" as part of this celebration

Please see page 7 for full details about this day.

Paul Bunyanland Cultural Historical Society Summer Gathering

Date: Sat. July 19

Where: downtown Aitkin

Watch and listen to local media for

more information about this exciting event.

NEW EXHIBIT

A new exhibit called "History on Loan" will be on display at the Museum for Brainerd History Week. Area historians have temporarily loaned artifacts for this exhibit. Come check it out. The Exhibit features old bottles, spears, and several advertising items that will take you back to the "olden days".

BOOK SIGNING AND PRESENTATION

Author Joel Arnold will do a presentation about his historical novel *Ox Cart Angel* on July 17th at 1 pm in the meeting room at the Museum. His talk will be about an hour long. His novel recently won a Midwest Book Award and has been featured in the Rochester Post-Bulletin and Plains Magazine. It takes place in 1862 along the ox-cart/Red River trail of Minnesota and North Dakota. A little about *Ox Cart Angel*:

"Claire Dumont and her father set out on a journey from the Dakota Territory, hoping to catch up to the large caravan of Métis fur traders that left the day before. Their destination? The bustling city of St. Paul, where Papa wishes to open a photography studio. But with only Bone Bag, their one-horned ox, to pull their squeaky cart, they soon realize they just might have to make their treacherous journey alone. Braving bad weather, packs of wolves, dangerous river crossings, starvation and exhaustion, Claire and her father try their best to survive the deeply rutted ox cart trails."

Hope to see you there!

THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

Doris Anderson	Howard Hutchins
Bill & Sandy Ash	Randy Johnson (<i>new</i>)
Jan Burton	Lois Jubie
Dick Esser	Joyce Juracek
Carl Faust	Tanya Kirk
Mary Ann Frisch	Lucille Kirkeby
Ray Frisch	Brian Marsh
Wanda Gallagher	Dana Moen
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Dick & Betty Hayes	Nancy Samuelson
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By: Lucille Kirkeby

History Week, coming up in June, makes me think of the records that reflect earlier days in Brainerd. It was definitely a different time. It wasn't a different place, but things were quite

different and some early records reflect that.

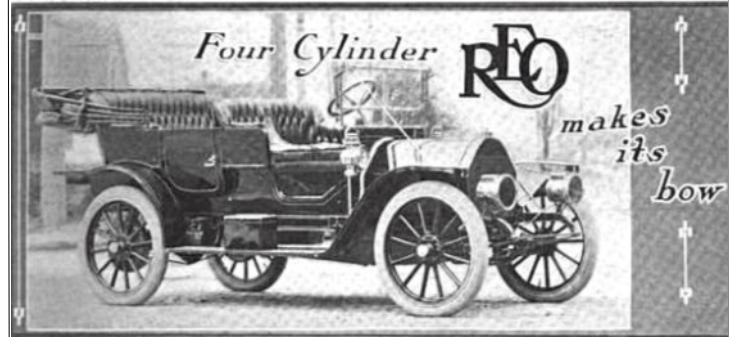
A rather interesting record is the 1914 register of tramps that were in jail. I'm not sure if they all sought shelter in the jail, or whether some were actually picked up and arrested. The jail seemed to be a place that provided accommodations for the homeless and indigent especially during the cold months of the year.

Who were the individuals that were labeled tramps in this 1914 registration book? Most were young men in their 20s and 30s. As a rule, they were single and had no trade. They listed their occupation as laborer. They were looking for work. Many were unsure about where they were going. There were a few older persons who said they were woodsmen, cooks, electricians, machinists or farmers. Here are two examples of men who stayed in the Brainerd jail. Charles Rockford checked in at 12:30 on March 8th. He was 29, single, born in Mass. with parents also born in that state. He came from Superior, Wisconsin. He had no money or property. He was a pipe fitter. He didn't stay at the jail for any length of time since he was leaving town, but he didn't know where he was going. Oscar Johnson was single, age 27, born in Sweden. He came from Fargo, had no money or property. He was a laborer looking for work.

Another interesting record book is the Motor Vehicle Registration Book, 1917-1921. The 1920s saw a huge growth in transportation. Driving became a major leisure activity in the 1920s. During the 1920s there were hundreds of small producers making hand-crafted cars. However, as mass production made cars cheaper, the small companies were taken over, or put out of business.

Brainerd residents registered an astonishingly large number of different makes of cars. Certainly there were the Fords and the Chevrolets. There also were the Nashes, Packards, and Studebakers which

some of our older citizens remember. But how many of you remember the Oakland, the Overland, Sandow, Elin, Reo, Saxon, Allen, Velie, Hupmobile, Moon and Dort. There were many more.



1910 Touring with left hand steering

According to the Motor Registration book, V. W. Mackay registered a Jackson. Mr. McKay was 5 ft. 3 ½ Inches tall, weighting 115 lbs. He had dark hair and was age 34. C.W. Koering of Brainerd, age 49, registered a Regal. Mr. Koering was 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighing 160 lbs and had dark hair. It is rather interesting that a description of each person was required. Since a driver's license was not yet required, the description helped in identifying the auto owner. A driver's license wasn't required in Minnesota until 1933 with driver's testing required in 1948.

Another interesting set of records are the tax cards for 1928 and 1944. These cards include much information about the home: type of heat, plumbing, kind of floors, type of roof and if the house was stuccoed or had siding. It also listed additions, if there was a basement, an attic or garage and the condition of the house.

I was able to locate the tax card for the Carbine House, which we have at the fairgrounds. The house was built in 1868, in good condition in 1928; it was log frame, and a homestead. It had a shingle roof, a cellar, no attic, stoves for heat, and had plumbing. Since it was listed as having 5 bedrooms, a bath, and a glassed-in porch, we can assume that the house was added to before 1928. When the house was moved to the fairgrounds, the additions were not included. Only the original structure is there for you to see.

Some of our more unusual records give you a window into the past and can certainly provide interesting details.

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT



WHAT USED TO BE...

By Brian Marsh

We can all think of things that were used in the past but, for the most part, have vanished. These were items that were common in everyday life and that we, perhaps, took for granted would always be there, such as ice boxes, 8-track players, clip-on roller skates, etc. But, they have all but disappeared from the landscape.

The same has happened to several towns and villages in Crow Wing County. As a rule, municipalities tend to spring up as the result of some type of commerce. However, they can also vanish as the result of a lack of commerce.

One such town was Woodrow, located in Oak Lawn township.

Located about 11 miles northeast of Brainerd, it came into existence due to the continuing discovery of iron ore deposits in the county. In 1914, an underground mine known as the Wilcox was opened, which resulted in an influx of laborers who came to work in the mine. As the population increased, so did the need for the basic necessities of life – shelter, goods, and services. It didn't take long for a community to develop.

However, prior to this, it was envisioned that a town site would be needed. Thus, on March 6, 1914, this was platted by Paul and Marguerite Hale, and the little town was incorporated on June 16, 1914, being named Woodrow in honor of President Woodrow Wilson. It had two general stores, a restaurant, and boarding houses among its businesses. A post office was established on June 3, 1915. Like many communities, it had its own town baseball team, which played games against teams from other towns in the area, such as Brainerd.

Unfortunately, the heyday for this little town was to be short-lived. The Wilcox mine was sold and renamed the Omaha. In 1919, it went bankrupt and was shut down. During that brief 5 year period, the mine produced 279,316 tons of iron ore. The demise of the mine also created the demise of the town. With no available work, residents fled and businesses had to close shop. Finally, the town became unincorporated on July 31, 1931.

Little Woodrow became yet another casualty to the law of supply and demand.

Dullum Store 1914



Woodrow Mine Shaft 1918



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and/or Donors**

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Supporting County/Municipalities

City of Baxter • *City of Brainerd • Crow Wing Co.

*Townships:

Bay Lake Oak Lawn
Crow Wing Platte Lake
Fairfield St. Mathias
Irondale Garrison
Long Lake

*(Donations were designated for the Carbine house restoration.)

NEW MEMBERS

We thank you for your support!

Non-Profit Members Individual Members

First Congregational Joseph Midthun
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Sue Duda

Memorials

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

In Memory of ...

Pete Humphrey

Given by: Douglas Birk

Bonnie Cumberland

Given by:

Diane and Jim Runberg

Lucille Kirkeby

Monetary Donations & gifts in kind

Thanks!

Mary Ann Frisch
For her generous donation towards our historic plaque

Randy Johnson
For donating a handmade dolly cart and for framing a large aerial photo

Undesignated Donations:

Mark & Cathy Gray
Stifel Nicholas

Don Samuelson
Donation for advertising

State Farm Insurance Company
(for Lois Jubie's volunteer hours)

HISTORY DAY

This event is part of :



Date: Thurs. June 19th
Time: Noon to 6pm

Come one come all to
"History Day" at the
Fairgrounds in the
Society's historic buildings!

- Fun and Food
- "Brainerd" Book available for purchase
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the newly-restored Carbine House
- A blacksmith and wool spinner will demonstrate their skills
- General Store, Schoolhouse, Holsapple and Wohl houses open
- Tractors on display courtesy of the Old Homestead Tractor Club



320 LAUREL STREET PO BOX 722
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THE CROW WING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM,
SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND RESEARCH LIBRARY
IS LOCATED NEXT TO THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

PHONE: 218-829-3268 FAX: 828-4434 E-MAIL: history@crowwing.us

WEB: <http://www.crowwinghistory.org>

HOURS: TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY 10 AM - 3 PM (Closed Major Holidays & Holiday Weekends)

Call the museum to schedule appointments or tours after hours.

CWCHS Yearly Membership Levels:

		Business:
\$500.00 - Patron	\$40.00 - Family	\$50.00 for 1 to 10 employees
\$250.00 - Benefactor	\$40.00 - Non-Profit Org.	\$75.00 for 11 to 25
\$100.00 - Booster	\$30.00 - Supporting Individual	\$100.00 for 26 to 50
\$50.00 - Sustaining	\$20.00 - Individual	\$200.00 for over 50

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.

**PLEASE SUPPORT CWCHS
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

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