



**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.*

### STAFF

*Pam Nelson  
Director/Administrator  
Newsletter Editor*

*Lynda Hall  
Assistant Administrator*

*Sue Duda  
Administrative Assistant*

### Experience Works Staff

*Bonnie Novick  
Margaret O'Rourke*

## NEWSLETTER

### “Light up Downtown”

Come visit the museum on “Light up Downtown” day  
8th Annual Brainerd Christmas Event  
Saturday, November 28th  
1-6 p.m.

Featuring our vintage Christmas tree ornament collection  
and a nutcracker collection donated by Maurice Olson.  
Candy canes for the kids. See you there!



### Downtown

- Santa arrives on fire truck at 1 p.m.
- Pictures with Santa 1-3:30 p.m.
  - Horse & trolley 1-4 p.m.
- Tree lighting ceremony & caroling at 5 p.m. (6th & Laurel)
  - Activities at various shops & organizations
    - “Gnome for the Holidays”  
Hunt for hidden gnome November 30-December 4th

## President's Report

The year is about up, and we had a lot of things going on at the historical society. The building that houses the museum was built in 1917, and time has taken its toll. Since the county did not receive the grant that they were expecting to enable them to start the preservation process on the building, future plans to re-do the roof, windows, etc. will have to be put on hold. Some work was done on the Wohl house at the fairgrounds, but more is needed and it will be costly. In order to keep afloat, we need more memberships. We currently have less than 300 members, so we need a membership drive to at least double the amount. Unfortunately, we are losing Lynda Hall, our number 2 person, who helps to keep the museum going. Lynda has chosen to stay close to home but would still like to volunteer. So, we thank Lynda for her great work and wish her well. Keep in mind we can always use more volunteer help. But, check with Pam if you can give a couple hours now and then to help out. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Don Samuelson,  
Crow Wing County Historical Society  
Board President

NO ANNUAL HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE &  
BAKE SALE  
THIS YEAR



The society has regretfully decided *not* to hold the Annual Holiday Open House & Bake Sale this year. Renovation uncertainties have contributed to this decision.

The Board of Directors and Staff wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season.

## Greetings

From Pamela Nelson,  
Director/Administrator



Since the last newsletter was published we have received new members and some inactive have renewed. We still need more members. Please encourage your friends & neighbors to join the historical society.

The Research Library keeps very busy. We have researchers walk in or email us with requests. One morning visitors from Texas came in and researched a family name. In the afternoon we had more researchers from Minnesota. It turned out that both parties were interested in the same family from this area but did not know each other. They met the next day at the museum to compare notes on their family genealogy.

Lynda Hall, our Assistant Administrator who has been with us for four years, has decided to step down from her position. She is leaving because of family commitments and schedules. Lynda has been an excellent assistant. She does, however, plan on being a volunteer at the museum.

For those of you who use Facebook, there is a new page called "Share history and stories about Brainerd Lakes Area". This page was started by Andy Walsh, who is a new member to the society. The page was up and running for about a week, and it had over 4,000 members! Unbelievable! There are currently over 5,500 members. Between page administrators Andy, John, and Jeremy, our rich history of the area is being shared and viewed on the internet. Join the page and start enjoying the past through stories and photos. Wishing you a happy and safe Holiday Season!

## wish list

Donations are tax deductible

- ◆ A new used copier for the research library (approximate cost: \$800)
- ◆ Oak for framing a glass display door
  - ◆ More members
  - ◆ Hand held scanner

### NEW TO OUR COLLECTION:

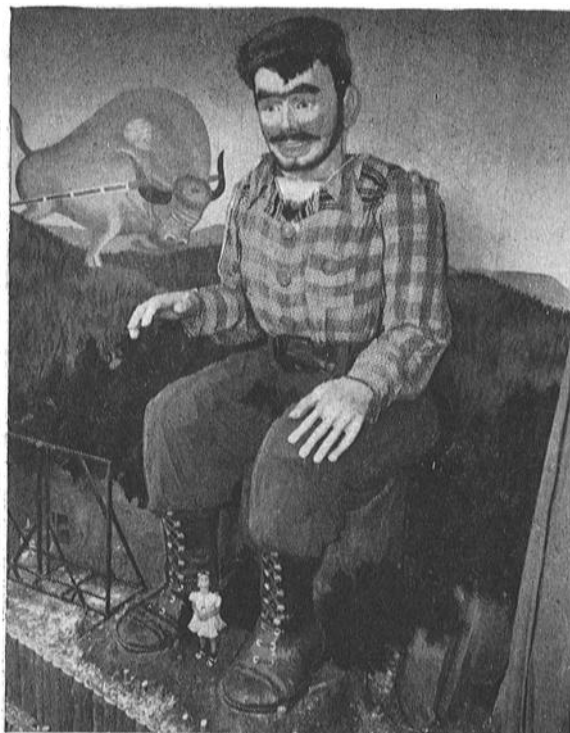
- Jug from John Coates Liquor Company  
Located at 702 Laurel Street, the company was in business circa 1908-1913. Today it is the Cornerstone Liquor Store.
- Postcard advertising the McFadden & Johnson Drug Store  
Located at 514 Front Street circa 1888-1901, the store sold drugs, stationery, perfumes & artists supplies. It is now the Mid Minnesota Credit Union.
- Popular Mechanics, December 1949 issue  
The following are excerpts and 2 photos from an article about Gardner Displays Co. of Pittsburgh and the making of Paul Bunyan (now at This Old Farm):



Perhaps the toughest job that ever hit the Gardner workshop was one that came in this year. A railroad company wanted a figure of Paul Bunyan 23 feet high; he was to move his hands, turn his head, roll his eyes and talk like a he-man. All last summer that monster of a figure sat on display at the Chicago Railroad Fair, doing all the things it was supposed to do. They tried nails for his mustache, but gave that up when they rusted. Wire brushes retarded movement of his mouth when he talked. Finally, they just painted on the whiskers. Two hanks of horse-hair made his wig. Miles of wiring hooked up a pair of pick-up microphones at audience-head height-down near Bunyan's

feet-to the hidden operators booth, where questions from the audience were heard and answered. The speakers were capable of sending his voice booming for three miles, and at each syllable, his gigantic mouth would open and close in proper "synch." His monstrous head swung from side to side, and so did his eyes.

Below, assembling the mighty Bunyan at the Chicago Railroad Fair. It took two men to put the fist of the figure in place



Truly a Paul Bunyan of displays, a 23-foot model of the huge woodsman talks and moves. That's a real girl between his feet





By: Lucille Kirkeby

The museum includes in its collection a set of four cow horns about five inches high with a membrane covering the narrow end of each horn. The wide end measures about three or four inches across. Anyone viewing this collection

would find it to be rather an odd artifact. Since this set of horns also belongs with medical gadgets and equipment, it is all the more mysterious.

What is the story behind these horns? These horns were used in what is actually an ancient form of alternative medicine called cupping. Horn could be used or any other vessel with which one could create suction would be used. There is reason to believe that this practice dates from as early as 3,000 B.C. An Egyptian medical book copyrighted in 1550 B.C. describes it. This practice in various forms spread into medicine throughout the Asian and European cultures. In some cultures leaches were used.

A typical cupping procedure would take place in a sterile environment such as sauna or steam bath where the body could be warmed up to increase blood circulation. The patient would be lying down. The cupper would wash the patient's back and legs and place the cups (in this case the horns) on the area with the pain, tenderness or ache. The number of cups could vary depending on the severity of the malady. The cupper made small incisions with a knife on the skin and placed the cups over the wound. A vacuum needed to be created in the cup to draw up the skin and promote the blood flow. Because of the warmth of the body, enough suction could be maintained to draw out blood.

Was cupping actually practiced in Brainerd? Cupping was a traditional Finnish healing method. It was particularly favored by the Finnish population although other Nordic groups also practiced it. It was usually practiced in the sauna, and Brainerd had numerous saunas, both private and public.

Of course, modern equipment is much different from the crude cow horns used in decades past. Cupping sets can be purchased. They come in various shapes and are made no longer of horn but of plastics, glass, wood, rubber or silicone.

Does cupping go on today? In Finland, yes. In that country, there are licensed therapists specializing in that treatment. Advertising can be found on the Internet. A typical treatment costs about 80 Euros. People still believe it relieves stress and pain and can even lower high blood pressure. Whether it is practiced in the United States, this writer cannot be sure.



**THANKS VOLUNTEERS!**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bill & Sandy Ash   | Randy Johnson        |
| Tanya Bollum       | Lois Jubie           |
| Jan Burton         | Joyce Juracek        |
| Charles Durham     | Lucille Kirkeby      |
| Dick Esser         | Brian Marsh          |
| Carl Faust         | Dana Moen            |
| Mary Ann Frisch    | Andrew Moser         |
| Ray Frisch         | Ann Nelson           |
| Wanda Gallagher    | Atesha Barnes Nelson |
| Dick & Betty Hayes | Nancy Samuelson      |
| Peggy Hildebrandt  | Alice Stenlund       |
| George Hooper      | Board Members        |
| Ann Hutchings      |                      |

**Christmas gift ideas**

- Gift membership to the Society
- Brainerd book
- or other item from our gift shop

WHAT USED TO BE...

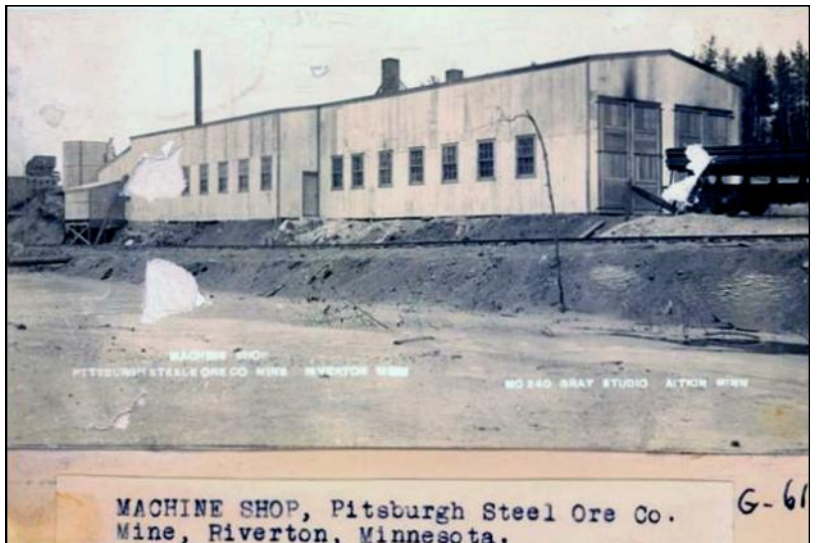
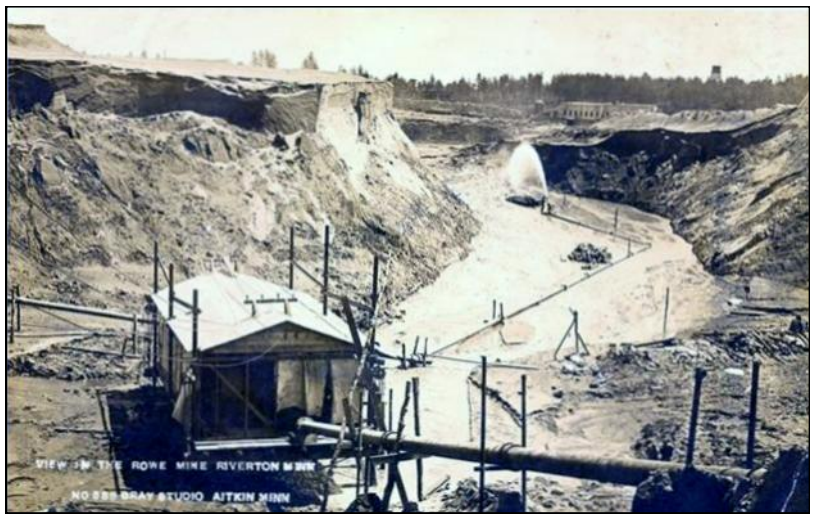
By Brian Marsh

The discovery of ore iron in Crow Wing County in the early 1900's gave rise to new communities. Where mining began, towns sprang up nearby, and Riverton was one of them.

Situated at the edge of Rabbit Lake, it was platted in 1912, organized on December 3, 1913, and held the election of its first village officials in January, 1914. The town built up quickly. By the end of 1914, the little town boasted a hotel, two grocery stores, a hardware store, two mercantiles, a drug store, a pool hall, two clothing stores, a barber shop, a school, a restaurant, and a livery barn.

Its existence was due to the Rowe Mine, which was the first open pit mine on the Cuyuna Range. Employing 200 workers, it sent out its first shipment of iron ore in June, 1914. From then until 1920, it shipped 895,443 tons of ore.

But, in 1921, the mine closed, and the town began to die. Businesses closed their doors, and most houses were moved to other towns. Today, there are only a few buildings in Riverton, as compared to its heyday.



MACHINE SHOP, Pittsburgh Steel Ore Co. Mine, Riverton, Minnesota. G-61



Digging into the Past

By Brian Marsh

As you probably know, many towns in Crow Wing County owe their existence to the discovery of iron ore. In many cases, when the ore ran out, the town all but vanished. That's been the subject of the "What Used to Be..." series of articles in this newsletter. However, there is one town that already existed and then had a short-lived iron ore mine started within its city limits, but the town continued to prosper after the demise of the mine. That town is Brainerd.

It all started when lawyer-banker-judge George W. Holland did some drilling and discovered iron ore in 1906 at the site which later became the Barrows mine. He then decided to speculate and purchased many parcels of land, including some within the city limits of Brainerd on the south and east sides.

In July, 1912, the Brainerd-Cuyuna Mining Company was organized for the purpose of mining iron ore. Leasing a 138 acre tract of land from Judge Holland, a drilling was started immediately, and, still in July, superior quality iron ore was encountered at a depth of 175 feet. A start was made in August, 1913 to sink a shaft and equip it for mining. It was named the Brainerd Mine, but was also known as the Sixth Street mine. Work progressed very slowly.

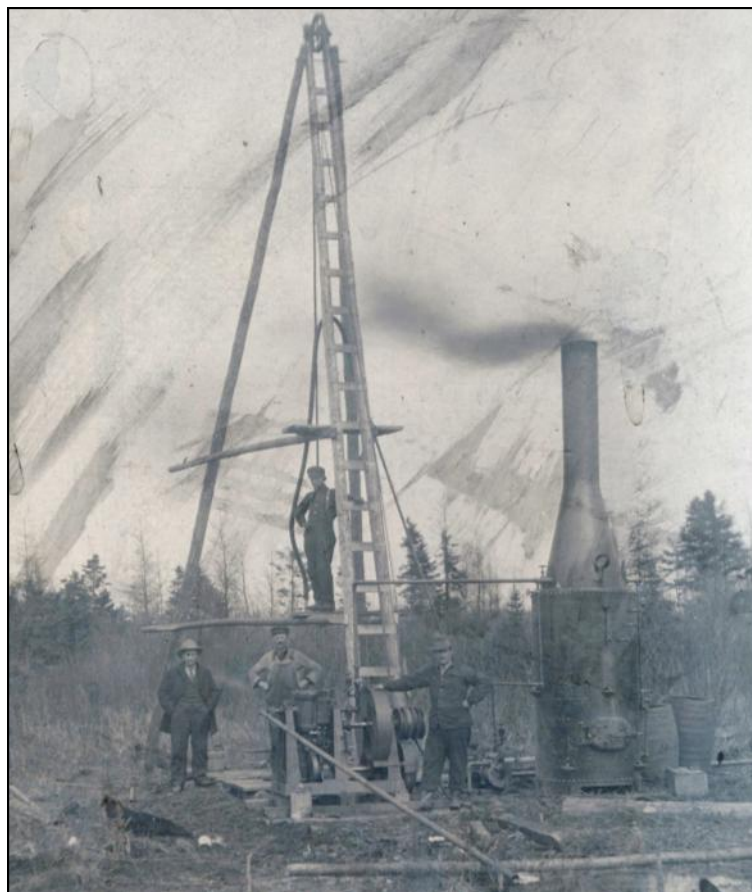
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By October, 1914, it had only reached a depth of 43 feet. It reached ledge by February, 1915 and was ready for mining. However, it had become too costly. In November, 1915, all work stopped at the mine, and the mining equipment was sold. A stockpile of 3199 tons of ore was shipped out in July, 1918. The mine was closed in 1919. This ended the history of the Brainerd mine.

But where exactly was the mine shaft located? In terms of today's reference, it is in south Brainerd, under the pavement of Wright St., in front of the Bethany Good Samaritan Village. To be more specific, it is located about 20 feet east of the intersection of South 8<sup>th</sup> and Wright Streets. In fact, there is a manhole cover in the middle of Wright Street, which is directly over the mine shaft's location. If one was turning onto Wright St. from South 6<sup>th</sup> St., it is the third manhole cover. Perhaps, you may want to drive there, find it, and then imagine what the area may have looked like when the mine was in operation.



### HISTORY RIVER TOUR

Mike Hatfield is pictured on the Mississippi River in his canoe. He holds a degree, in Gunsmithing and is currently completing degrees in History, English, and Creative Writing. While pursuing these degrees he had the opportunity to view the collections of museums, as well as assist in preservation efforts for their collections. Two things he noticed was a lack of public awareness and of funding for full-time professional preservationists for most museums. This is where Mike's History River Tour comes to be. Beginning August 22, he started traveling the entire length of the Mississippi river by canoe, from Lake Itasca Minnesota, 2500 some miles, to the



Gulf of Mexico. Mike's goal is to raise awareness for the local museums and historical societies that are located in towns along the river. Along the way, he will stop at these depositories of historical artifacts to volunteer his time and efforts. He will be filming video tours of the collections and interviewing curators.

Mike came to the Historical Society in September and spent several days with us. He cleaned all our firearms and gave us history about them. Local historian Carl Faust graciously hosted Mike at his place. We wish him luck on his way to the ocean. Visit Mike's website: [historyriver.com](http://historyriver.com)

**Thank you for donations**

**Monetary**

Rod & Avis Converse  
Lucille Kirkeby  
Wallace McKay  
Linda Philp  
Don & Nancy Samuelson

**In kind**

Mary Ann Frisch  
outdoor Christmas lights  
Dick Hayes  
gift membership

**Supporting County/Municipalities**

City of Baxter • Crow Wing County

\*Townships:

Daggett Brook  
Garrison  
Irondale  
Long Lake  
Nokay Lake  
Platte Lake  
Oak Lawn  
Roosevelt

\*(Donations were designated  
for the restoration of our fair buildings.)

**NEW MEMBERS**

We thank you for your support!

**Benefactor**

Mickey's Pizza & Subs

**Booster**

Andy Walsh

**Sustaining**

Carroll Kukowski

**Family Member**

Minna Wallin

**Non-Profit Members**

Friends of Brainerd Public Library

**Supporting Individual**

Julie Malloy

**Individual Members**

Jeri Borash  
Michael Edmunds  
Nathan Kehr  
Bill Schrankler  
Sheryl Tollefson  
Martha Youngblood

**YEAR BOOKS NEEDED:**

More Brainonians (Brainerd High School year-  
books) were recently donated. Thank you!

Now we are only missing eight: 1920, 1921, 1971,  
1972, 1990, 1991, 1993, 2015

If you would like to donate one of these yearbooks  
please contact the museum at (218) 829-3268.

# CROW WING COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY - EST. 1927

320 LAUREL STREET PO BOX 722  
BRainerd, MN 56401

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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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](mailto: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:

\$500.00 - Patron	\$50.00 - Sustaining
\$250.00 - Benefactor	\$40.00 - Family or Non-Profit Org.
\$100.00 - Booster	\$30.00 - Supporting Individual
\$75.00 - Sponsor	\$20.00 - Individual

**Prefer an email newsletter?  
Send us your email address.**

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. You may also choose to pay on line using our website PayPal account.

Listed on the National  
Register of Historic Places.

