



**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*

*Margaret O'Rourke
Assistant Administrator*

*Sue Duda
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Bonnie Novick

NEWSLETTER

"Gnome for the Holidays"

Come visit the museum during the
9th annual

Brainerd Christmas event

Saturday, November 26th



The museum will be open from **1-5 pm**

Purchase goodies at our Bake Sale

Enjoy hot apple cider and cookies



Hope to see you there!

More information

on page 3



President's Report

It's hard to believe another year is slipping by. The Crow Wing County Historical Society has had a real busy year. Working to improve the museum and the ongoing challenges of maintaining 5 buildings at the fairgrounds takes a lot of time. Right now we need help from volunteers or organizations that would be willing to paint the schoolhouse. If we don't keep these buildings up to par, they will deteriorate to the point that they will have to come down. It's a shame we can't think of having them available to the public more than just once a year during fair time. If you have any ideas, it would be appreciated. The next project is preservation of our museum building, that is being done by the county. They have applied for a state grant for this project. We love our volunteers and could use more. If you have a couple of hours to donate, please contact Pam at the museum (829-3268). We are in need of Saturday greeters, as well as light housekeepers and someone with carpenter and painting skills.

Don Samuelson
Board President



Happy
Holidays!

Greetings

**From Pamela Nelson,
Director/Administrator**

The museum building which once was the county's third jail and sheriff's residence is in need of fixing-up as it approaches 100 years old next year! For a brief reference, in 1917, the United States began its involvement in World War 1 with Woodrow Wilson as President. Some of the famous people that were born that year were, film actress Jane Wyman, (President Ronald Reagan's first wife), actor Ernest Borgnine, baseball player Dom DiMaggio, and John F Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, to mention a few. A birthday celebration is in the planning stage.

I often get asked the question, "What items are you in need of or want?" Usually, we don't want newspapers as they take up a lot of space, deteriorate over time, and we already have them on microfilm. If you have an artifact that is something you feel is unique, and it pertains to Crow Wing County, has a known story or, better yet, photos that go with it, that is what we are "wanting." We have limited space for storage, so large items are difficult to take. Just give us a call and let us know if you are interested in donating something, and we will be happy to let you know if it is something we can include in our collection.

The society maintains several buildings at the fairgrounds, and this process is never ending. The former District 3 schoolhouse needs painting both inside and out. We are

looking for volunteers to help us with this painting project, which would take place in the late Spring or Summer. Another building at the fairgrounds that needs renovation is the Wohl House. The inside walls need patching and painting. The house's exterior has already been painted. There has been some residing and a brick look added for the foundation. Please consider helping the society by contacting us at the museum (218-829-3268).

Andy Walsh's Facebook page "Share history and stories about Brainerd Lakes Area" has over 7,000 members and continues to quench the thirst for history-minded folk. This page is bringing long-forgotten pieces of history out into the light and rekindling memories of many of the readers.

John Van Essen, our webmaster, has added a link to the Historical Society's website that will bring you to the National Geographic tourism page for the museum. The page features a short video and information about the society and museum. The Mississippi River Geotourism Program recognized the museum for its valuable contribution to the program, and support in sustaining and enhancing the unique geographic character of the region through its commitment to aesthetics, culture, environment, heritage, and the well-being of the region's residents.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful Holiday Season!!



“Gnome for the Holidays”

Downtown Brainerd Event will be held on **Saturday, November 26th.**

As you search for the hidden gnome, stop in and visit us at the **museum.** We will be open from **1-5pm.**

You will be greeted by Mrs. Claus. Enjoy hot **apple cider & cookies!**

The sheriff's residence will be decorated for the holidays. The “Brainerd” book is available to purchase and a large selection of beautiful black glass from the late Mayor James Wallin’s collection that was donated to the society to sell will be available to purchase.

A bake sale will be held as well!

See you there!

Museum Wish List:

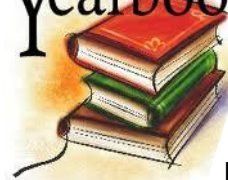
1. New used copier for the research library (approximate cost \$800)
2. A hand held scanner
3. Monetary donations to purchase archival boxes for storage

If you would like to donate, please indicate which one and your donation will be designated towards that wish list item! We appreciate your support! Donations are tax deductible!

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

The Historical Society is seeking sponsors to defray our newsletter costs. Currently the society publishes 2 newsletters yearly. This is an advertising opportunity for businesses! Please contact the museum at 218.829.3268 and ask for Pam or Margaret, if you would like to have us save you a spot for \$50. Thanks!

Yearbook



The Historical Society’s research library has almost all of the Brainerd High School year books (Brainonian). We are only missing the following years: 1990, 1991, 1993, 2015, and 2016. If you have one to donate, please let us know.



By: Lucille Kirkeby

If you walk into the parlor in the sheriff's residence and look at the wall to your right, you will see a framed artifact. It is not colorful. It is rather nondescript. "What in the world is it that makes it worth

framing?" you wonder. Your tour guide will tell it is an example of hair art.

This art form became very popular during the Victorian era. We might even think that it is rather creepy. Not at all---it's a very interesting type of decoration or jewelry. From the hair art of the period, we learn a lot about the way Victorian women understood love family and death.

During Victorian times hair was regarded as a woman's "crowning glory." Exchanging locks of hair began to be popular as early as the 16th century France and in England especially between dear friends and family whom they did not expect to see again. As an example, in *Anne of Green Gables*, Anne asks Diana for a lock of her hair when they believe they will be parted forever. Anne promises to sew the lock into a bag and wear it around her neck forever.

One can easily understand how it became popular to make wreaths and jewelry from hair. To save a lock of hair from a recently deceased love one was a typical way of remembering that person. Today we do not make jewelry or ornaments, but parents will often save a lock of hair from a child's first hair cut and put in a baby book with other mementos.

Popularity of hair jewelry escalated during the Civil War. There were millions of families in mourning. This was a time of black mourning clothes and long periods of mourning. Women were the chief mourners in the household. Hair jewelry was considered appropriate since it was not gaudy or showy.

Many of the mourning traditions were set by Queen Victoria who went into a very long period of mourning when Prince Albert died. Not only clothes but mourning essentials included black edged-paper and note

cards, handkerchiefs, black parasols, veils and especially mourning jewelry.

The creation of hair jewelry was a feminine thing. Magazines had articles and instructions. Groups of family and friends met to work together much like a knitting group or quilting group might today.

What would be a more lasting tribute, a tangible way to remember a loved one?

Hair does not decay. It could be made into many different items---wall decorations in the shape of wreaths and crosses, various pieces of jewelry such as broaches, bracelets, and bows. For men it could be woven into a fob for a pocket watch. Items such as these could contain hair from various generations of a family.

There was an attempt to commercialize this art. Mail order catalogs offered to weave and sell items made from a family's hair. Commercialization was not a success. Too many people were afraid that they might receive someone else's hair.

A surprising number of hair art pieces remain in museums today. I've seen hair art in other museums in our state. There actually is a hair museum in Independence, Missouri. Leila's Hair Museum boasts of a very rare piece of hair art---a lock of hair that belonged to Daniel Webster. It is in a mourning broach with thirty-two pearls around his woven locks.



Usually identified by the hole in the lid for inserting hair, hair receivers graced the dressing tables of women from Victorian times to the 1950s. Hair saved in receptacles were probably used to stuff a tiny pillow to be used as a pin cushion or into a hairnet to add fullness to hairdos. The receptacle on the left was donated in 1973 to the Society by Mrs. Art Sullivan (Winifred) and the other one in 1983 by Cay Ebert.

The Rest of the Story

By Brian Marsh

On March 31, 1895, a girl named Bertha Lehmann was born in Lotzwil, Kanton Bern, Switzerland where she was one of several children in the household. She had a normal childhood, and as a teenager, she worked as a waitress. At the age of 17, after having completed her high school education, she decided to travel to the United States to visit a sister, Marie Zembrunnen, who lived in Central City, Iowa.

On August 12, 1913, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she married a man named John Zimmerman. In 1914, they had a child, Elmer. Unfortunately, John died during World War I. She and her son wound up moving back in with her sister and family. By around 1916, the whole family had moved to Pequot Lakes. It was there that Bertha met a man named Carl Luhrs. In 1917, she and Carl were married in North Dakota, where they remained for four years. Eventually, the couple would have another son and four daughters. In 1921, they moved back to Pequot Lakes and settled on a farm southwest of town, where they raised their children. She stayed here for her remaining years.



On December 5, 1967, Bertha passed away at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Brainerd and was buried in the Wildwood Cemetery in Pillager.

Now, you may ask: Why is the life of Bertha Luhrs being related here? What might be special or noteworthy of this farmer's wife?

Well, for her trip to America, that young teenager held a 2nd Class ticket, and at Cherbourg, France, she boarded a ship named the Titanic!

As it turns out, Bertha is the only known survivor of that shipwreck disaster to have ever lived in Crow Wing

County. So, with a nod to the late Paul Harvey, you now know... the rest of the story.



This artifact was just recently donated. Some of you may recognize what it is. If you lived on a farm you may have used one similar to this. It is a barn pulley used to lift hay bales up into the hay mow in the barn. This one belonged to a Norwegian settler, Jacob Oleson Nesheim (1824-1910). His farm was located east of Brainerd on the 5 mile road. Jacob's sons, Ole, Knut and Nels were farmers as well and farmed the adjacent land. The pointed object is a lightning rod that is also from the farm.

Long—Time Members Thanks!!!

	Date Joined		
Dodson, Kathleen	10/01/1974	42 years	Alderman, Betty 20 years 02/01/1996
Casey, Frederick & Mary	09/15/1975		Kaufman, Joyce 05/08/1996
Fitzpatrick, John & Arlene	09/27/1975		Matthies, Bill & Evelyn 07/01/1996
Myres, Irene	09/30/1976		Mattson, Bill & Betty 07/01/1996
Baker, John	10/01/1976		Danzl, LaVonne 08/01/1996
Engen, Donald & Deanna	10/07/1976		McKay, Wallace 09/01/1996
Lee, Hilda	10/15/1976		Converse, Rod & Avis 12/01/1996
Bernier, Nicholas	01/15/1980		Scotch Pine Tree Farm 01/01/1997
Crandall, Darla	04/08/1980		Boberg & Boberg Enterprises 07/01/1998
Larson, Marvella	01/20/1981	35 years	Merenda, Martha 08/01/1998
Runberg, James & Diane	01/20/1981		Vrudny, Paul & Myra 01/01/1999
Hansen, Bill	01/04/1982		Eades, Beatrice 03/23/1999
Kirkeby, Lucille	01/12/1982		Larson, Wayne & Yvonne 04/01/1999
Aarrestad, Ernest & Eleanore	01/21/1983		Brown, Estelle 05/01/1999
Paine, Bruce	04/09/1985		Van Essen, John 06/01/1999
Carlson, Kent & Clara	05/31/1985		Wentworth, Ardelle 08/11/1999
Borden, John & Laureen	06/07/1985		Breen, Richard & Katherine 11/01/1999
Popowski, Mayme	06/07/1985		Hoghaug, Dr. Randahl 11/01/1999
Nathan, Ardis	06/11/1985		Faust, Carl 12/02/1999
Nelson, Delores	06/11/1985		Robert Brekken 12/13/1999
Lambrecht, Andrea Lee	10/24/1985		Swenson, Dale 01/01/2000
Johnson, Arnold & JoAnn	11/25/1986	30 years	Eisel, Mervin 06/20/2000
Larson, Laura	11/25/1986		Peterson, Jerome 07/19/2000
Houle, Alvin	12/10/1986		Burton, Richard 11/10/2000
Kath, Almeda	12/16/1986		Pequot Lakes Hist. Society 15 years 04/05/2001
Vanderburgh, Verna	12/16/1986		Dutch & Irma Cragun 05/18/2001
Hickerson, Jr., Jack & Mary	12/22/1986		Beebe, Jay & Yvonne 01/29/2002
Warden, B.E. (Jack)	12/31/1986		Smith, Jack 01/29/2002
Anderson, Doris W.	01/11/1988		Burton, Jan 03/11/2002
Gray, Mark & Cathy	07/26/1988		Samuelson, Don & Nancy 10/21/2002
Allen County Public Library	10/01/1988		Esser, Richard & Marie 10/23/2002
Nelson, Ray	02/10/1992	26 years	Hermerding, David & Kathleen 11/02/2002
Erickson, John & Janet	03/01/1992		Fraser, Michael 11/18/2002
Stenlund, Alice	03/01/1992		Tomkinson, Isla Marie (Bunnie) 01/22/2003
Hill, Joan	04/01/1994		Crowe, JoLynn 02/26/2003
Frisch, Ray & Carolyn	08/01/1994		Koepl, Jeanne 03/25/2003
Grieser, Dennis	11/01/1994		Schaefer's Foods 04/10/2003
McGonagle, Vivian	11/01/1994		Heikkenen, Colleen & Edward 04/25/2003
Howitz, Patricia	04/01/1995		Hayes, Wayne 04/29/2003
Isle, Deborah	04/01/1995		Samuelson, Chris 10/09/2003
Nordby, Dorothy	07/01/1995		Hauer, Robert 11/06/2003
Hutchings, Ann	09/01/1995		Hayes, Dick & Betty 11/12/2003
			Crosslake Area Historical Society 12/07/2003

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Anderson, Darlene	13 years	12/12/2003
Bahma, Daryl		02/26/2004
Jensen, Shirley & Duane		02/26/2004
Whitlock, Stephen & Deb		03/03/2004
Ross, Craig & Sue		03/25/2004
Ludwig, Arthur		07/09/2004
Himrod, David		08/19/2004
Frisch, Mary Ann		10/21/2004
Hooper, George & Jan		10/21/2004
Carlson, Richard		11/04/2004
Meyer, Ron		03/02/2005
Snell, Reva		03/19/2005
Thiesse, Dwight & Linda		05/04/2005
Philp, Linda		11/09/2005
Anderson, Marilyn	10 years	05/04/2006
Lapham, Dan		08/24/2006
Fellegly, Joe		09/05/2006
Nelson, Pamela		10/31/2006

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We thank you for your support!!

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Fairfield	Platte Lake
Garrison	Oak Lawn
Ideal	St. Mathias
Irondale	Roosevelt

Thanks!

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

Thank you for donations

Monetary

Dick Ashmun

In kind

Minna Wallin
(for a new power drill)

Memorial

In Memory of:
Pete Humphrey
Given by:
Douglas Birk





CROW WING COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM & LIBRARY - EST. 1927

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:

\$500.00 - Patron	\$50.00 - Sustaining
\$250.00 - Benefactor	\$40.00 - Family or Non-Profit Org.
\$100.00 - Booster	\$30.00 - Supporting Individual
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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. You may also choose to pay on line using our website PayPal account.

VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU!

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