

CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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201 Minnesota Ave. W.
Walker, MN. 56484

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Museum Makes Presentation at Longville Elementary



On December 11th, Renee Geving brought a selection of items from the museum to Longville Elementary. Students from all the grades came into the library at 30-minute intervals to view the items and to receive a short explanation. Items included a helmet, football, picture and sweater from Ed Rogers' uniform at the University of Minnesota. A buckskin jacket that belonged to Alfred Lambert was a big hit with the students. Mr. Lambert was a member of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and participated in the 1898 war in Cuba. The jacket

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Did you ever play telephone when you were kids? Remember when "it" finally came to you and you didn't know whether to believe what you heard or not? Well, "it" finally came to us and it is true. It started in the beginning when we heard that there were going to be major cuts at the courthouse level. When it was all over, a few jobs were eliminated, positions were moved around, and some non-mandated services were eliminated. Guess what! The Cass County Historical Society and the Cass County Museum are what the Commissioners are calling "non-essential". The county will still appropriate \$10,000 to cover half of our operating costs this year. We are very grateful for the support they have provided us in the past. Without their help, we could not remain available to the public. The county has helped us out in the past by also paying an insurance premium for us which covers museum operations, but not the building. Two major new expenses this year will be that insurance premium of \$1,577 and a yearly water bill with the City of Walker. We always referred to it as a donation in-

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Special points of interest:

- New Hours at Museum — Monday to Friday 10:00—5:00 May—September
- Letter from the Director
- Jacket from Rough Riders Area and items from the Ed Rogers collection included in a school trunk show

What Goes On in the Research Library?

Those of us who live in the county can't begin to imagine why we would ever need to go to the museum for our family history. A Cass Countian recently came in to see if we had any information on her family. After looking through all the materials, she was astounded by the wealth of information that we had collected on her family. She asked us why she didn't know we had this information here at her fingertips. She had been trying to write her history for three years and was really struggling to find information. The historical society was so pleased to be able to assist her and make her search easier. We are also frustrated that many people in our county do not seem to realize what a resource their county library is and what a great job we have been doing to maintain the integrity of this entity for the past 54 years. If you were to come in and browse through our correspondence from researchers from all over the United States and countries across our oceans, you would see that they all appreciate the assistance we provide in searching out their ancestry. We implore you to spread the word — tell everyone about us! Whenever a question arises as to where to find information about a person, business, cemetery, school, township, city, organization, or local event, please ask them if they have contacted their county museum's research library.

"I can't tell you how surprised — thrilled, actually — I was when I received your package. Sometimes, one sends requests and they disappear into the cosmos & one never knows. At least one mystery has been solved." Tronheim, Norway

Cass County Cemetery Project

The Historical Society receives a large number of requests each year for obituaries. We have never had cemetery records except for information compiled as part of the WPA Project, 1935-41. When asked, we refer inquiries to township clerks and to the Recorder's office.

Today, most township clerks work at other jobs during the week. Not all burials are recorded at the courthouse. Cemetery records may be missing or complete. To remedy this situation, we decided that we had to go out and walk the cemeteries and gather our own information.

Cecelia McKeig, a former director here, took on this project and began by organizing high school students in Youth Service to walk the cemeteries in Remer and Boy River. These students worked with cemetery maps, sexton's records, and clerk's burial permits. Working in pairs, they recorded the tombstone information, but

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Centennial and History Books



Research requires time and a commitment.

The Cass County Historical Society still has a supply of the following publications: Cass County Heritage (\$49.95), Walker Centennial (\$29.95), Remer (\$20.00), Boy River (\$20.00), Federal Dam/Gould Twp. (\$20.00), Memories of Sugar Point & Bear Island (\$20.00), and the Battle of Sugar Point (\$15.00). Copies may be mailed priority mail for \$5.00 each with the exception of the Cass County Heritage, which is \$7.50 priority.

Mail your request to Cass County Museum, P.O. Box 505, Walker, MN 56484 or call (218) 547-7251 and leave a message.

Letter from the Director

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kind, but the city calls it an oversight. Even so, the Society is grateful for the grace period of twenty years which has helped us keep our operational costs lower. After payment of these two items, our county appropriation will be reduced by \$2,100. This shortfall has to come from somewhere to enable us to provide the same level of service as we have in the past, because we have been operating on a shoestring budget forever.

This past week we were informed that the Commissioners have put non-mandated services appropriations on hold and may further cut funding, dependent upon what the State Legislature appropriates or cuts at the county level. It isn't over yet!

The Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors began preparing for an expected shortfall for 2003 last year. We are now open for business only five days a week. Three years ago it was seven. We now operate during May through September with only two part-time employees. Last year we paid a twenty-hour a month salary during the winter months to keep the research library open. This winter there is no position. Last year we bought only essential items needed for office business, which meant no special projects, which in turn, meant lower visibility throughout the county, which in turn creates a larger problem when a determination is made as to our importance in the county structure. As we at the Historical Society interpret this, it's a vicious circle that is about to close in on this organization.

Funding for museum operation comes mainly from the county. Cities and townships may choose, by law, to donate towards our operation. Memberships are an all-important part of our income and we rely on you, which is one of the ways we gauge our importance throughout the county. We have many wonderful books on the history of Cass County that we offer for sale, but profit from these sales is minimal. Visitors during the summer months pay an admission fee which pumps up the coffers if... weather is conducive for a museum visit... people have enough money to go on vacation...

we have a record number of visitors year after year. All of these variables make the Society's job very difficult at times.

"About half of our funding is dependent upon donations from cities, townships, and members"

The Society has been an organization since 1958, incorporated not-for-profit in 1970, and we have always felt it an honor to operate your museum and help interpret the history of this great county. We hope we can make it through this year. Rest assured that we will be diligent with our funds and hope to be here again in 2004. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every man, woman, and child in Cass County would contribute just \$1 each to support the Museum? We would have nearly \$25,000 to cover all expenses incurred at the Museum. Please take a moment to consider how important the Cass County Museum is to the residents and visitors of Cass County. We ask that you share your opinion with your Commissioner, your friends, and neighbors. On the back page of this newsletter is a membership form. We ask you to renew your membership for 2003. We would like to take the liberty of asking you to share this newsletter with someone in your community who is not yet a member of the historical society. Hopefully, those who don't know who we are and have no idea of

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if every man, woman, and child in Cass County would contribute just \$1 each to support the Museum?"

what we do will have a better understanding after reading our newsletter and will decide to help us preserve the history of our rapidly changing county by maintaining one of the best museums in our area.

**Cass County Historical
Society & Museum**

**Museum Changes Hours!!
Museum will be open
from Monday to Friday
10:00—5:00
May 20—September 13**

We have two director positions open on our Board. The Board meets about four times a year. If you are interested in volunteering as a director of the Cass County Historical Society, please contact us for

Board of Directors

Sandy Pauly

Oliver Opheim

Lori Gamache

Audrey Chelberg

EricMyrha

Historical Society President

Phyllis Krueger

Staff

Renee Geving

Newsletter
Renee Geving
Cecelia McKeig

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was donated by his family. Items from the family of Peter King, an Indian Chief in the Mabel Lake area, were also popular. The photo shows Renee demonstrating and explaining the styles of Dakota, Ojibwe, and Winnebago moccasins to the students.

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were astonished to realize how many plots lacked tombstones and how much in disrepair some of the tombstones were. After all, many families moved out of the area — especially those who followed the logging industry to the West Coast.



Enter Richard Tappe of Pine River. He was searching for a couple of grave sites and had no luck. When he came to us, we couldn't help him either. After a few weeks he returned and volunteered to walk a few cemeteries that he was familiar with. To date he has completed the following cemeteries: Lake Placid Blvd. in Sylvan Township, Gloria Dei and Mayo Brook in Maple Township; Our Savior's Kedron in Loon Lake Township; Moose Lake in Moose Lake Township, and Maple Hill Lutheran in Walden Township. He has also provided detailed directions to the cemeteries and also diagrams of lot arrangements for each. Next on his list is the Pine Ridge Cemetery in Pine River. It's a large cemetery and he would appreciate some help. We thank you, Richard, for your commitment to this project. We appreciate your hard work and so will generations to follow.

In our searches, we have come across a number of private burials throughout the county. Some are marked and some not. Some are maintained but most are not. About three years ago, we stumbled on information on a private burial in Pine Lake Township. The Veteran's Service had also been notified, and determined that a Civil War veteran was buried there as well as a child. We have now learned that there may be three burials there, two with no headstones. Morally and historically, we have the duty to record these types of burials with the best information available to us.

If this is a project that appeals to you and you wish to volunteer, please contact the Cass County Historical Society and we will provide training and lots of support!