

# CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

July 1, 2006

CASS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 505  
201 MINNESOTA AVENUE W., WALKER, MN. 56484

## LONGVILLE CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL DURING SUMMER OF 2006

The hustling new town of Longville was laid out on the banks of Girl Lake and first incorporated on November 21, 1905. The election was held at the general store building of W. P. Locke from 10:00 – 4:00. The number of residents was 204. Longville bustled with the presence of Jimmy Long's logging camps. The saloon in the Hotel Northland had its opening and prospects were that Tom Nash will have a good business year round. Lloyd Showalter recalled that when he came in 1906, Longville had a blacksmith shop, and the hotel with seven rooms upstairs with a barn behind it. Next to the river loomed two big bunkhouses and a cook-shack. In 1910, Longville consisted of the hotel, the general store on the corner (two stories high), a one-room school house, two dwellings and the old lumber camps. But with the end of logging, the town had been reduced to only 40 residents and the saloon was closed.

However, in the fall of 1909 the reservation had opened up to homesteaders and many of Longville's families moved in to stay. Horses began to replace oxen. Small farming, gardening and dairying on a small scale were introduced. Henry Manders was the chief carpenter and helped build many homes in the area. The Fuller store burned in July of 1916, but it was quickly rebuilt.

By 1920, Longville had lost its status as an incorporated village. The tax lists of 1920 include the residents of Longville in the township of Kego. Probably due to hard times and also World War I, the population of the village dropped too low to maintain its incorporation status.

In 1922, Manders and Johnson built a new garage between the Thorsen and Fuller stores on Main Street. Bert Fuller built a new residence. The post office was moved closer to the school. Longville's reputation as a summer resort community kept people coming to the lakes.

In one of the closest and most heated elections Cass County ever witnessed, voters of the Longville area voted on February 28, 1941, 32-29 to have the Longville area once again incorporated into a village. L. W. Orton was elected mayor. Ray Tabaka became mayor in 1947 and served until 1969.

Celebrations will continue all summer but the main activities are scheduled for August 4 - 13th, 2006.



## Cass County Seeks Financial Support

After nearly five years of no county support due to state budget cuts, the Cass County Commissioners voted to allocate \$5000 to help with our operational costs. The Cass County Historical Society operates the Museum with funds from admissions, memberships, donations, book sales and research fees. We very much need all townships and cities throughout our county as well as private citizens to contribute to the support of the museum. We have been operating on a bare bones budget for the last four years and have been unable to do much but keep the door open. To date, fifteen townships and five towns have responded with a monetary donation. We are asking every township to contribute whatever you can to show the county commissioners that the museum is important to the people who reside here. It's never too late -- send money!

**The Cass County Historical Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the Museum. One board member has moved out of the area thereby creating a vacancy on the board. If you are interested in serving as a director, please contact us at 218-547-7251 and leave a message and a board member will contact you.**

### Ah-Gwah-Ching

Within the next six weeks, Ah-Gwah-Ching will inventory items from their museum collection to determine where they will go. Cass County Historical Society has asked that the Cass County Museum be a recipient of items appropriate for display purposes.

We are waiting to hear when the transfer of these items may take place.

### Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors

Eric Myhra  
Cecelia McKeig  
Audrey Chelberg  
Sandy Pauly  
Linda Anderson  
Diana Kramer

### Cass County Research Center

The research center is staffed by the Cass County Historical Society at the Cass County Museum in Waker. Someone is available to assist you in your research Tuesday-Friday from 10:00 - 5:00 from May 15-Sept 15. Research is also available by appointment through the winter. The research library, obit indexes, newspaper microfilm, and other archival materials are accessible for a \$10 research fee for non-members.

One of our immediate goals is to expand the microfilm collection of newspapers and census records as we have the only microfilm reader/printer available for public use in the county.

Several student groups visited the Cass County Museum and Huset School in May and June. It was a unique experience for students and staff. Those who visited us were three sections of the first grade from Walker Elementary, a group of sixth graders from the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, first graders from Bemidji's Heartland Christian Academy, and a group from the Success for the Future Indian program at Northland Schools, Remer. The sixth graders from Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig donated \$65 to the museum, and the group from NHS donated \$50 to the museum. Of particular interest to these two groups were the preservation of the Indian artifacts displayed at the museum.

## History of the Writing of the Longville Centennial Book

Nodie Shepard, as Longville librarian for thirty years, often received requests for a history of Longville but none existed. Renee Sartell Geving, director of Cass County Museum, grew up in Longville and attended school there. She had teamed up to write the Walker Centennial book (1996) and the Cass County Centennial book (1998). Cec McKeig, director of the Cass County Historical Society, had been part of the county centennial writing team and had written books for the Remer Centennial (1996) and for the communities of Federal Dam (1995), Boy River (1998) and Sugar Point/Bear Island (2000).

Nodie and Cec had their first serious discussion about the possibility of a Longville book at a softball game in Remer about 1999. A couple of visits to the Longville library followed, where they examined storage areas, which contained old annuals, minutes from early associations and various historical materials. Clearly there was an interest in local history, as memoirs written by Rubena Bluhm, Alverna Vangen Anderson, George & Jessie Engelhart, Gloria Ford Larson, and Phyllis Woodley were popular, and a book called "A Little Bit of Heaven" sold out quickly. Meanwhile Renee was clearly desirous of writing a book on Longville as well, so she started combing through the museum's collections for Longville area material.

Renee and Cec started collecting photos, newspaper articles, and checking additional sources for Longville material. One of their meetings in Walker was interrupted by the breaking news of Senator Paul Wellstone's plane crash on October 25, 2002. By the spring of 2003, they realized that the project had become too big and too expensive for two individuals. They met several times at the Common Grounds with Nodie Shepard and a few other interested parties, and in August and September of 2003, came up with a plan to seek support from the Friends of the Library to keep the project moving forward for the Centennial year celebration. With the initial contribution from the Friends, an account was set up to assist with out-of-pocket expenses such as copy machine charges, mileage, and supplies, and the research continued.

Though Nodie Shepard retired as librarian in March 2003, she continued to play an active role in supporting the project. With the foundation of the larger Longville Area Centennial Committee and a book sub-committee, Tony Ozark, as current chairman of the Friends of the Library, became the liaison for the book project between the writers and the Centennial Committee in 2004. Tony took over the administrative end of the book, focusing on budget, marketing, and distribution of the book. As a team, the dreams and hopes for a Longville book have been fulfilled and we hope our readers will enjoy the family stories, photos and this history for years to come.

### OBITUARY INDEXING

*Brochures on the Cass County Museum have been prepared and distributed to various commercial locations around Cass County.*

The obituary indexing project began in earnest this winter (2005-06). Anyone who would like to come in and help index the obituaries from the newspapers is welcome. We're a fun bunch! The goal is to index from 1945 to the present and create an index for the research center. Currently, there are seven volunteers -- Linda Anderson, Margaret Dewey, Winnie Dau Schmidt, Karen Keener, Cecelia McKeig, Bev Sheldon, and Sherry Wagner. Volunteers summarize the pertinent information on 3 x 5 index cards for a paper card file alphabetized and placed in the old-fashioned wooden library-type card file. Data from these cards is then entered by Bev Sheldon, a volunteer, into a computer database listing name, date of birth, date of death, and newspaper date.

## **ADOPT-A-MICROFILM**

The Cass County Research Center is a great place to research your local or family history, or simply learn more about our interesting past. The society wants to make it even better by having as many research materials as possible available to you. We're asking for your help. County newspapers are a wonderful way to find all kinds of historical tidbits. Not only do we learn from the front page stories, but the neighborhood reporters can add lots of color to your family stories. Newspaper microfilm is simple to use and great for storage. Though we have a reasonable microfilm collection, there's a lot we don't have that we really need. We are fortunate to have weekly newspapers so that we can purchase one or two rolls per year as the microfilm becomes available. We presently have the Backus Times (1903-1906), Cass County Cruiser (1892-1893), Cass County Pioneer (1894-1962), Cass County Independent (1921-1976), Cass Lake Times (1899-2003), Leech Lake Letter (1895), Pine Cone/Press Citizen (1987-2004), Pine River Journal (1951-2004), Remer Record (1923-1934), Remer Star (1955-1961), and the Walker Pilot Independent (1903-2004). We also own the Minnesota Cass County census for 1895 and 1905, and the Cass County federal census for 1900.

Other microfilms that we especially need will be the upcoming years for these newspapers. Other microfilms that would be desirable would be Cass County Probate and Wills, Naturalization, and the federal census for Cass County for 1910, 1920, and 1930. Another desirable collection would be the annuity rolls for the Leech Lake Reservation. Some films are available through the Minnesota Historical Society, but others such as federal census must come from the National Archives.

If this sounds like a desirable place for your charitable donations, we would be glad to help you sponsor a whole year of weekly papers on microfilm or other suggested microfilm for our collection. This makes a great memorial or gift to the Society. The current cost for a roll of newspaper microfilm is \$30, and for a roll from the federal census is \$60. Please contact us for additional details.

**WEBSITE: [www.casscountymuseum.org](http://www.casscountymuseum.org)**

**EMAIL: [casscountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:casscountymuseum@gmail.com)**

The Cass County Museum and Historical Society now has a website and email. The website has been up-and-running since June 1, 2006. Costs for a one-year subscription and for setting up the website were donated by member Cecelia McKeig. Technical help came from her son, who is much more comfortable and experienced with the technology available to us while working on our computers!



<i>Sponsor</i>	<b>Membership</b>	<i>Patron</i>
<p>Acorn Hill Resort            Anderson Family Resorts            Warren &amp; Linda Anderson            Carl &amp; Judy Berg            Don &amp; Margaret Brown            Jeanette Fisher            Bob &amp; Nita Frink            Gramma Jo's            Betty Hutt            Phyllis Krueger            Frank &amp; Lois Orton            Dr. Otto Ringle            Spencer &amp; Miriam Turner            Tom &amp; Doris Williams            First National Bank of Walker</p>	<p><i>Individual</i>            Amanda Amy            Vi Blackburn            Winnie Dau Schmidt            Margaret Dewey            Bessie Engebretson            Dick Hein            Beulah Hendricks            Karen Keener            Diana Kramer            Meryle O'Connor            Patricia Oliver            Diane Pitzen            John Risteau            Jeanette Silbaugh            Sherry Wagner</p>	<p>Audrey Chelberg            Tom &amp; Sarah Cox            Leland &amp; Dorothy Delger            Tony &amp; Pat Doughty            John &amp; Thelma Grimley            Dave &amp; Honey Hamilton            D. W. Jones            Cecelia McKeig            David Nieman            Mary Beth Mohr            Kelly &amp; Jeanne Nelson            Norbert &amp; Rosie Ochs            Dick &amp; Kathie Stoneking            Harry &amp; Martha Winter</p>
<p><i>Friend</i>            Virginia Abullarada            Carol Bennett            Clarence &amp; Bonnie            Byersdorfer            Tom &amp; Jennifer Coen            Jim and Shirley Dowson            Dick &amp; Donna Evenson            Jerry &amp; Renee Geving            Pat Herbison Jones            Steve &amp; Connie Kaylor            William J. Kline            Bob &amp; Shirley Mallory            Chris &amp; Dorothy Opheim            Oliver &amp; Virgie Opheim            Bob &amp; Sandy Pauly            Lloyd Peterson            Sylvia Peterson            Jim &amp; Rhoda Pope            Carol Sargent            Dana and Bev Sheldon            Bob &amp; Ann Winegar</p>	<p><i>Cities &amp; Townships</i>            City of Chickamaw Beach            City of Federal Dam            City of Lake Shore            City of Walker            Outing Chamber of Commerce            Blind Lake Township            Boy Lake Township            Inguadona Township            Kego Township            Leech Lake Township            Lima Township            Loon Lake Township            Otter Tail Peninsula            Pine River Township            Ponto Lake Township            Powers Township            Salem Township            Shingobee Township            Torrey Township            Turtle Lake Township            Wilkinson Township</p>	<p><i>Family</i>            Henry &amp; Ardyce Achermann            Bob &amp; Dodie Burdick            Mark &amp; Carole Houghton            Don &amp; Karen Jensen            Steve &amp; Kay Johnson            Robert &amp; Betty Kangas            Karl &amp; Sherry Kiisa            C.R. &amp; Tina Pelzl            Richard &amp; Glenna Tappe            Bob &amp; Germaine Yochum</p>
<p><i>In Memoriam</i> for A.B. Oliver            Family</p>		<p><i>Business</i>            American National Bank            First Federal Bank            Dr, Steve &amp; Sharon Bilben            Walker Animal Hospital            Ranch House Supper Club            Eric Myhra Ford            Hummingbird Press            Huddles South Shore Resort            Ivanhoe Resort            Kee Nee Moo Sha Resort            Leroy Strand Electric            Orton Oil Company</p>



The Pontoria Store -- built by Albert V. Smith in July of 1926. Owned by Herman and Hannah Albrecht in the 1930s. A grist mill stone presently at the Cass County Museum was found 30 years ago by Austin T. Larson while he was inspecting a power line on the property of the Pontoria Store.

Cass County Historical  
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10:00 - 5:00  
Or by Appointment