

CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

October 1, 2013

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY SHINGOBBE TOWNSHIP SEPTEMBER 15, 1913

Shingobee Township was organized on Sept 15, 1913 and the township celebrated its 100th birthday with a cake and an open house on Wednesday, September 18, 2013. Many township residents came and viewed the bulletin board with a display on the township's history which was prepared by Renee Geving of the Cass County Historical Society and Ann Swanson, township clerk.



Please Note: Annual Meeting of Cass County Historical Society

October 14, 2013

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Ranch House Supper Club, Walker

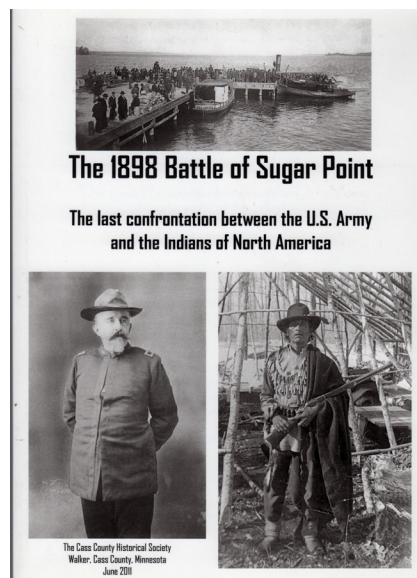
Please call or email your reservation
to the Museum at the phone or address
listed above



Memorials on www.findagrave.com have now grown to over 117million. Volunteer Cecelia McKeig has now added (one-by-one) 10,000 memorials and posted nearly 10,000 photos.



Stony Lake Association invited Renee Geving and Cec McKeig to their annual meeting to give a presentation on the Battle of Sugar Point, which occurred in 1898. The group met on Saturday evening, Sept 14th at Hackensack. Renee and Cec published a book on the battle in 2011.



Cass County Research Center

The research center is staffed by the Cass County Historical Society at the Cass County Museum in Walker. Through the winter, research help is available by appointment. The research library, obituary indexes, newspaper microfilm, and other archival materials are accessible for a \$10 research fee for non-members.

Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors

Karen Keener, Pres.
Lois Orton, V-Pres
Don Beadle
Bob Frink
Tom Girtz
Robert Dennis
Alexis Hadrava - Treasurer

Thank you to the sponsors of Free Fridays and Super Saturdays, Many people took advantage of the program to visit the museum and the Huset School for the first time. On September 14th (Ethnic Fest), we had 121 visitors.

FREE FRIDAY SPONSORS

June 6 -	Leer Title Services
June 14 -	Walker VFW
June 21 -	Frizzell Furniture Gallery
June 28 -	Bank Forward
July 5 -	May Creek Senior Living
July 12 -	First National Bank
July 19 -	Acorn Hill Resort
July 26 -	Walker American Legion
Aug 2 -	Arvig Enterprises, Inc.
Aug 9 -	The Senior Leech Lakers
Aug 16 -	Leech Lake Builders, Inc.
Aug 23 -	Anderson Family Resorts
Aug 30 -	Walker Rotary

SUPER SATURDAY SPONSORS

Aug 31	The Ranch House
Sept 14	The Bee Hive
Sept 21	Next Innovations

Shingobee Township lies in T141-142 R31 and excludes the territory within the corporate limits of the city of Walker. The township was organized on September 15, 1913. The first elected officers were Chairman J.W. Rice; Supervisors Joseph Jaksechi and Frank Coyle; Treasurer John Whaley; Clerk Harry Paddock; Assessor A.O. Hilberg; Justices of the Peace A.A. Oliver and Fred Mitchell; and Constables George Reviere and James Fields.

In 1918, a petition was presented to the Cass County Board of Commissioners for division of the township. A.P. Wood of Cyphers spoke in favor of the division while Harry Paddock, an attorney who practiced in Walker and lived in the Lake May area, presented a remonstrance against the division, which was signed by 22 resident landowners. The Board unanimously disallowed the petition.

Cyphers, now a ghost town, was located in Shingobee Township, seven miles south of Walker on the present Highway 371. In the late 1800s, Pete Albert had a sawmill there as well as a livery, barn and a two-story boarding house. This was as far as the railroad went until the trestle was built over Shingobee Island in 1896. The village was known as “long siding” as there was a one-mile stretch of tracks that turned the steam engines around. Men who hunted in this area stayed at the boarding house in the village. Soon the village was called “Hunters”. Once, a hunter riding on the train forgot the name of the village. The conductor toyed with him on his journey from Minneapolis, asking the hunter periodically where he wanted to be let off. Finally exasperated, the man exclaimed, “Cyphers, I don’t remember the name of the town!” When the train reached the end of the line, the conductor called out “Cyphers” and the name stuck.

Andrew Watt opened a post office in 1910 in his small general store. Mrs. Watt, a mail order bride, could take no more of the pioneer life here and left. Andrew was unable to keep the necessary records and asked Harry Norton to help him. Hugh Norton bought the post office in 1920 and his wife, Ruth, became the postmistress. A rural mail route was established in 1933 which delivered mail to nearly 100 people, who had always picked up their mail at the Cyphers store. The post office was closed by the government in November, 1933 in an economy measure. This was the demise of the little town. During the Depression, the boarding house was dismantled and loaded onto the train for a trip somewhere south of Cyphers. Through the years, Mother Nature has done her best to hide all evidence of this once bustling little village.

Within the borders of Shingobee Township was an early fishing resort which opened on First Point in 1896. Walker’s founding father P.H. McGarry pitched 12 white canvas tents here. **White Tent City** was an official stop on the M&I railroad line. Since this was such a success, McGarry had his daughter Edna file homestead rights on Second Point and in 1901, he opened the first resort in the township and on Leech Lake. Two cabins and a dining hall had been used there by the Red River Logging Co. and McGarry added four more cabins and enlarged the dining hall. He named his resort “Glengarry Springs”. By 1919, the resort had been modernized and eight more cabins built. An annex was built onto the dining hall and a dance pavilion was built near the shore where visitors as well as locals were regularly entertained.

The **Indian agency for the Leech Lake Reservation** was built following the establishment of the reservation boundaries by the 1855 treaty. By 1900, the buildings on Agency Bay were in need of repair, so the government moved the agency to the Onigum area. The agency had a general hospital, tuberculosis sanitarium, farm barns and out-buildings, to churches, Catholic and Episcopal, and houses for employees and the resident Indians. The agency was largely self-sufficient, but when the Indians received their annual payments in September from treaties and the sale of timber from their lands, they came across the bay to spend their money, which boosted the economy of the village of Walker. The agency at Onigum was closed in 1922 and moved to Cass Lake.

The **Shingobee Winter Playground** is an area in Shingobee Township that was developed in 1938 by the CCCs, Walker Co. #3709 and was one of the earliest ski area developments in northern Minnesota. They brushed the slopes and built a toboggan slide. One enrollee, Harry Loger, was the first one down the hill as he was the “kid”. He rode down the slope on a snow shovel. What a ride! In 1946 the slide was improved by lengthening it and building a chute of creosote ties. By 1954, the slide was no longer in use.

In 1939 a ski chalet was built by the CCCs halfway down the slope. By March of 1939 the Shingobee Winter Sports Club was formed to promote the playground. In early 1940 a ski tow was put in. Skiers paid 10 cents per tow or 25 cents a day. Sometimes there would be as many as 200 people waiting to use the tow. Most of the kids in the Walker area learned to ski on this hill.

Snow Trains became popular with the first arriving in January of 1941 from St. Paul. Most of the visitors stayed at the Chase Hotel and left again on Sunday afternoon. In 1941, 1500 skiers competed in events at the playground. In 1975 a ski training trail opened, with help from Hilton Bakker. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Day and other volunteers opened the chalet from 1975 to 1978 on Saturdays and Sundays. A fundraising drive kept the hill open from 1979 to 1982. Now the US Forest Service opens the area for special occasions.

Within the borders of Shingobee Township was a state-owned tuberculosis sanitarium, **Ah-Gwah-Ching**. By mid 1904, 616 acres were purchased in Sections 34 and 35 and the land was cleared to make way for a farm which began operation in 1907. Buildings for patients were built, beginning in 1906 and 1907. The M & I Railway Co. built a spur line which became operational in 1907. A depot was added shortly thereafter. A post office was established in 1908 to serve patients and employees who lived on the grounds. Ah-Gwah-Ching was authorized as a weather station for the US Weather Bureau in 1907 and continued reporting the weather until the institution closed its doors in 2007. Ah-Gwah-Ching operated as a state sanatorium for consumptives from 1907 to 1961; a state-run nursing home from 1992 to 1990; and then functioned as the Ah-Gwah-Ching Center from 1991 to 2007. All buildings have been demolished and replaced with a lush green field.

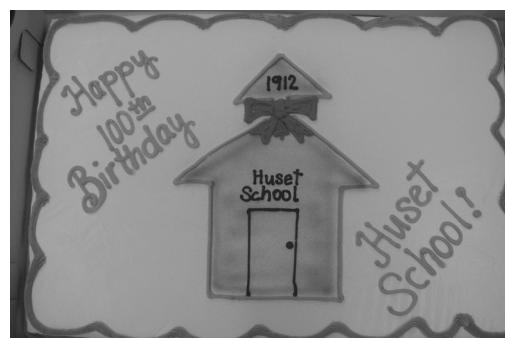
The **Walker Golf Course** was begun in 1922 by Patrick Henry McGarry and partners John Emory Andrus Jr., the Chase family, and other investors. In 1928 John Andrus purchased the course and began making improvements which included grass greens and a different layout of the front nine holes. He encouraged a Native American family living on the fourth hole, to move to another location. John's son Steve is credited with renaming the course Tianna Country Club. Daughter Betty Hawkins gives the clubhouse to the members in 1952. In 1967, golf professional, Ernie Tardif designed and built the back nine holes. In 1979 Betty Hawkins gave the front nine holes to the city of Walker and they transferred it to Tianna in 1987. Demolition of the old clubhouse began in October 1988 and an entirely new clubhouse was built. The new fireplace was donated by Betty Andrus Hawkins and Colby Andrus in memory of their father. A grand opening for the new clubhouse took place in 1989.

Wherever there were pioneers, there were schools. The **Lake Alice School** house was built in the north-east quarter of Section 7 of Shingobee Township on land owned by two different parties who offered to deed an acre of land for the purpose of a school. Thirteen children were of suitable age from the families of Fred Mitchell, A.L. Jenkins, D. C. Jenkins, R.E. Brafot, H. Parks, S.R. Abott, C. Jackson and Alvin W. Stowell. An 18'x28'x12' building was put up in 1903. The Kabekona School was located in Section 8. Martha Born of Walker was hired to teach the 1915-16 school year. Cabin #1 of Kabekona Springs Resort became the school house. Other children of Shingobee Township who lived in a radius of three miles of the village of Walker, attended school first at a school building located at the present site of the post office, and in 1907 at a new building on the site of the present school building.

The Historical Society held a 100th year birthday celebration for the **Huset School** on July 25, 2013. The program included readings from the recollections of some of the early teachers, especially Freda Norman Ecker and Doris Raboin Larson. The entertainment included a sing-along of songs from the Golden Book such as “Farmer in the Dell” and “America” led by Donna Evenson and accompanied by Cec McKeig on the school pump organ. Members cut and served the birthday cake to visitors.

The building was built in an area known as “The Island” in Boy Lake Township. The settlers cut the trees, hewed and fit the logs by hand, and this little school was born. The school was in use until 1937 when most of these small schools were consolidated. In 1964, Virgil Dixon offered the old log school building to the Cass County Historical Society. The building was on his property and his only stipulation was that the building be moved as soon as possible. In October 1967, David Holmes of rural Backus directed the work of raising it up and moved it to the museum grounds.

In the spring of 1968, the old log building was cleaned up and put in order. Former teachers were invited to serve as volunteer teachers for the day. The school was dedicated in 1968, and visitors continue to enjoy the atmosphere where children learn about writing on a slate with chalk, bringing lunch to school in a lard pail, and going to school with your siblings in the same room.



Cass County Historical Society Members 2013

INDIVIDUALS \$10

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Dr. Otto Ringle
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Dan & Sue Eikenberry
Willard Arends
Kathy Smith
Noah Mills
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Carol Wedin
Leland & Dorothy Delger
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Glen & Oliver Gamache
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Audrey Chelberg
Gordy & Liz Dalm
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Clarence & Bonnie Byersdorfer
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Neal & Kathy Gaalswyk
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Stony Lake Association