

OUTLINE MAP
OF
LE SUEUR CO.
MINNESOTA
• 1898 •

Scale: 2 Miles to an inch.

EXPLANATION

Section Line	— — — — —
Form or Lot Line	— — — — —
Wagon Road	— — — — —
Railroad	— — — — —
Creeks & Springs	— — — — —
Rivers	— — — — —
Churches	— — — — —
School Houses	— — — — —
Adjacent lands owned by same party connected by a line, thin	— — — — —
Post Office	— — — — —
Coal, Lead or Zinc Mine	— — — — —
County Bridge	— — — — —

Les Nouvelles Historiques de Le Sueur

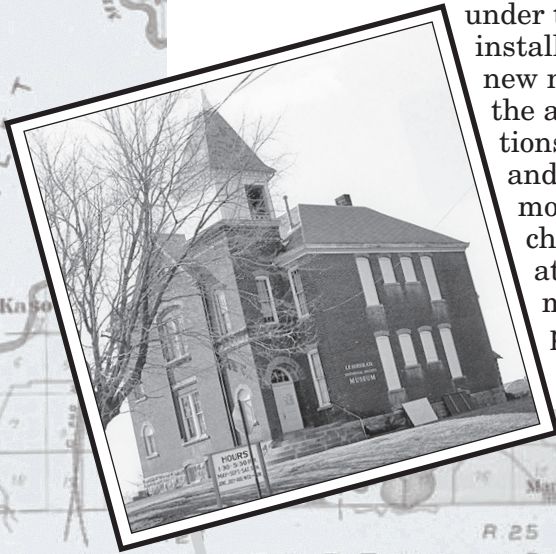
First renovation phase is a wrap!

A mild autumn was the perfect gift this year for the Society's Elysian museum restoration. Workers completed the phase of project that included the rain gutters in late November early December when the building's gutter system was installed.

As with most large renovation projects, LCHS received some unexpected bad news when the old roof was being removed. The leaky roof rotted a portion of the bell tower frame which was not exposed and found

under the bell tower shingles. New timbers were installed. This installation required more lift time, new materials and worker's time. To offset some of the additional expense, modifications in the corrections for chimney were put off for this grant cycle and will be included in the next grant. These modifications are to strengthen the inside of the chimney. The expense of this is postponed work at the cost of \$1540.00. However, the Society must come up with an additional \$12,800 to pay for the additional work on the Bell Tower

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Times up! LCHS is losing two officers.

The Le Sueur County Historical Society will suffer two big body blows in 2024 when two long-time officers' step down from their positions. Dr. Ruth Collins is ending a four-year run as LCHS secretary, and Bonnie Reak is wrapping up a similar four-year stint as the organization's treasurer.

LCHS bylaws dictate no one can serve more than four consecutive years in the same office. Both Collins and Reak have reached that plateau.

"The LCHS Secretary has a close professional working relationship with the Treasurer in development of the monthly minutes and business agenda for upcoming meetings," explained Collins. "The LCHS Operations has been widely cared for by these two positions."

In addition to recording minutes of the LCHS board's regular and special meetings, the Secretary handles all non-financial matters of the Society. All legal documents required by federal or state statute are filed by the Secretary.

"The Secretary uses good communication skills for networking and resourcing; advanced technology skills for online presence in group meetings; and manifests a forward direction for the LCHS to connect with membership," Collins said.

The Treasurer handles all financial matters

of the LCHS. This includes care and custody of all monies or securities of the organization. The Treasurer keeps all financial records, makes bank deposits and issues checks in the name of the LCHS as ordered by the board of directors. Every year the Treasurer plays a large role in developing the LCHS's annual budget.

The LCHS Executive Board meetings are conducted with the Secretary and Treasurer along with the President and Vice President. These meetings are monthly or as needed.

"I have personally enjoyed working with the current Board of Directors, and will continue with the grant writing," stated Collins. "This is a great organization, and LCHS needs to have interested individuals who will demonstrate skills that exemplify continued innovation and creativity as well as an organizational mindset to objectively allow change to meet the LCHS Mission Statement."

Our bylaws also state officers are elected by the Society's board of directors and officers must be a member of the board. So it is vital that anyone who might be interested in serving either the Secretary or Treasurer office to notify the board as soon as possible in order to have their name on the ballot for board elections. A total of four board seats are open in 2024.

Elysian museum renovation continued

that was unforeseen during the conditions assessment.

The Bell Tower is then reconstructed with additional costs. At this time, the School Bell will not be replaced in the tower. This is an effort and additional cost to be explored in the next grant cycle.

The Cedar Shank shingles are being installed as this Newsletter is drafted. The weather in Minnesota has allowed this construction to move forward and LCHS is very grateful for the efforts to continue this project to completion.

We, the Board Members of LCHS thank our partners in this project which include the following: Minnesota Historical Society and the Legacy Grants, ISG groups of Mankato and RSI (Restoration Services, Inc.) Construction and their subcontractors.

The LCHS grant from MNHS is nearing completion. The inspec-

tion of the mortar was satisfied on a chilly day in November. A representative from MNHS, Mr. John Beatty met with representative from LCHS, ISG and RSI. A walk-through and final comments were discussed as well as the next phase of this project and elements to consider.

LCHS is now assembling grant paperwork to begin the second phase of the restoration. This phase will essentially repair and strengthen the remaining exterior, including windows and doors, of the three-story red brick school building. The second phase will consider the costs and include the chimney and school bell.

The third and potential fourth phase will involve the interior of the structure. The idea to split the interior into two phases guides the amount of funds requested from MNHS and other grant partners. The Legacy Grants from MNHS support this project.



In our last newsletter, we told you about the Harriman family constructing and erecting a frame to display our legacy funding sign near the entrance of the genealogy center. The information was right, but the picture was wrong! This is what it really looks like. Thanks again to the Harrimans.

Calling all members ...

The Le Sueur County Historical Society has scheduled its annual meeting for April 16.

Only those on the 2024 membership roster will be eligible to vote.

DON'T DELAY! Send in your application today and we'll see you in April!

Let's keep moving forward — Join the Le Sueur County Historical Society for 2024.

LCHS Membership Application

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Individual — \$30
- Family — \$40
- Supporting — \$100
- Business — \$250
- Contributor — \$500
- Benefactor — \$1,000

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Research at the Genealogy Center without charge
- Receive Society newsletters, updates and invitations
- Cast a vote at meetings of membership
- Dues and donations are tax deductible
- Le Sueur County Historical Society is a 501C3 Minnesota nonprofit organization with historic sites in Cleveland, Elysian, Le Center, Le Sueur and Ottawa

I can help with

- Building and grounds maintenance
- Recording inventory and artifacts
- Educational programming
- Genealogy Center assistance
- Communications

My signature on this application confirms my commitment to supporting the mission of the Le Sueur County Historical Society.

Signature _____

Date _____

Mail application with check payable to: Le Sueur County Historical Society
ATTN: Membership
P.O. Box 123
Le Center, MN 56057

For Society Records: Received _____ Reviewed _____ Approved _____



Le Sueur County
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 123
Le Center, MN 56057

**PRESORT
STANDARD
Permit #55
New Prague, MN
56071**

Le Sueur County Historical Society annual meeting set for April 16

Mark your calendars now for the annual meeting of the Le Sueur County Historical Society. The gathering will take place April 16 at 6 p.m. in the 4-H building at the Le Sueur County fairgrounds in Le Center, Minn.

An update of the renovation of the red brick school in Elysian, Minn. is expected to be on the annual meeting agenda along with a finance report and other Society business.

Four seats on the Society's Board of Directors are open and elections will take place at the annual meeting. Any member interested in a board position should contact the Board as soon as possible to get their name on the ballot.

Speaking of ballots, it is imperative that your name is on the LCHS membership roster in order to have a vote at the annual meeting. If you have not sent in a membership application for 2024, a membership application can be found in this newsletter.

Look for more annual meeting details in the next LCHS newsletter.



Looking good!

A big shout-out to Ron and Ethan Greenwald, John Peters and LeRoy McCollum for their help in maintaining LCHS grounds this past year. The Greenwalds have made extensive improvements to the Elysian campus. Peters takes care of the Ottawa stone church property, and McCollum makes things nice and tidy at the church in Cleveland.

Many hands make light work. If you would be interested in helping with various light maintenance projects this next year, contact the Le Sueur County Historical Society at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org