

Annual report of the Le Sueur County Historical Society

April 18, 2023

Annual Meeting April 18, 6 pm at the Fairgrounds.

Upcoming meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023, June 13, 2023, at
Genealogy Center, Elysian.

Our Guests over the year included:

1. Artist **Jeff Jarvis** who professionally presented three presentations on local artists, Adolf Dehn, Roger Pruess, and David Maass. These were very well attended and will be accessible on our website.
And, the LCHS Art Repository is used for work on the Waterville Kiosk, Waterville City Council Display.
2. **Ms. Lou Nutter**, in the Elysian Library Heritage Center. She shared her history with the artifacts and memorabilia from her personal collection.
3. **Bryce Stenzel**, and current LCHS Board member. Civil War Roundtable invited him to Washington D.C.
Memorial Day. Some actors portrayed various parts of the play he wrote. He can speak about: Lincoln's tomb, US Dakota-War, or Emancipation Proclamation, any Lincoln related topic.
4. Larry Kortuem, speaker this evening. He will talk about Marysburg, MN History and Volk Furniture store/factory.

The Ottawa Stone Church – windows are updated and last summer the Ottawa Historical group conducted tours of the church.
Ottawa Stone Church Bell Tower Dedication was last year.

Harvest Service. Harvest Potluck, at the park at 1 pm. Bonnie, Don, Paul, Dean attended. Harvest Potluck was good. It ended at 4 pm

This year we are opening the Stone Church for weddings. You may contact a LCHS Board member for more details on Rental Agreements.

The Ottawa Red Brick School – LCHS is eager to acquire this, but it needs to be released from the COVIA corporation. More to come on that this year.

Pioneer Cemetery Dedication – Elysian. Attended by the Executive Board.

The Log Cabin at the Fairgrounds was open June 25th for the Le Center Area Fire Dept. 125th Anniversary.

4th of July Gathering on the Hill, 11-2; Dehn Art program, Jeff Jarvis

District #75 Schoolhouse. Fairgrounds is done and will open for tours. Restoration for the School #75 Restoration was covered with a donation from Margaret Traxler. Discussion of a sign for the building is ongoing and the LCHS needs to find a sign maker for this building.

Schoolhouse, Dist. #75- Fieldtrip, Le Center 6th Grade will take a Field Trip Wed. May 10, to the one room School House in May. Bette Traxler will dress up. 12:30 & 1:45

Le Sueur County Fair – August 18 – 21, 2022: volunteers included many members at the Log cabin, School District #75, and LCHS booth. Dean – At the Cabin for the four days of the Fair indicated it was the crowd he has had in years visiting the cabin. We had international visitors as well. Over 550 signed in the guest book. International guest from So. Africa, England and Canada.

Waseca Historical Society received materials from the Gen center regarding Waseca County weddings. These were not indexed with the gen Center materials.

Cleveland Church – We painted plywood, and there have been several break-in. The lawnmowing & hedges trimmed has been done. The brush is gone. Seeding the property with grass when done.

Elysian Museum - Dean contacted Ron McGraw, of Creative Homes, signed check (down payment of \$3500 + \$3500 due on completion) for work to be done on roof leaks, broken window, etc.

Charitable Contributions – Letter to organizations countywide. LCHS has received only a donation of \$1,000.00 from Elysian Legion. So far. Letters will be resent this month. The need is to help with the Elysian Museum roof rehabilitation.

Newsletter – Paul Malchow. Thank you for your hard work on this project. Send articles or historical information to Paul if you have something you'd like in your Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP DUES – are good for January 1 – December 31, each year no matter when you send it in.

\$30 Individual

\$40 family

\$100.00 Supporter Membership

\$250 Business Membership

\$500.00 Contributor

\$1,000.00 Benefactor

Membership Renewal form available at the Gen Center or at the table tonight at the door. Just a Reminder that dues are payable for the new year 2024 starting January 1st.

LCHS used a Membership Postcard this year as a Thank you for your dues and

Annual Meeting notification.

Membership totals: Lifetime members = 109; Annual memberships = 142.

Genealogy Center - Updated Brochure-Thank you Sally Olson.

Volunteer meeting May 2, 2023, at 1 pm.

Letter going out to Volunteers after the 4-11-23 meeting.

Gen. Center will open on May 12, 2023.

The hours will be 1-4 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Unveiling of the new Equipment/ ScanPro – June 2023.

Website: Update: May 16 LCHS Board will have a presentation, by WESTBRACKMARKETING.COM. to develop a user-friendly website for LCHS.

Add a Link to sell some artwork that was donated for fundraising purposes.

Nothing will be sold from the permanent collections. Those will be on display in the renovated and rehabilitated Elysian Museum in a few years.

The website will maybe have a Link to make accessions to LCHS/donations.

July 4th in Elysian at the Genealogy Center.

John Eggers, Book Signing is scheduled for July 4

Historic Display in front of the sheds

Abraham Lincoln, guest appearance.

Freezies and Water Bottles available for guests.

Currently: Old building on the Elysian property needs to be removed.

Storage needs remain in effect.

MNHS Elysian School Grant – status update.

MNHS GRANT Awarded \$297,079.00 for the rehabilitation, restoration, and renovation of the Elysian Museum School on the Hill roof.

Opening Bid, March 21, 2023. Three bids were received, and one was pulled Monday, March 20, 2023, due to elevation requirement for wooden shingles. March 21, 2023, two bids were opened, and one is being reconciled to award. A subsequent funding source to match the lowest bid is being applied for in a grant application to the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

Musket Loss from Log Cabin on Elysian Grounds– Ruth & George worked on this with no results. Contacted Sheriff's Dept in 3 counties. No luck.

Technology Committee – Visit to Sibley County, Waseca Historical Center-met with them at the research center and museum to discuss the ScanPro and related Technology.

MN Historical Society Small Grant written and awarded for the purchase of the ScanPro, Microfilm, printer.

MNHS Outreach Conservator, July 22, 2022, meeting. Dean, Bonnie, and Ruth report back to LCHS Board. Grants are available for LCHS needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth (Pettis) Collins
Le Sueur County Historical Society Secretary