

OUTLINE MAP
OF
LE SUEUR CO.
MINNESOTA
• 1898 •
Scale: 2 Miles to one inch.

EXPLANATION

Section Line	—
Stream or Lot Line	—
Wharf Road	—
Railroad	—
Creeks & Springs	—
Woods	—
Churches	—
School Houses	—
Adjunct. lands owned by same party connected by a bank, (then Post Office)	—
Coal, Lead, or Zinc Mine	—
County Bridge	—

Les Nouvelles Historiques de Le Sueur

Society announces April 16 annual meeting

Featured speaker will be avian expert and photographer Al Batt

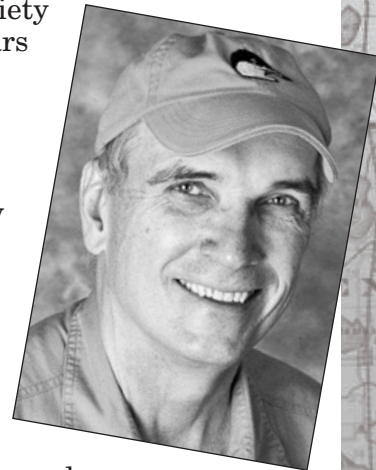
All members of the Le Sueur County Historical Society are being asked to set aside April 16 on their calendars for the Society's annual meeting. The event will take place at 6 p.m. in the 4-H building at the Le Sueur County fairgrounds in Le Center, Minn.

"The 2023 meeting provided the board with valuable input which we take very seriously," said Society President Bill Stangler. "It is the participation of our members which enables the Society to keep making progress."

Even though the renovation of the red brick school in Elysian, Minn. is still in its early stages, there is excitement from members and interest from the Elysian community in the progress made in 2023. The new roof on the historic site looks great and will go a long way in protecting this valuable asset. Work is already underway in securing a grant to help finance phase two which rehabilitates the brick exterior and installs new windows.

The Board has also been busy looking for storage space. A large, dry, secure area is needed to store the items currently inside the Elysian school. Again, anyone who might know someone who knows someone who knows

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Historical Society annual meeting is April 16 continued

someone, please contact our email as soon as possible. Once a suitable location is found, we will need members' assistance in moving artifacts and readying the building for construction.

Over the winter, the Board has been establishing priorities and needs of the Society. Topping the list is the need of an executive director to manage Society affairs and carry out directions of the board. Current annual revenue of the Society makes it difficult to make a proper compensation offer to good candidates of the position. Much work needs to be done in 2024 to address the situation.

Other projects in the works for the Society this year are cataloging artifacts on computer; continued development of the Society's website (www.lesueurcountyhistory.org); and finding a curator to evaluate LCHS inventory.

The guest speaker scheduled to appear at the annual meeting is renown naturalist and bird watcher Al Batt. Hailing from Hartland, Minn., Batt writes humor and nature columns for many newspapers and does regular radio shows about nature. He is the author of the book, "A Life Gone to the Birds," and is a columnist for "Bird Watcher's Digest" and "Watching Backyard Birds." He is a trustee of the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska and has received the Ed Franey Conservation Media Award from the Izaak Walton League, the Thomas Sadler Roberts Award from the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union for lifetime contributions to birding, and was recognized by Bluebirds Across Nebraska for

outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation.

Four seats on the Society's Board of Directors are open and elections will take place at the annual meeting.

A meeting of the Nominating Committee will take place at 6 p.m. on March 26 at the Le Center Public Library.

All LCHS members are welcome to attend. At this meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit the names of potential candidates for the available vacant seats on the board. Nominations of potential candidates will also be accepted from the floor.

Once the board has been elected at the annual meeting, board members will select officers for this year.

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, please do so as soon as possible. A copy of the application can be found in this newsletter.

It is also vital at least 10 percent of LCHS membership attends the annual meeting to constitute a quorum according to the Society's bylaws. Without a quorum, no Society business can be conducted that evening and another date for the annual meeting would need to be set.

Big things are going on in your Society and your Board thanks you for your support. We look forward to seeing you April 16!

A reminder...

In order to satisfy Le Sueur County Historical Society's bylaws, two long-time officers will step down from their positions next month. 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.

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.

Genealogy Research Center to open for season April 19

The Society's Genealogy Center, located at 301 NE 2nd St. in Elysian will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. April 19 through Sept. 14.

Two volunteers are needed for each day. Many current volunteers enjoy researching Le Sueur County history for others and learning a few new things themselves. Along with doing research, volunteers are needed to file obituaries,

organizing files, scan photographs and make copies.

If interested in being involved, contact LCHS via email at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org or call (507) 267-4091.

Research at the Genealogy Center without charge in one of the benefits of LCHS membership.

Bye Laws enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Elysian, Le Sueur Co, and State of Minnesota and approved by the following members on the fourth day of March 1884. A. H. Co. Lange, President of the Board of Trustees, John C. Chase, Dr. Williams Root, Stephen Cordall, and E. H. Shaw, Recorder.

1 The Village Council of the Village of Elysian Le Sueur Co, Minnesota and to meet Regularly on the following days Annually.

On the Tenth day of January each year for the purpose of granting Licenses if any.

On the 24 day of March to make out Road Warrants.

On the 1st day of August Levy taxes for the year.

On the 1st day of September to make returns to the State.

On the 31st day of December to make Settlement with Officers of the Village of Elysian and audit Accounts and examine all Receipts and Disbursements by the Treasurer of said Village of Elysian during the year.

Elysian celebrates anniversary in 2024

The city of Elysian recently reached a milestone as 140 years ago the villages bylaws were incorporated. Records and writings of this historic time have been located at the Le Sueur County Historical Society's Genealogy Center and we share some excerpts here.

In future LCHS newsletters, we would like to continue Elysian's history in the 1900s. We encourage everyone to share stories they may have. Send them to P.O. Box 123, Le Center, MN 56057; or email them to info@lesueurcountyhistory.org.

Lake Francis and Elysian were for many years the favorite hunting and fishing ground of the Sioux and Winnebago Indians. Early settlers said up until 1856 it was a common sight to see hundreds of Indians camped upon the lake shores cutting and drying fish.

The first white settlers to come to Elysian were Col. Fred Roberts, Mitchell Jackson and Joseph Warburton. They came by team from the prairies of northern Iowa to the woods and lakes of Minnesota.

Learning the Winona-St. Peter Railway (later the C&N.W.) would probably locate their lines between these lakes, they pre-empted the land on which the town of Elysian now stands. In 1856, a year later, these pioneers began to move their families to the log houses which they had built.

The following was written by Elysian Enterprise Editor W.K. Wilcox, date unknown. It is an excerpt from a booklet Wilcox created to promote Elysian as a place to live.

"Fifty years ago, long before the war and twenty-five years before the scream of the "Iron Horse" was heard in the valley, the Clarks, the Warburtons, the Stones, the Jaquas, the Langes and others settled in and around the present Village of Elysian. Many hardships were endured, including the terrors of the Indian outbreak of '62.

The fertile soil and always abundant fish and game guaranteed them the necessities of life.

During the Indian outbreak nearly all the settlers left the Village, only one woman, Mrs. J.H. Foster, remained.

Many families gathered at Morristown where they went into camp for mutual protection. North of town only three families braved

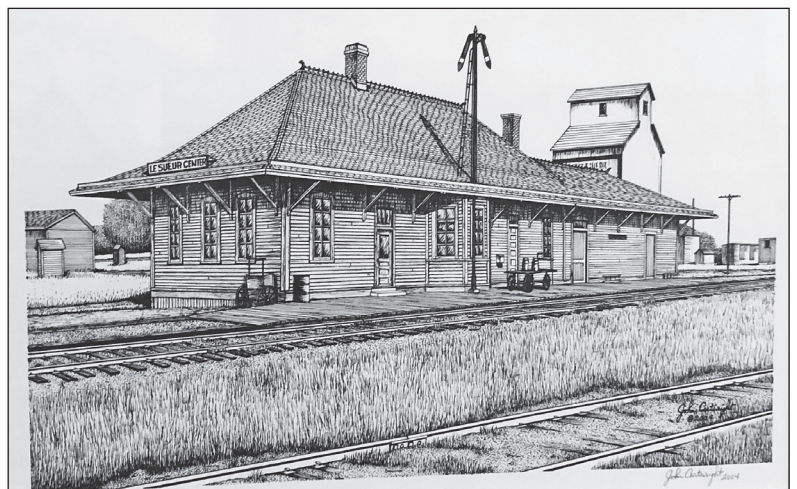
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Artwork donated

LCHS member Alyce (Malinski) Ilg of New Prague, Minn. recently gifted the Society with a John Cartwright ink print of the Le Sueur Center Depot.

Cartwright, from Shoreview, Minn., specializes in historical drawings and his work has won awards from various shows and organizations. "My goal is to promote our fine transportation heritage by preserving historical icons of a bygone era," Cartwright said.

When Alyce made the donation, she commented that Le Sueur Center changed to Le Center in 1930, the year she was born.



'All honor
to the pioneers who
blazed the way,
felled the trees,
quarried the stone,
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the virgin soil and
made the homes.'

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the dangers of that perilous time and refused to leave. They were J.C. Swain, G.H. Sterling and Abram Somes.

This part of Le Sueur County furnished a large number of volunteers for the First Minnesota and other regiments. All honor to the pioneers who blazed the way, felled the trees, quarried the stone, built the roads, broke the virgin soil and made the homes. Their industry, pluck and strenuous lives made it possible for us to live today in peace and plenty, surrounded by educational and religious advantages."

Minnesota State College student Don Jackson was a senior when he wrote "The Legend of Elysian." His paper was later published in the Elysian Enterprise.

"The story starts with the settlement of the area, back in the middle of the nineteenth century. At that time, most of the land which now makes up Elysian Township was owned by four pioneer farmers named M. Logan, George Johnson, Edward Morsching and Mr. Godfrey. People settled here from Ohio, Maine, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, England and Prussia ... The greatest influx of settlers came between 1855 and 1858, and what is now known as the Village of Elysian became the meeting place for the people of the surrounding farms. It came to be that one Francis G. Conway, a shrewd horse thief and con-man, was instrumental in the forming of the village and township.

And so it was, in 1857, the village of Logan was platted. The name Logan was chosen because the proposed village would rest on his property. Conway took care of the legal aspects connected with the platting of the village and township; and for his work was appointed the first postmaster of the village in 1859."

Jackson went on to relate how Logan grew over the course of the Civil War and many men of the community joined Union forces. "Few men from this community returned home," Jackson wrote. "Among them were John Chadwick, a soldier in a Minnesota regiment in the Civil War; Ephraim Davis, who served in the south during the war and later fought Indians in Minnesota; Frank M. Long, a soldier; and Asa B. Swain, a captain in the Union Army."

In 1883, Logan was about to become a village and much discussion took place in selecting proper name for the town. "Suddenly, from the back of the room, wise old Frank Conway spoke up," Jackson wrote. "How about naming our town Elysian?" suggested the old man. 'Elysian, in ancient Greek mythology, Elysian Fields was the place where the blessed, good and heroic people went when they died. It was a quiet, blissful, delightful place with gently rolling fields and hills. A place where happiness prevails. Is our setting here not much the same? Are we happy here? By naming our town Elysian, we would be reminded daily in our town's name that our dead loved ones still live here ... in our memories.'

The name was unanimously adopted, and the Village of Elysian was incorporated in January of 1884."

2 No Liquor License shall be given by any officers of the Village unless first granted by the Village Council and no License shall be given or given before the money is first paid into the Village Treasury and the Treasurer's Receipt filed in the Office of the Village Recorder

3 The Recorder shall keep Account of all Receipts presented to him in a Book furnished to him for the Purpose and by whom presented and for what purpose paid and also file all Receipts in his Office also get Statements of County Auditor and Justices also keep a correct statement of all Regular and Special meetings held by the Board of Councilors

4 The Treasurer shall keep account of all monies paid to him, and on what purpose received and on what purpose all Disbursements were made and to make a statement in full to the Board of Councilors on the 21st day of December in each year
mounted in a book the 1st day of February

5 The Justices of the Peace shall keep Account in a Book furnished by the Village Council of all fines collected, with dates when paid and from whom and for what purpose paid, and to pay all said fines to, into the Village Treasury on the following named days or before the first day of April or or before the first day of July or or before the first day of October or or before the 21st day of December in each year and take a receipt therefor each time and file Receipts in the Office of Village Recorder.

Recorded this 1st day of April 1884

Edwin H. Shaver
Village Recorder

Elysian at the turn of the century...

“What is now the sprightly village of Elysian in 1882 had only the following business factors: The post office kept by G. Raeker; two general stores; three hotels; two blacksmith shops two repair wagon shops; a steam saw-mill; two shoe shops; and a carpet weaver. The village had been platted in 1857. August Lange was postmaster from 1865 to 1880.

Municipal History

Elysian village was incorporated on January, 1884, with officers elected as follows: A.H.E. Lange, president; Dr. William Root, Stephen Goodall and John C. Chase, trustees; E.H. Shave, recorder; Charles Richter, treasurer; Ira Myrick and W.M. Sterling, justices of the peace; Erastus Fish, constable and marshal. The present indebtedness on outstanding orders is seven hundred dollars no bonded indebtedness.

An elevated tank holding sixteen hundred barrels of water furnishes ample water supply and a pumping and light station supplying light and power is furnished by the Consumers Power Company, under a ten-year contract, at fifty-five dollars and seventy cents per month. The water-works was put in by the village in 1896 at a cost of five thousand dollars. There are about twenty-five hundred feet of water mains and seven hundred feet of good hose, with an organized volunteer fire company. An old school house was purchased for village hall purposes. It was erected in 1877 and is twenty-four by forty feet, costing one thousand dollars.

The officers of the village in the winter of 1915-16 were: B.R. Flint, president; Joseph Beran, Henry Herdlicke and Charles W. Schneider, trustees; William Waburton, recorder; A.J. Long, treasurer; G.S. Waburton, justice of the peace; J.A. Lamont, marshal.

Since the village was organized, the presidents have been: A.E.H. Lange, 1884; Ira Myrick, 1885; Patrick Galagan, 1886-87; G.N. Jaqua, 1888-90; Alva B. Swain, 1891; G.N. Jaqua, 1892; C.F. Johnson, 1893-97; F.A. Lange, 1897; C.O. Galagan, 1898-99; John C. Chase, 1900-01; Frank M. Long, 1902; C.O. Galagan, 1903-06; J.F. Galagan, 1906-07; John O'Tolle, 1908; B.F. Swain, 1909; J.T. McNeil, 1910; A.E. Jaqua, 1911; E.D. Chase, 1912; F.A. Allen, 1913; F.D. Chase, 1914; B.F. Flint, 1915-16.

Business Interests in 1916

These were the chief business factors in the village of Elysian in the month of January, 1916: Bank, Elysian State Bank; blacksmith shops, Rohlfling & Jewison, J.E. Broulick; barber shop, C.F. Warner; drugs, J.W. Root; clothing, handled by general dealers; cement blocks, Allen Murray, R. Barrington; creamery, Elysian Co-operative, C.N. Smith, secretary; elevator, Commander Elevator Company; furniture, Chase & Collins; general merchandise, Swain, Wetzel & Company, C.O. Ga-

lagan, F.A. Lange, E.S. Johnson, S.T. Austin; hotel, Manawa hotel, National Hotel, James Cowna and summer resort houses; hardwares, Chase & Collins, F.W. Fischer; implements, Fischer Hardware Company; harness shop, Frank Meierbachtol; livery, C.A. Crook; lumber, Westerman Lumber Company; millinery, Mrs. L. Hanson; milling, Commander Elevator Company, Backman Produce Company; meat market, W.H. Tuft; real estate, Elysian Land Company; jeweler, A.E. Jaqua; photographs, J.D. Morgan; shoe store, A. Chalupnicek; newspaper, Elysian Enterprise, W.K. Wilcox proprietor.”

From “History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties Minnesota: Their People, Industries and Institutions” by Hon. William G. Gresham, Editor in Chief (1916).

This item was printed in the Minneapolis Journal in May of 1906:

“Unusual interest is attached to the meeting of the Lake Elysian Old Settlers’ association which will be held at Elysian on June 14. This is due to the fact that citizens of Elysian are planning to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of their town while the pioneers are with them.

William Lee, who was a member of the party that helped Surveyor Wright to drive stakes and lay out the lines of the townsite in June, 1856, says that it was then covered with heavy timber, and that the only building in Elysian was a small log cabin near the site of the present Catholic church.

The village of Okaman was platted the following year and another town, which was christened Empire, was established in Josco township. This was before the organization of the village of Janesville, and the people of that place were compelled to hold their town meetings at Empire, of which not a vestige now remains.

The grist mill at Okaman was erected in May, 1857, and Mr. Lee recalls that there was ice floating in Lake Elysian on the first day of that month. After the Okaman mill was built that village prospered, and for twenty years was a flourishing little place and promised to out-distance Elysian. When the St. Louis road was built thru to Mankato the settlement at Elysian revived and continued to spread out, while not a building is left to mark the spot where the thriving and promising town of Okaman once stood.”

An amazing fish tale...

Ice fishing conditions in Le Sueur County were less than desirable this year, so we thought you would enjoy this fish tale from the pages of the Jan. 4, 1911 edition of *The Faribault Journal*.

227 Tons of Fish One Haul of Seine from Tetonka Lake.

Clad in a diver's suit, beating and flaying the water beneath a foot of ice and pausing to thrust his hands into the gills of a floundering "buffalo," Minnesota's champion fisherman, Aaron Margolis, who lives at 102 Robertson Street, St. Paul, made his record-breaking haul last week by landing in one "cast" at Tetonka Lake, Minn., nearly one-half a million pounds of fish which are now speeding East in a train of one express and eleven refrigerator cars.

Sixteen men and a span of big horses assisted Mr. Margolis in this feat. It required exactly one and one-half days for the combined force to haul in the single seine.

When the fish were weighed, Mr. Margolis found he had 455,000 pounds, equal to 227 tons. The largest of these was a buffalo fish, weighing fifty-four pounds and presumed by him to be 75 years old, which he nabbed while wandering around several feet beneath the ice.

If the commission men in New York Baltimore, Philadelphia and Chicago, to whom the fish were billed, receive for him a fair price, say, 5 cents a pound, then Mr. Margolis will realize in gross receipts on this one haul of something like \$22,250. He declared yesterday he expected to earn net as much as \$40,000 before the winter is over.

This is thought to be the largest single haul of fish ever made in inland waters.

Usually a man seated in a restaurant is not served with over one pound of fish at an order.

Served at this rate, Mr. Margolis' catch would furnish an ample spread for something like 300,000 people. This is figured on the basis there would be about 155,000 pounds left after the fish had been dressed.

While two horses pulled these fish from the water, they made enough drags to average only four tons at each haul. At this rate it would have required 115 horses to yank all the fish out on a single drag.

Net Under Ice.

In order to immerse his seine in the water, Mr. Margolis had to break the ice for a distance exceeding 2,200 feet, the length of his net in a single piece. This seine is able to find the bottom of the lake to a depth of thirty-two feet. It is one of the largest owned privately in the state.

To get the fish into this huge net was still another matter. Mr. Margolis and several of his men had to put on diving suits to accomplish this. Then breaking the ice at a remote distance from the net, they slipped into the water and drove the fish ahead of them.

Mr. Margolis was recently granted a license by the state fish and game warden to fish in Tetonka Lake, a large body of water extending about fourteen miles through the southern part of Le Sueur County. He paid \$500 for this privilege, whereas the state believes itself well repaid since it is endeavoring to rid these waters of catfish, buffalo and German carp and to stock the lakes with the gamier bass and crappie.

For something over twenty-three years Mr. Margolis has lived in St. Paul and has dealt all of that time in fish. He occupies a high position in the West side Jewish community, where he has for many years been president of the Sons of Zion congregation. (Pioneer Press).



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 Nominating Committee meets March 26

Election of four Board of Director seats will take place at the Society's annual meeting April 16. To be on the board you must be over the age of 18 and a LCHS member in good standing.

All directors serve a two-year term and meet every month in the evening at various locations in the county.

A meeting of the Society's Nominating Committee is scheduled for 6 p.m., March 26 at the Le Center Public Library, 10 W. Tyrone St. in Le Center.

All LCHS members are welcome to attend. At this meeting, the Nominating Committee shall

submit the names of potential candidates for the available vacant seats on the board. Nominations of potential candidates will also be accepted from the floor.

The Nominating Committee will then set the ballot for election of board members. No names will be added to the ballot during the annual meeting.

Anyone interested in being on the LCHS board can email info@lesueurcountyhistory.org; contact any board member or attend the Nominating Committee meeting in person.

The mission of the Le Sueur County Historical Society is to collect and preserve the story of Le Sueur County — telling its history through historic sites, a research center, collections, exhibits and educational programming.