

EXPLANATION	
Section Line	—
Barren or Low Land	—
Wayon Road	—
Railroad	—
Creek & Springs	—
House	—
Church	—
School House	—
Adjacent lands owned by same party connected by a line, then	—
Post Office	—
Coal, Iron, or Zinc Mine	—
County Bridge	—

OUTLINE MAP OF **LE SUEUR CO.** MINNESOTA • 1898 •

Les Nouvelles Historiques de Le Sueur



Society plans special event July 4th

Members of the Le Sueur County Historical Society are invited to take part in a special event on July 4. Society's Genealogy Center in Elysian, Minn. on the 4th of July. The Center, located at 301 NE 2nd St. will be open that day from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Appearing at the Center that day will be author, historian, educator and LCHS President Bryce Stenzel. At noon, Stenzel will re-enact Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address which he delivered in 1865.

Plans are also being made to display a number of artifacts during the event.

For those interested in history but haven't had a chance to visit the genealogy center, the July 4th event is an excellent opportunity. Tour the facility and see a fraction of the fascinating history packed into a small package.

The list of historic resources at the Center includes church histories, cemetery records and maps, birth records, marriage certificates and indexed obituary clippings

Continued inside

Newsletter of the Le Sueur County Historical Society

SUMMER, 2025

The President's Corner...

Spring is upon us, and summer is fast approaching. Memorial Day marked the unofficial start of summer.

It has been a busy spring for the Le Sueur County Historical Society. Our Annual Meeting was held on April 22, at the 4-H building on the fairgrounds in Le Center, and was well attended. The Society's bylaws were updated to allow for board members to be elected in such a way as to promote continuity — retaining some experienced members to mentor new members elected to the board. The audience was also treated to Jason Lee Willis' fine presentation on Pierre Charles Le Sueur, which included a "Jeopardy" like trivia game, which promoted avid crowd participation.

The biggest news of the evening was the announcement that Chuck Buddi of Elysian had storage space available for the Society to rent, so that we can move our collection of priceless artifacts from the Elysian School Museum (currently under renovation) and the Cleveland Church facility into a more suitable, climate-controlled environment. At its May 20 monthly meeting in Ottawa, the Le Sueur County Historical Society Board of Directors voted to enter into a lease agreement with Mr. Buddi. This is exciting news! Now we have a place to store and preserve the artifacts, while the restoration work on the Elysian School Museum enters its second phase: window replacement.

Now that Memorial Day has passed, it is time for Bullhead Days in Waterville, and Independence Day in Elysian. Both will be upon us, before we know it. I will be portraying President Abraham Lincoln, giving his Second Inaugural Address (March 4, 2025 marked the 160th anniversary) at the Genealogical Center, at noon, on Independence Day. The center (which is already open to researchers for the season) will be open on the Fourth of July, as well. I will also be portraying "Mr. Lincoln," in the Elysian Fourth of July Parade, which begins at 2 p.m. I look forward to seeing and meeting many Le Sueur County Historical Society members at these events.

Enjoy the summer!
Bryce Stenzel
Le Sueur County Historical Society President



Morsching Tree Service used their expertise to take down three large trees on the south side of the Elysian museum. Because of the trees' condition and power lines weaving through the branches, the Society Board of Directors felt it was necessary to have the trees removed.

July 4th continued

from newspapers. At the Center you can find old plat books, maps, and town history books and files. Some family histories which have already been compiled can be found at the Center as well.

History enthusiasts are encouraged to volunteer at the Center. 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.



Le Sueur County Historical Society's 2025 board of directors are: (front row, left to right) Secretary Dr. Ruth Collins, Ron Greenwald, President Bryce Stenzel and Vice President Nick Pollack; (back row, left to right) Mike Frederick, Paul Malchow, Treasurer Colleen Traxler Carlson and Bonnie Reak.

LCHS board re-elected at organization's annual meeting

Members of the Le Sueur County Historical Society gave its board of directors a vote of confidence at the organization's annual meeting on April 22. The governing body will remain intact into 2026 per the wish of voting members in attendance. Returning to the board are Dr. Ruth Collins, Ron Greenwald, Dean Pettis, Bonnie Reak and Paul Malchow.

The meeting took place in the 4-H building at the Le Sueur County fairgrounds in Le Center, Minn.

2024 was a busy year for the Society and LCHS President Bryce Stenzel provided updates including improvements made to various sites and buildings. Equipment and software have been acquired to begin cataloging artifacts on computer.



Jason Lee Willis engaged the audience with a "Jeopardy"-style history quiz at the LCHS annual meeting on April 22.

The changes cleaned up old language which no longer pertained to the LCHS. Terms for LCHS board members were also changed from two years to three.

Guest speaker appearing at the annual meeting was author and storyteller Jason Lee Willis. A transplanted Minnesotan from South Dakota, he is best known for his works, "The Alchemist's Map" and "The Dream Catcher Chronicles," along with other fiction and non-fiction works. His children's book, "Tall Tales of LeSueur," brings to life Pierre Charles Le Sueur through some of the tall tales that have been written about him throughout history.

The LCHS Board thanks all of the members who attended and participated in the annual meeting, which takes place in April of each year.

Ottawa Church to open soon

The historic Ottawa Stone Church will be open to visitors on Sunday afternoons soon. The church has been closed for maintenance. Watch the LCHS Facebook page for details.

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.

LCHS thanks these businesses for their support:

Le Center **Montgomery** **Lonsdale**
507-357-2221 **507-364-5511** **507-744-4090**

**TODD'S
AUTO
PARTS**

415 4th St. SW
Montgomery, Minn. 56069
507-364-5148

"We're your neighbors and friends."
10 W. Minnesota St.
Le Center, Minn. 56057
507-357-2273

701 Ash St. NE
Lonsdale, Minn. 55046
507-744-4400

134 N. Kilkenney Rd.
Kilkenney, Minn. 56052
507-595-2273

CHECKING ■ SAVINGS
ONLINE & MOBILE BANKING



**Le Sueur County
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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

**P.O. Box 123
Le Center, MN 56057**

County Fair fix-up on Aug. 9 at 9 a.m.

In preparation for the 2025 Le Sueur County Fair (Aug. 14-17), the Society is looking to get our exhibits spruced up for the public.

The Le Sueur County Historical Society's Heritage Center and the Dist. #75 Schoolhouse, located on the Le Sueur County fairgrounds, have been popular stops for hundreds of fairgoers over the years. A work session has been scheduled for 9 a.m. on Aug. 9 for tidying up the two sites. There are jobs of all sizes

and abilities which need to be done — mostly general cleaning.

Buckets, rags, step stools, step ladders and paper towels would come in handy if you can bring them, but most of all we need helpful hands.

This is an opportunity to meet fellow Society members and create a good impression of the Society's work to the general public. We look forward to seeing you!

LCHS volunteers needed: Le Sueur County Fair

Once again, the LCHS History Center and the Dist. #75 Schoolhouse will be welcoming fairgoers to the 2025 Le Sueur County Fair (Aug. 14-17).

Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts over the four days. Your help allows the Society to keep the

exhibits open and provides great exposure to the work of LCHS.

Book your preferred day and time slot via email at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org or call (507) 267-4091. Thank you!

Ottawa annual festival is Sept. 7

The public is invited to take part in Ottawa Historians' annual prayer service and harvest picnic on Sept. 7. The 12:30 pm prayer service takes place at the nationally-recognized Ottawa Stone Church

with the potluck picnic following in the Ottawa Park.

Good food, friendship and great stories come at no charge.