

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

Les Nouvelles Historiques de Le Sueur

JOIN US AT THE FAIR! **Le Sueur County Fair – Aug. 18-21** **Le Center, Minn.**

Once again, the Le Sueur County Historical Society will be at the Le Sueur County Fair. This year, in addition to our usual booth in the commercial building, and the popular Old Settlers' log cabin, the Society is proud to unveil improvements made to the District 75 schoolhouse. Located on east end of the fairgrounds, the schoolhouse has received a new roof, a siding upgrade and paint job, and the entryway steps have been restored.

But your Society is not stopping there.

Coming to the fair? Be sure to visit all three sites and meet fellow members. Want to help? We're looking for members to spend an hour or two at any of the three sites to greet the public and spread the word about the work of the Society. Drop us an email at info@lesueur-countyhistory.org. We need your help!

The President's Corner...

Dear Historians,

As I write this letter, there are numerous things going on in the Historical Society. They are not exciting and worldshaking, but they need to be done. We are in the process of painting the plywood that is covering the windows of the Cleveland church. We are also temporarily protecting the bell tower and the artifacts that are being exposed to the weather because of broken windows in the old Elysian school. We hate to spend too much money on this because we are hopeful to receive a grant for which Ruth and Bonnie have submitted an application.

As you may recall, the work on the reconstruction and refurbishing of the school on the hill will be done in three stages. The first stage would be the tower, roof, soffit, and fascia. We are hopeful to receive this grant in the fall but realize work may not start until next spring. We are also looking for storage for the artifacts in the school. They will need to be removed when we commence work on the building.

We have finished work on the district 75 schoolhouse which stands on the fairgrounds. It will be open for public viewing in August at the Le Sueur county fair. At this time we hope to have a dedication in honor of Margaret Traxler who with her family has generously paid for the reconstruction and refurbishing of this school. I am sure you will be pleased when you see the school. In my opinion, it is a job well done.

We are still working with Covia on obtaining possession of the old school in Ottawa.

We also have been writing grants for new equipment in the genealogy center. This new equipment will make us compatible with other genealogy centers across the state.

As you might realize these things are not world shaking front page news. But this work needs to be done in order to move the society forward to hopefully make front page news. It is more or less like watching paint dry.

The 4th of July LCHS exhibit of artworks was well received and well attended. We are trying to keep a presence in the community while all this work behind the scenes is being done. I'm very happy that you have all been patient with us as we move forward and we are thankful for your support.

Signed,
William Stangler
President of the LCHS

LCHS Board News

Ottawa Stone Church is open for tours on Sunday afternoons.

The District #75 Schoolhouse will be open during the Le Sueur County Fair. We give thanks to those donating funds for this project to be completed. There's a new roof, siding upgraded and painted, and entryway steps restored. The inside walls were repaired and painted; and there is new flooring in the entryway.

Fourth of July Celebration at the Genealogy Center had 50+ visitors to view the Adolf Dehn presentation. Visitors are welcome to the Genealogy Center on Fridays and Saturdays through the end of the season in September.

LCHS Art Series programs- presenting the history and biographies of the local artists, Adolf Dehn (April 2022), Roger Preuss (June 2022), and David Maass (October 2022) are popular. Please look to the website or Facebook for more information.

Le Sueur County Fair will be busy. The LCHS will open the District #75 Schoolhouse, the Log Cabin and have a table in the commercial building. We are looking for volunteers from the membership reading this newsletter to call and help. Thank You.

Small Grant for a new Microfilm reader, scanner and printer was submitted to the Minnesota Historical Society in July 2022. We will hopefully get notice in late August if this grant was awarded.

Large Grant for the Elysian School roof restoration, rehabilitation and repair is submitted on July 15, 2022. We hope to hear by the end of September if this grant was awarded.

Pioneer Cemetery Marker Dedication took place May 21. The LCHS Executive Board joined with members of a volunteer committee who restored and reclaimed the cemetery at 476th and Stavenau Lane, Elysian to dedicate a new marker for this cemetery.

This is your newsletter!

Have news to share? Or a little piece of local history people might find interesting? Share with other members of the Le Sueur County Historical Society! Send any newsletter items to board member Paul Malchow at 745 Ottawa Road, Le Sueur, MN 56058 or email info@lesueurcountyhistory.org.

District 75 Schoolhouse Renovation Unveiled



The Little White Schoolhouse of District 75 — located on the grounds of the Le Sueur County Fair — will be ready for visitors when the 2022 fair is underway Aug. 18-21. The 150-year-old wood

structure was erected north of Le Center on property owned by the Chadderdon family. The school officially closed in 1943 and was moved to the fairgrounds site in 1958.

Time took its toll on the 18-foot by 36-foot landmark which also suffered tornado damage in the 1990's. Thanks to donations from generous donors,

the Society was able to replace the roof, repair fascia and siding, and give the school a fresh coat of white paint. The interior has been furnished and it looks like lessons could be resumed this fall.

There are very few examples of these old one-room schools remaining in the country. Le Sueur County is fortunate to have such a prime example of this era and now it can be enjoyed by generations to come.



Society Hopes for Financial Lift to Restore Elysian Museum

Project costs have been received and the Le Sueur County Historical Society has applied for a state grant to restore the red brick museum — located at 301 NE 2nd St. in Elysian. Extensive repairs to the former school building, built in the 1890's, include repairing the existing bell tower, replacing the cornices, repointing existing mortar, roof and chimney repair.

The grant application has been completed and is in the hands of the state historical society — which will administer the funds. The Le Sueur



County Society would like to thank the Le Sueur County Commissioners for their support and assistance in seeing this project to its fruition.

Once LCHS receives the grant money, work on the building will commence. This means the museum will need to be cleared of all artifacts and the Society is seeking volunteers to help in this process. Keep an eye open for updates on the Society's website and Facebook page. If you're interested in helping, send us an email at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org.

STORAGE NEEDED

The Le Sueur County Historical Society needs dry, secure storage for artifacts while the Elysian museum is being repaired. If you know of any potential sites, please contact us at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org as soon as possible.

ENGINEERS? CONTRACTORS?

We could use your expertise!

The Le Sueur County Historical Society board is exploring options for a new museum/storage building to serve the Society's needs for generations to come. While the board is blessed with many talents, we could use someone with engineering and/or contracting experience to help us make decisions in this process. If you know of anyone who may be able to help, contact the Society at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org.



Le Sueur County
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 123
Le Center, MN 56057

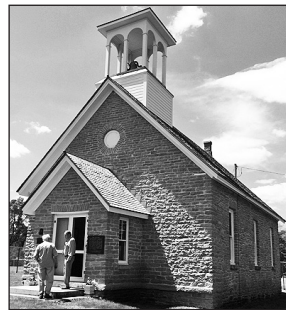
**PRESORT
STANDARD
Permit #55
New Prague, MN
56071**

CAN YOU HELP?

A few hours a month can make a difference

This is a new chapter for the Society and your board of directors is determined to return to our mission of preserving Le Sueur County's proud heritage. But we won't make any meaningful progress without active members. The Society needs volunteers to help catalog artifacts. With work on the Elysian school set to commence, the building needs to be emptied. Many hands makes the load lighter. The board is also exploring opportunities to share more Society artifacts with our schools and general public. Artifacts need to be cleaned and prepared for public viewing.

Leave your name, interests and availability at the Society's fair booth; or email us at info@lesueurcountyhistory.org. It's time to roll up our sleeves.



After major repair work and the installation of the new bell tower, the Ottawa Stone Church is open to the public Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. The church is also available to rent for small private gatherings. Call Dick or Kathy Peterson at (507) 665-2833 for more information.

The Society's Research Center at 301 NE 2nd St. in Elysian is open Fridays and Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. through Sept. 17. The phone number is (507) 267-4091.

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.

*Find us on Facebook under
LCHSHISTORY*