

**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
The Le Sueur County Historical Society (LCHS)  
April 28, 2026**

**The Le Sueur County Historical Society holds monthly meetings county-wide, the third Tuesday of each month. The LCHS Newsletter is mailed out quarterly with Events, LCHS Updates, Historical News relevant to the County, and Membership applications. LCHS asks that when you receive the next Newsletter, please pass it on to a potential new member, fill out the application and send it in.**

**The Le Sueur County Commissioner, Mr. Steven Rohlfig attends most of our meetings and we'd like to thank him at this time. Please join me in a round of applause for his dedication and work with the LCHS and the County. (begin to clap).**

**MCIT Report**

In the context of county insurance in Minnesota, **MCIT** stands for [Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust](#). It's a risk sharing pool that provides coverage and risk management services for Minnesota counties and associated public entities. MCIT is not an insurance company, but rather a Cooperative, where members pool their resources to share the cost of risk. LCHS has a current updated status. The cost for this coverage in the pool has risen, and decisions on finances AND Cyber Security risks are noted.

**EVENTS**

**March 10, 2026:** Guest Speaker, Jef Sauve, author and speaker, presented the works of Ora J. Parker, an attorney from Le Sueur, MN who wrote "The Le Sueur Lyre" – in the early 1900's.

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** After Lincoln, presentation by LCHS President Mr. Bryce Stenzel at the Tourism Center, Elysian, MN. This presentation tied the connection of President Abraham Lincoln's to descendants.

**November 21, 2025,** Waterville-Elysian-Morristown presentation by Dr. Ruth Collins, LCHS Secretary, and Jeff Jarvis, Historian and Dehn Artworks Specialist. Presentation was to Elementary and High school Art students on the works of Adolf Dehn, Roger Pruess and David Maass. All former residents of Le Sueur County and the Waterville, MN region.

**September 7, 2025**, Fall Harvest Service at the Ottawa Stone Church. Picnic followed at the Park Pavilion, Ottawa. One Wedding Ceremony was held. This location is available for Rental now.

**August 13-17, 2025:** School House District #75 and Log Cabin Open House during the Le Sueur County Fair.

**July 4, 2025** - 4th of July on the Hill, Guest Speaker Mr. Abraham Lincoln, presented the Gettysburg Address.

**May 2025** - District #75 School House visit by TCU classrooms, Guest speaker, Ms. Bette Traxler guided the students around the historic classroom.

**April 17-Sept. 19, 2026**, from 1-4pm. – Opening of the Genealogy Center, Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 pm. Volunteers on staff.

**April 22, 2025** – Annual LCHS meeting, Guest Speaker, Mr. Jason Lee Willis.

## **BUILDINGS**

### **Genealogy Center -**

Updated electrical wiring and outlets to accommodate new technology was completed. New -used computers, repurposed from the county have been scrubbed and uploaded with programs for the Gen Center.

New Technology – Collective Access was purchased through a MNHS Small Grant award. It is being used to digitize ALL the Accession Records since the museum opened.

**Lousi Hruska Shed & the Green Behlen Building** opened on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for the public to view.

**Ottawa Stone Church** – Bud's Nuisance Pest Control sealed the foundation and Dinsmore Construction checked the bell and toll rope. All is sealed.

**Cleveland Church** – Clean up is needed for the safety and preservation of the artifacts stored there. A partnership with the City of Cleveland is being discussed.

LCHS finished removal of the evergreen trees and scrub brush north of the building.

**Elysian Museum** – A Grant from The Schmidt Foundation was awarded in the amount of \$33,000.00. This grant is being used to restore the SouthWest stair entrance to the Museum. A big part of this focused area is the disturbance of earth. LCHS has the Archeologist on board for this work.

The Minnesota Historical Society Legacy grant was sent in and denied due to the large dollar amount requested. This grant will be resubmitted requesting dollar amounts for only the east and south sides of the museum. The door entrances are included in this request.

The old trees on the south were removed for insurance to protect the work on the Museum. The sidewalk on the south side is not to code and will need to be removed.

**Clean-Up Schedule for the LCHS buildings** – Ottawa Stone Church, Genealogy Center, and grounds around the Cleveland Church. We are looking for membership to help clean up the grounds. There is a sign-up sheet by the entrance. Please take a moment to sign-up and help. We will sign a Volunteer Sheet with a value of your time that is tax-deductible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ruth Collins  
LCHS Executive Board  
Secretary