

THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPEAKS

SEPTEMBER 2015

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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Mark Your calendar and save the date:

Monday, September 14 at 6:30

CCHS Bi-Annual Meeting and Family Treasures Program
(See details on page 4.)

Celebrate
WITH US!
a Triple Anniversary

SATURDAY
SEPT. 26

DETAILS
INSIDE!
(PAGE 2)



TRIPLE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 26

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Area History Center
123 Allen Street | Chippewa Falls

- ☛ Anniversary Cake & Coffee
- ☛ Find your family history at the Genealogical Society Library
- ☛ Museum Tours featuring new exhibits
- ☛ Area History Center Progress Slide Show
- ☛ Historic Live Music by Jerry Way 10:30-Noon
- ☛ 11 a.m. Commemorative Remarks
 - Welcome CCHS & CCGS
 - City Proclamation & Remarks by Mayor Greg Hoffman
 - Anniversary Cake Ceremony
- ☛ Special New Member Discount on September 26 only:
 - Chippewa County Genealogical Society —\$10 (Reg. \$15).
 - Chippewa County Historical Society—\$15 (Reg.\$20)

**We look forward to
seeing you there!**

Chippewa Canning Plant

JIM MANDELERT

The Chippewa Falls Canning Company started as a proposal by leading merchantmen in 1898 on the inquiry of canner 'out east'. That went nowhere. The next two attempts were 1899 and 1900 that did not work either. In April of 1890, Gustave (Gus) Lange of Manitowoc, made a proposal to the City Council for a provision of 5 year exemption on taxes on a \$50,000 plant. A resolution was made for the mayor to negotiate. The negotiation was not successful as the city Eau Claire wound up getting a canning plant in 1900 called the Lange Canning Company. It was started by Gus Lange and run with help of by three Lange brothers, Frederick, Charles and Louis. It was located on the west side of the Chippewa River at the west foot of the then Madison street bridge. This property today is the focus of the City of Eau Claire to develop into a new retail/residential area.

Due to the loss of a canning plant to Eau Claire, a group of Chippewa Falls businessmen organized to set up a Chippewa Falls Canning Company in November of 1900. The group included L.C. Stanley, J.B Kehl, James McKinnon, William Irvine, A.B. McDonnell, M.A. Poznanski, Leslie Wilson, M.S. Bailey, Thomas Kelly and L.M Newman. It was decided to order equipment to process peas, corn and tomatoes with an expectation to process fruit later. The plant was to built between the Omaha rail line and Mill Street on the east hill.

Work commenced in January of 1901 with closure by the end of February. The factory was 36x80 feet, the engine room was 16x20 feet and the 'big' warehouse was 24x50 feet. Contracts to provide 500 acres of peas, corn and tomatoes was secured. By July, the company found hand picking the crop was unprofitable and machinery was used instead. They managed to produce a 'pack' of 600,000 cans. In 1902 the 'pack' was 711,000 cans.

In 1902, the Chippewa Falls Canning Company branched out to include cattle raising and shipped 130 head to Chicago in 5 rail cars. The cattle were fattened on pea vines and corn husks. The plant grew slowly, adding pumpkins from 1908 to 1914 and snap beans from 1910 to 1917. A major rebuilding and enlargement took place in 1916 and 1930. A fire on January 4th, 1910 damaged the warehouse and 10,000 cases of peas were lost at a value of \$40,000. Insurance covered the loss completely.

Test your knowledge! 

Made In Chippewa?

JAMES ERICKSON

OK, think you know all about early Chippewa Fall's, Wisconsin products? Just how much do you really know about things made here years ago, many carrying the "Made-in-Chippewa" label? The 1925 promotional publication, Chippewa Falls, The City of Opportunity proudly boasted of the great variety of locally produced products. They were "carrying the legend [for honest merchandise] to every section of the United States and to foreign countries as well." So they said. Now, are you ready to check off below which were those products? Be ever so WARNED that there are some false answers listed just to keep you on your toes! And some listed below are still produced, others no longer. But check the discontinued ones as well. No looking ahead for answers 'til you have finished.

Ahhhh, just how many of these items were made in Chippewa Falls? (test pencil not included)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Boxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Candy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woolen Cloth | <input type="checkbox"/> Casual Dining Wares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woolen Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Pumps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mackinaws | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mattresses | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Goods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violins | <input type="checkbox"/> Soaps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing Powders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Paints | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone and Telegraph Cross Arms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doors | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundry Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sash | <input type="checkbox"/> Monuments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Radios |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mill Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Coagulatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Braided Fish Lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soft Drinks | <input type="checkbox"/> Near Beer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cigars | <input type="checkbox"/> Printed Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising Display Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Dress Shirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tap Dance Shoe Clip Accessories | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baked Goods | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flour | |

Have you checked all you are positive were made in Chippewa? Then go to page 5 for answers.



M.S. Bailey was named the director of the plant from 1905 to 1909. He was named president in 1907 and remained until his death in January of 1925 after an illness of several years. Bradford Viles of Minneapolis succeeded him and managed until a new corporation, the Chippewa Canning Company took over in April of 1927.

That new company was incorporated by R.C. Lange, George H. Hipke and A.B. Heian and engaged to can vegetables and fruits. In 1931, the plant was remodeled and enlarged. Both the factory and cook room were doubled in size at a cost of \$10,000, making the plant a three line plant processing peas and corn. In 1937, the company acquired the Big Four Company in Stanley, WI. The plant was built in 1913 to process peas and kraut. It was run by Frederick A. Lange. The kraut processing was discontinued in 1940 and replaced by corn.

In 1942 the firm became a partnership with Ray C. Lange (Fred Lange's nephew) and A.B. Heian as equal partners operating the new name of Chippewa Canneries. The plant shut down in the mid 1960s but remained open to neighborhood kids. It was believed that kids left a fire unattended in the warehouse and it burned to the ground on August 18th of 1968. What was left was salvaged and sold by the Madison Wrecking Company in March of 1969. Today the Chippewa County shops occupy the site. 🍷

IMAGE AT THE TOP OF PAGE 2:

During its heyday the Chippewa Canning Company was a major employer. This photo shows employees proudly posing on the wrap-around porch of the production facility in approximately 1910.

IMAGE ABOVE:

The Chippewa Canning Company created user friendly can labels that included suggestions for a well balanced meal for Saturday Supper. A variety of canned goods including corn, peas and tomatoes were initially produced at the facility. Later pumpkin was canned from 1908 to 1914 and snap beans were added from 1910 to 1917 as shown on the label graphic.



A Message From Your President

GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER

Our current Chippewa County Genealogical Society president, Gary Swartz, has initiated a new project called "work nights." If it is cold or rainy, we will work on indoor projects, which might include indexing, cleaning, sorting, or working on a specific family project. During the summer months, several members spent time walking through the county cemeteries, making certain that the 25-year-old index is brought up-to-date and that any new burials are recorded.

You are welcome/encouraged to join this group of dedicated family-tree nuts. Work nights are once-a-month, usually the second Tuesday of the month from 4 until 6 or 7. We work in teams and do have a lot of fun, especially checking the tombstones in cemeteries. Lunch is served afterwards at CCGS.

This year we will recognize our 35th anniversary and our 25th year of sharing the historic Notre Dame Convent building with the Historical Society, which will recognize its 45th anniversary. Come and help us celebrate during our Open House on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10:00 until 2:00. We will be available for research, with various presentations at 11 am, a CCGS history time line, and photos. Come and enjoy some anniversary cake and coffee!

Part of what we will celebrate is our volunteers. We extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helps with any phase of the Genealogical Society - we can't do all we do without a lot of great people. ♣

It is with sadness I have to report to you the passing of Arley Engel. I can't begin to tell you of his many contributions to the Chippewa County Historical Society. We will miss his quarterly "Engel's Little House On The Wheaton Prairie". I will miss his smiling face at the History Center. We will not forget him because every year we will get out "Arley's Trailer" for The Past Passed Here. His donation of many artifacts and research articles will live on at the Area History Center.

Jim Schuh, Donna Bourget and Elly Rochester have taken on a project to honor Arley. They are putting together all 51 of Arley's "Engel's Little House on The Wheaton Prairie" articles and photos. Our historical society is publishing a book of these articles. We will let you know when they are available for purchase.

Our American Alliance of Museums, Museum Assessment Program peer reviewer, Delicia Huitt, was here from Missouri for two intensive days of activities and we had a delightful and helpful visit. We expect her detailed report in late August. We already have learned so much and look forward to all the information and recommendations in that report. More to come.

The Ericksons, Schuhs and Gordons hosted a Volunteer Thank You Picnic at the Erickson's Cottage on Lake Wissota. There was lots to eat and drink and great conversation.

We recently needed to repair the last portion of the Area History Center roof. Fortunately a donation from the William J. & Gertrude R. Casper Foundation and a grant from the Edward And Hannah M. Rutledge Charities assisted us in covering the total cost. These very generous donations came at a perfect time.

Look forward to seeing you at our September 14th Membership meeting. *Dave* ♣

CCHS Bi-Annual Meeting and Program

SEPTEMBER 14 | 6:30 PM

Please join us on Monday, September 14th at 6:30, for The Chippewa County Historical Society's Bi-Annual Meeting. You will be amazed and entertained by local author, Jean Hebert. Jean will give a presentation about family treasures hidden away for over 100 years, rediscovered and returned to her family. She has ties to Scottish royalty and has authored two books. This is a presentation you will not want to miss. The evening includes refreshments and a short business meeting to update everyone on our goals and accomplishments.

Donations



Committees in sync!



Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

Donations in Memory of:

	From:
Arley Engel	Borgny Ager
Arley Engel	Don Bichner
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Lois Hopkins	Jim & Peggy Thill
Patti Birch	June Engel
Agatha Dachel	June Engel
Dale Johnson	June Engel
Chuck Lubs	June Engel
Jerry Mense	June Engel

Donations in Honor of:

Our volunteers- 45th anniversary Dave & Patricia Jankoski

Other Donations:

Dan Sweeney
 William J. and Gertrude R. Casper Foundation
 Edward and Hannah M. Rutledge Charities



*No peaking!
 Take the
 quiz on pg. 3
BEFORE
 reading this.*

ANSWERS TO "MADE IN CHIPPEWA?" (from pg.3)

Only acceptable correct answers are those listed in the publication mentioned. If you checked all but Barn Paints, Braided Fish Lines, Tap Dance Shoe Clip Accessories, Casual Dining Wares, Dentures, and Coagulatives, you get an "A." One wrong, "A-." Two, "B." Three, "C." (Don't you just love being back in school again?) Any more than that and you must be from Chippewa Falls, Minnesota or Chippewa Falls, Michigan. But thanks for taking the test! ✪

* Collection & Artifacts:

*Nancy Schuh, Mary Erickson, Teri Stahr

Photography Sub Committee:

*Donna Bourget

* Building & Grounds:

*Skip August

* Education:

* Marge Hebbing, Jerry Way, Catherine Lea, Evalyn Frasch, Ann Gordon

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Jim & Nancy Schuh
 Marge Hebbing

* Exhibits:

Nancy Schuh, Mary & Jim Erickson, Marge Hebbing

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* Membership:

*Mary McKenna

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* Publicity:

*Jim Schuh

* Newsletter:

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 Elly Rochester, layout & design
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COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

We are enjoying the warm summer. Our museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through October 3. We invite you to visit and see the new exhibits that have been developed. We have a major new Norwegian exhibit featuring rose-maling, clothing, wooden artifacts, and other interesting items. The exhibited items have pretty much taken over our library space, but the shelves are still accessible to visitors interested in our family histories and historical books. Other new exhibits include a farm yard exhibit for children and the newly remodeled area in our north gallery has interesting swim and gym attire from the 1940's. In our meeting room a new exhibit case currently features dolls from around the world. An annual changing of exhibits in this new case is intended to feature private collections that would be loaned to us for exhibiting and sharing with others. A major new exhibit is also in the planning phase and will be featured in our 2012 addition. It will feature the Northwestern Lumber Company operations in Stanley including its mill, railroad and general store. Early Stanley was a company town and owes its existence to the NWLC.

The other 12,000 plus square feet of exhibit space also have had items changed or added to them. On Saturday, September 19 at 1 p.m. we will be having an interesting program that all are invited to attend. Our major exhibit in the north gallery the last two years has featured businesses located between 4th and 8th Avenues in Stanley. Past employees, family members of employees and customers of these businesses are joining together to reminisce on working, sharing stories or having experiences as customers. It should be an interesting gathering. Betty Plombon will be directing the afternoon of fun. . .

Help Save the Cobban Bridge

Contact your County Board of Supervisors representative to express your concerns.

On November 12, 2014 the CCHS submitted a letter to the Chippewa County Project engineer and Project Manager stating: "... This bridge is architecturally significant and is a local landmark. In 1986 the CCHS requested that a Wisconsin Historical Marker be created recognizing the history of the Cobban Bridge. Funds to create and install the marker were raised by CCHS. We are responsible for continuing maintenance and we are planning to refurbish the marker next year.

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the CCHS Board of Directors to preserve this important bridge. We request that Chippewa County maintain and preserve the circa 1908 Modern Steel Structural Company Bridge. Some of the noteworthy history is that it was removed from its original location in 1916 due to the creation of Lake Wissota. It was moved to its current location by horses and sleds and installed in 1919. Please select the option of limiting vehicle access and preserving this highly visible historic structure. The CCHS Board strongly encourages Chippewa County to save this bridge from demolition for as long as possible..."



Cobban Bridge Wisconsin Historical Marker Refurbishing: In this photo Kurt Gaber, owner of Gaber Signs, carefully applies the accent color to raised metal text. Part of the marker's deteriorated wood base will be replaced and re-stained. During restoration a temporary sign was installed at the marker site stating that the plaque was removed for renovation. Paint on this marker has been peeling for years.

IMAGE AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE:

The Yellow River Bridge, constructed in 1908, was dismantled in preparation for creating Lake Wissota. In this photo the left half of the bridge has been removed. This bridge would be moved by horse drawn sleds up river during winter to become the Cobban Bridge when rebuilt in 1918. . .

Accent wall
in the new
Native American
& French Fur
Trade exhibit.



**WHAT WAS HAPPENING
100 YEARS AGO AT THIS TIME . . .**

EXHIBIT UPDATE

New Exhibit Progressing

We have been planning to redesign our Native American exhibit for several years. Marge Hebbring has plans for creating a new Native American & French Fur Trade exhibit. Part of her vision included a fairly ambitious accent wall. Therefore we had two long, busy, productive days in mid August. The first morning Skip August (right), Jake Jacobson (center) and Jim Schuh (left) went to Tim & Kathy Danielson's farm to select slab wood that they donated for the new Fur Trading Post exterior wall. The next day before noon the project was almost finished. A few days later, after this photo was taken, cedar shake shingles, that Tschopp Durch Camastral Co. donated, were added to the roof and the wood was sealed. Thank you to Skip for coordinating material donations and planning, Jake for layout plans and cutting everything to fit perfectly and to both for installing the wood. Skip and Jim had done the plaster patching and painting in the room the prior week. Then Jim washed the wood trim and floors. It looks like the new exhibit should be ready for our Sept. 26th, Triple Anniversary open house!

Story of Giant Dam in Construction at Wissota

Eau Claire Sunday Leader 11-21-1915

Graphic Details of Great Work on Chippewa River

"The Wisconsin-Minnesota Light & Power Company controls a tremendous amount of the waterpower facilities of the Chippewa River in Wisconsin, one of the really great waterpower possibilities being in excess of 200,000-horse power... The site of the new development is at Wissota, three miles up stream from the city of Chippewa Falls. The site is in a wild country, though far from an unsettled one, great areas of productive farms being not far distant. The lands which are to be flooded include all kinds of property from cut-over lands, still in the condition the timber men left them to cultivated farms. Good and bad lands, cleared and uncleared lands, to the extent of 10,000 acres, are included within the border lines of the lake that is going to be made in Northwestern Wisconsin by the construction of one of the greatest engineering works of this character undertaken of late years... Many changes will be made in the face of nature and in the local organization of ways and utilities. Old time roads and bridges will be supplanted by new ones and miles of existing steam railroad tracks removed from present locations and put into new ones. (See as an example the image of the Cobban Bridge on page 7.) An actual town will be built to house the people who will assemble to do the work, a town with boarding houses, sleeping quarters, offices, a hospital, water works, sewers, steam heat, and electric lights. When the job is finished in a year and a quarter, the town and people will be dispersed and the result of their presence, a tremendous one, will survive. This operation will cost two millions of dollars... The dam is to be composed of 900 feet of concrete spillway. This portion will be equipped with 14 Stauwerke automatic gates, each 64 feet long and 9 feet high, which will operate as a control of the floodwater. These gates are of recent use in the United States, their principal being a Swiss invention, the right to use them being controlled in the U.S. by the Swiss company. The gates are automatic and are calculated to hold the water level above the dam within one foot in the period of greatest run-off of the river. They are operated by weight of the floodwater, which causes them to open in proportion to the amount of surplus water coming down-stream, and letting it off under control...

To be continued in November issue of The Eagle Speaks.

From 1913 through 1917 Lake Wissota went from concept to completion. The harnessing of the waters of the Chippewa River, Yellow River, O'Neil Creek, Paint Creek and Stillson Creek resulting in the creation of Lake Wissota has had an enormous positive impact on western Wisconsin and Chippewa County. The increase in recreational and sporting activities has made this body of water a destination to visitors and a relaxing and scenic home to residents.

During the next few years our newsletter will review this process and progress. Xcel Energy has provided the Chippewa County Historical Society and Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Assn. with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations. 🐾

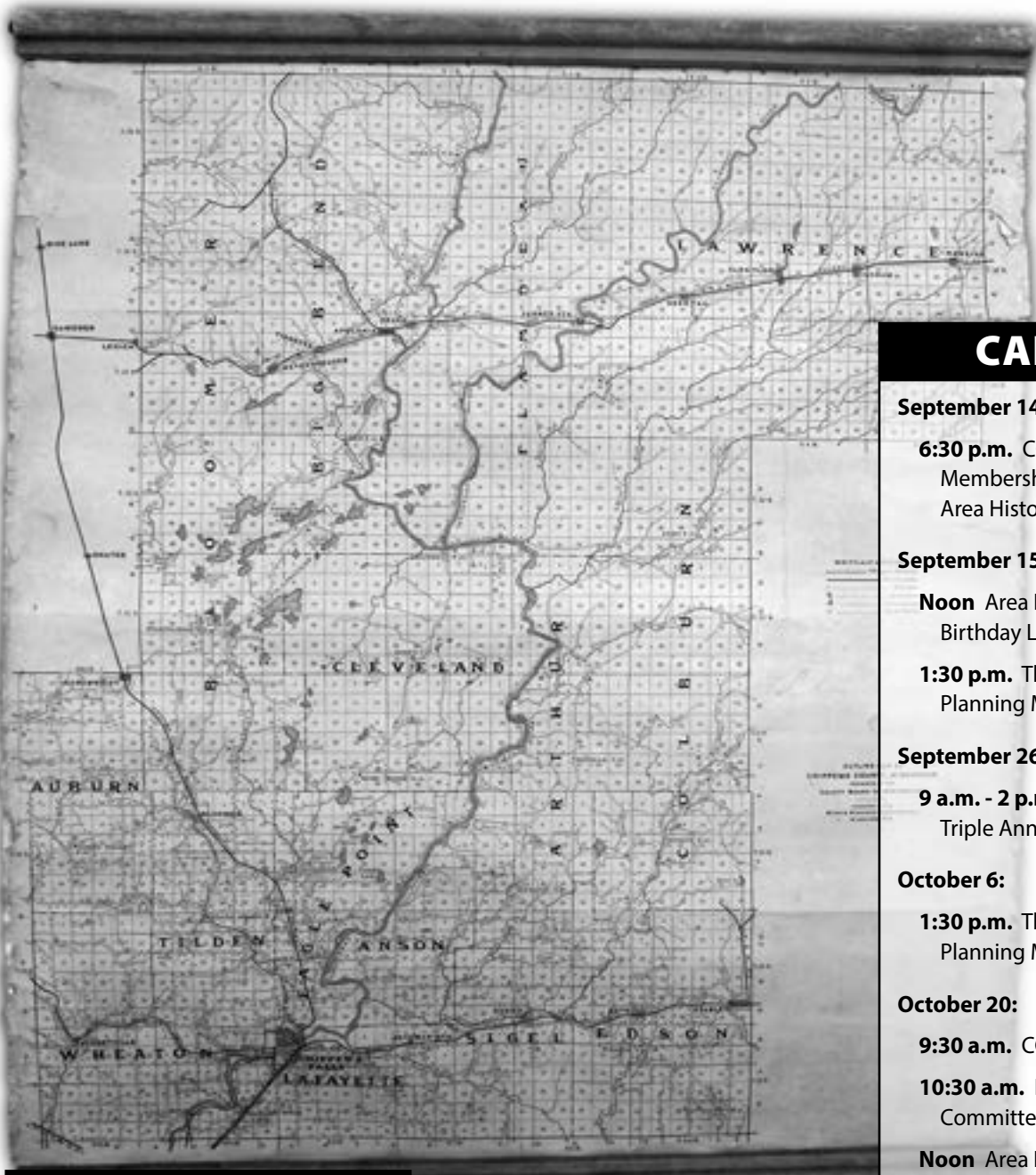


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Donated by Gordy and Donna Schafer. This map originally belonged to Donna's father, Don Erickson, former Chippewa County Sheriff.

CALENDAR

September 14,

6:30 p.m. CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting—
Area History Center

September 15:

Noon Area History Center
Birthday Lunch

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here
Planning Meeting

September 26:

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Triple Anniversary Celebration

October 6:

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here
Planning Meeting

October 20:

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

10:30 a.m. Historic Marker
Committee Meeting

Noon Area History Center
Birthday Lunch

October 24:

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Museum Open 4th Saturday

November 17:

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center
Birthday Lunch

November 28

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Museum Open 4th Saturday

FEATURED ARTIFACT

The Outline Map of Chippewa County is a 16.5" X 18.5" map printed on paper on canvas that was created by the County Board of Immigration. It shows the location of wagon roads, railroad lines, churches, schools, sawmills and hundreds of farms. On the map Ladysmith is called Warner. According to the book, *Centennial Memories—A Century of Gates-Rusk County History*, it was named Warner for only 10 years (1890 to 1900). So even though the map is not dated we can narrow it to that 10-year period.

Along with the map came an *Early History of Chippewa County*. It is a typewritten account that we suspect may have been prepared for the 1937 centennial celebration for the City of Chippewa Falls. The first paragraph reads: "In 1845 the entire Chippewa Valley, then a part of Crawford County, was set off as Chippewa County. As such it was one of the 28 original counties named in the Wisconsin Constitution adopted in 1848. From Chippewa County thirteen other counties have been formed. Buffalo, Barron, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Pepin, Rusk, Sawyer, Trempealeau, Taylor and Washburn counties were once part of Chippewa County."

Chippewa County Historical Society

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Celebration**
on September 26!



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THE EAGLE SPEAKS



SEPTEMBER 2015

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The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Mail any comments or future articles to:

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