

OVERLOOK

Cook County Historical Society

Summer 2018

THE S.S. COOK - 1918

It was September 1918, and World War I was raging across Europe. The United States was in full deployment, and funds for troops, ships, supplies, and military weapons were needed. Cook County responded by participating and excelling in many of the programs created to support the war efforts: Red Cross drives, Ten-Minute Talks at the Princess Theater, a Women's Club for food conservation, a Bat and Ball Fund for soldiers, the Committee of Public Safety, War Savings Club, and the Camp Dodge Fund. Community members eagerly bought Smileage Coupon Books and Thrift Stamps.

Another way to help the war effort was through the sale of Liberty bonds. These were war bonds sold in the United States to support the Allied cause in World War I. Purchase of the bonds became a symbol of patriotic duty in the United States. Cook County was active in encouraging citizens to buy the bonds through a program known as the Liberty Loan Drive. During World War I there were several Liberty Bond drives with the fourth and final drive beginning September of 1918. A telegram arrived for local Liberty Loan Drive chairman A.M. Anderson at the start of this final Loan Drive. The telegram stated that the four counties which had the highest percentage of sales in the Fourth Liberty Loan Drive would have the privilege of naming four warships. The Cook County News Herald stated, "Cook County has a very good chance to win in this contest owing to our small population and high percentage of purchases we have always had in Liberty bond sales."



(Continued on page 4)

HAMMER FAMILY AND SCOTT FISH HOUSE COLLECTIONS

Two major collections were donated to the Cook County Historical Society in the last year: the Hammer Family Collection and the Scott Fish House Collection. Together, they offer a wide-range of artifacts connecting this region's people to its lakes. The primary focus of these collections is commercial fishing, but each has a unique story to tell.

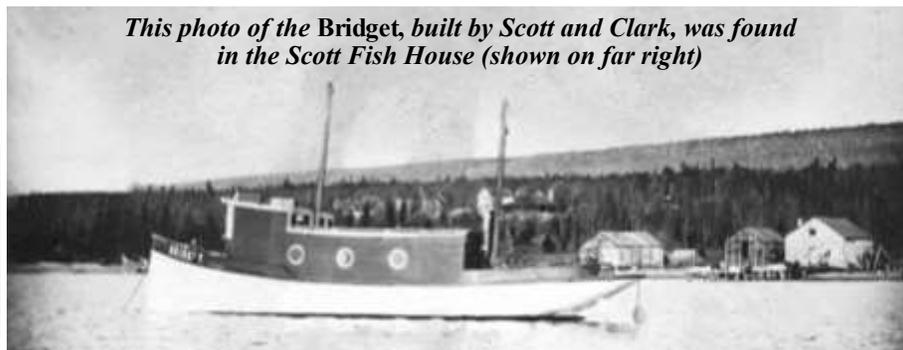
The Hammer Family Collection offers a domestic perspective with items every family needed to make their living from Lake Superior's bounty from the 1920s to the 1970s. Contents from the fish house and family home support the boats and gear required to bring in the catch. The Hammers also offered deep-sea charter fishing services out of Hovland – then called "the Lake Trout Capital of the World." Different equipment was used for different strategies. The family fished inland lakes and rivers as well, so the collection has an amazing variety of gear. With several wooden boats as well, the acquisition of this collection last summer inspired the Society to start planning for a facility to share the wonderful treasures with the public.

This winter, Harley and Shele Toftey donated the historical contents of the Scott Fish House. The Tofteys were preparing to sell their property to North House Folk School. Included in the sale was the 1907-built, cedar shake-sided structure that is on the National Register of Historic Places. The contents are a very important piece of Cook County's heritage, and we are thankful to the Tofteys for the donation.

From the Scotts, to the Eckels, to the Tofteys, the fish house has been at the center of the Grand Marais Harbor commercial fishing legacy throughout our history, and the collection reflects decades of work. Among the more significant finds are historic documents that

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This photo of the Bridget, built by Scott and Clark, was found in the Scott Fish House (shown on far right)



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We welcome the public to the CCHS Open House on Saturday, June 9th. Information on the event is found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please join us to see what we have been doing and opportunities to get involved with the Society. All of our sites will be open.

Summer is gearing up with activities. Please take time to visit our sites and scheduled activities. Let us know if you are interested in a particular site and would like to be included in future planning for that site. We will be starting to revise and update our long range planning document.

We look forward to a busy summer full of activities that would not be possible without our many volunteers.

Barb Backlund, President
Cook County Historical Society

...A MUSICAL ADDITION TO THE JHP

An old piano recently found a new home at the Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery. The piano had resided at the Cavallin Funeral Home and with the pending sale of that business, it was decided to donate the 100-year-old cabinet grand piano to the Cook County Historical Society.

The piano had once belonged to the Saethre family, former residents of the building that later became the Cavallin Funeral Home. Susie Saethre of Grand Marais remembered being upset as a child when the piano had to be left behind when the family moved due to the piano being too large to fit through a door.

William Beckstrand has inspected the piano and discovered that it was made by the P.A. Starck Company in Chicago. With a birthdate of 1918, the piano will be celebrating its centennial birthday - just in time for a new lease on life! The P.A. Starck Company was a reputable firm that was able to continue manufacturing pianos through the Depression years, finally closing their doors in 1963.

Beckstrand feels that with some minor repair work and a tuning the piano will be a fine addition to the Historical Society. "I think it is remarkable that a 100 year old object can still function and satisfy. In a world where nearly everything we buy today is meant to last only a few years....talk about an amazing value!"

The P.A. Starck cabinet grand piano will begin its second hundred years of life in the Anna Johnson Room at the Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery.



COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD AND STAFF

Barb Backlund	President
Hal Greenwood	Vice President
Eleanor Waha	Treasurer
Ann Sullivan	Secretary

Historical Society Board Members:
Bill Clayton, Dean Einwalter, Gene Erickson,
Mary Ann Gagnon, Ivy Hocking, John Jacobsen,
Alta McQuatters, Bob Pratt and Leonard
Sobanja

Honorary Members: Howard Sivertson
County Representative: Myron Bursheim

Carrie Johnson	Executive Director
Amy Henrikson	Office Manager
Elizabeth Davis	JHP Manager
Martha Marnocha	Museum Manager
Doug Andrus	Facility Caretaker

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in this 2018 issue of the *Overlook*

RENT THE
JOHNSON HERITAGE POST
FOR YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT!

Email: jhp@boreal.org

Or call: 218-387-2314

Visit our website for more details



Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery

115 Wisconsin St., Grand Marais
 jhp@boreal.org -- 218-387-2314
 www.JohnsonHeritagePost.org

DATES	ARTISTS/GROUP
May 25 - June 17 Opening Reception: May 25 from 5-8 p.m.	<i>Northerly Pots - The Long Pleasurable Carry</i> Early Snows Pottery (Fritz Lehmborg)
June 22 - July 16 Opening Reception: June 22 from 5-7 p.m.	<i>Through Our Hands V- Sun, Moon, Stars</i> Northwoods Fiber Guild Art Show
July 20 - August 12 Opening Reception: July 20 from 5-8 p.m.	<i>An Exhibit of New Works</i> Hazel Belvo & Marcia Casey Cushmore
August 17 - September 9 Opening Reception: August 17 from 5-8 p.m.	<i>Fragments of the North</i> Oil Paintings by Reid Thorpe

As the temperature outside is warming up and the grass is getting greener, it's time to start thinking about summer! The JHP Art Gallery has been busy with its full schedule of art shows, revamping the gift shop, and hosting rentals. We have several new gift shop artists. Natalie Sobanja's pottery pieces and Marianne and Jim Cordes's thomsonite jewelry and stones are some of the new items now available. Come by and see all of the great changes we've been making!

The Gallery has had a few exhibits since the last newsletter including the Spirit of the Wilderness exhibit titled "Chaos...Cracks...Creativity!" The show was a great mix of locally made artworks including art made by students at the Cook County Middle and High School. The Gallery was filled with families and visitors on opening night and everyone had a wonderful time.

After the Spirit of the Wilderness exhibit was taken down the Gallery was busy in preparation for "Chroma | Creature | Vessel | Vision," a family art show by Cook County residents Joel, Josie and Forest Lewis, along with Corrie Steckelberg. The show was an interesting mix of soft sculpture creatures, classical style oil paintings, wood sculptures, and resin ink color bursts. The exhibit was a success demonstrating innovative work from our community.

This spring, a group show titled "Found: 3 Views on Nature" was an amazing mix of work by three talented artists who had never met before. All of the artists were in attendance for the opening reception, and there was live music by local group, The Grace Notes, adding to the ambience. The show was a fantastic mix of woodcut relief prints, encaustic paintings, and mixed-media pieces inspired by nature. Scheduled to end May 20, we decided to keep this exhibition up during the new pottery exhibit to add a 2D element to the 3D pottery pieces.



Pottery created by Natalie Sobanja is now included in our gift shop

The current exhibit is by famed ceramic artist Fritz Lehmborg titled "Northerly Pots - The Long Pleasurable Carry." It is a wonderful show with a focus on pottery with handles. If you haven't stopped in to see the exhibit or what's new at the Gallery - don't miss out...the Gallery is now open 6 days a week!



A shawl from the Spirit of the Wilderness exhibit created by Mary MacDonald

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Three-hour shifts: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 1 - 4 p.m.
If you are interested, please contact us at (218) 387-2314 or jhp@boreal.org

(Continued from page 1....S.S. Cook)

The Fourth Liberty Bond Drive target amount was \$50,000. One month after the contest started, Cook County had “gone over the top” and the local paper listed all the names of the participants and the amounts in the paper, stating “Cook County was all the more proud of this distinction because there are 286 counties” competing.

Cook County did win the honor of naming a government ship after their community. The April 6, 1919, headline of the Cook County News Herald stated “Ida O. Nelson Will Name the Ship ‘LUTSEN.’” The article stated “because another ship in the American Navy bore that title [the “COOK”], it was impossible for Cook County to give its name to the ship Miss Nelson will christen. As a result, it was decided to name it after the town where Miss Nelson resides.”

Ida O. Nelson was born and raised in Lutsen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.A.A. Nelson. She was chosen as the sponsor of the ship due to her work in the Ordnance Dept. in Washington, D.C. Miss Nelson would have the honor of christening the ship with a bottle of champagne.

However, the ship was never officially named the “Lutsen” and instead was christened the S.S. *Cook*. The reason for the ship’s name being changed from Lutsen to the S.S. *Cook* was never given. Additionally, it was a government steamer and not the warship promised.

Finally, on October 3, 1919, in New York Harbor, Ida O. Nelson was given a bouquet of American Beauty roses bearing the name S.S. *Cook* and she broke the bottle across the prow of the government steamer and it slipped into the harbor. She was given a watch bearing her name, the name of the ship and date of launching by the Submarine Boat Corporation. The story was told in a letter to her parents:

Dear Dad and Mother:

The good ship "Cook" was launched today and I wish you could all have been here to see it, but as that was not possible I shall give you a little account of the launching. In the first place we had to get up at 5:30 to have time to get breakfast before starting. An hour's ride on the subway and Hudson Tubes brought us to Newark, where a large limousine met us and took us to the Submarine Boat Corporation ship-yards.



As I had never attended a launching, it was a big surprise to be handed an immense bouquet of American Beauty roses with long streamers bearing the name "S. S. Cook." Soon the signal was given that all was ready, and I had barely time to break the "precious bottle" across her prow before she was slipping out into the water, soon to swing broadside so we could have a good look at her.

The Submarine Boat Corporation presented me with a beautiful watch bearing my name and name of the boat, and date of launching. Wasn't that nice? They also took several pictures of us and the boat, which I will receive later, together with the remains of the bottle. I know the contents were real, because I was generously sprinkled, and got just the weeniest little taste.

The "Cook" is a merchant boat of 5,350 dead-weight tons carrying capacity and in two or three weeks will be entirely equipped and ready to start on her maiden voyage. I believe I have told you all the details, but I'll just whisper that it costs a million dollars to build a boat like the "Cook" and she will have to make several trips across the ocean to pay for herself.

Three cheers for the "Cook"!

No mention has been found of what became of the ship or where she traveled after leaving the New York Harbor. There was a mention of a ship delivered on December 12, 1919, to the U.S. Shipping Board called the *Chequocket/Cook* that was eventually scrapped in 1926.

It didn't matter that the ship was named the “Lutsen” or the S.S. *Cook* because it reminds us of the people who worked together for a common cause. The people of Cook County were honored for the contributions the men, women and children gave at home, the dedication to that cause and the many sacrifices they made to support the men that were fighting in World War I. - Thank you to Dorie Carlson for researching and compiling the information for this article.

Stop by the History Museum to learn more about Cook County’s involvement in World War I and all other wartime efforts through our military exhibit: *On the Line*.

(Continued from page 1....Hammer Family/Scott Fish House)

highlight the business aspects of early commercial fishing. In the loft of the building was a living quarters of Jim Scott's business partner Eugene Clark. Mr. Clark "filed" all the business transactions in his living space, and they remained there until 2018. Dates on the documents range from around 1900 through 1915! Some had been nailed to the wall near the now-missing window facing Lake Superior – and survived!

With the Hammer and Scott collections, the artifacts in our 1930s fish house replica and the *Neegee* (which was built by the Scott family), the Society now has a comprehensive representation of most eras and facets of fishing in the region. We are thinking broadly about the potential maritime museum project, keeping in mind other important properties as well: the Scott Fish House itself, the U.S. Coast Guard station in Grand Marais, and the Hovland Dock. As we brainstorm, we're meeting with other historical organizations on the North Shore that have complementary interests. Together we will try to imagine how these special collections, historic properties, and other sites along the North Shore can integrate the array of stories related to a life dependent on navigating and fishing these waterways.



Photos and documents found in the Scott Fish House



ESTABLISHED 1862. CAPITAL \$500,000.

WILLS OF THE AMERICAN NET AND TWINE CO.

SOLE BRANCH, BOSTON, 1867. WATER WHEEL, NEW YORK, 1868. WATER WHEEL, BOSTON, 1869. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1870. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1871. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1872. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1873. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1874. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1875. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1876. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1877. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1878. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1879. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1880. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1881. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1882. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1883. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1884. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1885. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1886. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1887. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1888. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1889. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1890. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1891. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1892. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1893. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1894. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1895. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1896. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1897. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1898. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1899. WATER WHEEL, CHICAGO, 1900.

ALL COUNTRY AGENCIES.

PRICE PER POUND

LINEN GILL NETTING,

MANUFACTURED BY THE
AMERICAN NET AND TWINE CO.,
 BOSTON AND NEW YORK
 287 Atlantic Avenue. Front Street.

ENGELSON & TOFTES.

Toftes, Minn. *quincy* 2nd 1902

Dear Blank Grand Marais Minn
 When I am sorry that I did not meet you
 soon you made up here, you can get all
 the cedar cutting you want - but at toftes
 of you will you than here 4 or 40 and Mark
 Right along some and next winter also of
 you have a good partner let me know a
 soon as after five 4th to Rep. H. Engelson
 and cedar

FOURTH CLASS. **A. Booth and Company** No. 3596

Fisherman's Receipt Ticket. 1905

QUANTITY 7/5

RECEIVED BY *G. J. Scott*

565	LB. FRESH WHITE, 1-0 TO 4-0 LB.		
15	" " " " "		
14	PACKED BAIT FISH.		

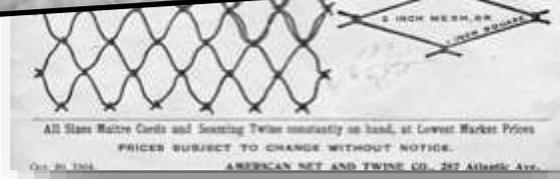
REC'D BY _____ PER _____

A. Booth and Company

MESH.

1 1/2	1.00
2 1/2	1.25
3 1/2	1.50
4 1/2	1.75
5 1/2	2.00
6 1/2	2.25
7 1/2	2.50
8 1/2	2.75
9 1/2	3.00
10 1/2	3.25
11 1/2	3.50
12 1/2	3.75
13 1/2	4.00

Can you help us decipher the letter on the left from Hans Engelson to Gene Clark?



**CLIP AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH A CHECK TO:
COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 1293, GRAND MARAIS, MN 55604**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send my *Overlook* newsletter by email

Individual	\$20	_____
Family	\$30	_____
Friend	\$50	_____
Patron	\$100	_____
Business	\$200	_____
Advocate	\$300	_____
Lifetime	\$1000	_____
Other	_____	_____

Please keep me up-to-date on any events, happenings, or news for the following sites:

- Bally Blacksmith Shop
- Chippewa City Church
- History Museum
- Johnson Heritage Post
- Neegee* and fish house replica

BECOME A MEMBER OF HISTORIC COOK COUNTY

We invite you to join HISTORIC COOK COUNTY—one membership supporting all of our sites—the History Museum, Bally Blacksmith Shop, Chippewa City Church, Johnson Heritage Post and the replica fish house with *Neegee*. Benefit from your annual membership!

- \$20 Individual** Quarterly newsletter the “Overlook” delivered to your mailbox or inbox and 10% off one gift shop purchase.
- \$30 Family** Three digital photo reproductions.
- \$50 Friend** Half hour sneak peek prior to all openings at the Johnson Heritage Post.
- \$100 Patron** 20% off a gift shop purchase.
- \$200 Business** Your business or organization mentioned in our newsletter.
- \$300 Advocate** One free four-hour rental at the Johnson Heritage Post.
- \$1000 Lifetime** Name on permanent display and the book *Pioneers in the Wilderness*.

All Membership level benefits include the benefits of all preceding levels.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT PLEIN AIR GRAND MARAIS 2018

The Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery is proud to be coordinating and hosting the *Plein Air Grand Marais 2018* competition and exhibition. In partnership with the Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, the JHP is carrying on this wonderful and long-standing tradition — a week-long, outdoor painting competition (September 7 -13) followed by an exhibition and sale (September 14-October 7) at the Johnson Heritage Post.



The Gallery needs your help to make this ongoing community event a success. Please consider donating today. If you contribute at the \$50 level or above, you will be invited to preview and purchase the artwork in advance of the opening reception for the public.

If you have any questions, please call 218-387-2314 or send an email to jhp@boreal.org.

YES, I will support *Plein Air Grand Marais 2018* with my contribution

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ Other Amount \$ _____

Check Cash Credit Card *Credit Card donations can be made on our website or by phone.

Name _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Address _____

Please return to: Cook County Historical Society, PO Box 1293, Grand Marais, MN 55604

JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE! JOHNSON HERITAGE POST ART GALLERY JUNE 9, 1-5 PM

All Locations Open: 1-5 pm

- ◆ Lightkeeper's House - Cook County Museum
- ◆ Bally Blacksmith Shop
- ◆ St. Francis Xavier Church - Chippewa City
- ◆ 1930s Fish House Replica with Fishing Tug *Neegee*



IMAGINE THE FUTURE OF COOK COUNTY HISTORY

New Staff and Board Members

New Membership Structure – with benefits!

Progress and Plans at Our Historic Sites and Art Gallery

While we continue to preserve and share Cook County's fascinating past, the Cook County Historical Society has taken some time over the last two years to assess and prepare for its future. Thanks to funding from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, our organization has undergone restructuring and planning to account for the many important responsibilities we've gained over the last 30 years. Our five sites around Grand Marais combine to embody the Cook County we all know and love - with art, industry, family, nature and community.

SHARE YOUR COOK COUNTY HISTORY

What part of your Cook County experience do you want to live on into the future? Cook County history is being created every day by all who live and visit here. Come share your stories with us and listen to your neighbor's tales. We will be equipped to record your stories or you can write them down on our Cook County Story Map. Young and old alike are encouraged to document what is important to them about their Cook County connections and memories.

PLUG IN TO "HISTORIC COOK COUNTY"

Are you interested in being a part of opening the Bally Blacksmith Shop? Would you like to share your ideas on the direction of our art gallery – the Johnson Heritage Post? Maybe you want to dig into our archives to learn about your ancestors and how they thrived in this isolated region. We would love for you to join our path forward – as a member, a volunteer, or advisor.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

If you shop on Amazon.com, are you aware that if you initiate your purchase on the website SMILE.amazon.com a portion of your purchase price will go to the charity of your choice? The Cook County Historical Society is one of the many non-profit organizations from which you can choose to have .5% of your sale benefit. While we are not advocating for or encouraging you to choose Amazon for your purchases, if you have already made the choice to shop on Amazon, please keep us in mind!

HISTORY MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS

JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY - SATURDAY: 10 AM - 4 PM

MUSEUM OFFICE HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR RESEARCH REQUESTS OR SPECIAL TOURS



*Lightkeeper's House in the 1920s,
Russell Woods Collection*

COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1293, 8 South Broadway
Grand Marais, MN 55604
history@boreal.org
www.cookcountyhistory.org
218-387-2883



Nonprofit Org
Standard Rate
US Postage
PAID
Grand Marais,
MN
Permit # 19

See page 7 for information...
**OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION AT
ALL FIVE SITES on JUNE 9, 1-5pm**

Thanks to a grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Historic Cook County will present more events over the next year. All are free and open to the public. Please join us!

DATES	EVENTS
<p>June 9 -- 1 - 5 p.m. Johnson Heritage Post - Art Gallery</p>	<p>“Historic Cook County” Open House—more info on page 7</p>
<p>June 23 -- 4:00 p.m. Johnson Heritage Post - Art Gallery</p>	<p>“Canoe Trip - 1917 Style” - presentation by Dan Helmersen</p>
<p>July 7 -- 4:00 p.m. Johnson Heritage Post - Art Gallery</p>	<p>“Researching the Past: A Personal History of Sawbill Lodge” by author Jennie Case</p>
<p>July 13 -- 5:30 p.m. Grand Marais RV Park</p>	<p>Planked Trout Dinner</p>
<p>July 26 -- 5:30 p.m. Johnson Heritage Post - Art Gallery</p>	<p>“A Sad Day in ‘58: The Rescue Attempt of Carl Hammer” Presentation by Dave Hammer, Ray Nagy and Gene Hagen</p>
<p>August 1 -- 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Johnson Heritage Post - Art Gallery</p>	<p>Old-Timers Gathering</p>
<p>August 3 & 4 Bally Blacksmith Shop</p>	<p>Bally Blacksmith Demonstrations</p>
<p>August 9 -- 4:00 p.m. Chippewa City Church</p>	<p>“Stories of Work and Play in Chippewa City” Presentation by Staci Drouillard</p>