

OVERLOOK

Cook County Historical Society • Newsletter • September 2022



Frank Merrill

Frank Merrill, 1911

Two Tramps A 1911 Scrapbook

On Sunday, June 18, 1911, two young Duluth adventurers set out to hike the North Shore of Lake Superior from their homes all the way to Grand Marais, just less than 110 miles.



Morris Braden

Morris Braden, 1911

Morris Braden was the expedition's photographer and Frank Merrill was its reporter. Their route consisted of a rough dirt and mud track interrupted by stretches of logs laid in "corduroy" fashion to create a stable surface in wet and uneven areas. Rivers were spanned by unsubstantial wooden bridges. The pair passed virgin trout streams, white pine logging camps, lake trout and herring commercial fishing operations and emerging lakeside settlements. After the first day's hike from Duluth through Two Harbors, they camped at Gooseberry River where they dined on brook trout over a campfire and slept out in a field in the open air.

On Monday, the 19th, they hiked to Beaver Bay by noon. A number of photographs were taken of this area and its beautiful shoreline. The pair camped that night in a "real tent" near Palisades, west of the Baptism River.

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TANK YOU

To the sponsors of our
Roaring '20s Gala Fundraiser



Laurie & Lyle Spry

Julie & Rodney Carlson

Emily & Tim Hausner



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Summer Hours

June 1 - October 30

History Museum:

Tuesdays - Saturdays 10-4 pm

JHP Art Gallery:

Wednesday - Saturday 10-4
(closed Mondays & Tuesdays)
Sundays 1-4

Bally Blacksmith Shop:

July 15-16; August 5-6; September 23-24
(Demonstrations on those Saturdays)

Chippewa City Church:

Saturdays and Sundays 12-2

BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER AND HELP TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION!

By becoming a sustaining member, you are helping to provide reliable support for our historic sites, programming, and collections!

Visit our website at
www.cookcountyhistory.org
and click on Membership!

*Tune into our
social media
to see more news,
updates, and stories!*

www.cookcountyhistory.org
www.facebook.com/CookCountyHistoricalSociety
www.facebook.com/JohnsonHeritagePostArtGallery
www.instagram.com/jhpartgallery
www.instagram.com/historiccookcounty
YouTube—Historic Cook County (MN)



Mission

The purpose of the Historical Society shall be the collection, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Cook County and to relate it to the history of the State of Minnesota.

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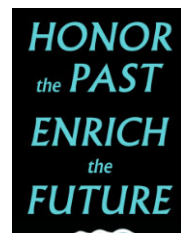
Staff

Katie Clark, Director of Operations

Dennis Waldrop, Museum Manager & Archives Specialist

Aliya Marxen, JHP Art Gallery Manager

Doug Andrus, Facility Caretaker



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Photo credit Renee Kinworthy

We continue to work towards a new archival storage facility that will go a long way in helping to support our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing Cook County's history.

Collection - We have been focusing on organizing our collections and getting our database up to date. Our current accommodations for storage are tight but will hold us over until a new facility is built. We have had to turn away donated artifacts due to space limitations.

Preservation - Providing a suitable long-term storage environment is top priority for preserving our artifact collections.

Dissemination - Not only do we collect and store the items - whether they are images, artifacts or oral histories - we strive to find the stories behind each item. It's the stories that count. Through sharing the stories we are able to connect the items to the people and the land. Sharing also occurs through presentations, demonstrations, educational materials, tours, art shows, publications, and research assistance.

We have a plan, we have land, we are working on funding but we need your help with raising funds for any matches that grants may require. Please send donations to CCHS and indicate that the donation is for archival storage.

Marja Erickson

Please remember to renew your membership!

As you read through the Overlook and see how we are preserving the past and sharing for the future - think about what it means to you! Your membership is one of the key funding sources that we count on from year to year.

Your renewal date is next to your name on the Overlook mailing label. If you are receiving this by email and do not know your renewal date - just email us at history@boreal.org or call 218-387-2883.

Membership letters will also go out this fall - so stay tuned!

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT



A visitor to the Bally Blacksmith Shop the other day inquired just what it is the historical society does during the six months of winter when the tourist season is slower - they were picturing that we shut down completely. Another resident, apparently never having visited the museum, assumed the employees just wandered around in historical costumes all day re-enacting the olden days. Maybe someday we'll give that a try...

Our team is busy year-round with preservation work. The activities that take place behind the scenes are some of our favorites actually - research projects; planning programming; updating educational materials and exhibits; maintaining our sites; keeping our publications printed; creating newsletters and postings; finding grant opportunities to support our historical sites, programming, and collections; and much more. As we continue to maneuver through the ongoing Covid precautions we are looking towards more presentations and in-person events.

Our organization - as well as the historical societies of Schroeder, Tofte, and the Gunflint Trail - continues to care for our collections, advance our programming, and share it all with the public. There are several other heritage sites providing similar preservation efforts in their areas - Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association, Grand Portage National Monument and the Welcome Center at Grand Portage State Park. All of this work is important and the preservation efforts of each of these organizations strengthen communities and emphasize the power of place.

Currently there are a few challenges with staffing shortages, decreased numbers of volunteers - coupled with higher than ever tourist numbers. The four historical societies have formed a Cook County Historical Alliance Joint Committee and a professional facilitator has been chosen to lead us through our options as we look towards how we can collaborate on our preservation efforts. A little networking can go a long way. In the spirit of the North Shore Historical Assembly (1929-1960s) which brought together the historical societies of St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties, we hope collaboration - on whatever level - can help with the overall sharing of historical, natural, and artistic knowledge of Cook County.

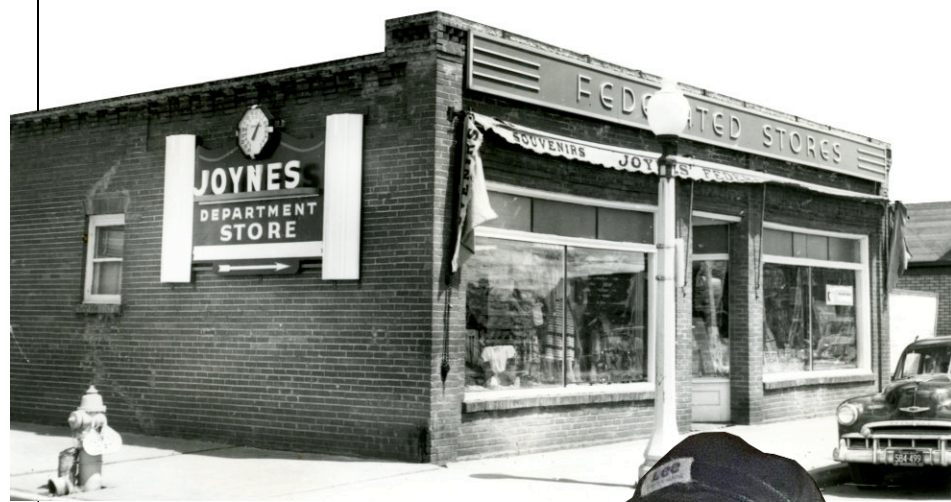
Katie Clark



Our harbor tour guides have discovered that Wayne Potratz's donated sculpture, *Camping at the Edge of Nature and Culture*, has returned to Boulder Park! First installed in 2018, it was removed until it could be better protected from traffic.

JOYNES DEPARTMENT STORE

Memories



Besides loving Joynes and wandering the aisles for years and years...admiring the treasures, the quality of merchandise and the variety of the goods for most every need, I have my own small story about this well-loved 80 year old "museum".

When I was small, Mr. Joynes had an advertisement for Lee overalls and work clothes. Part of that display was a composite boy doll named Buddy. He was about 12" tall, dressed in a complete set of Lee coveralls, a red checked cotton shirt, with a denim visored hat on his head! While my Mama shopped, I stood and admired that well-dressed boy, wanting him to be mine, more than anything in the world. Every day I would pester my Mama to go there, and let me look at him again and again. Unbeknownst to me, she talked to Mr. Joynes, offering to buy him when he was through displaying the advertisement. Of course, you know I was beyond thrilled when Buddy was mine that next birthday! My Aunt Ruth made him a wool black and white work shirt out of a piece of Uncle Ted's old one, to keep him warm. Buddy has always been my favorite, he stands on a shelf in my den; I look at him now, and the old Joynes store becomes vivid in my mind's eye. I thank God over and over that I grew up in such a splendid little town, in an era when life was carefree and naive. I long for those times. Homesick.

-Gail Linnell Wahlstrom

Images clockwise from top: Joynes Federated Department Store in 1950; Gail's Buddy Lee doll; Gail at Grand Marais' Fourth of July parade in 1952; Gail in a school play in 1950



*June 18-1911-
Harbor at Duluth*

June 18-1911 - Harbor at Duluth

The next morning, Wednesday, June 21, they photographed what was left of a shipwreck on the beach at Thomasville and proceeded through Tofte, past the Temperance River, and spent the night in a "real bed" in the shoreside settlement of Lutsen.



*Beaver Crossing! June 19-1911- 9am,
Another half hours walk would
have landed us here.*

Beaver Crossing: June 19-1911 - 9am. Another half hours walk would have landed us here.



*Beaver Bay Noon - Monday June 19-
Had lunch and shaved here.*

Beaver Bay - Noon - Monday June 19 - Had lunch and shaved here (?)

boarded a boat and sailed through the night to arrive back in Duluth, Friday morning, June 23, a mere six days after setting out.

Today, 103 years later, our knowledge of the trip consists of Morris Braden's photo album with 41 beautifully composed black and white photographs. The original photos are mostly 3" x 5" and have been

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*Found we had to sleep in the fields
so camped and had trout.*

Found we had to sleep in the fields so camped and had trout.

History Museum

The last few months we have made a push to digitize our collection of oral history recordings stored on cassette tapes. Many of these cassettes, some dating back to the 1970s, have exceeded their expected lifespan. Using a new software application, we were able to digitize nearly 100 tapes and produce transcriptions. The next step is to run each transcription through a manual quality control process. From there, the oral histories will be shareable, searchable, and accessible. We will also be adding these histories to our online database for the public to access.



The museum continues to make changes inside and out. Collection storage areas have been rearranged to facilitate the accession process. Since the basement flooding events in 2017 and 2018, many of our collections have been held in limbo awaiting proper archival storage and adequate space. We have decreased our intake of artifacts due to limited space and the Johnson Heritage Post continues to operate with limited art storage and work space due to accommodating much of the more fragile textile and archives collections of the museum. As we work through a backlog of items needing to be accessioned into our collections, we will be able to streamline the process due to a new collections policy which the board passed last month. We are also working towards setting up a research library - organizing our books and reference materials in order to better facilitate the research process for both us and our visitors. On the outside, work has begun on front yard improvements to refresh the curbside appeal, create attractive and accessible seating areas, showcase new signage, and make lawn maintenance more efficient. The updates were made possible by a Great Place Grant from the Cook County Chamber Board.



Our exhibits continue to evolve! Recently we have added an interactive multi-media kiosk from Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education which allows users to browse a multitude of stories, images and articles from all along the north shore. A popup exhibit of World's Best Donuts was created just before our July Culture Crawl - to the delight of many visitors! We are also working on creating a display area that will feature rotating exhibits of smaller, local collections - providing a way for people to share their own Cook County historical collections.

A big thanks to our two recent presenters: Brian Tofte gave a presentation during Fisherman's Picnic, *Early Days on the North Shore: A Collection of Stories*. This will be available on YouTube soon (working on subtitles.) At our Gala on August 23rd, Dan Helmersen gave the presentation about Cook County in the 1920s and worked with Judy Boots on the fashion show featuring her collection.

WORLD'S BEST DONUTS POP-UP EXHIBIT

Thank you to Dee Brazell for loaning us some of World's Best Donuts equipment for our pop-up exhibit at the History Museum! From the west side of the harbor, to Joynes Bargain Barn, and finally to 10 East Wisconsin Street - the donuts first created by Merieta "GrammaRita" Altrichter in 1969, have made their way into the hearts of many. Four (going on five) generations of Merieta's family have grown the business for 53 years to what it is today - a true testament to the combination of lard and love.

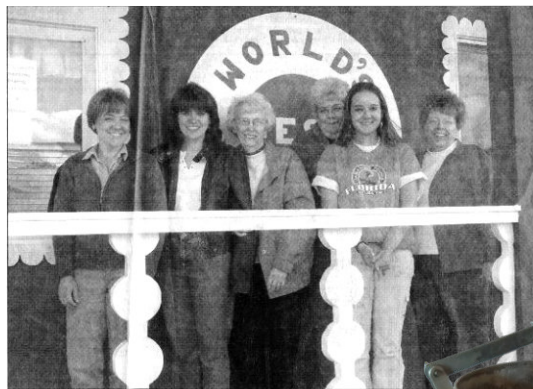
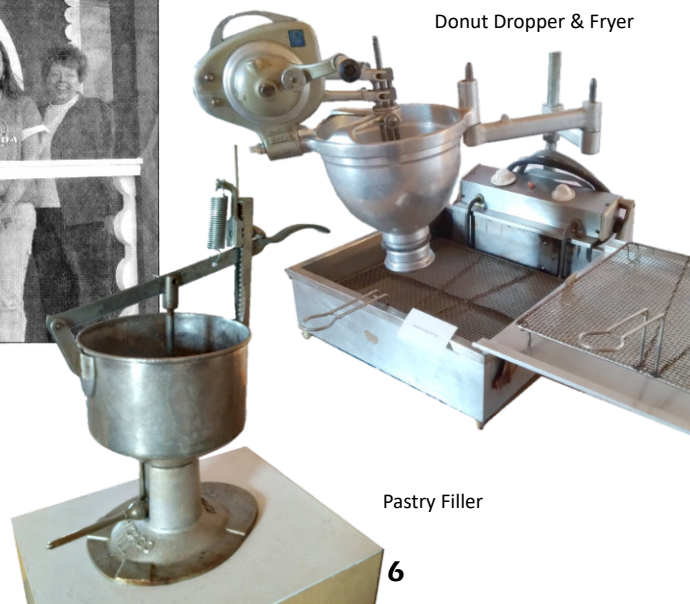


Photo by Vicki Biggs-Anderson

Why the World's Best Donuts are "Oh, so sweet!" The secret ingredients are, left to right, Altrichter's granddaughters Stacey Hawkins, DeAnn Brazell, Marieta, daughter Donna Wilson, great-granddaughter Kalli Hawkins and daughter Sherrie Lindskog.



Pastry Filler



JHP Art Gallery



2022 Exhibit Schedule

- July 22 - Aug 14: Lake Superior Watercolor Society
- Aug 19 - Sep 11: Alexa Carson
- Sep 9 - Sep 16: Plein Air 2022 Competition
- Sep 16 - Oct 9: Plein Air 2022 Exhibition
- Oct 14 - Nov 6: Books, Mueller, Christiansen
- Nov 11 - Dec 4: North House Folk School
- Dec 9 - Jan 1: Cook County Potters

Overlook subscribers get the first peek at our 2023 line-up! It's going to be another great year full of diverse talent and various mediums.

2023 Exhibit Schedule

- Jan 6 - Jan 29: Spirit of the Wilderness
- Feb 3 - Feb 26: Plein Air '22 Grand Prize Winner
- Mar 10 - April 2: Winter Plein Air
- April 7 - April 30: North Shore Artists League
- May 5 - May 28: Douglas Ross, Up North Landscapes
- June 2 - June 25: Sandi Pillsbury
- June 30 - July 23: Lee Englund
- July 28 - August 20: Morgan, MacDonald, Hedstrom - Fiber Exhibit
- Aug 25 - Sep 17: Wood, Larsen, Steckelberg
- Sep 15 - Sep 21: Plein Air 2023 Competition
- Sep 22 - Oct 15: Plein Air 2023 Exhibition
- Oct 20 - Nov 12: Cam Zebrun
- Nov 17 - Dec 10: Zimmerman, Swanson, Klooster - Dark Skies Exhibition
- Dec 15 - Jan 7: Jayne Richards - Genesis Loci

Gallery Update

Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery has had a wonderful summer season this year

We kicked off the season with a whimsical exhibit from the Northwoods Fiber Guild, followed by *Living Color* from The Lake Superior Watercolor Society. Both group exhibits displayed the incredible variety one can find in different mediums. It's always fun to see the different directions an artist can take an inspiration, theme or medium!

Our current exhibit is *Yearning*, from Alexa Carson. Carson breathes life into masterful animal portraits, adding further depth and meaning by using antique book pages and posters as her canvas. Portraying a wide variety of Minnesota animals, *Yearning* is a must see while you're strolling in downtown Grand Marais!



American Goldfinch, Alexa Carson



Plein Air painters outside

Kicking off fall is our biggest exhibition of the year: *Plein Air Grand Marais!* This 2023 season is sure to be an incredible show, featuring both veteran Plein Air artists and some who are new to the Grand Marais scene. During the week of September 9th through 16th, keep an eye out around the county for artists furiously painting a way in preparation for the reception and award ceremony Friday, September 16th. Join us 5-7pm that evening for our Plein Air celebration.

The log restoration process started last fall on the exterior of JHP is now complete! The acrylic finish has been removed, and this spring a preservative was applied before a new breathable stain and sealer went on. Thanks to the hard work of Beran's Handcrafted Log Homes and Fine Finish Paint and Coatings, JHP will look great for seasons to come!

Exhibitions aren't the only time you can get original art at JHP. We offer many original and framed works by a variety of local and regional artists. From watercolors small enough to fit on your desk, to glistening metal printed photography and wide canvas oil paintings, there's something here to suit every desire.



Sunset on Artist's Point by Erin Renier

HONOR
the **PAST**
ENRICH
the
FUTURE

Historic
COOK COUNTY - MN

Remembering Dean Einwalter



Dean Einwalter (right) being presented a certificate in 1997 by the US Department of the Interior upon his retirement from a 30 year career.

The Cook County Historical Society was fortunate to have Dean Einwalter serving in several roles on the board for almost three decades. Dean heavily supported the preservation and interpretation of local historic sites - as well as the preservation of public lands. He was happy to see the Bill Bally Blacksmith and Welding shops restored and open to the community. In addition to his contributions to the CCHS board, Dean was the former superintendent of Grand Portage National Monument (1987-1998). As Superintendent of Grand Portage, Dean initiated the funding and design of the Heritage Center and park headquarters, which were completed after his retirement. In retirement, Dean continued with the historical society and also opened Fox Lair Woodworking where he recycled various woods into finely crafted furniture. He also raised organic produce on his Fox Lair Farm. We are happy to have been a part of Dean's legacy. He accomplished much in his life and positively impacted many people and places along the way.

INTERNSHIP AT THE MUSEUM



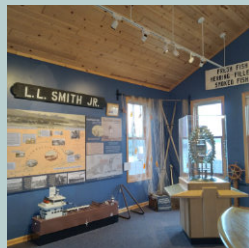
Zoe Jopp attends the University of Southern Maine and is entering her final year in the Geography-Anthropology program with a specialization in Cultural and Natural Heritage Management.

Earlier this summer, Zoe completed a two week internship at the CCHS History Museum where she learned standard museum functions, assisted with our archive collections, and studied the management of museum collections and historical sites. Working alongside the Museum Manager and Archives Specialist, Zoe was able to process oral history transcriptions from recently digitized collections. She also had the opportunity to accession donated artifacts while learning the process from donation through deaccession. Partnering with the Director of Operations, Zoe gained insight into various types of museum positions and job functions; reviewed several of our collections; studied the archaeological dig report on the Chippewa City Church; and visited several local historical sites. We were fortunate to have her with us and we wish her the best in her future!

The Cook County Historical Society Presents

Culture Crawl

A Multi-Stop Evening Event



Maritime Exhibit at the History Museum



Space Between the Breaths III, Greg Mueller

Held monthly from 5 - 7 pm on the last Friday of every JHP Art Gallery exhibition.

Visit both the History Museum and the JHP Art Gallery and receive a free beverage at the Gun Flint Tavern!

For more information and dates:
www.cookcountyhistory.org/events
jhp@boreal.org
218-387-2883

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many volunteers who help to run our programs and operate our sites.

You are very much appreciated!

Ballys

Mike Gieseke, Tom Kintop, Lyle Spry

Museum

Amber Waldrop

Chippewa City Church

Alta McQuatters, Maggie Waldrop

JHP Art Gallery

Carolyn Schmidt, Philis Anderson, Linda Blaine Otis, Maggie Anderson, Lois Clay, Laurie Spry, Dean Farnum

Research

Dorie Carlson, Pat Zankman

Harbor Tours

Bob Carter, Tyler Howell

Community Committee Members, Projects

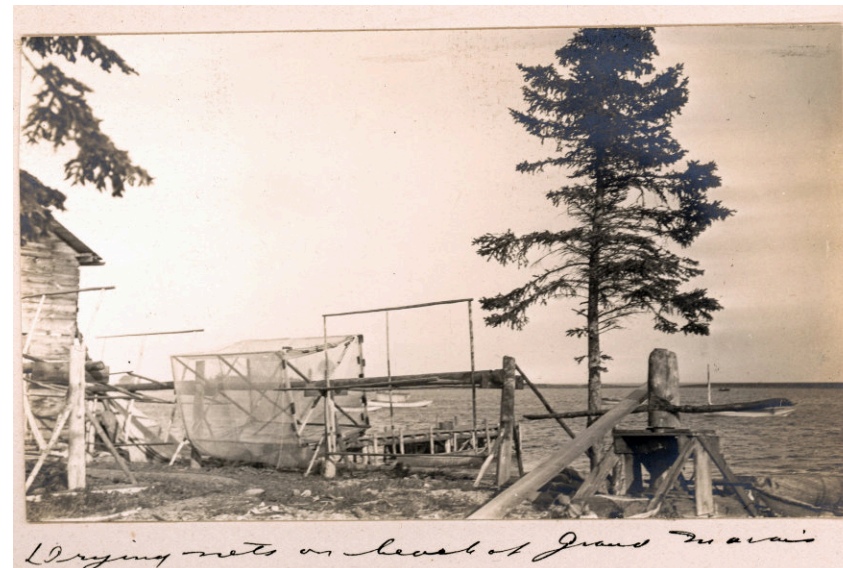
Duane Ege, Dick Gilyard, Bruce Johnson



Wreck on shore of Thomasville. Wednesday morning June 21



Lutsen: We had a good supper, clean bed and dandy treatment.



Drying nets on beach at Grand Marais

Two Tramps Scrapbook,

Continued from page 5

scanned and reprinted at 11" x 14" including margins with Morris's hand written notations.

According to Braden family lore, Frank Merrill's written account of the trip with photographs was published following the trip in a yet to be determined outdoors magazine. To date, we have not been successful in finding this article but it is still early in the discovery process.

- Mark Westin, 2017

CCHS received the Two Tramps Scrapbook in 2017 from Mark Westin. The accession consisted of digital images and high quality printed scans of a scrapbook made in 1911 of Merrill and Braden's hiking trip from Duluth to Grand Marais.



Wireless Station (Grand Marais)

Chicago Bay Schools

Hovland, MN



Chicago Bay School, c. 1898



Mrs Ellingsen and students at the Chicago Bay School, c. 1898



Chicago Bay School, 1934



Chicago Bay School, 1954



Bathrooms added, no porch, c.1960

The first school at Chicago Bay was Moose Valley, held in the Amund Jensen cabin in 1891-92 (only the post office was named Hovland at this time). Several other homes were used to house the school, including those of Johan Jacobsen, and Jacob Peterson. The Old Town Hall was used for several years and a new school was built in 1898 (which burned in 1925). At times students were transported to the Flutereed School. A new school was built in 1925 and school continued there into the 1960s.

A Bar Called Hovland

1979

I want to go back to the Chicago Bay Schoolhouse
To see if I can see the children reading
To climb the wooden stairs in the front
This time with their parents.
They are come this evening for a town meeting.
What are your concerns sheltered on this lakeside meadow
whose prairie grass flies in the cold breeze
whose flagpole no longer sports a flag
this afternoon as we cautiously step over the vandalized glass and peer in the rooms?

I want to go back to the first unpainted walls
When one of the children there was the hotelkeeper's, maybe prouder than the rest.
I want to hear the swinging oak door closed gently, carefully by the teacher.
Could she teach them to love the water and the woods?
Could she teach them to outlast the whims of the touring hotel guests?
Could she predict that Chicago Bay would become little more than a house or two and a bar called Hovland?

I want to go back and talk to the barkeeper and the residents
whose addresses are 0 and 8 and whose shacks warn to beware of ghost dogs, for there are today no barks but those on the birch.

I want to go back with hammer and nails
With paint brushes to undo the peeling pastels, well meant improvements of a between year.

-Thomas Clark

FOR 98 YEARS, COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS BEEN COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND SHARING



OUR MATERIAL, CULTURAL, AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE.

To help us continue our work so that future generations can learn from the past and enrich their future - please consider becoming a sustaining member or renewing your membership today!
If you are not already a member - join us!
Donations and memberships can be done online at www.cookcountyhistory.org - or use the forms below!

DONATE

You can easily donate online at www.cookcountyhistory.org/donate

- Please accept my tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to be put towards the **general operating fund** of the Cook County Historical Society in order to support programs and services to the community.
- Please accept my tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to be put towards the **new archival storage facility** of Cook County Historical Society.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail this form and your payment to: Cook County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1293, Grand Marais, MN 55604
To pay by phone please call 218-387-2883

RENT THE JOHNSON HERITAGE POST

FOR YOUR NEXT

EVENT

The Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery is available for private event rentals with the option to rent one room or the whole facility. The facility offers kitchen access and a spectacular view of the Grand Marais Harbor. This beautiful log structure is a perfect place for holiday parties, weddings, baby showers or most any event you can think of!

Stop by the Gallery to receive an application for rental or find it online at www.cookcountyhistory.org/rental-information. We are currently booking for 2022 - 2023 events!

For more information, please email jhp@boreal.org or call 218-387-2314.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewing or new memberships can be done online at www.cookcountyhistory.org/become-a-member

- I would like to **RENEW** my membership Individual \$25 Family \$30 Friend \$50 Patron \$100
 I would like to become a **NEW MEMBER** Business \$200 Advocate \$300 Lifetime \$1000
 Please **EMAIL** my Overlook newsletter to me Please send my Overlook newsletter by **MAIL**

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Mail this form and your payment to: Cook County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1293, Grand Marais, MN 55604
To pay by phone please call 218-387-2883



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Return Service Requested

A friendly reminder — your next membership payment is due by the date to the right of your name on the address label. Don't want to miss a payment? Become a sustaining member!

If you are a lifetime member — no payment is due, but please consider an additional donation!

Thank you!

2022 Historical Society Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Coming up in October - watch for your special invitation!

Plein Air Grand Marais Celebrates 20 Years in 2022!

Sept 11-16: Competition Week in Cook County

Sept 16: Competition Awards Ceremony/Reception, 5-7 pm

Sept 17 - Oct 9: JHP Art Gallery Exhibition

Find events and more at www.pleinairgrandmarais.org

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Would you like to help collect, preserve, and share the history and art of Cook County?

We have opportunities throughout the year at our sites - whether greeting visitors, tackling a project, diving into research, or assisting with the collections - we would love to have you join us! We even have projects you can do at home...

For more details on volunteer opportunities:

- Visit www.cookcountyhistory.org and click on the [Join Us](#) and [Volunteer](#) tabs
- Email us at history@boreal.org
- Call us at 218-387-2883 (Museum) or 218-387-2314 (JHP Art Gallery)



Original watercolors by Tom McCann

Dama Horse Paintings by Christine Erickson



Plus you'll find clothing, cards, archival prints, jewelry, art, carvings, furniture, stickers, books, and more!

Stop by our gift shops at the History Museum and the JHP Art Gallery - or visit us online at www.cookcountyhistory.org