



**Crosslake Area
Historical Society
PO Box 134
35404 County Road 3
Crosslake, MN 56442**

Crosslakelogvillage.com
Editor: Mary Dischinger

218-692-5400
Winter 2024

A note from the President

An unusual December weather with very little snow fall, rain and very mild temperatures has prevailed. Lots of open water yet on the big lakes, We of the Crosslake Area Historical Society are, however, looking ahead for “real” winter and making plans for another interesting and welcoming season at the Log Village. Board members, committee heads and interested volunteers are generating ideas for events and happenings for the 2024 summer and fall season.

We are thrilled with the “renewed” interest of so many new and sustaining members. Response to the Saturday events and Back Porch presentations on a weekly basis has been outstanding. Again, we have had great interest shown to these events and presentations.

There will be some changes made to our entrance as you cross the river to enter The Historic Log Village. Construction of the roundabout at the intersection of 66 and County Rd 3 will begin early in 2024. We will, however, be open as usual on weekends and for special events.

The Log Village is totally run and operated by volunteers. We are always looking for new volunteers to join us in the many activities we provide for the community. In particular, we need volunteers to be on deck for visitors on weekends, help with spring and fall grounds clean-up, speakers, arts and craft mentors, teachers, idea generators, maintenance of the buildings

and grounds, etc. We are open to ideas and innovations! Come join our happy crew!

The parking lot and additional parking spaces will be available at the Village for the St Patrick’s Day Parade. Cost is \$20.00 per car. This year’s parade will take place on Saturday, March 16th. We are grateful to all our volunteers and visitors for 2023. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

MK Williams

Crosslake Historic Log Village

Listed on Trip Advisor as #1 of 12 things to do in Crosslake, MN Check it out!!



Listed are the individuals who contributed financially during 2023 to the Crosslake Historical Society through their support of the membership drive, the Cocktail Party, donations and memorials.

Joseph & Janet Albrecht
Molly Amt
Clyde & Judy Anderson
Dorothy & Andy Anderson
John & Linda Andrews
Tina & John Angell
Ginny Arvig
Jeff & Lindsay Balmer
Matt & Renee Balmer
Priscilla Balmer
Nancy & David Barnes
Dustin Benoit
Linda Benson
Julie Beste
Cindy & Milt Bighley
Susan Bilek
Rob & Jennifer Birkeland
Kathy Brodin
Linda Brown
Jan Burton
Kent Carlson
Robert & Nancy Christensen
Joe & Teresa Christensen
Karen Christofferson
Tom & Amy Claussen
Tony & Bonnie Coffey
Mike Cormaney
Pat Cormaney
Bruce & Pam Cunningham
Margaret Dammann
Martha Davidge
Doug & Susan Davis
Kim & Brady Day
Susan Derus
Mary Dischinger
John Dwyer
Gordon & Marilyn Eide
Jeremiah & Ashley Eisenschenk
Dick & Sharon Elmquist
Sebastian Elsenpeter
Don & Deanna Engen
Richard Engstrom
Jean Erickson
Camille & Shawn Flanagan
Charles & Sharon Flatz
Doris (Dodo) Fraser
Robert & Terri Friedrich
Debra Graham
Joseph & Michelle Gribben
Jared & Joanna Griffin
Emily L Gunn
Ron Hall
Judy Hand
Lee & Sharon Harrison
Terry & Kris Havir
Jerry & Carol Hawkins
Barb & Bill Head

Lisa Hemker
Virginia Hersey
Patricia Hesli
Chuck & Denise Hicks
Richard Hiles
Helen Hillstrom
Carol Hower
Ann Hutchings
Mary Jenkins
Janet Jensen
Trevor John
Marcia Johnson
Nan Johnson
Merry Keefe
Donna Keiffer
Carol Kelehan
Gregory Kemp
Britta Koch
Nancy Koch
Mary Kolesar
Joe & Kristi Kraemer
David Kroona
Jeff & Jan Laurel
Erna Mae Loveland
Cary & Tracy Lund
Bruce & Cheryl Lyke
Jackie Maine
Mike & Cindy Malinski
Susan K Masterson
Jim & Lorie McLellan
Virginia M Merrill
Doris & Jan Mezzenga
Jane C Milliman
Rene Millner
Renee & Peter Moodie
Alison & Mike Mooney
Judith Morgan
Dennis & Bonnie Morris
Robert & June Myller
Brad & Patricia Nelson
Ray Nelson
Rodney Nelson
Rosella Nemes
Dave & Mary Nielsen
Greg & Steph Nierenhausen
Rick & Mary Nolan
Cynthia Noll
Michael & Haley O'Connell
Paul & Sharon Olszewski
Jeanne & Gary Paulu
Jeff Pearo
Ted & Terry Pederson
Bob & Kim Perkins
Bob & Julie Pink

John & Barb Pribyl
Gary & Rosemary Radant
Bill & Linda Randall
Jeff & Mary Rathmanner
Delores Rubald
Michael & Sandra Rocca
Steve & Beryl Roe
Gert Roggenkamp
Amy Ruff
Ann Ruff
Catherine Ruff
John & Gloria Ruff
Robert & Sue Ruff
Stephen Schaitberger
Robert & Lynn Scharenbroich
Marsha Schoeb
Roger & Nancy Schwieters
Sharon Seeker
John L Shamp
Gary Short
Tom & Bob Sikora
Gary & Betsy Simons
Gary & Kati Simons
Steve Spenser
Brad & Carrie Spitzack
Marlene Stegora
Mike & Kelly Stone
James & Julie Straw
Tom & Jo Swoverland
Robert Templeton
William Terry & Sally Egan
Nancy Thayer Haggerty
John & Brenda Thorn
Jean Kellogg Trust
Patrick Walter
Jessica LaChance & Robert
Weber
Dennis & Linda West
Rebekah Wharton
Gene & Anja White
Tom & Carla White
John & Susan Wilder
Lori Wilken
Mary Kate Williams
Shelly Wolff
Bill & Nancy Wright

*Thank
You*

**Many businesses supported
our Historical Society!
Please support them!**

66 Marine North
Ace Hardware
Allegra
American Legion Post 500
Angell Team – Coldwell Banker Realty
Crosslake Auto Body, Inc
Crosslake Drug
Crosslake Rental
Crosswoods Golf Course
David Nevin Construction
Dr Linda Lewis DDS
First National Bank North
First National Insurance Services
First Western Bank & Trust
Lake Country Crafts & Cones
Lands End Development
Larson Group Realty
Molecular Repair concepts
Moonlite Bay LLC
Murrer's Cedar Chest, Inc
North Star Dock & Lift, Inc
Schoenwetter Requiring Network

Grants were received from:

The Anderson Family Legacy
Foundation
LAKE Foundation
Mighty Cause Foundation

CIDER AND CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Last Fall we held our final event of the 2023 season with the very successful “Cider and Candlelight Tour” that was held in conjunction with Celebrate Crosslake Days on Saturday, September 30th. We estimate that over 550 people attended this pleasant autumn event.

Apple cider with a variety of cookies were served in the Livery where attendees enjoyed viewing the many exhibits there including the famous Whitefish Chain mail boat. Other Livery exhibits include history of early resorts, indigenous artifacts and early construction tools.



In the Saloon, root beer, candy corn and peanuts were served by the bartender, Michael Fraser and “floozy” Jan Burton from Brainerd.

Music was provided by Bruce Archer who entertained the crowd with his special music on the deck of the Town Hall.

As always, the big attraction was the wagon ride!! Lines were long as families awaited their turn to take their seats on the wagon that was pulled by Jeff Laurel with his new tractor.



Costumed volunteers staffed the historic buildings, guided visitors and answered questions. Ginny Hersey took her place in the schoolhouse to show visitors how children learned in 1900.



All the buildings were open so that visitors could get a glimpse of what life was like in the early days of 1900 before electricity was brought to Crosslake. Although the building interiors were lit with electric light, the Historic Log Village Grounds were lit solely with lanterns representing times past.

Pizza Night with Priscilla

By Bob Ruff

As I pulled off Bonnie Lake Road into Priscilla's drive, her cabin was brightly lit, serving as a warm contrast to the dark January night. Just inside, Priscilla was in the middle of greeting me when Gus, my 70# Golden Doodle companion, showing no trace of his training, sprung up on his hind legs, paws over shoulders, eye to eye style, to greet the evening's host. As luck would have it, Gus's lack of manners was dismissed by Priscilla, herself a life-long dog lover in her own rite. Next to enter the welcoming party was the lumbering Oscar, an imposing full sized aging Labrador who Priscilla adopted from an elderly man who was no longer able to care for him. After Gus promptly introduced himself to Oscar, canine style, with a couple of sniffing circles, he scurried off, taking the liberty to self-tour Oscar's domain.

Meanwhile, I had arrived with a pizza from Rafferty's. It was dinner time, and we were hungry. The interview would have to wait.

After we had chatted our way through dinner, we moved lakeside, to a rustic furnished great room, where I spotted a vintage looking circa 60's guitar case leaning against a piano, a reminder of Priscilla's passion for music, one of the several common interests that we have connected on.

It was a comfortable scene. I had a cup of coffee going and Priscilla was finishing a glass of wine from dinner. After all the time we had spent together, both through our involvement in Historical Society and as personal outside friends, frankly I wasn't so sure I would walk away from the evening's interview with much or any new material for my article. I was about to learn just how wrong I was.

So let us start at the beginning. Born in 1948, Priscilla Jane Mork was raised in south Minneapolis. As a young girl, her grandfather owned several blocks of land along Nicolett Avenue that in her words were "nothing but scrawny cow patch." Watching the development block by block, as her grandfather sold parcels of land made for an interesting backdrop throughout her younger years.

Priscilla's family were both neighbors and friends with the Bachman family, that of Bachman's Floral and Home Garden. Her passion for history can be traced back to the many hours she spent inside the walls of the Richfield Historical Society, an organization that her father himself had founded. Little did she know of the Historical Society some 150 miles north of her that she was predestined to join years later.

After graduating from Washburn High School, she went on to study art at the U of M. "I was always about art. Still am for that matter." In her U of M dinky town days, she was a member of a folk band trio, and still plays the guitar today. To earn money to help pay for college, for several years she worked as a tour guide at the State Capitol.

Priscilla's Crosslake area story began in 1957 when her parents bought a plot of land from Lumber Dealer Leo Fraser on Lake O'Brien, the same lake that she continues to reside on today. The then 9-year-old girl's earliest memories include meeting "the Balmer boys" in a rowboat, one whom she later would go on to marry a little more than a decade later.

Her favorite teenage Crosslake memories included the countless nights she spent hanging out at either the then Downtown Drive in Restaurant or the Crosslake Drive in Theater, the latter, which was then located on Daggett Pine Road, across from where the Crosslake Community Center is located today. "The Beachcombers was great too. All it took back then was a quarter in your pocket and you could find something fun to buy."

At this point we discover that the ever-prosperous Gus huddled up behind a living room chair, hoping no one had noticed that he had gathered together an impressive collection of Oscar's personal possessions.

It was an anxious moment watching Oscar deliberate over how he should react to the situation, but we were both soon relieved when the big guy lowered himself back into his resting position, evidently deciding to disregard the situation, much in the same way an eagle chooses to ignore a batch of chasing crows - the energy, at least for the moment, just isn't worth it.

Priscilla and Gary, the Lake O'Brien childhood sweethearts, were married in 1968. The two of them went on to own and manage their custom homebuilding business in the Twin Cities. That was until 1987, when the Savings and Loan bank crisis sent the nation's home building industry into a national crisis. "Things were tight" Priscilla explained. "At the time we had a choice, either sell our Bloomington home or sell our cabin. We went with our hearts and moved to Crosslake.

After getting the family settled in at their new home base in Crosslake, it was time to get to work, and Priscilla's career choices beginning at this point were as eclectic as her talents were wide. Her new career path begins conventionally as a teacher assistant at the nearby Pine River Elementary, where she went on to spent five years tutoring math to learning challenged children, or as she describes "the hooligan and outcast types, but still good kids. We had a lot of fun."

From this point on, her career gets more interesting, each step of the way. Following her teaching days, she puts her entrepreneur hat on, and buys the local Crosslake bakery (formally owned by the Engen family). Her staff members include her two sons, along with a gang of their friends, and all goes well until the group grows tired from all the middle of the night start times. It was time for a new adventure, and she had just the idea. "Everyone I knew were bird watchers" she explained "so I thought why not a Wild Bird Goods Store?" From suet to seed, from books to feeders, the new Bird Store is a huge hit among the area's bird-loving community.

The next chapter of Priscilla's career is bar none the most unexpected. Through her membership in The General Federation of Woman's Clubs, we next find her in a classroom at the FBI's headquarters, Quantico Bay, where she is among a group of other GFWC recruits being trained on the new investigative methods for crimes involving sexual assaults. Following her training, she became one of a three-person, all-female team that proceeded to go on to train surrounding area police districts on the new investigative procedures.

After a final retail venture partnership in a Baxter specialty Kitchen Goods Store, her career would come full circle where it would return to where it all started, the custom home construction business, where she worked alongside her two sons and their two partners as the accountant of the newly formed Lands' End Development. She would be there for all the exciting growth years until her retirement at the age of 73. I smile at the thought of what a prospective employer would think of her resume today - that of either an interesting multi skilled prospect, or someone flat out on the run.

There was plenty more to learn about Priscilla's personal life outside of her work. One of her best stories, and something that says a lot about who she is, involves her joining up with her two sons and their two friends, who had been bumming their way through Europe before going on to college. Not wanting to be a disruption, she is determined to blend in and willingly plays the part of an equal, carrying her backpack, eating meager meals on park benches, and sleeping in cheap hostels - the whole works. But that's Priscilla, and the way she rolls.

Priscilla's best story dates to the year 1915, when the Balmer's first acquired the land on which she resides today. The condensed version of this story centers on Gary's grandmother arriving from Hibbing and purchasing the land. The widowed woman arrived from Hibbing to teach at a nearby one room schoolhouse. She trades flour and sugar for meats with an Ojibway summer settlement across the lake, and in accordance with her wishes, is buried on Priscilla's property, lakeside. The Grandmother from Hibbing's last name happens to be Zimmerman, the same last name of another famous Hibbing resident, Robert Zimmerman, better known as Bob Dylan. This one is a dandy story and should be fully written in detail sometime down the road.

Her retirement life has remained as varied as it is full. If there isn't a grandkid hanging around looking for a sandwich or a snack, there is sure to be a dog at her feet, looking for something along the same lines. If she is not either in a meeting at the historical society or at her church, she is somewhere halfway across Crow Wing County chauffeuring a grandkid or two.

And nobody likes to have more fun than the 75-year-old retiree. Beginning in June and running through August, her calendar is jammed full of parties and family reunions. Visiting guests include native relatives from Norway and once sponsored foreign exchange students.

This brings us to the end of the evening, and a great one at that. It was late though - time to let poor Priscilla go to bed. After sitting too long, it felt good to be standing again. But when Gus and Oscar stood up as well, is when we realized we had a dilemma on our hands - canine standoff style. Gus, a renowned and well-practiced thief of items that he does not own, is standing over the pile of king Oscar's belongings, pondering his next move. Meanwhile, Oscar's pronounced raised ears and tail positions indicating his ready position. As luck would have it, in combination of my stern 'come and heel' command and Oscar's foreboding size and weight advantage, Gus stubbornly submits to the pressure at hand and obediently follows me to the back door. While I was giving Priscilla hugging thanks for the evening, I notice over her shoulder Oscar bumping up against Gus's side, for reasons we will never know for sure, but what I somehow would like to imagine was Oscar's way of saying "you're OK, kid, see you next time."



Jim Newgord devoted many hours in our blacksmith shop sharing his blacksmithing talent. He and his family volunteered their time to demonstrate at several of our Artisans Fairs over the years. His son Tony, grandsons Preston and Austin assisted him and studied his craft. Jim passed away on January 4, 2024. He will be missed by the Historical Society and his family. We thank Jim and his family for their contribution to the Historic Log Village.



Joan Bierman was hired by the Historical Society in 2007 as Museum Manager through a federal program titled "Experience Works." She was paid through this program, but after two years when she was no longer eligible, we hired her directly. Jo was very valuable to our organization. She sorted, organized and designed exhibits. She was available most weekends and worked some weekdays to complete her hours. Her health prevented her from continuing in her position and she left our employ in 2014. Jo passed away on December 21, 2023. Jo's obituary shows she was overqualified for the job we gave her! We are still finding evidence of her impact on our Historical Society.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for a volunteer to become our museum curator. Museum curators play an integral role in how a museum is set up and the experience visitors have while at the museum. Curators collect, exhibit, interpret, maintain and protect objects of historical and cultural importance. The Historic Log Village has an extensive collection of artifacts and continually deals with donations of more!! We need someone who can manage our inventory by cataloging, identifying and displaying our enormous collection! Please contact President Kate Williams if you are interested or send an email to clhistorical@gmail.com.

Your help is needed!!!

Volunteers are especially important to the upkeep and day-to-day operation of the Historic Log Village. Please consider becoming a volunteer! There are many ways you can help. Please let us know where you can be of service.

You can serve on a committee.

You can be an attendant at the Historic Village.

You can help with the preservation of the log buildings.

You can help identify and catalog artifacts.

You can help get the Village ready for Spring opening and storage for the Fall closing.

You can help with Saturday events and Back

Porch presentations. You can help with fundraising events.

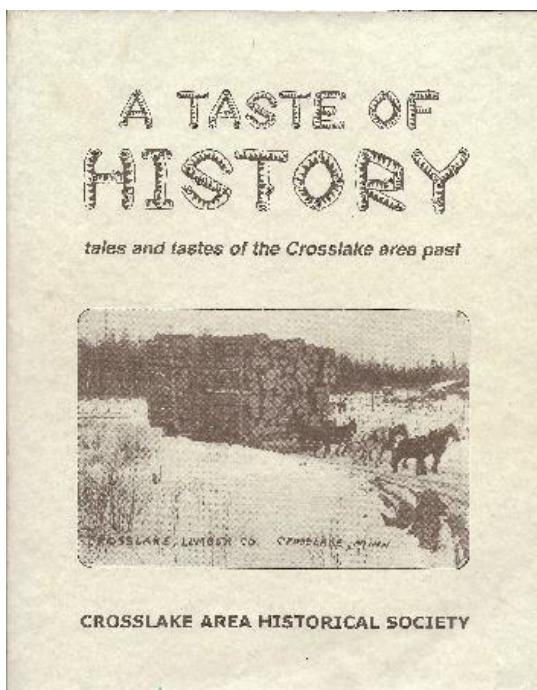
You can help with the everyday maintenance of the village.



Please contact Linda Andrews at 513-807-0392 or you can reach us through the website at crosslakelogvillage.com where there is a form you can complete.

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED!!

A TASTE OF HISTORY



We are excited to announce that we are having our wonderful book reprinted. This one will have page numbers and the index within the contents of the book. The book will be printed again in Brainerd at Sheridan Printing, which is the former Bang Printing company that printed our first edition in 2004. We are also thrilled to report that a generous grant from the LAKE Foundation is helping with the cost of the reprinting. We anticipate the finished product will be completed in April 2024 and available in our Visitors Center Store this summer!! It can also be ordered and shipped through the website at crosslakelogvillage.com. Click on the tab **A TASTE OF HISTORY – BOOK**.



Crosslake Area Historical Society
 Historic Log Village
 PO Box 134
 Crosslake, MN 56442

Winter 2024

Memberships support the Historical Society. Please become a member or renew your membership. Crosslake Area Historical Society is a 501C-3 non-profit organization and your contribution is tax deductible.

Membership donations:

Fur trader	\$35.00
Homesteader	\$50.00
Logger	\$100.00
Dam Keeper	over \$100.00

We are no longer offering *new* Lifetime memberships. Current life members will continue to be honored.

Send your membership check to:
 CLAHS Membership
 PO Box 134
 Crosslake, MN 56442

Name

Mailing Address

City_____

State_____ Zip _____

Phone

land_____

cell _____

E-mail
