



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

**Crosslakelogvillage.com
Editor: Mary Dischinger**

**Phone: 218-692-5400
Winter 2026**

A note from the president:

Greetings to all of you hardy Minnesotans! We have all had a lot to deal with during the last six months, but we are strong. At least the weather has been rather mild, and we can get out without risking life or limb.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2026. Here's to another great year of history!

Sincerely,
Priscilla Balmer

Our board members and committees are already beginning to plan for another fun and interesting 2026 season.

A Taste of History

Our "famous" history book was reprinted in 2024 and this time it includes page numbers and an index. This book contains a wealth of historical information about our area. You can purchase a copy for yourself at the Historic Log Village during open hours, or at the Crosslake Chamber of Commerce office, Crosslake Coffee, Crosslake Drug, or Holly's Hair and Nails. They can also be obtained by submitting an order through our website: crosslakelogvillage.com. A copy will be mailed to you.

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers who staff our store, clean buildings, give tours, maintain the grounds, welcome special groups and work each weekend greeting visitors.

We survive because of generous donations from members, local businesses and friends that support our special events and programs. As they say, "it takes a village!"

Please stay informed by visiting our website: Crosslakelogvillage.com. Our committees will provide ongoing updates to keep you apprised of all activities. We encourage regular visits for information regarding our 2026 season programs and events. The self-guided tour can be accessed from your home or elsewhere, offering detailed narratives and historical context for each building featured.



Back row: Blanche, baby Cheryl, Maurine, Maurice, middle row: John, Bonnie, Milo, Gary. Billy in front.

FROM THE BOOK

Blanch Buchite’s grandfather, John Buchite, relocated his family to Crow Wing County in 1898. Her mother later married Bill Buchite, one of John’s sons, and Blanche was born in Fifty Lakes in 1907. Blanche and Maurice Chenevert married in 1935, and since 1949, resided on Cross Lake, where they raised seven children: Maureen, Bonnie, Gary, John, Milo, Billy, and Cheryl. The accompanying family photograph dates to 1950.

Both Blanche and Maurice contributed significantly to the local community. Blanche was instrumental in founding the Historical Society, while Maurice

held several positions, including clerk of Watertown Township, member of the Pequot Lakes School Board, and provided ice harvesting services for individuals and businesses.

The former Chenevert property served as the venue for the 2025 Cocktail Party Fundraiser, made possible by the generosity of current owners Jesse and Stephanie Neumann. Presently, Bonnie and Milo remain the last of the original siblings. Milo, his wife, and Florette (John’s widow) attended the 2025 event, reflecting on the homestead’s evolution and considering how Maurice and Blanche might have responded to these changes. Further information about this pioneer family can be found in our publication, **“A Taste of History,”** pages 142–148.



THANK YOU PLAIN & FANCY!



The Historic Log Village and the Village Gift Shop would like to thank Dawn & Dan Reif, for their ongoing dedication and support the last couple of years at Plain & Fancy. At the end of the 2025 season, they made the hard decision to close their doors and move on to their next adventure.

Crosslake and The Log Village will certainly miss them! They have sold many of our Taste of History books, toys, games and other miscellaneous items and promoted the Village over the years and we have appreciated the opportunity to work with them. Thank you, Dawn & Dan!

Please support the local businesses that support the Crosslake Area Historical Society

Ace Hardware
American Legion Post 500
Central Package & Display
Crosslake Auto Body, Inc
Crosslake Drug
Crosslake Fitness
First National Insurance Services
First Western Bank & Trust
Frandsen Bank & Trust
Key Wellness
Larson Group Realty
North Star Dock & Lift, Inc
Northwedge Greenhouse
Rafferty's Pizza
Reeds Market
Tremolo
Barstock Liquors
Maucieri's

We are deeply grateful for the donations from the Anderson Family Legacy Foundation and the Margaret Dammann Estate.

We salute Jesse and Stephanie Neumann who contributed substantially to the success of the 2025 Cocktail Party.

Additional funds were donated in memory of:

- Tom Woog
- Peggy Woog
- Deyoe
- Londale Musolf
- Dick Rog
- The Kraklau family
- Don Engen

The Crosslake Area Historical Society appreciates and thanks the many members and supporters of our organization. Your contributions make the preservation of our Historic Log Village possible!

Winter work

Planning for the summer season continues through the winter months. Ginny Hersey is working to finalize the calendar of Saturday events. There are several repeats of favorites from previous seasons and new ideas are always welcome. If you have a talent or craft you can demonstrate or teach, please reach out to Ginny at **218-821-7801**.

The Back Porch program co-chairpersons, Priscilla Balmer and Bob Ruff are putting together another summer of evening events to educate and entertain our guests in the Livery at the Historic Log Village. If you have a suggestion for a program, please contact Priscilla at **218-839-0502** or Bob at **612-986-9377**.

Listed are the individuals who contributed financially during the year 2025 to the Crosslake Area Historical Society through their support of the membership drive, the cocktail party donations and memorials. Thank YOU! Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Tarja Anderson
John and Linda Andrews
Tina and John Angell
Ginny Arvig
Jeff and Lindsey Balmer
Matt and Renae Balmer
Priscilla Balmer
Kelly Beaudoin
Jack Becker
Linda Benson
Alex and Jess Beste
Julie A Beste
Cindy and Milt Bighley
Susan and John Bilek
Michael A Bilski
Doug and Tina Blake
Les Boozell
Joe Bottensek
Gerald Brine
Kathy Brodin
Laura Brothen
Jan Burton
Joan and John Callender
Kent Carlson
Meredith Carstens
Marc Charpentier
Florette Chenevert
Milo and Winona Chenevert
Joe and Teresa Christensen
Nick Christensen
Robert and Nancy Christensen
Karen Christofferson
Tom and Amy Claussen
Tony and Bonnie Coffey
Julie and Roger Connolly
Brittany Cook
Pat Cormaney
Judy and Jim Cotton
Kitty Daniels
Kim and Brady Day
Mary Dischinger
Patrick and Judith Eastwood
Gordon and Marilyn Eid

Dave and Heather Eisenmenger
Jeremiah and Ashley Eisenschenk
Tim and Megan Elam
Dick and Sharon Elmquist
Deanna Engen
Richard Engstrom
Jean Erickson
Camille and Shawn Flanagan
Charles and Sharon Flatz
Ralph and Roberta Flohr
Carolyn and John Forney
Doris "Dodo" Fraser
Scott and Heidi Fredericksen
Robert and Terri Friedrich
Joseph George
Steve Giacalone
Joseph and Michelle Gribben
Jared and Joanna Griffin
Ty and Sandy Hagen
Larry and Nancy Haggerty
Ron Hall
Tiffany Hammer
Judy Hand
Alden Hardwick
Kris and Terry Havir
Jerry and Carol Hawkins
Bill and Barb Head
Lisa Hemker
Virginia and Ken Hersey
Patricia Hesli
Chuck and Denise Hicks
Helen and Curt Hillstrom
Ann Hutchings
Mary Jenkins
Trevor and Erin John
Bruce and Shelley Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Penny and Chad Kastner
Donna Keiffer
Pat and Carol Kelehan
Dawn and Keith Kellen
Tim and Monica Kirgan

Jane Kleinsasser
Jeffrey and Lindsey Koch
Joe and Kristi Kraemer
Saundra and Brian Krienke
David Kroona
Bruce and Julie Larson
Jeff and Jan Laurel
Ardie Lennartson
Craig and Valerie Lindholm
John (Chip) and Kari Lohmiller
Andrew and Jane Mellas
Doris and Jan Mezzenga
Carolyn Mikkelson
Paul and Deb Miller
Jane C Milliman
Carolyn Moeller
Peter and Renee Moodie
Alison and Mike Mooney
Judith Morgan
Dennis and Bonnie Morris
Robert and Deborah Muller
Ray Nelson
Rodney Nelson
David and Nancy Nevin
Chris Nick
Stephanie and Greg Nierenhausen
Michael and Michelle Noble
Mary Nolan
Campbell J O'Connell
Mike and Haley O'Connell
Allen Olson
Dale and Kay Olson
Sharon and Paul Olszewski
Dale and Gwen Orred
Kimberly and David Otte
Lisa Parker
Carla and Jon Parrington
Lillie and Jeff Pearo
Jamie Pearson

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Terry Pederson
 Erik Peterson
 Bob and Julie Pink
 Reid Price
 Gary and Rosemary Radant
 Linda and Bill Randall
 Jeffrey and Mary Rathmanner
 Bud and Kristy Roberts
 Toni Roberts
 Michael and Sandy Rocca
 Renee Roozen
 Ann Ruff
 Bob and Sue Ruff
 Gloria and John Ruff
 Josh and Stacey Savageau
 Melissa and Robert Scalia
 Robert and Lynn Scharenbroich
 Marsha Schoeb
 Roger and Nancy Schwieters
 John L Shamp
 Barbara and Tom Sikora
 Helen Silva
 Gary and Betsy Simons
 Penny and Karl Skog
 Brad and Carrie Spitzac
 Lisa Staber
 Karin Stone
 James and Julie Straw
 Doug and Cathy Svihel
 Diane Swanson
 Thomas and Jo Swoverland
 Robert and Marjorie Templeton
 Dan Terry
 William S Terry
 Amanda Titus
 Richard Voelbel
 Ryan and Melissa Weber
 Dennis and Linda West
 Nancy Westerberg
 John and Susan Wilder
 Seth Wilkes
 Mary Kate Williams
 Shelly and David Wolff
 Nanci and Bill Wright

THE VILLAGE STORE AND SO MUCH MORE! BOOKS, BEARS, BOARDS (OH, MY!)

Join us opening weekend, 2026 for a look at our fresh, fun and very exciting new items! We are spending our winter planning, purchasing and, of course, bringing back all the “old” favorites, too. Some of our new items include assorted pancake and soup mixes, a new candle line, woodland critter adorable stuffed animals called “nuzzles,” wooden charcuterie boards by a local artist, night lights, wildlife Christmas tree ornaments and **so much more!**



Discover MORE online

- Find event photos & video tours
- See historical archives & stories
- Sign-up to volunteer on the website under the **VOLUNTEER** tab.
- Order our a “Taste of History” book under the **HISTORY** tab

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

- Tag us @crosslakelogvillage
- Facebook at Crosslake Log Village
- Email us at info@crosslakelogvillage.com



Crosslakelogvillage.com

Thank
 you

🌲 **A Big Log Village THANK YOU!** 🌲
Where history comes alive... thanks to YOU!

To our incredible volunteers — **THANK YOU!** Your time, energy, and good humor have helped keep the Log Village a lively, welcoming place for visitors from near and far. Whether you've been guiding curious kids, dusting off artifacts, greeting guests in costume, or simply sharing a smile at the door — you are the heart of our historic village. We could not do it without you!

Look for a Meet & Greet this Spring for a chance to swap stories, enjoy some treats, explore new ideas, site updates and reconnect with the amazing people who make the magic happen.

But wait... there's more!
We're also on the hunt for **new volunteers** who want to have fun while helping preserve the spirit of Crosslake. **No Crosslake history necessary. No experience needed.** Just bring your curiosity and willingness to pitch in. We'll show you the ropes! Shifts are just a short four hours on the weekends, and you get *on-the-job* training.

Love chatting with visitors?
Prefer behind-the-scenes tasks?
We have a place for YOU!

So, jump into the fun - meet new friends, support your community, and make memories that will last longer than a Minnesota winter. 😊

👉 Interested? Let's talk!
Contact: **Linda Andrews 513-807-0392**
or Linda Benson 763-360-6390
or visit the website
crosslakelogvillage.com and click on the
volunteer tab at top of page.

Together, let's keep the Log Village alive, laughing, and learning - one volunteer at a time!



St Patrick's Day Parade Parking

Will be available at the
Historic Log Village for
Crosslake's Parade on
Saturday, March 14

The parade begins at 1:15 PM

The lot open at 11:00 AM

Cost for parking is
\$20.00 per car

This is a great opportunity to
find convenient parking close to
the parade and support the
Historic Log Village!



Crow Wing Cooperative Historical Story **Written and submitted to the Crosslake Telephone Company for the 1988 phone directory.**

Excitement swept through the rural countryside soon after Franklin D Roosevelt signed Executive order 7037 at his Warm Springs, Georgia, cottage on May 11, 1935.

The excitement was over the beginning of a movement to bring electric power to places other than the nation's cities. The order created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which would provide low-interest money to organizing rural electric cooperatives.

EG Roth, a county agricultural agent, began speaking to groups of farmers and resort owners in Crow Wing County to see if there was interest in organizing an electric cooperative. He and others began a series of meetings to spread the news. On January 31, 1936, after several meetings, Crow Wing Cooperative Power and Light Company came into existence. At this January meeting, the first five shares of stock, at \$2.00 per share, were sold. This was just the beginning!

For the next several months, pioneers of the new cooperative had to canvas the areas of Crow Wing, Cass and Morrison counties to get more people to sign up. While many were quick to join the new cooperative, others opposed it fearing they would lose their homes and farms if the cooperative could not survive financially.

"I spent weeks going out and talking to farmers to sign them up," said Arthur M Johnson, an original member of the board of directors. "Once a guy met me with a shotgun and told me to get off his place."

But most people were anxious to get rid of their kerosene lanterns and signed up quickly. Many wondered, however, how a bunch of farmers could run an electric business when the power companies of the day said the rural areas were too sparsely populated to earn enough money to run the business.

The cooperative started from small beginnings. The first office was a card table in a greenhouse in Brainerd. That is where the preliminary work for signing up members and applying for loans was done.

In 1936, the cooperative asked REA for its first loan, \$660,000 to build 420 miles of line. REA approved a loan of only \$240,000. Which meant most members would have to wait even longer before getting electric service. This caused the first annual meeting on October 16, 1936, to be a very stormy session as the co-op's leaders explained it was REA, not the local directors, which specified which area would be served first.

It was not until March 24, 1938, nearly two years after REA was established, that the first 195 miles of line were completed and energized for the first time.

When the cooperative first began, its leaders did not know the great work electricity would do. The only thing those early members wanted was a good light in their homes to read by. They did not realize electricity would save them from cooking on wood stoves, carrying water and milking cows by hand. Those who remember the lights coming on for the first time hold it as a special time, similar to weddings, births and anniversaries.

As one farmer said soon after receiving electricity for the first time, "The greatest thing on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your home."



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Crosslake Log Village
PO Box 134
Crosslake, MN 56442

Winter 2026

Memberships support the Historical Society. Please become a member or renew your membership. The Historical Society is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization.

Membership options are set for your own discretion based on your desire to contribute. No other distinctions apply to each level.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Trapper | \$35.00 |
| Homesteader | \$50.00 |
| Logger | \$100.00 |
| Dam Keeper | over \$100.00 |

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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____