



101-10TH AVE. SOUTH
PRINCETON, MN 55371
763.389.1296
763.607.3195

Warm Greetings from the Princeton Great Northern Railway depot !

January 2023

Fortunately, 2022 was another year of pandemic recovery at the Mille Lacs County Historical Society (MLCHS). Amdall Room rentals are almost back to their pre-pandemic levels. After two summers without Pioneer School, we hosted two sessions in summer 2022. Visitors to the depot are returning. In August, we helped staff the History exhibit in the Heritage Building at the Mille Lacs County Fair.

One of the special joys of the year was hosting all 275 Princeton Public Schools first graders in May for a field trip to the depot office, the Pioneer School and the caboose. The ringing of the brass steam locomotive bell announced the time to move between tour locations for the animated future history lovers. What energy and what fun! (See Photo #3).

Among the physical improvements to the MLCHS facilities in 2022:

- Three fireproof four drawer filing cabinets were donated by Bremer Bank in Princeton and were moved into the depot office.**
- A recording video and audio surveillance system was acquired and installed in both the depot and in the Amdall Room by Caribe Schreiber and Chris Rotz in April.**
- The west side of the depot building was tuckpointed and repaired by Ben Davis, our favorite historic mason.**
- The 1927 Griswold railroad crossing signal with a rotating Stop sign near the Amdall Room entrance was restored to working order using its original mechanisms by Chuck Nyberg and Garlan Hulbert. This is one of very few of the iconic Minneapolis-produced crossing guards in original working order.**
- The Pioneer Schoolhouse was pressure washed, scraped, primed and painted white on two sides. Remaining surface prep and painting work will take place before the 2023 Pioneer School sessions begin.**
- The Princeton Community Gardeners continued bringing color, joy and vegetables to the south end of the depot property.**
- The Princeton Master Gardeners have really hit stride with beautiful plantings and educational signage on the east and south sides of the depot.**
- Four depot transom storm windows were generously fabricated and donated by Crystal Cabinets. They were installed by Chris Rotz, with two LED-illuminated panels hand lettered and painted by Rosanne Volker.**
- Ron Euteneuer built and installed a perfect replica of an original six foot wide freight house door on the street side of the depot to replace a worn out steel pedestrian door that had been mounted there since the 1970s.**
- The early 20th century building entrance door to Bob Berg's Plumbing and Heating was located and acquired and is now installed inside the depot at the office entrance, thanks to Yuri Moldenhauer. It is of the same period as the depot and is an icon of local history.**
- Yuri also installed two original 1902 depot bathroom doors and tongue and groove partitions in the Women's Room of the Amdall Room. The doors are a warm oak, and were built using only hand tools when the depot was built. The wooden doors replace cloth curtains on the two stalls which date back to the 1970s. Further Amdall Room bathroom upgrades will be completed in 2023. (See Photo #2).**

Among the programmatic improvements of the MLCHS in 2022:

-- Minnesota's only station-to-station working telegraph line was completed here in February 2022. It used many parts found in our Archive Room and the expertise of Gary Lenz and Chuck Nyberg, and with the vital help of Princeton Public Utilities (PPU). Two vintage cedar telegraph poles were stood up by PPU between the Princeton GN depot and the nearby Long's Siding depot to carry two strands of 10 gauge solid copper wire connecting the telegraph sets of the Princeton Stationmaster's Office with the Agent's desk in the Long's Siding depot. This accomplishment will be featured in a 3 page article in the March 2023 issue of the Great Northern Railway Historical Society's publication *The Goat*, accompanied by color photos of the work.

-- A Channel 5 TV "So Minnesota" story by Joe Mazan described the MLCHS project to transfer to digital media the 1951 Korean War era 16mm films of the Princeton National Guard "boys" traveling to Camp Rucker Alabama. You can see this piece at :

<https://kstp.com/special-coverage/so-minnesota/so-minnesota-princeton-boys/>

-- The first of six permanent exhibits in the depot's South Waiting Room, "Brickton -- Secrets Revealed", has been completed. Joe Mazan came back to Princeton to do a second "So Minnesota" story about this MLCHS project which also was broadcast on Channel 5 <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/so-minnesota-the-ghost-town-of-brickton/>

-- Thanks to Rosanne Volker and her brother Arnold, a set of color "Outdoor Attraction Signs" have been created and installed near the Pioneer Schoolhouse, each of the four railcars on the property and the Long's Siding depot. These signs offer needed additional history and photos about each of the attractions on our property (See Photo #1).

-- A display case explaining parts of local medical history has been installed near the Emergency entrance to the MHealth Fairview Princeton Hospital. The case contains artifacts, photos and text describing the early medical history of Princeton, including Dr. Cooney, the evolution of hospital care in Princeton and early medical devices and treatments. This is part of the ongoing interest of the MLCHS in projecting the issue of local history into the community.

-- Inside the steel refrigerated boxcar at the depot, Garlan Hulbert, Steve Compton and 14 year old Bryce Gilsrud are building an HO scale model of the key stops and structures along the Great Northern Railway from Princeton to Milaca. This will feature running model HO trains when completed, and will be a big attraction for kids visiting the museum.

-- Mary Henschel Chadsey of Sarasota, Florida offered the MLCHS the transcribed letters and photos of her father Charlie Henschel, including those from his Korean War experience. We also have received multiple artifacts from Pam Schlage's estate thanks to her sons David and Kurt, including an oak kitchen hutch and round top steamer trunk now in the Amdall Room and a miniature salesman's sample of an America Twin ice cream maker which allowed making two separate flavors of hand cranked ice cream in one batch! (Ask us how this was done in your next visit!).

-- Several wonderful items including a treadle sewing machine and a wooden child's high chair with cast iron wheels were received from Betty Matheson.

-- Our collecting digital video oral histories of local folks continued, including a delightful visit with legendary local elementary school teacher Lucille Decker.

We have been blessed by new volunteers from the Princeton High School National Honor Society who have been “microalphabetizing” the thousands of portrait photos in our collection. They have completed alphabetizing all the photos in boxes lettered A through N so far.

Moving forward, Linda Anderson has been itemizing the contents of boxes in our Archive, such as the papers and effects of School Superintendant Ruth Douglas. Linda also is creating a computer record of each item in the boxes she itemizes. This electronic record is the beginning of digital access to items in our Archive, which researchers will be able to access via the internet. Bravo, Linda!

We are looking for two more folks interested in learning about, preserving and presenting information about our past. Currently the depot museum is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Our busiest research day is Wednesday. We would like to be open more hours. Can you help? Contact Barry at 763.607.3195

Also, 2023 is the 120th anniversary of the opening of the second (current and magnificent!) Princeton Great Northern Railway depot, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. We are planning to celebrate this event with some special activities. Are you able to help with planning a festive celebration? Keep an eye on our Facebook page (Mille Lacs County Historical Society) for details!

Current Mille Lacs County Historical Society Board Members are: Tammy Creasy, Jack Edmonds, Garlan Hulbert, Lester Kriesel, Jeanette Oakes, Gayle Perkins, Chris Rotz, Judy Stewart, Barry Schreiber and Rosanne Volker.

For up-to-date news about events at the depot follow us on Facebook:

**:
Mille Lacs County Historical Society**

Also, check out our web site at:

millelacscountyhistoricalsociety.org

Our monthly Board meetings are typically on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Princeton Great Northern Railway depot. Please join us when you can!

Attached is our 2023 Membership Renewal form. Thanks for being a part of our historic progress!



Photo #1 Outdoor Attraction Sign

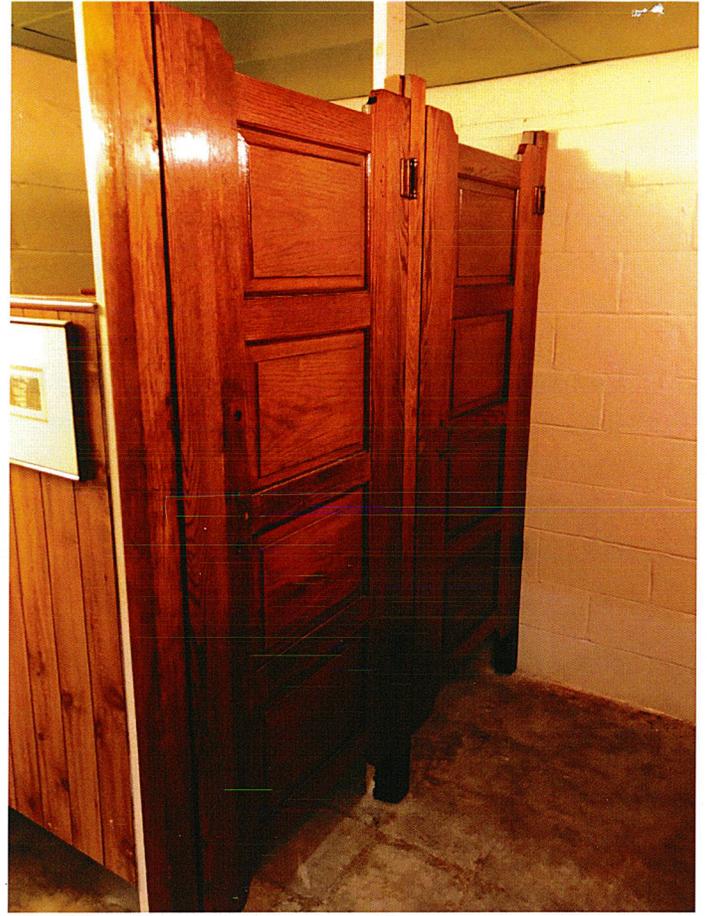


Photo #2-1902 Bathroom Stall Doors



Photo #3 Princeton First Graders Visit



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Please be a Mille Lacs County Historical Society (MLCHS) Member!

As we ask you to consider joining or renewing your membership in MLCHS this year, we also ask you to consider helping in other ways. MLCHS /Princeton Depot Museum operates with 100 % volunteer labor. We hope to be opened this season, Wednesday through Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. We are in need of more volunteers to staff a four-hour shift at the museum. Along with your membership, please think about a four hour donation of time.

We thank you for your interest in helping us achieve our goals - to collect, preserve and share the heritage of Princeton and Mille Lacs County. Let us know how you can help!

If you have questions, please call Barry Schreiber (763) 607-3195 or the MLCHS during office hours at (763) 389-1296.

- I could help by staffing the Museum one 4 hour shift a month.
- I could help during the Mille Lacs County Fair at the Heritage Building
- I could help with a one - day special event such as _____
- I could help with school visits to the museum
- I could help _____
- I could help with collections care
- Other ways I could volunteer: _____

2023 Membership in the Mille Lacs County Historical Society

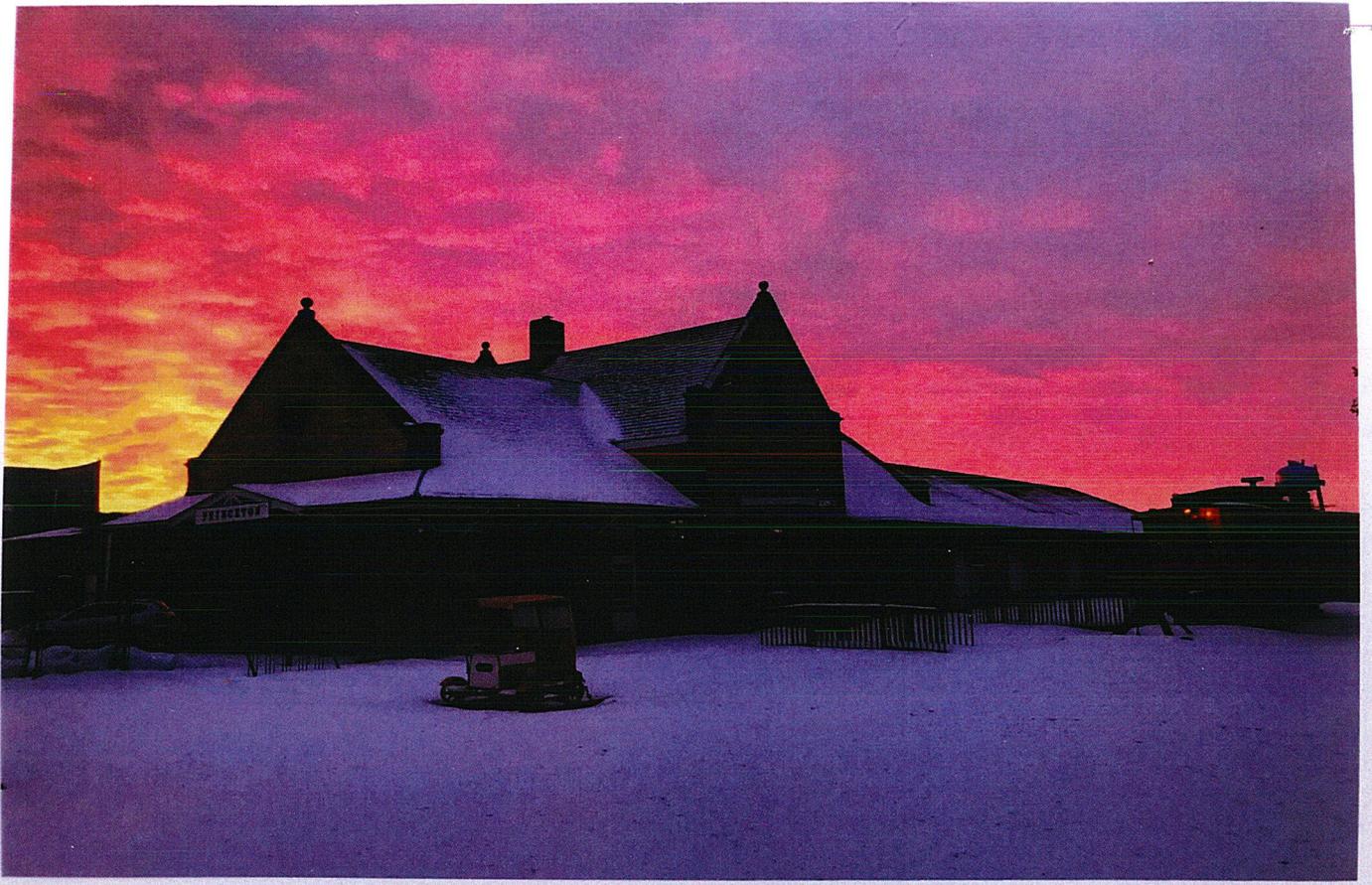
Dues January 1 thru December 31, 2023, Mail to: MLCHS, 101 - 10th Ave. So., Princeton MN 55371

Please check below MLCHS membership categories	Date _____ Enclosed is my check _____ For 2023 Membership Dues \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____ MLCHS is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$ 25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/ Household \$30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 plus) \$15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (< 18) \$8	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Organization \$25	

Name/s _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ E mail _____



Princeton GN Depot At Dawn

Danny Schneider and the MLCHS

Regards,

Thanks for your interest in the MLCHS, Michele,
and for your comments on our Facebook page.
We thought you'd be interested in a summary of
our activities in 2022.

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101-10TH AVE. SOUTH

AND PRINCETON DEPOT MUSEUM

MILLE LACS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY