

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## News Release

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### **Connect with the Past - Hay Lake Day Event to be Held Saturday, July 12**

Stillwater, Minn. – Get a taste of life in a simpler time at *Hay Lake Day*, to be held at the Hay Lake School Museum in Scandia on Saturday, July 12, noon – 4 p.m.

“Hay Lake Day is a great opportunity for families to experience a slice of life in the past, without the technologies we have today,” said WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson. “Enjoy the one room schoolhouse and a variety of activities and skills from more than a century ago. It’s a fun way to spend a summer afternoon.”

There will be plenty of food, music, craft demonstrations, old-fashioned butter-churning, bake sale, raffle ticket sale, races and games. There will be two free tours of the historic Hay Lake School and the Johannes Erickson Log House. “Our tours change annually so even if you’ve visited in the past, there will be something new for you,” Peterson added.

#### **Schedule of events:**

Noon – 4p.m.	Spinning demonstration Woodcarving demonstration Tatting demonstration
12:15 p.m.	First free tour
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Scandia Community Band
2:15 p.m.	Second free tour
3:00 p.m.	Children’s games and races
3:30 p.m.	Raffle

#### **Historic Hay Lake School**

The Hay Lake School was constructed in 1896, part of rural school district # 2 that was organized in 1855. Prior to that, school classes were held in local homes, and then moved into the old Elim Lutheran Church building. The school used that structure, which is now a part of the Gammelgarden complex, until the Hay Lake brick school building was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Hay Lake School was used by Washington County Rural School system until 1963. The building sat empty until 1970 when a group of citizens, many of whom had graduated from the Hay Lake School, decided to clean-up the school and give tours of the historic property.

The school was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 1, 1970. In 1974 the Washington County Historical Society took over the schoolhouse and in 1978 the Society purchased the school from the Forest Lake School District.

The adjacent log house was constructed in 1868 by Johannes Erickson and his thirteen year old son, Alfred. There were many good times and bad times for the immigrant Erickson family in the log home. In 1904, Alfred constructed a nicer home and the old log home was repurposed in later years as a granary, a garage, and a playhouse.

In 1974, the Washington County Historical Society purchased the old log house and moved it 1.5 miles to its present site. The Erickson Log House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 17, 1976.

For more information about *Hay Lake Days*, please contact the Washington County Historical Society at 651-439-5956 or visit [www.wchsmn.org](http://www.wchsmn.org).

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Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a private, donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit [www.wchsmn.org](http://www.wchsmn.org)