

THE BURNETT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU TO FORTS FOLLE AVOINE HISTORICAL PARK

Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park is situated on 80 acres along the Yellow River. The Park was developed to showcase Forts Folle Avoine, an authentic, reconstructed fur trade site on the Register of Historical Places. On this site the North West and XY Fur trade Companies competed with each other for trade with the Indians from 1802 to 1805. Information contained in fur trade journals led to its discovery in 1969.

VISITOR CENTER: Formerly known as Snowbank Lodge, this building was dismantled and moved from Ely, MN and reconstructed log by log at its present location. This 5,000 sq. ft. Visitor Center contains exhibits, a museum, a Great Room, (available for rental), Gift Shop, offices and kitchen. PLEASE SIGN OUR GUEST BOOK BY THE FRONT DOOR.

PALMER HOUSE RESEARCH LIBRARY: Named for Harris and Francis Palmer who, along with Gene LaFayette Connor, were involved in the discovery of the historic fur posts. The building was donated to the Historical Society by the Palmer family and is used for research and preservation of Burnett County history. It is open Wednesdays, 10 AM to 3 PM, and other times by appointment.

LOGGING MUSEUM: Using our own lumber milled from trees that fell in July 2011 storms, the Logging Museum was completed in 2015. The exhibit tells the story of logging in Burnett County by presenting a taste of daily life in a logging camp.

KARLSBORG SCHOOL: Built in 1887 by Swedish settlers, this one-room schoolhouse was donated to the Historical Society in 2000. It was rebuilt with its original log construction. An exhibit kiosk near the schoolhouse tells of the Swedish immigration to the area. The schoolhouse exhibit is dedicated to the history of one-room schools of Burnett County.

BLACKSMITH SHOP: Constructed by Steve and Ginny Wierschem in memory of their son, Nathan, the Blacksmith Shop is operated with an authentic forge and bellows built by local high school students. Demonstrations are conducted during special events and various other times.

AMPHITHEATER: Overlooks the Yellow River and is available for rent. Seats 300.

CLAY OVENS: Located down by the Yellow River. Demonstrations take place during special events.

ANDERSON CABIN: Our earliest records indicate that these 80 acres were homesteaded by August Wardstrom in 1872, sold to Ole Erickson in 1903 for \$700 and then sold to Richard Anderson in 1907 for \$1370. The Anderson family owned and farmed the land until 1973 when they sold it to the DNR. The cabin had been moved off the property in the 1940's. The original site of the cabin overlooked the Yellow River and the foundation still remains and the Clay ovens now sit on the site. The cabin was donated to BCHS in 2020 and moved back onto the property.

FORTS FOLLE AVOINE IS OPEN MEMORIAL WEEKEND THROUGH LABOR DAY WEEKEND, WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SUNDAYS, 10 AM TO 4 PM WITH GUIDED TOURS FROM 10 AM TO 2:30 PM. FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

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Burnett County Historical Society has published several books available in the Gift shop.

Cecilia: The Trials of an Amazing Ojibwe Woman, 1834-1892, by Lafayette Connor

The Power of Sand: Burnett County and the Civilian Conservation Corps, by Carole Fure

Voice of Our Past: Telling The Forts Folle Avoine Story, by Jacques Deseve

Wisconsin Fur Trader's Journal, 1803-1804, Michel Curot

Danbury Centennial: 100 Years of History, by Joan McKeown