

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 2, Issue 5: May, 2008

Mark your calendars!

May 8:
Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) Monthly Meeting; Board Member Elections (see page 4); Riverway Learning Community, 115 Iowa Street, Minn. City; 6:30 p.m.

May 15:
Minnesota City Community Readers; *The Last Full Measure*, Richard Moe; Riverway Learning Community; 6:30 p.m.; (see the website minnesotacity.org)

Note: This is the last meeting of the Readers group until September, 2008.

May 16:
Winona "Capital for a Day" Observance (see page 3)

May 17:
Minnesota City Day (see additional information for events)

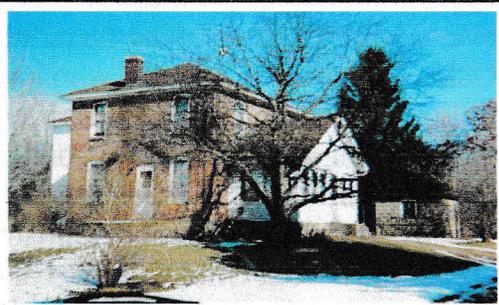
Biographies of Minnesota City Cemeteries' Military Interments Available on Minnesota City Day, May 17

As part of the Minnesota City Day observance of the State Sesquicentennial, Minnesota City Historical Association has gathered profiles of a number of persons whose markers in Oakland Cemetery and St. Paul's Cemetery have military inscriptions. Beginning with Civil War participants, Oakland Cemetery has interred persons who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Most individuals did not participate in active war maneuvers. Exceptions to this were the Civil War participants, D.Q. Burley, Samuel Loudon, C.C. Chapman and Rufus Waterman. **On May 17, information about these individuals will be displayed at Oakland Cemetery from 12:30 to 2:00. Oakland Cemetery Board members, Howard and Gladys Volkart, will host this event.** Family members of these individuals and the public are invited to attend this informal event. Information sheets will be available for any visitors to contribute biographical information about any persons interred in Oakland Cemetery.

Minnesota City Historical Association Presents Plaque to Whetstone Homestead

Susan Whetstone Althoff, 35 Harbor Drive, lives in a home and on land first settled by Western Farm and Village Association members, Hiram and Mary Campbell. As part of its historical sites marking program, **the Minnesota City Historical Association will present a plaque to the Whetstone family on May 17 at 2:30 p.m. The public is invited to this event.**

Whetstone family members have lived in this house continually since it was purchased by David and Nancy Whetstone in 1882. Particularly significant about the Campbell homestead site is its designation as the first fruit (apples) growing site in Winona County. Other settlers had brought seeds to Minnesota City from Maine, and Campbell started a nursery. The Whetstone site was also a truck farm and a dairy farm. American Indians roamed the bottomlands in the



Whetstone family home site built in 1856 by Hiram and Mary Campbell, Western Farm and Village Association

early 1900s until winter cold would drive them out. Refreshments will be served from 2:30-4:30 on May 17, and visitors will have the opportunity to view Whetstone family photographs. Many area residents remember the families of Glen, Allen and Donald Whetstone, Susan Whetstone Althoff's father and uncles. Susan has two brothers, Stanley and Russell. Family members will join her for this commemorative event.

MCHA Awarded Winona Foundation Grant for Archival Site

The Minnesota City Historical Association has been awarded \$4,000.00 from the Winona Foundation based in Seattle. The Seattle contact who forwarded the MCHA grant was enthusiastic about the history of the "firsts" of Minnesota City, including the first sawmill in Winona County. Lucas family history and interests have always included the lumber industry. This award helps the Association approach its building fund goal of \$10,000.00. The group has received a grant for \$1,000.00 from the State Sesquicentennial Association and \$350.00 from the Experiment in Rural Cooperation. Grant monies are being used for signage, for labor costs, for materials and purchased items for the two rooms. All members and donors will be listed in a future newsletter. MCHA is very grateful for their support.

First Baptist Church Open House May 17: Opportunity to View Renovation Work

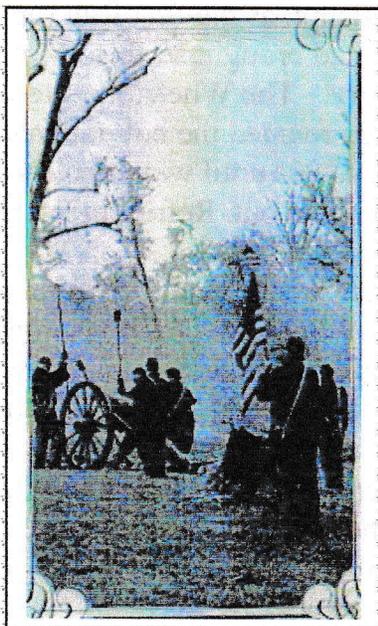


Hollis Donehower re-roofs the back rooms of First Baptist Church in preparation for use by Minnesota City Historical Association.

Hollis Donehower, with assistance from Marvin O'Grady, and some clean up help from Ferden and O'Grady family members, repaired and shingled the roof of the two-room space that MCHA will occupy at the First Baptist Church on Mill Street. Interior walls and ceiling are being replaced and replastering and painting are next on the agenda. **First Baptist Ladies Aid will hold open house at the church on May 17 from 11am-1pm.**

Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery at Minnesota City Day

An occasional boom of the cannon at Oakland Cemetery on May 17 will alert most Minnesota City residents to the presence in the area of the Encampment of the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery Re-enactors. History buffs are encouraged to visit this event. This group, based in Red Wing, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Civil War history by living it. The Battery began Union service on March 21, 1862 at Fort Snelling. Their service to the Union included several major encounters, one of which was Stones River, where



Samuel Loudon, interred at Oakland Cemetery served and was injured. The Battery is dedicated to education and offers learning opportunities to schools, historical societies and other organizations. It is appropriate that the Battery will be present for the Saturday event, which is developing materials, and history of Oakland Cemetery interred who have served in the military. At least four of these were Civil War soldiers. The number of Red Wing personnel who will visit Oakland, is as of yet not determined, but the encampment usually includes a cannon demonstration, a display of military artifacts, children's toys and activities, discussion of women's roles during the Civil War, and observation of laundry activities and other aspects of camp life. The personnel will be present from approximately 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on May 17.

State Announces Plans for May 16 Winona Capital for a Day

In an on-line runoff vote, Winona was selected by popular state vote as one of the five sesquicentennial "Capitals for a Day." **Local media have begun to carry times and places for the Friday celebration.** The following celebration events have been planned: a Sunrise Ceremony at Lake Park, a speech from the Governor, a tour of Garvin Heights Lookout, speeches by the Secretary of State and Winona Poet Laureate, Jim Armstrong, Community Conversations about the present and future of Winona, a picnic with musical entertainment at Lake Park, a great "Winona Wave" photo, Model Legislature all day at City Hall and an evening that ends with fireworks over the park. Minnesota City was nominated for the "Capital for a Day" by David Eckert and his description of the city has been carried on their web page for several months.

Daughters of the American Revolution Purchase Flag for School Site Installation on May 17

Minnesota City Historical Association member, Jean Gardner, has been instrumental in having the Daughters of the American Revolution of which she is a member, secure the installation of a new flag at the Riverway Learning Community site. **The ceremony for the flag installation will occur at 10:15 on May 17. The public is invited to attend.** Re-enactors from the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery will participate in the event.

For more than a century, members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution have pursued historical preservation, promotion of education, and encouragement of patriotism. They have provided thousands of American flags to schools, government bodies, military establishments, and civic organizations.

Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund Awarded Grant, Achieves 501c3 Status, and Plans Recovery Events

Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund (GBDRF) has received \$2,500.00 from Winona Community Foundation to sponsor a community event in August to mark the anniversary of the 2007 flood for residents of Goodview, Stockton, Minnesota City, and of Rollingstone and Hillsdale townships. Entertainment and food will be included in the event, scheduled for LaCanne Park.

GBDRF has received its tax-exempt status whereby donations are tax deductible. Additional free community meals sponsored by GBDRF are being scheduled for Minnesota City and Stockton. GBDRF sponsored a flood shower on April 21-25 at Central United Methodist Church in Winona to provide items for flood victims. GBDRF was formed in December 2007, to address needs of flood victims in the area and to build area community networking. **An display of flood photographs and other flood art—poetry, journaling-- will take place on May 17 from 11am-3pm at the Minnesota City city hall. For information, call 689-2281**

Sesquicentennial History:

President Buchanan passed on to the Senate S. 86, a bill of admission for statehood for Minnesota. It was passed on April 7, 1858. **On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the thirty-second state of the union.** After much debate in both houses, Congress passed S. 86 and the President signed the act that admitted Minnesota into the union. On May 24, 1858, the state officers took their oaths of office and Minnesota government began to function. Although Congress and the President admitted Minnesota to the union on May 11, word did not reach St. Paul until almost two weeks later. Minnesota had no telegraph lines or railroads, so a telegram was sent to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and carried up the Mississippi River to St. Paul by steamboat.

Minnesota City Woodworker and Llamateer Make Front Page Winona Daily News

The handwork and machinework of Brian Campbell can now be seen at the Winona Train Station, and llamateers will be searching out Linda Carothers Llama Farm in Whitman Deering Valley. Photos and description of Linda's work, including individual llama photos, and photos of beautiful fiber products, can be linked from her website: www.carotherscountryfarm.com.

Photos and a description of Brian's work can be linked at <http://www.winonadailynews.com/articles/2008/04/21/news/00lead.txt>.



A Canadian Pacific Railway worker installs the architectural bracket constructed by Brian Campbell in his Minnesota City shop for the Winona Train Station.

Both of these Minnesota City individuals were featured in the Winona Daily News of April 21, 2008. Linda Carothers has been raising llamas at the Minnesota City site since 1986.

A visit with Brian Campbell makes it obvious why persons who want quality and historically accurate work would employ his skills. MCHA congratulates Campbell and Carothers on their unusual, if not unique work. If the Association accomplishes its goal of a Minnesota City interesting sites tour, these two places will garner attention.

Township Board Chairperson Kuehntopp Runs for County Board

Rollingstone Township Board Chairperson and Minnesota City Historical Association Member Greg Kuehntopp announced on April 2 at the Winona County Farm Bureau Banquet that he intends to run for the county board to replace Jerry Heim, St. Charles. Heim is not running. Kuehntopp cited improvement of rural roads, feed lot permits, and action on the overcrowded jail as issues he will pursue if elected. District 3, which Heim has represented for ten years, includes Rollingstone, Altura, Elba and St. Charles. Several other individuals have filed for Heim's seat.

City Council of Minnesota City Funds Web Site

Minnesota City Historical Association **thanks** the Minnesota City City Council for the funding of the website. Ben Koren, site operator, has also donated time to construction and maintenance of the site and training for upkeep by MCHA members. All readers are encouraged to check the website (www.minnesotacity.org) for continuously updated materials on links that include the Council, the Historical Association, the Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund, the Minnesota City Readers, and others. Businesses with websites are encouraged to send their links to the contact site.

Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) Will Recruit New Board Members (repeated from the April newsletter)

Since the origin of the MCHA, the work of the group has been organized and executed by a very small group of individuals who regularly attend monthly meetings. According to Association Bylaws, elections are held in May. In the interest of involving more people in the work and lessening the work load of those who are currently involved with a number of group projects, current officers will be soliciting names of potential board members from Minnesota City and the area who are currently Association members or persons with interest in our work and who are willing to serve on the board. A description of the board duties will be presented to these individuals. In summary, board members work to realize our goal of studying, preserving and promoting the history of this area. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact the association prior to the May meeting.

Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Association is invited to send \$15.00 to MCHA, P.O. Box 41, Minnesota City, MN, 55959.

All monies will be used to support Association goals. Separate or additional donations may also be sent to the above address.