

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 2, Issue 6: June, 2008

Mark your calendars!

June 12: Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) Monthly Meeting; Historic First Baptist Church, 140 Mill Street, Minn. City (**note change in location**); 6:30

August 24: GBDRF One Year Flood Anniversary Celebration at LaCanne Memorial Park, Goodview

September 18: Community Readers Meeting; 6:30 p.m. at Riverway Learning Community; the selection *s Winter Roads, Summer Fields* by Marge Dorner. Open to the Public.

Note - there will be no Readers meetings in June, July, or August.

Installation of Sign Marks Minnesota City Historical Association's (MCHA) Location of Archives

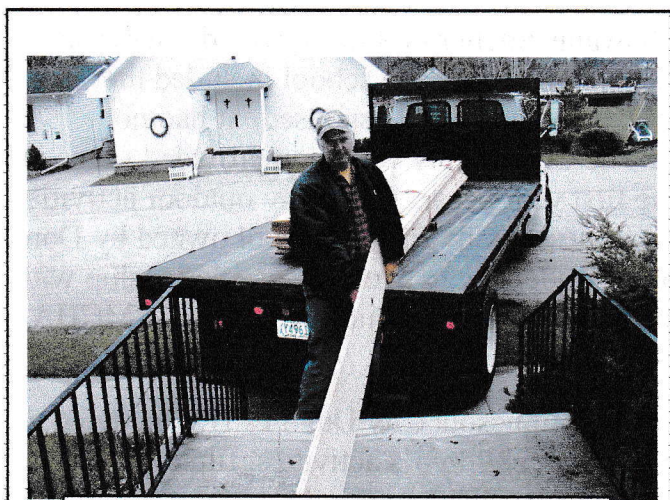


L to R : Gladys Volkart, Jean Gardner, David Eckert, Donna Friesen, Marvin O'Grady, Betsy Friesen, Gen O'Grady, Gloria Denzer at the installation of the reader board for MCHA and First Baptist Ladies Aid Publicity on May 16.

With grant monies from the Experiment in Rural Cooperation and the Minnesota State Sesquicentennial Grant in addition to monies from the general fund, the MCHA has purchased a reader board at 140 Mill Street to announce events of the First Baptist Ladies Aid and the Minnesota City Historical Association.

When the board is operative, Mill street walkers or tourists are encouraged to check it for locations and announcement of historical attractions and information.

Progress on Renovation of Archival Storage Rooms Continues



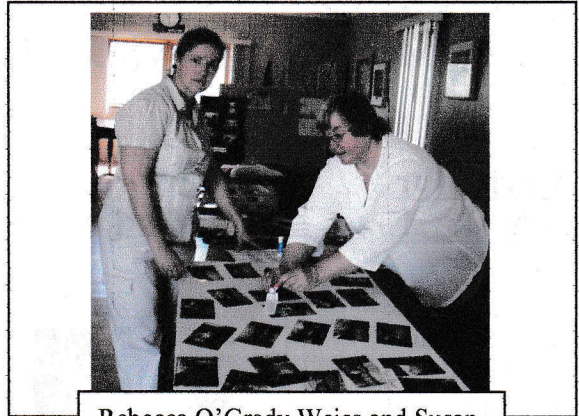
Dallas Denzer unloads lumber at archives site.

Dallas Denzer contributed all the lumber needed for the renovation project at the Historic Baptist Church on Mill Street. Denzer donated lumber and the tongue and grooving processing of boards for the new floor and walls of the two rooms which will be used for archival storage. This donation greatly assists the possibilities of the project. Community members were able to view the progress at the Church open house during Minnesota City Day on May 17. Brian Campbell has completed the construction of bat houses to assist in bat removal from the Church facility. The houses will be erected soon. Additionally, Jim Schoen has completed the plaster work.

Flood Art Display at Minnesota City Day

Photos, photo albums, and DVDs of flood destruction in Rushford, Stockton, Gunderson Addition, Sunny Acres and Minnesota City promoted discussion opportunities for visitors to the Flood Art Show on Minnesota City Day. Children's color art reflected the rain and the rising water. Organized by Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund, the show was intended to encourage sharing feelings and ideas about the flood. These materials and others that have been promised or will be solicited will become part of the DVD project that is being funded by a grant from the Winona Foundation to the GBDRF.

For information or to contribute materials, call 689-2281.



Rebecca O'Grady Weiss and Susan Althoff prepare photo displays for May 17 City Hall Flood Art Show

MNDOT'S Summer Project List Includes Minnesota City Bridge

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has announced that the Minnesota City Bridge destroyed by the August 2007 flood will be replaced this summer. The Old Highway 61 bridge was Minnesota City's principal crossing of Garvin Brook. MnDot will spend \$1.2 million to rebuild the structure between May and September.

Riverway Learning Community Holds Family Fun Festival-Sustainable Living Fair

Patrons of the spaghetti dinner at Riverway Learning Community on May 17 constructed their own salads and got a taste of the quality that has helped make Riverway's launching of their organically grown lunch program successful. Riverway received a Minnesota Facilities Improvement Grant in 2007 which secured the establishment of their commercial kitchen and in-house food service program. Additional grants have helped them plan for a green house. They have begun gardening and growing their own organic food which has the potential for modeling the way school lunch programs can be developed to effect how people connect with the world.

Riverway Learning Community began in 1999 at the Kiwanis Shelter on Prairie Island after other building promises and plans fell through. Although the philosophy of the school included the outdoors as central to the integration of developmental theory the school espoused, it had not intended to have the outdoors as the primary location. The Community was soon provided space in the Cornerstone Community Church in Winona. In the first year because of many outdoor activities, some called it the "outdoor school." With the former Minnesota City Public School owned by Don and Carl Evanson now its main facility, the immersion of students into even closer relationship with nature and hands on learning has been a welcome application of Community philosophy. MCHA congratulates Riverway families on these successes.

In addition to the community spaghetti dinner, Riverway's Minnesota City Day Festival included a pancake breakfast, a live radio show featuring John Bernadot, children's activities, films, a free market, a silent auction and bake sale. As Minnesota City Day came to a close for other events, the music of Rick Snyder and Friends was being enjoyed by diners who ate spaghetti and watched twirling dancers.

MCHA extends sympathies to the families of Maurice Anderson, Stephen Riedemann and Arthur Petroff.

Maurie Anderson died on May 25. He and his wife, Eleanor Streng, lived on Wenonah Road for many years before relocating to Maul Drive. He was a well known Minnesota City resident, having served on the Rollingstone township board for over thirty years. Maurie and family members, including his daughter, Sharon Nako, had to move from their home on Maul Drive because of flood damage, but had returned to their home previous to his last hospitalization.

Stephen Riedemann was a longtime Minnesota City resident. The Riedemann family owned the home at 132 Mill Street, now owned by the Ledebuhr family. Steve's sister, Rita Hornberg is a Minnesota City resident.

The Petroff family formerly resided in Minnesota City.

Thank You

MCHA thanks the **Council of Minnesota City** for their generous donation of \$500.00 to the Association General Fund. In addition to the basic renovation of the rooms at the First Baptist Church for Archival storage, the supplies necessary for activating the facility as a resource are many, including office supplies for archival storage and for office furnishings. The contribution is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to **Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund (GBDRF)** members who served a free community meal to flood victims and friends on May 6. Billed as a Cinco de Mayo meal, attendees enjoyed festive atmosphere, good food, and long conversations. Additional meals are being planned and are intended to provide opportunities for community members to share experiences and build connections with neighbors.

Wenonah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Donate Flag to Riverway Learning Community

MCHA member Jean Gardner was instrumental in securing from the Wenonah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the donation of an American Flag for the Riverway Learning Community Site. Chris Evanson, representing the Evanson family, first donors of the flagpole and flag, assisted Janice Wheelock, a member of the Wenonah Chapter in raising the flag. Laurie Krause, Riverway Learning Community Directress, received the flag on behalf of the Riverway Learning Community. Members of the Riverway Community and other Minnesota City Day visitors attended the ceremony on Saturday morning, May 17 at 10:15 a.m..

MCHA congratulates...

Barbara Pierce was featured in the Winona Daily News on May 3, described in a front page story as the "Scone Lady" of the Winona Farmers Market. The article detailed the large variety of products that Barb, a member of the Minnesota City Community Readers, readies for each sale.

Susan Althoff, MCHA member, was honored by the American Association of University women at its state convention in St. Paul in April. Susan received the 2008 Agent of Change Award for her implementation of the Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Foundation.

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.

From the archives...

Farmers who have dealt with late spring problems might be encouraged by this extract from *The Democrat* published at St. Paul, 1853.

O.M. Lord, Esq, a delegate to the late democratic convention, has deposited in this office a sample of winter wheat of the red chaff bearded variety, raised on the farm of Messrs. Drew and Coryell, in the Rollingsstone valley, which we regard as the finest specimen of this grain that we have ever seen. Messrs. D. and C. have harvested several acres of this wheat and good judges estimate that it will yield at the rate of forty bushels to the acre. This is the first winter whatever sown in that vicinity, but Mr. Lord informs us that a large quantity will be put in the ground this fall. There is little doubt that wheat is to become one of the great staple productions of Minnesota, and that flour of the best quality will soon be the most important item in the lists of our exports. Up with your mills, gentlemen.

In 1853, Mr. Drew increased his cultivation by another field of breaking, and raised a large crop of corn. In the fall he sowed about eight acres of winter wheat. In the spring of 1853 he sowed a sack of spring wheat, and harvested about fifty bushels. About thirty bushels of this he sold to Sanborn and Drew in the Spring of 1854. This was the first load of wheat ever sold in the city of Winona, or in southern Minnesota.

(E.B. Drew in the spring of 1852, from about two bushels of wheat seed, sown on about two acres of breaking, secured seventy bushels of superior winter wheat, which he threshed and cleaned by hand-labor. Drew's land was on present 248 just beyond the township hall, presently a Speltz owned property).

Web Site Reaches England

This month we received this email from England. In addition to the interesting request, the far reaching extension of our website is impressive.

"I am a retired English Police Officer, who along with my daughter collects US Fire Dept Explorers patches. We were wondering, that if your Dept runs such a programme, if you could possibly kindly send us such a patch? If this is so, could one please be sent to :-

David & Katie Whitworth, Flat 208, 4 Curren St, Little Germany, Bradford, West Yorkshire, England, UK, BD1 5BA.

Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated and to you and your fellow officers, a safe and peaceful 2008. Have a quiet one.

Dave & Katie."

Additions to the Archives

Thank you to Anah Nelson Munson who has recently mailed us a collection of school photographs, copies of her teacher contracts, and other materials from 1951-1956 when she taught at Minnesota City. These are valuable additions to our archives, particularly if someone is interested in a school reunion, or in looking at changing obligations of teaching (cleaning blackboards and dusting room furniture was in the contract) and changes in salaries.

Thank you to Roger Church for a map of the original design for the Minnesota City Village. The map contains 160 acres, has text signed by Robert Pike in 1854 and 1861. The interesting details of the description will be included in a future newsletter.

Thank you to all the families and friends who provided photos and information to contribute to the biographies for the Oakland Cemetery display on Minnesota City Day which featured persons who have military service as part of their history.