

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 1, Issue 2: June, 2007

Riverway Learning Community Family Fun Celebration

Riverway Learning Community is sponsoring a community wide celebration/fundraiser on June 9. The event will run from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The celebration will feature food (including a hog roast!), children's games and musical entertainment, a bike and skateboard show. MCHA encourages attendance at this event to support this important resource of our community; our information table will be an opportunity to visit with staff and families. Watch local papers for times and details.

Mark Your Calendars!

June 9:

MCHA information table at the Riverway Family Fun Celebration
(Watch newspapers for additional information)

June 14:

Minnesota City Historical Association Meeting; 6:30, Riverway Learning Community, 115 Iowa St

Minnesota City Historical Association Presents Bridge Marking Sign at Riverway Learning Community Event

Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) will participate in a June 9th Riverway Learning Community Family Fun celebration with an information table featuring discussion of the Swinging Bridge site marking by the Association. MCHA members will be at the information table starting at 11:30. The text for the sign, which can be viewed that day reads: "The swinging foot-bridge crossed Garvin Brook, once known as Stockton Valley Creek, at the site of the Ellsworth Mill and Vill's Brewery. It connected the city's business district with the Oaks Night Club and residential area. Dedicated August 12, 1950, it was 140 feet long and 5 feet wide. It replaced a bridge washed out by the 1947 flood. The bridge was removed in 1981." The sign will contain a photo of the bridge at the time of the 1950 installation.

Anyone with favorite "bridge stories" is invited to visit the MCHA information table at Riverway Learning Community on June 9 to share memories, or please send them to David Eckert: deckert@hbc.com, or by surface mail to Gen O'Grady, 15149 Highway 61, Mn City, Mn 55959. Please check the MCHA website

www.minnesotacity.org for additional information on the bridge.

Other materials of the Association will be available at the information table for perusal on June 9. These include materials that feature Oakland Cemetery, the Allen Whetstone tour through old Minnesota City, the Samuel Loudon Civil War Veteran profile, and the Burley Family. The films "Old Wise Tales" and the Arnie Cisewski Walking Tour of Minnesota City will run throughout the day.

Grant applications "in the works."

MCHA has two grants in progress. We have applied for dollars for expansion of programming from the United Way of Greater Winona. Awards will be announced in July. We have submitted a preliminary draft grant to the State of Minnesota Sesquicentennial Committee. Unfortunately, paper accounts indicate that the budget item for this group came in way under proposal. We should know this week what monies have been committed and then will write this grant.

Samuel and Sarah Cotton's Descendents Contact Minnesota City Historical Association

An email received this week from Gerald and Barbara Okland, Thief River Falls, Mn., indicates that S.E. and Sarah Cotton are the great great grandparents of Gerald. The Cotton cemetery marker was featured on the Cemetery page of the website this week. Cottons were original members of the Western Farm and Village Association, and Mr. Cotton's activities are included in a number of historical accounts. We are excited about this connection and hopeful that this family can reconnect us with the personal history of these founders.

Several Cotton family members are buried in Oakland.



Invitation for Summer Assistance

Because some individuals have very different summer schedules than the rest of the year, we invite all Association members and friends to let us know about additional time or efforts they are interested in contributing over summer months.

Reminders

June 9: View the Swinging Bridge signage at the MCHA information table at the Riverway Family Fun Event (115 Iowa Street, Mn. City)

Minnesota City Community Readers do not meet in June, July, or August.

Visit the increasingly informative web site:
www.minnesotacity.org.