

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 1, Issue 4: August, 2007

Mark Your Calendars!

August 9: Minnesota City Historical Association monthly meeting at Riverway Learning Community, 115 Iowa Street, Minnesota City; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

September 20: Minnesota City Community Readers. The selections for this meeting are *Amish Society* by J. Hostetler and *Plain and Simple*, by Sue Bender. Please notify Gen O'Grady if you want books ordered; persons are invited to the discussions, whether or not they have read the books.

February 24: UW-L archeologists' presentation on Native American History and Artifacts of the area. Please begin locating yours for evaluation of authenticity and value by these individuals.

Membership Numbers Increase

The following people are members of the Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA). We will print this list once annually and note renewals and new members in subsequent issues. If readers are aware of any persons who might support the Association, please communicate this to David Eckert at deckert@hbc.com.

Dorothy Brom
Lynda Brzezinski
Roger Church
Clare Denzer
David and Brenda Eckert
Jean Gardner
Faith Ann Jackson
Leo and Barbara Jilk
David and Joyce Keller
Steve Kohner
Laurie and Fred Krause
Marv and Gen O'Grady
Jim and Kathy Schoen
Robert Webster and Dawn Church Webster
Minnesota City First Baptist Ladies Aid Society

Fred and Jean Brust
Andrea Church
Russell Church
Hollis and Lori Donehower
LaVern and Jaye Fritz
Duane Hutton
Scott Jensen and Kate O'Grady
Reid and Arlas Johnson
Walt Kelly
Chuck Kosel
Marianne Mastenbrook
Gerry and Barb Okland
Howard and Gladys Volkart
Ron Wenzel

Progress Update on Swinging Bridge Sign Placement

City officials have met with Dave Bunke, Canton Mills, to examine the area of the sign placement at the bridge pier on the Oaks Side of the Creek, abutting the walking/bike path. The clearing of the area will begin with cooler weather. In addition to the historical marking of the bridge area, this will be a significant beautification of this site. MCHA is grateful to the City Council and to Canton Mills for their advice and physical work on this project.

Reid Johnson Day at the Fair

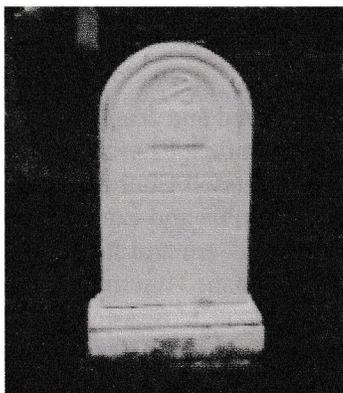
Friday, July 13, was observed as Reid Johnson Day at the Winona County Fair; Johnson was named to the County Fair Board Hall of Fame. This honor reflects lifetime contributions to agriculture. Reid and Arlas and Reid's brother, Roy, farm in Stockton Valley. Congratulations to Reid and his family.

Web Site Being Updated and Improved

The Minnesota City Historical Association asks readers to be patient with our current website difficulties at www.minnesotacity.org. The provider is changing the site to make it possible for the Association directors to access it and independently add material. This will be a great improvement in keeping the site current.

From the history books:

Robert Pike was an eccentric member of the Western Farm and Village Association. He and his wife Sarah are buried in Oakland Cemetery. Pike was a teacher, scholar, writer, explorer and farmer. He served as a justice of the peace, a county surveyor and commissioner, postmaster and authored two books on mnemonics (memory word assists). His business card in 1856 (a rarity, we would think!) read: "Robert Pike who writes this ditty, Lives at Minnesota City. Is Postmaster, Magistrate, Buys and Sells Real Estate, Conveyancer and County Surveyor, (The City's small and needs no mayor). Sectarian rule he dares resist, And thinks Christ was a Socialist, Loving mankind and needing dimes, He waits to serve them at all times." (Source: Winona Daily Republican).



The Pike Grave in Oakland Cemetery
Robert: 1821-1874; Sarah: 1823-1899



Robert and Sarah Pike

Grant Writing Efforts Continue

MCHA has two grants in progress. The Winona Community Foundation will notify us by mid-August if we have the opportunity to continue pursuit of a grant from the Foundation. A second grant is being drafted for the State Sesquicentennial Committee from which we hope to receive \$1000.00 to promote our significant history during the 2008 state sesquicentennial. The legislature awarded far less for this celebration than had been requested, so grants will be more competitive.

Archives Receive New Materials:

At the MCHA meeting on July 26, Marianne Mastenbrook presented a number of photographs which had belonged to Beverly Stewart Mastenbrook. We will attempt to identify these with the help of long time Minnesota City and area residents who may have seen the photos before or who recognize persons or locations. We are grateful to persons who know that we have become a repository for these historically significant materials. Please alert your family and friends to the opportunity to share their materials with us. Also at the meeting on July 26, Lori Donehower contributed to the archives a box of interesting materials from the Minnesota City Fire Extinguishers, a very productive and active auxiliary group to the Minnesota City Fire Department in the 1980s. We hope to detail some of these materials for our inspiration in future newsletters.

The Association extends its sympathy to the Gary and Carla Burton family. Their son, Daniel, was killed in the recent vehicle accident in Stockton. Carla was one of the musical performers at several Minnesota City Day celebrations.

Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Association is invited to send \$15.00 to MCHA, P.O. Box 41, MN City, MN, 55959.
All monies will be used to support Association goals.