

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 6, Issue 1: January, 2012

“Minnesota City: A Past that we honor; a Present that we give meaning; a Future that we build together”

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, January 14:
MCHA Regular Meeting; Riverway Learning Community, 115 Iowa Street, Minnesota City; 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 19:
Minnesota City Community Readers; Riverway Learning Community; 6:30 p.m.
Selection: *The Catcher in the Rye* (Salinger)

Sunday, February 26:
Walt Kelly and “The Oaks”; Riverway Learning Community; 2:00p.m.

Saturday, May 19:
Minnesota City Day

Go “Green”!

If you receive this newsletter in paper form and would prefer to receive it electronically, please call 689-2440.

Local History Available at the Archives:

The Farm: Home to the Life and Times of Lester and Cecelia Maus

Dolores Maus Felsheim and Edwin Maus have compiled a remarkable history of the Maus Life/Farm on Hoffman Hill Road.

An on-loan copy to the MCHA Archives, 140 Mill Street, can be viewed or checked out for reading. Readers with interest in the Maus family, historical interest in the period of their land ownership(1892-present), the impact of values on land ownership, as well as appreciation for this photojournalistic essay will find enjoyment in perusal of “The Farm”.

The book contains examples of the many qualities of the Maus’ parents—Lester and Cecilia Lemmer Maus. Felsheim and Maus have collected documents, family photos, sketches of inventions. An interesting document is that of the 1952 patent for the Stalk Feeding Mechanism for corn shredding invented by Lester. Daughter Dolores credits her parents for many influences in her life: strong faith, necessary skills and discipline for a productive and Christian life, perseverance, good parenting, good manners, responsibilities, good nutrition, Sunday rest days, love of family. Son Edwin describes his father, Lester, as a former horologist, watch and clock maker, inventor, and farm manager.

The Maus farm was purchased by Henry and Anna Maus in 1892 from John Valentine. Lester and Cecilia Maus purchased the farm from the Henry Maus estate in 1940, and Edwin and Judy Maus purchased the farm from Lester Maus in 1973.

Many familiar names occur in the text of this book. And many Rollingstone area persons are included in the photos. Interested persons are invited to access the on-loan copy of the book at the Archives, and are reminded that other “substantial” family histories available at the Archives include those of the Church, Burley/Aune, and Denzer families.

Wastewater Treatment Excavations Unearth Artifacts

Thanks to the diligent observation and retrieval efforts of Kelvin Penrod, a number of glassware items has been secured for the archives from the dirt being excavated in the park area behind the Fire Station/church/city council buildings at Minnesota City. More information on these items will be included in a future newsletter. Some pieces appear to be food service items that one speculates could have been used at the City Nite Club.



January 31 News in 1898: "Winona Daily Republican"

"Mention has already been made in your columns of the delightful sleigh ride party of Rev. Kerfoot's class to Minnesota City, but you didn't give it all. We were unable to get Miller's hall on account of the Olive Branch people having previously engaged it, so we removed the seats from the church and used it, and while the seats were up, the ladies thought it a good time to give the church a much needed cleaning, which they did with neatness and dispatch. Minnesota City was very sociable Friday evening. In addition to the supper at the Methodist church, the Olive Branch church turned out about fifty strong at Miller's hall, and home Baptist people had a sociable at Mrs. Milton's which was also well attended. Whenever a party of twenty-five to one hundred wants to come out here for a ride and refreshments, let us know and we will furnish it cheap and good. Father Whetstone had the misfortune to be tipped out of his sleigh and broke two ribs.... Uncle Riley Stewart has resigned his position with the government and Mr. H.W. Cook will carry the mail hereafter between the depot and the office."

Former Minnesota Citian, Judy Anderson Loses Business

to December 6 Fire in Dodge, Wisconsin

Local media carried the story of a December 6 fire in Dodge, Wisconsin which destroyed the Long Branch Saloon, a bar run by Judy Anderson and her family. In addition to the loss of the business, Anderson reported the loss of boxes of antiques that had belonged to her mother. Anderson's parents, Maurice and Eleanor Streng Anderson were longtime Minnesota City residents, (Eleanor was born in Minnesota City-Stockton Valley) residing on Wenonah Road and later in a home they built on MaurL Drive, now the home of daughter Sharon Nako and the residence of Eleanor's brother, Duane. Maurice was a longtime Rollingstone Township Supervisor, and Eleanor is remembered for her businesses which included the restaurant HiWay Inn at the location of the current Hwy 43 Kwik Trip and the 4 Lane Drive-In Root Beer Stand at Minnesota City. Judy indicated family intention to rebuild and reopen the Dodge business.

Minnesota City Community Readers Select Books for Coming Months

Newsletter readers will have noticed the frequent insertion in the newsletter of the invitation to join Minnesota City Community Readers, as regular attendees of the group or one time visitors based on interest in an individual book. The group usually includes a dozen readers who meet on the third Thursday of each month (excluding summer months), at 6:30 p.m. at Riverway Learning Community, 115 Iowa Street in Minnesota City. Readers propose selections; Lori Donehower secures copies of the books which are distributed at the month previous to discussion. The January 19 selection is Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. Still occasionally newsworthy as banned in some towns, the novel is now widely read by adolescent English classes as well as adults interested in its themes of teen age rebellion, confusion, and issues of mental health. New readers welcome!

On February 16, the Readers will discuss Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*, and on March 15, Bette Bao Lord's *Spring Moon*. FYI: 689-2440.

Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund Publishes Newsletter

Meeting quarterly in March, June, September and December, GBDRF, whose mission is to aid and assist area families and individuals in the community and area, now communicates its activities in a newsletter named Garvin Brook Babblings Newsletter. Since its organization in response to the flood of 2007, the group has constructed memorials—a picnic shelter in Minnesota City to honor Jaye Fritz and Ray Denzer, and a stone bench in Stockton to honor John and Shirley Micheel. They have also conducted successful fund drives and served a Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast to benefit local organizations. Most recently elected directors are Sharon Nako and Hollis Donehower.

Bon Hiver theme for MCHA Caroling Event at Historic First Baptist Church Entertains Large Audience

Will Krageschmidt, in music and narrative, introduced the “good winter” theme for this year’s caroling event. In 1870, Joseph Warren Watson wrote the poem *Beautiful Snow* which included these lines:

*Oh the snow, the beautiful snow,
Filling the sky and the earth below.
Over the housetops, over the street,
Over the heads of people you meet.
Dancing, Flirting, Skimming Along.*



Will Krageschmidt presents the inspiration for the “Bon Hiver”—“Good Winter” focus of the December Caroling Event.

Several of the program selections amplified this theme.



Kaitlyn Ebinger performs *Let It Snow* on her sax.

The horses for the wagon rides were ready, but truck problems with getting them to the church called for quick action by the Maus family to come ahead with their pickup truck and wagon, and provide rides for the carolers. Hopefully, next year’s event will have good weather and good trucks. As Bryce Maus said after the event, “We are getting a lot of practice getting the horses ready.” People were entertained in the Historic First Baptist Church by guitar solos, single voice solos, saxophone, trios, and an outstanding rendition of the evening, the round in four parts, “What a Goodly Thing”, led by Duane Hutton, Richard Karnath and Don Evanson. Audience participation was resounding. Talents of a number of area residents

were exhibited, and the hope is that in coming years, even more persons will come forward to help us enrich community through this and other MCHA sponsored events.



Linda Brzezinski and Rebecca Weiss deliver an illustrated Christmas weather forecast.



Brian Ebinger performs “The Little Drummer Boy”.



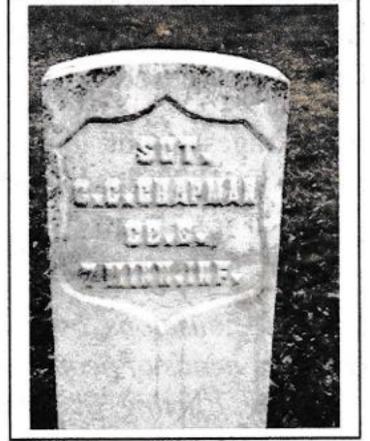
Richard Karnath, Duane Hutton, Donald Evanson narrate in song the story of King Wenceslaus: “when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.”

Riverway Newsletter Includes Community Aspirations

In discussing her hopes for the new school year in the Riverway October Newsletter, Laurie Krause, School Director speaks of “new dreams for the school’s future, working together with students, families, staff, and community members.” She quotes from Parker Palmer in *Let Your Life Speak*, who says, “Abundance is a communal act, the joint creation of an incredibly complex ecology in which each part functions on behalf of the whole and, in return, is sustained by the whole. Community doesn’t just create abundance – community is abundance. If we could learn that equation from the world of nature, the human world might be transformed”. MCHA has invited closer community connections with Riverway Learning Community. Several Minnesota City residents attended the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17 and were welcomed with good food and conversation.

Buried in Oakland—C.C. Chapman 1833-1900

One of the oldest burials in Oakland is that of C.C. Chapman who died in Minnesota City on January 16, 1900. According to the Winona Daily Republican, “the deceased was an old settler of this county having come here forty five years ago. He was a member of the John Ball Post G.A.R. of Winona, of the A.O.U.W., and of the First Baptist church at Minnesota City. The deceased was born sixty seven years ago at London, England. At the close of the war, Mr. Chapman was a United States Mail agent for four years. Mr. Chapman had been a resident of Minnesota City for a number of years, having settled there in early days. He was postmaster there for twenty one years, holding the position at the time of his death. He was highly esteemed both there and in Winona. He is survived by a widow. During the war the deceased was a member of the Seventh Minnesota Company B. He was drawing a small pension at the time of his death and carried \$2000 in the A.O.U.W. His wife and his brother were at his bedside when he passed away. He did not regain consciousness.”



The (A.O.U.W.) Ancient Order of United Workmen began in Meadville, Pennsylvania on October 27, 1868. Founder John Upchurch believed that an eternal truth was “that the interests of labor and capitol are equal and should receive equal protection.” Fraternal benefits societies soon became quite popular as a means of providing financial protection to working class people at affordable rates (Masonry).

C.C. Chapman, performed many services for the early settlers of Minnesota City, including that of secretary/trustee for the Oakland Cemetery Association at Minnesota City in 1887.

MCHA expresses gratitude for December 10 Holiday Event:

- To all persons who attended
- To persons who shared their talents in individual and group performance
- To all persons who provided refreshments
- To the First Baptist Ladies Aid who so graciously continue to let us use the historic church and assist with decorations
- To the Denzer Bronk families for the beautiful Christmas décor
- To friends and family of all participants who support MCHA participants with talents, energy, and encouragement
- To the Maus family for the wagon rides

MCHA extends sympathy:

- To all family members and friends of Kevin Denzer, 32, of Winona who passed away Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, at his home.
- To all family members and friends of Matthew Berhow, 19, of Winona. Matthew died Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011. He was the son of Peter and Jody Church Berhow, grandson of Roger Church.

Check Out The Website:

www.minnesotacity.org

Continue to check the website periodically. New information is constantly being added.

Remind family and friends and former Minnesota City residents to check it out! Thank you to Susan Althoff, Marv O’Grady and David Eckert for keeping the website updated.

MCHA Changes to January Membership Date

Newsletter readers are reminded that MCHA, following the practice of other small non-profit organizations, is requesting that all persons who wish to contribute the \$15.00 membership fee do so in January. If a reader has just recently paid the fee in advance of last month’s communication, the renewal date would not be until January of 2013. Thank you for attention to this detail.