

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 6, Issue 9: September, 2012

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

Mark your calendars!

September 8: 9:30 a.m.;
MCHA Monthly Mtg.;
140 Mill Street

September 9: 2:00 p.m.;
Annual Summer
Service; First Baptist
Church, 140 Mill Street

September 13:
6:00p.m.; Cemetery
Walk Rehearsal for
Impersonators;
Oakland Cemetery,
115 Front Street

September 15:
1:00p.m.; Bob Welch,
Civil War
Singer/Narrator;
Minnesota City School,
115 Iowa Street

September 15:
2:00p.m.; Cemetery
Walk; Oakland
Cemetery, 115 Front
Street; (Rain site:
Minnesota City School,
115 Iowa Street)

September 15:
3:30p.m.; Bob Welch,
Civil War
Singer/Narrator;
Minnesota City School,
115 Iowa Street,

September 20:
6:30p.m.; Minnesota
City Community
Readers;
Minnesota City School,
115 Iowa Street;
Selection: *The Odyssey*

September 15 Events Retell Minnesota City History Please Invite Family and Friends!

Two events in Minnesota City on Saturday, September 15 will examine aspects of Minnesota City history. “Voicing the Values of Their Lives,” a cemetery walk in Oakland Cemetery, 115 Front Street will begin at 2:00 p.m. Bob Welch, a singer/narrator will perform at the former Minnesota City School Building at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) and the Oakland Cemetery Association are conducting a cemetery walk at the Oakland Cemetery site, which is a treasure of history. Seven persons will be interpreted in this walk: Robert and Sarah Pike, Daniel and Ann Rowney Burley, Esther Denzer, Lucy Bates Church and Samuel Loudon. Interpreters will be Walt Kelly, Dawn Church, Jack Stansfield, Pam Stansfield Aune, Kay Denzer Vanderzee, Maxine Church Spaag, and Brian Tomashek. They will be introduced by guides Lynda Brzyzinski and Rebecca Weiss. Walk organizers are being assisted by additional friends of Minnesota City; these will be acknowledged in the October newsletter.



Kate O'Grady and Debbie LaFee consider the decor for cemetery walk in Oakland on September 15.

The trove of information about the seven persons interred in Oakland Cemetery and being “interpreted” by speakers in the September 15 Walk will include some well known facts. Additionally, the presenters at the walk will provide anecdotes and claims to fame or infamy that have not been widely known, even by some of their descendents. Birthplaces of the Minnesota City residents are wide in range: Scotland, England, Vermont, Minnesota, Massachusetts and New York. Several of them came to Minnesota City as part of the Western Farm and Village Association which “founded” Minnesota City in 1852. Four of the individuals will be portrayed by their descendents, giving the walk particular poignancy and authenticity. Lives of the seven individuals portrayed have been researched; interpreters will, in some cases, add their own information.

Cemetery walks are increasing in popularity across the United States. They are a popular vehicle for communication with family and community history. **The cemetery walk at Oakland Cemetery on Saturday, September 15, at 2:00 p.m.,** welcomes all area residents or visitors to this event which will last approximately one hour. Materials will be available for grave rubbings for family or friends to replicate engravings for personal use or for gift or artistic purposes. Rain site is the former Minnesota City School, 115 Iowa Street.

(Continued on page 2; September 15 Events)

September 15 Events (continued from page 1)

Iowa Musician Bob Welch will be performing twice on Saturday, September 15, at 1:00 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. at the former Minnesota City School Auditorium, 115 Iowa Street. Welch's performances recall civil war history for adults and for children. His songs, along with his stories, combine the facts and emotions of the conflict. Persons interested in "advance" familiarity with Welch's music will find samples of his work on his website: www.bobwelch1863.com.



(Anita Quick photo)

First Baptist Church Annual Summer Service in Historic Church

A worship service will be held at the historic Minnesota City First Baptist Church on Sunday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Dennis Hudson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Winona, will conduct the service. This church is the oldest in Winona County having been established on July 11, 1852. **The public is invited.** The event annually draws persons with connections to the church history/attendance as well as persons with interest in the church building. In 1933 the church became a mission of the Winona Baptist Church. In 1970, the church was purchased by the Winona County Historical Society. During the 1980s when the Historical Society found it necessary to divest itself of some of its property, the church was deeded to the Minnesota City First Baptist Ladies Aid Society, who have preserved the building, its contents and grounds. In recent years, the church has contributed space for use by the Minnesota City Historical Association Archives.

Whetstone Family Holds Bi-Annual Reunion

The descendants of Silas and Ida (Turner) Whetstone attended a bi-annual reunion on Sat., August 11, 2012 at Prairie Island, Winona, MN. Silas was the son of David and Nancy (Parker) Whetstone who came to the area from Indiana and first settled in Lewiston, MN. In 1882 David moved the family to a farmstead near Minnesota City. Silas was the next to farm the land and raised one son and four daughters. His son, Henry, also farmed the land and raised three sons, Donald, Glenn and Allen. The eldest of each son was represented by, Audrey Smith (Donald) formally of Galesville, WI, now residing in Winona; Stanley Whetstone (Glenn) of Minnesota City now living in Winona and Bruce Whetstone (Allen) of Mazzepa, MN. The 64 reunion attendees are family of Henry and Alvina (Denzer) Whetstone and members of Henry's sister, Alda Sanders of the Utica area. (Contributed by Susan Althoff).

MCHA Extends Sympathy to:

- The family and friends of Connor James Flynn who died on August 10 in Rochester. Connor was two weeks old. He is the son of Maureen and Tim Flynn, Winona, and the grandson of Jane and Don Anderson, Minnesota City.
- The family and friends of Bruce Michael Seibold who died in Minnesota City on August 15. Bruce was 62. He was a long time resident of Harbor Drive.

Facebook Users: Minnesota City Historical Association has a Friends Site

Don Evanson writes : "I am posting this, below, to The Friends of Minnesota City Historical Association Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheMinnesotaCityHistoricalAssociation#> .

If you know of Facebook users, you might forward this to them, so that they can visit the page, and perhaps "like" it."

Riverway Learning Community Exits Minnesota City

A number of area residents have learned of and watched with interest/regret and other emotions, the move of Riverway Learning Community into Winona. For all familiar with the school, especially, those Minnesota City families who had enrolled students at the charter school, the move invites reflection on a number of educational issues. These include the perceived match of a learning institution philosophy with that of family and community, as well as standard issues of funding, staffing, and building. From its beginning in Winona before State of Minnesota approval of its charter, Riverway was sometimes labeled “the outdoor school.” The designation was sometimes one of disdain, with its users believing that outdoor activities took second place to in-school activities. This view was later challenged, albeit perhaps unintentionally, by the Winona engagement and promotion of the ideas of Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods*. Louv discussed nature deficit in children, not entirely a school induced deficit, but one that he believed education could impact. Connection with nature, according to Louv was necessary for healthy emotional and physical child development. Riverway made these connections, with their many projects that invited outdoor work-- the river experiences, the chickens, the garden, the organic food, the photography and others. Some readers followed with interest the seeming inability in recent years of the school to meet math and language standards. The not unexpected collision course of project based learning with No Child Left Behind standards was experienced by many schools, and adjustments altered the practices of a number of these. Searching for schools to match individual needs of children led to an also frequent reality of schools including Riverway with a higher than usual number of special needs children with low family income. Honoring the uniqueness of each child often increases inability to meet group standards. As numbers of students increased at Riverway, space was inadequate. And so—finding more space—Riverway has moved to Winona Crossings.
(Editorial.: Genevieve O’Grady).

Minnesota City Community Readers Invite New Members

September 20 will be the first meeting of the season for the Minnesota City Community Readers who have been meeting monthly (excepting summer hiatuses) since 2007. New readers are most welcome, whether for individual meetings or regular attendance. Attendees suggest books for reading. Lori Donehower has graciously secured books, nearly always without cost, for all members. The current list of selected books include Homer’s *The Odyssey*, (September); October: Fuentes-- *The Death of Artemio Cruz*, and November: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. There are no dues for the group; discussions are wide ranging, respectful, and dynamic. Anyone with interest in ideas or who just enjoys literature will find the group beneficial and enjoyable. Discussions last approximately an hour and a half. All newsletter readers and their friends and family members are invited to join this group. Some individuals who have expressed interest in the group, but have not come to meetings, have expressed reluctance because of the time which means driving in the dark for some winter season meetings. One need not attend all meetings to enjoy this group; all are invited to as many meetings as are possible for them.

The **Giant Puffball** is one of North America's best-known edible wild mushrooms. To rule out all other mushrooms, it should be at least four inches in diameter, growing on the ground (in the woods or on a lawn), roughly a sphere in shape. Sliced and fried like eggplant, or cubed for soups and casseroles, the easily identified puffball can be eaten without fearing the poison of many mushrooms.

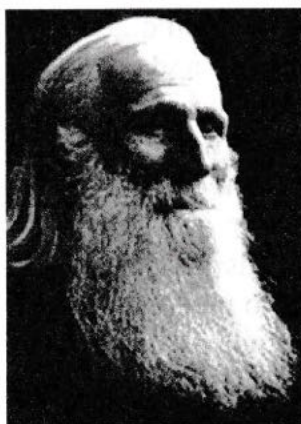


Puff balls shown here in comparison to gallon milk jug

Minnesota City Events:

September 15:

- 1:00 p.m. Bob Welch, Civil War Musician:
Former Minnesota City School,
2:00 p.m. Cemetery Walk: Oakland Cemetery
3:30 p.m. Bob Welch, Civil War Musician:
Former Minnesota City School



Daniel Q. Burley



Ann Rowney Burley

No
Photo
Available

Sam'l L. Loudon

Minnesota City
Historical
Association
And
Oakland
Cemetery
Association
Present

"Voicing the
Values
Of their
Lives"

Cemetery
Walk

September 15,
2012
Oakland Cemetery,
Minnesota City
Time: 2:00 p.m.



Jack Stansfield



Pam Aune



Brian Tomashek