

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 5, Issue 7: July, 2011

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

Mark your calendars!

July 15 and 16: All School Reunion

July 15: Archives Open, 140 Mill Street; 6:00-8:00 p.m.

July 16: Archives Open, 140 Mill Street 10:00 -11:30 a.m.; following reunion dinner until 4:00 p.m.

Note: Community Readers meet next in September. Selection: *Brothers Karamazov*

Archives Summer Open Hours:

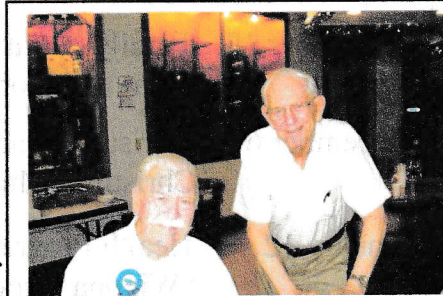
Thursday, July 21,
Thursday, Aug 18.
4:30-6:00 p.m.
or by appointment.
Call 689-2440.

Go “Green”!

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

Maybury Classmates Remember Their “School Days”

Henry Leerkamp, a former Minnesota City resident, was honored on the occasion of his 90th birthday, Sunday, June 5, at the American Legion Post, 302 E. Sarnia, Winona. Many relatives and friends gathered, including two of his former classmates at the Maybury School in Minnesota City. They are Dorothy Gardner Brom and Roger Church. Also present were Cliff and Janet (Hill) Seabern and Jean Gardner from the Maybury School. Henry, Roger and Dorothy were classmates in a class of ten pupils who graduated



Classmates Henry Leerkamp and Roger Church visit at Leerkamp Birthday Party.



Henry Leerkamp, Mrs. Leerkamp, and Dorothy Brom enjoy the party.

from the 8th grade of the Maybury school in 1936. The school continued for two more years while the new school was built, and then it was torn down. The students at that time did not realize that their school was designed by a prominent New York City architect, C. G. Maybury, who came west to make his fortune and stayed to design the Winona County Courthouse and other buildings in Winona. (Contributed by Jean Gardner)

All School Reunion: July 15 and 16

Friday, July 15: Informal get together with cash bar at the LCove in Minnesota City. 6:00 -?

Saturday, July 16: School reunion and dinner at **St. Paul's Catholic Church**. Friends, family and children are welcome to attend. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tell your classmates.

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Riverway Learning Community: 115 Iowa Street
Register and Pick up dinner tickets

\$8.00 for adult dinner reservations must be received by Laurel or LaVern by July 7. Final numbers must be given to caterer on the 8th. All dinners must be reserved in advance.

Contact persons:

-Laurel Denzer Moger, 82 Winona Road, Minnesota City, MN 55959; 457-0345
-LaVern Fritz, 17433 County Road 23, Minnesota City, MN 55959; 689-2050

From the Archives: PTA Meeting Notes; Yearly Program 1953-1954.

The impressive educational interests, the organizational skills and the participation of community residents are visible in the Yearly Program for the association for the school year 1953-1954.

- October 13.... Mr. Jestus, Speaker (County Superintendent)
- November 10...Family Night Supper,
Film, in color, "Norway," taken by Mrs. Hans Hansen on a recent trip to Europe.
- December 6... Christmas Party
Christmas Music, Jefferson Chorus, Mrs. D. Whiting, Director
- January 12.... Health Program
"Winona General Hospital"
Mr. Hagberg, Director, Winona Hospital
- February 9.... Boy Scout Program
"History of the Minnesota City P.T.A."
This is planned to honor past officers and to review past events.)
Committee: Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Henry Whetstone, Mrs. Herbert Witt, and
Mrs. Allan Tschumper
- March 9..... "Developing Personality"
Mr. Louis Schoenig, Guidance Director
Winona senior High School
- April 13... School Talent Show
We hope to have outside talent and prizes
- May 11.... "Health and Nutrition of the School Child"
Loretta Kiley
Winona County Nurse

Visitors are welcome to all our meetings.

Attendance was taken of members at meetings. Lists included staff and parents with no distinctions. One list from the 1938 building (ca. 1950) has 56 members. A notebook of PTA minutes is available at the archives.

From the archives:

A school contract for a Minnesota City teacher for the school year 1948 includes this clause:

"Second—In respect to janitor work, including the building of fires, sweeping and keeping the school room clean: Clean blackboards and dust furniture in room." There are no amounts filled in the blanks for agreement to pay the said for the above described janitor's services in addition to the salary. The school board agrees to provide suitable and sufficient fuel, prepared for fire.

"Fourth—With respect to holidays: Teach Columbus Day and General Election Day".

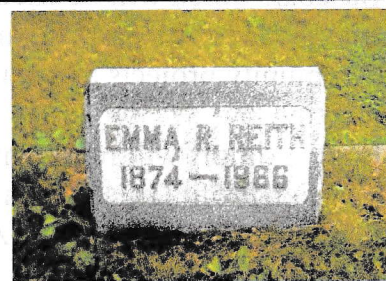
Photo Displays and Open Hours at MCHA Archives During Minnesota City July 15-16 all-school reunion.

Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) will hold open hours for viewing exhibits at the Archives site, 140 Mill Street in Minnesota City during the Minnesota City School Reunion days of July 15 and 16. On Friday, July 15, open hours will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m., and on Saturday, July 16, open hours will be from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and following the reunion dinner until 4:00 p.m. Visitors to the archives are encouraged to bring photos or objects with Minnesota City historical significance (deeds to land, postcards, clothing items, artifacts, Oaks & Nite Club memorabilia, etc.) for donation to the archives. MCHA personnel can copy photos on site for immediate return to visitors.

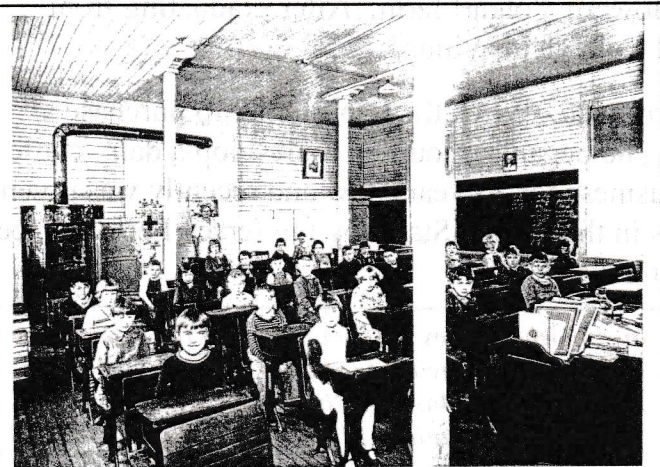
Visitors will be able to view a large collection of school photos of buildings and of pupils and staff, as well as some textbooks used at the school. Information on other timely topics, including biography of C.J. Maybury, first school architect, school desks, etc., will be available. Additionally, visitors are invited to view the large collection of material related to Minnesota City history that is now available in the Archives housed in the Historic First Baptist Church.

Buried in Oakland: Emma Reith 1874-1966

During this school reunion month we commemorate the interment in Oakland Cemetery of Emma Reith. Reith was a Minnesota City resident and school teacher. The details of her life presented here are very incomplete. In some State of Minnesota Historical files Reith is listed as a Minnesota City teacher from 1930 to 1933, but in a 1952 Winona newspaper account of 1952, she is listed as a teacher at Minnesota City for 15 years. She also taught at Utica, MN, and is recorded as attending teacher training sessions and conventions in Winona.



Her mother's obituary states that the family home site was in Deering Valley (north of Minnesota City), Emma's father having purchased land there in 1869. Her mother Mary was born in Bavaria, Germany, emigrating to the U.S. in 1853. Later stories mention her own home in Minnesota City. In many of the neighborhood news stories Emma is mentioned as a host of social gatherings or as an attendee of these functions at many familiar Minnesota City familiar family name gatherings—Whetstone, Burley, Daskowski, Streng, and others. Although Emma is listed in a number of



Emma Reith with one of her classes in the Maybury Building.

newspaper stories relating First Baptist Church History (she was an organist), she was buried from the First Congregational Church in Lake City in 1966. One can speculate that she lived in Lake City to be near her sister. Reith's parents, Herman and Mary, are also buried in Oakland. She had one sister, Mrs. Fred Peterson, Lake City. At the time of the dedication of the expansion to the school in 1966, the year of Emma's death, Peterson presented Principal John McCarl with an oil painting in memory of Emma, who, it relates, began teaching in the primary department at Minnesota City in 1906 and lived many of her 91 years in Minnesota City.

MCHA expresses sympathy to:

- Marianne Mastenbrook and family on the death of her brother, Eugene Sobeck who died at age 83 in Winona on June 16.
- Donna Spaag Friesen, Betsy, and family on the death of Donna's father, Clarence, who died at his home in Stockton on June 17, 2011.

Congratulations to:

- Minnesota City 10u baseball team who took 2nd place in the LaCrescent Tournament on June 18. Looks like a good beginning.

GBDRF Quarterly Meeting Elects New Directors

At its quarterly meeting on June 26 held at Riverway Learning Community, two new members were voted in as directors: Hollis Donehower and Sharon Nako. The group heard reports on their successful May 21 Belgian Waffle Breakfast and dedication of the picnic shelter in Minnesota City. A big thank you to all who attended. An allocation of \$950 was made to Minnesota City Youth Baseball which will be used for additional facility renovations on the small field. Donations were also made to Riverway Learning Community and St. Paul's Catholic Church. Discussion of future community projects and supporting fund raising efforts will continue at the September Quarterly meeting.

Susan Althoff will represent GBDRF at the Real Tools for Volunteers: Form, Frame, Build your Not-For-Profit Organization seminar on July 13. Directors engaged in conversation related to image building and connections. A newsletter for donors and volunteer supporters on a semi-annual basis via email will begin.

Family Night on the Farm at Metz Hart-Land Dairy

On June 23, 2011, Winona Chamber of Commerce held its annual Family Night on the Farm at the farm of Jeff and Mariann Metz. Metz's Hart-Land Dairy is located along County Rd 102 outside of Rushford, MN.

Jeff and his brother Tim grew up in Minnesota City and attended school here. His parents, Roger and Ramona Metz, were active in the PTA.

From a young age, Jeff knew that he wanted to farm. Both of his parents came from farm families. While living in Minnesota City, Jeff helped on the Howard Volkart farm. After graduating from Winona Senior High School, he attended Vocational College in Winona.

Metz started out with a few cows and then rented farm land. When the opportunity to purchase a farm near Rushford came up, with the help of family, he began his journey to develop a dairy cattle and milk production farm. Hart-Land has been in business for 23 years now and recently was given an honor as one of the top 100 Jersey milk producers in the United States by the Jersey Performance Index (Dec. 2010) (Information contributed by Susan Althoff.)

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.

*Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Association is invited to send \$15.00 to
MCHA, P.O. Box 21, 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.*