

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 8, Issue 2: February, 2014

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

Mark your Calendars!

Saturday, Feb. 8:
MCHA monthly meeting and Minnesota City Book Shelf; 9:30 a.m.; 115 Iowa Street, Mn. City, Former Mn. City School.

Sunday, Feb. 9:
Winona County History Center Museum Open House; Noon-4:00 p.m.; 160 Johnson Street, Winona.

Thursday, February 27:
Minnesota City Community Readers, Selection: O'Reilly, *The Killing of Lincoln*; and Minnesota City Book Shelf; 6:30 p.m.; 115 Iowa Street, Mn. City, Former Mn. City School.

MAY 17
Minnesota City Day!

“Go Green!”

If you receive this letter in paper “hardcopy” and would like to receive it electronically, please call 689-2440.

MCHA (Minnesota City Historical Association) Will Participate in Winona County Historical Society February 9 Open House.

Minnesota City Historical Association has been invited to participate in this year’s Open House at the Winona County Historical Society location at 160 Johnson Street, from noon until 4:00 p.m. There is no admission cost for the event which is a wonderful opportunity for community members to view gallery activities, crafts, archival areas and to enjoy live entertainment. The MCHA exhibit will include Association historical panels, artifacts from Minnesota City, website cards, brochures, and an electronic photo display. Foci will include the Minnesota City Firsts in Winona County. Please visit the booth to support the Association. Additional publicity of time and events will be available in local media as well as at the Winona County Historical Society website.
<http://www.winonahistory.org/wordpress>.

Minnesota City First Lady of Apples: Mary Campbell

One of the “firsts” in Winona County that Minnesota City history claims is that of successful apple production. In a number of articles, the proprietor of this claim is listed as Hiram Campbell. In the *1883 History of Winona County*, the feat is attributed to Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Campbell. In this newspaper story of 1869, the accomplishment is attributed to Mrs. (Harvey) Campbell. Although the story carries no first name for Mrs. Campbell, Hiram, according to the grave marker in Oakland, died in 1867. The Campbells did come with the Farm and Village Association members. She is not buried in Oakland; several children of Hiram and Mary are buried there, as is Hiram. Perhaps Hiram and Harvey are the same person. Additional research may clarify these matters, but in the meantime, this information is interesting. “Anyone whose faith is weak on this question (whether we should ever be able to raise apples in this state)...should go to the old pioneer ground of Minnesota City and he can see an orchard of 250 trees, nearly every one loaded with fruit. The best orchard of seedling varieties of the apples belongs to Mrs. Harvey Campbell, one of the old pioneers of the Farm and Village Association. Seventeen years ago (1852) one of the members of this Association, Mr. Robert Shaw, planted a quantity of apple seeds on one of the lots of the Minnesota City town plat.

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The plaque at the Whetstone Homestead names Hiram and Mary Campbell as 1856 original settlers of the property and reads “operated as apple orchard, truck farm and dairy farm.” (Althoff photo)

Membership/Dues Letters Mailed

Membership letters have been sent to both electronic and surface mail newsletter readers. Membership monies account for the Association's ability to pay the bills. As stated in the letter, the \$15.00 amount is a household membership. Some persons who receive letters will have received the newsletter as a gift subscription at one time. If requests have overlapped or been doubled, please contact the Association at 689-4103 or 689-2440. Please note the invitation to all readers to attend the monthly meetings of the Association. Ideas about the community and its history are the motivation for Association programming.

Newsletter Mail/Information

At the Jerry Apps film viewing in September at the Archives, a discussion topic was the use of haycocks as an agricultural practice in the area. The cocks were small conical piles of hay left in the fields long enough to dry and then move. The photo is of haycocks on the land of Jeremiah Philbert Garvis (Marvin O'Grady's Great Uncle Jerry) at Jefferson, South Dakota, around 1920. Some Historical groups build haycocks as part of historical area celebrations.



Janet Hill Seabern received correspondence from Betty Lloyd about the Lloyd family. (Former Minnesota City residents who resided near Rolbiecki's farm, in Deering Valley, and Stockton Valley before moving out of the area. Roy was 85 when he died on Nov. 5.) Betty reported that Fayette Lloyd was born on a farm near the Pete Reps farm. Janet also corresponds with others from the Maybury School.

Confused spellings of Sharroll Richards name in the January newsletter story originating in Boise were clarified by **Lori Donehower**: "...the confusion is because Sharroll and her daughter-in-law Sharla Richards have very similar names. It was Sharla Richards who was named in the article and she is Madison's mother. She is at the hospital in Boise with Madison. Paul and Sharroll live in Iowa."

From Sherry Havener, newsletter reader from Oklahoma. Received on January 16, 2014.



Havener progenitor Major William Haddock in Civil War uniform.

"I am writing this to list some facts about my Great Great Grandfather, Major William Haddock. In the late 1840's he wanted to form a colony to move west. That colony is what became known as Minnesota City. He hired a scout to check out the territory in Mn. He did not like the results from the scout so he and his friend headed west. They took a steam boat as far as it could go north on the Mississippi River and had to skate on up the frozen river. They found what they believed to be prime area and staked it out. William went back to NY to file all the claims necessary on the ground for the new colony. A group of about 400 people soon moved west. The territory was not on the Mississippi River like they thought but in fact was in slough area. Things did not go as well as settlers expected and many got sick and died. One of the people who died was William Haddock's first wife Kate Rafferty. She arrived in Mn. on July 13, 1852 and died on Aug 24, 1852. On Sep 11, 1852 William Haddock again moved, this time settling in Anamosa, Iowa. He had two small children and on Christmas day he married again. The big dream he had of moving west and settling a new colony did not work out for him but he did bring several people who stayed and this is how we got Minnesota City, Mn. His dream does live on." Sherry Havener

(The Winona County Historical Society February 2013 issue of *The Argus* contains the biography of Haddock)

Apples (Continued from page 1)

(Susan Althoff said "That orchard was at the top of the hill that goes into what we call the "bottoms" and only a few apples trees (15-20) were there when Grandpa (Henry Whetstone) sold the farm land.") "Mr. Shaw died before the seeds came up.

The spot was neglected for some years, until Mrs. Campbell, about ten years ago, transplanted about 300 of the small trees to an orchard. ...Nearly all of the original trees have lived, and this year the yield of fruit is variously estimated at from four to eight hundred bushels.... The only question Mrs. Campbell now has is how to protect it till it shall be ripe and ready for market. For years past more than half her apples have been destroyed and carried away by men, children and Indians, both by night and day. Various ways have been proposed to keep thieves from her orchard. Many advise her to protect her apples in the same way that farmers protect their corn fields from birds - with the shot gun.

To Mrs. Campbell belongs the honor of having the largest if not the best orchard now in the State of Minnesota. Her care, toil, and forethought are about to be rewarded, not only with a great abundance of the best fruit but with the consciousness of having proved that apples will successful grow in Minnesota. This is better than voting!" (July 10, 1869) *Winona Daily Republican*.

History of Presidents' Day, USA

The second Monday in February is popularly recognized as honouring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The day is understood by some as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents.

The origin of Presidents' Day lies in the 1880s, when the birthday of President Washington was first celebrated as a federal holiday. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, to move a number of federal holidays to Mondays. The change was designed to schedule certain holidays so that workers had a number of long weekends throughout the year, but it has been opposed by those who believe that those holidays should be celebrated on the dates they actually commemorate. During debate on the bill, it was proposed that Washington's Birthday be renamed Presidents' Day to honour the birthdays of both Washington (February 22) and Lincoln (February 12); although Lincoln's birthday was celebrated in many states, it was never an official federal holiday. After much discussion, Congress rejected the name change. After the bill went into effect in 1971, however, Presidents' Day became the commonly accepted name, due in part to retailers' use of that name to promote sales. Presidents' Day is often marked by public ceremonies. *Encyclopædia Britannica*

MCHA Expresses Sympathy

-to the family and friends of Carol Dunn Spaag, 74, Winona, who died on January 20.

-to the family and friends of Evelyn Kathryn Grover, 102, Galesville, who died on January 18.

MCHA Thanks

-the **Minnesota City Council** for 2013-2014 contribution of \$600.00 for Association expenses. In addition to ongoing mailing, printing costs, the Association uses donor funds for HBCI internet service, website funding, special purchases and program expenses.

Delores Gallagher Observes 100th Birthday

The *Winona Daily News* (January 19) carried the notice of the 100th birthday of Delores Gallagher and notice that cards could be sent to 2188 South Clinton Drive, Winona. Gallagher was a long time resident of Minnesota City who with her husband Vernon lived for twenty five years on the O.M. Lord homestead land, in the house that Lord built. They then built their own home. The Gallaghers were active participants in the school and church community, and when Mrs. Gallagher was interviewed by Riverway students in 2002, she lamented the loss of a more connected community. MCHA sends birthday greetings to Delores Gallagher.

From Newspaper Archives:

Yarolimek February 1942 50th Anniversary Gathering Describes Immigration Experience and Relocation on Highway 248 (Yarolimek-Speltz) property

The Yarolimek name has been well known in the area since the land off Highway 248 between Minnesota City and Rollingstone was owned by Ed and Viola (Mueller) Yarolimek. The Yarolimek daughters, Delores and Shirley, attended Minnesota City School. Interesting historical background of this family was provided at an anniversary of Ed's parents, Matt and Marie Dragoun Yarolimek in 1942, when the family all gathered. Marie was born in Smoletel, Pribram, Czechoslovakia in 1873, and Matt was born in Jablana, Pribram in 1868. (Pribram is a city in the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. Nazi resistance was strong there; the last shots of WWII are believed to have been fired in Pribram. *Wikipedia*). They farmed together in Smolotel for 12 years and then decided to come to America with seven (there would be fourteen) children, traveling on the Lloyd Bremen to New York, a trip that lasted three weeks. Theodore Roosevelt had just been elected. The arrival was on November 2, 1904, two days after Halloween, and they saw gates up in trees, wagons and buggies on top of roofs. Arriving in Winona, they brought a home in Wiscoy Valley where they lived for five years, appreciating their kind neighbors. In the fall of 1906 they sold their farm and moved to Rupprecht valley in Rollingstone, thirty miles away. The household goods, farm machinery, stock and feed were all moved with team and hayrack, two-day trips.

In 1924, Matt and Marie moved again, this time to a more modern and better located farm between Rollingstone and Minnesota City, where they lived at the time of the 50th anniversary. The farm work here was turned over to Edward (Ed). Just before the outbreak of the war in Europe, the Yarolimeks made a trip to their native land. They were in London during the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. (*Winona Republican Herald, February 25, 1942*).

Unusual Problem for February—Grass Fire Danger

Minnesota City, Minn. "Roger Church, chief of the Minnesota City fire department, has warned people about grass fires because of the very dry season. He and his men were called to the Herman Rahn farm just west of the city at 3:30 p.m. Saturday to extinguish a grass fire. That sort of call on Feb. 11 is as new as the newest Russian satellite, headed for Venus—it never happened here before. Grass fires are for spring, summer and fall. But watch them this year, Chief Church says—grass is tinder." *Winona Daily News, February 13, 1961*.

February 1949 Minnesota City School Celebration Patriotic and Romantic Minnesota City, Minn.

(Special) A patriotic program was given by pupils of the Minnesota City School on Friday Morning. The song, "American the Beautiful," sung by the school with Marilyn Gallagher as accompanist, was followed by a play, "The Kings Valentine," given by the fifth grade pupils. In the cast were the king, played by Wayne Buswell; the queen, Genevieve Jilk; Jack, Arthur Nuthak; Jill, Patricia Newman; Lamb, Dean Singer, and the cook, Jack Simon. A poem, "Valentines," was given by Sonia Simon. The remainder of the program by the upper grade children was arranged a student committee composed of Katherine Sandstede, Virginia Witt and Judy Gilsdorf. Katherine Sandstede announced the program numbers which included a poem, "My Flag and Your Flag," by Marilyn Gallagher, Cecilia Jilk and Judy Gilsdorf; a play, "A Surprise for the Little Cook" with the following cast: Betty, Katherine Singer; mother, Faith Ann Schmidt; Robert, Edward Ellis, Liza, Delores Butenhoff, and Washington, Donald Kowalewski; a poem, Washington, Anthony Jilk, Glenn Burt and Edwin Butenhoff; a poem, "Lincoln" Beverly Stewart, Ardyth Schneider and Antoinette Tlougan, a talk, "George Washington," Jerry Denzer, and a talk, "Abraham Lincoln," Edward Ellis. The poem concluded with the showing of the film strip, "The Boy," a story of the life of Abraham Lincoln. (February 12, 1949)