

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 11, Issue 5: June, 2016

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

Mark your Calendars!

June 11: MCHA
Regular Monthly
meeting; 9:30 am;
First Baptist
Church, 140 Mill
Street, Mn. City

June 23:
Community
Readers; 6:30 pm;
City Hall, 149 Mill
Street, Mn. City:
Selection: *Mary
Coin* by Marisa
Silver.

“Go Green!”

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

Minnesota City Day Renews Interest in Local History

Although research
has produced a
number of different
“facts” (can that be?)
-persons who
studied materials and
listened to speakers
on Minnesota City
Day were provided



Audience at City Hall hears information about General Merchandise Store in Minnesota City.

enough information to want to pursue their own answers. Those who visited City Hall conversed with “Church Store” family and current owner of the building and business owner, Linda and Duane Hutton. Maxine Church Spaag read her account of appreciation of the role of the market in small towns at the turn of the century. Her father George, and her uncle



Bill Reinarts speaks
about stained glass
to Minnesota City
Day visitors.

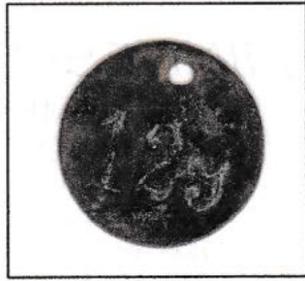
Elmer were the brothers who owned the store. Don Evanson who has done research on the Ellsworth-Miller Mill and Dave Bunke, current owner of the site (Canton Mills) had commitments that prohibited their attending the discussion, but ample materials were distributed on both locations. The plaques for marking will be posted when completed. Following these sessions, attendees joined the audience at First Baptist Church for the presentation of Bill Reinarts, owner of Reinarts Studio who was responsible for the gifting of the repair and restoration of the stained glass windows of the church. Reinarts’ speech was an account of his own involvement in the business, some details of the operation, and his understanding of changes in the cultural climate that affect impact of stained glass.

Note:

**MCHA does not meet in July.
Community Readers do not meet in July.
There is no newsletter in July.**

Are You # 129?

Linda Hutton contributed an interesting historical item to the MCHA Archives during the research on the former Merchandise Market. Each postal patron, the Post Office then being in the Store, had a key and a hook where it was hung. The one Linda found and retained and has now passed on to the archives is No. 129. If anyone has additional information on these "hooks", please communicate it.



Meet a MCHA Member: WSU Counselor Lynda Brzezinski Values Student Experiences

Minnesota City resident and MCHA member Lynda Brzezinski recently explained for readers of the Winona Post some of her interest in students, her work, and in education. Brzezinski is a wellness coach in Winona State University's Counseling Services and recently was a presenter in a Wellness Conference at WSU. She focused on stress and stress relievers for the lifestyles many lead. As the Winona Post reported, "Brzezinski received her doctorate from the University of Utah in counseling psychology. Before coming to WSU in 2000, she worked at the counseling center at the University of Utah for a year as part of an internship and at the Women's Resource Center on the campus." (Winona Post 5/08/16).



Lynda Brzezinski points out birds in her backyard at the MCHA "Bees, Butterflies, and Birds" Presentation

Lynda has contributed to the well being of our community. As an MCHA member, she has participated in the Holiday Caroling Event, performed for Minnesota City Day with a show tune choir, "Take Note," hosted at her home a Pam Aune and Allen Whetstone discussion of the Minnesota City Burleys (she and her husband Robb live in a restored Burley home on Denzer Road), and she presented at a 2014 "Bees, Butterflies, and Birds" MCHA presentation. In 2012 she was a narrator for the MCHA Oakland Cemetery Walk. Much appreciated is her contribution of candy "treats" which are distributed to children at the annual caroling festival.

Cut Grass – Philip Larkin

Cut grass lies frail:
Brief is the breath
Mown stalks exhale.
Long, long the death

It dies in the white hours
Of young-leafed June
With chestnut flowers,
With hedges snowlike strewn,

White lilac bowed,
Lost lanes of Queen Anne's lace,
And that high-built cloud
Moving at summer's pace.

Standing Invitations:

- to attend regular meetings of MCHA. These meetings are usually held at 140 Mill Street.
- to respond to newsletter content. Please send additions, corrections, suggestions, calendar information (meetings, reunions, birthdays, other significant dates) etc. to mgogrady@embarqmail.com.
- **Writers of regular columns would be welcomed.** These might include monthly columns on area businesses, churches, schools, organizations or other relevant topics on the area and/or our history.

- For MCHA Association information, call 689-4103 (Eckert), 450-0201 (O'Grady) or 689-4344 (Donhower-Community Readers).

More On Mills

The early history of Minnesota City, Stockton, and Rollingstone area is replete with stories of mill construction, operation and ownership changes. Compilation of this material would be a contribution to the Archives. In a *Winona Republican Herald* entry of September 25, 1917, there is mention of a mill, among other news in the item. "Hugh Sherry completes a new flour mill one mile below Rollingstone Creek." And a July 14, 1936 item relates: "The old Hugh Sherry Flouring mill, one mile east of Stockton, owned by Henry Pietscage is now under the superintendence of Sydney C. Troost, who has remodeled it, introduced new and improved machinery and is now manufacturing an excellent brand of flour."

"Messrs. Mowbray and Sons are increasing the power in their large flouring mill and elevator by the introduction of a steam engine of a hundred horse power to aide their water wheel. (November 2, 1874). Articles on this Stockton area mill are dated from 1869 and beyond.

Open Archives During Summer Months

MCHA hope to have open hours at the Archives, 140 Mill Street sometime during the month of July. Although there is no July newsletter, a notice will be submitted to Winona Daily News and Winona Post. Please watch for these and come to pursue Minnesota City area history. Additionally, during the summer months and always—if readers have any materials that relate to Minnesota City, please do not give them away—give them to our local MCHA for retention.

MCHA extends sympathy to the family and friends of

- Bonnie Burt Pomeroy, 79, Minnesota City, daughter of Ernie and Helen Burt. Bonnie attended Minnesota City School. She died in Winona on April 30.
- Isabelle Rader, 92, of Winona, formerly of Rollingstone, who died Sunday, May 1. Isabelle is the sister of MCHA member, Clare Denzer.
- Mary Drenckhahn Rusert, 80, Lewiston, who died on Thursday, May 5. Mary was a former Minnesota City teacher.
- Elaine M. Johnson, 81, of Homer, Minn., born in Stockton, who died on Tuesday, May 3. Elaine is the sister of MCHA member LaVern Fritz.

MCHA Congratulates

- Edwin and Judy Maus who have been announced by the Winona Steamboat Days Association to be the Parade Grand Marshals for the June 19 parade. The Maus family has taken the Winona calliope around the country. MCHA was gifted with a presentation on the history of the calliope in March, 2015.

Thank You to the many persons who facilitated Minnesota City Day 2016. These included Bill Reinarts, First Baptist Ladies, especially Jean Gardner, Betsy Friesen, Donna Friesen; Don Evanson, Linda and Duane Hutton, Dave Bunke, and Maxine Church Spaag for research on the Mill and Store marked sites, City Council for the use of City Hall, Minnesota City Fire Department, Kate O'Grady, and all persons who attended and accessed provided information.

(Note: Thank you retroactively to all GBDRF persons who in years past enriched Minnesota Day audiences through the Belgian Waffle Breakfast. You were SO missed!)

Sundown Motel Razed: Townhouses Coming



One of the area landmarks for a number of years has been removed and will be replaced with Townhouses. The Hwy 61 Sundown Motel was built in 1959, billed as a completely modern motel and was listed in guide books of the American Automobile Association.



Mailbox Items:

From Catherine Todd, Rochester: "Such fond memories of the Witt Store. It would take me forever to pick out my little bag of penny candyI can picture the Witts like it was yesterday."

Jonathan Damery, Rollingsstone plum presenter for MCHA, U. of Mn., is spending summer researching other (than the plum) indigenous foods in South Dakota. He did purchase a seedling American plum at a garage sale. He plans to visit again in the fall and is interested in the native seed operation of the Prairie Moon Nursery in Wiscoy Valley.

Wallace Burley III, direct descendent of D.Q. Burley, sent regrets about his inability to attend Minnesota City Day.

Archives Connects with Early Settler of Minnesota City

On the afternoon of May 21, Minnesota City Day, Lyelle Palmer, Winona, visited at the archives to research Minnesota City connections of his ancestors. Among the names are J. Bentley. Bentley relocated to Utica. Other names of interest to Palmer are Waterman and Whetstone, both historical sites and people of the area. In *The History of Winona County, 1857*, Bentley is mentioned. "Some members of the Association (Western Farm and Village), made claims outside the jurisdiction assumed for the colony. In June, 1852, D. Hollyer made a claim in what is now the town of Utica, which he abandoned in the fall when he left the territory. Dr. J.W. Bentley took possession and moved on it in the spring following. It was afterward known as 'Bentley's'. Dr. Bentley was not a member of the Association, although he came to Minnesota City in the fall of 1852 and lived there during the winter with H.B. Waterman, a relative. While the Bentleys were living in Minnesota City a daughter was born. This was the first white child born in Rollingsstone (colony)."

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.

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 Marv O'Grady and David Eckert for keeping the website updated.