

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 12, Issue 5: May, 2017

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

Mark your Calendars!

May 13: MCHA
monthly meeting;
9:30 a.m.; City
Hall, 140 Mill
Street.

May 20:
Minnesota City
Day; 165th
Anniversary of
Founding. See
Newsletter for
details!

May 25:
Minnesota City
Community
Readers; 6:30 p.m.;
City Hall, 149 Mill
Street; Selection:
Bill Bryson: *The
Road to Little
Dribbling:
Adventures of an
American in
Britain*

May 29: VFW
Honor Guard will
present at Oakland
Cemetery. Sunday
afternoon.

“Go Green!”

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

MINNESOTA CITY DAY: WHAT WE CELEBRATE—

Because MCHA posts them and investigates them, many readers are familiar with these “firsts in Winona County” that happened/were in Minnesota City and are definitely reason to celebrate identity.

- the oldest city in the county, est.1852**
- the first school (subscription)**
- the first public school (1852)**
- the first school district (1852)**
- the first church (First Baptist, 1852)**
- the first post office (1852)**
- the first bridge**
- the first horticulture experiment in the state (apples)**
- the first general merchandise store**
- the first blacksmith shop**
- the first horse shoeing**
- the first justice of the peace**
- the first representative to the legislature**
- the first sawmill**

(Source: *The History of Winona County. 1857*)

Friends and Neighbors Will Parade on May 20

Residents of Minnesota City present and past, friends and neighbors and the general public will be celebrating the 165th Anniversary of the founding of the city in May 1852. Both the **Minnesota House of Representatives and State Senate have drafted resolutions to be presented to the city** at the **Stand Still Parade** on May 20. These will be read by Senator Mike Goggin and House Representative Steve Drazkowski. The Parade along Mill St will be started by the **VFW Color Guard** at 10:00 a.m.. **Parade honorees** will be Howard Volkart, Lola Denzer, and Jean Gardner. **From 10 am to 1 p.m., residents and guests can walk along the street and visit with those entered in the parade.** The list of entrees will be published in both local newspapers and will be posted at the Minnesota City Post Office.

Judging will be done by Marcia Anderson, Rollingstone Township Clerk, Steve Jacob, Winona County Commissioner, and Mark Peterson, Mayor of Winona and will take place at noon. **Food vendors** will be on hand to offer refreshment, sandwiches and snacks. **USPS Stamp cancellation** for the day will occur at the First Baptist Church. Post Office personnel will be available for this event. A Plaque commemorating historicity of the Church Brothers Store on Mill Street will be installed at 10:30 a.m. and a plaque will be installed at 1:00 p.m. at the Ellsworth Mill Site (next to the Swinging Bridge Sign near the Oaks). Oakland Cemetery will be open for visitors.

Please watch for further details in the local newspapers and posted flyers.

MCHA Open Archives at 140 Mill Street: 10:30-1:00, May 20.

Opportunity to examine the archives of the Minnesota City Historical Association will be available on May 20. The archives are housed in the rear of the historic First Baptist Church which will also be open, and hosts will be available for discussion.

The archives, in addition to the usual displays of artifacts and files of materials will offer these attractions on the 20th:

- **VideoTape of *Old Wise Tales*** will be viewed during the open house hours. A reminder that many of the individuals who were interviewed have died, and although many organizations now promote keeping and experiencing taped recording of voices, we would encourage viewers to consider their individual relationships as they opt to view the recording.
- **Copies of *Old Wise Tales*** interviews with longtime Minnesota City residents will be available, produced with Riverway Learning Community in 2002. Suggested donation for this book is \$10:00.
- **DVD copies of the taped interviews of persons interviewed for *Old Wise Tales*** may be requested. There is no charge for these tapes.
- **Binders of many researched Minnesota City Historical Topics** will be available for perusal. We hope some family representatives will be present for discussion related to their own archival materials. Many families have organized amounts of material for shared use—Burley, Denzer, Hill-Seabern, Church.
- **Free books** will be available in the church. These have been donated and were part of the Free Book Giveaways while Community Readers met at the School Building. No books need to be returned and if persons have outlets to distribute them other than for personal reading, that would be appropriate.
- **Heritage Quilt** constructed in 2002 through contribution of squares by area residents and the quilt construction effected by women from St. Paul's Quilting Group will be displayed. Squares will be available for persons to contribute to a second quilt. All residences are historic.



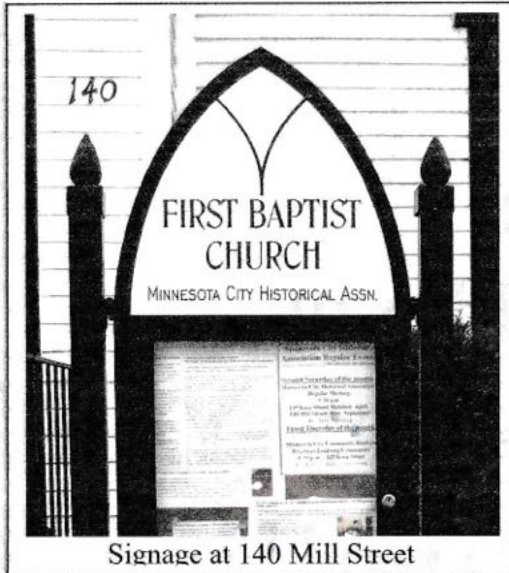
Heritage quilt squares (2002)

MCHA Expresses Sympathy

- the friends and family of Sharon L. Mahaffey Knouft, 68, Winona, who died on Mary 24 at her home.
- the friends and family of LaVerne Johnson, 87, who died on March 24.
- the friends and family of James "Jim" Schoen, 63, Minnesota City, who died on March 31 in Minnesota City. Jim Schoen did the plaster/repair work in one room of the archives when MCHA began housing materials there in 2008.



Minnesota City Day Historic First Baptist Church Open House



Signage at 140 Mill Street

Members of the Ladies Aid of the First Baptist Church will host an open house at the 140 Mill Street location on May from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. The building in Minnesota City that has been the location of much of its history is the historic First Baptist Church at 140 Mill Street. It was the first congregation in Minnesota City and in Winona County. The first service of the church was held on July 11, 1852, conducted by T. E. Cressy, and the current building was constructed in 1875. The building was given to the Winona County Historical Society and returned because of inadequate funding ability. It continues to be maintained by the Ladies Aid of the First Baptist Church, now known as Historical Church Foundation of Minnesota City. A traditional service is conducted every summer with hymn singing accompanied by the original organ, and every December a community caroling event has engendered a

large turnout of Minnesota City and area persons. Persons can still choose to be married in the building. In recent months, Reinarts Glass Studio in Winona has donated restoration of the stained glass windows of the building and the Auxiliary has funded the reroofing of the building. The foundation of the building was reconstructed by Jaworski Construction Company.

For the May 20 occasion, visitors will be invited to tour the building which includes the Minnesota City Historical Association's archives. An attraction which visitors will find novel is the indoor outhouse. Note cards developed by Jody Berhow and Leah Zierfus featuring the church will be available for purchase with proceeds being used for building improvements. Nancy Volkart O'Malley is heading this project. The church will also be the site of the cancellation of a commemorative postage stamp by USPS personnel.

The historic First Baptist Church is a veritable treasure of the community and all persons are invited to visit and share this historical experience.

MCHA Thanks

- Rollingstone Township for a contribution of \$300.00 to be used for marking historical sights
- Persons who have contributed memberships and donations totaling \$1110 in 2017
- For donations in honor and memory of Howard and Gladys Volkart and in memory of Shirley Kubicek, mother of Barbara Okland

Anyone who wishes to donate to or 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.

MCHA Website Welcomes Data

MCHA invites readers to submit (mgogradey@embarqmail.com) dates for the newsletter of family reunions, milestone birthdays, and other events about which readers wish to share information.

A decorative border of small red flowers surrounds the text.

May 20:
10:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
**Stand Still Parade: You
do the Walking!!!**

Mill Street +

Historic First Baptist Church
MCHA Archives
Ellsworth Miller Mill Site
Church Brothers Store Site
Post Office at First Baptist