

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 12, Issue 6: June, 2017

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

Mark your Calendars!

June 10: MCHA Meeting; MCHA Archives, 140 Mill Street; 9:30 a.m.
PLEASE COME.

June 22: Minnesota City Community Readers; City Hall, 149 Mill St.
Selection: *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie; All are welcome. 6:30 p.m.;

NOTE: No July Readers meeting.

August 24: Minnesota City Community Readers; City Hall, 149 Mill St.: Selection: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Laaks* by Rebecca Sloat; All are welcome; 6:30 p.m.

“Go Green!”

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

Little Black Book a Large Historical Find

In September of 2012, MCHA sponsored a cemetery walk in Oakland Cemetery. Walt Kelly impersonated early settler Robert Pike. A walk attendee (we think from Fountain City) presented Kelly with a collection of newspaper clippings that she said were primarily about Minnesota City. If anyone knows the provenance of this notebook, please let us know. The notebook is named C.S. Mersick & Co. New Haven, Conn. The donor was likely connected with some Minnesota City person or with one of the families highlighted in the walk—Denzer, Burley, Pike, Church, Loudon. At this time, the collection will remain that—a collection received in 2012. Ideally, as suggested by Kelly, clippings could be copied and placed in files of their named connection.

Interesting accounts among the clippings are numerous accounts of the persons whose lives ended in unusual ways. All public accounts, these include that of the death of her choice, of Mrs. Cetta Troost, the wife of George R. Troost, a “popular young business man” (one of the “other” mill owners) of Minnesota City, at the time a butcher. Cetta died in Feb. of 1899 and George remarried in February of 1900. The poison ingested by Cetta affected her heart; she was melancholic because of an anticipated surgery. Her daughters watched her die, not realizing what was happening.

Gustavous Sterner, 19, drowned in Burley’s Slough, north of Minnesota City. Sterner and his companions were not practiced swimmers, and Gus did not recognize the long pole extended by his brother as a possible rescue. James Quimby recovered the body within one half hour.

Minnesota City Community Readers will value these stories. “Henry Daering and Frank Calbick have been all winter trying to shoot a wolf and last Saturday they succeeded in cornering and killing a fifteen pound Thomas J. Wildcat. They shot six times each but they got him.” “Henry Daering, Frank Calbick, Myrt Preseno and Ben. Waterman chased a wolf all over the bluffs last Sunday and at last succeeded in chasing it into a hole and killing it. The boys say they scared it to death. They get \$7 bounty.” (From the Mersick collection—unlabeled sources).

CONTINUED on page 2 (See **Little Black Book**)

Note: There Will Be No Newsletter in July.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK (Continued from page 1)

Other stories detail well known Minnesota Citizens lives. One details a ninety eighth birthday of W. Riley Stewart, born in 1817, and according to this article, the oldest settler living at the time in Rollingstone. Recently the Winona Daily News carried a story of oxen in Winona County. The story featured a large photo of horses. (Owner **and** oxen undiscovered!). *Winona Daily News, May 18, 2017*. In 1928 The Winona Republican Herald featured a reader response to a photo of two oxen hitched to a wagon, and queried information about the owner. One response: "You want to know who the oxen belonged to in the picture in the 'Voice.' I am told they belong to Bert Stewart of Minnesota City and until quite recently he could be seen driving one of them, but cannot say if he still has any or not. A. J."

Beverly Stewart Mastenbrook contributed this photo (right) to the MCHA archives of Bert Stewart driving his "team" of horse and ox in front of the Milton-Cisewski, now the Ebbinger home in Minnesota City.



Community Readers Parade Stop Introduces Local Writers

Among the stops at the Stand Still Parade was the Minnesota City Community Readers display constructed by MCHA members Kate O'Grady and Rebecca O'Grady Weiss. Books of local authors were displayed including those of Vickie McGillis, Jean Gardner, Beth Oness, Chad Oness, Kevin Fenton, Jim Schoen, Kathy Schoen, and Jean Kalmes and a work of Robert and William Pike, 1852 settlers, entitled Mnemonics (the study and development of systems for improving and assisting the memory) written shortly before the Pikes came to Minnesota City. If there are other "locals," please notify a Minnesota City Community Reader or call 450-0201.

MCHA Congratulates

Rolland and Andrea Ledebuhr, Minnesota City Mill Street residents who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 21st.

Susan Whetstone Althoff for the idea, the planning, and the execution of the Stand Still Parade on May 20, the 165th anniversary of the founding of Minnesota City. Susan's original and complete account of the parade on Page 3-4 will be in the archives. Abbreviated here, the original better captures the activity and emotions of a memorable day in Minnesota City history.

MCHA thanks all persons who attended, who assisted Susan, who participated in any way in the Stand Still Parade event, perhaps more memorable because of the rain, albeit less comfortable.

MCHA expresses sympathy to family and friends of Allyn Richard Carney who died in Pasadena, Ca., April 16th 2017.

Lady Slipper – Heidi Sands

The slipper of a queen Sits in a grove of trees.

Catching dew in the sunlight.

Rare to the human eye.

Precious in the realm of nature.

The lady slipper brings our dreams alive

From dark mossed ground. Ferns gather around

Protecting the delicate plant.

With its pink veins almost pumping

As it blooms beauty in the pines.



Lady Slipper in O'Grady garden

It rained on our parade! (by Susan Whetstone Althoff)

Despite the cold and wet day, we carried on with as many planned events as we could. The barricades were put up early with the help of Tim Neyers and Rollingstone Township. Flags from Coldwell Banker were placed along Mill Street by La Vern Fritz. Dallas Denzer and Wally Bostrom (Susan's son-in-law) pounded in the unit stakes and placed signs, works of art courtesy of Joan Albrecht. Don Evanson and Marv O'Grady delivered folding chairs to the fire hall from the former school house. Brian Ebbinger put up a canvas tent for Becky Weiss and Dawn Webster, who registered the parade units. At nine o'clock the Minnesota City Fire Department volunteers moved the fire trucks from the station to Minnesota Street and watched over them during the festival. Three old tractors were in front of the Ferden home. Bryce Maus helped direct traffic down the street as the units pulled into place. Curtis Ingvaldstad, Minnesota's famous wood carver, entertained next to the Penrod-Ledebuhr home.

First in the parade lineup was Samuel O'Grady and dad Scott Jensen with an antique corn sheller. Ed Maus with his old trucks joined some of the other entries from the Viking Region AACA Car Club, the Winona Clown Club, Winona Jeep Club, two units from the Winona Sheriff's office (Dive and Rescue and SOAR), Goodview Police Department, Awesome Eats food truck, Winona Co. Red Barn, Metz Hart-Land Creamery, Dave Kiral and his band equipment, Leighton Broadcasting, Winona Co. Fair and St. Charles Gladiolus Days, Winona VFW, and a HOPE Lutheran High School band member. Some units were set up in the Fire Department. At 10:10 the Winona VFW, led by Hollis Donehower, marched down Mill Street from the former garage on the corner of Minnesota and Mill streets to the Fire Station with a HOPE Lutheran High School drummer behind them. At the hall, David Eckert read the Resolutions from Minnesota Senator Coggins and Minnesota House of Representative Steve Drazkowski. These were presented to Minnesota City Council members Jim Whalen and Brian Ebbinger. Howard Volkart, Jean Gardner, Lola Denzer were honored with certificates and corsages. The contribution of Susan Althoff was acknowledged by Becky O'Grady Weiss with kind words and a corsage in behalf of MCHA. Music was provided by Dave Kiral and sponsored by the Winona County Old Settlers and Bob Bambenek. Awesome Eats provided Philly Cheese sandwiches, pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs. Metz Creamery displayed a variety of cheese curds, block cheese and cheese spreads to sample and buy. Lori Donehower provided coffee inside the fire hall.

Curtis Ingvaldstad, with appreciative observers, carved an Eagle while across the street young Samuel O'Grady was showing people how to shell corn. Bryce Maus went home to get some corn of his own to shell for his birds. This was hometown hospitably. Friendly Jeep Club members stayed the length of the parade and welcomed all who passed by their jeeps. Two sheriff units showed all who passed by their equipment and discussed procedures of emergency call responses. On the opposite end of Mill Street was the Little Red Dairy Barn information on dairy products. Inside the Fire Station one could learn about the County Fair, the new Heritage Center, the new cookbook of the late Marilyn Block recipes and the upcoming tractor show at the Fair Grounds in August. These were explained by Cindy Timm and Terry Jones. Five members of the Winona Steamboat Days crew stopped by with new Harbor Master, Steve Baumgartner, Mayor of Goodview and his wife Mary. The VFW sold their poppies and the clown club made balloon animals. All morning Coleen Peterman, Jane Althoff Bostrom and Janet Seabern sold grey with red and blue lettering Minnesota City Day -165th Anniversary T-shirts. Andrea Church was the official picture taker for the celebration.

PARADE (Continued from page 3)

At the Baptist Church and Minnesota City Historical Association Archives, visitors imbibed the historic atmosphere of submersible baptismal font and family histories. Highlighted were the Seabern-Hill, Denzer, Burley and Church families. Near the end of the session, Jean Gardner epitomized the emotional and physical aspects of this historical place by playing the organ that had been played years ago by her relative, Mattie Milton Burley.

Donna and Betsy Friesen made Mabel Spaag's sugar cookies; these were available for a donation. Nancy O'Malley (Volkart) was in charge of having note cards made and for sale at the celebration with proceeds going to the Baptist Church Foundation. The designs used were done by Jody Berhow and Leah Zierfus. The Sesquicentennial celebration quilt with many of the community family names was hanging on the wall. Also at the church was the first female postmaster of Winona since 1852, Sherri Genkinger, who stamped letters with the special design for the 165th Anniversary for those bringing an envelope. The Minnesota City Readers group was to be set up on the lawn by the church but ended up in the Fire Station. Kate stayed the course and those that stopped by left feeling they had just read a chapter.

At noon the three judges, Marcia Hall Anderson, Rollingstone Township Clerk, Steve Jacob, Winona County Commissioner and Mark Peterson, Winona Mayor walked up and down the street in the rain, deciding who should get trophies. Pamela Althoff McNeill tallied the People's Choice Award and presented it to Samuel O'Grady. Winning awards were: Ed Maus for his two antique trucks, Tom Klinck, Viking Car Club, for his classic firebird, four members of the Jeep Club, novelty awards went to Curtis Ingvaldstad, 1st, Metz Hart-Land Creamery, 2nd and Winona Clown Club, 3rd, musical award to Dave Kiral (both Leighton Broadcasting and Awesome Eats also had music), Best lawn display went to Brain Ebbinger, Ferden family won 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the tractor division, Educational Merit MCHA and 2nd Winona Co Fair Board, Best Artist, Joan Albrecht, Touch a Truck, Winona Co. Dive and Rescue, Honorable Mention, Minnesota City Fire Department.

Kevin Ferden, on his John Deere tractor, drove up and down the street to the delight of those watching who clapped and cheered. Dallas Denzer, Donna and Betsy Friesen, several O'Grady's and Althoffs, and Don Evanson "cleaned up." Fire trucks were moved back into the station and signs were taken down.

We are truly grateful to those units that braved the weather and stayed the course! You are true champions to us. To all the volunteers who showed up for their shift and did the tasks needed in the rain, you are true heroes to us. Thank you to the Minnesota City Council and residents along Mill Street for allowing us to close the street and put on a festival, we acknowledge your efforts on our behalf. Thank you Minnesota City Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders; along with Fire Chief Jay Bade for opening your doors and moving your trucks so that others could take shelter. It showed valiant acts of community support. We express our appreciation to all those business and individuals who donated funds to help defray the costs of promoting and planning an event. It rained, but it didn't stop our parade. THANK YOU TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP who made that possible.

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.

Thank you to Andrea Church for Parade photos. To see photos, check website www.minnesotacity.org or scan the QR code on the right.

