

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 12, Issue 9: October, 2017

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

Mark your Calendars!

October 14:
MCHA regular monthly meeting;
Historic First Baptist Church,
140 Mill Street,
Minnesota City;
9:30 a.m.

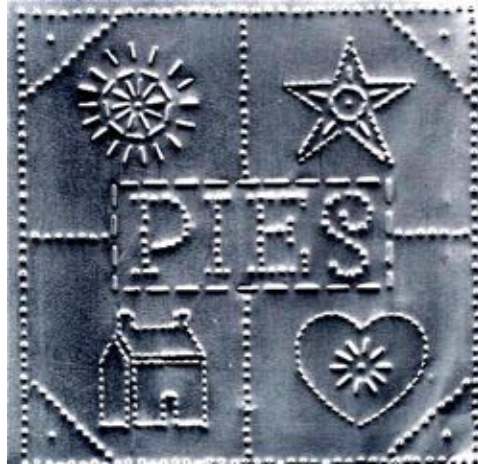
October 15:
Fall Event:
Hometown Harvest;
Historic First Baptist Church,
140 Mill Street,
Minnesota City;
2:00 p.m.

October 26:
Minnesota City Community Readers;
Minnesota City City Hall;
Selection:
River of Doubt,
Candace Millard;
6:30 p.m.

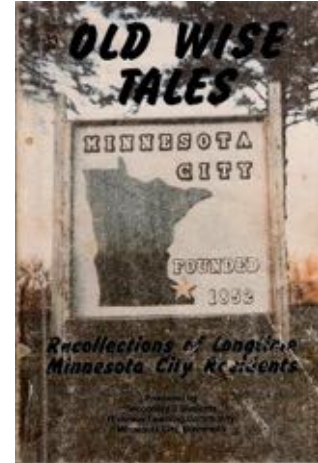
“Go Green!”

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

October 15 Hometown Harvest in Minnesota City



Food for Thought



Thought for Food

Please join your friends and neighbors at the Historic First Baptist Church, 140 Mill Street on Sunday, October 15 at 2 pm for an afternoon of variety in poems, readings, skits and music. Committed participants at this printing include: Susan Althoff, Debbie Berhow, David and Brenda Eckert, Jean Gardner, Kate O'Grady, Leo Jilk, Kathy Schoen, Maxine Spaag and Becky Weiss. Others may join this group who are presenting original personal work or personal selection of favorites. This event is an extension of Minnesota City Day, the annual event sponsored by MCHA. This year marked the 165 anniversary of the founding of the village in 1852. There will be apple pie and refreshments following the presentations. A special recognition will be bestowed upon someone! Susan Whetstone Althoff organized the Standing Still Parade for Minnesota City Day on May 20 and this event.

GBDRF Film “In a Flash” Available from Archives for Viewing

Following the 2007 flood, Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund was awarded a grant by the Winona Foundation, a contribution to the creation and distribution of a film “In a Flash,” which commemorated the event. Taping of interviews of local and area residents was conducted in Minnesota City. Stories represent the experiences in several of the flooded areas—Gunderson Addition, Saehler Addition, Sunny Acres, Stockton, and Minnesota City. The DVD was distributed as a resource to area schools, libraries, and museums. Extensive Winona newspaper coverage in recent weeks has highlighted damage in Minnesota City and area, but without mention of the magnanimous amounts of time and effort necessary to reconstruct following the flood. Persons emotional responses to this event remain varied. Consideration was given to the showing of the film by MCHA. This idea was rejected in favor of offering persons the opportunity to request the film from the archives for their personal viewing. Please call 689-2440 if you wish to view a copy of the film.

New Pastor for Area Parishes

Chinnappa Pothireddy has been appointed, effective on August 19, the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Rollingstone, St. Paul's Parish, Minnesota City, and St. Mary's Parish, Minneiska. Pothireddy was previously the parochial Vicar of St. Pius X Parish in Rochester. (Information from The Courier, Diocese of Winona).

MCHA extends sympathy to

- The friends and family of Gerald A. "Gerry" Bade, 81, Winona, MN who died on Saturday, September 9, 2017, at his home in Winona.

Mail notes:

Catherine Todd wrote about the Neil Denzer painting and also wrote "Liked the article on the train...remembering being in either 2nd or 3rd grade and our class took the train from Minnesota City to Winona. I'm thinking we all had to take 20 cents to pay for it. It sealed my love of riding on the train...given the time, I would take the train anywhere.....love it."

Jean Gardner enjoyed the article about the First Baptist Church organ and wished there were more details about its physical purchase—where was it from, how it got here, etc. The Estey Company factory buildings in Brattleboro Vermont were sold in 1961, the contents destroyed. A museum was organized in 2002.

Recognizing Neighbors

Marie Tibor, Rollingstone Township, was recognized by Winona Area Public School System for 45 years of service as a district teacher.

Hollis Donehower spoke on September 15, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, about the experience of Richard Schell, a Minneiska resident, who was never found following the downing of his helicopter in Vietnam. Donehower's presentation was at the Winona VFW (*Winona Post* 9-13-2017).

Grandson Scott Engler Gets "the rest of the story" and passes it on.

When Riverway students interviewed Minnesota City residents for *Old Wise Tales*, in 2002, the "goat story" of Mildred Jessie was one of the most frequently remembered and enjoyed. Mildred died in 2008 at the age of 105. This was her story. "After Harry retired, he used to take a nap after dinner. He laid down one day and I said, 'your goats are out. You better come and get them in.' And then I went to lay down and he didn't come and didn't come. So I went out there and the barn was locked. There was a window but I couldn't get in it. I hollered to him and he said 'you better get someone to come.' So Eugene Pierce came down and he jumped in that window. And if that goat wouldn't have had horns, that goat would have killed him (Harry) but see, that goat's horns were so big that when it would go at him, his horns would hit the wall instead of him. We had three goats. It was Halloween time, and Howard Volkart called. Someone had taken a goat and tied it at Howard's. He said, "is it your goat?" and Harry said, "No, but if you want to bring it down here, I'll take it." And I don't know whose goat it was, but I think that's what made that billy goat so mean. Because he had been among them before and nothing--- but that strange goat being there...so they shot the goat....they had an awful time getting that goat to die. They sent the head away, but there was nothing wrong with it."

In a recent conversation with Grandson Scott, Minnesota City, we learned that he had the horns, mounted even, of the goat, in his basement. His grandma had never wanted to be interviewed about the whole story; now he has the story as told to Riverway students, and he has generously offered the mounted horns to the archives.



Mildred Jessie in 2002 at her Lamberton Home in Winona.

Early resident Gale Hill Shares Memories with Readers



Gale Hill visiting in the Historic First Baptist Church with Wallace Burley at Minnesota City Day (Andrea Church photo).

Gale Hill, who now lives at Lake City is a long time member of MCHA. He is the brother of Janet Hill Seabern. Gale recently sent us recollection of some of his memories of being young in Minnesota City. Gale attends a number of Minnesota City events; he shares his recollections with other visitors, an enrichment of their understandings. Gale and Janet's parents operated Camp Rest a While, located near Highway 61 across from current Bass Camp area.

“Dear MCHA,

A few lines of things I remember about Minnesota City. My Uncle Robert Fleming ran the Conoco Gas Station now where the Post office is. Robert and my Aunt

Myrtle lived next to the City Nite Club. You have a club I believe, as he was in charge of police on Saturday night. My cousin Dale Fleming and Curtis Church were close friends on model airplanes. I remember Curtis and Dale asking a couple of us kids if we wanted to go to Stockton. The Church Brothers had a partly enclosed truck. We rode in the back. They would stop at Stockton Creamery and pick up packages of butter for the store. Us kids thought it was a trip of a lifetime to go that far. I remember Adolph Martin when he had the shoe repair store down from the grocery store. I gave MCHA a wooden pencil with his name on it. I also gave MCHA an envelope from Cisewski and Wockenfuss Garage. I remember the train depot where two railroads came, one from St. Charles through Stockton Valley. The other one Milwaukee from Mpls. Uncle Bob would pick up freight, put in 5 gallon cans, and baby chickens. He would stop at the store, then Rollingstone, Altura and Elba in the morning, would wait an hour or so then stop at Altura, Rollingstone in the afternoon train. Depot store Rollingstone and Altura only. I remember pumping gas in the round glass containers for Uncle Bob at this Conoco station. Full service was check oil, tires, wash all windows outside. I remember going to Rollingstone Saturday nites. Merchants rented a movie, showed it on the side of a blank wall. Popcorn was 5 cents a big box. I gave MCHA a picture of old school. Mrs. Stettbacher was our teacher - Think I was 7 years old. She said she was a good teacher. She pulled a desk open, had a 2 foot hose and a 2 foot ruler; she said she would use it if she had to. Never did.” Gale, thanks for the memories.

The Stewart Family: James Lincoln

The family name Stewart has been secured by lives of a number of the family. James Lincoln Stewart is one of them. From pages 1335-1336 in *History of South Dakota* by Doane Robinson, Vol. 11 (1904).

JAMES LINCOLN STEWART, M. D., conspicuous among the leading physicians and surgeons of Irene, is a native of Minnesota and the son of William Riley and Albina Stewart, the father born in Connecticut, and still living, hale and hearty at the age of eighty-eight, the mother also living and in her seventy-sixth year, having been born and reared in the state of New York. **CONTINUED on page 4: Stewart**

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 invites readers to submit:

dates for the newsletter of family reunions, milestone birthdays, and other events about which readers wish to share information.

Check www.minnesotacity.org or use the QR code. Submit information to (mgograpy@embargmail.com)



Stewart (continued from page 3)

William Riley Stewart is the son of Marvin and Mehitable (Clark) Stewart, the former of Scotch lineage, although a native of England, the latter a descendant of one of the earliest white families of the United States, several members of which, in an early day, intermarried with various Indian tribes.

The aboriginal strain has been apparent in the family for a number of generations, and, far from being deplored, those inheriting the blood are proud of the fact, the Doctor in particular, as it has had much to do in making him a genuine American and



The James Stewart Family

giving him much more than ordinary interest in the land of his nativity. Albina Drew, who married William Riley Stewart, is the daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Debow) Drew, both members of old and highly respected families of York state... Dr. James Lincoln Stewart was born November 22, 1865 in Minnesota City and spent his youthful years on a farm, working in the summer time and attending the public schools of winter seasons, until attaining his majority. Meantime the intellectual discipline received in the schools of his native town was supplemented by a course at the State Normal School at Winona, where he was graduated in 1886, and later he attended for some time the State University, devoting a part of the interim to agricultural pursuits and teaching, in this way earning means to defray the expenses of his collegiate training. Having decided to make medicine his life work, Dr. Stewart, after a preliminary course of reading under the direction of a competent instructor, entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1893, and immediately thereafter he began the practice of his profession at Hurly, South Dakota. After remaining eight months at that village, he sought a new and wider field in the town of Irene, at which place he is still located. The Doctor early associated himself with the progressive members of the profession, and has availed himself of every possible opportunity to enlarge his knowledge and perfect his skill, being at this time identified with the South Dakota State Medical Society, Sioux Falls Medical Association, the American Medical Temperance Association and the American Medical Association, holding at this writing the position of secretary of the South Dakota State Medical Society and serving in the same capacity with the Association of State Medical Secretaries. For several years he was a member of the legislative committee of the South Dakota Medical Society and while serving as such was instrumental in bringing about much important medical legislation.

Dr. Stewart exemplifies in his own life the theories which he advocates and for which he has long contended, that good health can only be secured and maintained by strict observance of temperance and correct living. To this end he has always been a total abstainer from everything in the shape of intoxicants, has never used tobacco in any form, and believing tea and coffee to be harmful in their effects upon the human system, discards both beverages, besides being temperate in the use of food and abstaining from all habits and indulgences calculated in any way to interfere with the normal functions of any of the bodily powers, at the same time maintaining that serenity of mind is necessary to equanimity and harmony in the human organism. Politically, Dr. Stewart yields allegiance to no party, being independent in the matter of voting and supporting the principles which in his judgment best conduce the public good. While manifesting but little interest in secret fraternal organizations, he nevertheless holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, Brotherhood of American Yeoman and Order of Home Guardians societies, and in religion subscribes to the Baptist faith, having been a member of the church of that name since his young manhood. On September 19, 1893, the Doctor was united in marriage, at Hurley, South Dakota, with Miss Myra Judson, whose father, Rev. T. H. Judson, was perhaps the first Baptist missionary sent to the state. Three children have blessed this union, namely: James Earl, born July 13, 1894, Howard Monroe, June 27, 1896, and Joy Myra, whose birth occurred on February 8, 1901.