

# MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 13, Issue 1: January 2018

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

## Mark your Calendars!

January 13,  
Saturday:  
MCHA monthly  
meeting;  
Minnesota City  
City Hall, 149  
Mill Street;  
9: 30 a.m.

January 25,  
Thursday:  
Minnesota City  
Community  
Readers;  
Minnesota City  
City Hall, 149  
Mill Street;  
Selection: Eric  
Metaxas:  
*Amazing Grace*;  
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.

## Annual Caroling Event Entertains a Participating Audience



Steve Schuh and Ed Maus confer about the musical agenda.

Persons who attended the annual caroling event at the historical First Baptist Church on December 9 were again actively entertained and entertaining. Rebecca O’Grady Weiss directed audience attention and involvement to the several performances. This year’s round which serves as a unifying vocal rehearsal was “People Look East—the time is near of the crowning of the year.” David Eckert directed audience and players in an amusing enactment of family

activities in preparation for Christmas. These included visits to local stores and assembly of Christmas décor. Accompanying audience for carols interspersed in the skit were Steve Schuh (violin) and Ed Maus (accordion).

Additional performers and participants to whom MCHA extends a profound thank you are Callen Benter, Hannah Benter, Scott Jensen, Kate O’Grady, James O’Grady, Samuel O’Grady, Vanessa Butenhoff, Michael Butenhoff, Brandon Butenhoff and Melanie Butenhoff, Brian Ebbinger, Jean Gardner, James O’Grady, Marvin O’Grady, the Maus Family and all the behind the scenes persons unknown to us including the many who provided delicious refreshments. AND to those who attend and make this a real community gathering, THANK YOU.



Brian Ebbinger performs, song and guitar, for caroling attendees

To facilitate work of MCHA personnel, all newsletter readers are asked to consider January as the due date for membership. Suggested donation remains \$15.00 per household. All other donations are appreciated. Fees are used largely for postage and printing costs. Please send to MCHA, Box 21. Thank you. Readers should not be concerned about any makeup monies.

## MCHA Expresses Sympathy

To the family and friends of Bernetta "Red" Kouba ,90, of Winona, who died on November 30, 2017. MCHA persons know her as the sister of Marianne Mastenbrook (dec. 2015).

## Former Resident, Will Krageschmidt, Ends Band Participation

Attendees at the 2012 annual caroling event sponsored by MCHA will remember performer Will Krageschmidt whose family lived in Minnesota City at the time. Will introduced the Bon Hiver "good winter theme" of the year's event. With other students, Will formed a musical group called "Driftwood Bones." A recent Winona Daily News issue (Dec. 16) carried a story on the ending of the band. Krageschmidt specialized in guitar and vocals. He is a student at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa where he has contributed to musical groups.

## How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck....?



CritterControl photo

Since our childhoods, many have recited this puzzler—with the obscure answer of "as much wood as a wood chuck could chuck." Many have never considered the animal they rhyme about or perhaps only on February 2, when the myth is again promulgated that if the groundhog sees its shadow there will be six more weeks of winter.

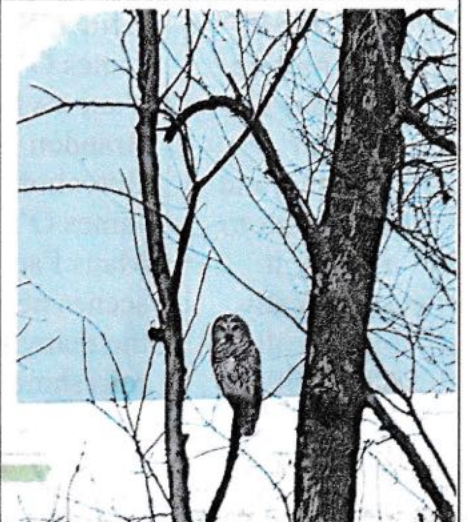
Although called the "groundhog," many Midwesterners know them as woodchucks. Reported in the 2018 Farmer's Almanac, population of the animal is larger than when Europeans came to America. *Woodchuck* is believed to be

from a Native American name for the animal meaning *the digger*.

Being called a "groundhog" probably came because the animal spends time in the ground with "burrows with several entries that may be five feet deep and more than forty feet long." K. Kirsch, author of the Almanac article has included much factual, interesting material in her article "*The Shadowy Story of Groundhogs.*" (pp.180-185).

## Participate in the Wonderment

Barred Owls are large, stocky owls with rounded heads, no ear tufts, and medium length, rounded tails. They are mottled brown and white overall, with dark brown, almost black, eyes. The underparts are mostly marked with vertical brown bars on a white background, while the upper breast is crossed with horizontal brown bars. The wings and tail are barred brown and white. Barred Owls roost quietly in forest trees during the day, though they can occasionally be heard calling in daylight hours. At night they hunt small animals, especially rodents, and give an instantly recognizable "Who cooks for you?" call. Barred Owls live in large, mature forests made up of both deciduous trees and evergreens, often near water. They nest in tree cavities. In the Northwest, Barred Owls have moved into old-growth coniferous forest, where they compete with the threatened Spotted Owl. (From *The Cornell Lab of Ornithology*)



Barred owl seen along Levee Road West beyond Verchota Landing (O'Grady photo)

## Minnesota City Boat Harbor a Local Cold “Hot Spot”



Numbers of ice fishing enthusiasts surprised driving observers in the area during the warmer winter experienced here. These included fishers at McNally Landing, Verchota Landing,



and various spots along the Prairie Island Dike Road all the way to the Minnesota City Boat Club on Harbor Drive. On Tuesday, December 19, with temperatures above normal, several persons were trying their luck, or as they would probably prefer, their skill.

## Charter Members Mn. City Boat Club

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Pursuant to call by the President, the first annual meeting of the members of the MINNESOTA CITY BOAT CLUB was held at the Registered Office of the Corporation on the 11th day of August, 1951, at 8 P.M.

There were present the following members:

Geo. Louis	Stanley Steege	Conrad Hogan
Cliff. Murray	Leonard Ledebuhr	Kenneth Jungbauer
Sam Bunkel	Leonard Cieswold	Just Gustafson
Sam Bunkel Jr	W.C. Killy	Geo. Frank
Dalter Stillwagner	Robert Hall	Geo. Quenlyman
Ray Gatzloff	Ray Fines	Robert Gabel
Henry Murray		

The meeting was called to order by the President, GEORGE LAUIE, and the Secretary, CLIFF MURRAY, presented and read the waiver of notice and consent to the holding of said meeting. On Motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was ordered to be entered in the minute book following the minutes of the meeting.

The Secretary called the roll of the members and it appearing that all of the members were present, the meeting was declared competent to transact any and all business that might lawfully come before it, including the adoption of By-Laws and the election of a Board of Directors.

The President then presented a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and reported that the incorporators has prepared and filed in the office of the Secretary of State a verified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, and that they had paid the required filing fee to said Secretary of State, who had caused to be a copy of said Articles of Incorporation, duly certified by the said Secretary of State, to be filed in the office of the Register of Deeds in the County of Winona, State of Minnesota, and had received from said Secretary of State a certificate of incorporation.

The Boat Club was chartered in 1951 as a private boat club and licensed as a marina. One writer (source unknown, notes available in the archives) lists Boat club members as hunters and fishermen from local areas, Rochester and Twin Cities. “According to the club president, members’ boathouse improvements or alterations are strictly watched over and anyone breaking the club’s or other agencies rules is quickly and efficiently censured... Waterfowl hunting begins in the fall. Good ice fishing brings a high turnout of fishermen in the late winter.” There are several websites for the club including <https://www.facebook.com/Minnesota-City-Boat-Club> and the MCHA website [www.minnesotacity.org](http://www.minnesotacity.org).

**Original framed charter (August, 1951) of the Mn. City Boat Club; it hangs in the office building.**

**PUBLICATION NOTE:** There will be no February Newsletter. Watch for Association (10<sup>th</sup>) and Community Readers (22<sup>nd</sup>) meeting notices in the local papers. Happy Valentines Day.

## Local Business, Flags and Poles International, Shifts Ownership to Lewiston Location

Recent correspondence with Joann Ziegeweid, Minnesota City resident, has included discussion of the changing trajectory of her present personal and business interests. Now 84 years old, Joann has been a busy worker for many years, starting at the George, Brehmer and McMahon law offices following her childhood on the farm. Since then, she and her husband Lyle (deceased in 2016) owned other businesses, including **Flags and Poles Int'l**, which in January is being sold to Joel and Jodi Hennessy, who are moving the business to Lewiston. Joann's business had been located at 209 East Third, but much of the business was conducted through their website, selling especially to veteran's groups, federal and state agencies, corporations, businesses and individuals. The website describes the products related to the vexillological industry—the scientific and scholarly study of flags—for those of us who didn't know! Many area persons have valued Joann's contributions to Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund (GBDRF) and other local groups and wish her continued good.



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." Anne Bradstreet

### Anne Dudley Bradstreet, born in England in 1612, is an Ancestor of the Burley family, early Minnesota City settlers.

She came to America at seventeen. She and her husband were significant figures in the Puritan settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Company. Her poetry covered religious, political, and historical topics as well as family focused ones. This perhaps provoked her sentiment "I am obnoxious to each carping tongue Who says my hand a needle better fits. A poet's pen all soon I should thus wrong, for such despite they cast on female wits, if what I do prove well, it won't advance. They'll say it stol'n or else it was by chance. (referenced by Burley family member Pamela Stansfield Aune in her 2007 presentation on the Burley Family).

## Friends Share Family Culinary Treat Information

In the Winona Post Cookbook issue (12/03/2017) Janet Seabern submitted a recipe of her mother's, (Zrada Hill) called *Zrada's Apple Cake*. Janet's accompanying note reads: "My mom lived in South Dakota and had an apple tree. She made this recipe frequently for Ladies Aid. She got the recipe from a Native American woman; it's over 100 years old." (P.11)

Susan Althoff submitted her mother's recipe for Orange Mandarin Sherbet Salad. She wrote: "My mother (Eleanore Whetstone) made this for us many times. It is a refreshing fruit salad." (P.6)

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](http://www.minnesotacity.org) or use the QR code. Submit information to ([mgogrady@embarqmail.com](mailto:mgogrady@embarqmail.com))

