

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 4, Issue 8: August, 2010

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

Mark your calendars!

August 14: MCHA Bylaws Meeting; 140 Mill Street; 9:00 – 9:30; all welcome

August 14: MCHA regular meeting at the Archives; 140 Mill Street; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

August 28: MCHA Archives open; 140 Mill Street; 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

September 16: Minnesota City Community Readers *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (Cather). *No Readers Group Meeting in August*

May 21, 2011: Minnesota City Day; GBDRF Belgian Waffle Breakfast

Go “Green”!

If you receive this newsletter in paper form and would prefer to receive it electronically, please call 689-2440.

Andrea Church Assists with Genealogy Research at Minnesota City Archives July 24

July 24 open hours at the Minnesota City Historical Association Archives, 140 Mill Street, included technical and information assistance from Andrea Church for persons researching family histories. Church provided free resource information related to web sites, and worked with attendees to get started on and to continue research. The archives will provide wireless electronic connection for persons who bring their laptops to any open sessions at the archives. Persons attending are encouraged to bring their own laptops; the MCHA computer is available for anyone’s use.



Walt Kelly and Marv O’Grady, assisted by Andrea Church, research personal family history at the Archives on July 24. Observers are Peter and Jody Berhow, Andrea, and Roger Church.

Church, a former Minnesota Citian, now resides in Winona and is a Special Education Teacher for School District 861. Increased use of technology in the classroom is one of her instructive goals; She has completed a Master’s in Education Degree specializing in Integrating Technology in the Classroom. Church is a member of Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) and has offered technology for genealogical research at Minnesota City Day, 2010. She has also been a reader/impersonator at MCHA presentations. Together with her father, Roger Church, she has authored the research document on the descendents of Octavius Church—many of whom reside in the Stockton and Winona area.

Archives will be open from 9:30 to 11:30 on August 14 and August 28. All visitors are welcomed. These are good opportunities to visit with persons with similar interests, or to work on research. MCHA now provides wireless connection.

First Heritage Quilt Squares Contributed

The first squares have been submitted for the second heritage quilt which will be assembled by the quilters of St. Paul’s parish when enough squares have been received. Readers may submit any square that represents their family—buildings, involvements, people. Squares need not portray residences, or people that are “old.” Embroidery, appliqué, photos are all acceptable reproduction techniques for the squares. Anyone who needs a fabric square may call 689-2440.

GBDRF (Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund) Plans Fritz Memorials in Stockton and Minnesota City

Planning is underway for two memorials to honor Jaye Fritz, an original board member of GBDRF, one in Stockton at a designated green space, and one in Minnesota City along Garvin Brook. Jaye died in March of 2009.

GBDRF is also planning support of the rebuilding of the small baseball field which was damaged in the flood. For current news on GBDRF, readers are invited to view the GBDRF link at

www.minnesotacity.org

Winona County Historical Society Opens Laird Norton Addition July 18, 2010



Assistant Museum Director, Jennifer Weaver, climbs a wall to photograph Songs of Hope.

A number of Minnesota City Historical Association members were present on July 18 when the public was welcomed with speeches, tours, refreshments, and entertainment that celebrated the opening of the Winona County Historical Society addition. A number of Minnesota City residents have contributed to the capital campaign for the building construction. Winona Daily News featured a photo of Edwin Maus firing up the calliope, and Marianne Mastenbrook, Museum Archivist, was greeting and assisting persons in the archives area. The new space includes a spacious gift center and display area, and on

second floor a large open area, the Wanek room, available to rent for presentations. The new terrace area was immediately being used for observing and listening to the Songs of Hope group, a St. Paul Organization of children from many countries, age 11 to 13, performing music of their countries. Observers were reminded of the many groups involved in the history of Winona and area, mostly Western European, that have now been added to by residents of many countries; their history will be included in the museum.



Songs of Hope, St. Paul, entertain at Museum Opening. Note observers on the new terrace.

River City Travel Guides Author Visits First Baptist Church and MCHA Archives



Gen O'Grady, River Researcher Dean Klinkenberg, and Jean Gardner visit at the Archives on July 23.

On July 23, Dean Klinkenberg, a travel writer and photographer from Missouri, met with Jean Gardner and Marv and Gen O'Grady at First Baptist Church and the Archives to talk about town history impacted by the Mississippi River in founding stages and subsequent development. Klinkenberg has authored two travel guides—*Lansing to LeClaire* and *Quad Cities*. These can be purchased at LaCrosse Book Stores or at Amazon.com. Klinkenberg is currently writing a third about river/city connections. He suggested the possibility of coming to the historic church for a book signing and speech sometime this fall. Klinkenberg, who has a PhD. in Psychology, has a

strong research background. His profile and the discussion of his books can be found on the web—
search *Dean Klinkenberg* or *Travel Passages*. He has written for *Big River*, a magazine published in Winona.

July 31 Annual Jilk Family Reunion at Farmer's Community Park

Descendents of Sophia Kilian and August Jilk Jr. and family and friends held their annual reunion at the Green Lodge in Farmer's Community Park on July 31, 2010. Participants enjoyed a potluck dinner, a sing-along and recreational events including horseshoe and croquet. Participants had been invited to bring music and instruments and a karaoke machine was available for performance. Attendees brought photos for posting that captured characteristics of the Jilk heritage—recreation, land, family, spirituality and work—which have been constants throughout family movement from Czechoslovakia and Germany, to Chicago (1873), to Stockton Valley (1901), and to homes of descendents.

The family of August and Sophia Kilian Jilk, numbering fourteen children, was raised in Stockton Valley, attended Stockton Valley Schools, and St. Paul's Catholic Church in Minnesota City. Several pursued careers in other states, residing in Wisconsin, California, Illinois, and Oregon at the time of their deaths. Three children of the fourteen children are living; Sr. Marie Louise, S.Sp.S., Techny, Illinois, Agnes Evanson and Mary Jilk, who live in Winona. They attended the reunion.

Margaret, Sylvester, and Mary Jilk departing home for Stockton Valley School District 31 (circa 1931)



Archival Additions

In addition to the DVDs "In a Flash," the story of the 2007 flood developed and promoted by GBDRF which have been donated to MCHA for public use, the archives now has an additional "flood film," called *After the Dawn*, which focuses on the flood in Rushford. This DVD can also be checked out at the archives. A sign out sheet indicates name of borrower and item borrowed. There is not a set length of time for use—we are small enough to alert people when items are needed by others. We hope to begin a listing of available items soon.

Acid free tissue paper has been purchased for storage of fabric items at the Archives. Over a period of time, most tissue paper becomes acidic and brittle. The acidity may transfer to adjacent objects causing these objects to become weaker and possibly discolored; acid free tissue papers are specially processed to remove such contaminants.

MCHA Congratulates

- Winona County Historical Society on the opening of their new building July 18. The dedication of all persons involved from the conception and completion of this project has been admirable. We are grateful--
- Minnesota City Ball Teams on their several summer tournament wins--

MCHA Thanks

- **Andrea Church** for technology assistance for the Association
- **Donna and Betsy Friesen** for the archives open hours refreshments

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.