

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 13, Issue 7: October 2018

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 13:
Saturday; MCHA
Monthly Meeting;
Historic First
Baptist Church,
140 Mill Street;
9:30 a.m.

October 25:
Thursday;
Minnesota City
Community
Readers;
Minnesota City
City Hall, 149 Mill
Street; 6:30 p.m.;
Selection: *Waiting
for White Horses*,
Nathan Jorgenson

October 28:
Sunday;
Hometown
Harvest;
Historic First
Baptist Church;
Readings,
Conversation,
Music,
Refreshments;
2:00 p.m.

“Go Green!”

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

October 28: Hometown Harvest - Prose and Pumpkins. Features Music, Literature, Food and Friendship

Persons who attended the first Hometown Harvest in October of 2017 will be pleased to see that it is being repeated on October 28 (see this Newsletter, page 4). Additional readers, musicians, and foods will be on the program as well as repeat performers from last year. Persons who wish to participate are invited to call Kate O’Grady (454-4554). If no answer, please leave a message. Kate, along with Rebecca O’Grady Weiss and Susan Althoff will be coordinating details of the afternoon. All are welcome to join in the conversation and feel free to bring a pumpkin themed (or other) treat to share.



<https://crafterholic.com/2011/11/01/knitted-pumpkins/>

Friendship Facts:

September was national Friendship Month: The annual observance in many places brings people together, regardless of age, gender, religion, or political leanings. The celebrations often include music and other arts and food and conversation.

Pumpkin Facts

The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was in 2005 and weighed 2,020 pounds. Pumpkins have been grown in North America for five thousand years. They are indigenous to the western hemisphere. In 1584, after French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding “gross melons.” The name was translated into English as “pompions,” which has since evolved into the modern “pumpkin.”

The heaviest pumpkin weighed 1,810 lb. 8 oz. and was presented by Chris Stevens at the Stillwater Harvest Fest in Stillwater, Minnesota, in October 2010.

<https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/pumpkin-facts>

Standing Invitations:

- to attend regular meetings of MCHA. These meetings are usually held at 140 Mill Street.
- to respond to newsletter content. Please send additions, corrections, suggestions, calendar information (meetings, reunions, birthdays, other significant dates) etc. to mgogradey@embarqmail.com.
- **Writers of regular columns would be welcomed.** These might include monthly columns on area businesses, churches, schools, organizations or other relevant topics on the area and/or our history.

Little Library Full of Books

Many readers will find selections of their liking at the Little Library located in front of the historic First Baptist Church on Mill Street. Again accessible following the completed landscaping work at the church, the library holds an extensive array of reading choices. In 2016, the library purpose was given as “to offer free books and exchange of books to the local community. ... Little Libraries have no check outs or required returns.” This library was the work and gift of Hollis and Lori Donehower.



Most readers will find a variety in the selections to match their reading interests. Among the treasures currently in the Little Library are these:

Maeve Binchy: *Nights of Rain and Stars*

John Irving: *Cider House Rules*

Russell Baker: *Growing Up*

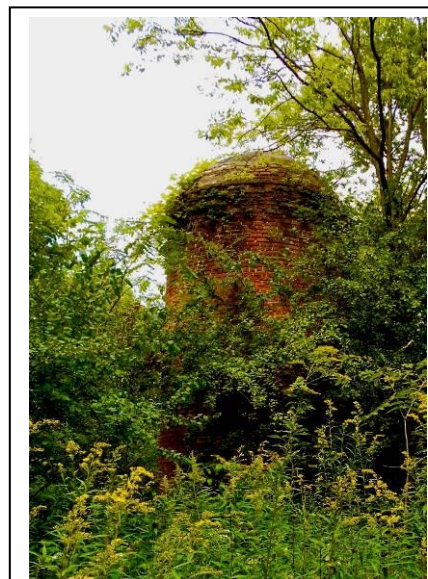
Magazines: *All Recipes; Country Living*

Usborne: *1001 Animals to Spot; Childrens' Coloring Books*

MCHA Meeting September 8 includes Continued Discussion of School Bell and Evokes Interest in Bricks

As is often the case in pursuing an historical topic, one search brings the reader to other interesting aspects of the topic. As Wallace Burley continues to develop plans related to the Minnesota City School Bell, the question of construction materials of the times emerged. Few meeting attendees knew of other buildings using brick in the Minnesota City village at the time. From archival materials, two photos record the use of brick—the silo near the former Whetstone home, and the Whetstone home itself. When Susan Whetstone Althoff occupied the home in 2012, she employed the Scharmer Construction Company to do repair work, tuck pointing, on the house. David and Nancy Parker Whetstone had purchased the home in 1882, and the Minnesota Historical Society dates it from 1880 to 1890.

During those years, Winona had two brickyards, one of which was the Biesanz brickyard, established in 1866 near St. Mary's College and a second in East Burns Valley. The Village House Inn on Highway 14, (current name), was a Biesanz owned home until 2002. The brickyard produced over three million red sand mold bricks per year, using clay from the Biesanz farm. Possibly this is where the Whetstone Bricks came from—as well as the bricks for the Minnesota City School. Many web sites detail Minnesota Bricks; anyone who locates information on early use of them in the Minnesota City area is asked to notify archives at 450-0201.



Brick silo near Minnesota City
(archives photo)

MCHA Expresses Sympathy to friends and family of:

Scott Hazleton, 66, Minnesota City, who died on September 14 in Minnesota City.

Glenn Maxham, 88, former Minnesota Citian, who died in Duluth, Minnesota on September 10.

Glenn Maxham, a Man with Varied Interests

Glenn Maxham, son of Edward and Mildred Maxham, Minnesota City died in Duluth on September 18. The Winona Daily News September 22 edition carried a detailed description of Glenn's life. His Film Production company focused on environmental issues. Some persons in Minnesota City may not have been surprised by this information. In 1974 (he was visiting his parents), the Winona Daily News (*April 14, 1974*) related a story of his presentation of a slide narration at Winona State University. His most recent film at the time dealt with the timber wolves of northern Minnesota and was commissioned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The slide presentation was dealing with all the life in the North—Maxham was living in Duluth—"but Maxham will likely include a discussion of the plight of the timber wolf and other rare animals of the state....He speaks with authority when discussing the wolf, not only because he spent nearly a year filming them in the wild, but because he has raised them in his home." Maxham's ashes are being interred in Oakland Cemetery.



Maxham Grave in Oakland Cemetery

C.J. Maybury: A Minnesota City Cheerleader

Because C. J. Maybury designed so many buildings in the area including the Minnesota City School, many area persons think of him as "Architect Maybury." In 1901 he wrote for a New York paper an account of 1852 members of the locating committee for the Minnesota City Western Farm and Village site. "They (William Haddock and Arthur Murphy) came up the Mississippi river from La Crosse, Wisconsin on skates, a distance of thirty miles, with packs on their backs. Each carried a buffalo skin and some camp supplies." Haddock records "After leaving LaCrosse we pursued our journey slowly up the river on the ice, hugging as closely as possible the Minnesota side of the river for the purpose of making observations. After traveling until about noon we stopped for dinner at a young trader's, who happened to have a smoking dinner just ready for consumption. Having no time to lose, we resumed our tramp without perceiving any cabin or other dwelling. We proceeded on our journey until the shades of evening began to gather round. Having brought up at the lower extremity of a sandy island, we doffed our buffalo skins, selected a spot of a camp, collected wood, lit up a fire, spread out our skins and entered upon the full enjoyment of camping out. To camp out however, is not a very agreeable thing to a person not accustomed to it, especially in a cold February night" (*Winona Daily Republican*, January 15, 1901). Maybury's writing about Minnesota City is a balanced view, noting hardships but always recounting the merits of the settlers and the location.

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 mgogradey@embarqmail.com



*Minnesota City
“Hometown Harvest”*



*Sunday, October 28
2:00 P.M.*

*Historic First
Baptist Church
140 Mill Street*

*A Gathering of Readings, Music,
Refreshments, Conversation*

