

# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

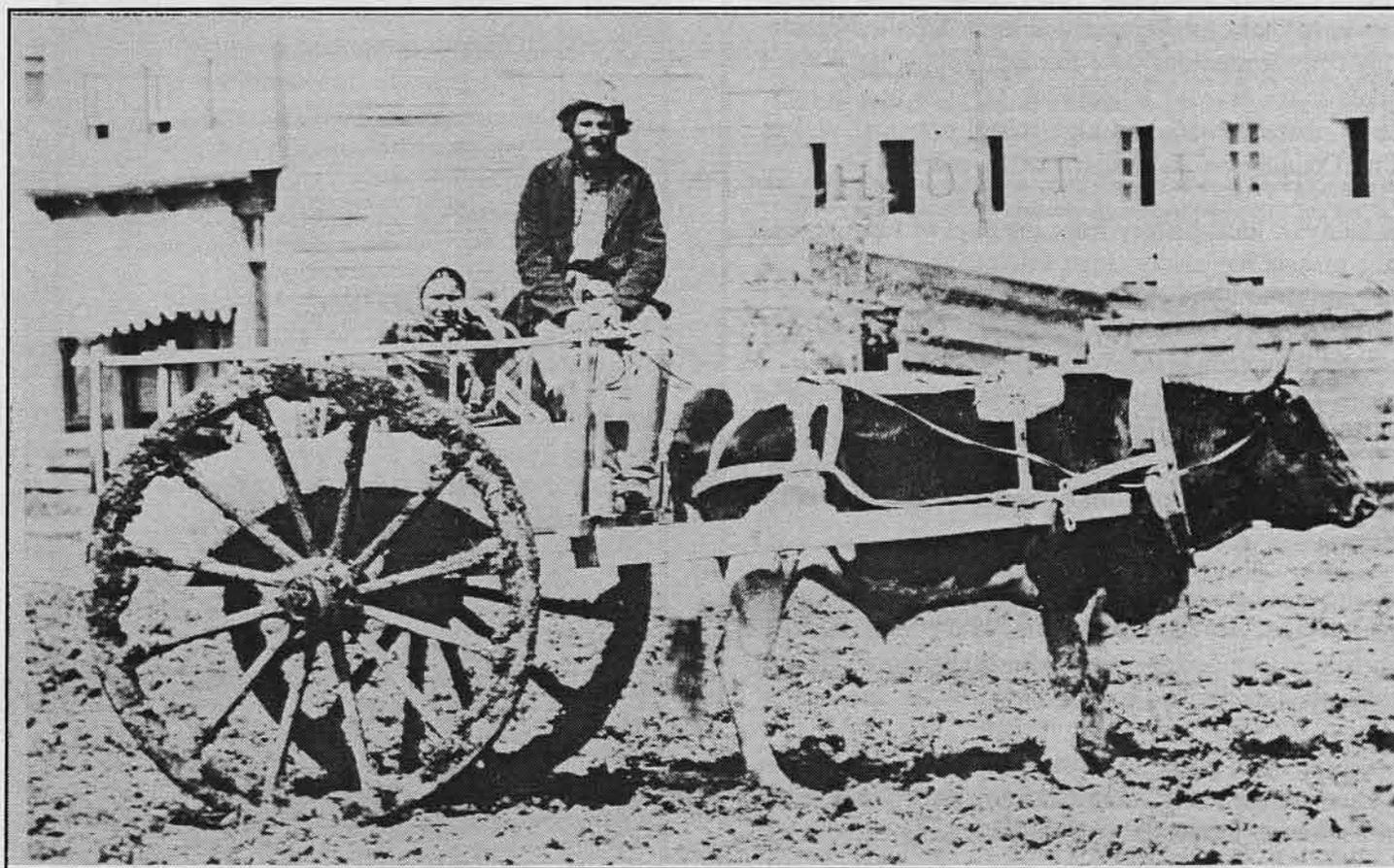


**CCHS Newsletter**

**March/April 2000**

**Vol. XXIII. No. 2**

**Annual Meeting April 27 - See Pages 14 and 15**



Ox cart on a very muddy Winnipeg street, about 1870. Note the collar around the ox's neck and the leather "tugs" attaching it to the cart shaft ends. Also note the padded "clobber" on the animal's back. A strap running over the clobber supports the weight of the shafts. See story pages 8-10.

Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

## President's Report

### Editors Note:

The Presidency of the Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) changed hands in January when Galen Vaa resigned to begin his new work as a Minnesota judge, spending most of his time in Fergus Falls. The new CCHS president, Norman Roos, has served as vice-president for several years. He will write the president's column in this and future issues of the newsletter.



### President's Report

By Norman Roos, President

As a life-long resident of Clay County I have enjoyed hearing of and observing many aspects of our county. I was born on my grandfather's homestead near Hitterdal. Because of Hitler and other troublemakers, I served four years in Military Intelligence and as an aerial navigator flying combat missions over Europe. Following WWII I worked in the Hawley schools for 38 years as a history teacher, athletic coach and high school principal, and as a City Councilman and Mayor for 22 years.

The study of local history from the days of Lake Agassiz to the present has always been fascinating. At numerous times my mind has dwelt on the hardships of my grandparents who settled near Hitterdal as early as 1871. How did they endure the fierce winter storms in their wooden shacks, sod huts or log cabins? Or the hordes of mosquitos and grasshoppers during the summer? Really, what have we to complain about when the electricity goes out for an hour or two, or the snowblower won't start.

We who live here in the year 2000 must thoughtfully consider ourselves the beneficiaries of the suffering and pain endured by our ancestors who came here to escape conditions they deemed unbearable.

One of the main goals of a historical society or museum is to remind the public of events, conditions, trends, etc. that have been influential in establishing our present lifestyles.

I feel that CCHS, which is funded primarily by county tax dollars, is doing a fine job in keeping the avenues to the past open.

## Are you going to be away??

If you plan to be away for any length of time, please notify CCHS so we can either forward your Newsletters or hold them for you.

Call 299-5520 or write to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561-0501 to report any address changes.

## Annual Meeting, April 27

Plan on attending - See Page 15

### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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# "Whatcha got" guru, Harry Rinker scheduled at Clay County Museum

On Sunday, June 18, Clay County Historical Society, together with Harry Rinker of "Whatcha Got," will be sponsoring an antique and collectible appraisal show at the Clay County Museum, 202 1st Ave N., Moorhead MN.



Harry Rinker

You are invited to bring your collectibles to the Clay County Museum to have Rinker appraise it for you.

Rinker is a frequent television and radio show celebrity. He has appeared on Oprah, Home Matters, Martha Stewart Living, Inside Edition, Wall Street Journal Report, the NBC-TV Market Rap, and MPT Wall Street Week With Louis Rukeyse. His antiques and collectibles call-in radio show "Whatcha Got" airs on Fargo/Moorhead KFGO-AM every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. Rinker travels the country doing regional and local talk shows identifying artifacts and family heirlooms.

The appraisal clinic will run from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 18. Admission fee will be \$15 for non-members and \$10 for CCHS members, plus \$5 per item for appraisals. (Individual memberships are only \$20 so if you aren't a member now, this is an excellent time to sign up.)

Owners bringing artifacts/items for appraisal will be responsible for transporting their items to the site and conveying them into the building. Therefore, the items will be limited to those which: can be easily carried by one person, be self-supporting, and able to sit on a table or the floor. CCHS will not be responsible for items left after the session.

**Pre-registration will be required.** CCHS reserves the right to place a limit on the total number of items submitted per person. Watch your local media and especially our May/June CCHS Newsletter for all the details or call 299-5520 for more information.

## The 1920 Federal Census

With the 2000 census forms now in the hands of most Americans, we thought it might be interesting to look back to the 1920 Census, the last census released for public consumption.

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Items below are reprinted from an article by Brooks Noel in the Olmstead County Genealogical Society Newsletter, January 1993.

To say the 1920 Federal Census is unique would be putting it mildly. This 14th U.S. census out-enumerated the previous 13th by a mile. The 1920 census set at least 31 "firsts" for this kind of enumeration:

- ◆ It was the first census to start officially on Jan. 1 of the census year. The Department of Agriculture asked for the January date because of the farm schedule. It thought that the farmers would have information about last year's crop fresh in their minds. Others argued that more people would be home at this time in the city than they would be in the usual starting time of April or May. The *Washington Post* pointed out that the whole thing was political: the politicians wanted it finished before the first primaries in the spring.
- ◆ It was the first time that no questions were asked about unemployment nor were any questions asked about military service during the Civil War or any war.
- ◆ For the first time in the history of the census, women were appointed supervisors, although they numbered only a token five out of the 372 supervisors for the whole continental USA.
- ◆ Never before had the enumerators been so poorly paid. Those working on a per capita basis were paid between 1 and 4 cents for each individual enumerated. Those working on a per diem basis were paid minimum wages, and in some cases, below minimum wages. However, every enumerator was expected to work a full eight-hour day.
- ◆ If the family or families or person or persons were away from their usual abode, enumerators in 1920, were to obtain the information from the janitor, boardinghouse keeper or manager of a cheap lodging house. *(Really, I'm not making this up!)*
- ◆ For the first time enumerators were not required to have the individual spell out the surname! *(Genealogists please note!)* Nor were they required to show proof of age, date of arrival, citizenship, or other such information.
- ◆ For the first time a dwelling was defined as a place where the individual regularly slept and therefore individuals could not be enumerated at the place of employment.
- ◆ It was the first census to ask for the year of the final naturalization. If the naturalization was via the parents, then the date the parents were naturalized was taken.
- ◆ Children born between Jan. 1 and the day the enumerator arrived were not to be listed, yet those who died before the census taker could get there were to be listed.

## Outreach Displays

The CCHS outreach case program will be on vacation for about a year. The curator needs to catch up on work created by the 1998 water main break and the move into new quarters.

## Monetary Donations

January/February 2000

Helen Rudie, Moorhead  
 Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter MN  
 E.E. Wright, Lark Park  
 Irene Hogan, Moorhead  
 Donna Christianson, Fairfax VA  
 Rural Life Outreach of NW MN, Moorhead  
 Rodney Loyear, Charlotte NC  
 Michael B. Saville, Aurora IL  
 Bethlehem Lutheran Group, Fargo  
 Larry & Elsie Quam, Hawley

### Needed: a special quilt .....

The beautiful jewel box-pattern Christmas quilt that is displayed in the Competition section of the Stitches in Time exhibit will soon be returned to its owner. We need to borrow another award-winning quilt to hang in its place. The quilt (any size) and award ribbon(s) should be available for a loan of about one year. The quilt should be ready to hang or able to have a sleeve sewn on the back.

Past and present award-winning quilts from the Clay County fair would qualify as would quilts entered in the North Dakota Quilter's Guild quilt shows. Pictures taken at the time of the award are also sought.



The qualifications are:

A quilt made by a Clay County resident winning an award from a Clay County organization or club; or, a quilt made by a Clay County resident winning an award on a state or national level.

A quilt with Clay County associations made outside the county which won an award from a Clay County organization or club may be considered if none of the

first two are available.

If you have a quilt that meets the above qualifications and would like to see it displayed, call the museum at 299-5520 and ask for Pam.

## Artifacts & Donors

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Eva Felde, Lyle B. & Grace Clark, Donna McMaster, Bob Backman, in memory of George "Shorty" and "Sarah" "Susie" Kondos  
 Hawley: E.M. "Lefty" Johnson, George & Alice Keeping  
 Niagara, ND: William A. McManus  
 Charlotte, NC: Rodney Loyear  
 Wilmington, NC: St. John's Museum of Art

### Artifacts include:

booklet, biography of artist Elizabeth Chant, former Yeovil [Hawley] resident; a metal cow "keeper" which, when placed around an animal's neck, keeps it from going through a wire fence; reel-to-reel tape of 1975 entry by a Sabin 4th grade Elementary reading class of *Kitty Hawk* by Lydia M. Ickler for the Young People's Radio Festival sponsored by National Public Radio & the Center for Understanding Media with letter; (5) photos (copies) of Hansen and Carges families and a nwsp clipping (copy) on death of Eric Hansen; a lab coat from the Fairmont Creamery worn by Russell Lower of Moorhead, a 30+ year veteran at the creamery; St. Luke's Hospitals Meritcare Auxiliary patch; full sheet of 3 cent commemorative postage stamps for the 50th Anniversary of school patrols 1902-1950; paper items found in wall of donor's house in Hawley including baseball score sheets and rosters; a clothing brush from Aamodt & Sons Clothiers & Furnishers, Barnesville; (3) softball uniform shirts "Shorty's" and pants.

### Educational trunks in need of...

The CCHS's Coming to Clay County PAST trunk is in need of a rommegrot stirrer, and the Good Old Days trunk needs a general interest magazine (from the mid-1920s) such as the *Saturday Evening Post*. Call 299-5520 for more information.

# Just leave your card

By Pam Burkhardt

## Brief History

Business cards evolved from the tradesmen's card from 400 years ago. These pieces of paper gave the tradesman's name, location and trade. Soon, advertising trade cards and labels evolved from the tradesman's card. Private business cards were slow in gaining acceptance; they didn't reach universal status until the 1950s. [credit *Warman's Paper* 1994]

Today, we enclose cards with both personal and business mail. Business card cases are available for storing and carrying a supply. Pocket cases are made for carrying those you have received. Desk top models encourage you to keep business cards close at hand, thus, assuring your business associates and visitors that they are but a moment away from use. Business cards are a fast, easy way to convey your name, address, business, office phone, extension number, cell phone, fax number, email address and web site along with a logo or a memorable phrase that, one hopes, will remain with the recipient.

More business-type cards are appearing all the time. They are handed out at social functions and during casual interactions with strangers. For non-business functions or for retirees, personal acquaintance cards are available. These contain your name and such information as is believed necessary: *Business: Retired and glad of it*, and *Hours: any \*@#% hours I please!* Hobby-related cards fall somewhere in between. Exchanging names with a fellow enthusiast through hobby cards makes the encounter a bit easier on both sides. The increasing availability of computers and

printers will contribute to a continued rise in these less business-oriented cards.

Other cards are politically motivated: the *vote for \_\_\_\_\_ for the office of \_\_\_\_\_* - you fill in the blanks. Mrs. Katharine [Henry G.] Finkle's card has on the back, "Mark a X like this on your ballot where you find the name of Mrs. Katharine Finkle." She ran for Superintendent of Schools in the 1890s, but was not elected.

## The delicate and gracious art of calling

*A [calling] card is but a bit of pasteboard, and would seem to be of no consequence, and yet it is a silent messenger which vouches for the cultivation and familiarity with good usages of its owner. Twentieth Century Etiquette, A Ready Manual for all Occasions, Annie Randall White, 1900*

A century ago, it would have been unthinkable for a middle class man or woman to pay a visit to a residence without their personal cards in a decorative card case. Paying a visit was a structured event with rules. Unless you were in an informal setting you would not just "dropping by" for a chat. Most calling hours were in the afternoon<sup>1</sup> where both time and topics of conversation were proscribed. Closer friends were permitted to visit in the evenings.<sup>2</sup> A lady would be "at home" officially one day a week when you could call and be graciously received. This doesn't mean the lady wasn't home any other time - this was her official reception time. New Year's Day was one exception - that day calls were made from ten in the morning to eleven in the evening.

Special trays or baskets on a table in the front hall held the most recent collection of calling cards for the perusal of the mistress of the household. It was considered rude for a guest to read the calling cards left by others. A calling card sent by mail was considered as good as a visit.

(Continued on Page 6)

<sup>1</sup> Despite its name a morning call was made in the afternoon.

<sup>2</sup> Evenng calls were from eight to nine in the evening. You stayed an hour.

For Superintendent of Schools,  
Mrs. KATHARINE FINKLE.

(over)

## Calling Cards (Continued from Page ??)

Calling cards were also a means of communication without personal interaction in a "language" perfectly understood by the social group you were in. The wording on and manipulation of your calling card imparted additional information. For example, if the person you were calling on is *not* at home, leave your calling card with the upper right-hand corner turned down to show that you came in person. Leaving town for a length of time? Send your acquaintances your card with *P.P.C.* written on one of the lower corners. *P.P.C.* - *Pour Pendre Conge* is "to take leave" in French. Giving an informal Tea? Send your calling card with the notation *Five o' clock tea* written in the left hand corner.

### A guide for gentlemen

A gentleman's card should be small containing only his name, not his address. If the card is engraved, *Mr.* will precede his name. If written by hand, omit the *Mr.*

When a gentleman makes his first call on a house, he must leave a card for each lady of the household. Usually, one card will do for the mother and one for the daughters.

A married man does not make calls of ceremony - his wife will leave his card when she leaves hers.

A gentleman or a lady may use their calling card to introduce one person to another in place of a letter of introduction. Simply write *Introducing Mr. or Mrs.* \_\_\_\_\_ in the upper left hand corner of your card and send it with the gentleman's/lady's own card to the person in receipt of the introduction.

### Young ladies

Young ladies use the prefix "Miss" in front of their names when written on cards. The exception being that of the eldest daughter who omits the prefix.

A mother with a debuting daughter has the daughter's name engraved just below hers on her calling card. This tells her friends the daughter is embarking on her first social season. This is the first time the daughter, around age eighteen, will be invited and received at formal social functions at these houses. She may have attended any number of informal gatherings there earlier, but she is treated in quite a different fashion from now on. During her first year as "out," the young lady doesn't use a calling card, because she doesn't make calls without her mother.

When an interested young gentleman wishes to call on a young lady, he will leave his card and hope for an invitation. If he receives no invitation, *that* is the message.

### Mourning

A black border is necessary for any card sent out by a family in mourning. These are usually sent out by the family rather than left, because they will not be paying social calls during the proscribed mourning period.



Rosco S. Brown had a formal political card made for the 1938 election. The humorous card below may have been made during the same time period.



# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

*Stitches  
in  
Time*  
Clay County's Handmade Textiles



*The clothing on this bisque pioneer mother doll (ca 1890-1910) features fabrics dating from 1871 to 1880. She and her bisque baby won 1st prize in a doll contest in 1932.*

*The "Stitches" exhibit explores the role of textiles in the social history of Clay County.*

## Mini Exhibit and Demo Schedules

Mar. 4 - Apr. 23 Northern Lights Chapter Embroiders' Guild



Mar. 18 Embroiders' Demos 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Apr. 15 Embroiders' Demos 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 2-June 16 Rug Hooking Display



Demo dates and times to be decided

Museum Hours are: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-9 Thurs., 12-5 Sun.  
Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, MN



**Repair time:** These cart drivers are in St. Paul preparing their carts for the return trip north about 1858. The cart in the foreground has its wheels pulled off and is resting upside down. A new axle is in place. Note other spare axles laying around. A cart might go through four or five axles on a trip from Winnipeg to St. Paul.

Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

# A few thoughts about Red River Carts and Trails

by Mark Peihl

## Part 1

Many of our readers, I am sure, have heard of the Red River carts. In the early 1800s, the Metis people, descendants of early white fur traders and native Cree or Ojibwa women, used these two-wheeled, all-wood vehicles to carry home meat and pemmican from their bi-annual buffalo hunts in eastern North Dakota. They also hauled trade goods from St. Paul to the Winnipeg area and furs south. So much has been written about the carts that it's a bit intimidating to try adding more information. In 1979 the Minnesota Historical Society published the definitive work on the subject, *The Red River Trails: Ox-cart Routes Between St. Paul and the Selkirk Settlement 1820-1870* by Rhoda and Caroline Gilman and Deborah Stultz. I strongly recommend this book for anyone interested in the trails and carts, the early history of the Valley or just a good read. It's excellent and still available from MHS or local libraries and book stores. So in this and our next issue I will just submit a few details about the carts and trails that have not seen much press.

First, regarding their construction. After studying scores of photographs and several existing carts, I am struck by the similarity in their construction. You would think that with hundreds of independent cart builders there would be numerous variations, but not really. Granted, most of the carts and all of the photographs I have seen date from the 1850s and 1860s, some half a century after the first carts appeared. The Metis had had plenty of time to work out the bugs. But I suspect that it did not take long for the carts to evolve into a standard pattern.

We have in our collections a wonderful replica cart built by John Hall and Eddie Gudmundson. It's a very typical looking cart. (See the photographs.) It weighs about 400 pounds and could carry 800 pounds. The heart of the cart is two heavy, parallel, 12-foot long shafts. The single draft animal stood between the shafts to pull. The box rests on the shafts, mortised to keep it in place. The corner posts and side rails of the box are ingeniously located to allow side boards to be slipped in to keep objects from falling out of the cart. The most striking feature is the cart's wheels. Over five feet in diameter, they are dish-shaped with the spokes angling out from the hubs to the rims. This

gives the cart a wider stance making it harder to tip over. The big wheels give the cart plenty of ground clearance for going over stumps and through mud. The rims are wide, about three inches, to keep the cart from cutting into soft sod. They are made of six curved felloes (sections) pinned together end to end with wooden pegs. I have read accounts that suggest that the felloes were made of bent pieces of oak but I am skeptical. It does not seem practical and every cart and illustration I have seen shows the segments cut in a curved shape. The twelve spokes (there are almost always twelve) are mortised into the heavy hub and completely through the felloes. Wedges inserted in the outer ends of the spokes keep the spokes in place, much like wedges in the end of a hammer handle.

The key to the cart is its axle. It supports the entire weight of the cart and load and was the most likely part to fail. A cart typically went through four or five axles on a trip from Winnipeg to St. Paul. Many photos show spare axles tied to the rear of the cart ready to replace ones which break. The cone-shaped ends of the axle slipped through a similarly shaped hole through the middle of each hub. A lynch pin through each end of the axle held the wheels on.

The shafts rested on the axle in mortises cut not into the axle but into the shafts giving that weakest part greater strength. Some accounts suggest the axle was fixed to the cart with wet rawhide straps which, when dried, shrank and held the parts tight but more commonly the cart body was pinned to the axle with pegs angled down and in through the floor boards and the axle. This would make replacing the axle much easier.

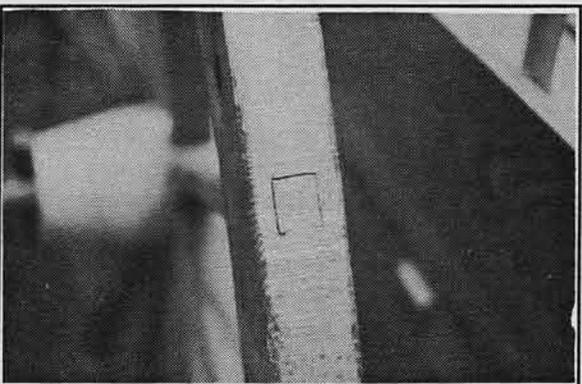
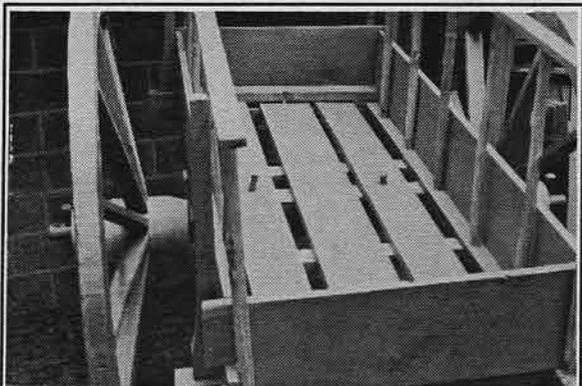
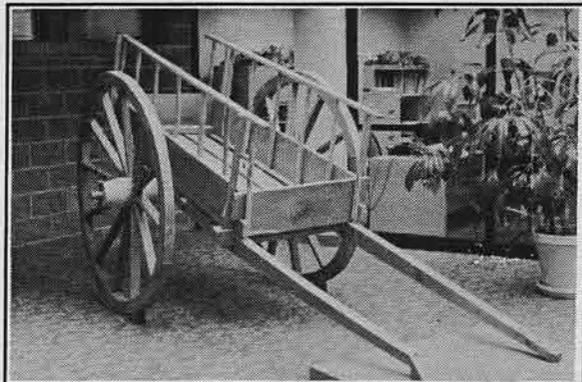
We actually have a date for the invention of the carts, summer or fall of 1801. Alexander Henry was a fur trader for the Northwest Fur Company who had a post near present day Pembina, ND. He left a detailed account of his eight years there which has become a classic in fur trade literature. Some of his employees were French-Canadians from Quebec who improvised carts similar to the two-wheeled, iron tired carts common in their home towns. I wondered why similar Voyageurs hadn't come up with the idea earlier, say in

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## Red River Carts (Cont. from Pg 9)

the early 1790s when Peter Grant kept a similar NW Co. post at Pembina. The answer is the availability of horses. Horses were a rare commodity in early 19th century Red River Valley. Fur traders came from Canada and Hudson Bay via boats and canoes.

Bringing horses was nearly impossible. They had to be purchased from Indians living along the Missouri River with contacts further south. Trader Charles Chaboillez preceded Henry at Pembina in 1797-1798 and also left a journal. He mentions having only two horses for his whole operation. In Henry's first years he had only two or three. But in the summer of 1801 his men purchased a number of the animals from the Assiniboine Indians to the west and the carts soon followed. In November 1801



he reports, "My men finished a stable for our working horses... Men now go again for meat, with small carts, the wheels of which are each of one solid piece, sawed off the ends of trees whose diameter is three feet. Those carriages we find much more convenient and advantageous than it is to load horses, the country being so smooth and level that we can use them in every direction."

From these crude beginnings the carts went through a couple of other changes in the next few years. In September 1802 Henry reported that several of his "posts are overland, and require horses to transport the property. We have enough for all purposes, and a new sort of cart which facilitates transportation, hauling home meat, etc. They are about four feet high and perfectly straight; the spokes are perpendicular, without the least bending outward, and only four to each wheel. These carts carry about five pieces [450 pounds] and are drawn by one horse."

Tinkering continued. The following spring Henry wrote, "I started Mr. Cadotte with a man for Rivir're Aux Inlets de Bois, with one of our new carts. This invention is worth four horses to us, as it would require five horses to carry as much on their backs as one will drag in each of these large carts." Assuming a pack horse could carry 150 pounds or more, these "new, large carts" could carry 750 to 800 pounds. They were probably already similar to the standard pattern seen later.

Speaking of draft animals, horses were used exclusively to pull the carts at first. Although some authors use the terms Red River cart and ox-cart interchangeably, cattle were also a late addition to the Valley. A few cattle may have reached the Selkirkers by 1815, but it was fall 1821 before they come

(Continued on Page 12)

TOP PHOTO AT LEFT: Replica Red River Cart built by John Hall and Eddie Gudmundson on display at the Clay County Museum.

MIDDLE PHOTO AT LEFT: The pegs driven down and through the floor boards and axle keep the cart box in place but make for easy removal and replacement of the axle. The floor boards are in turn held down by end boards pegged into the shafts. (The pegs are not driven all of the way in to make them more visible. Also note the severely "dished" wheels giving the cart a wider stance and greater stability. The placement of the side and corner posts make it possible to insert side boards to keep things from falling out of the cart.

BOTTOM PHOTO AT LEFT: The outside ends of the spokes are mortised all the way through the rims and held in place with wedges - much as a hammer head is wedged onto its handle.

# Voices from the past

By Pam Burkhardt

In 1969, County Auditor Amy Larson donated to Clay County Historical Society an old, green Lucky Strike tin she found in the vault at the Clay County Courthouse. Inside the tin were two letters and a number of cards: business, political and personal. The first letter was written March 18, 1900; a second letter was added about a week later. Of the two letters, the first is more formal, the second more informative. Both were written on Abstracts of Title/Register of Deeds/WA Stein letterheads.

## First Letter [Page 1]

Moorhead, Minn. March 18, 1900

This was put in this tin box on Sunday Mch 18th 1900. We will see when this will be discovered. This vault is being enlarged at this time and Bergquist Brothers of Moorhead are building the vault. Following are the country officers at this date.

Auditor	OJ Kittelsrud
Treasurer	HP Strate
Register of Deeds	WA Stein
Sheriff	WJ Bodkin
Judge of Probate	John Costain
County Attorney	CA Nye
County Surveyor	N Maier
County Coroner	Th. S Egge
Supt. of Schools	Thomas Thorson

County Commissioners: Ole Martinson, Chairman, Paul Van Vlissingen, Eric Carlson, Charles B Hill, and Ole N Lee. Have a card for a memento.

## [Page 2]

These are the people who are assisting the county officers in the court house, at this date.



W. A. STEIN,

Candidate for  
REGISTER OF DEEDS  
Clay County.

William Stein, current Register of Deeds, dated the four business cards he put in the tin. Stein included his candidate's card for the upcoming election in November. He was first elected to the position of Clay County Register of Deeds in 1896.

Auditors office P Aug. Eklund - HW Alsop  
Treasure office Hans C Ryan  
Registers office Alfred Somonsen, OJ Raastad, Fred, Stalley  
Sheriff office Ole Melvey - Jailor  
Ole N Erickson is Janitor of court house.

The winter about over now, has been mild and one of the finest known in the history of this valley. No sleighing to date. Hoping that whoever discovers this will make it known to the descendants of the present descendants of Adam & Eve, we remain.

Yours Respectfully. Good bye  
The Register WA Stein

## Second letter [Page 1]

Moorhead, Minn. Mch 27, 1900

To the person that discovers this letter.

Dear Sir.

We at this writing are all well and happy and hope you are are [sic] the same. Some of us saw a flock of Geese (wild) on Sunday flying toward the North Pole, this was day before yesterday or Sunday Mch 25th 1900 - Mayor Hans H Aaker was inaugurated last night and appointed George F. Fuller Chief of Police and this morning he was parading the streets with his wings spread out like a Turkey Gobler [sic], he made one arrest already. Don't know

NELLIE HOPKINS

Candidate For



County Superintendent  
of Schools

Clay County, Minnesota  
General Election Nov. 5th, 1918

Nellie Hopkins' political card was added some years later. Hopkins spent more than 30 years at the First Ward School as an elementary school teacher and, later, principal. She lost the 1918 election to S.O. Tang.

(Cont. on  
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## Red River Carts (Cont. from Page 10)

north in any numbers. An ox is a three or four year old castrated bull.

These beasts grew huge and relatively docile and could pull a cart load of half a ton. Oxen were probably not used until late in the 1820s or later.

Often well meaning artists have portrayed the horse or ox hitched into a wooden yoke. Actually, harnesses, not yokes, were used. The animal's head passed through a collar against which it pulled. Leather straps called tugs attached the collar to pegs stuck in the ends of the shafts. The harness also included straps around the animal's rear and a saddle-like "clobber" which rested on the critter's back and supported the weight of the shafts.

Another myth suggests that wheel rims were sometimes wrapped round and round with long strips of wet rawhide to bind the wheels together and create

a sort of tire. In 1970 a *Winnipeg Free Press* reporter tracked this error to an otherwise accurate 1942 article on carts published in the Hudson's Bay Fur Trade Company's official magazine, *The Beaver*. Two photos published showed a Red River cart which had been fitted with large iron tired carriage wheels. The tires were loose so someone wrapped the wheels with rawhide to keep them on. No original carts were ever fitted this way but almost immediately publishers began illustrating Canadian history books with rawhide wrapped cart wheels. Some eye witness accounts claim that occasionally a wide strip of wet rawhide might be wrapped lengthwise around the outside of the rim and the edges tied together on the inside creating a rawhide tire. But I have never seen a photograph of such a cart wheel.

In our next issue we will discuss the development of the cart trails and Clay County's part in the story.

## Voices (Continued from Page 11)

whether the "hobo" arrested will come up before Judge Odegaard or not. New Mayor issued an order for all slot machines and

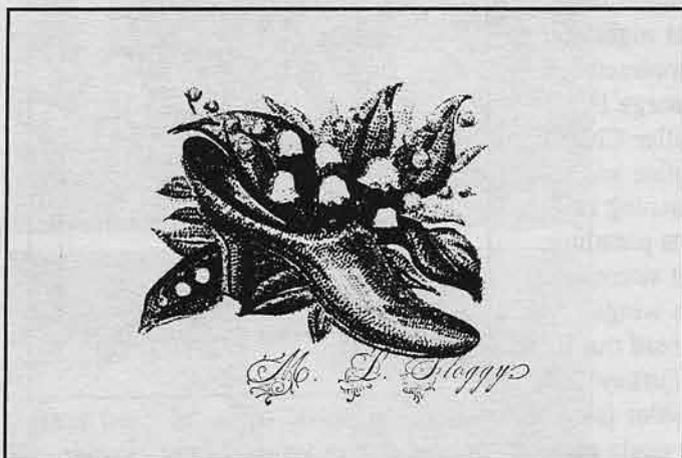
### [Page 2]

other gambling devices to be removed "instanter" also that all saloons hereafter to close promptly on time 11 PM each day and all day Sunday. Order takes effect Mch 28th at noon. If a girl finds this letter please

write to us dead or alive. Be sure and put enough stamps on letter. Hoping to hear from you we remain Yours

AE Parshall  
OE Malvey  
P Aug. Eklund  
Ole Erickson  
Alfred Somondsen  
OJ Raastad

No revenue stamp required on this  
Goodbye



M.S. Sloggy may have been witness to either letter and added the decorative card to the stash or it may have been placed there at a later date.

## Very special door prize to be given away at Annual Meeting

A very special door prize will be among a number of wonderful items to be given away at the Annual Meeting/Banquet set for April 27.

Erwin (Lefty) Johnson has hand-crafted a miniature replica Red River Cart and donated it to CCHS for an Annual Meeting door prize. Johnson's well researched 14x10 inch replica is a unique work of art. Johnson has made a number of the replica carts and donated a second one to CCHS to remain in the collections. Everyone attending the Annual Meeting has a chance to win this unique replica.

## Volunteers are appreciated

This April 9-15, 2000, Clay County Historical Society, along with nonprofit agencies, businesses, civic and service organizations, communities of faith and volunteer leaders around the state will celebrate *Minnesota/National Volunteer Recognition Week*. As we begin a new millennium of service, we give special recognition to our *volunteers* who serve *every day in every way*.

Minnesota is proud to have the highest commitment to volunteer service in the nation. Sixty-six percent of Minnesotans volunteer - compared to a National percentage of 56.

*Thank  
You!*

*Thank  
You!*

CCHS extends a special thank you to these volunteers who have helped so much during the past year:

Sarah Phillips, Naomi Rintoul, Clair Haugen, Cheryl Lackman, Hazel Hamner, Shirley Stelter, Daniel Aljets, Jackie Johnson, Gertrude Knutson, Eva Felde, Charlotte Onstine, Don Lein, Vicki Paulsen, Ashley Champ, Rachael Hjelsand, Elizabeth Melland, Ruth Franzen, Ron Anderson, Mike Sigdestad and many demonstrators at various events. Our Board of Directors, listed on Page 2, also serves without remuneration and are always ready to lend a hand for the good of the organization. Hats off to all these wonderful volunteers.



## Clay County Historical Society

### Business, Individual and Organization Support (BIOS) Members

Thank you to these special BIOS Members of Clay County Historical Society

#### PATRON (\$200 - \$499)

**Grosz Studio, Moorhead**

#### SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)

City of Hawley, Hawley

Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton Schools

First National Bank, Hawley

F-M Printing, Moorhead

Hawley Public Schools, Hawley

Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead

Moorhead Kiwanis, Moorhead

Rapat Corporation, Hawley

Sellin Brothers, Hawley

The Forum, Fargo

Vikingland Kiwanis, Moorhead

#### SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 to \$99)

Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley

Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo

City of Barnesville, Barnesville

Dilworth Wal-Mart, Dilworth

Dow Acoustics, Detroit Lakes

#### Eventide, Moorhead

Fevig Oil Company Inc., Felton

McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa

and Skatvold Attorneys, Moorhead

Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson and

Guy, Ltd, Moorhead

Hannaher's Inc., Moorhead

Hornbachers Foods, Moorhead

Mid-Day Central Lions, Moorhead

Moorhead Area Retired

Education Association

Norwest Bank MN, West N.A., Moorhead

National Sojourners Inc., Moorhead

Petermann Seed Farm, Hawley

State Bank of Hawley, Hawley

State Bank of Moorhead, Moorhead

Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead

United Electric Serv. & Supply, Inc, Fargo

Veteran's of Foreign Wars, Moorhead

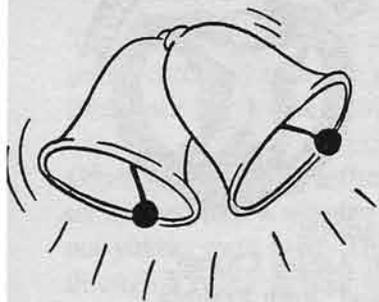
Wahl Drug Store/Gift Shop, Hawley

Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead

Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

## Bell Choir to perform at Annual Meeting/Banquet

The 13 member Concordia College Bell Choir, under the direction of June Rauschnabel will be performing at the Clay County Historical Society Annual Meeting/Banquet on Thursday, April 27.

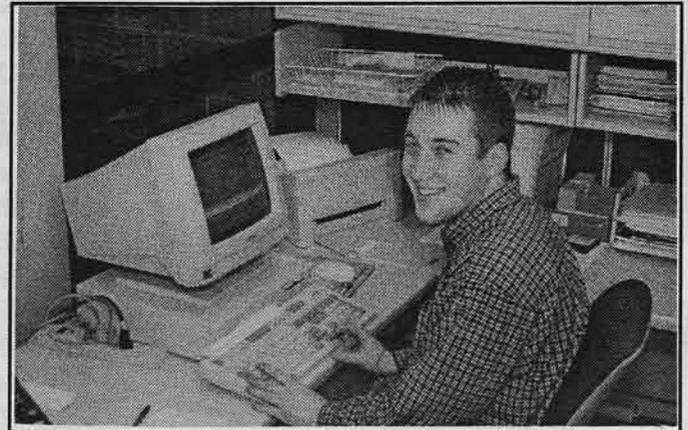


The five year old group has performed at festivals and churches both in this area and around the Twin Cities. Their music is classical with both up-beat and contemplative pieces in their repertoire.

Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist will be introducing a new slide presentation on early photography in Clay County. The presentation will focus on some of the earliest images of Clay County.

The business meeting will include election of officers. Board members up for reelection include Joyce Haug of Hawley, Marion Gee of Moorhead, Lee Kolle of Borup and Arvid Thompson of Barnesville.

## Eric Mimnaugh new staffer for CCHS



Eric Mimnaugh, a sophomore at Moorhead State University, began working at the Clay County Museum in November 1999. Eric works three afternoons a week assisting in the office and with other duties as needed.

Eric is majoring in history and hopes to someday teach history. We hope his experiences working at Clay County Museum will help him realize his goals.

# CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

### January/February 2000

CCHS extends a very special thank you to the following individuals who have renewed their membership for another year.

#### RENEWALS

Roland & Beth Dille, Moorhead  
 Bob & Dorothy Homann, Gold Canyon AZ  
 Lysle & Diane Meyer, Moorhead  
 Lila Ordal, Moorhead  
 Helen Rudie, Moorhead  
 Gregory & Mary Gillispie, Fargo  
 Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter  
 Midday Central Lions, Moorhead  
 Ray & Erma Stordahl, Moorhead  
 Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo  
 Joan Sprague, San Diego CA  
 Irene Hogan, Moorhead  
 W.L. Haggart, Fargo  
 Rick Crume, Glyndon  
 City of Barnesville, Barnesville  
 McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa, Skatvold,  
 and McLarnan, Moorhead  
 Ruth Wagner, Moorhead  
 Vilera Rood, Moorhead  
 Ellen & Chris Velline, Torrance CA  
 Paul DesJardins, Felton  
 Marlin Ziegler, Georgetown  
 Erling & Janice Linde, Moorhead

Alice Oliver, Moorhead  
 Steve & Lucia Schroeder, Glyndon  
 Rachel Smthwick, Barnesville  
 Esther and Dick Vollbrecht, Moorhead  
 Robert & Dorothy Larson, Moorhead  
 Howard R. Geng, Moorhead  
 Helen M. Danielson, Moorhead  
 Grace Landin, Moorhead  
 Mark Grommesh, Barnesville  
 Mary Leach, Glyndon  
 Roger & Joan Stenerson, Glyndon  
 Arnold Ellingson, Fargo  
 Barbara Engler, Roseville  
 T. Brent Larson, Moorhead  
 Norma Kane Rygg, Tucson AZ  
 Helen K. Austin, Baker  
 Mike & Diane Filmore, Hawley  
 Evelyn M. Hansen, Hawley  
 Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD 2164  
 Edward & Elizabeth Clark, Moorhead  
 June Adele Dolva, Moorhead  
 Dr. John Holten, Surprise AZ  
 Anna Marie Larson, Ortonville  
 Harry Fillafer, Moorhead  
 Mrs. Margaret Tabbut, Bakersfield CA  
 Paul & Florence Korsmo, Fargo  
 LaVerne Halverson, Minneapolis  
 Florence Anderson, Moorhead  
 Francis Kukowski, Georgetown  
 Vern Pederson, Moorhead  
 Nels & Myrtle Snustad, Moorhead  
 Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead

Doris Olich, Moorhead  
 John & Jyle Kolness, Hendrum  
 Phyllis Thysell, Surprise AZ  
 Ethel Menholt, Felton  
 Elizabeth Lorschbough, Fargo  
 M/M Earl McDougall, Hawley  
 Timothy Nowak, Cheyenne WY  
 Art & Bea Arett, Moorhead  
 Maybelle Dinsmore, Ulen  
 Harold Helmeke, Moorhead  
 Robert & Janet Hillier, Moorhead  
 Alice Polikowsky, Moorhead  
 Pat & Orpha Smith, Fargo  
 Don & Rose-Mary Strom, Moorhead  
 Richard Wussow, Sabin  
 Karen Evanson, Moorhead  
 Harding Noblitt, Moorhead  
 Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon  
 William Wallace, LaCanada, CA  
 Carol & Gordon Ekre, Hawley  
 Larry & Elsie Quam, Hawley

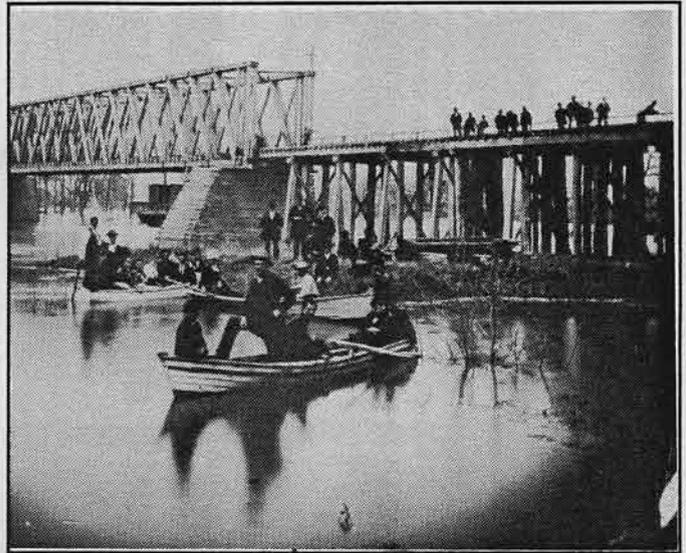
CCHS welcomes the following new members:

#### NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Kehl, Hawley  
 Nona Krayzaniak, Moorhead  
 Moorhead Kiwanis, Moorhead  
 Edna Anderson, Fargo

# 2000 Annual Meeting/Banquet

## Thursday April 27



This 1881 photograph will be included in the new "Early Photography" slide presentation.

*Entertainment*  
Concordia College Bell Choir

*Door Prizes*

*Glors d'oeuvres*

# "Early Photography in Clay County"

by Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist

Schedule 5:30-6:30 Social Hour

6:30-7:30 Dinner/Business Meeting and 7:30 p.m. Program

2000 CCHS Annual Meeting/Banquet  
at Hjemkomst Center  
202 1st Ave N., Moorhead

**Thursday, Apr. 27, 2000**

Make check for \$12.50 payable to:  
CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Swiss Steak     Chicken Breast (Check one)

2000 CCHS Annual Meeting/Banquet  
at Hjemkomst Center  
202 1st Ave N., Moorhead

**Thursday, Apr. 27, 2000**

Make check for \$12.50 payable to:  
CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Swiss Steak     Chicken Breast (Check one)

For reservations return coupon above by April 20 or Call 299-5520

# CCHS BIOS Memberships

- \$ 50 to \$99 Supporting Member
- \$ 100 to \$199 Sustaining Member
- \$ 200 to \$499 Patron
- \$ 500 and up Major Exhibit Sponsor

As a CCHS BIOS (Business, Individual, Organization Support) Member you will receive all benefits of an individual and family memberships plus a certificate ready to frame and display, extra complimentary passes to visit the Viking Ship, the Stave church, traveling exhibits in the building, and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly Newsletters. To become a CCHS BIOS Member please return this form or a facsimile to CCHS, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 299-5520.

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## CCHS Membership Application

I would like to become a member of Clay County Historical Society.

- INDIVIDUAL \$20.00     FAMILY \$35.00     Donation

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- \* Support preservation of our heritage
- \* Bi-monthly newsletter
- \* Discount on Acid-Free Materials
- \* FREE Admission to Clay County Museum & Archives and two complimentary passes to the Stave Church, Viking Ship and Traveling Exhibits.
- \* Discount on Photo Reproduction
- \* Voting Privileges
- \* Invitation to all CCHS Social Events
- \* Access to all CCHS Tours

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**MOORHEAD, MN 56561**  
**PERMIT NO. 494**

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1ST AVENUE NORTH

P.O. BOX 501

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561-0501

Address Correction Requested