



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

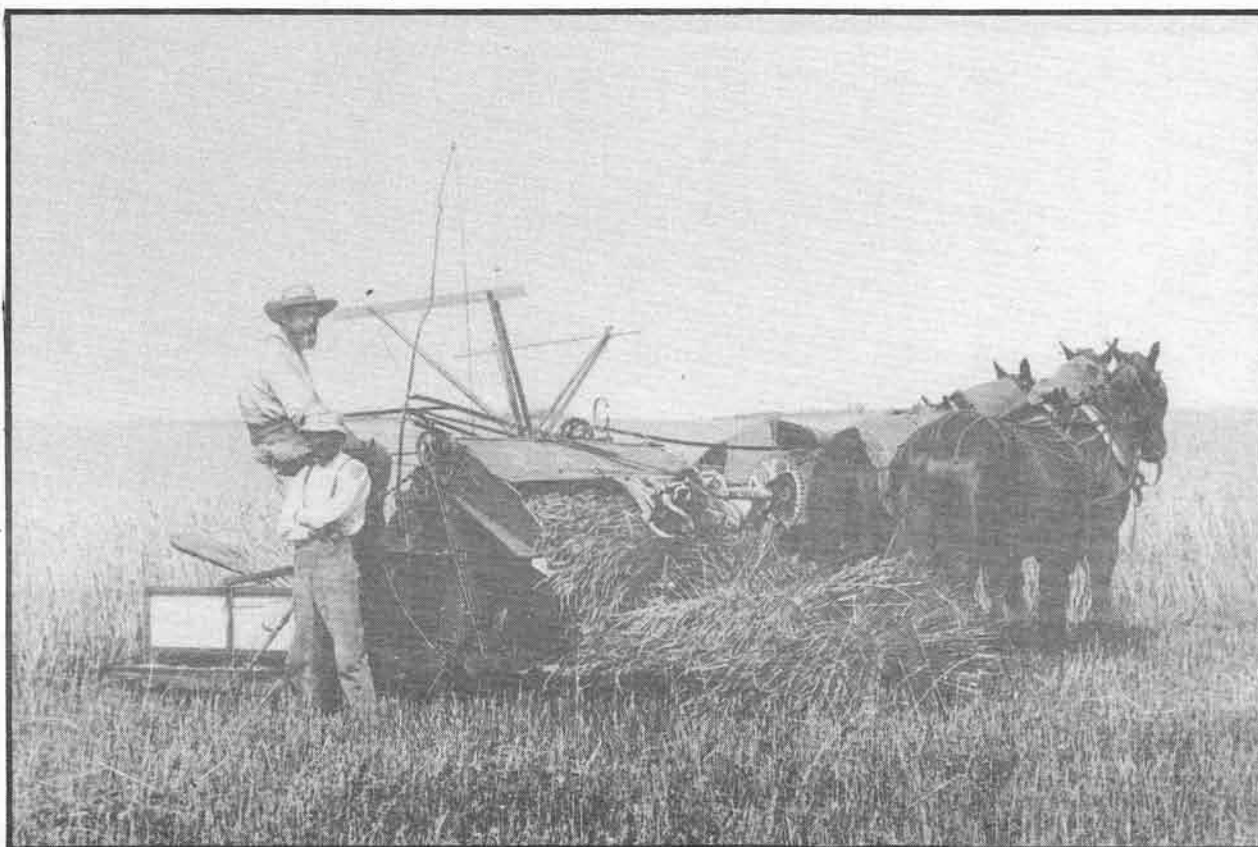
VOL. XII NO. 3

"KING WHEAT" OPENS IN JULY

A new Clay County Historical Society exhibit, "King Wheat", opens with a sneak preview for our members on Friday, July 21, 1989. This major exhibit looks at why wheat was "king" in Clay County between 1875 and 1895, the technology used in producing wheat 100 years ago and the work that went into getting the crop to market. Special features will include a horse-drawn binder and scale models of a

threshing machine and steam engine. Because this exhibit will be so large, we are moving it out of our regular temporary gallery upstairs to the south end of Heritage Hall.

The members' preview will be Friday, July 21, 1989 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Center. Look for an announcement in your mail. The exhibit opens to the public July 22. Don't miss it!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member:

With this newsletter, we are happy to announce a new membership policy for the Society. Effective June 1, 1989, your CCHS membership card provides for admission to the Center and all exhibits regardless of the type of membership you had previously. Our new policy was made possible by agreement with the Center for a discounted admission price for CCHS members. We hope that our new simplified membership plan will help us gain more members and support for the Society. We will have information on membership at the booths at the Clay County Fair in Barnesville, June 21-24 and the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, June 22 and 23 at the Civic Center in Fargo.

In our previous newsletter, I mentioned our District #3 Rollag Country School Project. We continue to receive favorable comments and offers to help with the project. If you are interested in this project, please give us a call 233-4604.

In addition, at the June 1 meeting, the Board of Directors elected Kelly Aakre to carry out the term of Director Beth Iverson of Barnesville. Mr. Aakre is a resident of Moorhead and has a special interest in the Rollag Country School Project. We would like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Iverson for her support she has given the Society. Ms. Iverson has been with the board since 1986.

As you take time out to vacation and relax during the summer, we hope you will include a visit to the Clay County Museum at the Hjemkomst Center.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer,


Vernon A. Pederson

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A rather special Memorial Day observance was held this year at Rollag Lutheran Church. About 100 people gathered to dedicate a marker to Private John C. Davis, Civil and Indian War Veteran. He is buried in Yankee Cemetery, northeast of Rollag. Davis was one of many Civil War Vets who settled in Clay County.

Born in New York in 1835, he homesteaded near Northfield, Minnesota. In August, 1862, Davis enlisted in Company F, 8th Minnesota Infantry to fight the Confederate forces in the Civil War. Before his unit left for the south, however, disgruntled Sioux Indians in southern Minnesota left their reservation and began killing white settlers. The 8th was assigned to protect various points on the Minnesota frontier from Indian attacks. Davis, with Company F, was stationed at Princeton where he married Sarah Kindley.

In 1864, the 8th joined General Alfred Sully's campaign through what is now western North Dakota to punish the Sioux. Davis saw action at Killdeer Mountain and in the Badlands.

Later that year, the 8th was sent south and fought Confederates at Murfreesboro. After the war, Davis was mustered out and returned to Minnesota.

In the early 1870's, the Davis family joined a number of New Englanders and others of British descent who settled in the predominantly Norwegian Rollag area, the Scandinavian referred to these folks as "the Yankees."

Most moved on to other areas but many were buried on a hill near Rollag, hence the name Yankee Cemetery. Davis, who died in 1899, his wife and two daughters are among those buried there.

The CCHS now owns and maintains Yankee Cemetery.

Through the efforts of CCHS Board Director, Norman Bjorndahl, and the Hawley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1696, the Veterans Administration donated a grave marker listing Davis' unit, years served and birth and death date. CCHS' special thanks goes to Dakota Monument Company, Fargo, who donated that labor to erect the marker in Yankee Cemetery.

Because of rain, the dedication ceremonies were moved from the cemetery to Rollag Lutheran Church. The VFW provided a color guard and area resident Dwight Aakre spoke about Davis and his career.



Part of the pleasure of having an heirloom textile is displaying it in your home. A piece may be brought out for the holidays, christenings or other important occasions.

Mount the item properly. A padded hanger or dowel is preferable to the bare wire or wood. Heavy garments will need support from the top and middle. A heavy quilt will need a sleeve sewn both at the top and near the middle for support. You may want to place the quilt on a frame that supports all four sides. This kind of frame can be turned. Sleeves, legs and bodices will need padding to round out the creases and improve the looks. Framed doilies and needlework should be mounted on acid-free mat or on pre-washed materials. A glass covering will protect the surface but cut down on air circulation. Without glass one can appreciate the texture and stitches, but the fabric is exposed to dust. Sew the item to the sleeve or mount. Pins damage the fabric and will rust.

Select the display area carefully. The kitchen's airborne grease and moisture makes it a poor display site. The bathroom has wide and frequent swings of heat and humidity. Soot comes from the fireplace and cigarettes make a chemical-laden fog. Avoid strong light and sunlight. Limit handling by viewers. Have clean hands or use a pair of clean white cotton gloves. (This should impress the visitors!) Rotate your heirlooms so each one has a few months on display and a long

period of rest. Three months on display is a good length. More fragile items should be displayed for less time.

Do not store an item that is dirty, sweaty or greasy. The sugar or starch used as a stiffener in decorative pieces will attract insects. Wash if necessary and dry completely. Ironing is not advised.

The storage site should have good air flow and an even temperature. Attics and basements are not good sites. A well-ventilated closet or even under a bed are fine. The item should be protected from dust and moisture but DO NOT reach for the plastic bags, blue tissue paper or cardboard boxes! Plastic degrades releasing harmful gasses, restricts air flow and seals in moisture. Paper and cardboard as well as the dyes in them contain acids which stain and degrade the fabric. Acid-free boxes and paper are available for safe storage of textiles. Residue free sheets and pillowcases (oil-free) make acceptable storage materials if acid-free is not available to you.

Use an acid-free box for smaller items. Flat items are stored between sheets of acid-free paper. Larger flat items should be rolled around a core. The core may be cardboard or a wooden dowel well wrapped with acid-free material or paper. Acid can migrate through only one or two layers. An additional covering will keep dust off of rolled items. Small garments should have

some fill of acid-free in sleeves, legs or where creases occur. Several items may be placed in one box as long as nothing is crushed. Larger garments may be kept in boxes or on padded hangers. Support heavy skirts with an extra padded hanger at a distance from the hem. Pad sleeves and bodice as necessary. Cover with a cloth and leave room between garments for air circulation. Rolling is better than folding. If you must fold, leave loose creases and refold regularly so the creases fall in different places. If you must store items in piles, place the oldest, most fragile items on top. Do not create heavy piles and restack occasionally.

Now is the time to record the history of each heirloom. Type the history on acid-free paper and store them together. (Ink from pens will run and pencil will run off.) Record the christenings, weddings and reunions. Keep the conservation history on the back for posterity.

Your textiles will do best at a temperature of $70^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}$ and humidity of $50\% \pm 5\%$. Mildew is likely at a temperature over 65° and humidity over 70%.

Contact the museum for acid-free materials or more detailed information on textile care, display or storage.

MAY DONORS

Moorhead: Tom Hall, Ruth Swanson, Donna McMaster and Anonymous.

Georgetown: Ginger Viker, Loren Helmeke and Sig Randa.

Glyndon: John Butze.

Fargo, ND: Conrad Holien and Dexter Johnson.

MAY ACQUISITIONS

The following are several of the artifacts recently received by the museum:

Civil defense kit; untitled painting; MSU centennial pin and copy of senior project on Indians in Clay County; photos and names of Moorhead High School class of 1921; grain sack and give-aways from the Georgetown Bar; copy of a history of Glyndon; negatives of the Junior High just before it was razed in 1979; biography of William Messner; and licenses and calendars from the Randa Store in Georgetown.

The Historical Society purchased various items at the Randa Store auction. Items include: a street sign, wooden bottle case and many store records.

This August marks the 80th anniversary of an occurrence few can remember. In the late hours of Tuesday, August 10, 1909, the sky above eastern Clay County opened and dropped anywhere from 5-11 inches of precipitation.

Those living in and around the village of Hawley were hit the worst. Although most living by the Buffalo River also were damaged.

The rainstorm was described as coming down in torrents continuously until Wednesday morning, giving-way about 5:30. During this six hour deluge, the rain would stop a few times, only to start over again, each rain shower more powerful than the preceding one.

In the town of Hawley, water was contained in an area south and southeast of the schoolhouse, being held back by the old Northern Pacific Railroad tracks. This water eventually raced east a few blocks to downtown Hawley, flooding many stores, shops, barns, etc.

On the east edge of Hawley was the Walter Shave farm (rented by Ole Holm). Here, water was collected in a slough north of the N.P. grade until it flowed over the top of the tracks, creating a waterfall 20 feet high and flowing all the way to the already flooded Buffalo River. This helped flood the area of Hawley south of the tracks. The grade, under where the "water-fall" had been, soon collapsed "leaving the rails hanging like a suspension bridge" for about 100 feet.

Every residence in Hawley was flooded in some way. Wood-piles, hay bales, oat shocks, etc., were seen floating down the streets. The bridges on the Buffalo River were washed-out, leaving no approaches from the south side of Hawley.

The storm was the fiercest in history up to that point, according to the old-timers then.

Rainfall amounts from the storm differed throughout the County, but basically the further east you went, the more precipitation. Christ Olsen, who resided in Section 1 of Morken, reported 11 inches.

The storm was preceded by an unfortunate incident 3 miles south of Winnipeg Junction, where an eleven year old boy, Victor Sten, was struck and killed by lightning.

There were lighter sides to the storm, as written in the August 13, 1909, Clay County (Hawley) Herald; "Everybody unanimously agreed that there was an awful waste of water power and no electric light plant to derive any benefit from it."

S.P. Wange got the pump out to empty his barber shop when "two of the traveling gentry came along and wanted a job...after some dickering the men agreed to empty the shop for \$3. They are still pumping...guess Wange knew what he was doing when he let them contract, as his basement drains every cellar in that block."

Residents near Stockwood began to feel "chesty" when local papers used the term "main streets of

Stockwood", when writing about the flood and the damages there.

Optimism was out and about, even a month after the storm. One newspaper reported that area farmers should take relief in the fact that the River Nile in Africa overflows yearly and it's adjacent farmland is considered among the world's best!

Finally, the August 10, 1909, Moorhead Daily News weather forecast for Tuesday night and Wednesday was "unsettled and partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday."

(We will graciously accept any information on this flood, especially first-hand knowledge or photographs.)

written by Jim Nelson, Volunteer

NEW DISPLAY IN CCHS EXHIBIT HALL

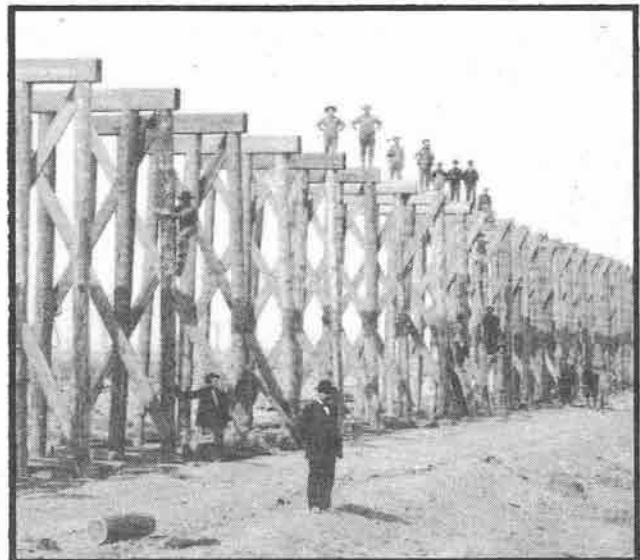
A new display entitled A Century of Plastics opened Friday, June 16, in the alcove display area in the CCHS Exhibit Hall. This is a colorful history highlighting both natural and synthetic plastics. Although the first plastic was synthesized in 1834, no one knew what to do with it! In the mid-1800s, ivory used to make billiard balls was becoming scarce and a substitute was needed. Celluloid was developed to fill the need and it was soon found to be perfect for other uses as well. Three of our new wall cases illustrate some of the uses and materials from the Celluloid Era (1880s - early 1920s) to Entering the Plastic Age (1950s - 1982). Tupperware and Melmac are highlighted. Artifacts included buttons, jewelry, kitchenware and toys.

"STOCKWOOD FILL" TO BE PRESENTED!

Ever wonder why the railroad is up in the air east of Glyndon? Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist, will explain this major engineering feat through a fascinating slide show produced by CCHS. The program will be shown in the Art Room at the Barnesville High School, Tuesday, June 27, 1989 @ 7:30 p.m. The Art Room is located at the southeast corner of the school.

If you can not make it to the lecture at Barnesville, Mark will be giving "Stockwood Fill" at the Hjemkomst Center, Thursday, June 29, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with the "Prairie Rails" exhibit.

This lecture is part of the Clay County Historical Society eight month lecture series that began in May. Once a month, CCHS will be presenting a lecture or demonstration in Hawley, Barnesville and Moorhead. We invite you to join us for this interesting lecture. No admission is charged for either program.



The Viking Manor's next display is TOYLAND. It will feature a chinahead doll, marbles, wooden action toy and tea set. This display opens June 27 and closes August 4. The Manor's next display will be developed by the Ulen Museum.

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD will open June 27 at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School. This will be a display of footwear from Turkey, China, Lapland and of course, area shoes from the Good Old Days. The display closes August 25.

The display at the Moorhead Library is entitled WHAT IS IT? It will present wooden items, metal and plastic things, tools and gadgets that used to be so

"CLAY COUNTY FAIR: June 21-24, 1989"

The Clay County Historical Society will once again be participating in the Clay County Fair held in Barnesville, June 21-24, 1989". The Board of Directors and staff invite you to stop by and visit with them at their booth located under the grandstands.

familiar to almost everyone. The display opens July 7 and closes August 29.

RED RIVER LAND DOLLS is the title of the next display at the Glyndon Community Center. A selection of these dolls made by Mildred Heifort will be featured. The display opens July 7 and closes August 29.

The Hawley Library's next display is SMILE! featuring cameras, photographic equipment and several different types of photographic images. The display opens July 12 and closes September 1.

The next display at the Hitterdal Senior Citizens' Center is WOODEN YOU KNOW IT! featuring a few of the many wooden items from the collections. You will see spoons, boxes and tools. The display opens July 12 and closes September 1.

"SCANDINAVIAN HJEMKOMST FESTIVAL: June 22-25, 1989"

The 12th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival saluting the countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden will be held in Fargo-Moorhead from June 22-25, 1989. Many groups from Norway and Sweden will provide traditional music and dancing in addition to numerous booths featuring Scandinavian foods and authentic craft demonstrations.

While you are there, be sure to look for the Clay County Historical Society booth. An exhibit case will be set up to display Scandinavian artifacts including the Hardanger violin!

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COLLECTS "KID STUFF"

Bottle caps, butterflies, Barbie dolls...almost everyone of us knows of at least one or two or more children or young people who actively and enthusiastically collect. From the girl who painstakingly catalogs her matchbooks from all over the world, to boy who treats his baseball cards with true reverence, children express themselves through this "kid-stuff."

Hilary Bullock, a Twin Cities photographer, and MHS have begun working to create a traveling exhibit focusing on children and their collections, tentatively called KIDS COLLECT. The exhibit will feature photographic portraits of children and their collections and direct quotes from the children on such questions as why they collect, how they collect, what they feel is their prize object, and how they display and share their collections.

Through looking at their own objects in their daily lives we can teach children ways to develop an eye for looking at objects and a mind for understanding them. If we can interest children in objects they are fond of or familiar with -- such as dolls or horseshoes or Star Trek paraphernalia -- we can then interest them in other objects and the broader picture of why a historical society collects.

We are asking your help in locating children and young people up through 18 years of age who collect "kid-stuff."

Are there girls or boys in your classrooms, enrolled in your programs, visiting your facilities, who might be interested in being part of our KIDS COLLECT project? We would very much appreciate hearing about them. Information sheets detailing the project, participation and permission would be sent to them and their parents, and on-site photography shoots and interviews would then be scheduled.

If you know of any interested children or young people, please contact us at:

Traveling Exhibits Program
Attention: KIDS COLLECT
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 297-4497

"MINNESOTA MUSEUM WEEK
A SUCCESS!"

In celebration of Minnesota Museum Week, May 14-20, CCHS and RRVHS held a special open house for their members. The evening turned out to be a great success. Other activities held throughout the week included a drawing for an individual and a family membership. Congratulations to Hazel Tonsfeldt and Edna M. Carlson both of Moorhead. In addition, Pam Burkhardt and Mark Peihl held lectures in Barnesville and Hawley.

We plan to join in this celebration every year. We hope you all will become an involved part of it next year!

A garage sale will be held at the Hjemkomst Center Thursday, June 29, 9-9:00 p.m. and Friday, June 30, 9-12:00 p.m. Come to the overhead doors on the west side of the building for unheard of bargains. Props from past exhibits and gift shop items WILL BE SOLD!

EVERYTHING PRICED TO GO!
WE ARE WILLING TO DEAL!

Visit Honest Pam's used tree lot. Six one-owner, low mileage trees will be sold! Plastic and aluminum tubing MUST GO! Quilt batting for those summer projects will be sold for ROCK-BOTTOM PRICES!

Get your Cretaceous insects while they last! Purchase Paleozoic plants at preposterously puny prices!

Many items from the gift shop available. Remember, Christmas is only six months away!

57,882 enthusiastic visitors enjoyed the Dinosaurs. Our survey indicated that about 40% of the people that came to the Center were from the Fargo-Moorhead area and 40% from within a 100 mile radius. Twenty percent of those surveyed came from outside the 100 mile radius. Our survey, therefore, indicates that approximately 46,000 came from the Fargo-Moorhead area and within a 100 mile radius and, over 11,000 came from over 100 miles away.

The most popular theory on the Dinosaur Extinction was overwhelmingly "Changes in Climate".

We are looking forward to our "Prairie Rails" and "Century of Quilts" exhibits which will be held at the Center this summer.

All Aboard!!

Make a whistle stop at the Heritage Shop and buy that unique gift for someone special!!





Hjemkomst Center Opens NEW EXHIBIT on June 14!!

The American West was once a remote land, unreachable by seas, rivers or overland trails, until the railroad laid their tracks. They reduced the barrier of isolation by encouraging western settlement and attracting visitors to what remained of the wilderness.

In honor of the Centennial year of North Dakota the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center of Moorhead, Minnesota presents "PRAIRIE RAILS", June 14-September 10, 1989. Included in the exhibit will be historical photographs, documents and local railroad memorabilia representing the railways of Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Red River Valley and Western and Soo Line. The exhibit will feature a model railroad with the most recent

innovation, the RAILSCOPE! by Lionel Trains Inc. It allows the model train operator to actually "ride the rails" using a revolutionary video camera mounted inside the locomotive. There will be special model train demonstrations every Thursday night 7-9:00 p.m. Lectures and a children's area will also be a part of the exhibit.

Come see how the railroads influenced the way we live in the Red River Valley and Northern Plains. Be a part of the Centennial Celebration.

This exhibit is sponsored by: Don's Car Wash Inc., City of Fargo, Lionel Trains Inc., Rodney W. Nelson Memorial and the National Railroad Historical Society, Red River Chapter.

CCHS - 1989 Membership Information

CCHS Membership

I would like to begin/renew my membership in the Clay County Historical Society. Please enter my membership in the category I have checked below:

- () INDIVIDUAL \$15.00
() FAMILY \$35.00

CCHS Membership Benefits

- ** FREE Admission to the Center
- ** Bi-monthly newsletter
- ** 25% discount on photo reproductions
- ** 10% discount on acid-free materials
- ** voting privileges
- ** invitation to the annual meeting/dinner and all CCHS events

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone: _____

Date Purchased: _____

Please list additional family members (family is considered; husband, wife and children now living at home, under the age of 18) for passes.

RETURN TO: Clay County Historical Society
P.O. Box 501
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 233-4604

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

