

The Hourglass



Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 3 • Fall 2013



German Culture Day

**Saturday,
September 28**
10 am - 4 pm

FREE ADMISSION

Crafts • Food • Music • Beer

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 THE Arts Partnership



ARTS
NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Lake Region Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund



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Our thanks to the Moorhead City Council and
Clay County for their continued support.

HCSCC News

Welcome Our Newest Board Member



Dr. Vijay K. Gaba

Dr. Gaba is an Anesthesiologist with Sanford Health Systems. Originally from India, Dr. Gaba has called Fargo his home for almost ten years. He is very active in the community volunteering as a 4-H leader teaching wood working and pottery, an officer of the Indian American Association of the Great Plains and board member of the Prairie Nordic Skiing club. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, running marathons, and traveling. He and his family are active participants of our annual Pangea- Cultivate Our Cultures event. His daughter is even featured on our new brochure. We are very excited to have Dr. Gaba on our board and look forward to working with him.

Please Send us Your Addresses!

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to sarah.smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us to make sure you're receiving all the up-to-date information from the HCSCC!



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Letter from the Board President

Gloria Lee



As newly elected president of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, I look forward to serving the membership of HCS and working with the board members and the HCS staff. We

are fortunate to have an excellent staff dedicated to the preservation of the history and cultural heritage of our area. All of the staff members have been working on current and upcoming exhibits and interacting with the many summer visitors; most have been attending some educational opportunities to further enhance the ways they serve HCS members and the guests who visit our museum. With the recent election of Jennifer Tjaden of Hawley and the appointment of Dr. Vijay Gaba, a Fargo physician, our board is complete with 13 members. We look forward to the ideas and expertise they will bring to the board.

Our audit was recently completed and confirms that our organization is in sound financial condition. Our outgoing treasurer, Neil Jordheim, and executive director, Maureen Kelly Jonason, have been diligent in using our funds in the most productive way. We have had a considerable increase in admissions and more revenue in the gift shop, which have helped with finances. An increase in individual or group donations would further help our bottom line. Please consider making an extra contribution to HCS this year. An increase in funds will allow us to enhance some of the new exhibits and events planned in the near future.

Another successful Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival/Midwest Viking Festival was held June 28-29. For many years this festival has been dedicated to the history of the large number of Scandinavians in our area. We are now looking forward to hosting a German Culture Day September 28. In the future other ethnic groups who were important in the settlement of our area will be highlighted at HCS.

A new governance committee has been developed by the board. Gail Blair, who is also our new board treasurer, will serve as chair of this committee. We are hoping to add educational opportunities for our board members, cultivate new board members, and develop our membership base in better ways. Have you had an opportunity to visit the Heritage Snack Shop that has been in operation over the summer months at the Hjemkomst? A tasty lunch menu is offered over the noon hour, as well as cookies and treats into the afternoon. Kelly Wambach, with his food service background, has taken on the operation of the snack bar along with his management of the gift shop. He has several volunteers who keep the snack shop running smoothly.

The Red River Exhibit has been a dream of some of the HCS board for over 25 years. The idea was put on the back burner but not forgotten. Jon Evert, Jim Saueressig, and Neil Jordheim, longtime supporters of this project, have decided that the time is right for finally bringing this project to reality. A dedicated committee is currently working with project developers to make this an exhibit that will bring pride to our entire area. The early history of the Red River Valley will be highlighted and focus on how Fargo-Moorhead and the surrounding communities formed a very successful and productive commercial center. Fargo-Moorhead residents will find this a highlight of our cities--a destination exhibit to bring friends and family to visit. Educators are being very involved in the formation of this exhibit, and it will be developed into a part of the curriculum of all area schools. Look forward to more news of this permanent exhibit at the Hjemkomst.

If you have friends, family or neighbors who aren't currently members of HCS, I encourage you to invite them to become members or to give them membership as a gift. With the development of the Red River Exhibit and our many other interesting historical exhibits and upcoming events, we will be moving in new directions of preserving and presenting the story of our area. It is an exciting and proud time to be an HCS member.

From the Executive Director . . .

Maureen Kelly Jonason



Greetings HCS Members and Friends and Happy Fall! Fall is my favorite time of year personally as cool breezes toss the yellowing leaves and the summer sun retreats a bit. The museum stays super busy into October as the many tour busses on their way to Minot for the

Høstfest stop by and snow-birders visit on their way south for the winter.

Event-wise, we encourage everyone to consider coming by on **Sept. 28 10am-4pm** for our first ever **German Culture Day**. As a cultural heritage facility, the Hjemkomst Center is the perfect place to celebrate the large amount of German immigration to the US both in the good old days and today. A mix of modern German customs and turn-of-the-last century folk traditions will be the focus of the day as we enjoy three different musical groups, various cultural booths and children's activities, and of course, good ol' German-American foods. Grants from the MN Legacy fund, The Arts Partnership, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, and Moorhead Public Service make it possible for us to provide this mini-festival for free. Please come on by!

That same evening, we will feature a particularly tasty typical modern German Rhineland dinner for our fall fundraiser. Guided by several local German nationals in our community, we have selected a menu of grilled brats and sauerkraut made with Riesling and pineapple, mashed Yukon Gold potatoes with onion sauce and smoked pork chops, great German bread and cheeses, and German dessert all for just \$50. You will also have the option to purchase excellent German wines and beers suggested for each course. The food IS the entertainment for this special event. Pre-purchase of tickets is required, so call Tim at 299-5511, Ext. 6737 or just stop by. HCS Board members will also have tickets for sale. If your business would like to sponsor a table, just give us a call.

Exhibit-wise, we will welcome back the popular Manitoba Museum Vikings exhibit which will be

enhanced by our ever-growing collection of Viking replicas. Ancestors to the Scandinavians, the Vikings reached as far as Baghdad, Russia, Ireland, and North America during their dominant period. Come learn about their fascinating history and bring the kids. That exhibit will run Sept. into next year. *Prairie Daughters: The Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thortved* continues through January. Don't miss this unique collection of the wide range of works of these two Clay County women before the items return to their private collectors, never to be exhibited together again. Downstairs, we have two new art exhibits: a group of art educators is on exhibit through September and then Sheep to Shawl, a fiber arts exhibit will run October and November. As always, we have new and fun exhibits to see every time you visit the Hjemkomst Center.

Besides the daily operations of the museum, of course, HCS staff also continue to collect, preserve, and interpret the archival materials and artifacts of Clay County donated on a weekly basis. We pride ourselves on a large collection of objects and documents that tell the stories of real people in our region. We have been pleased to be able to put more items from the collection on exhibit this year as part of the temporary exhibits coming to us from Minnesota Historical Society. More such exhibits next year will allow us to share more of the collection with the public. In addition, Lisa Vedaa, our collections manager, has put together a new exhibit in the 3rd-floor hall cases. Stop by to see if you know the stories revealed. As always, your Society staff, board, and volunteers remain hard at work making sure the past is ever-present for future generations.



In March, HCSCC had a German Wine Tasting. Many of these fine wines will be available to purchase during the Rhineland Dinner.

Rhineland Dinner

Fall Fundraiser

September 28, 2013

6 pm

at the Hjemkomst Center

\$50 per person
pre-purchase only

Tickets on sale until
September 21

Speisekarte

Vorspeisen

(Appetizer)

Pretzel with
melted butter

Hauptspeisen

(Menu)

(Main Course)

Smoked pork chop with Yukon
Gold mashed potatoes and onion
sauce drizzled on top. Riesling
pineapple sauerkraut served on the
side topped with juicy bratwurst.

Kase und Brot

Fresh baked breads and
a selection of cheese

Nachtsch

German Dessert

*A fine selection of German beer and
wine available for purchase.*

Thank You Sponsors!

HIGH PLAINS
READER



To purchase tickets, call Tim Jorgensen at 299-5511
ext. 6737 or online at www.hcscconline.org.
All proceeds benefit the HCSCC.

Clay County's Three Civil War Volunteers – Part 2

Disease, Death, and Coming Home

by Markus Krueger

Last issue we were introduced to the three men who volunteered from what we now call Clay County to fight in the Civil War. Privates Adam Stein and Justice Probstfield joined Company G of the 4th Minnesota Infantry Regiment, and Justice's brother Anthony Probstfield became a wagon driver for Company D of the 5th Minnesota. The last article followed these three from Minnesota's frontier, through their first battles at Iuka and Fort Abercrombie, and ended with them marching victoriously through the streets of Vicksburg, the great Mississippi River fortress of the Confederacy. After Vicksburg fell on the 4th of July 150 years ago, the south was down but not out of the war. Hundreds of thousands of Americans would die as the war went on for 20 more months. Two of our Clay County soldiers would not survive the war. The third may have survived only because an injury took him off the front line.

...disease and death had a rich harvest.

While Anthony Probstfield was surrounded by Dakota warriors during the Siege of Fort Abercrombie, Adam Stein and Justice Probstfield were experiencing conditions that were far more dangerous and deadly. Adam and Justice were sitting in the camp of a large army that was doing nothing in particular. Disease, not bullets, was the leading cause of death in the Civil War, and an army camp was the perfect breeding ground for killer bacteria and viruses. Twice as many Civil War soldiers died of disease than on the battlefield. When Adam, Justice, and the rest of the 4th Minnesota arrived at the front line in May of 1862, they joined a gigantic Union army facing a large Confederate force in the town of Corinth, Mississippi. Hundreds of thousands of men from across the country crowded together in a small area where influenza from Iowa mingled with pneumonia from New Hampshire and colds from the Carolinas.

Most disease was the result of terrible camp sanitation. Although doctors did not yet fully

understand the causes of disease, everyone knew that soldiers were healthier on the march, leaving their refuse behind them, than when they were encamped for any period of time. Dysentery and typhoid fever were spread widely as the sewage of sick soldiers contaminated the food and water ingested by others. In many cases, the creek that provided the toilet, the bath, the laundry, and the drinking water was one and the same. Flies spread disease from open latrines through bites or by contaminating food. To add to the misery, southern mosquitoes spread malaria. There were no licensed kitchens, no hand washing or anti-bacterial soap, no refrigeration to preserve food, and far too few fresh fruits and veggies to keep the men's immune systems strong.

The camps where Justice Probstfield and Adam Stein were stationed in the spring of 1862, were among the worst cases in the war, bad enough for Dr. Paul Steiner to devote an entire chapter to Corinth in his book *Disease in the Civil War*. Intestinal problems were most common, and by common I mean almost everyone had them. Dr. Steiner used the phrase "near universal diarrhea" to paint the picture of the camp. Hardest hit were new regiments because they had not yet been exposed to the "camp diseases," so their bodies had not yet developed any resistance to them. Soldiers from rural areas and recent immigrants – people like the Probstfield brothers – were in particular danger because all the diseases were new to their bodies.

T. M. Young, a soldier in Justice and Adam's regiment, recalled the conditions the 4th Minnesota endured at Corinth: "The weather was excessively hot, the water was filthy, the air was poisoned by the exhalations from thousands of sinks and cesspools, as well as from thousands of graves of men and animals, while it was almost impossible to find any open ground within a radius of five miles from Corinth that had not been used as a camp by the troops of one or the other of the armies. Under such circumstances no one can wonder that disease

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and death had a rich harvest.”

Dr. Steiner’s study of Union Army records found dysentery to be the most common disease of the war, accounting for 1,739,135 medical cases and resulting in 44,558 deaths on the Union side alone. Typhoid fever was not as common (148,631 cases) but far more deadly. One in three men who contracted Typhoid Fever died of it. Those who survived typhoid fever became immune thereafter, but about 5% of the survivors became carriers of the disease, unknowingly spreading it to others. Dysentery left many constantly sick, reducing soldiers to walking skeletons, but it was usually survivable.

The Confederate army did not keep good records, but we know their situation was as bad or worse. It was so bad, in fact, that even though there were two gigantic armies facing off against each other, there was no great Battle of Corinth that spring. Confederate General Beauregard retreated from the city, explaining to President Jefferson Davis that his men were incapable of fighting because they were all sick. Union General Hallock entered the diseased city of Corinth unopposed and explained to President Abraham Lincoln that his men were incapable of pursuing the retreating southerners because they too were all sick. When the siege of Fort Abercrombie was lifted and Anthony Probstfield’s unit joined the rest of the army in the south, he too was bombarded by bacteria. After Corinth, the next terrible period of pestilence encountered by our Clay County soldiers occurred in the trenches surrounding Vicksburg. Adam Stein, Anthony Probstfield and Justice Probstfield were once again sitting still, where the flies gathered, dead remained unburied,



Brothers Anthony (left) and Justice Probstfield (right) are both buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. HCSCC member Larry Henning (formerly of Moorhead, now of Saint Louis) laid flowers on their graves over the 4th of July to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the fall of Vicksburg. Flowers were also laid on Adam Stein’s grave at Georgetown’s Wild Rose Cemetery.

and the refuse of a hundred thousand soldiers piled up. Young recalled, “No one ever will know the sickness and suffering endured by Grant’s army at that place. . . All through the trying campaigns of 1863 sickness played a prominent part.” It was custom for three shots to be fired when a soldier was buried. Young reported that in both Corinth and Vicksburg so many soldiers were dying of disease that “finally the sound of the three volleys became so depressing to the sick that it was by order discontinued.”

Records show that Justice Probstfield became ill while the 4th Minnesota was marching through Arkansas around September 17, 1863 (one document says 1862, but it was most likely a



year later). He was sent to the House of Refuge in Saint Louis, an orphanage complex converted into a hospital for Union soldiers. His brother Anthony may have already been in Saint Louis, occupying a hospital bed at Jefferson Barracks, a large army post that had been expanded and turned into a hospital during the war. There were so many sick Union soldiers in the city that steamboats were converted to hospital ships and anchored in the Mississippi River. On October 10, 1863,

Anthony Probstfield died in a hospital bed at Jefferson Barracks and was buried that same day. His brother Justice died twenty days later. Anthony and Justice Probstfield are interred in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. According to family tradition among the descendants of their brothers Randolph and Paul Probstfield, the two brothers died of either dysentery or typhoid fever. This is how the majority of Civil War soldiers died, not in a heroic charge, but in a hospital bed.

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A portrait of Adam Stein and his wife Wilhelmina, painted by their daughter Annie Stein. The painting is on display at the Hjemkomst Center in the exhibit Prairie Daughters: the Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thortvedt until January.

Adam Stein

October of 1863 was a bad month for all three Clay County soldiers. Around the time Anthony Probstfield died and Justice was in his hospital bed, Adam Stein was also forced to leave the 4th Minnesota Infantry due to an injury. The trouble seemed to have started almost a year before. On December 30, 1862, the weary men of the 4th Minnesota stumbled into a camp just outside of Memphis. They had marched 126 miles that month, but many still found the energy to sneak into town to ring in New Year's Eve at the theaters and saloons, including the famous Gayoso Hotel. The regiment history's entry for the following day's march to Germantown noted, "A good many of the men, from the division commander down, were indisposed on the march to-day. Former hardships and privations and a liberal supply of "Gayoso spring water" in their canteens proves too much for many of our men, who are loaded into the wagons." We do not know if Adam Stein was one of those

soldiers who had too much fun in Memphis the night before, but when cross-referencing remarks in Stein's post-war memoir with the unit history of the 4th Minnesota, it appears quite likely that Adam Stein was one of the men getting a wagon ride that day. As part of the 1890 census, U.S. Civil War veterans were asked about their dates of service, which regiment they served in, and any injuries they sustained in the service. In Stein's entry, he lists his disability as "knee hurt through a fall on RR track on a force march during wet weather near Germantown, Tennessee."

That fall from the tracks did not immediately take him out of action. After a short term as a "convalescent" in Memphis, he was back in the ranks, wading through swamps and fighting his way to Vicksburg. After that city's surrender, Adam Stein marched through Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee, before it appears his knee injury caught up with him again. Near Iuka, MS, the place where he first saw combat a year before, Stein was unable to keep up with his regiment. He and twelve other sick or injured men were sent to the Union hospitals in Saint Louis, while the rest of the 4th Minnesota marched on to be part of the Battle of Chattanooga. In October of 1863, all three of Clay County's Civil War volunteers entered the hospitals of St. Louis. Only Adam Stein came out alive.

Stein's army career did not end there, however. On June 1, 1864, Adam Stein traded his dark blue infantry uniform for the sky blue of the Invalid Corps, later renamed the Veterans Reserve Corps. The VRC was created for soldiers whose injuries made them unable to march or fight in the front line, but who were still willing to serve and able to hold a rifle. The VRC soldiers guarded posts behind the lines or did clerical work, freeing up other soldiers to fight at the front. Adam Stein spent his final 8 months of service guarding Confederate prisoners at Rock Island, a prison camp in the middle of the Mississippi River between Iowa and Illinois. Other guards there included the 37th Iowa "Graybeards," a unit of men up to the age of 80.

Adam Stein was discharged from service in Chicago, February 1, 1865, two months and one week before General Robert E. Lee surrendered

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the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant. Stein returned to Minnesota when the war ended, but not to the Red River Valley. He paid off his claim on the Red River with his army pay, but he went instead to Saint Cloud and kept a saloon for three years. He married Wilhelmina Schultz of Paynesville, MN, on July 26, 1866. In 1868, Adam, Wilhelmina, and baby William headed west in two covered wagons to Adam's claim on the Red River. The evacuation of Minnesota's frontier in the wake of the US – Dakota War of 1862 ensured that the valley was still just as unsettled as when he left for the war. "The log house I had built on my own claim . . . had been burned or torn down and used for firewood during the Indian outbreak, while I was in war in the south," he wrote. His friend Randolph Probstfield, brother of Anthony and Justice Probstfield, is said to be the first to return to the Red River Valley after the evacuation, and he was running the Hudson's Bay Company post at Georgetown when Adam returned.

Adam Stein spent a year or two running the hotel in Georgetown until he built a new cabin across the road from Georgetown on his own land. His wife Wilhelmina was such a good cook that when they left the hotel business, their boarders left with them: "They did not seem to care about the poor shelter as long as their stomachs were well-filled." The Stein family operated a ferry across the Red River and their home doubled as a stagecoach stop, providing fresh horses and a place to eat and sleep for passengers.

Adam Stein arrived on the Red River frontier in the summer of 1859. Twelve years later, the rest of the United States finally caught up to him. Late in 1871, the Northern Pacific Railway arrived at the river at a spot they named Moorhead. Towns were built, markets were created, and settler-farmers arrived. Adam Stein became a successful farmer, building up his land to over 400 acres. He and Wilhelmina had eight children and Adam died an old man in 1911. You can learn much more about his post-war life through the photographs and paintings of his daughter, now on display in our exhibit *Prairie Daughters: the Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thortvedt*.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Charles Albert Keller (Pete)

Pete, a geology major, became interested in volunteering at the museum after attending our dinosaur exhibit back in 2001. Due to career conflicts, he took some time off from volunteering. Once retired, Pete returned to the museum as a volunteer because he loves the idea of preserving history. Volunteering gives him the opportunity to meet people from all around the United States and around the world. Pete gives tours about our Hopperstad Stave Church every Sunday. He also welcomes visitors at the admission desk.

In his free time, Pete loves to read, participate in church activities and volunteer at the Dorothy Day Food Pantry. He keeps busy by doing workshops at Sanford Hospital to help patients cope with chronic illnesses. Many people may not know that Pete is an accomplished cake decorator or that in 2010, he traveled the West Coast by train for over 8000 miles.

Thank you, Pete, for your dedication and support! We enjoy working with you.

Officer Peter Ness Shot, 1921

by Mark Peihl

Recently the Moorhead Police Department called the HCSCC Archives requesting information about the wounding of Patrolman Peter Ness in 1921. We are always glad to assist local law enforcement any way we can.

Previously we had researched the lives of four Clay County law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Patrolman Peter Poull was shot by a wanted murderer, Thomas Brown, in 1888. Brown was later hanged for the crime (CCHS Newsletter, July/August 1989). Moorhead Patrolman Alexander "Sandy" McLean accidentally died in 1899 while doing crowd control at a house fire (CCHS Newsletter, Sept/Oct 2005). In 1930 Patrolman Roy Larson was shot and killed by a robber in downtown Moorhead (CCHS Newsletter, March/Apr 1993). Dilworth Constable George W. Bridwell died from a fall sustained while attempting to stop a dangerous drunken driver (CCHS Newsletter, Sept/Oct 2005). Moorhead Police Chief Oluf Malvey died in 1910 from injuries he received while attempting to help carry a drunken man to the Police Station, and Police Chief Thomas Murphy was shot and seriously wounded while arresting a Fargo murderer in 1900. Sometime we'll tell those stories here, too.

Peter P. Ness was born in Sogne, Norway in 1874. He came to the US in 1892 and rented a farm near Rustad in Kurtz Township. Three years later he married Hannah Halvorson, a Norwegian-born widow fifteen years his senior with a seven-year-old son. In 1919 Peter and Hannah traveled back to Norway. They stayed there just over a year. In 1920 they moved into Moorhead and bought a house on 12th St S. Peter soon after joined the Police Department.

Just before midnight on Thursday October 13, 1921, a man named "Trichler" told Moorhead café owner George Panshot that men were planning to rob his business that night. Panshot suspected a joke but reported it to the police anyway. Authorities, suspicious that the tip might be a ruse to have police watch one business while crooks knocked off another, sent Peter Ness to watch Panshot's place and Patrolman Knute Styvne to keep an eye on the rest of downtown.

"Pan's Café" stood at 514 Front Street (now Center Avenue). Today the spot is home to Alan Evans Bridal, on the north side of Center Avenue across from Scheel's. Ness watched the all-night joint until 3:00 am and then called the station saying he thought the report was bogus, but he stuck around anyway. Forty-five minutes later, two masked men entered the café and approached Panshot. Ness followed and ordered the men to raise their hands. Instead, the larger of the two spun around with a revolver and fired, missing the officer. Ness returned fire, also missing with several shots.

The robber fired again. The bullet struck Ness in the left eye and took a circuitous path through his head lodging just below his right ear. As Ness fell to the floor, the gunman blazed away as he and his henchman ran out the door, empty handed. They split up, one ran east on Center Avenue, the other west.

Officer Styvne heard the shooting, bolted to the area and tried unsuccessfully to cut off the perpetrators. When last seen, one man was running south on 6th Street and the other disappeared to the west.

Ness, though badly wounded, wanted to search the alleys for the pair but was restrained and taken to St. Ansgar's Hospital.

Despite their masks, witnesses provided good descriptions of the two men. Investigation revealed that the shooter was one James Vasicek, AKA "Fred Wilson," AKA "James Carnick." Vasicek had been held in Stillwater State Prison on an unrelated charge and then transferred to the Fergus Falls State Hospital. He had recently escaped from Fergus and made his way to Fargo-Moorhead. (Newspaper accounts don't indicate where the cops got this information, likely from an unnamed informant familiar with the crime.) Local authorities acquired Vasicek's photo from Stillwater and had wanted posters printed.

A Moorhead veterinarian with a penchant for investigating crimes, Mark M. Fulton, was named "Special Officer" to look into the case. He followed Vasicek's trail to Hillsboro, North Dakota, then Grand Forks, Bemidji, International Falls and



Moorhead Patrolman Peter P. Ness, 1922. Ness lost his left eye in the Pan's Café shooting the year before.

A. J. O'Laughlin Collection.



James Vasicek's Moorhead Police Department mug shot, 1922. Vasicek received a ten-year sentence for shooting Patrolman Ness.

A. J. O'Laughlin Collection.

other northern points. He visited the perpetrator's hang outs and distributed the posters to local authorities, returning to Moorhead on October 24. (Fulton later served as a Narcotics Agent for the US Government in Moorhead and St. Paul. CCHS Newsletter, Nov/Dec 1992.)

The next day Clay County Sheriff Dan McDonald received word that Vasicek had been arrested in International Falls. McDonald and Fulton took a train north and picked up their man. While passing through Grand Forks on their way back, Vasicek spotted an accomplice standing at the railroad platform. He identified the man as the guy who had "squealed" on him and got him caught. McDonald quickly had the man arrested.

Noah Hanley, AKA "John Noah," had served time in Stillwater and the reformatory in St. Cloud for a robbery in Staples, Minnesota. He had been employed by Panshot about 1913. The café owner fired Hanley and another man for tampering with his cash register. Hanley threatened to get back at Panshot someday. The crook plotted the café stickup in vengeance. The two were bound over on robbery and assault charges. They sat in the Clay County jail awaiting trial in

December.

On November 10 Vasicek confessed to the County Attorney. He said Hanley had planned the crime with two other men in a dive on Fargo's lower Front Street (Main Avenue today). Vasicek and another man were to rob the café while Hanley stood lookout across the street. The fourth man backed out at the last minute.

Hanley received a five-year sentence for second-degree assault. Vasicek got ten years in Stillwater for first-degree assault.

Meanwhile, on November 27, Dr. Edward Humphrey removed the bullet from Ness's neck in a tricky but successful operation. Though he lost his left eye, the cop was back on the job shortly after New Year's.

Ness couldn't buy a break, however. Just before midnight on January 15, 1922 Ness was sent to the A. J. Charles residence at 214 South 4th Street to break up a noisy party. Ness wound up hauling Charles and three other drunks to the Police Station on Center Avenue, three blocks to the north. When they reached 2nd Avenue South, Charles and the rest jumped Ness and started beating him. Ness proved game, however. The *Moorhead Daily News* reported that "after a hard battle, two of them landed in the Bastille, one escaped and the other was allowed to go home and arrested this morning." Charles later received a jail term for assault.

Ness stayed on the force for some time after this incident, but his home life began to deteriorate. Court documents indicate he left Hannah around August 1923 for parts unknown. We have been unsuccessful in tracking his movements thereafter. He seems to have vanished.

In 1929, Hannah sought to sell their Moorhead home and started divorce proceedings to clear the title. She received her decree in 1930 and moved with her son to Hawley. She died in Otter Tail County in 1940.



Pan's Café, summer 1923. The arrow points to George Panshot's Café, 514 Center Avenue. Pan's Café was the scene of Patrolman Ness's shooting the previous fall. The site is now home to Alan Evans Bridal shop in the Moorhead Center Mall.

Flaten/Wange Collection.

The Comstock House

by Sandra L. Gordon



The Comstock House at 506 - 8th Street South is a Moorhead tribute to one of its pioneering families. Solomon and Sarah Comstock built the eleven-room Victorian house in 1882 on what was then prairie land. Most of the furnishings are original to the house.

Solomon was a lawyer, legislator, financier, and philanthropist. His achievements include platting town sites along James Hill's proposed railroad routes. He donated land to build Bishop Whipple School, which later became Concordia College. He convinced the MN legislature to establish a teacher's college in Moorhead, which today is Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Sarah was influential in Moorhead's community and cultural affairs, including the establishment of its first public library. Ada, the oldest daughter, became the first Dean of Women at the U of MN and eventually the first full-time President of Radcliffe College in Massachusetts.

Jessie, the second child, attended Oxford in England and traveled abroad. In Moorhead she was active in community groups and Red Cross. George, the only son, earned a B.A. from Harvard. George, involved in civic matters, focused on farm and real estate interests. The Frances Frazier Comstock Theater at Concordia College was named for George's wife.

Owned by the Minnesota Historical Society and

managed by the City of Moorhead, the House is open for tours from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Thursdays from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Admission is \$6 (adults), \$5 (seniors), \$4 (ages 6-17) and free for children 5 and younger and for MHS members.

The Friends of the Comstock Historic House provide support for and promote the House in various ways, including contributing to specific types of upkeep and offering grants for group tour expenses to teachers, homeschoolers, and youth group leaders. Annual dues in the Friends from October 1 - September 30 are \$15 (single membership) and \$25 (couple's membership.) For information, email friends.comstock@live.com or write to P.O. Box 1272, Moorhead, MN.



Solomon Comstock and his family in the 1880s.

My Internship Experience with the HCSCC

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County had the great pleasure of working with three student interns this summer. They helped in all areas of the museum, including the Midwest Viking Festival. Thank you Michael, Shelby and Grant for all of your hard work and good luck on your future endeavors.



***Shelby Cossette,
Minnesota State University Moorhead***

I am Shelby Cossette, and I am currently a history major at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Over the summer of 2013, I had the opportunity to take up an internship with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County at the Hjemkomst Center. I really was not sure what to expect coming in as it was my first job experience. I learned as fast as I could and kept up with the different projects they assigned to me, which varied from documenting newspapers to transcribing interviews from World War II veterans. I feel like one of the more important skills I picked up was the ability to speak publicly through the tours I ran through the Hopperstad Church. It was fun to learn about the different parts of history as well as learn how to do different sorts of jobs in a small museum setting. I am glad that I had the opportunity to work with the wonderful staff there and I feel that this internship will help me out greatly in the future after I finish school.

Michael Hagley, Concordia College

My time at the Hjemkomst Center has been an extremely educational experience in myriad ways. I think that the aspect I enjoyed the most was the opportunity to interact with older generations, which often does not happen. As a college student it is very easy to spend all my time around people my own age, and it can be tempting to rarely venture outside the shallow, comfortable pond that is a college campus. Spending my mornings with older members of the community and soaking up some of their wisdom was a genuine pleasure. I also enjoyed witnessing the day-to-day operation of a museum. It was fascinating to see the impressive amount of work put in by museum staff to ensure that everything remains running smoothly. Finally, it was an unbelievable honor to work with artifacts such as The St. John's Bible. To be so close to something so historic, let alone being able to help present such valuable pieces of history to the public was an experience I'll never forget.



Grant Fischer, Oak Grove High School

It has been my privilege to serve as an intern with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County this summer. My time in the Archives has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Under the direction of Mark Piehl, I have researched and documented a variety of subjects ranging from the activities of the Red Cross in our area during WWII to the effects of Prohibition on Clay County. I especially enjoyed researching high school basketball of the 1920s as it combines my interests of basketball and history.

Next Spring I will graduate from Oak Grove Lutheran School in Fargo. I am planning to pursue a degree in history and hope to someday work in a museum.

Heritage Gift Shop



BOOKS
PRINTS
POSTERS
CARDS
AND
MORE!



**The Saint John's Bible *gift items* will
be on sale until the end of September.
*Stop on by today!***

Snack Shack Success

by Maureen Kelly Jonason

Since its opening in June, our new venture, the Heritage Snack Shack, has been a success. Kelly Wambach, our gift shop manager, who is also well known in the region for his food service experience (remember the Tree Top Restaurant and the Northwood Chalet?), proposed providing even greater service to our museum visitors by offering a light menu Tues.-Friday 11:30-1:30 (coffee and sweets until 3pm). In addition, the new service was promoted to area business people, and it turned out to be popular with both.

Kelly's menu is imaginative, drawing upon local lore with dish names such as the Hefty Helga and the Minnesota Wrap (with our signature wild rice filling). His refreshing Purple Loon drink is a favorite. He also offers fresh-baked goods for dessert or coffee break. He focuses on soups and light sandwiches for the lunch-on-the-go crowd. He has also already catered several group events at the Hjemkomst Center.

The increase in traffic into the building has been good for all concerned, and so we are extending what was intended to be a summer-only service into the first week in October. All proceeds from the Heritage Snack Shop support the exhibits and programs of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County. Come on in for lunch or coffee Tues.-Fri. 11:30-3:00. With every delicious bite, you too can support our operations!



Now Open
@ Hjemkomst Center!
Heritage Snack Shack

.....
Shack open 11:30 to 3:00 pm
Lunch served 11:30 to 1:30 pm
.....

Soup
Sandwiches
Salads
Coffee
Desserts

All proceeds benefit HCSCC

2013 Exhibition & Event Calendar

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Prairie Daughters: The Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thortvedt.

Open throughout 2013

The untold story of early female artists in Clay County as illustrated through these women's lives and works of art.

The Saint John's Bible

August 1 - September 15, 2013

Come and see all seven volumes of the Heritage Edition (bound in book form) as well as 25 selected prints from The St. John's Bible by renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson who produced the first hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible in 500 years. We invite you to explore this work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millennium.

Visual Arts Education

August 13 - October 20, 2013

Teachers from the tri-state area showcase their talents outside of the classroom in the Visual Arts Education Exhibit. The exhibit is sponsored by the Arts Partnership.

The Vikings: Master Mariners, Traders, Colonists

September 24, 2013 – February 28, 2014

This exhibition seeks to temper impressions of the Vikings with an updated view of their everyday life and significant contributions to European and Western culture. The exhibit reveals the considerable technological, historical and artistic impact made by these Scandinavian forebears. Who were these people and what were they really like? Were they merely plunderers and warriors, or more?

Upcoming Events

9/11 Commemoration: Love and Forgiveness in The Saint John's Bible

September 11

6 pm–7pm

Spend a while with Anne Kaese focusing on "Love and Forgiveness" using Illuminations from The Saint John's Bible. This will be a quiet time of thoughtfulness and reflection as the illuminations are used to think about how one grows from hard experiences. Presentation is FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC.

Heritage Volumes Page Turning

September 12

10am

Exhibit cases will be opened for the public to view different pages of the bound editions. General admission is required but members get in free.

Sending The Saint John's Bible On Its Next Adventure

Sept. 15 – 2pm

Closing presentation and tour with Anne Kaese included with admission, free for members



German Culture Day

September 28

10 am - 4 pm

A free public celebration of German Culture with beer, wine, traditional foods, and music.

German Rhineland Dinner

September 28

6 pm

\$50 per person

Taste the delicious breads, meats and desserts from the heart of Germany paired with a variety of German beers and wines for an authentic Deutschland experience. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Tickets must be pre-purchased by September 21. Contact Tim Jorgensen at 218-299-5511 ext. 6737 for more information.

2013 Members Renewals for May 1 - Aug. 1

* = New Members

Individual: Renewals \$40

Olive Andvik
Phyllis Boatman
J. D. Bohlman
June Adele Dolva
Trudy Dura*
Verlene Dvoracek
Verdie L. Ellingson
David Engebretsen*
Karen R. Erickson
Rodney Erickson
Philip E. Felde
Harry Fillafer
Tammy Finney*
Linda Fleming
Maurice Floberg
Ruth Franzen
Monika A. Fredin*
Dorothy Garven
Jo Grondahl
Rae P. Haynes*
Loren Helmeke
Pat Hemmah
Larry Henning
Jessica M. Henry
Douglas P. Johnson
Delayne M. Karls
Carol Knodle
Mary Knopfler
James B. Lichtsinn
Milo M. Moyano
Phyllis J. Nelson
Elizabeth Olday
Anne L. Olsgaard
Cheryl Olson
Roberta Radford
Michael G. Rasmusson
Judy Rippentrop
Vilera Rood
Helen Rudie
Darlene Rustad
Susan Scheel
Janice D. Scott*
Margaret Sillers
Mildred Skugrud
Ardis VanRoey

Ms. Wendy Ward*
Olaf R. Wicker
Phyllis A. Wirries
Donna Woods

Household: Renewals \$60

Bernard and Lois Altenburg
Zenas Baer*
Ken and Solveig Berg
Milly and Alden Bevre
Robert and Eleanor Brandt
Elizabeth and Edward Clark
Patrick and Rae Colliton
Leland and Dorothy Delger
John Docken and Cathy Lindquist
Jerry & Judith Eide
Gordon and Carol Ekre
Mike and Pat Elton
Vijay and Anu Gaba
Bette and Fred Haring
Paul Harris and LuAnn Hagel
Joel and Debra Haugen
Larry and Regina Jacobson
Stacie and Brian King*
Keith and Kay Larson
Jane Loeffler
Larry and Marcella MacLeod
Dan B. and Ann F. Murphy
Michael and Martha Olsen
Gary H. and Becky Olson
Mike & Nanci Olson
Russ and Denise Pesola
J. Donald and Naomi Rice
Margaret and Mel Ristvedt
Doug and Michelle Roise
Steve and Jade Rosenfeldt
Paulette and John Schneider
Donald and Rose-Mary Strom
Mary Ann and Eldon Thompson
Jennifer J. and Bryan Tjaden
Hazel I. and Donald Weber*
Howard and Marcell Wergeland
Marilyn and Leonard Wollitz
Gerry and Sherry Zimmerman

Booster: Renewal Member \$85

Township of Flowing
Lois M. Brown*
Loren and Londa Ingebretsen
Ken and Jeanette Just
Margret Kragnes
Reynold T. and Marlene Larsen
John and Bess Manesis
Kelly and Enrico Sassi
Charles E. and Gertrude Solum
Richard H. Stern and Nancy Torson
Duane and Theresa Walker
Carol Zielinski

Heritage: Renewal Members \$125

Township of Georgetown
Vikingland Kiwanis Moorhead
Roger and Betty Anda
Geoffrey D. Bentley, DDS, PA
Kevin and Kristy Campbell
Yvonne C. Condell
Christopher and Mary Rose DeCock*
Paul J. and Mardeth L. Dovre
Marcia Hardy
Ralph and Ethel Hest
Pat Hinze and Howard Anderson
Hal and Marlene Janneck
Audrey and Richard Kloubec
Richard and Sharon Krabbenhoft
Darren and Jane Leno
Marj Matthees
Katherine Mentjes
Denise K. and Erik Nissen
Robert and JoAnn Nyquist
Gene and Karen Prim
Warren and Roberta Shreve
Chris and Ellen Velline
Kirk and Kathy Watt

Patron: Renewal Members \$250

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo-Moorhead
Georgetown Farmers Elevators
Neil and Nancy Jordheim
Bob and Helen Olson
Ron and Loretta Welch

*Now I remember!
I need to renew my
membership today.*



Thank you for your membership!

If you renewed since May 1 and you do not see your name on this list, please give Sarah a call at 218-299-5511, Ext. 6739 (Mon.-Fri. 9-1) or email her at sarah.smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us to check the status of your membership. It may be that we made a mistake! We want to keep our membership active and accurate, so please let us know.

Collections Donations

Materials donated May-July 2013

Donors: David Bjorkquist; Marge Brantner, Moorhead; Elouise Brendemuhl, Fargo; Marvin R. Bunnell, Minneapolis, MN; In Memory of Leland Burud, Barnesville; City of Moorhead; Crow Wing County Historical Society, Brainerd; Marcy Estenson, Fargo; Kathy Fliflet, Nowthen, MN; Edward Gudmundson, Moorhead (In Memory of John Hall); Jennifer Johnson, Eagan, MN; Oak Mound Church, Kragnes; Trygve Olson, Moorhead; Ruth Pasch, Minneapolis, MN; Darrel E. Ruud, Moorhead; St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moorhead; Cathy Scheibe, LaMoure, ND; Doris Severinson, Hawley; Phyllis Thysell, Fargo; Chris Velline, Torrance, CA; Carl M. Volz, East Peoria, IL; William T. Walsh, Charlotte, NC; Kelly Wambach, Sabin; Howard Wergeland, Moorhead; Thane Zimmerman, Moorhead

Artifacts: "Ancestors and Descendants of Halvor Oliver Helgeson/Dahl" compiled by Marvin Bunnell; (1) letter, handwritten, 15 Aug 1881, by D. J. Bates; (1) volume, Justice Docket, Moorhead Justice Court, 1903-1909; (1) uniform, US Navy, belonged to James Furst of Barnesville, photos and discharge papers for James Furst; (1) red work signature quilt from Ulen area; (1) spittoon, brass, purchased by Christ O. Velline from Thompson Lumber, Moorhead, (1) business card for C. O. Velline, Superintendent of Thompson Yards, Billings, Mont.; (1) volume, The Schindler Family Tree, June 1986; printed materials from Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead Schools (Park and Jr. High), and Brainerd Area Chamber of Commerce (for school project); silver vase and plaque, presented to Ida Mickelson in recognition of 25 and 30 years of teaching, 1952 and 1957; (1) model ox cart with ox; (1) booklet, "Sjöfartsbok," (4) certificates: "Arbetsbetyg;" "Flyttignisbevis;" "Utvandrare-Kontrakt;" and medical clearance from Ellis Island; all for Adolf Victor Larson, Sweden; (1) uniform jacket, Navy, worn by Walter "Pike" Wohlwend of Barnesville, MN during service in World War II on USS Mattaponi; photos of Hjemkomst ship on 1982 journey and practice runs on Lake Superior, 50-4x6 prints, 19-8x10

prints, 1-DVD 50 unedited scans of 35mm slides; two black silk blouses and skirts, belonged to a Brendemuhl matriarch; doll and doll baby buggy used by Marvel (Wheeler) Onstad as a girl growing up near Ulen in Goose Prairie Township; referee shirt used by Howard Wergeland for football and basketball games in area, 1950s-1966; glass and pottery bottles and crocks found in excavation along 9th Street North in Moorhead; The Midwestern Homage, 2013, written and illustrated by Trygve Olson for Rourke Art Museum's 54th Midwestern Invitational Art Exhibition and 100th anniversary of the construction of the Moorhead post office building; photos from Judge E. U. Wade family of Moorhead, (3) small fare tokens, glass negatives and one daguerreotype case, from Mary Wade Dahl; records and first bible of the Oak Mound Church; photo, framed, Ray Gesell's melon field; dresses: 1) satin and lace, w/ headpiece, worn by Emme Brendemuhl for wedding to Irvin Olness, 1930; 2) confirmation dress of Eliza Olness, with petticoat; (1) composite, photos of graduates from Moorhead State Normal School, 1908; report written by David Bjorkquist on Merchant Marine experience of his uncle Arthur Carl Bestic of Moorhead, 1942-1944 and the sinking of the ship William H. Welch that Bestic served and died on; clippings of Thortvedt family story from Midweek newspaper, (1) plate, china, painted by Orabel Thortvedt, horse on rider

* Indicates materials added to the education collection for hands-on activities rather than preserved in the permanent collection.



Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County
PO Box 157 • 202 First Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



To collect, preserve, interpret and share the history and culture of Clay County, Minnesota.

PANGEA

CULTIVATE OUR CULTURES

• Food • Music • Dance •

November 9, 2013
10 am - 4 pm
Admission is FREE

Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Ave N
Moorhead, MN 56560

This activity is made possible by the voices of Minnesotans through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Lake Region Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.