

— The Hourglass —



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The Hjemkomst Gets SPOOKY • *By Davin Wait*

This fall HCSCC hosts a fun and nostalgic look at American pop culture with our exhibition of *America's Monsters, Superheroes, & Villains: Our Culture at Play*. The exhibition comes from a Minneapolis-based project called *SuperMonsterCity!*, the collective name of master collector David Barnhill and director/curator Stephen Rueff. Their exhibition has made waves in museum circles and won critical acclaim for its insightful

look at monsters, superheroes, and villains in American pop culture. It goes beyond simply sharing rarities from an old toy, poster, and film collection, though, and encourages visitors to think about the complex social and political influences on our entertainment media and our play. We're excited about this exhibition and we've used it to put together a few fall treats of our own.

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Local Suffragists, pg 12

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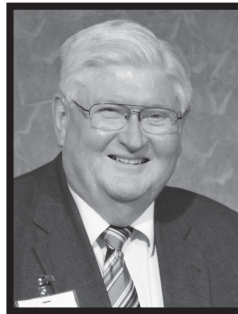
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Our thanks to the Moorhead City Council and the Clay County Commission for their support of local history and culture at HCSCC.

President's Message

from Jon Evert



Are you looking to research your family history? Maybe hoping to learn more about when they came to Clay County, or where they first lived, or where they lived before they came here?

Well, there are many resources available to start that project and a good number of them are made available to the public right in our archives at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, on the 3rd floor (down) at the Hjerkomst Center.

For those rare moments when Mark Peihl and the HCSCC archives won't do, consider the following resources:

The Clay County Register of Deeds office in the Clay County Courthouse contains all county land ownership records. There you can find records of land transfers, mortgages, and assessments.

Township records can be helpful in understanding early histories. Birth, death, and welfare records were handled in the early years at the township level. You sometimes find them in town halls, boardmember attics, and even society archives.

Individual property abstracts contain a wealth of information about family history and can be interesting reading. These abstracts are in the hands of the property owners.

School records contain information about students' names, ages, parents, and in some cases achievements. You can learn about teachers, facilities, school board minutes, and even curriculum. Some of these records are included in the schoolhouse exhibition at the Clay County Fair.

The histories gathered and published by early regional historians can save a lot of time, too. I would recommend *Clay County Illustrated* (1912), *The People's History of Clay County* (1976), Roy Johnson's *Red River Valley*, edited by Soc Glasrud (1982), and Glenn Johnson's *Here, There, and Everywhere* (1972).

Wherever you find your history, it is important for your family that you do it sooner rather than later. Have fun looking.

-Jon Evert



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HCSCC News & Events

German Kulturfest Brings the Polka

On **Saturday, September 14**, HCSCC brings a slice of the Deutschland to Fargo-Moorhead for German Kulturfest! This year's festival features favorites Dale Dahmen and the Beats, Johan Stenslie, and The Meat Rabbits. German imports and German-style brews from sponsor Fargo Brewing Company will be served alongside Sam Wai's German wines and cheeses and Karen's Kuchens. Local chef Rob Vedaa puts together a wonderful German menu, featuring knoephla, bratwurst, currywurst, sauerbraten, sauerkraut, pretzels with mustard and beer cheese, and more. The German Market will feature demonstrations and goods from Evelyn's Bunzlau Polish Pottery, In the Chips, Minnesota Krampus, Postal Squirrel...and more!

Admission is \$10 (Children 12 and younger and HCSCC members are free). Food and drinks are extra.

Pangea Reaches a Milestone November 16

Our free multicultural festival Pangea — Cultivate Our Cultures turns 25 this year, so we're marking the occasion in style from 10AM to 4PM on **Saturday, November 16**. We've added new stage lights, a new sound system, new decorations, and even a second stage for small performances and demonstrations, from Red River Zoo animals to Gruber Guitars' ukuleles and everything in between. Our mainstage entertainment includes performances from Christy Goulet, African Arts Arena, Heather and Thistle Pipes and Drums, the Buffalo River Dancers and Singers, and Hot Lunch. Tastes of the World fills the auditorium with an international selection of foods, which will include tasty items like fried plantains, frybread tacos and wojapi, tamales, chai, and more! An international market staged throughout the museum further highlights the incredible cultural diversity that has shaped our communities in the Red River Valley.

Admission is free. Food and drinks are extra.

War & Flu Talks at the Hjemkomst Center

HCSCC Senior Archivist Mark Peihl discusses civil liberties during World War I on **Tuesday, September 17**, from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. Then he discusses the Spanish Flu pandemic on **Tuesday, November 19**, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM. Admission for both events is free.

Celebrating Suffrage Centennials

The Nineteenth Amendment is approaching its 100th anniversary, so we're commemorating the efforts of the activists, voters, and legislators that made it happen. Join us at the Comstock House on **Sunday, September 8**, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM for our Suffrage Centennial and Pie Social celebrating the 100th anniversary of Minnesota's amendment ratification. We'll be serving pie, coffee, and champagne; the Hartford Street Brass Band performs the first hour; and HCSCC member/volunteer and former Moorhead councilwoman and Minnesota legislator Diane Wray Williams delivers a 2:00PM keynote. Admission and refreshments are free.

George Holley Talks Saloon Archaeology

MSUM Archaeology professor George Holley joins us at 6:30PM on **Tuesday, September 24**, to discuss his teams' efforts excavating Moorhead's Saloon Row near the Hjemkomst Center. Admission is free

America's Monsters, Superheroes, & Villains Descend on Fargo-Moorhead

We open our major exhibition of the year — *America's Monsters, Superheroes, & Villains: Our Culture at Play* — on **Tuesday, October 1**. Join us in costume for refreshments and a guided tour from exhibition creators *SuperMonsterCity!* at the free, public opening reception that night from 5:00PM to 8:00PM, and then hold onto that Halloween spirit for all of our events!

Concordia College's Assistant Professor of German Studies Andrea Schmidt explores the influence of World War I and Weimar Germany on American horror and comic books in a lecture held **Tuesday, October 15**, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM. Admission is free.

From 5:00PM to 9:00PM on **Tuesday, October 29**, we host Hot Lunch and the Jessica Vines Band for the Hjemkomst Monster Ball. The evening will include appetizers, a cash bar, a diabolical carnival row, and appearances from Fargo-Moorhead's own spooky-movie crew, the folks of *Madd Frank Presents*. We're hoping to raise programming funds with this event, so please join us and please spread the word! General admission is \$20, the R.I.P. package is \$50, and admission for college students is FREE!



Letter from the Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason

As I write this, it “feels like” 100 degrees outside, and we are in the peak of our summer season enjoying the excitement of many visitors from around the world. We love to watch their faces as they come down the hall and get their first glimpse of the Viking ship. The awe and wonder are evident, especially in the children.

Although it is summer, we are working on a busy autumn of programming that needs planning and organizing, so as usual, we are living our days half in the present and half in the future. I’ve just confirmed with Polish Pottery vendor Evelyn Engle that she will be here for German Kulturfest; she travels most years from Burnsville, MN, and sets up a beautiful and colorful booth. Along with perennial favorites like woodcarvers In the Chips and polka stalwarts Dale Dahmen and the Beats, we’ll also welcome a less-traditional local polka band called The Meat Rabbits and a return from the German folklore group Minnesota Krampus. Doubtless, September 14 will end up being a wonderful day.

But celebrating German-American culture is not the only activity for the fall. Don’t forget our suffrage events. Though the actual 100th anniversary of the passing of suffrage for women into law doesn’t come around for another year yet, there are significant dates to mark. **September 8** we’ll celebrate the 100th anniversary of Minnesota ratifying the 19th Amendment. Hold open December 1 as the 100th for ND with a bash at Bonanzaville. And look for a really big party next August – nationwide – for the big 1-0-0 of women’s right to vote.

History and culture go hand in hand, and part of what makes HCSCC unique is our combinations of programming that look at both the historical impact of human activities as well as the colorful record of cultural heritage. Both look at the past in different ways and for different reasons, and different people tend to value each differently. Check out the description of events and the calendar, and “Save the Date” for the activities that sound engaging to you. After all, we do this all for you.

-MKJ



...and a note from HCSCC boardmember Gloria Lee

I had an idea to install a small sharing library and reading space at the Comstock House, and Emily and Markus helped make it happen. Now it sits there near the native prairie garden on the north end of the lawn. A sprawling tree offers shade and our little book collection focuses on local Native American life and native prairie plants.

Donna Chalimonczyk and Sherrie Toman provided personalized illustrations to our stories, Don Pingree built the little library, and Dalton Harris built a rustic bench using Buffalo River lumber. Come check it out!



Consider the Gift of Membership with HCSCC

Are you a member of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County? Do you have family or friends interested in museums, festivals, and local history? HCSCC membership makes a great gift, and we have several membership levels to choose from:

- Basic (Individual) – \$40
- Booster – \$85
- Patron – \$250
- Basic+ (Household) – \$60
- Heritage – \$125
- Benefactor – \$500

To sign up or to learn more about what each membership level offers, visit our website (www.hcscconline.org) and click on the “Join & Support” tab at the top menu or give us a call: (218) 299-5511.

HCSCC Exhibitions

America's Monsters, Superheroes, & Villains: Our Culture at Play

4th Floor Gallery (October 1 through January 31)

An award-winning exhibition by Minneapolis-based collectors SuperMonster市City!, *America's Monsters, Superheroes and Villains: Our Culture At Play* offers a wonderfully monstrous survey of America's pop culture supernatural in vintage toys, models, and posters.

The exhibition features over 130 vintage original toys, posters, advertising materials, television commercials and movie trailers in this comprehensive exhibition telling the story of six decades of America's cultural icons. *America's Monsters* playfully illustrates how the playtime icons of American culture reflect our country's changing ideals and serve as historical documentation of our nation's emerging creativity and evolving norms and conventions. Museum-goers will come face-to-face with vintage objects and artifacts that illuminate the changes in toy design, children's play, and social mores across 60 years.

Also, please join us for a full fall schedule of related events. Our free, public reception will be held from 5:00PM to 8:00PM on **Tuesday, October 1**; and our Hjemkomst Monster Ball will be held from 5:00PM to 9:00PM on **Tuesday, October 29**.

Narrative Geometry: The Art of Warli

4th Floor Gallery (through September 23)

Warli is a 10,000-year-old folk painting style native to Maharashtra, India. It frequently portrays traditional Indian daily life and heritage, ranging from farming and gardening to marriages and feasts. Characters are painted in white on colored paper, cloth, and walls; and their bodies are frequently simplified to circles, lines, and triangles, representative of heads, limbs, and torsos. The art of drawing animals and people in the Warli style is fairly simple, but when the individual images are seen together, the designs offer a wonderful, narrative complexity.

Narrative Geometry: The Art of Warli features the work of former Fargo artist Vaishali Mohite. The exhibition was designed by the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

The FMVA Constraint Show: Monsters, Marvels, & Memorabilia

Heritage Hall (November 22 through March 8)

The Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists' annual constraint art show challenges artists to create with a theme, encouraging them to expand their skills and perspective. This year's theme was inspired by our exhibition of *America's Monsters, Superheroes and Villains: Our Culture At Play*, so this fall we'll have the tremendous fortune of exhibiting Fargo-Moorhead's own monsters, marvels, and memorabilia.

Also, please join us for a free and public opening reception celebrating this exhibition on **Tuesday, November 26**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

Truth in Focus:

A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III

Heritage Hall (through November 17)

Colburn Hvidston III made a career in news, documenting life in the Upper Midwest with the cameras he wielded for decades as a Fargo *Forum* photographer and photo chief. *Truth in Focus* explores Hvidston's life in photography, from his Grand Forks childhood in the 1940s and '50s through his years with the Forum, and into his recent retirement. The result is an intimate, local look at life around the Red River Valley during the last half of the 20th century. Reflecting on his career later, Hvidston wrote, [I strove] strive to record reality in a way that triggers the emotions."

Many thanks to Forum Communications Company and Lake Region Arts Council for sponsoring *Truth in Focus*.

War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County

Heritage Hall (through December, 2020)

In 1917 Americans were thrust into a brutal global war. The eighteen months that followed brought casualties, armistice, and a global flu pandemic that only subsided in the spring of 1920. Clay County responded with courage, sacrifice, fear, and disillusionment.

War, Flu, and Fear: World War I and Clay County is sponsored by BNSF Railway Foundation.

(continued from front page)

First, as usual, we're hosting a free and public opening reception, this time on **Tuesday, October 1**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. We'll share refreshments, Barnhill and Rueff will discuss their project, and visitors are encouraged to come in costume. In fact, we'd also love for you to bring any old costumes or costume materials for a free costume exchange we'll be hosting at the Comstock House the following weekend (see page 18).

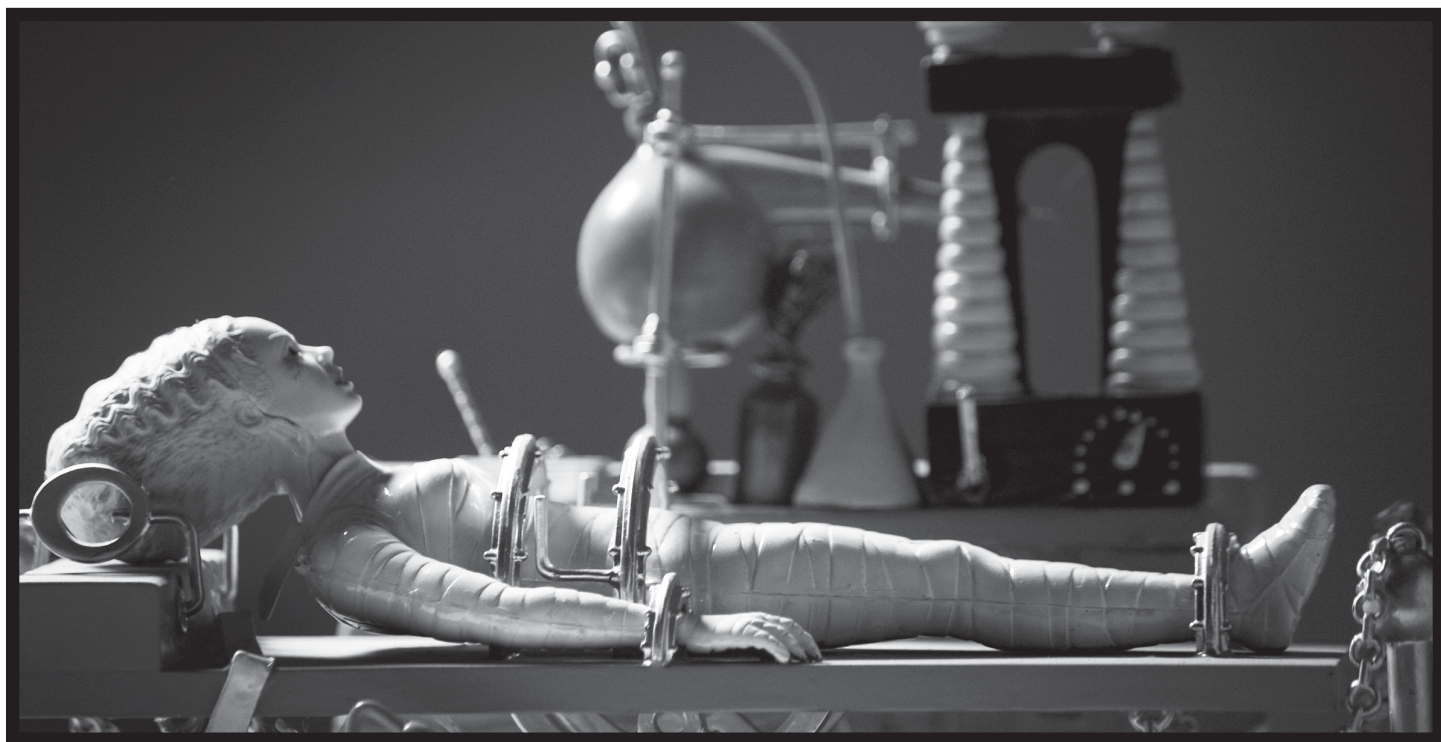
As many of you also know, we like to build local connections to our major exhibitions, so we've been putting together a small exhibition entitled *Weird FM*, surveying similar themes right here at home. Make time to explore our research into all of your favorite Red River Valley creatures, from the Kindred Lights and Horace Mann's Elephant Ghost to the Vergas Hairy Man.

On **Tuesday, October 15**, we're hosting Concordia College's new Assistant Professor of German Studies, Andrea Schmidt, for a 6:00PM lecture. She'll be helping us connect the dots between World War I (the subject of our current local exhibition, *War, Flu, & Fear*) and *America's Monsters* by exploring the influence of Weimar Germany, specifically German Expressionist film, on 20th-century popular culture in the United States, from comic book culture to popular horror films.

At 6:30PM on **Thursday, October 24**, our regular wine-class collaboration with Sam Wai takes a diabolically delicious turn. We're zeroing in on the Victorian Gothic revival that took place in the United States during the last half of the nineteenth-century. That means our menu comes from Moorhead's Grand Pacific Hotel, our program will explore the Gothic frontier in Moorhead; and we're hosting it all in our lovely Victorian mansion, the Comstock House. We're capping attendance for the event at 16 people, so be on the lookout in October for registration details.

Then on **Tuesday, October 29**, we're pulling this all together for something new: a big Halloween ball. We've booked local musicians Hot Lunch (6PM) and the Jessica Vines Band (7PM) to play on the observation deck in the Hjemkomst Ship Gallery, where we'll also screen classic horror movies on the Hjemkomst sail. We're putting together a slate of ghostly carnival games and bringing in special guests from Fargo's own creepy gem, the "spooky movie" program *Madd Frank Presents*. Appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. As this is something new, we'd love you to take part and help us spread the word!

Make the Hjemkomst Center a mainstay for your Halloween plans this year, and let's get spooky!



An Aurora action figure modeled after Universal Studios' *Bride of Frankenstein*. Our new exhibition, *America's Monsters, Superheroes, & Villains*, explores the supernatural in American popular culture, from comic book superheroes and villains through our obsession with horror films and the sci-fi blockbuster (Stephen Zerby).



Clay County's Depression-era Walkathon tent sat where Bell Bank is now located in Dilworth, on the south side of Highway 10 across from the Hi-Ho Tavern (HCSCC).

The Red River Valley Walkathon of 1934

• *By Mark Peihl*

It's a warm August evening in Dilworth, 1934. Several pairs of walkers stumble around in a circle under garish lights. Their feet drag as they hang onto each other. A young man, his head dangling down, holds himself up by his arms, draped around his partner's shoulders. The girl, near exhaustion herself, struggles to keep his knees from touching the wooden floor. The emcee makes lame jokes over a public address system while spectators in the bleachers shout at their favorite couples and toss nickels at their feet. They gawk at the shuffling walkers, now over 400 hours into this spectacle. They have hundreds of hours more to go.

This bizarre scene played itself out hundreds of times across Depression-racked America. The events went by different names, Walkashow, Derby Show, Dance Marathon, Jitterathons, Speed Derbies, etc. The Dilworth event was billed as the "Red River Valley Walkathon of 1934."

Walkathons began as an outgrowth of the fads and endurance contests popular in the 1920s. People would try anything to set a new world record. There were hand-holding challenges, kissing competitions, egg eating contests and flag pole sitting events. In March 1923, Alma Cummings, a New York dance instructor, waltzed and foxtrotted for 27 hours straight, going through several partners in the process. Within days, dancers from around the country broke and rebroke her record. These were disorganized, individual efforts, with no rules. (Guinness didn't begin publishing its famous record book until the 1950s.)

However, when these events began drawing crowds, enterprising promoters started charging admission, selling refreshments and inviting other dancers to compete for prize money. As the competitions stretched on for hundreds of hours, very little actual dancing went on. They morphed from "dance marathons" into

“walkathons.” By the early 1930s, the shows featured masters of ceremonies, music and vaudeville acts. Promoters staged the events in small towns and big cities across the country. The phenomenon had evolved into an odd entertainment format, similar in ways to today’s professional wrestling and reality television shows. It reached its peak in popularity in 1934, the year the walkathon reached Clay County.

On June 26, 1934, George W. Pughe asked the Moorhead City Council for a license to stage a Walkathon in the city. Pughe was a long-time promotor of all kinds of entertainment from traveling vaudeville shows to circuses to magic acts. He’d been in the endurance contest business for about seven years. After discussing the proposal, the Council turned him down flat.

Undeterred, Pughe turned to Dilworth. The railroad town of about 1000 had been hit hard by the Depression. The promise of thousands of money-spending spectators descending on the community undoubtedly appealed

to city officials. Dilworth already gleaned much of its income by providing entertainment. It was home to at least a half-dozen popular nightclubs and restaurants selling 3.2% alcohol beer. (Though national prohibition had been repealed the year before, Clay County banned the sale of hard liquor and strong beer until 1937.) Though City Council meeting minutes make no mention of the show, the city fathers apparently cut some sort of a deal. By mid-July, Pughe was running ads in local media seeking contestants to compete for a \$1000 prize and had set up big circus-style tent where Bell Bank now stands on Highway 10.

The show began July 19 at 7:00 pm. Pughe was not afraid of overselling his spectacle. Newspaper ads pledged “The rage of the age, 2000 comfortable seats in a mammoth tent amphitheatre... Beyond all question, the most fascinating entertainment and contest ever brought to the Red River Valley – produced under auspices that relegate into utter oblivion all other attempts of a like nature.”



Left: George Pughe, Walkathon impresario; Right: Pughe produced slick photo-illustrated programs for sale, including this piece produced for the 1934 Red River Valley Walkathon (HCSCC).

Pughe produced slick, glossy photo-illustrated programs for sale and daily mimeographed “Dope Sheets” to provide up to date information about which walkers had dropped out and notice of upcoming attractions.

Rules (“subject to change without notice”) required contestants to “keep in continuous motion for 60 minutes on the floor, resting 15 minutes in the quarters...” Sleeping (napping, really) cots and clean linen were provided, daily showers compulsory. An on-duty nurse watched over the walkers and a doctor provided regular examinations. A kitchen provided seven meals daily, “three full meals and four light lunches.” Bobby “Idol of Hollywood” Gilbert headed a group of five rotating emcees. Radio stations WDAY and KGFK (predecessor to KVOX) each broadcast live 15-minute updates twice a day. The contest ran 24-7. Admission cost 20 cents from 4 am to 4 pm, and 35 cents from 4 pm to 4 am and after 2 pm Sundays.

Twenty-four couples and one solo walker began the contest. These included fourteen locals from Fargo, Moorhead and Minot, ND. One was fourteen-year-old Marion Boit (later Mills) of Dilworth. I spoke to Marion in 1989 about her experience. She said the producers wanted a few locals to make it more interesting for the spectators. Her partner was Bob Bernstein from St. Paul. Marion lasted “only a few days” before she dropped out. Bernstein paired off with another girl before dropping out himself. Marion said it was pretty obvious that no locals would win the contest. The prize would go to a one of the pairs of “professional” walkers who followed the circuit around the country.

The presence of local walkers also helped blur the line between what was real and what was fake in the contest. Much of the emcees’ banter involved narrative descriptions, often fictional, of the participants’ back stories, relationships and gossip. Roy Thoreson of Moorhead attended the Dilworth Walkathon “once or twice” though his wife and son went “lots of times.” Roy told me that “some people got involved in it like in soap operas.” Spectators picked out couples they liked and would cheer for them. “If they went to sleep, they’d holler to wake them up.” Producers selected some walkers to be “villains” who would elbow or trip other competitors when the judges weren’t looking, among other forms of manufactured drama.

Budding romances were a staple of the walkathons. Marriages, usually fake, happened often. On August 20,

walker Patrick O’Reilly of Chicago married fellow walker Elizabeth Ferguson from New York state in a quick ring-side ceremony complete with seven attendants each. Remarkably, the couple actually procured a license from Clay County District Court. The marriage was legal. Keeping the spectators’ interest required constant activities. Comedians, magicians and vaudeville performers entertained spectators between walking periods. Marion Mills recalled that comedy legend Red Skelton was one of the entertainers in Dilworth. Producers staged other attractions including a “bathing beauty” pageant, a chair-sitting contest (“Funniest thing you ever saw!”) and drawings for prizes. Roy Thoreson’s young son, Monte, won a live chicken.

Despite the bogus drama, one thing remained painfully real – the brutal toll on the participants as they stumbled for weeks on end. As the contest wore on, management weeded out contestants through the use of “heat,” requiring participants to sprint for several minutes, walk backward or jump over hurdles. Daily ads in the Fargo *Forum* counted up the time (“425 hours,” “593 hours,” “over 885 hours, this can’t go on forever”). Blistered feet and worn muscles were bad enough but the real problem for contestants was sleep deprivation. Lack of sleep can result in severe psychological problems. In her PhD. dissertation on the marathons, Carol J. Martin recounts many instances of participants going “squirrely,” suffering hallucinations, hysterical delusions and extreme irritability.

Not everyone thought that watching young people torture themselves for prize money made for appropriate entertainment. On August 2, over two weeks into the contest, the *Moorhead Daily News* editorialized, “Of What Benefit?” The *News* admitted that though “the acts that are presented are of a caliber that would be booed off the stage in a legitimate theater,” this “new type of entertainment seems to be holding up well in attendance.” The editor suggested folks might be just interested in competition but “In all recognized sports... a distinction is always made between contests for professionals and amateurs. In the local walkathon both are thrown together in hit or miss fashion...” With no distinction between amateurs and pros, “the attraction cannot be called a purely sporting event. This leaves one other possible motive - the interest people have in seeing others suffer... Every state in the union... has laws preventing cruelty to animals. It is a queer anomaly that permits people to punish themselves in a walkathon, milling about in a half-stupor, while people

pay to see the punishment... a number of local young people from the physical standpoint are undoubtedly wreaking harm on themselves... It is a curious spectacle to ponder over."

Nevertheless, spectators poured into the big tent. Pughe suggested huge crowds in his ads. ("60,000 people can't be wrong...") The *Forum* ads counted the hours until September 1, when the last ad appeared, forty-four days or over 1066 hours after the walkathon began. No announcement of who eventually won appeared in local papers. Pughe quietly struck his tent and moved on to some other town.

The *Moorhead Daily News* editor was not alone in his criticism of the walkathons. In 1935, 24 states, including Minnesota and North Dakota, passed laws against endurance contests like the dance marathons and walkathons.

Pughe adapted and returned in 1936, calling his new venture "The Derby Show of 1936." Minnesota's law, like most, barred "any mental or physical endurance contest.... for a period longer than 24 hours." Pughe's response was to put the contestants through a series of shorter physically demanding stunts, similar to the walkathon elimination events, and increase the rest time.

On June 11, Pughe pitched his plan to the Dilworth City Council. This time the Council approved a more formal agreement granting Pughe a license to operate the show "on a weekly renewal [basis] at the option of the applicant with a license fee of \$100.00 weekly." (They later lowered it to \$50 per week.) They appointed a committee to draw up a contract, pick a suitable site, and see to police presence and adequate parking.

Pughe set up his tent on the east edge of town and opened for business June 19. The radio stations broadcast from the site again, but admission was cheaper: 15 cents and 25 cents.

The Moorhead weekly *Country Press* reported that the Dilworth City Attorney assured Clay County Attorney James Garrity that the show was legal as "it was held for only 23-hours of each day. More of an entertainment affair than an endurance contest."

Throughout June, Garrity and Clay County Sheriff Rosco Brown had received numerous complaints from

citizens about their handling of a number of fatal car accidents involving alcohol and irresponsible behavior. The *Moorhead Daily News* reported on June 24, that an irate Fargo woman called Garrity claiming, "You're responsible for all those deaths on the highways.... We have an organization of 300 and we're coming over to kill you." She said she and her "organization" were "very religious." She refused to give her name. "She demanded to know why he didn't put a stop to 'the walkathon' at Dilworth."

Garrity and Brown received many other, less volatile, complaints about the show. On Thursday June 25, Garrity asked the Dilworth City Council to annul their agreement with Pughe. They refused and the next day Brown raided the tent and arrested Pughe for violating the state law. He was released on bail and Garrity called on all those who had complained to attend Pughe's hearing, set for Monday.

Not one witness showed. That night, Derby Show announcer George Nelson said over KGFK radio that the show had been going on for 231 ½ hours. That was enough for Sheriff Brown to arrest Nelson and Pughe again. Justice of the Peace Norman Stadum ruled that radio comments were not admissible and dismissed the first charge against Pughe. Garrity announced he would pursue the matter no further.

The *Country Press* later reported that crowds were not showing up for the Derby Show of 1936 and that "the promotor may or may not be doing so well." The show closed quietly on July 22, 34 days after it opened.

By the late 1930s, the marathons had lost whatever luster they might once have had. Folks turned to less sordid entertainments and no such show graced Clay County again. Minnesota repealed its anti-marathon law in 2001.

The term "walkathon" received a revival in the late 1960s, when non-profits and other service organizations began using it to describe events designed to raise funds for worthy causes. Participants raised money by collecting donations or pledges for walking a predetermined distance or course. One of the first such events occurred in Fargo-Moorhead in September 1968, when over 300 local high school and college students hiked a whopping 33 miles to raise funds for the United Nations' Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Walkathons are now a standard method for funding admirable causes, an ironic ending to a rather tawdry episode.

Fall Festival Preview: German Kulturfest & Pangea (25!)

The return of college students, kids in backpacks, football, and falling leaves means the return of festival season here at the Hjemkomst Center. This fall we host two: **German Kulturfest** from 10AM to 4PM on **Saturday, September 14**, and **Pangea** from 10AM to 4PM on **Saturday, November 16**. They're shaping up to be a wonderful time.

German Kulturfest is a celebration of our region's prominent German heritage and a commemoration of the lives and traditions of our many German immigrants, who include some of Clay County's earliest, like the Steins and Probstfields (who also stand as our only Civil War enlistments). The festival borrows German Volksfests as a model, so it includes a delicious spread of foods like bratwurst and sauerbraten and German potato salad; German wines and cheeses curated by HCSCC member Sam Wai; German-styled beers from sponsor Fargo Brewing Company, as well as German imports; old-time polka from three-piece festival favorites Dale Dahmen and the Beats, an accordion interlude from Johan Stenslie, and an afternoon set of polka and polka-inspired rock covers from local five-piece band

The Meat Rabbits. Add to this a museum market full of German goods and culture, from woodcarvers like In the Chips to the folklorists from Minnesota Krampus, and we have one of those quintessential fall festivals that everyone enjoys, German or not.

*Admission is \$10 / HCSCC members & children (12-): free
Food and drinks are extra*

Our second festival, **Pangea**, reaches an important milestone this year: it turns 25. As a result, we're going all-out, putting together two stages of music and demonstrations and updating our lights, sound, and decoration. A free celebration of our community's multicultural roots, Pangea provides visitors a tour of the world right here at the Hjemkomst Center. An international variety of foods, arts, and music will be offered, so you can enjoy frybread tacos and wojapi or aebleskiver and tamales while you sip chai tea. Then make sure to check out our international market and stages for live music, imported goods, and a spotlight on all of the wonderful cultural diversity that has shaped the Red River Valley we all love.

Admission is free / Food and drinks are extra



Left: Delores Gabbard, a member of the Buffalo River Dancers and Singers and longtime Pangea collaborator during a 2018 dance; Above: Matt Rutten, a musician with Fargo's polka-rock group The Meat Rabbits, joins us at German Kulturfest, where the band plays the afternoon set, starting at 1:30PM (HCSCC).



Nelly Probstfield Gesell was an active suffragist in LaCrosse, WI. Her parents Randolph and Catherine were early Clay County pioneers. Her father Randolph and son Ray Gesell represented Clay County in the state legislature (HCSCC).

Who Were Our Local Suffragists?

• *By Markus Krueger*

Your favorite county historical society has teamed up with the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley and Bonanzaville (Cass County Historical Society) to celebrate the centennial of American women getting the right to vote. In our first event on Tuesday, June 4, we celebrated the centennial of U.S. Congress sending a proposed 19th Amendment out to the states that read "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Over a hundred people came to the Hjemkomst Center for ice cream, champagne, our executive director Maureen's reading of a 1915 speech by Fargo Suffragist Clara Dillon Darrow, a brief speech recounting League history from RRV chapter VP Ashley Ladbury Hrichena, and a keynote speech by Moorhead City Councilmember and MSUM Sociology Professor Deb White.

We invite you to join us for our next event: marching and wearing suffrage white in the Greater Moorhead Days parade from 5:00PM to 8:00PM on **Friday, September 6**. Two days after that, on **Sunday, September 8**, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, we will be on the lawn of the Comstock House (or at the Hjemkomst Center in case of bad weather) where we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Minnesota voting "YES" on the 19th Amendment. It will be a celebration of elected women, past and present, and everybody is invited. We will have pie, champagne, coffee, and games in a party atmosphere. Finally, on **Sunday, December 1**, we will be at Bonanzaville to celebrate the centennial of North Dakotans approving the Amendment by looking at their new exhibit on North Dakota's Woman's Suffrage experience, which was put together by former HCSCC graduate assistant and Comstock House manager Kaci Johnson.

As we are wont to do around here, we are working to highlight how our communities in Clay County, MN, and Cass County, ND, fit into the national story of Woman's Suffrage and how that movement fit into our communities. No one has written down an account of Clay County's participation in the Woman's Suffrage Movement, but the records of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association (MWSA) are preserved in the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society. Looking through those records, we have gathered a list of people from Clay County who were active in the suffrage movement, either as chairmen, members or donors. Let's recognize them by name:

Note: although the more gender-neutral word "chair" or "chairperson" might be preferred today, I use "chairmen" throughout this article because that is the title they used for themselves at the time. There were four chairmen at a time per legislative district. Similarly, I occasionally identify the names and positions of husbands to highlight occupations, social circles, and socioeconomic class.

Local Chairmen of the Clay County Branch of Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association (MWSA)

Bessie Lewis (a former teacher married to a Moorhead attorney), Edith Darrow Godfrey (widowed wife of a concrete man, daughter of Moorhead's first doctor), May Burnham (a teacher whose family ran a boarding house), Jennie Briggs (wife of a physician), Anna Gates (wife of a letter carrier who would become Moorhead's first female police officer), Marguerita Garrity (a teacher who married an attorney and future judge), Mary Oliver (widow of a Barnesville banker), Mary B. Peterson (wife of our state senator), Anna Kossick (young daughter of a railroad family), and Esther Russell (the politically active head of our Woman's Christian Temperance Union, former teacher and wife of an attorney).

MWSA Members in Clay County

August Narveson (farmer), Emil Lambert (farmer), Jenette Dyer (wife of a Moorhead letter carrier), Charlotte Stodder (wife of a railroad agent), and Rose Weum (wife of a banker).

MWSA donors and other supporters in Clay County

Frank H. Peterson (MN state senator), Solomon P. Anderson (MN state representative), Delia B. Morris (widow of a grocer), Grovenor D. McCubrey (clerk of court, future state senator), and Rachel West (wife of a railroad engine inspector).

When the 19th Amendment passed, the suffrage fighters

turned their efforts to voter education, forming the League of Women Voters in 1920. Here is a list of known chairmen and officers of the 1920 Clay County League of Women Voters gleaned from newspapers:

Clay County League of Women Voters

Lucy Sheffield (music teacher), Nora Dickerson (wife of the president of Moorhead Normal School), Marie Thompson (daughter of a farming family), Alpha Gunness (wife of a Barnesville produce salesman), Edna Stadum (wife of a Glyndon banker), and Anna Costain (wife of a Moorhead banker).

Unfortunately, the records of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association do not say much about what these local people did for the effort, but by studying who these people were we can see how they fit into the national trends, and also how some stood out. Let's explore these trends in six points.

1: The Action was in St. Paul and Fargo, not Moorhead. You won't hear me say this much, but the history of this subject on the Fargo side is more exciting than on the Clay County side. Fargo was a hotbed of Suffrage activity and North Dakota Suffragists also organized on the grassroots level in small towns across the state. For whatever reason, it appears northwest Minnesota did not.

The energy of Minnesota's Suffrage movement was centered in the Twin Cities. In the new book *The Privilege for Which We Struggled: Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in Minnesota* only one of 25 women profiled lived outside of the Twin Cities. Reading other sources, however, you will find the name of one Clay County figure who played a prominent role in Minnesota's Woman Suffrage Movement: Frank H. Peterson, the state senator from Moorhead. In the National American Woman Suffrage Association's official six-volume history of the movement, F. H. Peterson is mentioned by name as being one of Minnesota's most important legislators working on behalf of Woman's Suffrage (the most important being Otter Tail County's Ole Sageng). Frank's wife, Mary B. Peterson, was active in the Suffrage movement herself, serving as a chairman of the organization, donating money (in her own name) and receiving suffrage literature from the home office to disseminate locally.

As in many local endeavors around here, our local Suffragists did collaborate with allies on the North Dakota side. Minnesota Woman's Suffrage Association chairman Anna Gates, a Norwegian immigrant married

to a Moorhead letter carrier, spent much of her energy working with the active suffrage groups in North Dakota. The *Wahpeton Times* reported on October 8, 1914, "Mrs. Anna Gates of Moorhead, Minnesota, who has been doing a little quiet work for suffrage among the farm women near Leonard reports a very encouraging prospect for suffrage in that region." In 1912 she was one of the women in charge of bringing nationally-known women's rights icon Jane Addams to Fargo. Shortly after women's suffrage was achieved, Anna Gates became Moorhead's first female police officer. As "Police Matron," Officer Gates was both cop and social worker, handling women and children offenders and also heading charity drives to feed and clothe the city's poor through the Great Depression.

2: Women's suffrage leaders were community leaders. One of the national trends is that those who were active in the woman's suffrage movement tended to be women of means from families that were at the top of the social and economic ladder of their town. This may also explain a bit of the previous point: North Dakota's leading families lived in Fargo; Minnesota's leading families lived in the

Twin Cities, not Moorhead. But those who were active in the cause did tend to be our local elite. The families of the 26 people listed (or 25 families, since the Petersons were married) in the MWSA files include four bankers, three lawyers, two doctors, two state legislators, and a college president.

One indication of social status in our area is membership in either the Moorhead Woman's Club or the Ladies' Literary League of Barnesville. Eleven of the 25 families are known by us at HCSCC to have links to these two clubs, and there may be more. Women's Clubs formed in communities across the country as ways for women to pursue intellectual activities. Members studied a shared topic and wrote essays, recited poems, or performed music on that theme, hosting each other in their homes on a rotating basis. These clubs tended to be civically engaged, most notably in the building of libraries. The Moorhead, Barnesville, and Fargo Public Libraries were all formed by Woman's Clubs, as were many others around here. The Moorhead Woman's Club, one of the original 15 clubs that organized the state federation of woman's clubs, was formed in the stately home of Sarah Comstock in 1893. The club was limited to 25 members, and these women tended to be from the upper crust of Moorhead. Charter members of the Moorhead Woman's Club include M. B. Peterson, as well as Edith Darrow Godfrey's mom and May Burnham's aunt. Esther Russell served as both president of the Moorhead Woman's Club and of Minnesota's 9th District of Women's Clubs. The Barnesville Lady's Literary League formed in 1897 and is still active today (we are honored that tours of our museum are frequent activities for this group). MWSA chairman Mary Oliver was one of the founding members of the Literary League and was active in the group for more than half a century. When Barnesville hosted the 9th District convention of the Minnesota Women's Club in 1917, Literary League founding member Alpha Gunness presented her paper "Why Study Civic Government," and continued to educate people on that topic as part of the League of Women Voters once suffrage was achieved.

Edith Darrow Godfrey was born into one of these connected families. Her father, the well-respected Dr. D. C. Darrow, came to Moorhead in 1884, establishing Moorhead's first hospital. His brother, Dr. E. M. Darrow was Fargo's pioneer doctor. Clara Dillon Darrow, Dr. E. M. Darrow's wife, became one of the most important leaders of North Dakota's Woman's Suffrage Movement, a founder and first president of the Fargo Votes for Women League and the mother of ND Suffrage leaders Mary Darrow Weible



Anna Gates was one of the four local chairmen of the Minnesota Woman's Suffrage Association. She was also Moorhead's first female police officer (HCSCC).

and Elizabeth Darrow O'Neil. Edith Darrow Godfrey, like her aunt and cousins in Fargo, became involved in the Suffrage fight, serving as a chairman of the Clay County chapter. When suffrage was won in 1920, Edith was 42-years-old (the average age of our 26 suffragists was 44.8 in 1920, making most of them children of early settlers). Edith's husband was a popular and promising businessman whose name is written all over Moorhead – take a walk around our older neighborhoods and look down at your feet to see his concrete blocks stamped “Joseph V. Godfrey Maker Moorhead Minn.” He died young at age 36, leaving Edith to raise two young children in a house next door to her parents. Among Joseph's pall bearers were the husbands of Bessie Lewis and Anna Costain, both on the list of our 26. It should not be surprising that these families were often friends.

3: Suffragists were educated and educators. Looking at just the 1910 and 1920 censuses for these families, 9 of the 25 families (36%) had a teacher in them (either parents or children), and 11 of 25 families (44%) are known to have either gone to college or sent their children to college by 1920. Training teachers was the primary purpose of Moorhead Normal School (now Minnesota State University Moorhead), so the town had a larger-than-average educated class. Of the 17 names on our list who lived in Moorhead, all but three lived in the 4th Ward, the area that included MNS and Concordia College.

Marguerita Evans grew up on a farm outside Ottumwa, Iowa. After graduating from her rural school, she studied Domestic Sciences first at Iowa State University in Ames and then Columbia University in New York City. While there, according to family memory, she marched for Woman's Suffrage in Washington, D.C. After graduating, “Rita” took a job teaching with Moorhead Public Schools. She had a habit of dining at the Curran Boarding House, and across the dinner table she came to know a young attorney named James A. Garrity. On May 31, 1917, Marguerita and James were married back home in Iowa. Marguerita Evans Garrity served as one of four chairmen of the local branch of the MWSA, along with Anna Gates, Esther Russell and Ann Kossick. It is likely that Marguerita struck up a friendship with Ann Kossick, a fellow Catholic in a town dominated by immigrant Lutherans and Yankee Protestants. In 1919, Ann Kossick married Marguerita's brother and moved to the farm in Iowa, and the 1920 census shows Anne's sisters Helen and Clara living as boarders in the Garrity home.

4: Woman's Suffrage was linked to Temperance. Then

and now, seemingly unrelated political issues are tied together in unexpected ways. Today, if you know someone's stance on abortion, there's a better-than-average chance you can guess what they think about taxes and gun control. A century ago, the Woman's Suffrage Movement was tied to the Temperance Movement. The Temperance Movement was an international movement to get people to stop drinking alcohol. America in the 19th century had a drinking problem, and women were tired of their husbands spending their evenings and all of the family's money in saloons (where women were not allowed to enter!), coming home sometimes violently drunk in an era when it was difficult for women to escape abusive relationships. Temperance was the first political movement that American women demanded to be a part of and in charge of. Once they became part of the political process, women realized they were good at it. Generations of politically active women learned how to organize to get legislation passed. They made powerful allies in the capitols of our states and our nation. When these same women demanded to vote, their voices were increasingly difficult for politicians to ignore, and Temperance-supporting politicians dreamed of women voters democratically delivering the nation from the evils of alcohol.

Elizabeth Preston Anderson, the powerful head of North Dakota's Women's Christian Temperance Union, stood prominently at Governor Frazier's right hand during the ceremonial signing of a bill that gave women limited voting rights in North Dakota in 1917. State Senator F. H. Peterson, Moorhead's champion of Woman's Suffrage in St. Paul and husband of MWSA chairman Mary B. Peterson, was actually more active in the Temperance fight than in Suffrage. MWSA chairman Esther Russell was the head of Moorhead's branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. We do not have good enough records to know how many on our list of Suffragists were anti-alcohol, but the percentage would likely be high.

The politically divisive subject of Temperance might also be reflected in which names we do NOT see on the list from the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association. The Kiefer, Ingersol, Rustad, Magnusson, and Diemert families were like the families on our list in many ways: prominent business leaders, active in local politics, who sent their kids to college to become teachers and lawyers. But these families owed their success to Moorhead's lucrative pre-prohibition saloon industry. I don't think we should assume that Ella Diemert wanted fewer rights than Esther Russell did, but I can understand Ella not wanting

to be in the same room as so many women who were trying to make her family business illegal. And eventually, local Temperance advocates succeeded in doing just that. Knowing Moorhead voters would not support an alcohol ban, our Suffragist Senator F. H. Peterson authored a bill that allowed a county-wide vote on alcohol so Dry voters from the rest of the county would outnumber the Wets in Moorhead and Barnesville. Clay County went Dry in 1915 and the nation followed five years later.

But individuals often defy stereotypes. The best photo related to Woman's Suffrage in our collection is of Nelly Probstfield Gesell holding a "Votes for Women" pennant (although by then she was living in LaCrosse, she was born and raised on the family farm in Oakport, MN). While we do not know what Nelly personally felt about alcohol, we know the Probstfields were politically-active Wets. Her father Randolph ran a saloon in the 1850s, her brother Andy worked in an East Grand Forks brewery, and just three months after Prohibition was repealed in 1933 her son Ray Gesell established a bar in north Moorhead that was run by the extended Probstfield family for decades (locals might know it as Jerry's Trail Tavern).

The large German-immigrant railroad family of chairman Ann Kossick did not fit the anti-alcohol mold, either. Her brother Leo Kossick gained fame as an amateur boxer, but he transitioned to running pool halls, taverns, and bowling alleys. Her brother Alex was a bartender at the Blackhawk Café until he opened Kossick's Liquors, and Anna's Iowa farmer husband, the brother of fellow-Moorhead-Suffragist Marguerita Garrity, was no Dry either. And while I'm not sure if Marguerita was as alcohol-friendly as her name implies, we know her husband liked liquor and he was the most important figure in finally ending local liquor prohibition in 1937.

The jury is out over whether the Temperance cause helped Woman's Suffrage or hindered it. In modern parlance, it brought out the base, but it also energized the opposition. Fearing women voters would bring about Prohibition, the liquor industry fought tooth and nail to prevent women from gaining that right. Woman Suffrage bills came before the Minnesota legislature five times between 1909 and 1917, each time losing by four or fewer votes in the senate. The opposition, according to Minnesota's chapter in the 1922 book *History of Woman Suffrage, 1900-1920* published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, was led by "liquor interests," specifically Senator W. W. Dunn, who happened to be the attorney for St. Paul's Hamm's Brewing Company. When the 18th

Amendment (Prohibition) passed nationally in January of 1919, the alcohol issue was settled and Woman Suffrage could finally be considered on its own merit. That year, the Minnesota Legislature had a profound change of heart, approving the Woman Suffrage amendment 100 to 28 in the House and 49 to 7 in the Senate. Woman's Suffrage was passed in Minnesota, North Dakota, and nationwide only after Prohibition took the divisive issue of alcohol off the table.

5: Women were not alone. Not all Suffrage supporters were women. Five of the 26 names listed by MWSA were men. Emil Lambert and August Narveson were both Scandinavian-born bachelor farmers who were members of the MWSA. The 1916 *Clay County Illustrated* booster periodical described Lambert as "one of the progressive farmers of Moorhead township who has always been too busy to find a wife." His name is on a list of 11 people statewide who offered to distribute Suffrage literature. The other three men on the list fall under the category of politicians: State Senator F. H. Peterson, State Representative and Rollag-area farmer Solomon P. Anderson, and Clerk of Court Grovenor McCubrey. McCubrey, who was a Barnesville grocer before moving to Moorhead, was the widowed father of educated daughters, a teacher and a Moorhead Public Librarian. He was listed as one of the 135 members of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage in Minnesota and would be our state senator a decade after the 19th Amendment passed. In the decade leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment, Clay County consistently sent Suffrage-supporting politicians to St. Paul. Moorhead's F. H. Peterson was one of the state's strongest Woman's Suffrage advocates, and the cause could also count on the votes of S. P. Anderson and Knud Wefald, both members of the Suffrage-supporting Non Partisan League.

6: Almost all suffragists were active in World War I. The Woman's Suffrage Movement was growing like a snowball rolling down a Red River dike in the 1910s, and then came the event that changed human history more than probably any other: World War I. In the four years of slaughter that spanned the world, the empires and nation-states asked their citizens to go above and beyond the call of duty both in the armed forces and on the home front. The people of Clay County, including our Suffragists, turned their attention to "Doing their bit" for the war effort. In the 1919 book *In the World War: Clay County, Minnesota*, 60% of the 25 families on our list were mentioned by name for their participation in the local war effort.

The most important American home front organization was the Red Cross. The strength of the Red Cross was due to its ability to employ the energy and enthusiasm of American women and by being one of the few organizations that offered leadership positions to women. The Red Cross focused on running and supplying hospitals as well as connecting soldiers with home-made sweaters, socks and care packages. Nationally, the Red Cross grew from 16,708 members in 1914 to over 20 million members in 1918. Clay County formed at least 35 chapters, including chapters in every town and rural township, several churches, and various other clubs. These chapters raised money to pay for hospitals overseas and in the states, and they also cranked out the products to fill these hospitals. Bessie Lewis' daughter Flora was the chairman of the Red Cross activities at the Moorhead Normal School, which boasted more than 200 members. Edith Godfrey, Jennie Briggs, Anna Costain, and Bessie Lewis were all members of Moorhead's First Congregational Church Red Cross Auxiliary. Future League chairman Lucy Sheffield organized the making of surgical dressings (bandages) for the Red Cross volunteers at the Rector's Guild of St. John the Divine. Of Sheffield's group, the book *In the War: Clay County, Minnesota* noted, "These women were active in every line of war activity known in Clay County. They worked tirelessly for the Liberty Loans, for Belgian Relief, for Salvation Army and Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. – in fact every war agency was given a push toward victory by the Rector's Guild." This high praise could apply to many local Red Cross groups.

Marguerita Garrity was chosen to head the Hospital Supplies Committee, organizing the collection of bandages and other knit supplies from individuals and auxiliaries across Clay County and sending them to the Northern Division Headquarters in Minneapolis (Clay County would send 24,576 articles during the war). She resigned the post about the time she married, but her husband James was very active in home front activities, leading the Knights of Columbus' Liberty Loan drive and giving patriotic speeches as a "4 Minute Man" at theaters, picnics, or wherever people might need a jolt of war fever. Few if any local families were more active than MWSA chairman Esther Russell and her husband William, a prominent attorney. Esther Russell was chairman of the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense for Clay County and led the Food Administration's efforts to help families preserve and conserve food at home. William Russell was chairman of the War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamp Committees, and Vice Chairman of the Liberty Loan executive committee (the chairman of that

committee was Anna Costain's husband Arthur). Edna Stadum, wife of a Glyndon and Barnesville Banker, sold Liberty Bonds during the war and became the treasurer of the League of Women Voters after it. The leading families of each American community were expected to be leaders in the war effort.

Several Suffragists had sons or husbands in the war. Anna Gates' son Dewey is currently highlighted in our exhibition *War, Flu and Fear: Clay County in World War I* for rescuing a wounded soldier in No Man's Land and Charlotte Stoddard's daughter Margaret left Moorhead Normal School to serve as a nurse in an army hospital. And while our Suffragists may have turned their attention toward the important war work at hand, they did not let up on winning the vote. Throughout the war, Suffragists picketed the White House, pointing out the hypocrisy of President Wilson "fighting for democracy" abroad and ignoring democracy at home. Edith Darrow Godfrey's cousin, Fargo's Mary Darrow Weible, protested for Suffrage in front of the White House in 1917.

When the war was won, Americans looked back at leading roles women played. They supplied their sons and husbands as soldiers, and with their own hands they supplied the socks on their feet and the bandages that saved their lives. They organized fundraising efforts to pay for the war. Ten thousand American women served as nurses in this war. When they asked for the vote, how could they be denied? The final passage of the 19th Amendment was the culmination of decades of work by Suffragists and the final victory was thanks to many reasons, but the fact that the amendment was sent out to the states six months after the guns fell silent and three weeks before the Treaty of Versailles was signed suggests World War I had something to do with convincing the average (male) voter that it was wrong to deny women the vote.

So, to conclude, I think it's important to ask the following: Was Clay County's participation in the Women's Suffrage Movement really anything interesting? As far as I can tell, without a doubt. It has been nothing short of fascinating to find out what women in Greater Minnesota did to advance the cause, and it is only right to give credit to the women in our community who worked to make sure the rights enshrined in our nation's founding documents were bestowed upon all Americans, regardless of their gender. It is altogether fitting and proper to give credit to the women and men who, a century ago, worked to wake their nation up to the self-evident truth that men and women are created equal.



News from the Comstock House

Comstock Fall Tour Hours

Fall hours have begun at the historic Comstock House, which means tours will only be offered during scheduled events or by appointment. Please contact HCSCC director of operations Emily Kulzer at (218) 291-4211 or emily.kulzer@hcsmuseum.org to schedule a tour.

Pumpkin Carving & Costume Swap

On **Saturday, October 5**, from 1:00PM to 3:00PM, we're hosting a free pumpkin-carving party and costume swap. Pumpkins, carving tools, and some tasty fall treats will be provided. Your pumpkins then remain at the Comstock House to brighten the neighborhood's Halloween spirit. Those interested in the costume swap should bring clean, gently used costumes.

While the event and materials are offered for FREE, we do ask those who are interested to reserve a spot online, so we know just how many pumpkins to have on hand. We'll also have some extra available for walk-ins.



Halloween Flashlight Tours

We're getting into the spooky, holiday spirit with two nights of flashlight tours on **Thursday, October 10**, and **Thursday, October 17**. Two sets of 90-minute tours will be offered each night, at 7:00PM and 8:30PM, with the lights off and flashlights in hand. Visitors are accompanied by tour guides who will illuminate different artifacts and architectural features for an intimate and focused Halloween exploration. Some of the usual off-limit spaces will be explored as well, including the closets, attic, and basement. Each tour is limited to 10 people, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission for the event is \$10 (\$5 for MNHS and HCSCC members). Tickets may be reserved via our website.

HCSCC Wine Class Becomes Victorian Gothic Dinner at the Comstock House

On **Thursday, October 24**, we host a Victorian Gothic wine class and dinner from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Our menu comes from Moorhead's Grand Pacific Hotel restaurant, Sam Wai's wines will offer the perfect complement, and our program explores the Victorian Gothic frontier in Moorhead.

Admission is \$100 and reservations will be accepted beginning Thursday, October 3, at 9:00AM. Please contact HCSCC Administrative Assistant Lynelle Martin with payment and the size of your party. Attendance is limited to the first 16 reservations.

Looking Ahead to Christmas

The Comstock House will take a break from our Halloween offerings in December, as we move into Christmas mode. Please join us **Thursday, December 5**, and **Thursday, December 19** for our Victorian Christmas Traditions Tours. On **Saturday, December 14**, we host our big event, Christmas with the Comstocks. More details will follow in our eNewsletters and social media.

HCSCC Fall 2019 Calendar

A Suffrage Centennial and Pie Social

Sunday, September 8, 1:00PM - 4:00PM

Comstock House (Free)

at the Hjemkomst Center in the event of bad weather

German Kulturfest

Saturday, September 14, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (\$10 / Members/Kids: Free)

Civil Liberties & the Great War

Tuesday, September 17, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Excavating Whiskey:

The Archaeology of Moorhead Saloons

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

History on Tap!

Junktoberfest

Wednesday, September 25, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Junkyard Brewing Company (Free)

Florence Klingensmith: Clay County Aviatix

Wednesday, September 25, 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Moorhead Public Library (Free)

OPENING RECEPTION

America's Monsters, Superheroes, & Villains

Tuesday, October 1, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Wear a Costume!

Pumpkin Carving and Costume Swap

Saturday, October 5, 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Comstock House (Free)

History on Tap!

Local Monsters

Monday, October 7, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Junkyard Brewing Company (Free)

Halloween Flashlight Tours

Thursday, October 10, 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Comstock House (\$10 / Members: \$5)

Of Light & Darkness: German Expressionism

Tuesday, October 15, 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Halloween Flashlight Tours

Thursday, October 17, 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Comstock House (\$10 / Members: \$5)

WINE CLASS: A Diabolical Victorian Gothic Dinner

Thursday, October 24, 6:30PM - 9:00PM

Comstock House (\$100)

Reservations open at 9:00AM on Thursday, October 3

1 Book, 1 Community Author Talk

Keith O'Brien, *Fly Girls*

Monday, October 28, 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Fargo Air Museum (Free)

The Hjemkomst Monster Ball

Tuesday, October 29, 5:00PM - 9:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (\$50/\$20/Free)

History on Tap!

Scandinavian Drinking Culture

Monday, November 4, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Junkyard Brewing Company (Free)

Pangea – Cultivate Our Cultures

Saturday, November 16, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

"We Are Afraid": Spanish Flu in Clay County

Tuesday, November 19, 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

WINE CLASS: Alsace

Thursday, November 21, 6:30PM - 9:00PM

Comstock House (\$50)

Reservations open at 9:00AM on Thursday, October 31

OPENING RECEPTION

FMVA's Monsters, Marvels, & Memorabilia

Tuesday, November 26, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Want to Reserve Seats for HCSCC Events?

Perfect! Go to www.hcscconline.org, click on the 'Visit Us' tab on the top drop menu, then click on 'Events'! Alternatively, follow us on Facebook and reserve your seats through our Facebook events!

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

PO Box 157 • 202 1st Avenue North

Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



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

GERMAN

KULTURFEST

Saturday, September 14  **10:00AM - 4:00PM**