

# The Hourglass



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## HCSCC's Annual Meeting: The Tree Top Revisited

On Thursday, May 4, HCSCC will be holding its annual meeting at the Hjemkomst Center with a theme celebrating a piece of Moorhead's dining past and highlighting our own Rex Cafe chef Kelly Wambach's culinary history: Tree Top Revisited. As the former executive chef of the Tree Top, which once overlooked the Red River from Center Avenue, Kelly's excited to indulge in our local history, and everyone else here at HCSCC is excited to enjoy the results.

In addition to serving Tree Top favorites like the Chicken Oscar and Bourbon Pork Fettuccini (along with potatoes au gratin, a vegetable duet, Caesar salad, and cherries jubilee), we'll be electing board members, presenting the Clay County Heritage Award to the Bergquist and Comstock families for their ongoing efforts to preserve Clay County history, and listening to Dr. Paul Harris's history, "Solomon Comstock: Gilded Age Politician."



Tree Top advertisement, about 1983 (Jon Frantsovog)

We'll also have piano tunes from Helen Olson throughout dinner, a cash bar all night (including a Tree Top throwback: the piano bar), and a full evening of celebrating local history at the Hjemkomst Center.

Just like the Tree Top, however, you **MUST** have reservations; so **please RSVP with your payment no later than Thursday, April 20**. Tickets for this year's meeting are \$20 (members) or \$25 (non-members).

Contact our new HCSCC Administrative Assistant Lynelle Martin by phone at (218) 299-5511, ext 6739, or email at [lynelle.martin@hcsmuseum.org](mailto:lynelle.martin@hcsmuseum.org); or register online at our website to reserve your seats!



The Tree Top Lounge, about 1965 (Richard Conti)



(Sisu, p 8)

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

# HCSCC News

## President's Message From John Dobmeier



Greetings to you all,

Wow, what a busy time of the year we've found ourselves in. In high school land we are registering for AP exams, hoping for a state championship in hockey, and trying to figure out where exactly this academic year has gone.

My other life (as HCSCC Board President) is every bit as exciting as my time with my kids, and it truly is a great time to be a member of our historical society. Yes, I am speaking of the spectacular exhibition *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible*, on display from October 2 to December 31 this year, and right now the Hjemkomst Center has a Santa's workshop feel to it.

On Tuesday, March 21, we will have a major fundraiser for the exhibition. A great meal from our own Rex Cafe will be centered around a silent auction and an introduction to this fantastic exhibition. Details of how to reserve your place for this festive evening are in this edition of *The Hourglass*, so please read on.

Additionally, on Thursday, May 4, we will once again be hosting our annual meeting at the Hjemkomst Center. Please consider joining us for this annual event. Kelly will be serving dishes from the recipe files of the famed Tree Top Restaurant, and an exciting program with awards, and what sounds like a really great keynote from Dr. Paul Harris, is planned.

In closing I would like to wish you all good fortune and good health as we enjoy the hallmarks of spring and leave the snow, cold, and bad roads behind us.

Thank you all for your support.

~ John Dobmeier, HCSCC Board President

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## Please Send Us Your Addresses!

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to [Lynelle.Martin@hcsmuseum.org](mailto:Lynelle.Martin@hcsmuseum.org) to make sure you receive all the up-to-date information from us!



[www.facebook.com/hcsccl](https://www.facebook.com/hcsccl)



[www.instagram.com/hcsccl\\_hjemkomst](https://www.instagram.com/hcsccl_hjemkomst)

# HCSCC News

## The Foods of the Bible: A Saint John's Bible Fundraiser Tuesday, March 21 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

This fall we will be hosting one of the biggest exhibitions in our history, *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible*. The exhibition features 68 original pages of calligraphed and hand-illuminated calfskin vellum that have toured only a handful of U.S. locations on their way to a permanent home at a new gallery built in Collegeville, MN.

The Minnesota project highlights a world of many faiths, cultures, and perspectives; it seeks to bring inclusivity, community, and compassion to the forefront of our arts, histories, and faiths; and we are incredibly fortunate to share it with our community.



To help defray the expenses associated with hosting an exhibition of this magnitude, we are holding a fundraiser to share our goals for the project and spread the good word. The event will feature a silent auction, cash bar, open museum tours, and an introduction to *The Saint John's Bible*. We will also be sharing a fantastic meal by the Rex Cafe, featuring a selection of foods from the Bible.

We are suggesting a donation of \$50 and asking attendees to RSVP by Tuesday, March 14. To reserve a seat, call us at (218) 299-5511, ext. 6739, or email us at [sjb@hccsmuseum.org](mailto:sjb@hccsmuseum.org).

## Event Registration Now Online

To purchase tickets or reserve seats for any of our events, go to our website, [www.hcscconline.org](http://www.hcscconline.org), and click on the Event Registration tab on the top menu. The link will lead you to our Eventbrite calendar.

## Newsletter Archives Online

Want to check out our archives? You can, and it's easy!

Go to our website, [www.hcscconline.org](http://www.hcscconline.org), and use the research link to find the newsletter archive.

## Another Batch of *History on Tap!* at Junkyard Brewing Company

On Monday nights this spring, HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger will resume his popular *History On Tap!* talks at Junkyard Brewing Company. At 6:00PM on the dates listed below, you can learn more about Prohibition-era Clay County from the research that brought you our current exhibition, *Wet & Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1871-1937*. Admission is still free, but we encourage you to buy something at the bar and support both local brew and local history!

March 20

How to Get a Drink Around Here During Prohibition

April 3

Blind Pigs, Bootleggers, and the Birth of Bars

April 10

Red River Rum Runners

April 17

Local Moonshiners and How they Made It

April 24

Wild West Moorhead

May 1

Cocktails and Rip Gizzard: Local Drinks of Prohibition

## Viking Connection Sets Sail



We are excited and proud to announce a new subsidiary of HCSCC: Viking Connection.

Directed by former HCSCC staffer Tim Jorgensen, Viking Connection will serve as a hub supporting and promoting Old Norsefolk arts in the Midwest, and developing Midwest Viking Festival, which takes place this year on Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24.

Viking Connection was made possible in part by the generosity of Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. For more information, visit [www.vikingconnection.org](http://www.vikingconnection.org).



# Message from Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason

It's all about gratitude, my friends.

In the first two weeks of the new year, I noted that our guest book registered visitors from Florida, Ohio, Idaho, Mississippi, California, Iowa, Washington, Puerto Rico, and Ghana, as well as the many folks from ND and MN. That observation made me reflect on the most fun aspect of our work here: sharing local history and cultural heritage with people who are not from around here. Our mission focuses on collecting and preserving Clay County, MN's rich and fascinating past, and we revel in the pleasure of interpreting and sharing the stories with everyone.

But our work is not possible without a lot of outside support. We are blessed with generous members who also give donations and donors who give but are not members. For the last few years, we have included in the December newsletter a list of all our **members**. Well, I messed that up by missing a few (hundred) members, and so we had to send out an addendum. Even then, a few more slipped by. I have included an apology below. Also traditional for the last few years is including in the March newsletter the long list of people who have given donations through the past year, and so you will find the list of **donors** (not members) this time.

To say that we are grateful for the generosity of all our donors is an understatement. Since donations are a

necessity to our being able to accomplish all we do all year, I cannot overemphasize how very much we do indeed appreciate the extra gifts from individuals and businesses that help sustain us.

In particular, 2016 proved to be a bit of an economic challenge with the 1st Ave. Bridge closed for five months. That seemed to discourage more locals than tourists, but surely the additional closures on 8th street deterred at least a few travelers. To our deep gratitude, generous donors gave extra gifts to keep us going. The summer request was answered with new donations from members donating for the first time. So many of you also responded to our end-of-year request that we were able to make up the shortfall and end in good shape for 2016 in spite of the obstacles.

Recently, we participated in Giving Hearts Day for the first time. It turned out to be so much fun to watch the donations come in one by one starting with a member at 2am and not ending until 11pm. We had the most fun with donors who stopped in to donate – whether it was to write a check or to get help making a donation online. It was great to put faces with some of the names of members and donors and we ended up raising \$7200 on Giving Hearts Day!

As I said, we couldn't be more grateful!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

## Missing Members:

All 190 of the Basic Members were accidentally left off of the December newsletter, and so a list of them was sent out separately immediately after the December newsletter. For anyone whose name we did not include in either the December newsletter or the follow-up correction, we are truly sorry and we sincerely thank you.

## Consider the Gift of Membership

Are you a member of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County? Do you have family or friends who might be interested? Sign up or renew your membership today! We have several membership levels to choose from:

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

To sign up or to learn more about what each membership level offers, visit our website ([www.hcscconline.org](http://www.hcscconline.org)) and click on the “Join, Support, Shop” tab at the top menu to either download a membership form or pay online. For more information, you can also contact HCSCC Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason at ( 218) 299.5511, extension 6732, or by email at [maureen.jonason@hcsmuseum.org](mailto:maureen.jonason@hcsmuseum.org). Thank you for your support!

# Exhibits & Events at HCSCC

**Art and Science with Inspire Innovation Lab**  
*Saturday, April 8 / 1:00PM - 4:00PM*

**InspireLab** Local nonprofit Inspire Innovation Lab will be at the Hjemkomst Center on the afternoon of Saturday, April 8, leading young visitors through several art and science workshops focused on our current exhibition, *Focus On the Process: The Art, History, and Science of Photographic Printing*. The STEM-focused after-school organization will highlight the art and chemistry of the exhibition.

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**History and Heritage:**  
**Celebrating 125 Years of Concordia College**  
*Heritage Hall (March 18 - June 10)*

Chronicling the long, storied past of one of Moorhead's oldest institutions, this exhibition celebrates the history of Concordia College, honoring the people, traditions, and stories that have shaped it since its 1891 founding on the site of Bishop Whipple School.

Concordia's history and heritage are featured in a variety of media in the exhibition, including text panels, films, interactive digital components, artifacts, audio, and fun photo ops for visitors of all ages.

**\*\*A reception** will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center. The reception is free to HCSCC members and active Concordia students and faculty. Cobber alumni will be admitted for \$5 and regular admission applies to the general public. Refreshments will be served.

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**Focus on the Process: The Art, History, and Science of Photographic Printing**  
*4th Floor Gallery (January - April 9)*

Supported in part by grants from Lake Region Arts Council through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation and The Arts Partnership, Dr. Ken Andersen and intern Louis Zurn demonstrate the fascinating history of photography by showcasing a collection of prints using materials, techniques, and technologies spanning centuries and global cultures.

Juxtaposing Andersen's stunning images with both photographs and narratives documenting and describing their creation, we bring you the art, history, and science of photographic printing.

**Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists BIG Show**  
*4th Floor Gallery (April 17 - June 9)*

One of our community's major arts organizations, FMVA, fills the 4th Floor Gallery with locally-produced art every spring, offering a unique and current glimpse into the artistic minds of Fargo-Moorhead. As with years passed, this year's BIG Show features arts educators, emerging artists, and established masters and their work is presented with artistic statements describing their inspirations and techniques.

**\*\*A reception** will be held on Tuesday, April 18, from 5:00 to 7:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center. The reception is free and open to the public, and it offers a fantastic opportunity to celebrate local art. Refreshments will be served.

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**Wet & Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1871-1937**  
*Heritage Hall (through January 8, 2018)*

On April 25, 1872, Dan "Slim Jim" Shumway shot and killed Shang Stanton inside a saloon in Moorhead, MN, a small tent town on the edge of the Northern Pacific Railroad. In response to the angry mob demanding justice, local merchant Jim Blanchard was tasked with arresting Shumway, and a local railroad laborer with a law degree, Solomon Comstock, was tasked with prosecuting him. The two became Clay County's first sheriff and attorney and their story marked only the beginning of the wild and sordid history of alcohol in our community.

From Moorhead's early days as that tent town on the edge of dry Dakota Territory to the moments after the 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition, *Wet & Dry, Alcohol in Clay County* features the real rum runners, bootleggers, blind pigs, moonshiners, Temperance debates, gangs, and bank robberies of Clay County.

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**Hopperstad Stave Church Open for Tours**  
*(April 1 - December 31, 2017)*

The Hopperstad Stave Church will be open again for tours after its winter closure.

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**Comstock House Open for Saturday Tours**  
*(Saturdays, 1:00PM - 4:00PM)*

The Comstock House is now open regularly for Saturday tours and during the week by appointment.



Ready to take on riders. The brand new Big Slipper awaits customers in south Moorhead, August 1968. *The Red River Scene* newspaper article accompanying this photo warned kids that “a German Shepherd will be kept inside the fence to guard the slide at night.” It was likely a ruse. Mike Beaton, son of owner Jim Beaton, could remember no such pooch. (August, 1968. Red River Scene Collection)

# The Big Slipper

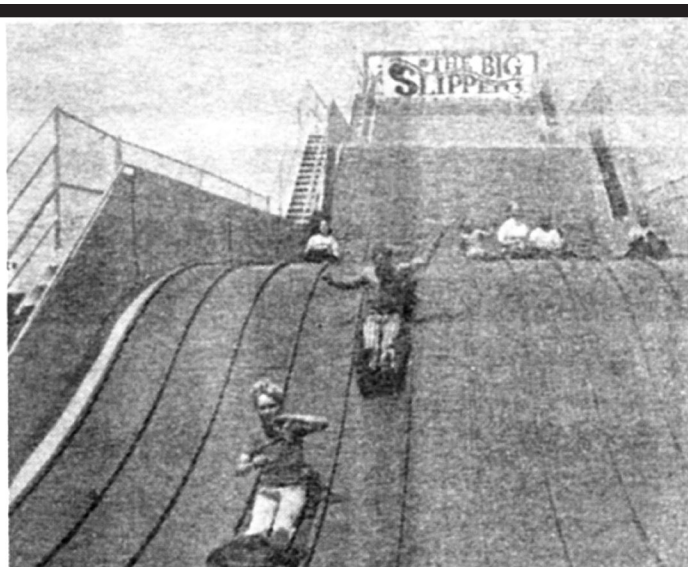
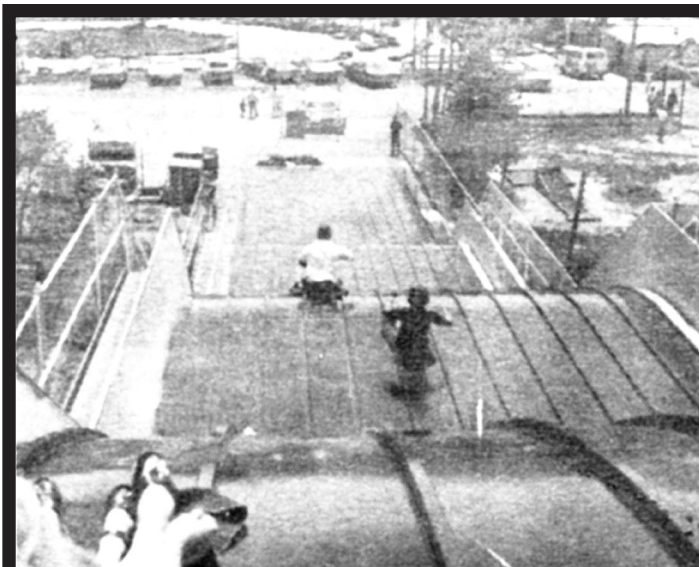
By Mark Peihl

Fifty years ago, Moorhead kids occupied their time by listening to top-40 music on KQWB radio, scarfing burgers at Autodine or necking at the Moonlite Drive Inn. But August 3, 1968 brought a new amusement diversion: the Big Slipper opened in south Moorhead. Within days, hundreds of kids had lined up for a stomach-flipping ride on burlap bags down the giant metal slide. The Big Slipper proved a major hit.

Early the previous year, California entrepreneur Fred Pittroff was searching for something to attract people to state and county fairs. His wife Beverly came up with the idea for a big slide, a sort of playground slide on steroids. They surveyed a big, back-yard style slide in Santa Cruz, California, and came up with a new design. They installed their first Big Slide (The Big Slipper goes by a few names, including Big Slide, Giant Slide, State Fair Slide, etc) at the Orange Show in San Bernardino, California, in 1967. It proved so popular the Pittroffs built 46 more slides over the next five years.

One of the earliest was in Moorhead. Fargo insurance agency manager Vincent Crary saw a slide on a trip out west, and on his return, he told beverage wholesaler Jim Beaton, “We gotta get one of these things here.” The two bought and installed the 35-foot-tall slide in the Holiday Mall parking lot, on what is now the southwest corner of 10th St and 24th Ave S, at a cost of \$43,700. The rides ran 10 cents each or three for a quarter. A big spender could spring for 15 rides for a dollar. The 153-foot ride took seven seconds. On humid days, the ride ran slower. Pieces of sailcloth replaced the burlap for a faster ride.

Jim’s son, Mike Beaton, worked on the Slipper when it was at the mall, and part of his job was waxing the slide. Mike said he and other kids would place waxed paper under the burlap bags and take a few runs. For extra speed, they’d apply a coating of Dance Wax, powered wax designed to smooth dance floors. Dance wax made the ride very fast—too fast at times, in fact, with riders careening off the end of the run.



Andy Granfor had the Big Slipper at his brother Bud's Amusement Center on US Highway 10 for a few years in the early 1970s. It proved very popular for a time.  
(Brochure, Bud's Amusement Park, Moorhead, ca: early 1970s)

The slide remained at the Holiday Mall location for two summers. Unfortunately, the mall next door had an oil-fired heating system. As the temperature cooled, the furnace put out an oily exhaust. In short, it became difficult to keep the slide clean.

Crary and Beaton sold the Big Slipper to Anthony "Andy" Granfor, brother of Bud's Amusement Center owner, Bud Granfor. Bud's Amusement Center was a Moorhead institution on US Highway 10 for 32 years, from 1962 to 1993. It featured go-karts, a driving range, a petting zoo, and a roller rink. Bud and Andy moved the slide to a location just west of today's Suzuki of Fargo-Moorhead. The Big Slipper proved a great attraction for a few years, but eventually "it just lost its appeal," Bud told me.

Around 1972, Tom Tutin bought the Big Slipper to add to his "Kiddie Land" in Detroit Lakes, another community institution that Gus Forsythe had opened on Washington Avenue in 1957. Tom Tutin bought the place ten years later. Kiddie Land featured a Ferris wheel, boats, bumper cars, mini golf, and a carousel. The rides appealed to smaller children, but the Big Slipper added something that parents could enjoy with their kids. To accommodate those older riders in Detroit Lakes, customers rode on burlap "sliding bags" that they could put their feet in.

Tom recently told me the ride was very popular, but getting the speed right was critical. On humid days, the ride ran slowly. Wax made it faster. But on dry

days, folks slid too fast. Tom had to apply rosin or sand to slow things down.

The design was problematic as well. When I mentioned to Mike Beaton that I rode the slide at the Holiday Mall many times, Mike asked me "How many times did you bruise your tailbone on that last jump?" The slide featured three bumps and was steep and fast. Riders often went airborne on the last jump. Fred Pittroff built his later slides longer, less steep and with more jumps resulting in a slower, gentler ride. The metal slide could get uncomfortably hot in the summer sun for those wearing shorts.

Tom Tuttin closed Kiddie Land in 1996 and the rides went into storage. The Big Slipper remained up until Tom sold the property to a condominium developer. The new owner presumably scrapped the big slide.

In 2014 Tom sold his Ferris wheel and the rest of his rides to Richard Sherbrooke of Cormorant, MN. Richard has lovingly restored the rides and has them open for kids to enjoy on summer days just outside Cormorant Village.

You can still get your Big Slipper fix, however, at many locations across the country, including at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. It's one of three slides the Pittroff family still manages.

But leave your dimes at home. Today, a ride will set you back two bucks.



Sisu (Traveling Sauna, 2016)

# Sisu: The Traveling Sauna By Markus Krueger

Finland turns 100 years old this year and we'll be celebrating the occasion with them the best way we know how: free saunas in Viking Ship Park.

The people of Finland want to share their birthday festivities with Finnish Americans, friends of Finns, and all of the Finns at heart, so they built a sauna (pronounced: sow-na), they're taking it on a roadtrip across the country, and its name is Sisu, a wonderful Finnish word that combines bravery, hardiness, strength, stoicism, and sometimes a dash of reckless stupidity that can be a whole lot of fun.

The American tour of Sisu the Traveling Sauna begins and ends in Minnesota, the most Finnish of all states. It was launched outside Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and the event was presided over by the Minnesota Orchestra's famous Finnish music director Osmo Vänskä and the Finnish ambassador to the U.S., Kirsti Kauppi.

We're fortunate that they chose us to be part of the celebration because it sounds like a lot of fun and it certainly fits the Nordic celebration we hold every day here at the Hjemkomst Center.

Sisu the Traveling Sauna will arrive in Moorhead on Friday, April 28, and get fired up down by the Red River in Viking Ship Park by the Hjemkomst Center. From 4:00 to 8:00PM on Friday and 10:00AM to 4:00PM on Saturday, you can celebrate the Finnish Centennial with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, the Red River Finns, Nordic Culture Clubs, Folkways, and the fine Finns behind Sisu.

Have a free sauna, play some Mõlkky (our favorite Finnish lawn game), throw a rubber boot (you'll find out why when you get here), listen to Finnish music courtesy of Suomi Rosvot and Paula Larsen, eat some Finnish baked goods, and get introduced to Fargo's very own mobile sauna: Log, the Traveling Sauna (a Folkways production).

With you there, this will be the most exciting Finnish celebration since St. Urho chased the grasshoppers out of Finland and saved the wine industry! Have a sauna and show us your sisu!

Note: For those interested in following Sisu's quirky national tour, check out their Facebook page. "Traveling Sauna" in the search bar should do it!



# History On Tap!

By Davin Wait

## A Marriage of Local History and Local Beer

Back by popular demand, HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger will be doing another season of *History on Tap!* at Junkyard Brewing Company, starting Monday, March 20, and continuing Monday nights (with a break) this spring. The first round generated a lot of buzz around town when it began last November--doubling the Moorhead brewery's usual crowd and prompting Spotlight Media to designate the talks as one of their "Things To Do in 2017" in *Fargo by Fargo*--and Markus is ready for a chaser.

Of course, it didn't take that initial response to see the value of this kind of community programming. One of the primary motivations for these talks last fall was the fact that HCSCC staff found so many tremendous stories about our local community while compiling the research for *Wet & Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1871-1937*. Now, that's expected when you try to cram about 70 years of juicy county history, sometimes stretching across the Red River, onto only half of the walls in Heritage Hall; but it's a completely different monster when the subject includes Prohibition-era Clay County, which is exactly what Markus talks about in *History On Tap!*

"When we think of speakeasies, most of us think of New York gangsters, maybe Al Capone, and mountain moonshiners. And when I first started this research, I quickly found out that all those things that sounded like they came out of a crime movie came right out of Clay County, too. The same things, but with our own local spin."

Needless to say, it was easy for Markus to get lost in

his research, from the drama of Jake Schumacher's evolution from butcher to Moorhead gangster through the adventure of the Sabin bank robbery to the simple humor of how obviously the law was bent and broken

**FEATURING TALKS BY LOCAL HISTORIAN MARKUS KRUEGER ABOUT PROHIBITION AND BOOZE IN THIS AREA**

**AT JUNKYARD BREWING CO. MONDAYS AT 6:00**

**MARCH 20TH**  
HOW TO GET A DRINK AROUND HERE DURING PROHIBITION

**APRIL 3RD**  
BLIND PIGS, BOOTLEGGERS, AND THE BIRTH OF BARS

**APRIL 10TH**  
RED RIVER RUM RUNNERS

**APRIL 17TH**  
LOCAL MOONSHINERS AND HOW THEY MADE IT

**APRIL 24TH**  
WILD WEST MOORHEAD

**MAY 1ST**  
COCKTAILS AND "RIP GIZZARD": LOCAL DRINKS OF PROHIBITION (WITH RECIPES)

CHECK OUT THE "WET AND DRY" EXHIBIT AT THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY FOR MORE ON THIS SUBJECT!

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY

JUNKYARD BREWING COMPANY

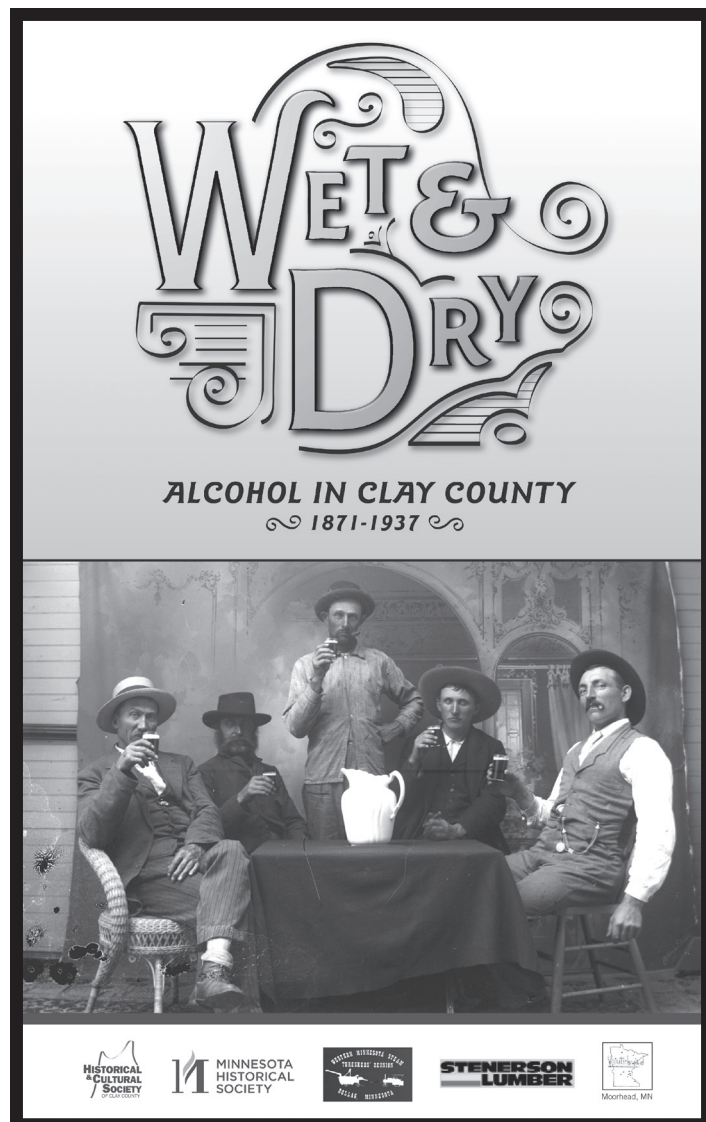
\*If you've never been, try the Peanut Butter Bandit and bring a friend: we'll be selling memberships.

## A Few More Notes on Local Brew

Brothers Aaron and Dan Juhnke of Hawley were only in their 20s when they opened up Junkyard Brewing Company in North Moorhead. The carpenter-turned-brewer brothers did most of the work themselves to convert an old honeybee warehouse into a tavern, down to welding the surprisingly comfortable metal barstools. Just three years later, they have gained a reputation for making some of the most exciting experimental beer anywhere and about the biggest problem they're running into is trying to make enough beer to satisfy the demand in their tap house. Like most of the brewers I've met, they love history, especially the history of their craft.

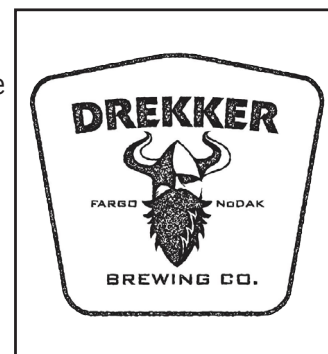
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We'd also be remiss to discuss our thriving local beer scene and fail to congratulate our friends, fellow HSCCC members, and Clay County kids brewing across the Red River at Drekker Brewing Company.



The Viking brewers are enjoying their recent prize from the Beer Dabbler Winter Carnival: the Lord Dabbler's Cup. Out of 150 participating breweries, they received the most votes for best brewery at the festival.

Interestingly, the Fargo brewers have an even closer connection to our organization, too: Drekker Brewing Company was founded by four friends from Moorhead and Barnesville, and their brewery's Viking theme is inspired in part by the *Hjemkomst* story. In fact, their Broken Rudder Irish Ale, Igor's Horn Black IPA, and their experimental Hopperstad Series all get their names from our humble historical society. They're a fantastic crew and they've been big supporters of local history, so stop in at their downtown Fargo location to congratulate them and see what all the fuss is about.



# The HCSCC Cookbook: A Call for Recipes



Kelly is continuing to gather recipes from now until Christmas, 2017, with the goal of assembling the first HCSCC Cookbook. He expects this to be a fun project, preserving and sharing our local food culture, as well as a great way to raise a few extra dollars in the Heritage Gift Shop for our general fund.

If you'd like to take part (and we hope you do!), please send your favorite recipes with a brief history of the food item. You can include recipes for any dish, as we anticipate sections on entrees, sides, desserts, appetizers, and beverages. If you prepare it and love it, send it our way! If you have any favorite cooking stories or old wives' tales, like the one from Kelly's Grandmother Maizie ("Always cut off the ends of a cucumber. They're poison you know!"), send those, too. Any household hints will be included along with a

special section devoted to heritage recipes--and please send those as they were originally written. We think it adds to the charm.

Submit as many recipes as you want and as often as you wish, by dropping them off at the Rex Cafe or the Heritage Gift Shop; emailing Kelly at [kelly.wambach@hcsmuseum.org](mailto:kelly.wambach@hcsmuseum.org); or mailing them to the following address:

**Recipe Call**  
**c/o The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County**  
**202 1st Avenue North**  
**Moorhead, MN 56560**

We will also need to name our cookbook. So let us know if you have any ideas. Let's get cookin'!

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## Hiram M. & Ada M. Drache Lecture Series: A Call for Papers

The Solomon G. Comstock House will be hosting a lecture series starting during the 2017-2018 school year. The series is named to honor Hiram M. and Ada M. Drache, fixtures in the Fargo-Moorhead community and longtime patrons of the humanities.

The Comstocks were ardent supporters of higher education and the Draches continue to be, so in their name we are looking for students of all disciplines to share their research with audiences in the home and historic site that these two families donated and preserved, respectively, in the name of local scholarship.

Student speakers selected for the series will receive a free one-year membership to the Minnesota Historical Society, a free one-year membership to the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, a \$50 honorarium, and a framed certificate that names them as a distinguished speaker of this series.

The requirements for eligibility are as follows:

Students must be of Junior standing or above at North Dakota State University, Concordia College, or Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Students must be in good academic standing at their institution, maintaining a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or above.

To apply to become a distinguished speaker of the Hiram M. and Ada M. Drache Lecture Series, please send a 150-200 word proposal on your chosen topic, as well as a short biography to Comstock House Manager and HCSCC Director of Operations Matt Eidem at [matt.eidem@hcsmuseum.org](mailto:matt.eidem@hcsmuseum.org).



# HCSCC Donors in 2016

Thank you to our donors (separate from our fantastic members) who gave gifts throughout 2016.

We are grateful beyond words for your generosity in supporting our efforts. Any accidental omissions are the result of mere human error and are not meant to reflect a lack of appreciation!

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## HCSCC Grants in 2016

Thank you to our granters who helped support our work in 2016.

### Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

\$300,000 for three years to develop a new Viking Connection program, supporting Viking folk artists with opportunities to teach, learn and preserve Viking folk arts

### Minnesota Historical Society

\$9935 to hire a graduate assistant to catalogue artifact backlog

\$7050 to research and write entries on Clay County for MNopedia

\$22,000 rolled over from 2015 to finish archive cataloguing project

\$35,000 to run the Comstock House

\$10,000 for the *Wet & Dry* exhibit

### Lake Region Arts Council

\$12,608 for audio description training and developing accessibility throughout the arts community

\$3000 for Laura Youngbird's *Manifestation* exhibition

\$1980 for German folk music at German Kulturfest

### ND Council on the Arts

\$3000 for audio description training of community arts leaders

### The Arts Partnership

\$4000 for arts programming

### Moorhead Rotary

\$500 for children's activities

### ND Council on the Arts

\$3000 for audio description training of community arts leaders

### Alex Stern Family Foundation

\$2,000 for *The Saint John's Bible* community art program

### Moorhead Public Service

\$1500 for festival marketing

### Fargo Human Relations Commission

\$500 for Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures programming

### Amazon Smiles on HCSCC



The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County is now a part of the Amazon Smile Program. If you shop on Amazon.com, visit Smile.Amazon.com, choose the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County as your charity, and let Amazon donate 2% of every purchase!

### Georgetown Farmers Elevator

**Georgetown Farmers Elevator  
 Supports Local History!**



## Orabel Thortvedt: Local Pioneer

Thursday, March 30 | 6:30PM-8:30PM

In honor of Women's History Month, Kaitlin Preusser, a senior at Concordia College and the first summer research fellow at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, will be discussing her summer research project based on the life of Orabel Thortvedt, one of the most influential Clay County pioneers.

Attendees will hear about Thortvedt's life, have a chance to tour the house, and enjoy coffee and baked goods from Red Raven Espresso Parlor.

Tickets are \$5, with HCSCC/MNHS members and Concordia Faculty/Students admitted for free, in honor of Margaret Callsen, whose bequest funded Kaitlin's summer fellowship.

## The Brave Women of World War I

Thursday, April 27 | 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Angela Beaton, NDSU graduate student and former HCSCC intern and staffer, will discuss the women of Clay County who served as nurses during World War I, a group that included Jessie Comstock, 100 years after the U.S. military entered the conflict

While American soldiers didn't join the fray until 1917, many Americans joined the Red Cross and the Army Nurse Corps in 1914, when war broke out, serving in a dangerous and exhausting conditions.

Admission is free for HCSCC/MNHS members and \$5 for everyone else. Admission includes light refreshments from Red Raven Espresso Parlor.

## Liars' Tours

Saturday, April 1 | 1:00PM-4:00PM

In celebration of historians' favorite holiday, April Fools' Day, we'll be holding Liars' Tours at the Comstock House during regular Saturday hours. Join us for some humor and see if you can catch the lies. They'll be coming fast.

## Want to Buy Tickets Online?

Perfect! Go to [www.hcscconline.org](http://www.hcscconline.org) and click on the "Event Registration" tab on the top menu. The link will bring to your online ticketing service, Eventbrite.

## Concordia Concerts @ The Comstock House

HCSCC and the Concordia Music Department will be continuing a partnership to bring music to Moorhead's historic Victorian mansion. The partnership is designed to better connect the talented student musicians in our community with local venues and audiences.

As Solomon Comstock was such a vocal advocate for higher education in Moorhead, we like to believe that he would approve of our area students being given this opportunity in the home that he built.

### Tuesday, March 14 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

The first Concordia Comstock Concert of the year will feature a cello and flute trio.

### Tuesday, April 11 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

The second Concordia Comstock Concert of the year will feature a student-led string quartet.

Concerts will begin at 7:00PM and doors open at 6:00PM. Admission includes tours before the show and light refreshments. Admission is \$5; free for HCSCC/MNHS members and Concordia students.

## Summer Comstock Programming: Yoga and Lawn Games

We'll be continuing yoga (Tuesdays) and lawn games (Thursdays) on the gorgeous Comstock lawn this summer. Be on the lookout for more details!

## **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.

**HCSCC members live across the U.S. and hold memberships for several reasons.**

**States marked in black indicate the scope of our fantastic membership!**

