

— The Hourglass —



Published by the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County | ISSN #: 2153-5876



On **Thursday, May 2**, HCSCC staff, directors, and members will convene at the Hjemkomst Center for the 2019 annual meeting — and you're invited!

The evening will begin with a 6PM social in the Hjemkomst Ship Gallery, dinner at 6:30PM, a short business meeting at 7:30PM, and an 8PM keynote from HCSCC Senior Archivist Mark Peihl entitled, "Florence 'Treetops' Klingensmith: Clay County Aviatrix." Dinner

will be provided by Concordia Catering, and the options are Chicken Moutarde or Salisbury Steak, served with parsley buttered potatoes, salad, and vegetables.

Please RSVP by contacting HCSCC Administrative Assistant Lynelle Martin by **Thursday, April 25**, with your guest number, dinner choice, and payment information (Members: \$25 // Non-Members: \$30). In the meantime, we'll look forward to seeing you!



(Mammoth, pg 14)

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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



Being history buffs can be great fun, whether we're researching family history or simply digging through old stories. It can also be frustrating at times. In my first two columns in this newsletter, I suggested some interesting places to start. In the first, I encouraged you to visit your local historical society. In Clay County a visit with Senior Archivist Mark Peihl, a virtual walking encyclopedia, can lead you to a wealth of knowledge. In the second piece, I suggested you try to travel to historic sites and countries of family origin to broaden your understandings.

But of course there are other options, too.

Family history searches should include visits to local, and sometimes remote, cemeteries. You'll find names, dates, and often more. A little walk around may even introduce you to your ancestor's friends and neighbors.

Visits with family elders is a must, and conversations with your family's neighbors and friends could be very rewarding. You might even learn more from those friends than the bits your family was willing to tell. Community, folklore, and oral traditions offer important perspectives on our histories.

Another source can be found in old letters, notes, and papers. Too often they're written off as "just junk," but I can attest to their value.

One of these letters was written by a Norwegian great-grandfather in 1918 and sent to his nephew serving in France. In the letter he writes about the great crop and the record price, about how he could pay his debts, buy new equipment and kitchen appliances, and still pocket a few dollars. The best crop year they'd ever experienced. He also wrote about his gratitude that none of his family had died from the Spanish Flu. His neighbors didn't fare so well. I treasure the history in this letter.

Another was written to my German grandfather in 1947 from a cousin in wartorn Germany. The cousin explains the desperate economic situation following the war and describes their hunger and the utter lacking of the most basic necessities. He requested "care packages." Unfortunately my grandfather had died several years earlier. The letter became an heirloom.

I encourage you to think about your own histories broadly, and to look for the materials of your past wherever you may find them.

- Jon Evert, HCSCC President



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HCSCC News & Events

A 'Holi' Closing Reception on March 31

Sunday, March 31, brings our final day of exhibiting *Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation*, so we're marking the occasion with a free Holi-inspired closing reception. A spring Hindu festival of colors, Holi falls this year on Thursday, March 21. We'll celebrate the occasion at the Hjemkomst Center on the 31st with an indoor reception at 4:00PM featuring food, drinks, and a brief lecture and folk dance; and we'll follow that with a bonfire and plenty of color outside in Viking Ship Park at 5:00PM. The event is free and open to the public.

Beyond Bollywood Programs Continue

Our wonderful and ambitious programming collaboration with the Indo-American Association of the Great Plains continues at 2:00PM on **Saturday, March 9**, with a free one-act play called *Living Beyond Bollywood*; the free finale of Ganapathy Mahalingham's 2-part exploration of Hinduism on **Tuesday, March 19** at 6:00PM; and our Holi closing reception at 4:00PM on **Sunday, March 31**.

Olson and Stark to Discuss Cartoons

This spring we open a new exhibition exploring the history of one of America's favorite mediums, *Lines with Power & Purpose: Editorial Cartoons*. The exhibition draws from The Melton Gallery collection of political newspaper cartoons at the University of Central Oklahoma and offers a wonderful survey of American political history. Local sponsor Forum Communications is helping us bring it to the Hjemkomst Center, and they're even going to lend us the talents of local *Forum* cartoonist Trygve Olson!

Join us for the opening reception of *Lines with Power & Purpose: Editorial Cartoons* on **Tuesday, March 26**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. Olson will deliver a keynote discussing his cartooning process. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Also please join us for a supplementary program featuring another *Forum* cartoonist: Steve Stark. On **Saturday, April 27**, he'll be sharing an animated history of political cartoons at 2:00PM in our Heritage Theater. The event is offered with regular museum admission (Members: Free). Refreshments will be provided.

FMVA BIG Art Show Reception

On **Tuesday, April 16**, we gather in celebration of local art and another wonderful year of collaboration with the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists (FMVA). The reason? The BIG Art Show! See art educators, art students, and both established and emerging professionals exhibit their newest pieces in our 4th Floor Gallery.

The opening reception will be held from 5:00PM to 8:00PM outside our offices near the Hjemkomst Center's 4th Floor Gallery. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Dr. Clifford Canku on U.S. - Dakota War POW Letters in May

Join us at 6:00PM on **Tuesday, May 21**, at the Hjemkomst Center when Dakota Studies professor and Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Elder Dr. Clifford Canku delivers a history of the 1862 U.S. - Dakota War and an introduction to his work translating the Dakota prisoner-of-war letters for his 2013 book, *Dakota Kaskapi Okicize Wowapi: The Dakota Prisoner of War Letters*.

Admission is free for the event, offered with support from the Science Museum of Minnesota and in conjunction with our current exhibition, *RACE: Are We So Different?*

Honoring 100 Years of Women's Suffrage with Dr. Deb White in June

On **Tuesday, June 4**, we're collaborating with the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley to commemorate 100 years — to the day — since the U.S. Senate passed the 19th Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification. MSUM sociologist, Moorhead Councilwoman, and NEW Leadership Northern Lights coordinator Dr. Deborah White will deliver a keynote.

The event will be held on the Comstock House lawn beginning at 6:00PM, and moved to the Hjemkomst Center in the event of bad weather. Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Hopperstad Tours Beginning April 1

We open the doors to the Hopperstad Stave Church and begin seasonal tours on **Monday, April 1**.



Letter from the Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason

As I write this, bitterly cold February winds are settling over the plains, reminding us that if we just hold on a little longer, it will soon be spring and we can breathe safely through our mouths again. Although it seems a long way off, I have become accustomed to time flying by at so rapid a pace that I expect to be coughing and sneezing my way through spring flowers in no time at all! Like most people around here, I love the changing seasons and with them the cues we take from them. With the New Year, we finished off our last fiscal year with the good news of financial stability.

Although we had no blockbuster like *The Saint John's Bible* exhibition in 2018, we exceeded budget goals in Admissions, Memberships, Gift Shop Sales, Special Events income and Unrestricted Donations and Grants. The generosity of our donors shines through and the March issue of our newsletter is where we get to say Thank you! again and acknowledge the generosity of our member-donors, our donors-only, and our grant funders.

Just what is the difference, people sometimes ask us. Members are people who commit to regular annual support by paying annual dues, only a portion of which is tax-deductible. Donors give HCSCC gifts that are 100% tax-deductible. Because members get concrete benefits such as access to the museum all year long, entrance to special events, a quarterly newsletter, a gift shop discount and, depending on your level of support, additional benefits, a monetary value must be assigned to those benefits and subtracted from the deductibility. Perhaps that is why so many of our members so generously also give us tax-deductible gifts in addition to their membership dollars.

This issue of your newsletter lists the DONORS (not members) who gave donations (not membership dues) to HCSCC in 2018. For your generosity, we are truly grateful and that is another reason that spring signals gratitude for me.

-MKJ



Suffragists parade in support of the 19th amendment following Woodrow Wilson's September 1918 endorsement. Join us as we mark the June 4, 1919, passage of the 19th Amendment on Tuesday, June 4, this summer.



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

FMVA BIG Art Show

4th Floor Gallery (April 12 through June 9)

For two months each spring, the work of the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists (FMVA) fills our 4th Floor Gallery. The art comes from educators, emerging artists, and established artists, and together offers one of the most comprehensive (and largest) local art shows in the region. Each piece is identified with artist statements reflecting each artist's influences and goals and each year brings new themes, media, and artists.

The exhibition is sponsored by our wonderful friends at The Arts Partnership, North Dakota Council on the Arts, and The Alex Stern Family Foundation.

Lines with Power and Purpose: Editorial Cartoons

Heritage Hall (March 25 through June 20)

On a daily basis, editorial cartoonists deliver biting social commentary made palatable through amusing and well-crafted illustration. *Lines with Power and Purpose: Editorial Cartoons* features 51 original cartoons from the nation's great newspapers, addressing major American events during the Golden Age of print journalism.

The exhibition is sponsored by Forum Communications Company and the National Endowment for the Arts; organized by ExhibitsUSA, a program from Mid-America Arts Alliance; and featuring cartoons from the University of Central Oklahoma's Melton Gallery.

A local supplement features a retrospective from veteran Fargo *Forum* cartoonist Trygve Olson.

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

Heritage Hall (through January, 2021)

In April 1917, Americans were thrust into the middle of 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. Throughout, Americans in 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.

RACE: Are We So Different?

3rd Floor Atrium (through June 9, 2019)

The Science Museum of Minnesota opened *Race: Are We So Different?* in 2007 with a central premise: talking about race is not easy, but it is necessary and valuable when it is informed by cultural and scientific evidence.

Explore this award-winning exhibition in the 3rd Floor atrium for FREE at the Hjemkomst Center through June 9.

Beyond Bollywood:

Indian Americans Shape the Nation

4th Floor Gallery (through March 31, 2019)

In the Western imagination, India conjures up everything from saris and spices to turbans and temples — and, likely, the action and melodrama of Bollywood movies. But the reality is that Indian American contributions stretch far beyond these stereotypes. From the builders of some of America's earliest railroads to Civil Rights pioneers to some of the leading minds in science and technology, Indian Americans have long been an inextricable part of American life. Today, one out of every 100 Americans traces their roots to India.

Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation, created in collaboration with the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center, explores the Indian American experience and the community's vital political, professional, and cultural contributions to American life. Local supplements highlight the Indian American experience in the Red River Valley, detailing their lives in Fargo-Moorhead since the first Indian pioneers came here in the 1960s for academic and medical positions.

The World in Fargo-Moorhead

3rd Floor Hallway Case (through May 31, 2019)

The World in Fargo-Moorhead has built community for years now as a collaborative photo and story project in the mold of the popular digital history project, "Humans of New York." However, instead of highlighting the human face of the Big Apple on Facebook and Instagram, the World in Fargo-Moorhead explores diversity in the Fargo-Moorhead area one person and one story at a time. A print exhibition from project managers The Human Family features these stories at the Hjemkomst Center.



W.H. Diemert (second from left) stands inside Diemert's Cafe, which opened on the very day beer was legalized following Prohibition: April 7, 1933. Diemert's Cafe has changed names over the years, but you can still get a drink there under space's new name, Rustica Eatery and Tavern (HCSCC).

Ending the Farce

• *By Markus Krueger*

The Long, Strange End of Clay County Prohibition

When was Prohibition? That's actually not a simple question. National Prohibition, as dictated by the 18th Amendment to our Constitution, lasted from 1920-1933, but for most Americans (including everybody around here) local laws forbade alcohol sales before and after those years. Prohibition began in North Dakota in 1890 and Clay County in 1915. When the federal government gave up on Prohibition in 1933, both Clay County and North Dakota kept it going for a while. Kinda. Technically. But not really. Between 1933 and 1937, hard liquor was illegal yet openly sold throughout Clay County in a system that both County Attorney James Garrity and Minnesota Liquor Commissioner William Mahony called "Farcical." And a recent donation of five glass jugs and a box of photographs illustrates the story.

New Beer's Day, Amendments, and Confusion

First, let's explain the complicated legal situation that led to the 1933-37 "farce" of local prohibition. In 1933, the first presidential election since the Great Depression began, candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt promised Americans a "New Deal." He and his fellow "New Dealer" candidates were elected in a landslide. Part of this Deal was ending Prohibition, which would create jobs and fill government coffers through alcohol taxes and license fees. But the 18th Amendment, which outlawed the sale, transport and manufacture of intoxicating beverages, could not be killed outright by Congress - only a new Amendment can kill an old Amendment. So the new Congress sent a proposed 21st

Amendment around the USA for the states to vote on (it basically said “never mind the 18th Amendment”). In the meantime, Congress did what was in their power to bring back some booze by legally redefining what it meant to be an “intoxicating beverage.” Congress decreed that on April 7, 1933, beverages with an alcohol content of 3.2% or less would be become “non-intoxicating” and therefore once again legal to make, sell and drink. People called April 7, 1933, “New Beer’s Day” and the date is still, for those who care about trivial holidays, National Beer Day (the day before Draw a Picture of a Bird Day).

Did bringing back beer help the economy? Boy howdy did it! On New Beer’s Eve (April 6) the city of Moorhead got an injection of \$7,990 for issuing 21 on-sale beer licenses (bars) and 9 off-sale licenses (to-go beer stores). These new beer bars spent an estimated \$9000 (about \$175k in 2019 money) fixing up previously vacant buildings and hired 104 people at the height of the Great Depression to pour beer in Moorhead.

Anything stronger than 3.2% (like wine or liquor) was still illegal, but Minnesotans could change that by approving the 21st Amendment that would repeal federal alcohol prohibition altogether. On September 12, 1933, the people of Minnesota voted in favor of this amendment, but Clay County was one of 28 counties that voted AGAINST ending national Prohibition. On December 4, 1933, the 21st Amendment passed when Utah became the necessary 36th state to approve it. But the 21st Amendment did not say all liquor can now flow freely everywhere. It only said that the Federal government was out of the alcohol regulation business. If state or county or town governments want to keep prohibition going, that’s up to them. Alcohol regulation became localized.

Respected Moorhead attorney Garfield Rustad went to St. Paul as part of a legal team formed to figure out what taking away 13 years of federal liquor laws would actually mean for Minnesota’s regulation of alcohol. The team decided that, just like in the old days, counties could vote to be Dry if they chose. Rather than going to the trouble (and expense!) of holding new elections in each of Minnesota’s 87 counties, a county’s Wet or Dry status would be determined by whether they voted for or against the 21st Amendment a few months back. Counties that approved the amendment would be Wet. Clay County and the 27 others who voted against the amendment would be Dry. Although Garfield Rustad was



Moorhead brewer Aaron Juhnke uncovered a box of photos that spent 80 years in his attic. William H. Diemert (upper left) was a prominent Pre-Prohibition Moorhead saloon owner who went back to selling beer when it was decriminalized. His friend Walter Seign is on the right. Although the faces are obscured, the two below are likely their wives, Ella Diemert and Eva Seign. Walter and Eva lived in what would become Juhnke’s house (Juhnke).

a member of the commission that drafted Minnesota’s post-prohibition liquor laws, he disagreed with this part of it. Garfield Rustad was the son of August “The Norwegian Prince” Rustad, owner of one of Moorhead’s finest pre-prohibition “Beer Palaces.” The saloon-man’s son was no friend of Prohibition, and he became one of the leading figures working to bring legal liquor back to Clay County.

James A. Garrity would one day become Judge Garrity, but at this time he was the Clay County Attorney. He was no friend of Prohibition either. He didn’t like it personally (Garrity was known to enjoy a drink or three) nor did he like it professionally. Before he was elected as County Attorney, Garrity defended some of Moorhead’s most notorious local bootleggers, and now his job was to prosecute his former clients. But the bigger professional headache was that enforcing Prohibition was impossible. The Federal laws that empowered Garrity to arrest and gather evidence against bootleggers were repealed in 1933. Minnesota, as a Wet state, didn’t really bother to write new laws to replace the ones that disappeared. The most Garrity could do was slap an offender with a \$100 misdemeanor fine for selling illegal liquor. The sum was nothing to sneeze at in those days but easily affordable as a business cost of a bootlegger. The fine was basically just a license to illegally sell liquor.

The courts were no help to Garrity, either. In October of 1934 “Chief” Barensen and Lloyd Junkin were caught delivering a load of liquor to the Town Pump in Dilworth (now Mill’s Lounge). Authorities followed them back to their Moorhead liquor warehouse at 105 1st Street N and confiscated 200 cases of liquor valued at \$3,500. Junkin and Barensen’s lawyer, the aforementioned Garfield Rustad, convinced Judge Nye to throw out the case. There was no Minnesota law, Garfield argued, against two men having a warehouse full of alcohol that they had purchased legally in another county. Minnesota’s attorney general agreed with Rustad. To arrest people for selling liquor, authorities would have to catch them in the act of selling it and provide evidence of the sale. To do that, the authorities would have to purchase liquor in sting operations and, as Garrity explained to the press, “there are no enforcement funds with which to collect such evidence, and the laws governing enforcement funds having been repealed” (*Moorhead Daily News*, September 21, 1935). It was almost as if Moorhead didn’t want Prohibition enforced, and Minnesota didn’t care.

Every owner of every restaurant and beer tavern in Moorhead and Dilworth knew they could get away with selling liquor, so most openly supplied the public demand for booze of all kinds, legal or illegal. The situation was embarrassing to everyone whose job was to enforce law and order: County Attorney Garrity, Sheriff Roscoe Brown, and the Minnesota Liquor Commission. In January of 1935, the Liquor Commission sent agents up here on sting operations. Out of 37 restaurants in Moorhead and Dilworth, 33 were busted for selling liquor! All but two pled guilty, paid their \$100 fine, and went right back to selling booze. “In my opinion,” Garrity told the press, “the situation is one that should be remedied, either by authorizing the business with legitimate safeguards,” (that is, by legalizing and regulating liquor) “or putting teeth into the law” (*Moorhead Daily News*, January 28, 1935). On September 21, 1935, the *Moorhead Daily News* reported Garrity saying “Under present statutes Clay County is ‘dry’ territory, but in fact it is ‘wet’ and whether this condition is to continue is what I want to find out. My own opinion is that the public does not want the county to remain dry and I base that upon the manner in which liquor is being handled in the county at the present time.”

Although Garfield Rustad regularly faced off against James Garrity in the courtroom, I have a sneaking

suspicion that these two attorneys were actually working together to end Prohibition. On September 21, 1935, County Attorney Garrity announced that, through the efforts of four undercover officers, he gathered evidence of illegal alcohol sales against 51 people in Clay County! He formed a grand jury to tell him what he should do about it, saying, in effect, do you actually want me to enforce Prohibition or not? Since these people did break the law, the Grand Jury somewhat reluctantly voted to prosecute but recommended that a new vote be called on legalizing liquor. The lawyer for most of the 51 defendants was Garfield Rustad. Garrity and Rustad, however, were not arguing over whether these men were guilty or innocent, but rather what their sentences should be. Garrity would not accept the usual \$100 misdemeanor fine this time. He demanded the sentence recently passed by the Minnesota legislature for selling alcohol in Dry counties: \$50 AND ONE MONTH IN JAIL. None of the 51 wanted to spend a month in jail, so Garfield Rustad argued that the new punishment applied only to counties who voted themselves Dry after 1933, not to counties like Clay who were decreed Dry because their vote on the 21st Amendment. And here may be the heart of the scheme: if Rustad lost, he planned to appeal the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court and argue that it was unconstitutional to force the 28 counties (including Clay) to be Dry without a vote. I’m no conspiracy theorist, but it seems likely to me that Garrity structured the case to give Rustad a shot at using the Minnesota Supreme Court to overturn Clay County Prohibition. But it didn’t work. Rustad could not appeal to the Supreme Court because, unfortunately for him, he won the case. His 51 clients gladly paid their \$100 fines and went back to selling liquor.

Losing the case allowed County Attorney Garrity to voice yet again that Prohibition was unenforceable. “The decision of Judge Thomspon should again bring to the attention of the people of the county the difficult job confronting the law enforcement officers,” ran the *Moorhead Daily News*, December 30, 1935. “We tried to confiscate liquor some time ago and after a court decision found we did not have that authority. We submitted the question of increased punishment and have now found that the jail sentence in conjunction with fines does not apply. We have tried our best and none can do more.”

Whether or not the opposing councils were secretly working on the same side in that case may never be proven, but it is certain that Garfield Rustad and James

Garrity teamed up in the bid to end Prohibition in 1937. But first, let's take a brief intermission 81 years in the future to a pleasant summer evening at the Comstock House.

A Brewery, a Box of Photos, & 5 Gallons of Aftershave

HCS has had a lot of fun with the Comstock House since we partnered with our friends at the Minnesota Historical Society to run the museum. On June 14th, 2018, about a hundred people showed up to play lawn games, take tours of the historic house, eat tacos from a food truck, and, thanks to our good friends and supporters at Rustica Eatery and Tavern, have a pint of beer or two. The beer came from Moorhead's Junkyard Brewing Company, established in 2014 by brothers Dan and Aaron Juhnke, 20-somethings who grew up in Hawley. In the five short years since opening, Junkyard has become a Moorhead community institution with a growing regional reputation for making experimental and award-winning beers. They are also generous friends of our historical society. The taproom itself is a welcoming environment where you'll see beer nerds, young families with kids, hip urbanites, neighborhood regulars, professors, and city councilmembers. When Minnesota Governor Tim Walz did a recent state tour, he chose Junkyard to be the venue for his Moorhead rally. On the first Monday of the month at 6pm (October-April) you can find me there, too, giving lighthearted presentations on our local history in a series called History On Tap! You should come. It's fun.

My wife Megan and I have come to know Aaron Juhnke and his wife Michelle from chatting at their brewery (I think we were there the first day they sold beer) and more recently as neighbors in Moorhead's Comstock Neighborhood. That evening, while playing lawn games at the Comstock House, Aaron and Michelle told us that they found a box of dusty old photos and old glass jugs in their attic. Would we like to take a look? I love looking at old stuff and their house is on our three-block walk home, so Megan and I happily stopped in.

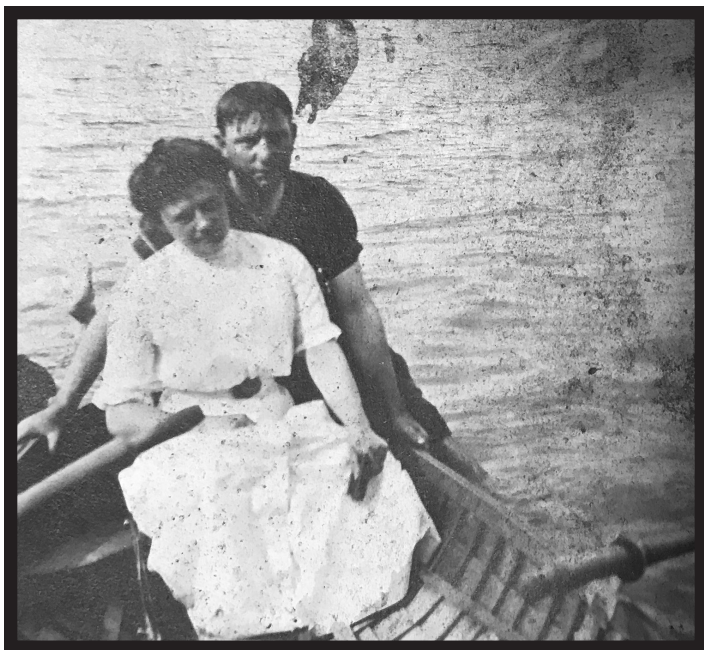
We chatted around their dining room table and passed around photos from the 1920s-30s. One guy appeared in several of the photos – a former homeowner I hypothesized. And then, I was shocked to see photos of people I actually recognize: William H. and Ella Diemert! W.H. Diemert comes up quite regularly in my History On Tap presentations at Junkyard Brewery, whether I'm talking about Moorhead's old Saloon days (Diemert's

was one of the largest liquor retailers in the Northwest before Prohibition) or about the end of Prohibition (the old Diemert's Café that opened on New Beer's Day is now home to Rustica Eatery and Tavern). The Diemerts showed up in other photos in the box.

After looking at the photos, Aaron brought out the five glass gallon jugs he found with them. All were identical, but only one still had the label: Kunz Bay Rum from Minneapolis. "A strong tonic and antiseptic, especially good after shaving. Stimulates the circulation. Keeps the skin fresh, prevents roughness. Alcohol 58% approx. For external use only." As a bearded guy, I don't use much of the product myself, but I figured I was looking at a couple of lifetimes worth of aftershave. All of us thought this aftershave, metaphorically at least, smelled fishy. Were these 5 gallons of rum, found among pictures of a Moorhead liquor baron, for shaving or for drinking?

The next morning, I went right to the City Directories in the Clay County Archives to find out who lived in that house. The house appears to have been built in 1936 and its first residents were Walter and Eva Seign. My suspicions about the aftershave were confirmed. I knew Walter Seign. He was a Moorhead bootlegger whose cigar shop speakeasy played a role in ending Prohibition. What were the odds that this piece of our local alcohol history would be found in the house of a Moorhead brewer? I got a hold of Aaron and Michelle and they agreed to donate the artifacts.

Judging by the people he was arrested with over the years, Walter seems to have connections to Frank Magnuson's illegal liquor ring at the Rex Hotel (a topic for a future article). He was busted for selling liquor out of the Triangle Tire Shop with business partner Lloyd Junkin in 1928 and busted an average of once a year thereafter for the rest of Prohibition. Records I found online show him as a passenger on ships to Havana, Cuba, and Bimini, Bahamas, on three trips in 1935-36, common ports for people to stock up on liquids that we Americans could only use as aftershave at that time. I emailed the Juhnkes' photos to Aaron Fox, W.H. and Ella Diemert's great-granddaughter and the keeper of that family's history. She confirmed with her mother, Jon Marie Fox, that the Diemerts and the Seigns were indeed friends. Jon and I talked over the phone and she confirmed that the man I kept seeing in those photos was Walter Seign. Walter and Eva adopted twin daughters, one of whom dated Rudy Maris her



Walter and Eva Seign on a boatripe (Juhnke).

senior year. Rudy had a brother who played for the Yankees, is the subject of a museum at West Acres Mall, and has a wing of a Fargo hospital named after him.

On New Beer's Day – April 7, 1933 – Walter, like many of Moorhead's bootleggers, applied for a license to sell beer legally. His friend, the respected old saloon man W. H. Diemert, had no trouble getting licenses to sell beer in his café and to-go. Walter Seign was one of the few people denied a license. No matter. From his storefront at 23 North 4th Street (listed as a cigar shop or as a vending machine operation depending upon the year) Walter sold alcohol as usual.

Ending the Farce

"That the county is legally 'dry' and yet is actually 'wet' with liquor being sold freely over the bar and by the bottle and case, is common knowledge." -
Moorhead Daily News, Feb 19, 1937

In early 1937, Minnesota had a new Liquor Commissioner: William Mahoney, an idealistic founder of the Farmer-Labor party who, as mayor of St. Paul from 1932-34, bravely took on organized crime entrenched in our capitol city. Commissioner Mahoney saw the blatant disregard for liquor laws in Dry counties and decided to make an example of a particularly bad case: Moorhead. He warned County Attorney Garrity that if liquor sales were not cut in half within two weeks, he would work to replace Sheriff Roscoe Brown.

Both Garrity and Brown were insulted and indignant but they were also ready to do their jobs, if only to show the new liquor commissioner that their jobs were impossible. But maybe it would be different this time. On February 18, Sheriff Brown, armed with new laws allowing him to seize liquor evidence and permission to enter businesses for raids, busted two places that had been warned repeatedly to stop flagrantly displaying illegal liquor on their shelves: The Comstock Hotel and Walter Seign's Cigar Shop. Proprietor George Moritz paid his \$100 fine for the \$90 of liquor found at the Comstock Hotel's bar. At Walter Seign's place (by then a cigar store and beer parlor), authorities seized 30 sacks full of hard liquor valued at \$2000 "brazenly displayed on bars, back-bars and shelves" along with little signs on the tables that said "Ask For Our 15c Whiskies." They also found a Minnesota Liquor Commission agent in the back room of Seign's cigar store. Commissioner Mahoney had men gathering evidence and the agent told the Moorhead police not to bother busting any other joints because they've already been tipped off.

But Mahoney was not satisfied with the raid. "The recent farcical performance of the sheriff of Clay county and the chief of police confirms my suspicion that there is little sincerity in the efforts of local authorities to clean up the liquor situation in Moorhead and other parts of Clay county," he wrote in an open letter sent to Moorhead and Fargo newspapers. "The efforts put forward look more like stage play than genuine and uniform enforcement of the law.... A sheriff or police officer that would permit the continued operation of these lawless places violates his oath of office and undermines public confidence in the law" (*Moorhead Daily News*, March 5, 1937).

Sheriff Roscoe Brown fired back in the same article "There have been more arrests of liquor law violators in the last two years than in the previous 10. The record of fines paid also will show this. Approximately 100 raids have been made within the past two years and about 95 of the offenders have paid fines. Why should the commissioner single out Clay county when there are 28 other counties that are also 'dry' but in which liquor is being sold freely?"

County Attorney James A. Garrity had not been idle. "I felt duty bound to arouse public interest and to get away from the hypocritical, farcical situation existing in the county," he told reporters after the raid (*MDN*, February 18, 1937) "and with that end in view, on December 12,

1936, caused petitions to be circulated in the county for the purpose of an election on the question.... Liquor is legal to the east, south and west of Clay county. In a lot of these localities, municipal stores exist, and in the communities where they do exist, the taxpayers are getting some benefit from the sale of liquor. It would seem to me that regulation is the solution, and that actual facts and conditions should prevent one from burying his head in the ground, and announcing that all is well. I personally feel that you can never legislate the subject of drinking, or not drinking, and that the use of intoxicating liquors should be controlled and governed and finally determined by will-power, given everyone through the grace of God."

The front page news coverage got Garrity's petition the attention it needed. People knew that the idealistic experiment with Prohibition had failed: laws were ignored, people were still drunk, and the money from liquor sales enriched criminals instead of municipal governments. "I am a dry but bring that petition around," Garrity recalled a man saying to him, "there are 15 people here who will sign it" (*Moorhead Daily News*, Feb. 19, 1937). On March 8, 1937, James Garrity's petition to call a special election on continuing or ending Prohibition received enough signatures. The very next day, he signed warrants for the Moorhead police to bust 18 beer parlors for illegally selling liquor. Walter Seign was among those busted, as was his friend W. H. Diemert. Jon Marie Fox, Diemert's granddaughter, told me the family always took pride that W. H. never sold liquor during Prohibition, which is almost true. I find no record of W. H. being arrested for liquor sales during Federal Prohibition, but Moorhead's "farcical" liquor situation between 1933-37 turned even honest businessmen into criminals. The raids made front page news and sent a message to future voters: Prohibition is not working. "If the people of the county want it dry," Garrity promised/threatened in the *Moorhead Daily News* on March 10, "we will do our best to make it dry." Commissioner Mahoney backed up Garrity's threat by vowing to make Clay County his "proving ground" if the people vote Dry (*MDN*, April 10). Garrity also bragged that the raids netted \$1800 in fines, more than enough to pay for the upcoming special election on April 26, 1937.

Garrity, Sheriff Brown and Moorhead Police Chief A. J. O'Laughlin made sure that the town liquor supply was cut off until the vote. There was an old joke during Prohibition: "Everyone's happy. The Drys have their laws and the Wets have their liquor." As long as there are

laws against alcohol, the Drys can pretend the problem doesn't exist. As long as liquor was still easily available, the Wets wouldn't put up a fight to change the laws. Garrity hoped that by taking away the Wets' liquor, the Wets would vote away the Dry laws. He was trying to end Prohibition by actually enforcing it.

The Clay County Wets and Drys organized rival get-out-the-vote efforts over the next month and a half. More than 250 people attended a pro-Prohibition rally at Trinity Lutheran Church on April 20, and Concordia College took an official stand urging all to keep liquor illegal. In the weeks leading up to the vote, Dry speaker Rev. Norma Brown spoke in Moorhead, Hitterdal, Ulen, Glyndon, Baker, Dilworth, Barnesville, Felton, Downer, Oak Mound Church and Concordia Church. But they were up against the Voters Information Bureau, the pro-Wet organization directed by Garfield Rustad. Rustad gave speeches in person, print and on the radio urging people to bring back liquor. The votes came in: Clay County went Wet 3625 to 3012. Sabin voted Wet 55 to 3! Prohibition was over! Almost....

One last thing. According to state law, a town the size of Moorhead was only allowed 9 liquor licenses. Our elected officials, from county attorney to city council to state senator, all agreed that there was no way that would be enough to satisfy this notoriously thirsty city that was used to 25-or-so illegal liquor stores! The bootlegging problem would continue if there was not enough legal supply of liquor. It took a few months, but our State Representative Archie Whaley and State Senator Henry Steining managed to pass bills in the Minnesota Legislature that allowed Moorhead to have twice as many liquor licenses as other towns its size. Liquor Commissioner Mahoney vowed to refuse liquor licenses to anyone who was arrested for illegal alcohol sales since 1933, which would rule out practically every restaurant and beer tavern in Moorhead. In response, many Moorhead families in the bar and restaurant business applied for liquor licenses in the names of the wives and adult children of the family. Ella Diemert secured a license for Diemert's Café and, although the mayor considered denying them, licenses were eventually granted to Hellen Moritz and Eva Seign, wives of the men involved in the big raids at the Comstock Hotel and Walter Seign's Cigar Shop.

On July 22, 1937, liquor was once again legal to sell in Clay County. For us, Prohibition lasted 22 years and 22 days.

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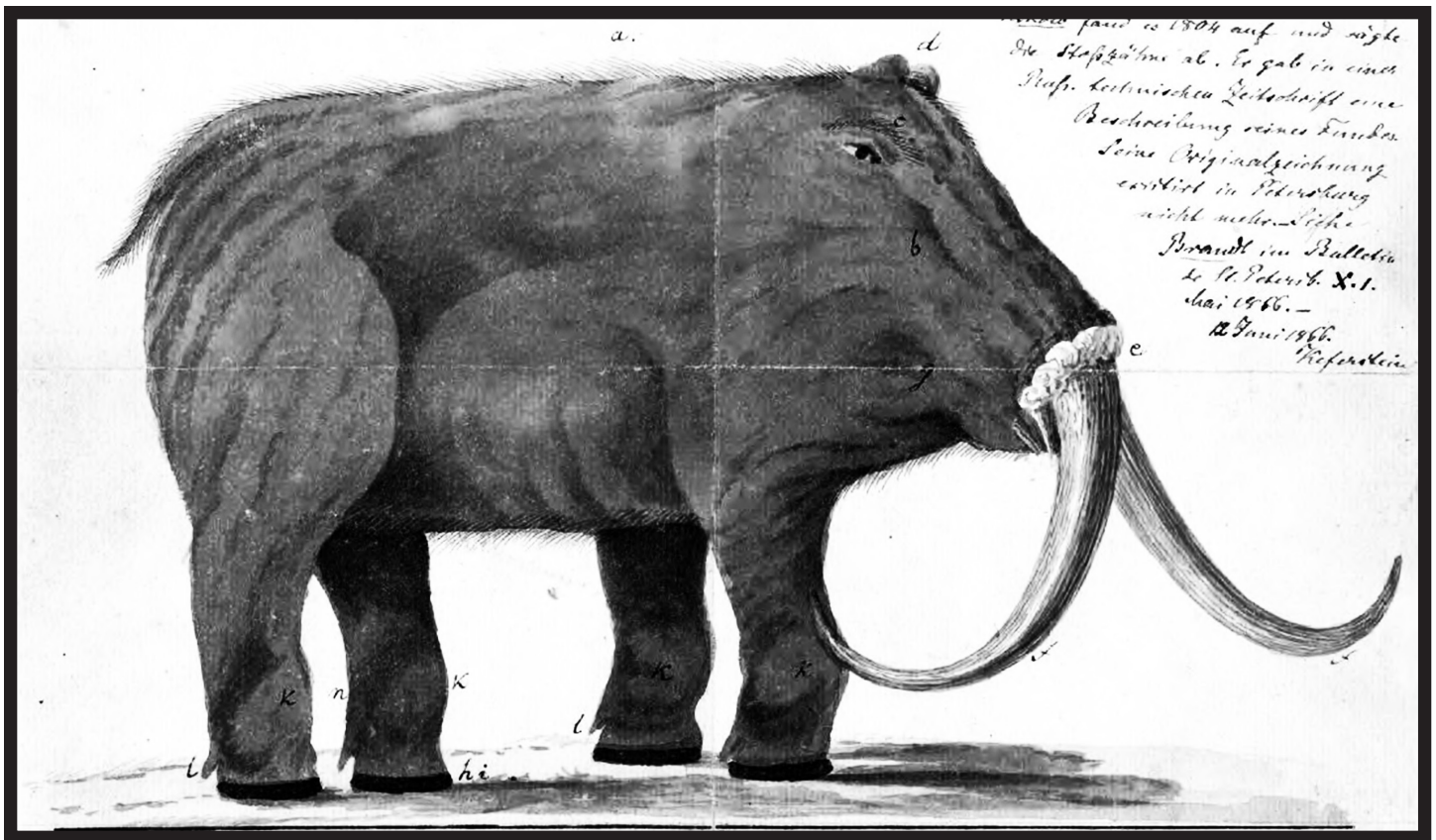
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The first drawing reconstructed from mammoth remains: the “Adams Mammoth,” found in Siberia in 1799 and excavated in 1806. The illustration was made by Roman Boltunov in 1803 and sent to early European naturalists Georges Cuvier and Johan Friedrich Blumenbach (Reich & Gehler, The University of Göttingen, 2011).

The Mammoth Years

A Brief Review of the Lake Agassiz Elephants

• By Davin Wait

On October 3, 1803, Meriwether Lewis wrote a letter from Cincinnati, Ohio, to President Thomas Jefferson detailing the strange remains of an American elephant. Lewis was there preparing for the remainder of the westward journey on which he would embark the following spring with William Clark and 40 others as the Corps of Discovery; but the letter focused on Dr. William Goforth's efforts to unearth what he described as mammoth fossils in a salt spring marsh nearby in Big Bone Lick, Kentucky. Goforth's crew had dug a pit 30-feet square and 11-feet deep and pulled from it what looked like elephant bones of a mammoth size, including a 180-pound tusk. We'd later recognize the specimen as a mastodon.

Jefferson was aware of similarly strange bones, having long held a fascination with natural history. Just six years prior, he presented to the American Philosophical Society an interpretation of bones found in the western corners of

Virginia, now West Virginia. (Given the size of the claws, Jefferson suggested they were some sort of large feline. They'd later be identified as a ground sloth and named *Megalonyx jeffersoni*, or Jefferson's Ground Sloth.) He also knew about Goforth's expedition and the Big Bone Lick site, having read about the former in other letters and having written about the latter in his book, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1805). Moreover, he was well aware of other elephant-like remains that had been unearthed in the United States throughout the 18th century.

However, Jefferson's interest was piqued, particularly because he and many of his contemporaries didn't yet grasp the many lives of America's past or its impressive Ice Age ecologies. He and — outside of the French naturalist Georges Cuvier and a few others — many of his contemporaries were also torn on the very notion of extinction. In an earlier letter to his friend Colonel John

Stuart dated November 10, 1796, Jefferson wrote about the ground sloth: “I cannot however help believing that this animal as well as the Mammoth are still existing. The annihilation of any species of existence is so unexampled in any parts of the economy of nature which we see, that we have a right to conclude, as to the parts we do not see, that the probabilities against such annihilation are stronger than those for it.” The search for fossils, or “the remains & accounts of any [animal] which may be deemed rare or extinct,” as he instructed Lewis, was even a prime directive for the Corps of Discovery.

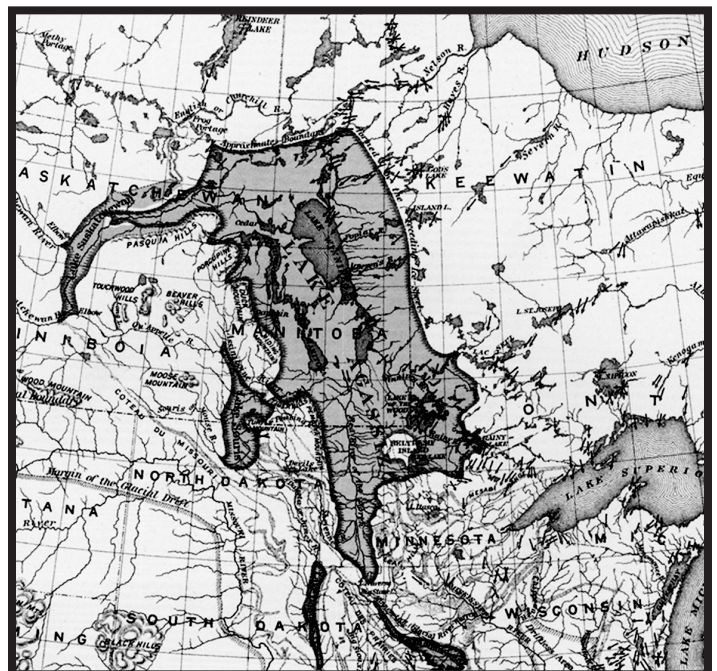
Lewis sent several of the bones Goforth had unearthed from Big Bone Lick to Jefferson by way of the Mississippi through New Orleans, where they would be sailed along the coast to Virginia. The boat sank in the river about 160 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Goforth’s later shipment to Jefferson was redirected to England and stolen. The frustrating hunt for our Ice Age truths during these early years of American paleontology is mirrored by some of our local experiences in the Red River Valley.

The first challenge in piecing together this local history, of course, is our unique geology. The Red River Valley courses through the former bed of Lake Agassiz, the vast lake that formed in the depression left by a glacial lobe as the Laurentide Ice Sheet retreated to the north at the end of the Wisconsin glaciation about 13,500 years ago (the late Pleistocene). This particular lobe is called the Des Moines Lobe, having reached Iowa during the glacial maximum and covering much of North Dakota and Minnesota.

The concept for the period of intense global cooling in which the glacier took form — best evidenced by a strange fossil record and even stranger geographical markers, like the many former beaches of Lake Agassiz — was popularized throughout the 19th century by several scientists. Chief among these was Louis Agassiz, a Swiss naturalist and former assistant to Georges Cuvier, even though it was American geologist William H. Keating who first proposed the notion of a large glacial lake here during an 1823 expedition. Agassiz missed some of the nuance scientists have since filled in, but nonetheless his ideas about a former “Ice Age” marked by glacial advance were pivotal in forming the directions later geologists would take. (We now know these ice sheets stretched about two miles high in Canada at the Glacial Maximum and that this tremendous display of ice corresponded to sea levels that were nearly 400 feet lower than they are today.) As the planet warmed and the glacier retreated, Lake Agassiz took shape.

The lake varied in its size and drainage patterns as it followed the retreating glacier for the next 5,000 years; and because the depressions left by the glacier’s path were surrounded by higher topographies to the south, east, and west, the lake itself stretched beyond the hollows carved out of the glacial lobe and grew to a massive size and depth at the ice’s margin. Early in its life — at its highest altitude, marked by the Herman Beach strandline — Lake Agassiz had an estimated volume of 13,000 km³ of water. Among the lake’s later fluctuations it held an estimated high volume of 22,700km³. For reference, Lake Superior now holds about 12,000 km³. This was a *big* glacial lake.

One of the geologists who followed in Agassiz’ footsteps was a New Hampshire man named Warren Upham, who was hired in 1879 at the age of 29 by the first director and state geologist of Minnesota, Newton H. Winchell. Upham’s first task was to explore the geography of this ancient lake — charting moraines and strandlines and so forth — and he spent much of the next decade doing so. By foot, horseback, and buggy, Upham traveled more than 11,000 miles over the course of the 1880s surveying, digging, drawing, and meticulously taking notes. At times he traveled alone, and at other times he was joined by colleagues, including Winchell. He came to Clay County by way of Herman, Minnesota, at the end of July, 1881, and his earliest views of the environment here were described in his 1895 book, *The Glacial Lake Agassiz* (Upham named the lake after Agassiz): “a



An early detail of Lake Agassiz as constructed for Warren Upham’s 1895 book, *The Glacial Lake Agassiz*.

typical beach ridge, gently rounded, composed of sand and gravel...the very flat area on its west side, which was covered by Lake Agassiz, is about 15 feet.... It is all fertile prairie, beautifully green, or in many places yellow or purple with flowers during July and August.”

While charting Lake Agassiz’ western shores in Cass County, North Dakota, Upham heard the stories that match our first textual records of local Pleistocene megafauna — a relative rarity, given the inhabitable wall of ice, the destruction of our earlier topography as the glacial lobe moved south, and the hundreds of feet of silt and glacial drift that were deposited here as the ice and lake retreated. In the summer of 1883 Great Northern Railway workers were digging gravel for a water tank just about where the railroad crosses the Sheyenne near Absaraka and exactly where the railroad cuts through Herman Beach, that Lake Agassiz high point. One of the men noticed a large bone in the clay about nine feet underground, and the contractor on the project, Fargo’s H.H. Cossitt, was called for immediately. By the time he arrived the crew had unearthed much of what looked to once be a big, nasty elephant: several teeth, vertebrae, and a tusk that measured 11 feet long and 6 inches in diameter, or as thick as a coffee can. The *Bismarck Tribune* ran a story on the beast the following November misidentifying it as “evidences of an extinct tropical region with the concomitant animals and people.” By 1905, the Absaraka elephant remains — or at least those of something in the taxonomical order of *Proboscidea* — had gone missing, so scientists can’t confirm which

proboscidean species had been found.

There are records of several proboscideans in the Upper Midwest, including the elephant-like mastodons, amebelodons, woolly mammoths, Columbian mammoths, and (surprise) Jefferson mammoths. Mastodons evolved on the American continent roughly 30 million years ago, whereas the mammoth species migrated here from Asia during the Ice Ages of the Pleistocene Epoch (a period stretching from roughly 2.6 million years ago until about 12,000 years ago). Our records of these animals’ lives are marked primarily by the teeth and some other more impressive bones that have been found over the past century outside of the Red River Valley — along with those of other Ice Age species of (*large*) bison, beaver, wolves, bear, deer, elk, horses, and badgers. This list even includes a *Megalonyx jeffersonii*, or Jefferson’s Ground Sloth, found on the shoreline of Lake Oahe in 1999, not too far from where Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery had camped nearly 200 years prior. The last survivors of these species would have lived in the cooler, mixed habitats of spruce grasslands that took shape around Lake Agassiz at the end of the Pleistocene. As the Holocene approached and warmer, drier years diminished foods and habitat, these animals were pushed to extinction or, as with the spruce, north-northeast with the lake (the Younger Dryas, an anomalous cooling event from 12,800 to 11,600 years ago, remains a point of contention regarding its role in late Pleistocene extinction). It’s safe to assume, as Michigan State University’s Catherine Yansa writes, that the thin ice of Lake Agassiz itself would have consumed a few of these creatures. It’s less safe to assume that human predation played a major role in these species’ demise, though the presence of mammoth kill sites elsewhere in America suggests it certainly may have had an influence.

Excavations within the Red River Valley include several molars and fragments in Canada; a molar found by Bill Harkness in Walhalla, North Dakota; and a few specimens brought to the attention of MSUM anthropologist Dr. Michael Michlovic and NDSU geologists Dr. Allan Ashworth and Dr. Donald Schwert. The first was a heavily worn mammoth tooth from Pelican Rapids brought to Michlovic in the late-1970s. It was used in the teaching collection at MSUM until it went missing in the last ten years or so, as MSUM geologist Dr. Karl Leonard recently shared with me. In August of 1980, an excavator named Herbert Luther working for Dick (Eugene) Camas unearthed a woolly mammoth tooth from the Herman Beach strandline while screening gravel near Embden, North Dakota. Ashworth and Canadian paleontologist C.R.



A photograph of the 1980 Embden woolly mammoth molar, a triangle roughly 9” x 9” in size (Ashworth).



An Allan Ashworth photo slide of Arvid Peterson holding the 1984 Rollag Mammoth molar.

Harington dated the tooth at roughly 12,000 years old in 1986. During that same summer of 1980, Davenport farmer Randy Morris plowed up what he thought to be a fossilized tree near Enderlin, North Dakota. He held onto it for eight years before his uncertainty prompted a call to NDSU. Schwert and Harington identified the piece as the humerus, or leg bone, of a large, male woolly mammoth.

On the Minnesota side of the river, we've found two interesting records (technically three). In the summer of 1984, excavator Arvid Peterson was screening rock and sand off of a conveyor in a gravel pit southeast of Rollag (just east of Herman Beach). He noticed a striped piece fall off of the conveyor and, upon another look, discovered it was a fossilized tooth. He brought it to NDSU where Ashworth and Schwert sent it to Canada, and it was dated between 11,000 and 12,500 years old. Peterson kept it, but it was destroyed in a fire. Coincidentally, the following summer Peterson found another, giving him the distinction of being Clay County's preeminent mammoth hunter. In fact, as far as we know, he's the only one. He keeps the piece under lock and key with some guns.

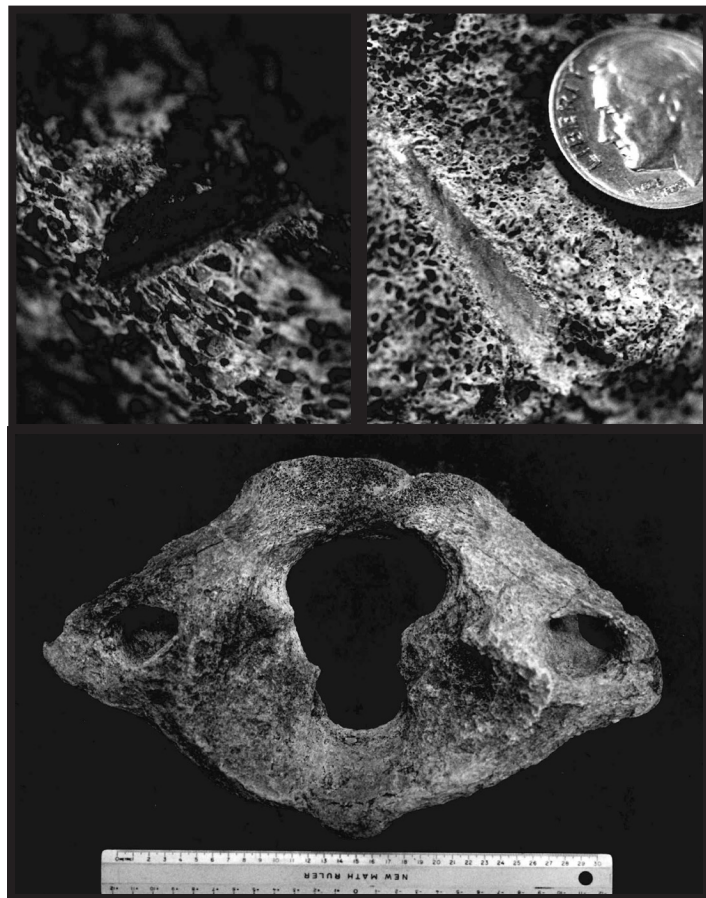
The second (or third) record occurred sometime during the 1980s, but in Becker County. A Detroit Lakes man was digging a basement for his house and pulled out a substantial find: a mammoth vertebra. However, there was something especially exciting about this piece. There were a few small gouges in the bone that could indicate any of a few things: erosion, a nick from the excavator, evidence of a fight or predation, intermediate human tampering, or... human butchery. (Unfortunately, the piece was also kept... to be turned into a coffee table.)

We know Paleo-Indians butchered American mammoths

elsewhere. We also have local evidence of early Minnesotans: Minnesota Woman (an estimated 8,000 years old) and Browns Valley Man (an estimated 9,000 years old). Both were unearthed during highway construction projects in the 1930s (Minnesota Woman near Pelican Rapids and Browns Valley Man south of here in Traverse County). However, archaeologists around the state comfortably point to a Paleo-Indian presence at least 12,000 years ago, and some point even further back, not long after Asian migrants moved from Beringia onto the American continent. Whether or not they hunted these remaining mammoths through the patches of spruce forest and plains around Lake Agassiz is yet to be determined. Still, what an amazing reminder of the many lives lived in this place.

Let us know what you're digging up.

For more interesting reads on the matter, look into Stanley Hedeon's Big Bone Lick: The Cradle of American Paleontology, J. Alan Holman's In Quest of Great Lakes Ice Age Vertebrates or Ben Mezrich's Woolly and Beth Shapiro's How To Clone A Mammoth for a look at current efforts to reconstruct a mammoth population. Elizabeth Kolbert's The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History offers an introduction to our current mass extinction event.



The D.L. mammoth vertebra, nearly 30" wide and marked by several gouges. The mark on the top right appears fresh, but the one at top left is more suspicious (Ashworth).



News from the Comstock House



Music in the Parlor Begins in March

Spring approaches and soon music will again fill the air at the Historic Comstock House! Music in the Parlor continues with concerts on **Thursday, March 14**, and **Thursday, April 11**.

In this partnership with Concordia College's Music Department, we host classical music recitals in our historic Queen Anne mansion. The student and faculty musicians change, but the music has remained local and outstanding.

Recitals start at 7:00PM, but doors open at 6:30PM for light refreshments and tours. Admission is \$5 (Free for Students/Members) and we are limited to 25 seats, so we encourage you to reserve yours early via our website.

Cursive Classes with Anne Kaese

On **Saturday, March 30**, we host HCSCC member and local calligrapher extraordinaire Anne Kaese at the Comstock House for three courses on the art of cursive.

Beginners Cursive (ages 12+) will be offered 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Students will learn to write an elegant cursive reminiscent of those practiced during the years of the Comstock family's residence.

Cursive Class (ages 12+) will be offered 12:30PM to 2:30PM, using basic skills to craft a creative and elegant project.

The Genteel Art of Letter Writing will be offered from 3:00PM to 5:00PM. Students will use cursive to lay out and draft letters, genteel salutations, and greetings.

Classes are offered in a collaboration with Moorhead Community Education, and seats may be reserved through their website online. A fountain pen will be provided. Course fees include supplies.

Drache Lectures in March and April

In honor of local historians and Comstock House supporters Hiram and Ada Drache, we offer regular lectures featuring the work of local student historians.

On **Thursday, March 21**, we host MSUM History student and HCSCC intern Rachel Goetz for an introduction to **The Women of the Comstock House**. Rachel will focus on the lives of Comstock daughters Jessie and Ada, exploring Jessie's early, adventurous years of traveling and teaching; and Ada's successful career as the University of Minnesota's first Dean of Women and Radcliffe College's first full-time president.

On **Thursday, April 18**, NDSU doctoral candidate Robert Foresman joins us to discuss one of the Comstocks' contemporaries, early Moorhead preacher **Oscar H. Elmer**. Elmer moved to Moorhead in October of 1871 and immediately went to work establishing the first church in the area.

Lectures begin at 6:30PM and visitors are invited to stay later for tours, conversation, and refreshments from Rustica Eatery and Tavern. Admission is \$5 (Free for Students/Members) and we are limited to 25 seats, so we encourage you to reserve yours early via our website.

Comstock Spring Tours Begin

Beginning **Saturday, May 25**, regular summer weekend tours will resume at the Comstock House on **Saturdays** and **Sundays** between 1:00PM and 4:00PM. To schedule a private tour contact the Comstock House Manager at (218) 291-4211 or another member of HCSCC staff.

Yoga at the Comstock House

Join us **Mondays** at 6:00PM this summer beginning **June 3** for Yoga at the Comstock House with Amanda Nordick. Remember to bring your mat, water, and a towel or blanket. Admission is \$5 (Members: Free).

HCSCC Spring 2019 Calendar

History On Tap! (Moorhead's Saloon Era)

Monday, March 4, 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Junkyard Brewing Company (Free)

Living Beyond Bollywood: A One-Act Play

Saturday, March 9, 12:00PM - 12:30PM; 2:00PM - 2:30PM
Hjemkomst Center (Free, offered during Celtic Fest)

Music in the Parlor

Thursday, March 14, 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Comstock House (\$5, Students/Members Free)

A Way of Life: The Essence of Hinduism

Tuesday, March 19, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Drache Lecture: The Comstock Women

Thursday, March 21, 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Comstock House (\$5, Students/Members: Free)

OPENING RECEPTION

Lines with Power and Purpose: Editorial Cartoons

Tuesday, March 26, 5:00PM - 8:00PM
Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Comstock Cursive Classes w/ Anne Kaese

Saturday, March 30
Beginners Cursive, 10:00AM - 12:00PM
Creative Cursive, 12:30PM - 2:30PM
The Genteel Art of Letter Writing, 3:00PM - 5:00PM
Comstock House
*Register with Moorhead Community Ed

A Holi Closing Reception

Sunday, March 31, 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Hopperstad Church Tours Begin

Monday, April 1, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Hjemkomst Center

History On Tap! (Local Moonshine)

Monday, April 1, 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Junkyard Brewing Company (Free)

HCSCC Wine Class: Wines of the Aegean

Thursday, April 4, 6:30PM - 9:00PM
Hjemkomst Center
*Registration opens Thursday, March 14, 9:00AM

Music in the Parlor

Thursday, April 11, 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Hjemkomst Center (\$5, Students/Members: Free)

OPENING RECEPTION

The FMVA BIG Art Show

Tuesday, April 16, 5:00PM - 8:00PM
Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Drache Lecture: Oscar Elmer, Frontier Preacher

Thursday, April 18, 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Comstock House (\$5, Students/Members: Free)

A History of Political Cartoons w/ Steve Stark

Saturday, April 27, 2:00PM - 3:00PM
Hjemkomst Center (Regular Admission, Members: Free)

HCSCC ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 2, 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Hjemkomst Center (\$30 / Members: \$25)
*RSVP by Thursday, April 25

River Paddling Excursion: History of the Red River

Wednesday, May 15, 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Hjemkomst Center Boat Landing
*Register with Moorhead Parks & Rec or River Keepers

A History of the Dakota POW Letters w/ Dr. Cliff Canku

Tuesday, May 21, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Comstock House Weekend Tours Begin

Saturday, May 25, 1:00PM - 4:00PM
Hjemkomst Center

The Right to Vote:

A 100-Year Celebration of the 19th Amendment

Tuesday, June 4, 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Comstock House Lawn (Free)
*at the Hjemkomst Center in the event of bad weather

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.

