

— The Hourglass —



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

Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival

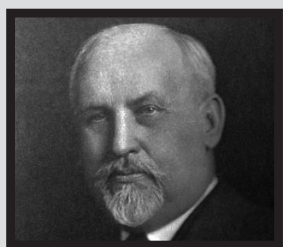
Friday, June 21 - Saturday, June 22
Hjemkomst Center | 10AM - 5PM



Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival returns to the Hjemkomst Center on **Friday, June 21**, and **Saturday, June 22**, following another great turnout last year for the 41st celebration. The festival has grown in size and scope in recent years thanks in large part to the work of HCSCC-offshoot Viking Connection and the coordination of Tim Jorgensen. Now, despite the exciting growth of other local festivals, it remains one of Fargo-Moorhead's preeminent summer events. The festival is held from 10:00AM to 5:00PM and this will follow a similar format: Viking Village outside; Nordic Villages inside.

In Viking Ship Park, we'll be hosting several familiar faces to guide our 21st-century audience through the histories of Norse folks in the Viking Age. Food and textile historian Thora Helleloid will return to the central cookfire, blacksmith Doug Swenson will man his Dark Ages Forge, flax spinner and textile artist Heidi Sherman will demonstrate her work on the north end of Viking Village, jeweler and artist Jordain Kinnander will share his mythology-inspired pieces under the Three Ashes, and local leatherman Kyle Jameson will show some of the work he's produced since touring

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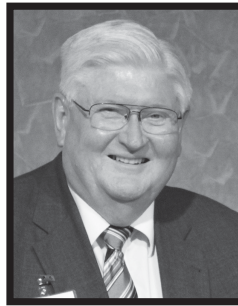
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Our thanks to the Moorhead City Council and the Clay County Commission for their support of local history and culture at HCSCC.

President's Message

from Jon Evert



The annual meeting of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County was held on Thursday, May 2, with about 80 people in attendance. It was a great evening of good food, great fellowship, and a wonderful presentation by HCSCC Senior Archivist Mark Peihl. We trust that everyone enjoyed the evening and went home even more excited about the benefits of attending HCSCC events. While we were delighted by the attendance and excitement of the evening, we also wished that more of our 800-household members had joined us, as well.

Mark's presentation of Florence "Tree Tops" Klingensmith was informative and inspirational. Florence was one of us and those present for the event now know who she was and how she made her mark on this world. We can all be proud of yet another Clay County resident.

There is so much offered right here in the museum and archives of HCSCC. I urge you to access these resources soon and often. The exhibitions, often on display five at a time, are changed and rotated regularly to offer you a new experience each time you visit. The Society offers programs that frequently supplement the material in our exhibitions, in addition to the many opening and closing receptions we hold to gather both as members and local community members. Of course, members can visit these exhibitions and attend most of these events with no further charge than that of a membership. This may be the best deal in the region.

Each year the Society celebrates many of the cultures found in the county and broader community. These events include festivals like the Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival, which celebrates the impressive Nordic immigration stories found here; German Kulturfest, which does the same for our many German Americans; and Pangea, our incredibly popular celebration of our global, multicultural roots. Recently we celebrated the nation and people of India with a highly acclaimed exhibition and program series. Please watch closely for these events, and then join us to learn something new or celebrate something old.

If you have not visited HCSCC lately, I urge you to not be a stranger. You won't be sorry visiting this gem in our community. I always find my time at the Hjemkomst Center time well spent.

- Jon Evert
HCSCC President



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HCSCC News & Events

Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival Roars Back on June 21/22

On **Friday, June 21, & Saturday, June 22**, HCSCC and Nordic Culture Clubs gather for our largest festival of the year: Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival. The roots of this festival stretch back more than a century, when Nordic immigrants began settling here in the Red River Valley, but the festival itself is on its 42nd year. Join us for imported goods and Nordic foods, demonstrations, and bazaar vendors. The event is held 10:00AM to 5:00PM each day at the Hjemkomst Center, and Nordic Culture Clubs will offer their evening programming series, Nordic Nightlife, throughout downtown Fargo on Friday.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for teens/seniors, and free for children and members.

Comstock Lawn Games Begin June 13

On the second Thursday of each month this summer, we're hosting a neighborhood party on the Comstock House lawn from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. We'll be offering free house tours, free lawn games, free s'mores, and local beers for \$5 apiece. Join us for the first night on **Thursday, June 13**, and check out our Comstock House schedule on page 18 for more information.

Admission is free and open to the public. Many thanks to Rustica for sponsoring the event.

Truth in Focus: A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III opens June 28

This summer we open a wonderful local exhibition featuring the work of longtime *Fargo Forum* photographer, Colburn Hvidston III. The exhibition is titled *Truth in Focus: A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III* and it offers a fascinating look at almost 70 years of Red River Valley history, from Colburn's childhood in Northwood, North Dakota, through and beyond an impressive *Forum* career.

We'll celebrate the exhibition with a reception at the Hjemkomst Center held **Tuesday, July 16**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. The event is free and open to the public, and Colburn will share remarks at 6:00PM.

RRWS Opening Reception on June 18

The Red River Watercolor Society will open one of our favorite annual exhibitions on June 17, the 26th *National Juried Watermedia Exhibition*. Join us for the opening reception from 6:00PM to 8:00PM on **Tuesday, June 18**, to celebrate our continued collaboration and RRWS's success in building a world-class watercolor community here in the Red River Valley.

The reception will include remarks and awards. The reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

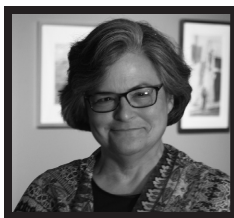
Miriam Dashtipour to Discuss WWI and the Middle East on August 20

Join us at the Hjemkomst Center on **Tuesday, August 20**, at 6:00PM, when Miriam Dashtipour joins us to discuss World War I in the Middle East. Miriam serves as the Program Coordinator with longtime HCSCC collaborator Cultural Diversity Resources and she's spent much of her career studying Asian languages and cultures. After attending Bogaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey, Miriam became a Multicultural Leadership Scholar and graduated with a B.A. in Global Studies from Missouri State University. An Iranian-American proficient in five languages, Miriam is the first generation of her family born in the United States. Her dual citizenship with Iran offers a unique lens through which to explore her academic focus: late Ottoman history.

Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are encouraged to explore our current exhibition, *War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County*, before Miriam's presentation.

A History Harvest on August 24

From 10:00AM to 4:00PM on **Saturday, August 24**, we're hosting a fun, free event and a new approach to our archival work: a history harvest. With the support of a RACE Microgrant from the Science Museum of Minnesota, we're seeking to document the histories of traditionally underrepresented groups in Clay County, specifically immigrants, refugees, and communities of color. People are invited to bring objects like diaries, letters, maps, photos, or cultural heirlooms; and, with permission, we will digitally document these items and stories. Please contact us for more information!



Letter from the Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason

The Seven Ways History is Essential Today

According to the History Relevance Steering Committee, on which sits Minnesota Historical Society's own Kent Whitworth, history is relevant to ourselves, to our communities, and to our future. The following lays out verbatim the language and philosophy of many historians and history supporters today.

Which ones do you agree with?

IDENTITY

History nurtures personal and collective identity in a diverse world. People discover their place in time through stories of their families, communities, and nation. These stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, and courage and triumph shape people's personal values that guide them through life.

CRITICAL THINKING

History teaches vital skills. Historical thinking requires critical approaches to evidence and argument and develops contextual understanding and historical perspective, encouraging meaningful engagement with concepts like continuity, change, and causation, and the ability to interpret and communicate complex ideas clearly and coherently.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

History is the foundation for strong, vibrant communities. A place becomes a community when wrapped in human memory as told through family stories, tribal traditions, and civic commemorations as well as discussions about our roles and responsibilities to each other and the places we call home.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

History is a catalyst for economic growth. Communities with cultural heritage institutions and a strong sense of historical character attract talent, increase tourism revenues, enhance business development, and fortify local economies.

ENGAGED CITIZENS

History helps people envision a better future. Democracy thrives when individuals convene to express opinions, listen to others, and take action. Weaving history into discussions about contemporary issues clarifies differing perspectives and misperceptions, reveals complexities, grounds competing views in evidence, and introduces new ideas; all can lead to greater understanding and viable community solutions.

LEADERSHIP

History inspires leaders. History provides today's leaders with role models as they navigate through the complexities of modern life. The stories of persons from the past can offer direction to contemporary leaders and help clarify their values and ideals.

LEGACY

History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations. Historical knowledge is crucial to protecting democracy. By preserving authentic and meaningful documents, artifacts, images, stories, and places, future generations have a foundation on which to build and know what it means to be a member of the civic community.

To learn more, see www.historyrelevance.com

-MKJ



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 16)

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 features 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.

The Red River Watercolor Society's National Juried Watermedia Exhibition

4th Floor Gallery (June 17 through August 10, 2019)

In a partnership with the Red River Watercolor Society, we are honored to host the 26th annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition, a gorgeous showcase of watercolors by some of the most prolific and talented watercolor artists of today. These featured artists come from both our local communities in the Red River Valley and the U.S. at large in an effort first articulated 26 years ago by the Red River Watercolor Society: to provide a diverse selection of watercolor opportunities to RRWS members and to build a world-class community through education and exhibitions in Fargo-Moorhead.

Also, please join us at the Hjemkomst Center at 6:00PM on **Tuesday, June 18**, for the exhibition's opening reception. A presentation will begin at 7:00PM featuring remarks and awards. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Truth in Focus:

A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III

Heritage Hall (June 29 through November 17, 2019)

Colburn Hvidston III made a career in news, documenting life in the Upper Midwest with the cameras he wielded for decades as a Fargo *Forum* photographer and photo chief. Our new local exhibition, *Truth in Focus*, explores Hvidston's career, stretching back from his childhood in 1940s and '50s Grand Forks, through his years with the *Forum*, and into his recent retirement. The result is an intimate, local look at life around the Red River Valley during the last half of the 20th century. Reflecting on his career later, Hvidston wrote, "We newspaper photographers strive to record reality in a way that triggers the emotions, many times evoking feelings in the viewer to an extent that goes far beyond what the written word alone is capable of."

Also, please join us for a free and public reception celebrating Colburn's work on **Tuesday, July 16**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. Light refreshments will be served and Colburn will share remarks at 6:00PM.

Many thanks to Forum Communications for sponsoring this exhibition.

(continued from front page)

Scandinavia on a Viking Connection apprenticeship. They'll be joined by dozens of other demonstrators from around the world — including Danish newcomers Niels Fulgyr (Viking locksmith), Jacob Børsting (blacksmith), Linnea Bang-Madsen (tablet weaver), Jeppe Garly (blacksmith), and UK-based Viking storyteller Adrian Spendlow — camped out from Raven Ridge to the edge of Viking Ship Park. As always, one of the festival's real treats, our ferocious Viking battle demonstrations, will be offered several times throughout the day; and children are welcome to test their *dugr* at the Hjemkomst Archery Range.

Inside the Hjemkomst Center, Nordic Culture Clubs has filled the museum with the largest offering of vendors, entertainers, chefs, and historians we've ever had at this festival. New additions include a booth and demonstrations from Mora, Minnesota's Fiskur Leather (fish leathermongers), performances from the Norwegian-American Ole Orkestra, and a Lego Playland in the Hjemkomst Atrium with demonstrations from

Master LEGO artist Dan Parker. Performances and demonstrations will be staged in Heritage Hall, Heritage Theater, the Auditorium, the Hopperstad Stave Church, and outside in Viking Ship Park.

Tastes of Scandinavia will continue to delight our visitors with classic menu items like rømmegrøt, lefse, lutefisk, lingonberries, vínarterta and aebelskiver. The Red River Danes will shine a special light on our featured country this year, Denmark, in the Troll Bar. Outside, Lino Lakes brewers and Viking enthusiasts HammerHeart Brewing Company will again serve ice cold Minnesota brews in the Viking Beer Garden. However, this year they'll be joined by Wyoming's Big Lost Meadery!

Festival admission is free for HCSCC members, so bring your card. General admission is \$15 per day for adults, \$10 for teens and seniors, and FREE for children.

For more information, please contact us — and, of course, extra points for those of you who join us dressed up in your favorite Nordic/Viking garb. Skål!



A young Viking fan watches Telge Glima's Viking-age games at the 2018 Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival, likely moments after learning Viking helmets had no horns (HCSCC).

One Rot Gut, Please

Whiskey Testing in Saloon-Era Moorhead • By Mark Peihl

Okay, so we're all familiar with the scene in a western movie where a character, usually an eastern greenhorn, enters a saloon and receives a whiskey. He tosses it back and his eyes bulge out. He wheezes and gags. If you believe Hollywood, drinking harsh, bad liquor was a rite of passage in the old west. It makes me wonder about the quality of booze sold in Moorhead's saloons at the turn of the last century. It was one of many questions we didn't have time to get into when researching our popular recent exhibition, *"Wet and Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1871-1937."* In the time since, we came across some obscure government documents that shed light on this question and highlight an appalling lack of consumer protection 120 years ago.

In the 19th century, manufacturers could (and did) put just about anything they wanted into the nation's food, drugs and beverages. By 1900, a number of eastern states banned the sale of adulterated food products in their states. Western, rural states became the dumping ground for these substandard consumables. Crusading North Dakota Agricultural College and Ag Experiment Station chemist Edwin Ladd played on area farmers' distrust of eastern interests to gain support for reforms. In 1902, the North Dakota Legislature passed a "Pure Food Law." That summer, Professor Ladd mounted an investigation into various food products sold in Fargo groceries. Ladd chemically analyzed a wide variety of canned and manufactured goods. The results were shocking. Nearly all products tested, from jams and jellies to catsup, spices, candies, canned pork and beans, fruits and vegetables contained banned preservatives like formaldehyde and sulfuric acid and artificial colors made from coal tar. Blackberry jams were found to contain no blackberries, just cheap mashed up apples doctored to look like the real thing. Products labeled as weighing 16 ounces regularly only weighed 12 or 14.

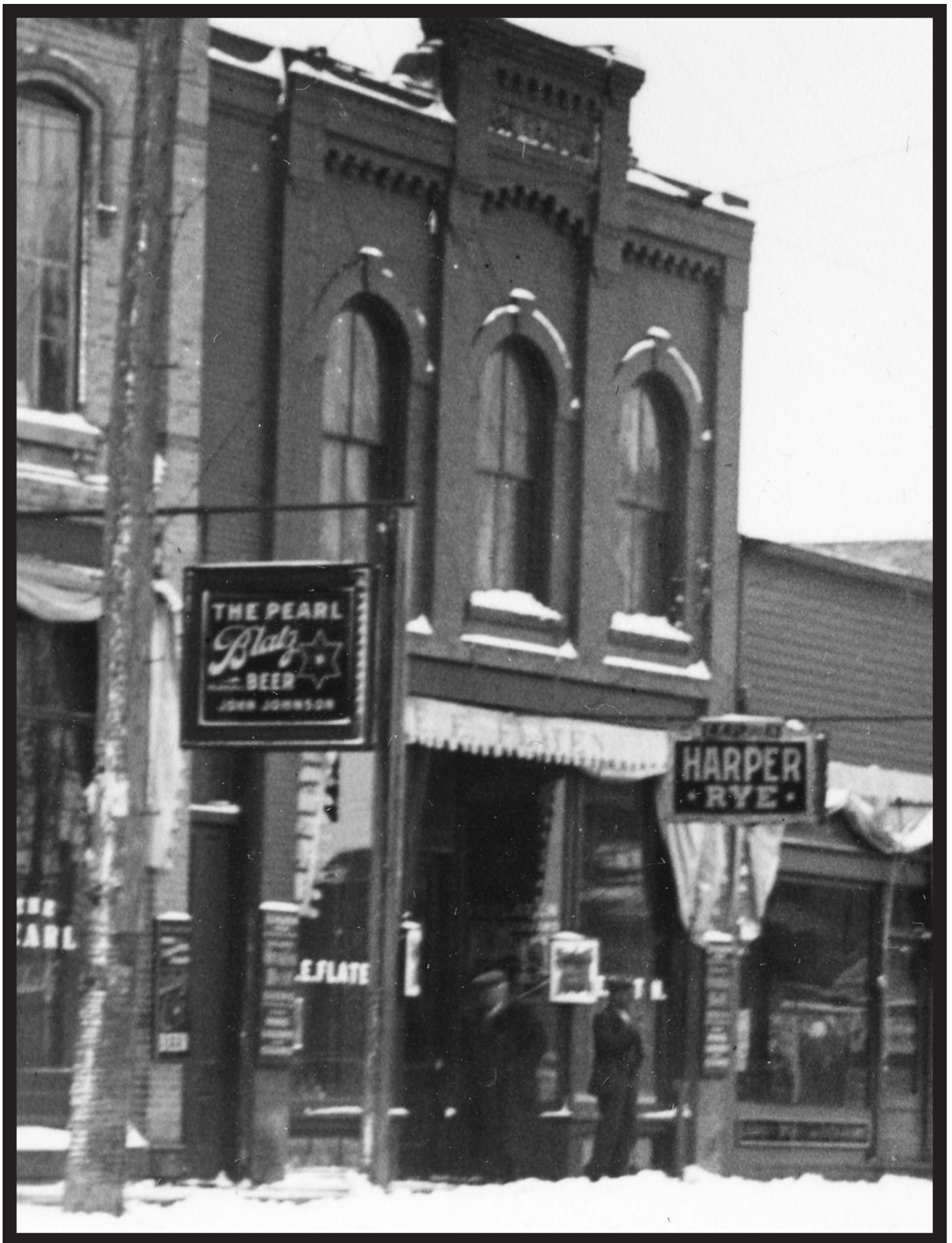
Rather than go after local retailers, Ladd published his findings in state newspapers and *Ag Experiment Station Bulletins* to shame manufacturers into cleaning up their acts. The tactic worked. In the Station's 1907 *Annual Report*, Ladd's analysis showed a marked improvement

in food products on the state's grocery shelves.

North Dakota had banned the sale of alcohol in 1890 with the exception of pharmacies selling whiskey for medicinal purposes. The United States Pharmacopeia (U. S. P.) established standards for medicinal whiskey. Ladd reported in 1907, "Until the present year very little was done in the examination of beverages, especially whiskey, brandy, etc., to determine their purity, as it had been assumed that products handled by the drug stores would comply with the requirements [of the U. S. P.] while the products handled by other parties was in direct violation of the prohibition law of the state, and therefore could not well be reached by this department." However, at the request of the state's doctors, Ladd investigated the booze sold in drugstores. The results were similar to the food situation. Ladd reported, "judging from the investigation, it is safe to say that, up to the present year, 95 per cent of the whiskies sold in the drug stores... would not have been found to comply with the requirements of the U. S. P. standard, and in the majority of cases they contained no real whiskey whatever."

North Dakota defined whiskey as an alcoholic liquid obtained by the distilling of the mash of fermented grain. The distillate had to be stored in wooden barrels for at least four years in government controlled warehouses. The wood imparts flavor and color to the liquor and makes it smoother to drink. The longer it stays in the barrel, the better the product.

Ladd discovered that four different classes of whiskey were being sold: straight whiskeys produced and aged under government supervision; blended whiskeys made by mixing various straight whiskeys; bogus whiskeys made by "adding to whiskey varying quantities of neutral spirits [pure grain alcohol] and water, and some coloring matter (usually caramel)" and sometimes flavorings; and another class of fake whiskey made from neutral spirits, water, colorings and flavorings and no real whiskey whatever. In addition, he found on the market, "quick ripened" whiskeys "aged" for maybe two months



in wooden barrels in over-heated warehouses. Of these, only straight or blended whiskeys passed muster.

Ladd tested over 300 samples of hard liquor purchased from druggists or submitted by interested parties. Of these, eleven were produced by four Moorhead “jobbers.” Jobbers did not distil the liquor but bought booze by the barrel from manufacturers and bottled it under their own label for sale. Jacob Kiefer owned a wholesale liquor house and a popular saloon on Center Ave. His two varieties of bourbon passed inspection. The Empire Bottling Works’ two varieties of blackberry brandy also passed; however three other products, food colorings, were dinged for containing coal-tar-derived dyes. According to the *Fargo Forum*, Red River Mercantile was a Moorhead business recently established by the Meredith Drug Company of Fargo specifically to “carry a line of goods that cannot be handled on the North Dakota side.” They appear somewhat shady. All of their five whiskey varieties failed. Ladd cited several as “Neutral spirits, flavored and colored” and another as “questionable, colored with caramel, not four years old.”

E. E. Flaten’s two whiskey varieties failed, one cited as flavored and colored neutral spirits, the other as “mostly neutral spirits.” Interestingly, the later, labeled “Harpers,” seems to have been a specialty of the house. Flaten (brother of Moorhead photographer O. E. Flaten) owned a saloon on Center Ave. Harpers featured prominently in his advertising. A sign outside his establishment boasted of it. “I. W. Harper’s” was a well-known whiskey brand out of Kentucky. It’s possible Flaten sold the real stuff in his saloon and sent the cheap product to sick North Dakotans. Or he may have just been trading off the brand name without telling the distiller. Either way, it’s likely that much of the stuff crossing the bars of Moorhead saloons was bogus.

So how bad could this stuff be? I recently decided to find out. I acquired some 190 proof (95%) pure grain alcohol. Sold under the trade name “Everclear,” it’s not sold in Minnesota. I had to buy in North Dakota. I measured out an ounce and added an ounce of water to reduce the alcohol percentage to roughly 47%. My wife whipped up some burnt sugar for color and I had a pretty good imitation of no-whiskey whiskey. I also bought the cheapest whiskey I could find, mixed an ounce with an ounce of the water/Everclear mixture and added a bit of prune juice (a favoring which also added a little body). Much like Flaten’s Harpers.

Now, I like a neat shot of 12-year-old Scotch as much as the next local historian, but this stuff was as ghastly as it sounds. Harsh and throat burning – and the prune juice did not help. Even the cheap whiskey I bought went down like velvet compared to my concoctions. If I ever get the opportunity to time-travel back to 1900 Moorhead, I’ll take my chances with the beer.



HARPER WHISKY

Famous at home for generations past;
Famous now all over the World.

FOR SALE BY
E. E. FLATEN

Above: Harpers Rye took center stage in Flaten’s advertising. The whiskey tested as “mainly neutral spirits” (*Moorhead Weekly News*, March 30, 1905).

Previous page: E. E. Flaten had a sign advertising Harper Rye whiskey outside his Center Avenue saloon. The stuff he sold in North Dakota under that name was pretty bad (HCSCC).

A Civil War Monument for Felix

• *By Markus Krueger*

Last May, we announced an art project highlighting an important piece of Clay County history: a sculpture honoring Moorhead pioneer Felix Battles. Mr. Battles who was born enslaved near Memphis, Tennessee, appears to have escaped slavery in the late 1850s, after which he became one of 106 African Americans who joined the Union Army from Minnesota. After the war, he became one of Moorhead's earliest residents, settling here with his wife Kate and their two children, and working as "the pioneer barber of the Red River Valley" for more than three decades until his death.

While watching news coverage of the recent controversy over Confederate monuments in the south, I felt inspired to create a Civil War statue Moorhead could be proud of. I thought, "You know who deserves a statue more than Robert E. Lee? Felix Battles." Then I thought "Hey, why don't we do that?" A statue in Moorhead honoring Felix Battles might be just the project to bring this fascinating local figure to broader attention. It would be one of fewer than 40 statues in our country honoring the United States Colored Troops, African American units that were absolutely pivotal to the USA's defeat of the Confederacy but whose service was intentionally downplayed for most of the last 150 years. And the statue would show that, in our increasingly globally-connected and multicultural metropolitan area, cultural diversity has been here from our very beginning. Rather than celebrating generals and politicians who were trying to destroy our country, we would be honoring a soldier who fought to fix it.

So, as an artist with a background in printmaking and painting, I set about making a design. No known photographs of Felix Battles exist, so I took the image of an unnamed African American Union soldier as Felix's model. The initial idea was to make a life-sized stencil of Felix (records in our archive show he was 5'8") that would be used to spray-paint an image of him onto a wall. After talking to my neighbor, civil engineer and metal sculptor Lyle Landstrom, I came up with a better plan.

Lyle's yard is filled with sculptures of whatever he feels like cutting out of steel – silhouettes of Johnny Cash or the Starship Enterprise, or big dinosaur skeletons made from sheets of metal welded together. Instead of using the design for a painting, we decided to turn the stencil into a life-sized metal sculpture. It sounded fun, but what would other people think?

For artists, making art is no big deal. It's what they do. But this project does touch on a sensitive nerve in American culture. The history of race and Civil War monuments in our country are controversial issues. I explained the project to HCSCC archivist Mark Peihl, who has been tracking Felix Battles for the last 30 years, and HCSCC executive director Maureen Kelly Jonason, who's tasked with bearing the brunt of responsibility for any controversies arising out of HCSCC. They both liked the idea, so we set about putting the plan into action. HCSCC would be the fiscal agent for any donations that came in. Sculpture professors Dwight Mickelson (Concordia) and Chris Walla (MSUM) were consulted, as was Dr. Phyllis May-Machunda of Minnesota State University Moorhead. Phyllis knew Felix Battles well. In her decades of teaching at MSUM, she has had her classes research Felix and his extended family. Phyllis is also descended from two soldiers who served in the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. She thought the idea was intriguing and gave me the name of a few more people to talk to.

I especially wanted the perspective of HCSCC member Dr. Yvonne Condell. Yvonne and her husband Dr. James Condell came to teach at Minnesota State University Moorhead in 1965 (she biology, he psychology). When they arrived, there was only one other African American person in Moorhead – an army recruiter. The Condells faced a lot of discrimination when they arrived. James had to go to several barbers before he found one that agreed to cut the hair of a black man. Yvonne had heard about the Felix Battles project and her gut reaction was negative. She grew up in Georgia, where Civil War

statues were used for intimidation. Confederate statues stood in front of government buildings to tell African Americans that white supremacy was the law of the land. Symbols saying, “You don’t belong. Your voice doesn’t matter.” After the Federal Government forced southern schools to integrate in the 1950s, there was a dramatic uptick in renaming public schools to honor Confederate generals and politicians in order to be unwelcoming to African American kids. But Dr. Condell was willing to come to the Hjemkomst Center and hear what I had to say. After showing her a presentation about Felix’s life and the years of research that inspired the project, she became a supporter.

So the project went public last year. My colleague Davin Wait set up a fundraising page on our website, and an article in *The Forum* from our friends at The Arts Partnership announced our fundraiser at Junkyard Brewing Company. We were hoping to raise \$1000 to pay for steel. Donations quickly followed that morning. By the time I started my presentation that night, the goal had been met! Even with the news, people kept giving (which is a good thing because rumors of a trade war with China sent steel prices skyrocketing). The goal of telling Felix’s story to the larger public was working – in addition to a packed house at Junkyard, Felix’s story was told on KVLV TV and in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. A limited edition beer from Junkyard and Back Channel Brewing will even bear his name this summer!

Then, this past March, 440 Moorhead 8th graders came to the Hjemkomst Center for a special tour. The kids had already seen the Hjemkomst Ship and Hopperstad Stave Church in 4th grade, so teachers worked with museum staff to talk about race and slavery. We talked about the life of Felix Battles and then we showed them our exhibitions, *Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation*, and *RACE: Are We So Different?* We completed their tours with screenings of the local film, *The Road to Little Rock* – about Fargo’s Judge Ronald Davies helping nine brave high school kids desegregate the schools in Arkansas. One of those students wrote a thank-you note after the tour, saying “I would like to thank you guys for telling us about Felix Battles. To me it was a very special story so thank you. I hope and pray that you guys are able to build him.”

We have learned, however, that putting a statue up isn’t as simple as digging a hole in the ground. We are currently in talks with the city of Moorhead, private developers, and landowners to find the best spot to

memorialize Felix. A few promising sites ended up not working out. We have the money to make the statue but we are waiting to see where it will be placed before we make it in case the location requires a design tweak (screwing it on to a wall, for example, would require holes for bolts and placing it in the ground would require an extended base below his feet). We have also learned that people really like Felix and it wasn’t that hard to raise \$1000, so our goal got a little more ambitious. We want to add a double-sided color interpretive panel to stand next to Felix. This panel will tell about Felix’s life before he came to Moorhead on one side, and tell about his life in early Moorhead on the other. This will cost \$2000.

At this moment we are waiting for a few elements to fall into place, but we wanted our members to know about the project. Check out our website (www.hcscconline.org/felixbattles) and stay tuned for future events to learn more about the life of Felix Battles and our efforts to share his stories.



The Felix Battles Monument template (HCSCC).

HCSCC's 2018 Donors:

An Amended THANK YOU!

We missed a few of our 2018 donors in the spring issue of *The Hourglass*, so we've included them here. Many thanks to all of you fine folks who support the work we do at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County. Your support as donors, members, and visitors make our work possible!

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Vijay & Anu Gaba

\$500 - \$999

Heartland Trust Co.

Warren & Beth Hilde
Gloria & David Lee

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Frank & LaVonne Gross
Korsmo Funeral Service

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Zona Mathison
Tom & Monica Millette

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Mark Voxland
Carol Zielinski





A man is taken into custody by the North Dakota National Guard and the North Dakota Highway Patrol on Saturday, May 10, 1969 in Zap, North Dakota. One of the thousands who flocked to the small town the weekend of May 9-11, during "Zip to Zap," his photograph has become one of the primary public memories of the civil unrest that transpired there. Colburn Hvidston III took the photo for the *Fargo Forum* (Hvidston III, courtesy of Forum Communications).

Exhibition Preview:

Colburn Hvidston III & the Zip to Zap

• *By Davin Wait*

Not long after I started here at HCSCC in 2016, we'd gathered for a staff meeting to discuss what exactly to do with Heritage Hall after our exhibition of *Wet & Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1871 - 1937*. What snapshots from our local histories would we dig into for the coming years? Several ideas were put forth, including a look at our century farms to the centenaries of the 19th Amendment and World War I, the latter of which we ultimately chose.

However, before that choice was made, there was a long consideration of zeroing in on the tumultuous years of the late-1960s, something in the vein of the Minnesota History Center's *The 1968 Exhibit*. We're highlighting women's suffrage with a wonderful programming series and I suspect century farms will see their day, but an upcoming exhibition of longtime *Forum* photographer Colburn Hvidston III's work has given us the opportunity here to briefly touch on the final years of the 1960s.

This upcoming exhibition opens Saturday, June 28 (with a public reception on Tuesday, July 16) and it's titled, *Truth in Focus: A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III*. There's not a thematic focus here on the late-1960s, of course — rather, it's a long look at Colburn's life behind the camera, as the subtitle would suggest. However, Colburn left the University of North Dakota News Bureau in 1968 to become the chief photographer at the *Fargo Forum*, where he worked for 37 years documenting life in the Red River Valley and surrounding areas. As a result, it's through his camera, skill, and craft that many of the era's most iconic moments were documented right here in the Red River Valley.

This also means that Colburn's first full year at the *Forum* was 1969 — one of those “watershed” years in American histories that's long garnered romantic, if not mythical, proportions in our public memory. Of course, ask most historians and they'll throw the whole idea of a “watershed” year right out of the window, as they point out the events of 1968 or 1970, and so on. But this was the year that Richard Nixon took office. The year of the final Beatles concert. The Apollo 11 moon landing. The Manson murders. Woodstock. And for many Americans, 1969 was a year of social tensions, amplified by an escalating Vietnam War, growing student activism and anti-war demonstrations, and the reverberations of 1968's elections and the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy.

Locally, some of these tensions would have seemed far-off, experienced primarily via the nightly news from Walter Cronkite and the CBS Evening News or the local NBC affiliate at WDAY, a team consisting of Marv Bossart, Dewey Bergquist, and Boyd Christianson. Others would have been felt more immediately. The fall of 1968 witnessed campus demonstrations at Concordia and Moorhead State College, including several protesting military recruitment and women's curfews, and even more orchestrated by MSC's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society. Under the direction of MSC President Roland Dille and English instructor Lois Selburg, Project E-Quality brought racial justice to the forefront of local minds. The scholarship program was initiated under former MSC President John Neumaier, but began in earnest when Dille took over the helm. Funds were raised via private donation and student fees to bring 50 students of color to the Moorhead campus. Some in the community responded with overt racism, including isolated bouts of gun violence and one local media outlet decrying the “importation of 150 Negro

freshmen” (Neumaier had proposed that North Dakota State University and Concordia College follow MSC's lead). Despite these tensions, Project E-Quality's graduation rates attest to the program's success.

Student activism also found a home among campus newspapers and journals, where teach-ins and demonstrations were promoted and national news was reported in a way that might have spoken more clearly to Fargo-Moorhead's younger, and more radical, populations. MSC's student newspaper, *The Mystic* ran afoul of President Dille in the fall of 1968 when it printed profanity in a story about the summer's Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The following spring similar charges brought its suspension. Around the same time, just before the summer of 1969, MSC's literary journal *Convivio* ran afoul of Knight Printing, who refused to print it in light of the profanity it contained. A review and department vote was initiated by the journal's faculty advisor, English professor Clarence Glasrud, prompting journal editor Larry Peterson's resignation. He quit, citing the dangers of censorship and the administration's sustained threats to academic freedom.

Which brings us to Colburn and the Zip to Zap.

Zip to Zap wasn't necessarily born out of a social or political statement as much as it arose from a few North Dakota college students looking to party. However, it was very much caught up in this moment of unrest. NDSU student body president Chuck Stroup took credit for the initial idea of a massive party in Zap, North Dakota. He was prompted by stories of his sister's spring break trip to Florida and eager to coordinate something similar near his hometown of Hazen. The plan was floated by staff at the NDSU *Spectrum*, who then took the idea and ran with it. *Spectrum* editors Kevin Carvell and Don Homuth covered the coming festival extensively throughout the spring of 1969, declaring that Zip to Zap would be a “grand festival of life and love.” The Associated Press picked up the story and campus newspapers around the country began pointing students toward Zap, a small mining town in the middle of North Dakota.

The *Forum* assigned Rod Deckert as the Zip to Zap reporter and published several stories contemplating the size of this party, featuring interviews with Governor Bill Guy, the state highway patrol, and Zap mayor Norman Fuchs. In anticipation of the event, Zap's bars and restaurants loaded up on bottles of beer and began forming “zapburgers” and fleischkuechle to sell to the

coming horde. On Friday, May 9, they came; and Deckert and Colburn were there to cover it along with some other media outlets. Colburn remembers wearing a sarape, a Mexican poncho-like shawl, that first night, thinking he would fit in with the Counterculture's North Dakota divisions. He soon felt out of place, finding that most of them were farm kids wearing t-shirts, skirts, and jeans.

The town of 300 people was soon filled with 3,000 college students ready to live up to the hype that had prompted their visit. Soon the town's two bars ran out of beer, but not before raising their prices and enflaming some of the crowd. As the first night wore on, students began vandalizing Lucky's Bar, pulling booths apart and breaking windows. Deckert reported that holes were punched in the wall adjacent to an abandoned building where a band was performing. The vandalism spread down the street, and by morning several windows had been broken. A bonfire had been erected in the middle of the street where lumber from vacant buildings was



Zap's Lucky's Bar suffered heavy damages from late-night vandals during the Zip to Zap on Friday, May 9, 1969 (Hvidston III, courtesy of Forum Communications).



The first night of Zip to Zap brought thousands of young Americans to small-town North Dakota. Here they gather at Lucky's Bar, one of only two in the town. By morning the bar was in near-ruins (Hvidston III, courtesy of Forum Communications).



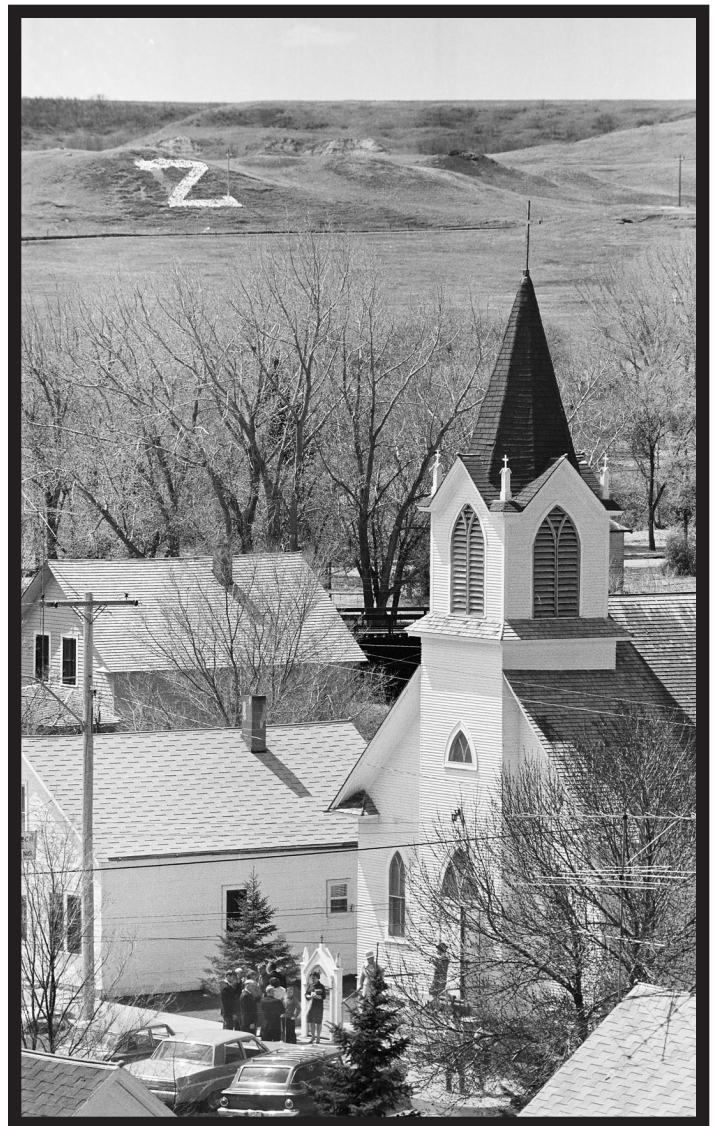
*Top: A Zip-to-Zapper reacts to a bayonet prod from the North Dakota National Guard on Saturday, May 10, 1969;
Bottom: Zap mayor Norman Fuchs directs the National Guard (Hvidston III, courtesy of Forum Communications).*

burned.

Around midnight, while students sang and danced and drank around the fire or stopped in at Jan's Coffee House for burgers and fleischkuechle, Mayor Fuchs called in the National Guard. By 7:30 a.m., about 500 troops had driven the remaining 2,000 drunk and hung-over partiers out of town. The troops proceeded to follow them through Beulah and Hazen to Bismarck, where they finished their weekend. Zap suffered the brunt of the damages, with varying estimates ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000. About 70 students were arrested. Deckert and Colburn stayed through Sunday to watch the small town reassemble itself for church. With Saturday's colder weather, Colburn lost the sarape and finished the assignment in the warmest clothes he had: a set of military fatigues stashed in his trunk.

Truth in Focus: A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III will be on display at the Hjemkomst Center through Sunday, November 17. The exhibition surveys Colburn's career in photography, from his first childhood photos through his many years with the Forum. Please join us at the Hjemkomst Center for the opening reception on Tuesday, July 16. Colburn will speak at 6:00 p.m.

Right: By Sunday, May 10, 1969, Zap had largely gotten back to life as before. After waking to a quiet morning, Colburn Hvidston III took care to stake out a position for the morning church crowd without giving it away to other photographers (Hvidston III, courtesy of Forum Communications).



Truth in Focus

A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III

• Hjemkomst Center • Saturday, June 29 - Sunday, November 17 •





News from the Comstock House



Comstock Lawn Games Begin June 13

On the second Thursday of each month this summer, we're hosting a neighborhood party on the Comstock House lawn from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. We'll be offering free house tours, free lawn games, free s'mores, and local beers for \$5 apiece. The games will include classics like kubb, molkky, skittles, bocce ball, and croquet; and we'll be drinking local brews from community brewers like Junkyard Brewing Company, Drekker Brewing Company, and Fargo Brewing Company. On **Thursday, June 13**, we'll also host the fine folks of Detroit Deli Food Truck, along with their fine foods. Lawn Games will also be held on **Thursday, July 11**, and **Thursday, August 8**.

Games, tours, and s'mores are free, but other food and drinks cost extra. Pop will be available for \$1 and beer for \$5 a pour.

Many thanks to Rustica for sponsoring the event.

Plein Air Watercolors with Anne Kaese

From 1:00PM to 3:00PM on **Saturday, June 22**, and **Saturday, July 13**, we host HCSCC member and local artist extraordinaire Anne Kaese at the Comstock House for two plein air watercolor courses. Literally meaning "in open air," plein air watercolor is performed outdoors. As the Comstock House is as lovely as it is — and as lovely as it will be, with several master gardeners taking care of the flower gardens there this summer — the combination seems to be a perfect fit. The greens in the garden will be peaking and the house is a wonderful Moorhead monument. Learn how to enjoy the thrill of working with changing light, fresh air, and nature.

Classes are offered through Moorhead Community Education and space may be reserved on their website. Participants will need to bring their own paint supplies and chairs.

Comstock Summer Tours Begin

Regular summer weekend tours have returned to the Comstock House. Stop in on **Saturdays** and **Sundays** between 1:00PM and 4:00PM, or schedule a private tour by contacting the Comstock House Manager at (218) 291-4211 or another member of HCSCC staff.

Yoga on the Lawn, Mondays at 6PM

On Monday nights at 6:00PM throughout the summer we're hosting certified yoga instructor and former HCSCC staffer Amanda Nordick to lead yoga classes on the beautiful Comstock House lawn. The classes are designed for all levels of ability and all are welcome. A limited number of yoga mats will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own (and your own water bottle). Classes will be canceled in case of rain or low temps (below 60 degrees), so watch our social media pages for updates!

General admission is \$5 (Free for HCSCC Members).

A 19th Amendment Ratification Celebration on Sunday, September 8

Join us **Sunday, September 8**, when we gather at the Comstock House for a centennial celebration of Minnesota's ratification of the 19th Amendment. After the U.S. Senate passed the 19th Amendment, its adoption in the constitution required ratification by 36 states. Minnesota became the fifteenth state on that list on September 8, 1919, and the final necessary vote took place the following year when Tennessee voted its support on August 18, 1920.

HCSCC member-volunteer and former Moorhead councilwoman and Minnesota state legislator Diane Wray Williams will deliver a keynote, a panel of elected women will share their stories, and refreshments will be served. Stay tuned for more details!

HCSCC Summer 2019 Calendar

A Suffrage Social

Tuesday, June 4, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Comstock House Lawn (Free)

*at the Hjemkomst Center in the event of bad weather

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, June 3, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, June 10, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Comstock Lawn Games

Thursday, June 13, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Comstock House (Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, June 17, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

OPENING RECEPTION

RRWS's National Juried Watermedia Exhibition

Tuesday, June 18, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival

Friday, June 21 & Saturday, June 22, 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (\$15/\$10/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, June 24, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, July 1, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, July 8, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Comstock Lawn Games

Thursday, July 11, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Comstock House (Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, July 15, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

OPENING RECEPTION

Truth in Focus:

A Retrospective from Colburn Hvidston III

Tuesday, July 16, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, July 22, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, July 29, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, August 5, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Comstock Lawn Games

Thursday, August 8, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Comstock House (Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, August 12, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, August 19, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

World War I in the Middle East

Tuesday, August 20, 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

History Harvest

Saturday, August 24, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Hjemkomst Center (Free)

Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, August 26, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Comstock House (\$5/Free)

Want to Reserve Seats for HCSCC Events?

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

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

PO Box 157 • 202 1st Avenue North

Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



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

