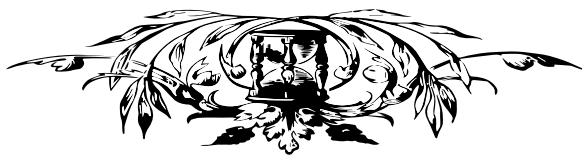


— The Hourglass —



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RACE[®]

Are We So Different?





Hjemkomst Center
through May 2019



HCSCC Opens Science Museum's *RACE: Are We So Different?*

In collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, we have opened an award-winning exhibition exploring race and justice called *RACE: Are We So Different?*

The Science Museum of Minnesota and the American Anthropological Association debuted the original exhibition in 2007, and it's since been seen by more than 4 million people in 51 museums across the country. Now they've created a small-scale, traveling version of this powerful exhibition for three communities in greater Minnesota, reaching out to HCSCC in Moorhead, as well as organizations in Rochester and Worthington. The exhibition opened in the Hjemkomst Center atrium

for Pangea on Saturday, November 17, and will be displayed there at least through May 2019.

The exhibition's impact will be amplified with thoughtful community programming – lectures, discussions, theater programs, art and history exhibits – and a local advisory committee has been selected by the Science Museum to allocate funds for this purpose. For more information on this process, please contact us.

Visitors can explore *RACE: Are We So Different?* at the Hjemkomst Center free of charge. It is located in the 3rd Floor Atrium. A local supplement is under production.



(Toboggan, pg 7)

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**PO Box 157 • 202 First Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56561-0157
218-299-5511 • www.hcscconline.org**

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STAFF

Maureen Kelly Jonason, Executive Director
Maureen.Jonason@hcsmuseum.org
Mark Peihl, Senior Archivist
Mark.Peihl@hcsmuseum.org
Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager
Lisa.Vedaa@hcsmuseum.org
Markus Krueger, Programming Director
Markus.Krueger@hcsmuseum.org
Matt Eidem, Director of Museum Operations
Matt.Eidem@hcsmuseum.org
Davin Wait, Communications Manager
Davin.Wait@hcsmuseum.org
Lynelle Martin, Administrative Assistant
Lynelle.Martin@hcsmuseum.org
Emily Kulzer, Gift Shop Manager
Emily.Kulzer@hcsmuseum.org

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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



Travel is one of the many ways to experience and study history. As a historical society we encourage travel, whether to your local historical museum or to far-off places. Our history can come alive by walking in the footsteps of our ancestors or our heroes. Feelings of pride, joy, and sometimes sadness can be a part of these experiences.

I've experienced a better understanding of history when I visited places like Washington, DC, New York City, and Boston. I felt pain and great sadness when I visited Civil War battlefields, Normandy Beach in France, and former concentration camps in Germany. I felt joy in visiting second cousins in Europe and the homes of my ancestors.

My most recent and greatest travel experience was just last month. My wife, Phyllis, and I spent two weeks traveling in the Holy Land, Israel, and Palestine, where we experienced history as never before. We felt awe and amazement in visiting Jericho, perhaps the oldest city ever found, which is estimated to be 10,000 years old. There we saw a home that was built and lived in 8,000 years before Jesus walked the area. We felt joy and wonder as we visited the site of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem and the shepherds' field nearby. We experienced a sense of pain and anguish as we visited the site of Jesus's crucifixion and burial. We were awed by the splendor of King Herod's palaces, fortifications, and whole cities all built during the first century BC. We were also shocked by the evil, hatred, and murderous deeds perpetrated by him on account of his paranoia and fear at the possibility of losing power. My hope for the future was strengthened by visits to the Sea of Galilee sites where Jesus fulfilled his ministry by healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, and teaching the crowds that followed him.

On a lighter note, one should not miss an opportunity to swim, or should I say float, in the Dead Sea. The water is 10-times saltier than the oceans. What a fun experience to float so easily, and then the surprise to find that I could not get out of my floating position without the help of others. It took three people to get me back on my feet.

These kinds of travel experiences can make history come alive, the daily news more relevant; and it can help us understand who we are and where we fit into the greater scheme of things.

Remember to keep your local history museum in those travels, too.

- Jon Evert, HCSCC President



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HCSCC News & Events

HCSCC Senior Archivist Mark Peihl to Deliver Lecture on 1918 “Spanish” Flu

HCSCC Senior Archivist Mark Peihl will deliver a history of Clay County’s experiences with the 1918-1920 H1N1 influenza pandemic on **Tuesday, December 11**, at 6PM.

More recognizably known as the “Spanish Flu,” the disease came to the Red River Valley in late-September, 1918, and proceeded to infect thousands and kill hundreds in just Cass and Clay counties. Globally the disease infected about one-third of the population and killed between 50-100 million people (about 2.5% - 5% of the population). Using journal entries, news accounts, meeting minutes, and public health data, Mark will reconstruct the local front of the flu fight.

“We Are Afraid: Clay County and the Spanish Flu” will be held at the Hjemkomst Center. Visitors are encouraged to also explore our local exhibition, *War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County*. Reservations are available online via the “Events” tab.

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

On **Wednesday, January 9**, we’re gathering in the Hjemkomst Center auditorium to give thanks to the many wonderful folks who support HCSCC as volunteers. We’ll be enjoying a spread of Mexican foods in observation of “Three Kings Day,” and we’ll be visited once again by Krampus, who will speak about the three kings celebrated during this holiday every year. Brunch will begin at 10:30AM and end at 12:30PM.

Northern Prairie Fibert Artists to Gather for Rok Day on January 5

Our friends at the Northern Prairie Fiber Arts will be back at the Hjemkomst Center this winter to observe Rok, or St. Distaff’s, Day. This pre-industrial custom called for women to return to work after the 12 days of Christmas (just before men were to return to work on Plough Monday). St. Distaff, of course, does not exist; and the holiday is more often marked by play than work.

Join our textile artists with your sewing, knitting, and other textile projects (or just to watch and ask questions) on **Saturday, January 5**, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM.

Beyond Bollywood Winter Programs: Free Admission for HCSCC Members

On Saturday, October 27, we hosted a free opening reception in celebration of our major exhibition of the year, the Smithsonian Institute’s *Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation*. The reception was a fantastic success: more than 200 community members gathered over chai, samosas, laddoo, and traditional Indian music to learn some of the newest immigrant stories in Fargo-Moorhead.

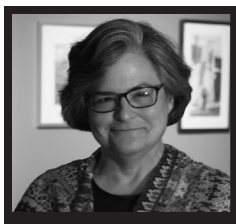
Since then we’ve hosted a Diwali celebration and an Indian devotional song, or Bhajan, service. These programs will continue on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays for the next few months, continuing with an Indian Fashion Show for kids on **Saturday, December 8**, at 2:00PM. Please plan to join us for a few of them: your HCSCC membership covers your admission!

WWI Jazz History in February

Join us on **Tuesday, February 5**, at the Hjemkomst Center when Bill Law delivers a 6:00PM history exploring the intersections of World War I and American jazz music. The global war and the flu that followed formed one of the darkest times in our history, but the exportation of American jazz music by several African-American regiments stationed in France was one of the major cultural developments of the 20th century. In fact, several historians have even called it America’s greatest gift to the world. Learn more with us about the lasting influence of those French performances and the experiences that those early jazz musicians faced.

Our presenter Bill Law has been a major influence on Fargo-Moorhead’s music scene since his garage band days in the 1960s and 1970s. Today he serves the community as the NDSU Performing Arts Development Director, but others may know him from his years as a local musician and bass instructor or from listening to his popular Prairie Public radio show, *The Law of Jazz*.

“A Jazz History of World War I” will be held at the Hjemkomst Center. Visitors are encouraged to explore our local exhibition, *War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County*, before or after the lecture. Reservations are available online via the “Events” tab.



Letter from the Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason

Diversity is a word that may conjure different ideas for different people. Here at HCSCC, when we talk about diversity, we are usually celebrating the cultural heritage of any particular human ethnic group (as in the Midwest Viking Festival or German Kulturfest) or everyone's cultural heritage (as in Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures). It happens that our organizational mission to preserve and share the cultural heritage of everyone who lives in Clay County conjoined beautifully with two new exhibitions and one big festival that just finished.

Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation is a colorful and educational exhibition from the Smithsonian Institute about the many contributions made by people originally from India to the development of modern America. HCS historian Markus Krueger has been working over the last year to research the local context, finding out the “who's who” among the roughly 2000 Indian Americans who live in our metro-wide community. Together, the national and local context will share how this particular immigrant group has positively impacted the economic, medical, educational, and artistic threads of our national tapestry.

I do not choose that metaphor lightly. An old friend from India once told me, “In India, we see strength in diversity; it takes many different threads spun together to make a fiber strong enough to weave a tapestry that will last for thousands of years.” That image has stayed with me all my life. Put another way, “E pluribus unum.”

The second exhibition new to the museum is called *RACE: Are We So Different?* This one is set up in the atrium so that people can come to see it for free. It is a condensed, traveling version of a larger comprehensive look at the current science of our most enduring myths about race. The Science Museum of Minnesota

constructed it with the American Anthropological Association and it's been visited by more than 4 million people in 51 museums since 2007. Please come and see it for yourself next time you stop in.

Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures, our annual multicultural festival, came and went November 15. Started in 1994 by Yoke-Sim Gutaratne of Cultural Diversity Resources and volunteer Irene Hogan, this event has grown in scope and audience to showcase multiple cultures in our community and to give everyone a chance to shine for one short day. We all learn something about our neighbors and we enjoy a variety of ethnic foods. Don't miss its 25th year on November 16, 2019.

And in keeping with the thread metaphor, I invite you to view our next new exhibition, a collaboration with the nationally recognized Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection of NDSU, called *Suitably Attired*. The opening reception is Tuesday, December 4, 3:30-7pm with gallery talks by curator Kim Baird at 3:30 and 6pm. *Suitably Attired* is a History + Art exhibition of vintage textiles that tells the story of how we express who we want the world to think we are. Clothing is how we share our cultural traditions, history, experiences and viewpoints about ourselves and the world in which we live. This exhibition will be up through the first week of March, 2019. If you love vintage clothing, do not miss this one-of-a kind exhibit.

Thus, our offerings this quarter are full of diversity. Lots of color and history and cultural traditions and fun and educational experiences are awaiting you at your favorite local museum.

-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

Suitably Attired: Selections from the Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection *Heritage Hall (through February 24, 2019)*

Drawing from the Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection at North Dakota State University, *Suitably Attired* explores the history of “The Suit.” As clothing is an expression of who we are and how we choose to present that vision of ourselves to the world, the suit’s long evolution offers an interesting perspective on a variety of cultural forces — from the suit’s role in signifying adulthood, masculinity, and business acumen.

An opening reception was held in celebration of the exhibition’s opening on Tuesday, December 4, and yielded a great crowd and a lot of enthusiasm. Our thanks go to ERHCC collection manager Susan Curtis, curator Dr. Ann Braaten, and guest curator Kim Baird.

RACE: Are We So Different? *3rd Floor Atrium (through May 7, 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 at the Hjemkomst Center beginning November 1. Through a collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, we are sharing it with the community free of charge in the 3rd Floor atrium.

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 only months after electing a president who campaigned on isolationism. In Fargo-Moorhead, a predominantly agricultural community of immigrants, few supported the choice to enter the war. It was often cited as someone else’s war or a war for profiteers and empires. 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.

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 will 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.

A programming series aiming to explore Indian American culture with more nuance has been scheduled for the duration of the exhibition. Join us for the many Saturday afternoon and Tuesday evening programs slated for the coming months. Programs include a workshop on the inventive engineering of “jugaad” or “something from nothing,” Indian fashion shows, and a three-part series surveying Indian history. A program guide is available both online and at the museum.

The World in Fargo-Moorhead *3rd Floor Hallway Case (through January, 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 some of these stories, now on display at the Hjemkomst Center.



This is the view from the top of R. L. Butler's toboggan slide in warmer days. Tobogganists flew down this chute and skidded along the frozen river 1200 feet to the old North Bridge, visible in the distance. The river would have been free of steamboats in the winter (Flatén/Wange Collection, HCSCC).

Do You Tobog?

Toboggan Slides in Clay County

By Mark Peihl

Occasionally, my wife and I join the kids on Fargo's new Mickelson Park flood control dike for a little snow sliding. Our inflatable sno-tubes are much more comfortable than the old aluminum disk I rode as a kid or my buddy Randy's steel runnered Flexi-Flier. (Or my wife's favored aluminum grain scoop!) It's just as well. The Park Board frowns on these devices for safety reasons.

Wooden toboggans are also missing from the officially sanctioned slopes. These flat bottomed, wooden sleds with the curved front piece glide neatly over even soft snow. A fad for riding these contraptions developed in the 1880s. Toboggan slides popped up all over. In flat lands like the Red River Valley, adventurous sliders built

steep, iced wooden chutes to give the sleds a boost in speed. We've found reference to a number of these slides here in Clay County.

On November 10, 1886, the Fargo City Council granted woodworkers R. J. and T. N. Robinson permission to build a toboggan slide "across and over" Seventh St. near what's now 3rd Ave S. This would be just west of Island Park. In a burst of inter-city one-upmanship typical of the time, Moorhead machinist R. L. Butler quickly announced plans to build a bigger, better slide on the Moorhead riverbank. Butler's proposed slide would run northwest from the Northern Pacific Railway bridge, down the riverbank to the frozen Red.

Its twenty-five-foot high scaffold, six feet higher than the NPR bridge, would tower fifty feet above the river. Butler claimed toboggans would scoot along on the ice for 1200 feet all the way to the old North Bridge. The *Moorhead Evening News* boosted the plan as a potential financial and recreational boon, saying "Toboggan sliding is the craze now as roller skating used to be... Moorhead should not be found tagging on behind the last wagon but should be in the van...[It] ought to meet with hearty and liberal encouragement from our business men...if they only look at it from a business ...standpoint [but also] from the standpoint of giving healthful and harmless amusement to the young people of the city...It will be a dandy slide and Moorhead will again assert her authority over other towns."

The slide opened on New Year's Day. Butler arranged for the Moorhead Coronet Band to play for the expected crowd. Electric lights lit the slide at the top and bottom. The run featured two side-by-side chutes, packed with snow and thoroughly iced. Stairs on either side gave access to the loading platform at the top. Butler's customers were not kids, but adults. He charged a whopping five dollars (several days' wages) for a season ticket, though later ladies slid for free.

It may have been a bit of a flop. The *Moorhead Evening News* didn't cover the actual opening of the slide. The high price may have scared off tobogganers. Undoubtedly the weather was a problem. The winter of 1886-1887 was one of the worst in history. A cold snap hit in early January, just after the slide opened. From the 6th to the 9th the lows were -43, -39, -48 and -38, all daily records that still stand. The minus 48 on the 8th is the coldest temperature ever recorded in Fargo-Moorhead. Add in the wind chill created by a 20-mile-per-hour toboggan run and you've got some serious cold.

Local papers the following winter made no mention of Butler's creation. It was likely quietly torn down that summer, though in January 1888 the *Evening News* reported a plan by some locals to "form a stock company for the purpose of building two toboggan slides, one from Fargo to Moorhead, and another to return on, thus solving the question of quick transit between the two cities." However, a few days later the *News* reported, "the scheme of building [two] toboggan slides, running from each direction... is not a feasible one owing to the townsite, on which the city of Fargo is built, being so much lower than Moorhead which would necessitate the building of the slide to such a height as would

be dangerous in the extreme. The project has been abandoned."

In December 1921, the Maurice Masterson American Legion Post #153 in Barnesville built a toboggan slide with a twenty-five-foot scaffold on a slope adjoining Whiskey Creek. It stood in what's now the north end of the parking lot of the former Wells Fargo Bank Branch on north Front Street. Tobogganers screamed down a remarkably steep chute and slid out across the Creek and into a pasture. The structure reportedly cost over \$300. As with Butler's Moorhead venture, the Legionnaires sold season tickets. Unlike Butler's, this slide proved very popular among local kids. The slide attracted some national attention when the national American Legion organization's weekly publication printed a photo of the chute in action. The following November, the *Barnesville Record-Review* reported that "The toboggan slide which was built last year, is being extended skyward at present. A new section will be added that will increase the height of the slide, and add correspondingly to the thrills when the season for this sport opens." We don't know how long this slide was in operation.

Compared to the ultra-flat Red River Valley, the Hawley area is practically mountainous. Nevertheless, a safety situation in that community led locals to give Mother Nature a helping hand in the sliding hill line. In the early 1930s, the land between the old high school and grade school buildings sloped down to the outh (Hawley High School sits on the site today). This created a



Barnesville American Legion's toboggan slide, 1922.

In 1923 the group built the scaffold even higher
(*American Legion Weekly*, February 17, 1922).



S. P. Wange took this photo of Hawley 4th graders hitting the slope in March 1934 (Flaten/Wange Collection, HCSCC).

dandy sledding hill but sent the kids careening across busy Joseph Street. In 1934, the school launched a construction project that included building a tunnel to connect the two buildings. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), a Depression-era relief program, partially paid for the undertaking. When the FERA workmen finished the tunnel, the School District had them build a slide facing north toward a much safer open field. Fifteen-year-old Grace Whaley described the scaffold in the “School News” section of the *Hawley Herald*: “Everyone is wondering what the relief men have been building between the two buildings. Well, it’s a new slide for the children. The new slide is about fifteen feet high and twenty feet long. It is facing the north so the children can keep sliding and go down the long hill. The steps leading to the top of the slide are on the south side and lead to the main platform where the children prepare to slide down. The platform is



^a After years of trying, Moorhead finally got a slide built in 1945. The Woodlawn Park Slide stood on 4th Street between 4th and 5th Avenue South. The building under the scaffold is a warming house (Gertrude Smith Collection, HCSCC).

surrounded by a high railing. This is to protect the little children from falling off.”

Meanwhile, back in Moorhead, a number of schemes to build toboggan slides came and went through the 1930s. Some came from energetic City Councilman, Adolph Bowman. Bowman represented the Second Ward in southwest Moorhead. Long a champion of recreational opportunities for Moorhead kids, in 1912, Bowman had organized volunteers to clear brush from a corner of city-owned property at the base of the bluff along 4th St S and installed swings, teeter-totters and other equipment. Though not an official park, it really served as the city’s first public playground. In July 1931, Second Ward residents complained to the City Council about the scores of kids who skinny dipped in the Red River in their neighborhood. Bowman offered to construct a changing booth, diving platform and rope swing for the youngsters at the end of the west end of 6th Ave S, a relatively clean stretch of river, just below the city’s water and power plant. The city agreed providing he not spend more than \$50. Bowman arranged for Boy Scouts to provide lifeguards and got the power plant to donate poles. The project came in under budget. The “swimming hole” proved popular. Hundreds of kids and adults swam there that summer.

Bowman hatched a plan to expand the new recreation area to winter use. In August, Bowman suggested that the city build a toboggan slide on city property between 5th and 6th Avenues South. He said that a southbound slide with a 25-foot-high scaffold would create a fifty-foot drop to the frozen river and an outrun 1000 feet long. Though he already had lined up power plant poles and other free materials, the Council tabled his motion citing potential costs.

In December Bowman tried again. This time the Council, concerned about liability, asked the City Attorney James Garrity for an opinion. Garrity responded that “there is no duty upon us to provide parks and pleasure grounds, and if we take it upon ourselves to... provide the slides, I am afraid that we might be responsible for injuries received through our negligence.” Curiously, Garrity also claimed the city was not responsible for injuries to children using the streets for sledding. Presumably it was safer for the city to allow kids to play in traffic than to build them a sliding hill. It was the depths of the Depression and the city was not willing to pay for a city employee to oversee safety at the slide. The Council voted down the proposal. In Nov 1932, Bowman

tried yet again, suggesting the Boy Scouts take over responsibility for watching the slide and, again, he was rebuffed.

Later in the 1930s, with federal Depression-relief funding available for local projects, the city’s attitude toward “parks and pleasure grounds” began to change. In December 1936, Mayor Edward Humphrey announced plans to create a skating rink and toboggan slide near downtown. Humphrey said city workmen would build



These kids’ faces show a mix of excitement and terror on the way down Moorhead’s old Woodlawn Park slide (*Moorhead Daily News*, March 7, 1956).

an earthen dam across the drought-shrunken stream west of what is now the Moorhead Center Mall. The resulting impoundment would be the skating rink. A toboggan slide, minus a wooden scaffold, would run from 3rd St and 1st Ave N (about where the former Herberger's parking ramp now stands) southwest to the river and across the impoundment. Reminiscent of the 1888 two-slide plan, the *Moorhead Daily News* said "it is possible, also, that a second [north-bound] slide starting near the First avenue south [Main Ave] bridge, may be built. Thus the tobogganists would have but a short haul for their toboggans at either end, instead of walking way back to the starting point." The dam plan proved unfeasible and the slides were left unbuilt.

In spring 1938, city officials announced ambitious plans for a summer and winter recreation center. It called for the purchase of Lydia Heine's ten-acre vegetable farm in what's now Woodlawn Park and the development there of baseball, football, badminton and softball fields; tennis and basketball courts; a hockey rink, picnic area, sand box, wading pool – and a toboggan slide. Negotiations proceeded slowly. The city finally acquired the land in 1943. War time labor and material shortages stymied the project until after World War 2.

Club went ahead with a winter sporting program which included skiing and a toboggan slide on the Club grounds. It featured a twenty-five-foot scaffold, and a 420-foot iced runway. It proved extremely popular but was only open to club members and their families.

Finally, the following fall, the city revived parts of its 1938 recreation center plan. City Attorney Edgar Sharp opined that as long as the city did not charge a fee for use of the slide or toboggans, the city would not be liable for injuries. The City Council approved spending up to \$450 to build a toboggan slide. Construction started in November. The slide featured a fifteen-foot scaffold on 4th Street, between 4th and 5th Avenue South. The outrun ran northwest into Woodlawn Park. A warming house later sat under the scaffolding, which was designed to be removed in summer months. A second slide, for sleds, was built on 2nd street running north from 6th Ave S.

The Woodlawn Park toboggan slide continued in operation until at least 1956. We don't know how long it operated or when it was removed. If you have any information about or memories of these or other toboggan slides, please let us know.

Meanwhile, in January 1945, private Moorhead Country Happy sledding!

Smithsonian
beyond
BOLLYWOOD
INDIAN AMERICANS SHAPE THE NATION
 Hjemkomst Center | October 27, 2018 - March 31, 2019

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Shopping for the Holidays?

Think HCSCC; Think Heritage Gift Shop!

We're well into the busiest shopping month of the year, but we're hoping many of you will still make the time to stop in at the Hjemkomst Center for some of your holiday shopping at the Heritage Gift Shop.

Your purchase at the Heritage Gift Shop does a lot of good in your local community. First and foremost, your HCSCC purchase helps your local historical society. On average, gift shop sales constitute between 5% and 10% of our annual income...and as members, you get a 15-20% discount on every purchase you make!

Second, your purchase supports the local artists,

craftspeople, and writers who typically source our gift shop. This is a big list, including Fargo "Bohemian Blü" jewelers Dale and Kristin Kruger, Felton ceramicist Ken Omundson, Ponsford "Maid in the Hills" soaper Trisha Harms, Lake Park pine and raffia weaver Judith Kohout, Minnesota birch weaver Joy Parker, Harwood woodcarver Kurt Anderson, Bejou barbecue master Rachel Helgaas Kulzer, and Otter Tail County photographer Jon Solinger.

Finally, we have a lot of great new materials from the folks mentioned above, as well as a fantastic collection of books from local authors on local subjects. Stop in this December and shop Heritage Gift Shop!





Commemorating World War I *By Markus Krueger*

Anniversaries are natural times to look back on events, and it was an anniversary that made the choice for our local exhibition in 2018 a no-brainer. Like most historical societies on this planet, we made a WWI exhibition.

Since the summer of 2014, the history world has been rather obsessed with commemorating the 100th anniversaries of World War I. A slew of new books about World War I came out just in time for century marks – books on the Battle of Verdun in 2015, the Somme in 2016, and people suddenly remembering who Woodrow Wilson was around 2017. Americans can be forgiven for not noticing all this until 2017 since we joined the war in 1917, but since then it's safe to say that Americans have been reflecting on this war more than at any other time in generations — and maybe more than at any time ever.

Following these anniversaries in real time gave me some perspective on just how very long this war was. And at the same time, the anniversaries our museum marked this fall made me realize just how short and violent this war was for America. World War I is the 3rd-deadliest war in American history, surpassed only by the Civil War and World War II, but it's also among our shortest. We joined the war in April of 1917 and it took more than a year to draft, train and send our army to France. Most of the 116,000 Americans who died in this war fell in just about six months of combat that happened to coincide with the deadliest flu pandemic in recorded human history.

We spent two years researching and writing this exhibit, reading through the letters of so many soldiers and nurses, sifting through their possessions donated to us by their families years ago, and trying to see what they saw, to understand what they experienced. We got to know them and like them. Many of them did not survive the war, and we felt compelled to make sure people remembered them by telling their stories in our work.

The 100th anniversaries started coming during our annual May school tour season. I told every Moorhead 4th grader, “This Sunday will be the 100th anniversary of the day Nassib Shaheen was killed in France. He was the first Moorhead soldier to volunteer for this war, even though he was born in a country that we were fighting against. He was born in Syria, which was then called the Ottoman Empire. Please think of him this Sunday.” I was able to tell 180 4th graders from Ellen Hopkins Elementary that 100 years ago today, Goodwin Thortvedt, Eugene Studlien, and a few score other draftees sat in the very bench that they were sitting in, waiting for the train that would take them to Fort Lewis, Washington, for basic training. Later in the exhibit they saw Goodwin's uniform, and a lock of hair taken from Eugene's skull when his remains were sent home after being buried three years in France.

The end of that week when Goodwin and Eugene left to be soldiers happened to be Memorial Day. Every year

Goodwin and Eugene's church, Concordia Lutheran, has a special Memorial Day service honoring their veterans. We made a video for the service talking about the experience of the WWI soldiers and nurses from that congregation. We made another video for our exhibit where we read Adele Thortvedt's account of Eugene Studlien's body coming home for burial three years after his death in France. It's heartbreaking. We have to have a box of tissues next to it (you can see it on both our website's "Articles and Blogs" page and our YouTube channel). Adele ends her letter with the line, "He's gone but not forgotten." Although we rarely think about this war, Eugene Studlien is not forgotten. Concordia Lutheran remembers him every year, even though no one in the congregation is old enough to have met him.

The anniversaries quickened their pace in June and July, once the Americans were sent into the line of battle to stop the German Offensive that threatened to take Paris. One of us on staff would notice a date coming up and mention it to the others, over lunch or email: "Today is the day John McGrath disappeared. Frank Stahl was wounded today, too, but he survived a few more days."

We tried to see these days coming up and do something about them. The week Clifford Hitterdal was wounded, our communications manager Davin Wait put together another movie using snippets of an interview Clifford conducted as an old man. Cliff talks about the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (the biggest, deadliest battle in American history), being wounded, and how he carried another wounded soldier to safety. Cliff's great-grandson later reached out, "Thanks so much. It is kind of crazy to hear my great-grandpa's voice."

But we couldn't keep up, especially in the fall, once the Meuse-Argonne Offensive began. About half of the American soldiers who died in this war died in the final 47-day battle that coincided with the height of the Spanish Influenza epidemic. I marked the day the battle began, September 26, with a presentation at the Moorhead Public Library on local World War I nurses. One of the nurses was Signe Lee. I live in her house and have been thinking about her a lot this year.

On September 29, Archivist Mark Peihl gave a presentation at the Heritage Education Commission's Genealogy Conference about finding sources on World War I ancestors. He used Phillip Herman as his example, a kid who came to Georgetown on an orphan train and was adopted by German immigrant farmers. He was killed

in the Argonne Forest exactly 100 years before that day. Herman's diary was found in his pocket and sent home to his family. That diary is on display in our WWI exhibit.

October saw more mentions of anniversaries among staff: "The flu got the Hanson baby today"; "Goodwin and Eugene were both shot today." We chatted about what to do for November 11, the Armistice, and it occurred to us that the 100th anniversary of 1918 also happened to be the 50th anniversary of 1968, a pivotal year of the Vietnam War. We asked our friends in the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter #941 to help us commemorate both Vietnam and WWI with a big, free event at the Hjemkomst Center. To remember WWI I would read from twin brothers Maurice and Kenneth Masterson's letters home from France. After that, Moorhead veteran and author Michael Gruchalla would talk about Vietnam and his experiences as a medic there. His memories, and the pauses he took to compose himself, made for the most powerful presentation I've heard in my life.

On November 1 I spent my day working on a history of the Masterson Brothers. It happened to be the 100th anniversary of the day Maurice was killed by a German artillery shell near the town of Sommerance, France.

On Sunday, November 11, I came in early before we opened so I could be there at 11AM, exactly 100 years to the minute that this war ended. It occurred to me that I should've done the math so I could commemorate 11AM on French time and I felt a moment of guilt but shook it away because it really did not matter at all. When the minute struck, I walked around the exhibition and said out loud the names of those whose stories I came to know: Maurice, Kenneth, Goodwin, Eugene, Rose, Reuben, Clifford, Signe, Walter, Margaret, Johnny... When I couldn't remember more of them, I raised a glass and toasted their memory with aquavit.

A while back, a local reporter doing a story on our exhibit asked me, "Why did you want to make this exhibition?" It's a question designed for us to wax poetic about how World War I is relevant to the world today and what we should learn from the struggle. Instead I said, "I want people to read the words written by Maurice Masterson and cry when he dies." On November 11, we filled all the chairs in front of our Heritage Hall stage and I spoke Maurice and Kenneth's words. Michael spoke his own.

And people cried.

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As of November 27, 2018, the following people are members in good standing. If you do not see your name here, please call and let us know, as we may have made a mistake OR you may have forgotten to renew! Thanks for your support!

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Comstock Christmas Programming

On **Saturday, December 15**, we host our annual **Christmas with the Comstocks** from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Victorian parlor games, cookies, cocoa, and live music from the Moorhead High School Christmas Carolers at 5:00PM, and the Concordia Flute Choir at 6:00PM.

On **Thursday, December 20**, we continue that Christmas spirit for **Comstock Christmas Tours**. Christmas trees, stockings by the fire, mistletoe, tours, hot chocolate, and cookies. Tours begin at 5:30PM, 7:00PM, and 8:30PM, with a limit of 12 per tour.

Reservations for both events are available online via our "Events" page or Facebook.

HCSCC Winter 2018 Calendar

Children's Indian Fashion & Dance Show

Saturday, December 8, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

We Are Afraid: Clay County & the Spanish Flu

Tuesday, December 11, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Christmas with the Comstocks

Saturday, December 15, 4:00PM - 7:00PM
Comstock House

Comstock Christmas Tours

Thursday, December 20, 5:30PM - 10:00PM
Comstock House

Indian Fashion Show

Saturday, December 29, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

ROK Day

Saturday, January 5, 10AM - 3PM
Hjemkomst Center

History On Tap!

Monday, January 7, 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Junkyard Brewing Company

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

Wednesday, January 9, 10:30AM - 12:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Jugaad: The Science of Invention

Saturday, January 12, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Visions of India: Indian Republic Day

Saturday, January 26, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Indian Food Art & Decoration

Saturday, February 2, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Glimpses of Ancient India (A History, pt. 1)

Sunday, February 3, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

History On Tap!

Monday, February 4, 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Junkyard Brewing Company

A Jazz History of World War I

Tuesday, February 5, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Women's Indian Fashion Show

Sunday, February 10, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Glimpses of Medieval India (A History, pt. 2)

Tuesday, February 12, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

Glimpses of Modern India (A History, pt. 3)

Sunday, February 17, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

A History of Hindism (pt. 1)

Tuesday, February 19, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

One-Act Play: Living Beyond Bollywood

Saturday, March 2, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

One-Act Play: Living Beyond Bollywood

Saturday, March 9, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

A History of Hindism (pt. 2)

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

Holi: A Festival of Colors

Saturday, March 23, 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Hjemkomst Center

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.

December Sleigh Rides

Our friends at Moorhead Parks and Recreation will be hosting sleigh rides through our beautiful and scenic Viking Ship Park from **Wednesday, December 26** through **Friday, December 28**. They'll be offered from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

Tickets are available at the doors of the Hjemkomst Center on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no reservations or advanced ticket sales. Please contact us or Moorhead Parks & Rec with questions.

Festival Schedule, 2019

Frostrival

Friday, January 25 - Saturday, January 26

Celtic Fest

Saturday, March 9

Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival

Friday, June 21 - Saturday, June 22

German Kulturfest

Saturday, September 14

Pangea

Saturday, November 16