

The Hourglass



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Shop Local, Small, and Nonprofit at the Heritage Gift Shop Supporting HCSCC Through Giving

By Davin Wait

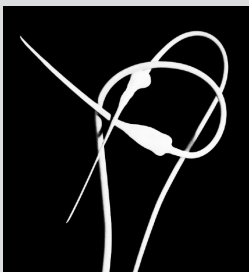
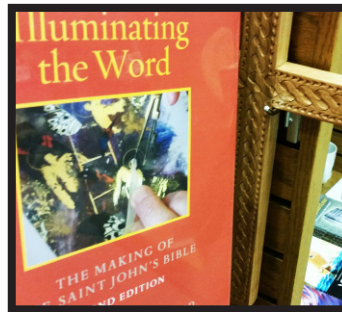
As our community prepares for winter holiday gift-giving, we want to remind and encourage our members to consider making a stop at the Heritage Gift Shop.

Not only do the Heritage Gift Shop profits help fund the work we do at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, but they also help support the local artists and craftspeople featured there.

From local writers like our own Hjemkomst Center tour guide, Dr. Gerald Andersen, to the Scandinavian

silversmiths from Montana who supply us with pendants each summer during Midwest Viking Festival, or the craftspeople like Dan Neisen in Mahanomen, Ken Omundson in Felton, and the Cree family of Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, much of our inventory is locally-sourced, supporting and preserving our region's cultural heritage.

If you'd like to take part, come take a look at the Heritage Gift Shop at the Hjemkomst Center or check out the "Shop Online" option from our webpage.



Andersen, p 10

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

HCSCC News

President's Message From John Dobmeier



Greetings to all,

November is upon us and with it comes the end of, arguably, our prettiest two months of the year.

I am looking out the south windows of my home in Barnesville and the leaves of my four gorgeous red maples are on the ground. This change in the season brings the early fringe of "The Holidays," exciting football games, and Pangea (our recent celebration of cultural diversity) as we navigate November.

With all of that optimism in the air we do have some issues that may plague us for a time. This is a good-news-bad-news scenario.

The good news is the First Avenue Bridge is open and traffic is flowing from the east and the west, as it should. The bad news is, the five months it was closed changed the traffic patterns to our front door so dramatically (15,000 cars pass our facility daily under normal bridge traffic) we have an annual shortfall that has reached critical stages.

As a nonprofit we are forever raising money, applying for grants, and relying on the patronage of fine folks like yourself who really do make a difference. If ever there was a time to help us a bit more, this is a great time of need for us.

I would like to conclude with a heartfelt thank you to all who support us in so many ways. I am not just referring to financial support, but to all the unsung heroes: Thank you.

November has always been a month dedicated in part, to giving thanks. So again I say, thank you, and to give a short history lesson highlighting the campaign song for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's successful 1932 presidential campaign, happy days are here again.

~ John Dobmeier, HCSCC Board President

Please Send Us Your Addresses!

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to Kate.Savageau@hcsmuseum.org to make sure you receive all the up-to-date information from us!



www.facebook.com/hcsc



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HCSCC News

Visio Divina @ Gethsemane Cathedral Tuesday, December 6, 6:00PM

In preparation for our exhibition of *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* from October 2 to December 31, 2017, we're presenting a visio divina, or divine seeing, of The Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral on Tuesday, December 6, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

Modeled on the ancient practice of prayer or meditation over art, we will be looking at Donald Jackson's *Birth of Christ* from *Gospels and Acts* and talking about the upcoming exhibit. A wine reception will follow and free-will donations will be accepted.

NDSU's Red River Valley Historic Tours Monday, December 12, 7:00PM

NDSU History students will be presenting their work, The Red River Valley Historic Tours, as part of Dr. Angela Smith's Fargo History Project on Monday, December 12, at 7:00PM in the 3rd Floor Gallery of the Hjemkomst Center.

Smith and her students designed the project as a system for research and study in NDSU's Fall 2016 Digital History Class. The presentation will feature descriptions of the six tours the class designed.

Clay County History Open House Tuesday, December 13, 5:30PM

On Tuesday, December 13, we will be hosting a Clay County History Open House in the 3rd Floor Gallery of the Hjemkomst Center.

The Open House is a collaboration between HCSCC and Minnesota State University Moorhead and will include presentations on Moorhead archaeology and guided tours of *Two Photographers: O.E. Flaten and S.P. Wange*, *Wet & Dry, Alcohol in Clay County*, and *Frontier Foundations: The History of Early Moorhead*.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will also be served.

Can You Help Us on Giving Hearts?

Do you want to help continue to tell local stories and bring quality events and exhibits to our community? Please consider supporting us and spreading the good word about the work we do on February 9, 2017, for Giving Hearts Day.

Co-hosted by Dakota Medical Foundation, Impact Foundation, and Alex Stern Family Foundation, the annual online fundraising event is one of the major gift-giving opportunities in the region. Gift totals have risen each year, and schools and nonprofits are looking to build this year on the \$8 million raised in 2016.

For more details, follow us on Facebook.



History on Tap! Prohibition-Era Talks in Partnership with Junkyard Brewing Co.



On Monday nights this December at 6:00PM at Junkyard Brewing Company in Moorhead, HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger is presenting excerpts and unseen material from *Wet & Dry, Alcohol in Clay County*. Admission is free, but we encourage you to buy something at the bar and support both local brew and local history!

Dec. 5: Local Moonshiners and How They Made It

Dec. 12: Blind Pigs, Bootleggers, and the Birth of Bars

Dec. 19: Cocktails and "Rip Gizzard":
Local Drinks of Prohibition (w/ Recipes!)

Newsletter Archives Online

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

Go to our website, www.hcscconline.org, and use the research link to find the newsletter archive.



Message from Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason

As I write this on the very last day of November, we have had our first snowfall. Almost all of the orange cones that plagued us from April through October are gone, the 1st Avenue bridge is back open, and we are beginning to see a return of the 15,000 cars that normally drive by our place each day. We only just sent out our annual end-of-year request to members and donors, and already, many of you have come through for us. We lost a lot of admissions, café, and gift shop revenue over the five months the bridge was closed, and your end-of-year gifts are going to help us meet our budget goals.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The end of the year is also a great time to reflect on how grateful I am for the wonderful staff we have here at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County. Most of you know senior archivist Mark Peihl, who is just completing his 30th year with HCSCC, and many of you know that Collections Manager Lisa Vedaa is going into her 15th year in 2017. Time flies by busily making history every moment of our lives. And our mission is to try to capture as much Clay County history and cultural heritage as we can. Director of Museum Operations Matt Eidem has spent a year of on-the-job training as DoMO and site manager for Comstock House. He has brought that beautiful landmark back into the community's consciousness in a big way, hosting events, developing some really intriguing programming, and having the house open for tours for more hours from May to November than ever before.

Programming Director Markus Krueger continues to host school groups, plan exhibits and events, and research and write Clay County exhibits with Lisa and Mark. Our new Communications Coordinator Davin Wait started in June and hasn't stopped running since he too has learned on the job how to keep HCSCC in the public eye and bring more people to our events and exhibits. Kelly Wambach continues to enhance every visitor's experience with the tasty food in the Rex Cafe, open Mon.-Fri 11:30-1:30pm, and with hospitality in the gift shop that remains ever-full of great gifts for friends and family.

And don't YOU forget to use your 15% HCSCC member discount!

Our part-time staff need to be included for their hard work as well. NDSU history graduate student Kate Savageau has been serving as administrative assistant and weekend manager since last summer; she processes all the donations and memberships and supervises the weekend staff and volunteers. Two NDSU history graduate assistants, Angela Beaton and Kaci Johnson, were also assigned to us as Graduate Assistants, and they have been busy with both collections work and events and Comstock House support. Rose Marie Taylor continues in the gift shop and is Kelly's right hand. We also appreciate all the one-semester interns and, of course, all the many volunteers who take care of the museum operations.

Every person contributes different gifts, and HCSCC is fortunate to have them all.

Consider the Gift of Membership

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

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

To sign up or to learn more about what each membership level offers, visit our website at www.hcscconline.org/join-support/ to download a membership form or pay online. For more information, you can also contact HCSCC Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason at 218.299.5511, extension 6732, or by email at maureen.jonason@hcsmuseum.org. Thank you for your support!

Exhibits & Events at HCSCC

Two Photographers: O.E. Flaten and S.P. Wange *Heritage Hall (December 13 - January 22)*

Photographs from HCSCC's Flaten/Wange Glass Plate Negative Collection will serve as the focus of this exhibit featuring the work of these two very different Clay County pioneer photographers.

Flaten was a kind but stern man and serious about his work after learning photography in the 1870s, when photographers had to sensitize their own glass plates. His personality shows in his work documenting Moorhead from 1879 to 1929: carefully arranged, conservative, and technically brilliant.

Wange was a joker and a barber famous for winning bets with traveling salesmen. He photographed in Hawley, having learned the artform in the late-1880s, after factory-sensitized glass plates were available. His photos lack technical brilliance but show a spontaneity and humor missing in Flaten's work.

Taken together they offer a fantastic and unique view of early Clay County.

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

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

From Moorhead's early days as that tent town on the edge of dry Dakota Territory to the moments after the 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition, *Wet & Dry, Alcohol in Clay County* features the real rum runners, bootleggers, blind pigs, moonshiners, Temperance debates, gangs, and bank robberies of Clay County: all players in the stories that we might expect from a community built, in part, on the drink.

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

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

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

***An opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 19, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM, featuring a presentation from Andersen and Zurn. The reception is free and open to the public.

The Power of Children: Making a Difference *Heritage Hall (January 28 - March 5)*

Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges, and Ryan White became the faces of some of the most influential experiences of the 20th century, giving voice to the tragic challenges of the Holocaust, American racial segregation, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Power of Children: Making a Difference amplifies their stories with artifacts, replicas, and interactive elements to show the courage and promise of our youngest citizens when facing insurmountable odds.

HCSCC Wine Classes *Oak Room (Bordeaux: January 26)*

Taught by Sam Wai, Ron Ellingson, and Randy Lewis, our wine class season will continue through the winter as we look toward Bordeaux on Thursday, January 26.

Pairing wine with a light meal to complement our histories of viticulture and enology, our classes have been a delicious, educational, and entertaining hit.

To receive registration announcements, sign up for the HCSCC e-newsletter from our homepage.



Winnipeg Junction, about 1905. There were 260 people in Winnipeg Junction in 1905. It was home to two saloons, two hotels, a livery, village hall and jail, two stores, a post office, a school and a couple of churches. Five years later, it was almost all gone. Flaten/Wange Collection.

What Ever Happened to Winnipeg Junction?

By Mark Peihl

What ever happened to Winnipeg Junction?

And Dale? And Manitoba Junction? And Muskoda? Many of our readers are at least somewhat familiar with these places. Some are aware that these communities went through dramatic changes resulting from the Northern Pacific Railway's attempts to reduce grades between 1905 and 1910. But what actually happened during those years?

First, some background. It's difficult to over emphasize the impact railroads had on Clay County. Until the railways arrived, there was virtually no white settlement here. The railroads provided a way for settlers to get here and, more importantly, offered a means to ship surplus crops to distant markets. They made commercial farming possible. The railroads controlled where the rails would run. They determined the locations of sidings and grain loading facilities. They also largely decided which of those sidings might have towns built around them.

The Northern Pacific Railway was the first to reach Clay County. Building west from Duluth, the NP laid

rails through the middle of the County in 1871. The ideal railroad would be dead straight with no curves and perfectly flat with no rise or fall. Reality (in the forms of rivers, swamps, hills, etc.) gets in the way. Chartered as a transcontinental railroad, the NP was in a hurry to reach the west coast. The hastily built rail line left the railroad with steep grades and maintenance issues.

The NP's original route paralleled today's US Highway 10 through the county (see the map on page 9). It entered from Becker County 1½ miles north of 10. Just inside Clay County, the NP built a siding called Hillsdale (later renamed Dale). It continued west down Hay Creek for 3½ miles to its junction with the Buffalo River. The NP's General Land Agent, George B. Wright, called this spot "decidedly the prettiest place on the line, level grade . . . smooth plateau . . . and nice brook." He thought it a great place to build a town. Instead, the NP continued southwest down the Buffalo another three miles to where the river turns abruptly south. There they established Hawley. The tracks continued west-southwest up out of the Buffalo River Valley south of today's US 10 for four miles where

they built another siding. They named it Muskoda (Muskoda is pronounced “MUS kuh dee,” and comes from the Ojibwe word Mashode’, pronounced “mahsh koe DEH,” meaning “large prairie”). The tracks continued west for three miles, took a couple of gentle bends along the way and straightened out just north of today’s MSUM Science Center. From there they bore straight west down to the Red River Valley flatlands. Right where State Highway 9 crosses the railroad line today, the NP built another siding, called Stockwood. West from Stockwood the line shot straight through to Glyndon, Moorhead, Fargo and points west.

These isolated sidings grew in importance in the 1870s as settlers moved to Clay County. The sidings, with their elevators and other grain handling facilities, provided farmers with markets for their crops. However, with horse-drawn wagons on primitive roads, farmers could haul a load of wheat only a few miles in a day. The nearest siding offered the farmer the only realistic place to sell and from which to ship his crops. The railroad used this monopoly to their advantage, charging the highest shipping rates the market could bear. The grain-buying elevators, whether owned by the railroad or independents, passed these high rates on to the farmers.

In the 1870s, a national farmers’ organization, The Grange, argued that the elevators and railroads, though private companies, were acting in the public interest and could be regulated by the states in which they were incorporated. The Grange got a series of state laws passed setting the maximum rates railroads could charge. Though the courts overturned most of these laws, the Granger decisions furnished the legal basis for state regulation of railroads.

The railroads were protective of their monopolies and worked to prevent competition. In 1878, the NP’s bitter rival, the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway (St. P M & M, later called the Great Northern Railway) built a line connecting the two main population centers in this part of North America, St. Paul and Winnipeg. The line passed north through Clay County via Glyndon and Felton to Canada via Crookston. The NP had long desired its own line to Winnipeg. Their charter barred them from building branch lines, so in 1885 they organized a separate railroad, the Duluth and Manitoba Railroad. The NP planned to run rails north from their main line near Hawley via Red Lake Falls and Grand Forks to the

border. This plan rattled the St. P. M. & M. In spring 1886, they surveyed and graded a branch line running south from the Red Lake River parallel to and just a few miles east of the proposed D & M. They hoped to run it through Lake Park and connect with their Fergus Falls to Pelican Rapids line.

The NP responded by hastily laying out their own line. The NP didn’t bother to hire professional contractors to build their line, relying instead on their own employees and hired local help. The tactic worked. The D & M reached East Grand Forks that fall and ran to Winnipeg the next year. The St. P M & M threw in the towel and abandoned their partially graded line.

NP officials chose for a southern junction the “prettiest place on the line” they had passed over in 1871. They called the place Hawley Junction but soon changed it to Winnipeg Junction. The Junction served as the headquarters for trains running between the site and Grand Forks. A three-stall roundhouse for servicing locomotives, a water tank, depots for freight and passengers and a 40,000-bushel grain elevator soon appeared. The NP platted a townsite around the siding. Dozens of NP employees settled there. A post office, two stores, three saloons, a school and a couple of churches appeared. Winnipeg Junction residents eventually voted to incorporate as a village with their own government. It became a bustling little community of about 260.

Another, much smaller community developed down the tracks around Muskoda. In 1874 George H. Brown platted a townsite there. Unfortunately, he sold only two lots and the townsite was vacated in 1880. In 1877, Minneapolis labor activist and publisher J. S. Rankin moved his printing press to Muskoda, published one issue of the *Free Flag* and promptly disappeared. James Jenkinson had better luck with a sand-and-gravel business there. Local farmers frequented the Bennet Company’s grain elevator, depot, a local store and post office and established a school.

Likewise, Stockwood boasted a post office, school, elevator, store and an implement dealership. Though they didn’t grow into villages like Winnipeg Junction, Muskoda and Stockwood served as community centers for area farmers. The stores and post offices became places to meet with neighbors, make deals and gossip.

And complain about the railroads. The Grange had had some successes in the 1870s. Minnesota established a Railroad Commissioner but it was a rather toothless position. By the 1880s, the price of wheat had collapsed. In 1884, the Railroad Commissioner estimated the cost of raising a bushel of wheat as at least 45 cents. Other experts suggested it was 50 to 67 cents. The average price received by the farmer from his local elevator varied from 42 to 48 cents. Overproduction caused some of this, but shipping charges, often unfair, cut deeply into the farmer's bottom line. Historian John D. Hicks has written:

It cost as much as twenty-five cents a bushel freight to get grain from many Minnesota stations to St. Paul or Minneapolis, when for only a few cents more it could be transported all the way to the seaboard. Indeed, evidence was at hand to show that wheat could actually be sent from Chicago to Liverpool [England] for less than from the northwestern part of Minnesota to the twin cities...

The grain dealers passed these charges on to the farmers. The railroads claimed it cost more to ship wheat from isolated points in sparsely populated areas, but as Hicks has written, "It looked as if the principle of 'charging all the traffic would bear' was being pushed to the limit."

Farmers fought back by organizing the Farmers' Alliance to elect Minnesota legislators friendly to farmers' interests. Clay County was a hotbed of Alliance activity. The group had some success including giving the now renamed Railroad and Warehouse Commission some limited authority.

Meanwhile, the NP's haste in building was catching up to them. In the 1890s, the railroad made some efforts to reduce the roller coaster-like grades in eastern Clay County, but by 1906, the situation was critical. Early that year they announced a huge building campaign. Three places in the county were real problems.

The first was the eastbound grade from Glyndon running up over the beaches of ancient glacial Lake Agassiz. This challenge required a helper engine, stationed at Fargo, to push trains up out the Red River Valley. It had become the single biggest bottleneck on the eastern half of the NP mainline. The NP proposed constructing an earthen ramp some 7½ miles long to reduce the grade. (The railroad encountered huge

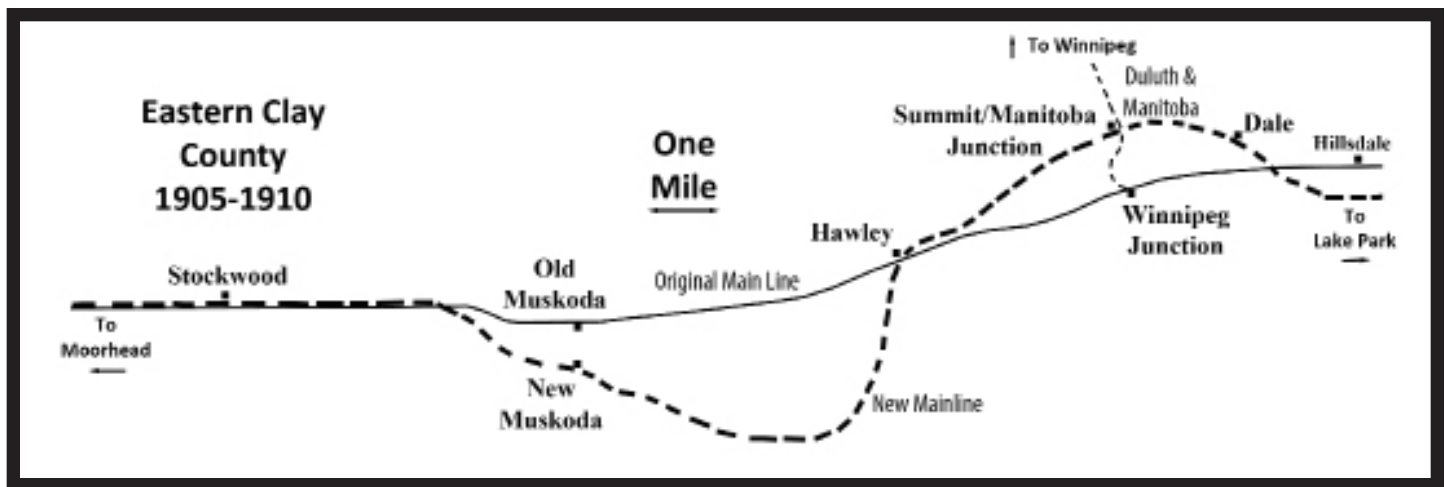
problems with this scheme. For more information about this fascinating project, see https://www.ndsu.edu/nd_geology/stockwood/stockwd1.htm) Stockwood, near the center of this ramp, would find its railroad some fifty feet in the air. The NP planned to do away with the siding completely.

The NP's second headache was at Hawley. The tracks ran almost straight west out of Hawley along what is now Main Street toward Muskoda. The westbound grade coming up out of the Buffalo River Valley was also very steep, requiring helper engines. The railroad planned to reroute its new mainline to the southwest then northwest along the natural lowland of the Buffalo River. This plan meant abandoning Muskoda. The NP announced it would move the station to a new location a short distance west on the new mainline.

The third problem area was near Winnipeg Junction. Though it was in a lovely spot, the town's location was problematic. Tracks built on soft, swampy ground east of town required constant maintenance. The first mile of track leading north on the D & M climbed steeply out of the Buffalo River Valley. The NP announced their new mainline would avoid these areas by following the high ground north of town. Winnipeg Junction would be abandoned, and a new station, called Summit, would be constructed a mile to the north.

Winnipeg Junction residents fumed, complaining the move would reduce the value of their property and filed a complaint with the Railroad and Warehouse Commission. The Commission held hearings but did nothing, claiming they had no jurisdiction. The NP platted a new townsite at Summit, named Manitoba Junction, and offered to trade Winnipeg Junction residents' lots for lots in the new town. They also offered to pay for moving the 40-some odd Winnipeg Junction buildings to the new site. NP accountants figured it would cost the railroad \$10,000. Residents responded that the new site was surrounded by rough ground, built on a swamp, had no road access and was impractical for a town. Over 25% of the village's residents worked for the NP and would be moving, along with the roundhouse, to Lake Park anyway. NP officials shrugged and went ahead with their building plans.

By summer 1908, the NP was nearing completion of their new line. In 1907, the Minnesota Legislature



Map of the NP's Changes, Eastern Clay County, 1905-1910

passed new laws outlining the procedure for rail line abandonment. Previously it was up to the aggrieved parties to take the railroad to court and prove the railway's plans unreasonable. The new rules required the railroad to seek approval from the Railroad and Warehouse Commission for their new lines and to prove to the Commission that the abandonment was necessary. Emboldened Winnipeg Junction residents hired attorneys and prepared to hold out for better terms.

The NP also plotted a new strategy. They received approval for their new line but kept the old line barely open, running the minimum of one train per day through Winnipeg Junction, hoping to force the community to negotiate.

The towns folk held firm, however, and in November the NP forced the issue by sending a large group of workmen to move the passenger depot to Summit/Manitoba Junction.irate residents called on Civil War veteran "Captain Ike Scougale of the Junction [to] organize a company of troops and fortify the place." More practical citizens filed a formal injunction against the railroad. The courts issued a restraining order pending a hearing and decision by the Railroad and Warehouse Commission.

Meanwhile, folks near Muskoda and Stockwood, encouraged by the Winnipeg Junction residents' activities, began organizing. In December 1908 the NP sent an investigator who identified five farmers who lived on the north/south road through Muskoda, and Leslie Welter, the new owner of the sand-and-gravel works, as "the people at the bottom of the movement" to fight the station removal. His report says the

"farmers claim that if the station is moved . . . about a mile west, it will make their haul longer and no suitable roads [exist] to get to it . . . The sand pit man [says] that it will remove his shipping facilities."

At Stockwood, area business owners and farmers demanded a ramp to access the now fifty-foot-high railway, a new depot on the top of the fill and sets of stairs to access the depot.

The Commission held hearings in Moorhead February 3, 1909. Over 100 eastern Clay County residents packed the Clay County Courthouse to hear testimony on all three cases and the NP's plan to abandon the siding of Dale, which had never amounted to much. The hearings lasted two days. The Commissioners agreed with most of the Winnipeg Junction residents' arguments and suggested the NP provide one train per day between Winnipeg Junction and Summit. The folks balked and requested a cash settlement. Commissioners adjourned the hearings to March 8 at St. Paul.

After further testimony, the NP offered the Winnipeg Junction residents \$25,000 for the right to abandon rail service to the town. The residents demanded \$35,000. They split the difference and agreed on \$30,000, split between the 25 or so property owners. The NP agreed to move Muskoda a half mile south to where the north/south road crossed the new rail line. Stockwood folks received word their siding would not be abandoned. In 1910, the NP built them a ramp, depot and access to the tracks. The railroad got permission to abandon Dale on the old line but had to install a new Dale siding nearby on the new line.

Winnipeg Junction business owners Andrew and Lena Jelsing and Edward and Winnie Molstad platted a townsite at the new Dale siding and named it Dale. Former Winnipeg Junction residents moved nearly all of the town's buildings to either Hawley or the new Dale site. To my knowledge, the NP never sold a single lot at their Manitoba Junction townsite.

Today, little remains of the NP towns. Several dozen people reside around the old Muskoda townsite. Dale also boasts a few families. In 1910 the few remaining Winnipeg Junction residents held an election to

dissolve their village government. Only ten people cast votes, eight were to unincorporate. Ironically, besides a few buildings, about all that remains of old Winnipeg Junction is the NP's original railroad grade. After the rail line abandonment, the NP tore up the tracks and ties and recycled them elsewhere. In 1913, the NP offered Clay County the use of the grade for a road. Today it's known as Junction Avenue and is part of Clay County Road 115.

If you have photos or stories of Clay County's "ghost towns" to share, please contact us at the museum!

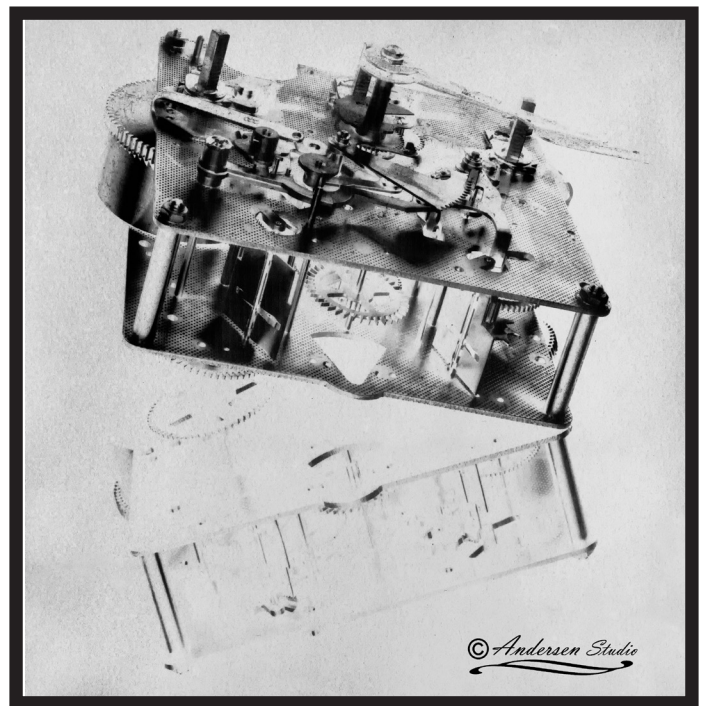
Ken Andersen's Art and Science: A New Photography Exhibit @ HCSCC

By Markus Krueger

It is often said that "art people" are somehow different than "science people." It isn't true. It's a false dichotomy and we can point to countless examples, from the notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci to the geometry of Scandinavian chip carving patterns, to show that the arts and sciences both feed and need each other. One artist, West Fargo photographer Ken Andersen, proves the point even further as a renaissance man inspired by the science of his craft.

Dr. Kenneth Andersen owns a home building business, taught Construction Management at both MSUM and NDSU, was a Fulbright Scholar in Sierra Leone in 1996-97, climbed Devils Tower in Wyoming for fun, and his hobbies – fine woodworking and photography – are displayed in museums and published in national magazines.

His camera is not like yours. His Sinar monorail view camera looks like an accordion sitting on top of a bunch of knobs and doodads that he moves around with a pole on wheels, and it focuses like nobody's business. The several precision lenses, German-made Rodenstock and Schneider, at the business end of the accordion cost several thousand dollars each. His other equipment is made up of worn wooden antiques



"Clock," a Ken Andersen carbon transfer print
(inverted/negative image)

and brass lenses, still good, and inherited from his father, a professional photographer in Staples, MN.

Andersen's style is meticulous, patient, and detailed. He takes an hour or so fiddling with the knobs and doodads to get the perfect focus and composition before taking a picture. Much of his equipment is not high-tech but rather reliable, quality old technology that has been finetuned to perfection by German-speaking people in white lab coats. The camera produces a negative the size of a 4x5 inch recipe card. Dr. Andersen takes it into his basement dark room where he dips things in trays of precisely measured chemicals for exactly the right amount of time. After every step in the process is complete, Andersen

emerges with a dripping wet work of art. It seems like magic to most, but this art is a science; and as you can tell from the previous paragraph, I have no idea how it works. Which is why I am so incredibly excited for our upcoming exhibit.

The exhibit, *Focus on the Process: The Art, History, and Science of Photographic Printing*, came while the artist and HCSCC staff were chatting about the historic photograph collection in the Clay County Archives. Dr. Andersen loves the history of his craft and is fascinated by the chemistry and physics that go into a photo. Wouldn't it be great, we said to each other, to have an exhibit that showed, say, a dozen different historic photographic methods and taught you the step-by-step science and process behind each method? As far as we can tell, nobody has ever done that before. Well, the punishment for a good idea is having to follow through with it.

So with the generosity of grantors at The Arts Partnership and Lake Region Arts Council paying for thousands of dollars of chemicals, ranging from gold and silver to acid and rotten eggs, and the help of intern Louis Zurn, a graphic design student at Minnesota State University Moorhead, Dr. Andersen's vision began to take focus.

As Dr. Andersen made each photographic print, Mr. Zurn took notes and photos, documenting the various processes. With the broad scope of the project, those processes included etching copper with acid for photogravure prints, cooking light-sensitive black jello for carbon prints, and smearing photo paper with oil paint for gumoil prints.

The end result will be a dozen amazing photographic works of art from Ken Andersen (in frames he made himself, of course), accompanied by a series of pictures showing how those photographs came to be, along with an accessible step-by-step description of the science behind the art.

For the general public, the exhibit will give an appreciation for photography's development as an incredibly sophisticated science, an art form, and a whole lot of work. For educators, it will be a way to bring science into art class and art into science class. For history lovers, the exhibit will show the influence of material culture and the role of mechanical and chemical evolution. For photographers



Andersen's Sinar camera

and graphic designers, this exhibit explains the birth, development, and vocabulary of their art forms. For art lovers, the exhibit showcases the rugged, delicate, textured, precise and patient photography of Dr. Ken Andersen.

Focus on the Process: The Art, History, and Science of Photographic Printing will be up in early January and run through Sunday, April 9. The opening reception, free and open to the public, will be held at the Hjemkomst Center on Tuesday, January 19, and will include a presentation from Andersen and Zurn.

SALOON GUNFIGHTS • BEER PALACES
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ALCOHOL IN CLAY COUNTY
1871-1937

You Make Our Work Possible. Thank You.

*If you are an active member and do not see your name listed here,
please call Maureen at 218-299-5511, ext. 6732. Thank you!

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



On Saturday, January 7, members of the Northern Prairie Fiber Artists will be bringing their wheels, spindles, bobbin lace and other fiber projects to the Hjemkomst Center to celebrate Rok (or St. Distaff's) Day. The celebration will be held in the Hjemkomst Center atrium from 10:00AM to 3:00PM and all are welcome to join for arts/crafts/history.

NEWS FROM THE



COMSTOCK HOUSE

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Home for the Holidays

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 4:00PM-7:00PM

Join in the wonder of a Victorian Christmas at the Historic Comstock House. See the house decorated for the holidays with splendid greenery and Victorian charm. Learn about Victorian parlor games, traditional Christmas dinners, and other turn-of-the-century Christmas traditions.



Moorhead Women's Club: Talk & Tour

Wednesday, January 25, 2016, 6:30PM-8:00PM

Kate Savageau, a NDSU graduate student, will discuss her research on the women's club movement in the Fargo-Moorhead area between 1880-1930, including the history of Sarah Comstock, one of the founding members of the Moorhead Women's Club.

A tour of the house is included with program admission. Coffee and baked goods will be provided by Red Raven Espresso Parlor.

Admission: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors & college students, \$4 ages 5-17, free ages 4 & under / MNHS members.

Concordia Music @ the Comstock

The Comstock House and the Concordia Music Department have just entered into a partnership to bring music to Moorhead's historic homes. The partnership is designed to better connect our talented student musicians with local venues and audiences.

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

Dates for the spring semester are still being set, but the first performance of Concordia Music at the Comstock will be on Saturday, December 10, during Home for the Holidays. A trombone trio will be playing holiday tunes in the house from 5:30PM to 6:15PM.

Hot cocoa and holiday treats will be served for guests as they enjoy the festive air around them.

Admission: \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 kids 12 and up, free kids under 12, \$1 discount for members.

Parlor Talks

Thursday, February 16, 6:30PM-8:30PM

The first in a monthly lecture series at the Comstock House, our Parlor Talk will give participants a chance to hear local histories while enjoying beer from one of Fargo-Moorhead's local breweries.

In February, on Thursday the 16th, HCSCC's Senior Archivist Mark Peihl will offer a lecture on Moorhead's notorious saloon district. The event is for adults only (21 & older).

Admission is \$15 and includes food and the 1st beer.

Candlelight Tours

Thursday, February 23, 6, 7, and 8:00PM

Come experience the Solomon G. Comstock House like the family would have: by candlelight. With three tours planned for the evening, attendees will each get a candle as they follow a tour guide throughout the home, all while hearing the stories of Solomon, Sarah, Jessie, George, and Ada.

Admission will be \$5 for all attendees except MNHS and HCSCC members, who will get in for free.

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

PO Box 157 • 202 First Avenue North

Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



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

The Rex Cafe @ The Hjemkomst Center

WiFi, Atmosphere, and a New, Expanded Menu

The Rex Cafe helps support the HCSCC and offers delicious food and drinks, free WiFi, and a nice view under the Hjemkomst Center atrium. It's also very much a part of the work we do, featuring both modern and traditional foods during the week (and stocking our festivals with some of our favorite cultural delicacies, like spaetzle, skyr, and currywurst).

In December, the cafe will continue that support with even more delicious food from a new menu, including The Messy Sven (seasoned beef on focaccia), Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Mosquito Bites (Minnesota wild rice sausage, pepper jack, & chili on crackers), the Hot Swedish Meatball Sandwich, and the Focaccia Club.



If you're looking for the perfect setting for a working lunch or a meal with your museum visit, come check it out!

Festivals @ the Hjemkomst in 2017

January 28: Frostival (Moorhead Parks, FMCVB)

March 11: Celtic Festival (Fargo/Moorhead Parks)

June 23-24: Midwest Viking Festival & Scandinavian Hjemkomst (the 40th, feat. Norway)

September 16: German Kulturfest

November 18: Pangea--Cultivate Our Cultures



Sleigh Rides in Viking Park



Tuesday, December 27, 1-4PM

Wednesday, December 28, 1-4PM

Thursday, December 29, 1-4PM

Friday, December 30, 1-4PM

**\$4 per person
coffee/cocoa/treats at the Rex Cafe
\$1 off HCSCC admission**