

# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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CCHS Newsletter

January/February 2000

Vol. XXIII. No. 1

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A Moorhead saloon about 1912. Alcohol abuse in bars like this one kept Moorhead cops busy in the early 1900s. See story Pages 6-10.

Clay County Historical Society photo

## President's Report

By Galen Vaa, President

This is my last report as president of the Clay County Historical Society. I have recently been appointed as a district court judge and my office is in Fergus Falls. Therefore, I have reluctantly concluded that it is not possible for me to continue my role as president of CCHS. Effective January 1, 2000, Vice President Norman Roos will become president of our organization.



Also, my recent resignation as president created a vacancy on the Board of Directors of CCHS. Fortunately, a resident of rural Hawley, Minnesota, named Steve Aakre was approved as a new member of the Board of Directors at the monthly meeting on December 22, 1999. Mr. Aakre was born and raised in the rural Hawley area and graduated from Hawley High School in 1971. Currently Mr. Aakre is a law partner in the Fargo law firm of Serkland, Lundberg, Erickson, Marcil & McLean, Ltd. Mr. Aakre has a deep interest in the historical development of Clay County and his legal expertise will be helpful to the Board in its ongoing management of our organization.

I believe that CCHS is one of the most important organizations in Clay County. CCHS is the only entity whose central mission is the preservation of the history of Clay County. In our modern society, the preservation of history and/or historical artifacts is not a large concern for the average citizen, or for most local, state, or federal departments or agencies. The news media seems to be obsessed with news "of the moment," and it is very rare that we receive insightful commentary that places current events in their proper historical perspective. A thoughtful historian once made the following observation:

*Those who do not study the past, are condemned to repeat the mistakes of their ancestors.*

I wish you and CCHS a happy and prosperous New Year!

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The CCHS Board of Directors voted unanimously in December to thank and commend Mr. Vaa for all his work on the Board, especially while serving as Chairman.

## Are you going to be away??

If you plan to be away for any length of time, please notify CCHS so we can either forward your Newsletters or hold them for you. Returned Newsletters can be a major expense. Under current postal regulations undeliverable non-profit mail is returned to sender postage due. Please help us avoid this lost revenue.

Call 299-5520 or write to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561-0501 to report any address changes.

## CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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# Membership dues go up Feb. 1

For years the CCHS Board of Directors has wrestled with the question of raising membership fees. For over a decade CCHS dues have remained \$15 for individuals and \$35 for families (including two adults and any children under the age of 18). But the costs of providing the benefits, that our members have come to expect and are entitled to, have continually gone up.

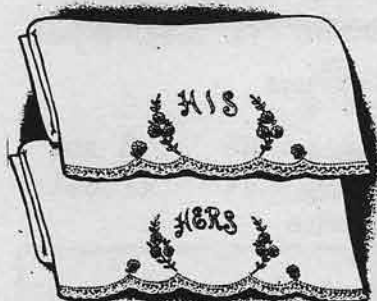
Printing costs and postal rates for the newsletter and various brochures have greatly increased since the last membership fee hike in 1987. The cost of purchasing complimentary passes to the HHIC exhibits has also grown with the recent building expansion and increased usage. Therefore, the Board felt it necessary to reflect the cost of the services provided with an increase in membership dues.

Beginning on February 1, CCHS individual annual membership dues will be raised from \$15 to \$20. As an incentive for family usage, the annual family membership fee will continue at \$35. Members who renew early, before February 1, will be renewed at the old rate.

The Board has not taken this action lightly, and hopes our patrons will understand the need for this minimal increase in individual membership fees.

Current membership benefits include supporting preservation efforts for the county, a bi-monthly newsletter, access to CCHS tours, a discount on acid-free materials, complimentary passes to the Heritage Hjerkomst Interpretive Center exhibits, discounts on photo reproductions, voting privileges at the annual meeting and an invitation to all CCHS events. We feel the most important benefit for most members is the knowledge that they are helping preserve our heritage.

The CCHS Board of Directors and Staff are dedicated to providing the highest standards in historical and museum work possible. Your memberships help make this possible. Thank you!!



## "Individuality"

\* New thoughts for the smart hostess  
\* Novel "one's own" Pillow Cases  
\* Stamped on excellent White Tubing  
3404—"His" and "Hers"  
Our suggestion is that the stamping of the "His" and "Hers" designs, for satin stitches, be done in blue; the remainder of the pattern, for lazy daisy, outline and french knot embroidery, in soft, pastel shades.  
The lovely and smooth, firmly woven, White Tubing Cases, with edges neatly hemstitched for dainty hand-crocheted edging, have a fine cool texture and a clean-crisp feel. They will wear and launder well.  
Pillow Cases, size 42x33 inches  
Ships. wt., pair, 10 oz. Pair..... 69c  
T3404—Thread for cases, 13c.  
K3404—Crochet Kit containing Cotton and illustrated leader of instructions for edges shown, for each pair of pillow cases, 19c.

69c

## Anderson to present Frederick Manfred lecture series

CCHS, along with FM Communiversity, is presenting a lecture series on Frederick Manfred at the Hjerkomst Center four Saturdays in January and February. The series, to be presented by retired Concordia Librarian and Professor of Scandinavian studies, Verlyn Anderson, will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 22 and 29 and Feb. 5 and 12. Freya Manfred, Manfred's daughter, who recently published her own book, *Frederick Manfred: A Daughter Remembers* will be the guest speaker at the Feb. 5 session.

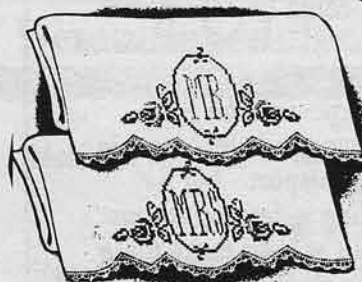
Tuition fee for the series is \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$20 for students. CCHS members will be offered the reduced fee of \$20 by identifying themselves when registering.

For more information or to register call FM Communiversity at 299-3438.

## Stitch & Sew set for Feb. 3 at Clay County Museum

Northern Lights Chapter, Embroiderers' Guild of America will hold a Stitch and Sew in the Clay County Museum atrium at the Hjerkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3.

Come on down and ask the stitchers questions or bring your own needlework - any kind - to work on. Sit and stitch a while in good company while comparing notes on stitchery topics.



## "Charming Monogram"

The popular "personalized" theme in cross-stitches. Stamped on fine, luxuriously soft, White Tubing. Edges hemstitched for crochet. Quickly and easily embroidered. Ideal for gifts, as well as for yourself. At the low price for this quality Tubing, fashion is fun!  
3407—"Mr." and "Mrs." T3407—Thread for cases, 15c.  
Pillow Cases, size 42x34 inches  
Ships. wt., pair, 10 oz. Pair..... 79c

79c

Do people really do fancy embroidery these days? You bet they do. See for yourself on Thursday, Feb. 3 from 7-9 p.m.

Pillow case designs from the Frederick Herrschner Co. Catalog No. 60, Spring and Summer - 1940.

## Outreach Displays

The CCHS outreach case program will be on vacation for about a year. The curator needs to catch up on work created by last year's water main break and the move into new quarters.

## Monetary Donations

November/December 1999

Alterra Healthcare of Moorhead  
Ellen Butenhoff, Moorhead  
Association of Business Professionals, Fargo  
Hawley Literary League  
Men of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Degree of Honor Protection Association,  
Moorhead Lodge #160  
Hawley Firemen's Relief Ass'n, Hawley  
toward purchase of new scanner for Archives  
David W. Onan II, Wayzata  
Willis & Laverne Kingsburg, Fargo  
Berniece Janecky, Pelican Rapids  
Darren Leno, Fargo  
Boeing Gift Matching Program, Princeton, NJ,  
courtesy of Howard Roos, St. Louis, MO  
Ariel & Myrtle Mouldrem, Moorhead

## CCHS Wish list .....

CCHS is in need of a reel to reel tape deck in working order. In our collections we have a large number of reel to reel audio tapes which were made in the 1950s and '60s which need to be copied onto a more usable audio cassette format. We have access to a modern tape deck and power source but are lacking an old reel to reel deck.

We also need a good quality, working 8mm and/or super 8mm film projector. We have a number of old home movies in the collections which could be copied onto video. This would not be for preservation purposes - the life expectancy of video tape is still suspect - but by making video copies, we could at least make these films available for use in exhibits and other programs. Call 299-5520 if you can help.



## Artifacts & Donors

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Lyle B. Clark  
Baker: Helen Austin  
Hawley: E.M. "Lefty" Johnson  
Edina: Tim Layeux  
Apple Valley: Doloris Zwack-Mellon  
Arthur, ND: Mrs. Vicki Marvel  
Loves Park, IL: Alice King  
Reardan, WA: Mina Mittelstaedt

### Artifacts include:

(2 vol) account books @1948 - 1967 and June 1968-Feb. 1969 from the Johnson Dept. Store in Hawley; photo of Ophelia Gleason\* and photo of Gertrude Wambach Hoefling from *Moorhead Daily News* July 1939; poster/calendar 1902 Business Directory for Moorhead with business ads; (1) vol *Standard Atlas of Clay County, Minnesota* published by Alden Publishing Co., Chicago 1909; book, *Dacotah Territory* No. 8/9 Fall/Winter 1974-75 containing "poetry and comment" published at Moorhead State College; MS biography of Lyle Clark - WWII Experience by grandson Ryan Pederson Dec. 6, 1999, 1954 photo of Mhd Auto Club Officers, mounted photo of donor with collection of Lions Club pins, newspaper of Bob Lind *Forum* column on Lyle Clark and a framed, mounted collection of over 100 Lions Club pins (50+ for perfect attendance and @50 gift pins from other clubs); crazy quilt made by Emelia Petersen, Wolverton, MN before 1929; (miniature) replica ox cart made by "Lefty" Johnson; a souvenir piece of oak from the shipyard of the Hjemkomst Viking ship in Hawley with rubberstamp mark on two sides "The Gokstad Viking Ship, Bob Asp, builder 1980 Hawley, MN"

\* the story of Ophelia and the Hoeflings appeared in the September/October 1999 issue of the CCHS newsletter.

## Memorials

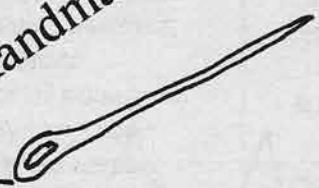
From Maybelle Dinsmore,  
in memory of Harold Dinsmore  
From Paul & Marguerite Pratt,  
in memory of Ruby Johnson  
From Gordon and Susan Kassenborg,  
in memory of Halvor Tvedten  
From Robert & Phyllis Anderson,  
in memory of Halvor Tvedten

# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

*A new exhibit in a new museum*

## Stitches in Time

Clay County's Handmade Textiles




The clothing on this bisque pioneer mother doll (ca 1890-1910) features fabrics dating from 1871 to 1880. She and her bisque baby won 1st prize in a doll contest in 1932.

The "Stitches" exhibit explores the role of textiles in the social history of Clay County.

### Mini Exhibit and Demo Schedules

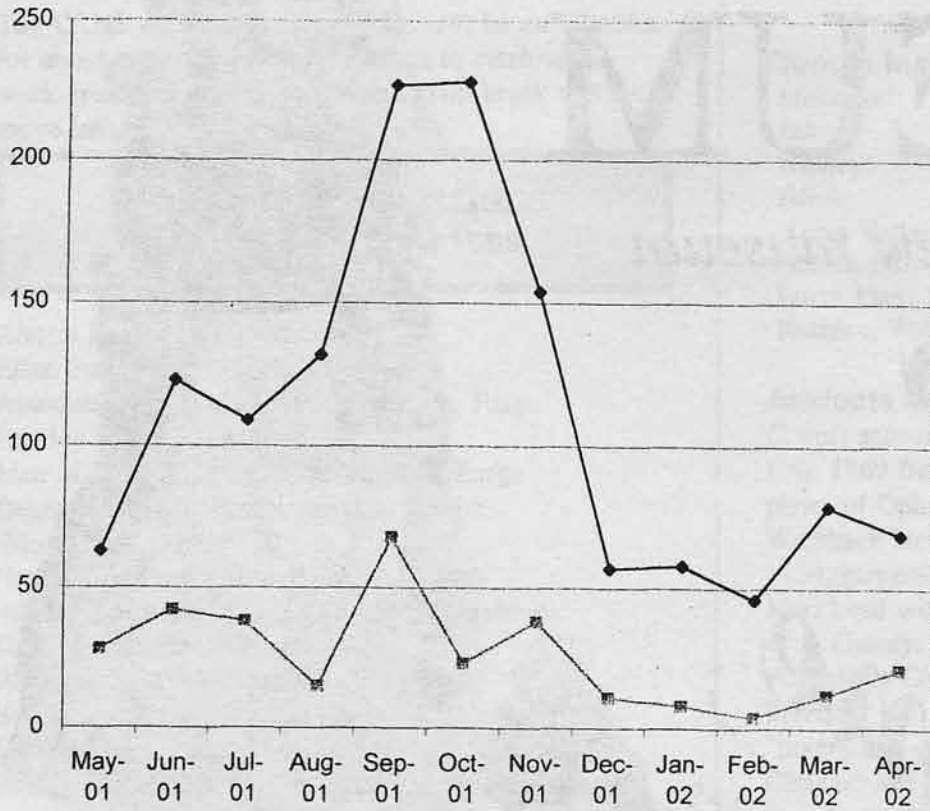
Jan. 8 - Feb. 27 - Northern Prairie  
Fiber Artists Guild

Jan. 8 Fiber Artists Demos 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Feb. 19 Fiber Artists Demos 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

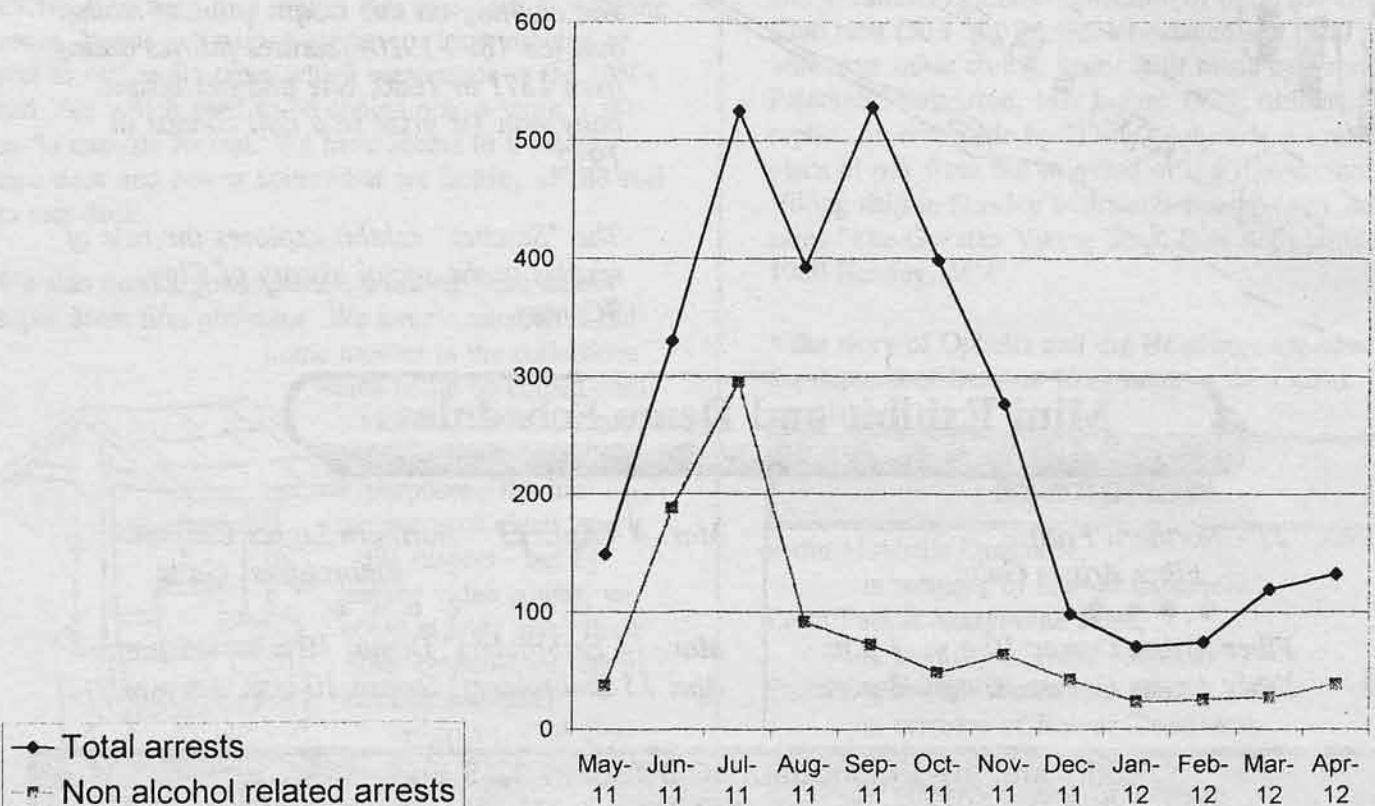
Mar. 4 - Apr. 23 Northern Lights Chapter  
Embroiders' Guild

Mar. 18 Embroiders' Demos 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Apr. 15 Embroiders' Demos 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hours are: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-9 Thurs., 12-5 Sun.  
Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, MN



### Moorhead arrests, 1911-1912



# Crime and liquor in Moorhead

By Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist

Regular readers of this space may notice that we've been using computers to study life in Clay County's past. Recently I keyed in information from some of our Moorhead Police Department arrest registers and, once again, came up with some interesting results.

First, a little background. We hold 3 volumes listing arrests in Moorhead between 1901 and 1927. The information recorded includes the name of the person arrested, the date and cause of the arrest, the sentence the person received and which of the two municipal court judges presided over the case.

I keyed in the number and causes of all arrests recorded between May 1901 and April 1902 and between May 1911 and April 1912. I began in May because Moorhead held its municipal elections in April. This often led to a change of administration and perhaps different ways of enforcing the law. I wanted to study two twelve-month periods without any changes in city hall.

The two years were in the heart of Moorhead's saloon era. A provision in North Dakota's constitution closed all saloons in that state in 1890. Bars could, however, remain open in Minnesota. Soon after, border communities such as Moorhead had a lot of saloons on their hands - and the problems caused by large scale alcohol consumption. Through the 1890s the number of Moorhead's saloons grew from 18 to 45. Public drunkenness, street crime, political corruption and public maleficence followed.

In 1898 citizens rebelled and a general cleanup of city government began. Spasms of saloon reform erupted periodically over the next 17 years until Moorhead, like the rest of Clay County, went dry in May 1915.

I chose 1901/02 because it was the first full year of records and was in the middle of the city clean-up effort. I picked 1911/12 somewhat arbitrarily - it was ten years later.

When I crunched the numbers, two factors immediately jumped out: the seasonal distribution of the arrests and the huge role alcohol played in local crime. A glance at the accompanying graphs (opposite page) makes this clear.

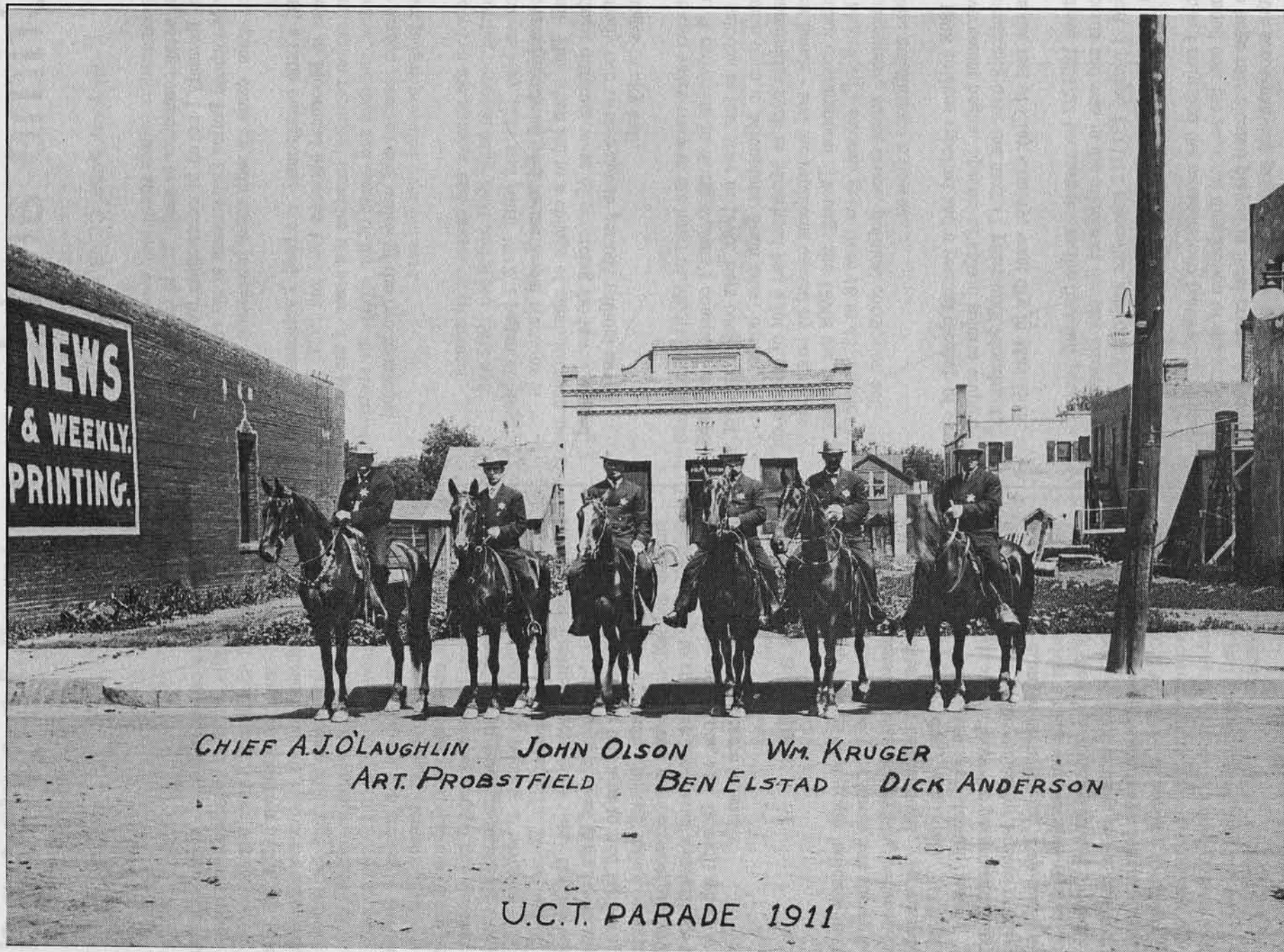
## Seasonality

Note the bell-like curves in the two graphs with their peaks in the middle. In 1900 Moorhead was home to 3700 people and 45 saloons. That's one saloon for every 82 men, women and children in the city. Clearly it was not Moorhead residents who were supporting the saloons but folks coming from outside, mostly from dry North Dakota. Agriculture in those days was very labor intensive. It could take 15 men to run a steam threshing rig. Of the 4,436 arrests in the two years, 43% occurred in August, September or October. This is undoubtedly a reflection of the large number of harvest hands who poured into the Red River Valley each year to work on threshing crews. Many of these men spent winters in northern Minnesota working as lumberjacks. December, January and February were quiet times for Moorhead's saloons and jail. In spring many of these laborers began moving back into this area to find farm work and arrests begin to climb. The real influx came in late summer and fall - and arrest numbers soar. It would be interesting to compare Moorhead's experience with similar arrest records from, say, Bemidji where the influx of working men came in winter.

## Alcohol as a factor

Note that the top line on each graph indicates the total arrests during the period. The lower line shows the non-alcohol related arrests. Everything between the lines reflects arrests for drunkenness, vagrant and drunk, drunk and disorderly, etc. Fully 71.7% of arrests over the two years were alcohol related. Between August and October the percentage climbs to 83.3%. Over half of the violent or serious crimes were committed by drunken perpetrators. Two-thirds of disorderly conduct arrests were alcohol related. In contrast, today the US Attorney General's office reports that about 40% of inmates in the nation's local jails had been drinking when they committed their crimes. Again, it would be interesting to compare Moorhead's records with those of supposedly dry Fargo's for the same period. It would give us a better handle on the real impact that saloons had on Moorhead's crime.

(Continued on Page 9)



Police Chief A.J. O'Laughlin and his patrolmen ready to ride in a parade, 1911. The Police Department added two officers between 1901 and 1911.

A.J. O'Laughlin Collection

## Arrests (Continued from Page 7)

### 1901 versus 1911

There are some differences between the two years. The number of saloons was roughly the same (37 in 1901, 41 in 1911) and their distribution around the city was very similar. But Moorhead's population had grown 30% between 1900 and 1910 (3,738 to 4,841). The police force also grew from the Chief of Police and three patrolmen in 1901 to the Chief and five officers in 1911. The number of arrests was also up dramatically from 1,345 in 1901/02 to 3,091 in 1911/12 (a 130% increase). We don't know if this reflects more crime or better enforcement.

The nature of the arrests changes, too. The percentage of alcohol related crime decreased from 77.1% in 1901/02 to 69.3% in 1911/12. But the percent of alcohol related arrests during the harvest season increased slightly from 81.9% in 1901/02 to 83.7% in 1911/12. In other words, there were relatively fewer arrests for booze violations in the later period but they were more concentrated in the harvest months. Again, we don't know if this reflects a change in crime or the police shifting their enforcement efforts from one type of violation to another.

Except for one anomaly the seasonal rise and fall in number of arrests is roughly the same. The exception can be seen on the 1911/12 graph. In July 1911 there is a large spike in the number of non-alcohol (and total) arrests. Newspapers from the period note that Moorhead was filled with hundreds of men looking for work (some more seriously than others). The Chief of Police led sweeps of vagrants rounding up 165 in a two-week period. That's 31% of the arrests for the whole month. Every vagrant received a suspended sentence and a warning to find a job or leave town.

### Gender

Almost all of those arrested in the two years were men. Only 1.2% were women. Among the few women

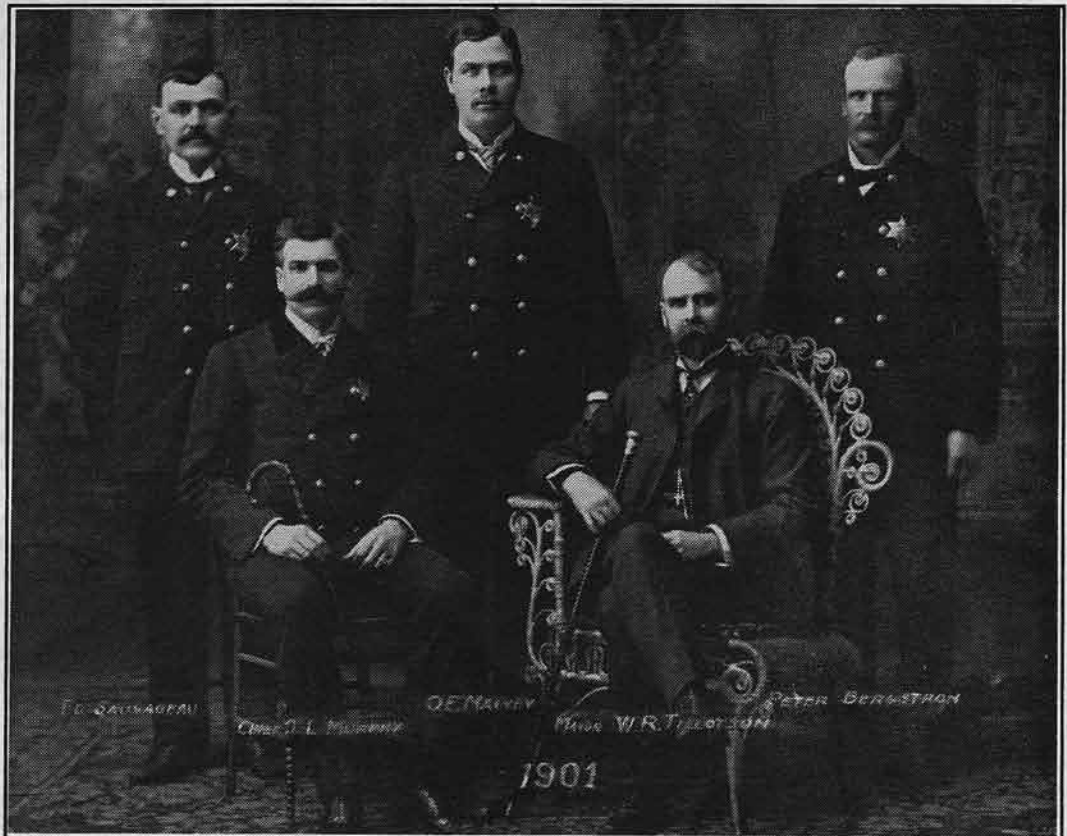
arrested, however, there is an interesting shift between 1901/02 and 1911/12. In the earlier period 53.8% of women arrested were picked up for alcohol violations. In 1911/12 it had shrunk to 11.5%. Likewise the percent of women among the total arrestees dropped by more than half from 1.9% to .8%. Either women were drinking less or the police were ignoring it.

In the earlier period (which I studied in more depth), women arrested for liquor crimes were treated more harshly than their male counterparts. Of males arrested for drunkenness 66.4% received suspended sentences. Only 20% of women did. Fines ranged from \$1.50 to \$15.00. Males' fines averaged \$3.99, women's \$6.36. Of the five arrestees who were charged \$10 or more, two were women.

### Arrested for what?!

Finally, the other causes of arrest make for interesting reading. Some of the city's overnight visitors were down right rude. One fellow was run in for creating an "obscene and riotous disturbance" and two for "insulting ladies on the street." Three (including two

(Continued on Page 10)



Mayor William Tillotson poses with Police Chief Tom Murphy and his three patrolmen in 1901.

A.J. O'Laughlin Collection

## CCHS Life Memberships

Clay County Historical Society would like to recognize the following Life Members. Life Memberships have not been available for over 10 years, but the following are grandfathered in. These Life Members continue to support CCHS by serving as Board Members and volunteers and by donating artifacts and funds. Hats off to these community leaders.

Dr. & Mrs. Verlyn Anderson, Moorhead  
James Andvik, Scotts Mills OR  
Randy Bakken, Fargo  
Pamela Burkhardt, Fargo  
Dr. & Mrs. K.W. Covey, Moorhead  
Doris Eastman, Osage  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Evert, Moorhead  
Dr. & Mrs. Clarence Glasrud, Moorhead  
Gary Goodrich, Fargo  
David & Paula Grosz, Moorhead  
M.J. & E C. Hannaher, Moorhead  
Willis & LaVerne Kingsbury, Fargo  
Ariel & Myrtle Sellie Mollidrem, Moorhead  
Vincent & Kathie Murphy, Fargo  
James O'Rourke, Moorhead  
Lloyd & Bev Paulson, Moorhead  
Ronald L.M. Ramsey, Fargo

Benton & Minnie Rindahl, Barnesville  
Mercedes & Norman Roos, Hawley  
Dr. & Mrs. David Rostad, Moorhead  
Clayton & Patricia Sandeen, Moorhead  
John Schermeister, Fargo  
Charles D. Shamel, Potomac, MA  
Dr. Kenneth R. Skjegstad, Moorhead  
Dan & Sandy Skolness, Glyndon  
Dr. Warren Smerud, Moorhead  
Mrs. Russel Wahl, Moorhead  
Edgar Wright, Moorhead

### Arrests (Continued from Page 9)

women) sold cigarettes to kids and two others let minors play billiards. Two women were busted for being of "questionable character" and another for being a "nuisance." Two people were caught "resorting to rooms" for immoral purposes and two kept a "disorderly house." In April 1912 a fellow received what may have been the county's first "auto speeding" citation. No DWIs as we know them but a couple were arrested for "drunk and fast driving" (of horses). There were three arrests each for "bootlegging," peddling without a license and "breaking quarantine." And 43 people were run in for simply being "suspicious."

## CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

### November/December 1999

CCHS extends a very special thank you to the following individuals who have renewed their membership for another year.

#### RENEWALS

Gloria M. Anderson, Fargo  
Jim Antonen, Moorhead  
Gary & Rose Bergan, Hawley  
Mary & Ken Tangen, Moorhead  
Ellen Butenhoff, Moorhead  
Leona & Arnold Anderson, Hawley  
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Bentley, Hawley  
Vikingland Kiwanis, Moorhead  
Marion E. Gillespie, Moorhead  
John Young Jr., Hawley  
Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead  
Sellin Brothers, Hawley  
Helen M. Anton, West Fargo  
Wayne & Sherri Arnold, Moorhead  
E. Robert Olson, Moorhead  
Darlene M. Rustad, West Fargo

Thelma S. Wegner, Moorhead  
Tom Hall, Moorhead  
Independent School Dist. #150, Hawley  
Michael Farrell, Barnesville  
Jeffory Kluck, Lake Park  
Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead  
Donald & Delores Bekkerus, Naples, FLA  
Dale Stensgaard, Grand Forks ND  
Ardis VanRoey, Terrytown, LA  
Bernice Peihl, Arthur ND  
Vincent & Shirley Haugen, Detroit Lakes  
Richard T. McMurray, Annandale VA  
Carol A. Pletan, Coon Rapids  
Carol & Gordon Rustad, Moorhead  
Roland & Carolyn Barden, Moorhead  
Steve Slabik, Moorhead  
Stan Skogen, Fargo  
Lawrence (Curly) Smith, Moorhead  
Jim & Chris Stenerson, Moorhead  
Alvin Swanson, Moorhead  
Mildred M. Heins, Fargo  
Adrian Minch, Fargo  
Otto & Bernadine Ursin, Moorhead  
Edna M. Carlson, Moorhead

Donald Markert, Moorhead  
Bill & Evelette Snyder, Fargo  
Dorothy Storandt, Moorhead  
David & Anne Larson, Moorhead  
Eventide, Moorhead  
Berniece G. Janecky, Pelican Rapids  
Darren Leno, Fargo  
Charles A. Nelson, Alexandria VA  
Sara Leigh & Dean Sather, Fargo  
Bob & Cindy Swenson, Moorhead  
Diane Sylte, Benson  
Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley  
Herbert & Clarice Aakre, Hawley  
Jeanette Ladwig, Barnesville  
Paul Marquart, Dilworth

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

#### NEW MEMBERS

Gaby Divay, Winnipeg Can.  
Elsie West, Hawley  
Audrey Gerhardson, Hawley  
Ann Thorsen Darby, Moorhead

## Voices from the Past .....

## Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgot?

By Pam Burkhardt

Our museum has five autograph albums in its collections. On their pages you'll find poetically tendered professions of friendship and (sometimes humorous) advice. Most entries are in verse form and are far from original. Books and magazines of the period printed examples that were much better than the average reader could create. This may have taken the "work" out of creating an entry, but it eliminated the spontaneity of the individual and crowded out or even discouraged personal reminiscence. It is the casual remark added, perhaps, as an afterthought that allows a glimpse of a life from the past.

Our oldest autograph book belonged to Elsie (Mrs. Samuel) Burnham. Her "Scriptural Album with Floral Illustrations" has a hard, embossed cover decorated with gold. Its pages are gold-edged. Entries are predominantly from Vermont and New York and date from February 1865 to November 1877.

Many entries were not casually made. A writing tool was created using a ruler as bottom guide while writing. Letters dipping below the line were finished later. Ada Taylor penciled in guide lines and then penned her sentiments. Her pencil marks were not completely erased. Ada wrote,

*Think not my friend  
That time can break  
The spell around us cast  
Or absence from my bosom take  
The memory of the past.*

Although undated, the absence mentioned was more than a poetical device. The Burnhams soon left Vermont and daughter [Mae/May Burnham] was born in Illinois in May 1878. The Burnhams moved to Moorhead in 1880. One of the few prose entries in this album reads . . .

(Continued on Page 12)



Sarah Amb's autograph album cover (slightly reduced). She used this album for four years and started a second one.

## Acquaintance (Continued from Page 11)

Dear Elsie

Although you are soon to be seperated [sic] from us and remove to the far west believe me that you will not be forgotten and though we may never meet again in this world may we all meet in that brighter and better world above 'where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.'

Very truly your friend Lilla M. Churchill alias

'Granma Sniffles' Saratoga Springs Nov. 6th 1877

One sentence was written upside down at the top of the page: *Remember New Year's day 1877 that you spent at my home.*

Abram V. Cregier (?) wrote a nice verse, but added *Remember our last Social and Midnight walk through mud and rain.*

[signed] Moses

Hannah Perkins added messages around Libbie Baldwin's page including *Never forget how we received New Years calls 1877*; Jennie Carr added *Do not forget the excursion to Luzerne - 1876* on her page; and B.A. Burnham embellished his with drawings of leaves and a ripe head of wheat.

The short sentiments appear with the long . . .

*Labor here, Rest above.*

*Mary E Hale*

*Claremont, N.H.*

*Dec. 27th 1870*

and *Ever Your Friend*

*F. J. Foss*

*Sheffield, Vt*

*Nov. 14, 1877*

◆ ◆ ◆

Martin Olson's autograph album "Tokens of Affection" is a small blue book with silver designs and gold-edged pages. A floral scrap was added for decoration in the center of the cover. It cost 40 cents. The earliest entry in this album is dated January 1880 from sister Pauline in Mapleton, Wisconsin and the latest from daughter Delia January 1906. Martin Olson first appears in the 1897/98 Moorhead Directory.

Annie B. Olson used penciled guidelines on page five for her first sentiment . . .

Brother Martin

*Remember me dear Martin,  
When many years have fled;  
And you are gay and happy,  
and I perhaps is dead.*

*Your true sister - Annie B. Olson  
Mapleton, Wisconsin - Feb. 5, 1880  
Forget-me-not*

The next day she wrote on the first page . . .

Dear Martin,

*First in your album,  
First in your thought;  
First to be remembered,  
And last to be forgot.*

*Your affectionate sister, Annie Olson  
Mapleton, Wisconsin - February 6, 1880*

*Remember Me* and *Think of Me* appear elsewhere on the same page.

On Jan. 20, 1905, daughter Delia wrote . . .

Dear papa

*I will write a few lines in your album.  
remember me as long as you live. And I will remember  
you. Dear papa your daughter Delia Olson Dear papa*

A year later she wrote with much more formality - and creative spelling . . .

*Moorhead, Minn*

*Jan. 25, 1906*

Dear father

*You [sic] album is a golden spote [sic]  
In whice [sic] I write forget-me-not*

*Your loving child*

*Delia Olson*

*(Continued on Page 13)*

*To Martin.*

*When your day of life is done,  
And the master calls you home.  
Then the question, asked will be,  
Simply, have you lived for me.*

*March 15, 1880*

*Eliza A.*



Martin Olson's friend Eliza A. has the beautiful handwriting typical of the period. Penmanship as a subject was taught in grade schools.

## Acquaintance (Continued from Page 12)

Martin also had a few prose entries that give us a peek into his and his wellwishers' lives. J. W. Sonquist addressed the young man, *To Martin Fargo, June 13th/80 My Friend. long may you live and lucky be in all you undertake and may have a lovely wife to share this world. This is my sincere wish.* Another wrote years later, *To Martin, In years to come I will look back with pleasure to the Days spent at Olsen. Your friend, Gina Wentzel, Kragnes, Minn. 1894.*



Dorthia Kittleson/Halvorson's autograph album has covers of red plush. Speculation that a "youthful" Dorthia owned the album is reinforced by two references to a future husband as well as several contributions written by unskilled hands. Her album has contributions from both adults and children. The earliest entry is from Skree Township dated March 1892; the last, October 1895. Three of the entries are in Norwegian.

John Jacobson scored deep, horizontal lines on his page to create guidelines before he penned the following . . .

*Lake Park Feb. 6, 1893  
to my cousin Dartia [sic]  
Forget me not forget me never  
Until the sun sets forever*

James used the remnants of the deep scoring marks made by John as his guidelines. The marks appear on the back of the very next page.

*Buffalo, N. Dak. 11/1894*

*Friend Dorthia:*

*When you get married you want to be good.  
Never ask your husband to carry in a stick of wood.*

*Your friend.*

*James Larson*

This album also has a different twist on the old verse "When this you see, Remember Me" . . .

*March 19th 1893*

*Lake Park [Becker Co., MN]*

*When This you spye [sic] remember I  
Philip G. Wirth*



Below: Graphic from a pre-1900 Penmanship Book.

And more advice . . .

*Ayr, N.D.*

*Friend Dorthia*

*Love me little, Love me long.*

*Do not flirt, for it is wrong.*

*Your Friend*

*Annie Knutson*

*Nov. 4, 1894*



Sarah Ambs (Mrs. Howard Moody 1879-1947) received her first autograph album *From Papa on my 12th birthday, Sarah Matilda Ambs, Moorhead, Minn.* The date on the page is Nov. 22nd, 1885, however, her 12th birthday would have been in 1891. The last dated entry is from Howard Moody, York, Maine, July 4, 1889 and updated with Nov. 24, 1889 written on the lower edge. Howard and Sarah married on May 20, 1895.

Sarah's first book has a hard cover decorated with color graphics of a girl, flowers and the word "Album." She decorated most of the pages in the book with scrap. These are small, decorative paper images, in this case, of flowers, soldiers, children and scenes. They were a popular collectible and saved in scrapbooks. Sarah's second book is the same size as the first and covered in green-gold plush. This book has no scrap decorations.

A number of entries in the first book are from school mates . . .

*Dear Sarah -*

*Times are hard.*

*Boys are plenty.*

*Don't you get married.*

*Till you are twenty.*

*Your Loving Friend*

*"Christie"*

Along the same lines . . .

*Dear Sarah*

*May your days be long and happy.*

*And your husband never snappy.*

*Your friend & schoolmate*

*Frances Kerns*

*Moorhead, Minn. April 26, 1887*

(Continued on Page 14)



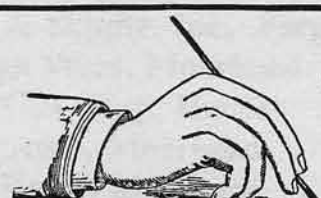
POSITION.

### ANALYTICAL KEY TO SCRIPT ALPHABET.

Writing is the art of communicating thought by means of letters.  
Letters are the written signs of language.



The Quadrant illustrates the true slant of writing.  
62° marks Main Slant, 35° marks Connecting Slant.



## Acquaintance (Continued from Page 13)

On the other side . . .

Sarah,

*A spaniel, a woman and a walnut tree  
The more ye thrash 'em the better they be.*

Harold Ward

April 27th 1887

More wit and humor . . .

Dear Sarah

Remember me when far far off

Where the wood chuks [sic] die of whooping cough.

Your Loving friend

Jessie Truitt

April 26, 1887

Moorhead, Minn.

Friend Sarah

Forget me not

Forget me never

Till all your teeth fall out together.

Your Friend

Julia Rasumsson

Friend Sarah:

If scribbling in albums,

Remembrance insures,

With the greatest of pleasure,

I'll scribble in yours!

Your true schoolmate

Susie M. Auxer

Moorhead, Minn. Dec. 16, 1885

This sentiment was paraphrased later in the book by Billy Gordon in April 1887.



Sarah's second album contains sentiments from 1887 to 1891. Howard has a page in this one, too: Yours

and etc. X Howard Moody, York, Maine, 1892. The date Sept. 18, 1869 appears on this page. Howard was born March 16, 1869. Another unanswered question.

One last sentiment . . .

Dear Sarah:-

*Last in your album*

*Last in your thought*

*Last to be remembered*

*And first to be forgot.*

Your Friend and Classmate

Katie Seger

Moorhead, Minn. June 7, '88



This entry from Elsie Burnham's autograph book is not the usual poem or greeting found in CCHS's autograph albums.

### 'Our Mutual Friend'

Dearest Elsie,-

*This book must be valuable to you, not so much so for its intrinsic value, but because it contains the names and sentiments of so many that are dear to you. Valuable, because in your old age, it will be a gentle reminder of many pleasing incidents that otherwise, would pass from your memory. Most especially our acquaintance, the evening spent at the 'Grand Uni' and our jolly day at 'Round Lake.'*

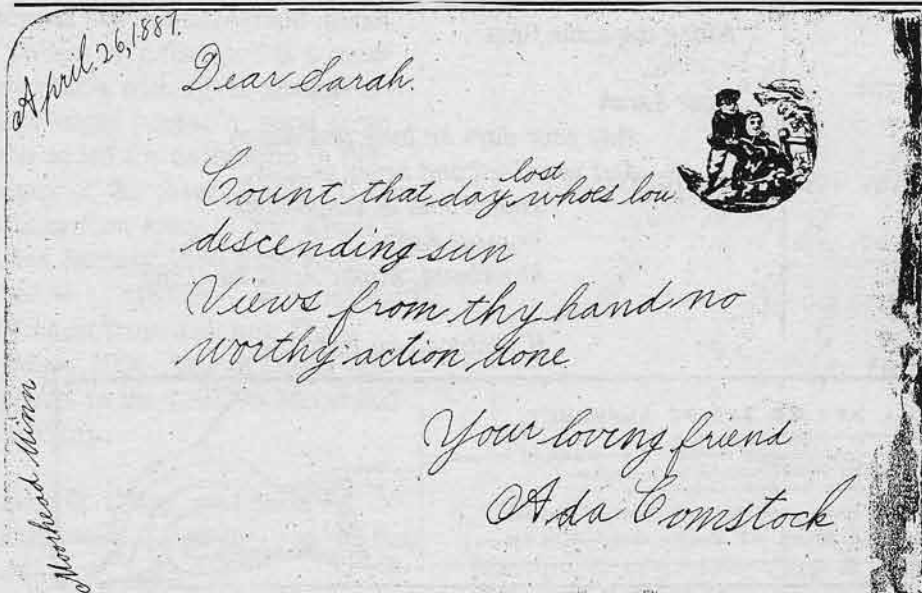
*Think often and Kindly of*

*Your sincere friend*

Carrie E. Burdick

Saratoga Springs, N.J.

November 22nd 1876



Sarah Ambs added the scrap piece (in the upper right hand corner of the page) to Ada's page.

Ada Comstock, daughter of Moorhead pioneer Soloman Comstock, became the first Dean of Women at the University of Minnesota and, later, the President of Radcliffe College.



Clay County Historical Society members on the November Orphan Tour stopped at the Minnesota History Center before boarding the bus for home. Sites on the tour included the State Orphanage Museum at Owatonna and the musical production "Orphan Trains" at the Great American History Theater in St. Paul.

On the History Center steps are: front row (l to r) Katherine Matthees, Garnet Floberg, Janet Nelson, Louise Redmann, Elsie Quam, June Dolva, Elsie West; row 2 - Gertrude Knutson, Lorraine Holshuh, Marian Formanek, Bev Hest, Maurice Floberg; row 3 - Art Erickson, Gwen Erickson, Mel Ristvedt, Dorothy Cummings, Betty Haring, John Hest, Audrey Gerhardson, row 4 - Bev Larson.

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**Thank you to these organizations and businesses for their support.**

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### **SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)**

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F-M Printing, Moorhead  
Hawley Public Schools, Hawley  
Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead  
Rapat Corporation, Hawley  
Sellin Brothers, Hawley  
The Forum, Fargo  
Vikingland Kiwanis, Moorhead

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Education Association  
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National Sojourners Inc., Moorhead  
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State Bank of Hawley, Hawley  
State Bank of Moorhead, Moorhead  
Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead  
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Wahl Drug Store/Gift Shop, Hawley  
Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead  
Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

## CCHS Business Membership

- ☐ \$ 50 to \$99 Supporting Member
- ☐ \$ 100 to \$199 Sustaining Member
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As a CCHS Business Member you will receive all benefits of an individual membership plus a certificate ready to frame and display, extra complimentary passes to the Hjemkomst Center's exhibits and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly Newsletters. To become a CCHS Business Member please return this form or a facsimile to CCHS, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 299-5520.

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## CCHS Membership Application

I would like to become a member of Clay County Historical Society.

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$20.00 ☐ FAMILY \$35.00 ☐ Donation

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- \* Support preservation of our heritage
- \* Bi-monthly newsletter
- \* Discount on Acid-Free Materials
- \* FREE Admission to Clay County Museum & Archives and two complimentary passes to the Center's Exhibits
- \* Discount on Photo Reproduction
- \* Voting Privileges
- \* Invitation to all CCHS Tours and Social Events
- \* Access to all CCHS Tours

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