Clay County Historical Society

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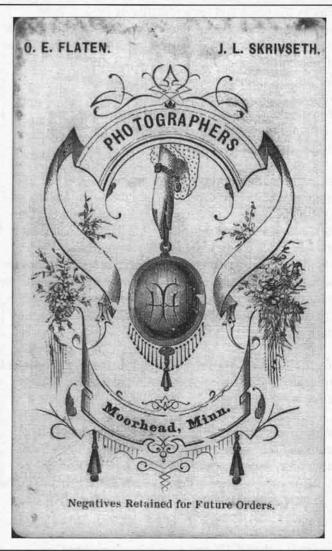
Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

January February 2006

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Full-size carte-de-visite, **front** and **back**: This young family had their likeness taken when photographers Flaten and Skrivseth were in business together in Moorhead as shown on the back. Because of this clue, this cart-de-visite can be dated between the fall of 1879 and sometime in 1881. Do you think the mother's light cotton dress can tell you the time of year the photo was taken? See page 9 for the story!

President's Column

By Dale White

2006 is the centennial year of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and has been dubbed "the year of the museum." This year that organization begins a major awareness campaign to raise public visibility of museums and to "encourage Americans to experience, celebrate, and support" their local museums.



The Clay County Historical Society is a member of the AAM and shares the goals and responsibility of the affiliated network of museums across the nation. Their statistics show that nine out of ten counties in the United States have one or more museums of one kind or another. CCHS, like most similar organizations, seeks to meet AAM standards of quality. You may recall in 2005 CCHS obtained an AAM grant to conduct their Museum and Library Services Assessment Program. We have discussed that assessment before; it will be initiated this year.

There has been considerable Board discussion the last few years about the Society's museum and the need for it to hold a permanent exhibit of Clay County history, similar to their exhibit after CCHS first moved into the Hjemkomst Center several years ago. In fact, the Board's Long Range Plan (2004) lists that lack as one of the major current weaknesses of the Society. Instead, since 1997, the museum has presented temporary local exhibits on a rotating basis (like the current exhibit) and occasionally a traveling exhibit (the POW exhibit).

Ideally, CCHS would have space (and finances) to house both a permanent county history exhibit and temporary local or traveling exhibits.

Some members may have limited experience with the museum and may only see CCHS represented by archival research or by programs or tours delivered off site. But no doubt many members view the museum as the primary "face" of the Clay County Historical Society. The Society is truly multi-dimensional in interpreting the County's history.

The point is—the CCHS museum is important to Clay County, not only as a collector of possessions from its past, but as a small shared part of the full reflection of American culture.



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 Phone: 218-299-5520/Fax: 218-299-5525 www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

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NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Lisa Vedaa, Editor Pam Burkhardt, Contributor Mark Peihl, Contributor

Calendar

March 11

Celtic Festival, Hjemkomst Center, 10 am—5 pm

March 15

Board of Directors Meeting, 8 am

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 26

Last day to see Inside, Outside, Upside Down exhibit at Clay County Museum

April 8

70 Years of Collecting: Our Favorites exhibit opens to the public at Clay County Museum

April 11(tent.) Exhibit Grand Opening, 5:00-8:00

April 19 Board of Directors Meeting, 8 am

Schedule subject to change

CCHS celebrates 70 years of collecting in 2006!

2006 begins the 70th year that the Clay County Historical Society has been collecting historical objects that document knowledge of the history of Clay County, Minnesota! One way we plan to celebrate this important milestone is with an exciting exhibit about some of the most important artifacts, documents and photographs in the society's collection of almost 30,000 items.

The exhibit, simply titled 70 Years of Collecting, will open to the public Saturday, April 8. A grand opening reception is being planned for April 11.

Local citizens established the Clay County
Historical Society in 1932. Collecting began in 1936
when Moorhead State Teachers' College made space
available for a museum in Macclean Hall and the
Works Progress Administration provided funding for a
paid staff. The museum later moved to the basement of
the Campus School. When federal funding ended in
1940, the collections went into storage and the
organization became dormant.

Following a series of reorganizations and homes



in the Clay County Courthouse and Great Northern Railway Depot, CCHS and its collection, museum and archives has claimed the Hjemkomst Center as its home since the building opened in 1986.

Stay tuned for more information on 70th Anniversary celebrating!

Over \$5,000 raised in Annual Fund Drive!

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank all of our wonderful members and donors who supported us in 2005 and those who responded to this year's Annual Fund Drive. Your donations to the Annual Drive this year exceeded last year's by more than \$700 for a total of \$5,301.85! Donations that we receive throughout the year are just as important as those we receive at the end of the year, so please keep us in mind when you want to honor a friend or loved one with a memorial or a gift in recognition of a special occasion.

A BIG Thank You to the individuals listed below who have responded to our Annual Fund Drive since the last newsletter!

General Operating Support
Robert & Selma Anderson, Moorhead
City of Barnesville
Robert & Dorothy Belsly, Moorhead
Bentley & Bentley, DDS, PA, Hawley
Meredith & Aldrich Bloomquist, Moorhead
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Janet Gorman, Moorhead
Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter, MN
Eileen P. Michels, St. Paul

Outreach Displays

Hawley Public Library
Moorhead Public Library
Barnesville Public Library
Fargo CVB

Den Glose
January April
January April
January April
exhibit closed until spring

The Hawley Public Library's new display knits and purls along with the Wednesday evening knitting group. A STRING OF PURLS looks at the art of knitting with artifacts from the county's history.

The best is preserved at the Moorhead Public Library with JAMS & HAMS. Artifacts include preservation tools and equipment such as a sausage stuffer, pottery and glass canning jars, booklets and spices.





A CENTURY OF CYCLES is on the road to the Barnesville Public Library. This display celebrates the sport of cycling in Clay County with photos and artifacts.

The next CVB (Convention and Visitors' Bureau) display in Fargo will be up again in the spring.

The Fargo Dome has a temporary display on the Hjemkomst Center in a small case shared between CCHS and HHIC.

IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

The Red River Valley Woodcarvers Club will display examples of their work in the CCHS hall case March 24 through early May. The club's last display in 2003 was a success with about 200 items featured showing a variety of techniques.

A new display of exquisite, hand-decorated china has been arranged for viewing in the lobby area. These items were painted by Beulah Forness who holds china-painting classes in the building Tuesday mornings.

CCHS will arrange a dazzling display of pin cushions for the *A Women's Perspective* display hosted by HHIC March 1 through April 28.

Artifacts & Donors

November/December 2005

Donors:

Moorhead: Faith Meurrens, Wayne

Gudmundson

Hawley: Margaret Ristvedt Morris, MN: Gemini Research

Fargo, ND: Paul H. Rustad, Bob Backman,

H. Allen Ohrt, Sharon Busche

Artifacts: Two (2) white vests once worn by bartenders at Ole Gol's saloon in Winnipeg Junction and a photo (scanned) of the interior of that saloon; copies of F. Jay Haynes photos of the Red River at Moorhead, 1st day issue envelope commemorating the Minnesota Territorial Centennial in 1949, and miscellaneous Minnesota & North Dakota photo and scenic postcards; ballpoint pen marked "The Rib Rack, Comstock, Minnesota, Food and Liquor:" fourteen (14) 35mm slides of Fargo-Moorhead bridges taken in 1974 by a MNDOT engineer; materials relating to the Hawley IOOF Lodge; Minnesota State Teachers College diploma for Hannah O. Tuneberg (Mrs. Oscar Person) dated June 2, 1927; homemade two-sided doll; horsehide lab robe (horse named King) originating on farm south of Glyndon.

Come to the Celtic Festival March 11!



Food, Music, Games, and Fun!

10:00 am-4:00 pm Hjemkomst Center

Current CCHS Members—2006 Report

As a beginning of the year report, we have included in this newsletter a list of members in good standing at the time of the newsletter going to print. If your name is not listed here, and you believe your membership is paid, please contact Lisa in the CCHS Office Monday through Friday at 218-299-5520 or by email: lisa.vedaa@ci.moorhead.mn.us.

All of our members are important to us, and we strive to provide value to your membership by providing quality exhibits, programs, research services, and newsletters, in addition to the vital work of collecting and preserving objects and information that document the history of Clay County.

Life Members are noted with a "+". Members who renewed their membership or became new members in November and December 2005 are noted with an asterisk (*), in place of the normal listing of those renewals in the newsletter. Those who renewed in January and February 2006 are listed here and will also be noted in the March/April issue.

Herbert & Clarice Aakre, Hawley Marjorie Aakre, Moorhead Steve K. & Mary M. Aakre, Hawley Ace Hardware, Moorhead Norman B. Akesson, Davis, CA Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, David R. Alme, Kennewick, WA Marlene Ames, Fargo Rose Andersen, Moorhead Leona P. Anderson, Hawley Robert L. & Selma Anderson, Moorhead Scott V. Anderson, Fargo +Verlyn & Evonne Anderson, Moorhead +James Andvik, Scotts Mills, OR Olive Andvik, Moorhead *Rod & Audrey Angstman, Moorhead Arthur & Bernice Arett, Moorhead Col. Milton & Armorel Arneson, Mhd Jeanne E. Aske, Moorhead Helen Austin, Moorhead +Randy Bakken, Fargo Erwin & Clarice Backlund, Moorhead Carl L. & June Bailey, Moorhead Kim & John Baird, Fargo

Roland & Carolyn Barden, Moorhead
Delores Bekkerus, Glyndon
Russ & Lois Bekkerus, Glyndon
Joel & Bernice Belgum, Moorhead
Robert & Dorothy Belsly, Moorhead
Mrs. Helen D. Benson, Moorhead
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Sharon Benzel, Moorhead
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Patty Gulsvig, Moorhead *Lloyd Gunderson, Moorhead

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Membership list, cont.

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+Willis & LaVerne Kingsbury, Moorhead Carolyn J. Kirk, Andover, NJ Marilyn Klemetson, Moorhead *Jeffory M. Kluck, Moorhead Vera Knapp, Moorhead *Alden Knatterud, Moorhead Donna Knauber, Sabin, MN Albert Knutson, Moorhead Kent & Donna Knutson, Moorhead Virginia Kolba, Moorhead Lee C. Kolle, Borup, MN *John & Jyl Kolness, Hendrum, MN Ramona Kooren, Hawley *Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead Paul & Florence Korsmo, Fargo Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft, West Fargo Margret Kragnes, Moorhead *Robert E. Krenelka, Staples, MN Marilyn Krogh, Fort Collins, CO Norm B. Kuehl, Fargo Mr. Francis Kukowski, Georgetown, MN Lois L. Kundert, Fargo Jeanette H. Ladwig, Barnesville James H. Landblom, Fargo Gary Landgraf, Moorhead Keith & Lorraine Langseth, Glyndon Morrie & Ruth Lanning, Moorhead Brent Larson & Mary Jo Schmid, Mhd *Keith A. Larson, Hawley Neil H. Larson, Harwood, ND Robert & Dorothy Larson, Moorhead Mary Leach, Glyndon *Sam Leathes, Dilworth John David Lee, Georgetown, MN Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon Jerry & Dona Lein, Moorhead Jay & Becky Leitch, Moorhead Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead Janice & Erling Linde, Moorhead Jim & Pauline Litch, Glyndon Bob & Phyllis Litherland, Moorhead Robert J. Loeffler, Moorhead Jeff Longtine, Moorhead Pat Lynde-Hemmah, Glyndon Larry & Marcella MacLeod, Moorhead Mac's, Inc., Moorhead

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*Joe & Shirley Manning, Fargo

*Matt & Zona Mathison, Moorhead

*Gretchen M. McDonald, Moorhead

Janet K. Martin, El Cajon, CA

Kathryn Matthees, Moorhead

*Betty Maus, Puyallup, WA

Sandra McEvers, Moorhead

Commissioners trade CCHS board seat

Clay County Commissioners serve on many different organization boards and committees, and the Clay County Historical Society is fortunate to be included on that list. It is important to us to have the insight of our county leaders to consider when determining the future direction of our efforts.

The Commissioners recently rearranged some of their committee and board assignments. For the last four years we have welcomed and enjoyed the participation of Commissioner Ben

Brunsvold on the CCHS Board of Directors, but he decided it was time to give another commissioner a chance to expand their interest in the historical society, and we wish him the best of luck with his new pursuits.



Ben Brunsvold

Jon Evert

We now welcome Commissioner Jon Evert, who has held a Lifetime membership in CCHS for many years. Jon and his wife Phyllis live on their family farm in Alliance Township, near

Comstock. Jon farmed for 27 years and was the 5th generation of his family to do so. Before beginning his farming career, Jon graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead and attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He has been a Clay County Commissioner since 1995 and also coordinates a nonprofit advocacy program called Rural Life Outreach of Northwest Minnesota. Jon serves on boards related to county government, rural and farm issues, and sustainable communities.

2006 is the Year of the Museum

In celebration of their Centennial and 100 years of museums in American life, the American Association of Museums has declared 2006 the Year of the Museum! The Clay County Historical Society is joining in the national party with an exhibit and celebration of our 70th Anniversary of Collecting, and also partnering with other museums in Moorhead and Fargo to spread the word about the Year of the Museum.

The Year of the Museum (YOM) is dedicated to celebrating the rich variety of museums in America, their contributions to civic and cultural life and the unique, personal experiences museums offer visitors each and every day.

"In a time when we are all leading hectic lives, museums offer us a chance to catch our breath and spend time with family and friends learning new things or rediscovering things we have forgotten. We are proud to be part of the Year of the Museum, focusing attention not just on the Clay County Museum, but on the ways that museums across the country enrich our lives each and every day," said Dale White, CCHS President.

Watch for details coming soon about a special promotion from area museums that you, your family and visitors can take advantage of, especially in the upcoming summer season!

"2006 is AAM's centennial year and a time to celebrate America's museums and the enduring value of these institutions to communities, the nation, and the world," said Edward H. Able, Jr., President & CEO of the American Association of Museums. "During the Year of the Museum, we want to encourage everyone in Fargo, Moorhead and the Red River Valley to experience, cherish, and support museums like the Clay County Museum."

About the Year of the Museum

The Year of the Museum (YOM) is a national effort to bring together the collective voice of the museum field to capture the public's attention and imagination. It is a celebration of the wondrous, amazing, and exciting things that museums do to enrich our lives and our communities. To learn more about YOM and view a list of other participating museums, visit the AAM website at www.aam-us.org/yearofthemuseum.

As the national service organization representing the American museum community, the American Association of Museums' mission is to enhance the value of museums to their communities through leadership, advocacy and service. Since its founding in 1906, AAM has grown to more than 19,800 members, including more than 13,500 individual members, 3,100 corporate members, and more than 2,800 museums.



Interesting Facts about Museums

Museums are Centers of Learning

- Americans view museums as one of the most important resources for educating our children and as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information.
- Museums annually spend more than \$1 billion to provide over 18 million instructional hours for educational programs.

Museums are Centers of Community Life

- There are 2.3 million museum visits per day, adding up to 865 million visits per year to American museums.
- Nine out of 10 counties in the United States have at least one museum.
- One in 480 Americans age 18 and older is a museum volunteer.

Museums are Stewards of Local Culture

- After their families, Americans rank authentic artifacts in history museums and historic sites as most significant in creating a strong connection to the past.
- 93% of all museums have permanent collections.

Museums are Economic Drivers

- Museums rank in the top three family vacation destinations.
- Tourists who visited museums spent nearly twice as much on their travel as those who did not visit museums.
- One-third of Americans say they have visited an art museum, history museum, aquarium, zoo, botanical garden, or science and technology centers within the past six months.



Using Clues

A cabinet photo from an album in the Delia Olson collection shows Laura Cliveland [Cleveland] and Lora/Lova Johnson. Here we find two good clues for the date – the photographer and location. The photographer was Logan in Fargo, Dakota [Territory]. According to the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies web site, Samuel H. Logan was in business with Arthur E. Bestic from 1884 to 1886. Logan operated his own studio from 1886 to 1892. Logan's brother James R. did not take over the business until Samuel's health declined in 1891. S.H. died in 1892. North Dakota became a state in 1889. This information places the photo between 1886 and 1889.

A few questions remain about these subjects. The Olson family came from Wisconsin between 1882 and 1884 and settled in Morken Township. The Cleveland name, so far, doesn't appear to be connected to the family. She may have been a friend. Who is Lora/Lova Johnson and why is she in the same photo with Laura? Another photo of Laura in the same album was taken in Casselton, NDak. There, she is dressed in "servant" costume (apron and cap) with two unidentified children.

Check the initials on the cards to make sure you have the right Flaten photographer. Do you have O.E. or Gilbert?





Dressed for the Camera: Clues on Photos

By Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager

For many years we have had researchers in the CCHS Archives bring in photos of their ancestors. Most of the time, the photos are not dated nor the subjects identified. I always enjoy a call to come and date a photo. I always explain why I think a photo was taken at certain time in analyzing the clothing worn by the women. Most of the time I do not have my source books with me at the museum so I have had to rely on memory alone. However, over time, little details in costume and the dates they were fashionable get fuzzier. How about a guide, I thought, using photos from our collections? The result would be a photographic timeline showing typical styles and the features to look for in each time period. This could help researchers date their own photos!

The guide never materialized, but a slide show did. I presented *Dressed for the Camera: Fashion in the County* at the 1991 CCHS Annual Meeting and for other groups. The time period started with pre-Civil War and ended with the Gibson girl.

Recently revived for a Communiversity course, the slide show was revamped and renamed. Dressed for the Camera became Corsets and Crinolines: The Shape of Fashion. This time the images were slanted toward genealogy using clues on the photos as well as in them. I used not only sources familiar to me while researching my own genealogy, but also some newer on-line sites that I found extremely helpful. Not all photos have clues, but just one or two could give you a better idea of who was (or was not) in your family tree. A separate list of resources mentioned separately in this article.

Most common photograph types

Three of the most common types of photos in your album will probably be cabinet photos, carte-de-visites and tintypes. Cabinet photos are usually 4¼" x 6½" and generally imprinted with the photographer's name. They were introduced in 1866 and were popular up to the turn of the last century (see the cabinet photo of Laura Cliveland/ Cleveland, left). The carte-de-visite is much smaller at around 2½" x 4." They were introduced in the mid-1850s and lasted almost as long as cabinet photos. Some have the photographer's name but many do not. Named "visiting card" in French, they weren't normally used as such. (The Flaten/Skrivseth image is a carte-de-visite.) A tintype is an image on a thin, coated, metal plate, introduced in 1865 and popular until around 1900 as well. These do not have identifying marks unless they were added later.

Why did the turn of the last century seem to be a

terminal period? The public started taking their own black and white photos when Kodak introduced the Brownie roll-film camera in 1900. The images became less formal and more varied. Also, these "amateur" photos were not mounted nor is the photographer identified unless someone thought to do so. Your color images could have originate in 1906 when color film was introduced, but will likely be after 1936 when Kodachrome was marketed.

Are some of your photos on **postcards**? Cameras using this stock were sold from around 1910 to about 1925. Professional photographers also printed images on this stock. Instantaneous, black and white **Polaroid** images will probably date no further back than the late 1940 and color ones after 1963.

Two good websites are Andrew J. Morris's *Types of Photos* with short, clear descriptions of the many types and materials. Samples of each are only a click away. Philip Greenspun's site on photo.net focuses on the photographic process called *History of Photography Timeline*.

The photographers

Photographers moved from building to building, went on the road and set up studios along the way. By researching the photographers in your album you might be able to date a photo. The **North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies** (NDIRS) has a fantastic site called *Photographers of Fargo*, *North Dakota*. Near the bottom of the page you can **click here** to see a list of photographers, the dates of operation and their locations. Some of these photographers moved to and from Clay County.

For example, Gilbert Flaten worked in Moorhead with his brother O.E. Flaten before opening a studio in Fargo in the late 1880s. He moved his studio several times, twice on Front Street ending up on Broadway from 1893 to 1895.

One early photographer, **Jacob Skrivseth**, was a photographer-on-the-move. According to the NDIRS, he opened the first photographic studio in Fargo and was later associated with O.E. Flaten in Moorhead. During that time, Flaten stayed in Moorhead while Skrivseth traveled the countryside in a wagon and taking photos. In 1881, Skrivseth moved to Buxton, ND, eventually opened a studio in Hillsboro, North Dakota, and, in October 1896, moved back to Fargo before heading out to western North Dakota. The location of Skrivseth's studio will help you with the date.

The site has an extensive history on **F. Jay Haynes** who established a business in in Moorhead in the fall of 1876.

Continued next page...

Haynes remained in Moorhead until 1879 when he moved to Fargo. He operated a Fargo studio until 1889. Soren O. Erickson maintained a studio in Fargo and Barnesville. Other Moorhead photographers mentioned are William J. Darcy who had a studio open for about one year in 1919; Richard T. Grosz who moved to Moorhead from Fargo, operating from 1937 to 1970, and a mention of the Gillespie Studio.

Two long-time Clay County photographers were **S.P. Wange** of Hawley and **O.E. Flaten** of Moorhead. Flaten was active in Moorhead from 1879 up to 1930 and Wange in the Hawley area from 1893 into the 1940s. To date their photos, you need to use family history sources, studio backdrops, prop changes and clues from the costume.

Using on-line genealogy sources

There are more and more sources for genealogy research with new sites popping up all the time. A good place to start is with **Cyndi's List**. She provides lists of sites by categories such as countries, immigration, states, regions, societies, surnames and a lot more. The sites I used to search the Alice Westfall photo are all current and free courtesy of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system and the internet! See the list below for the sites I used to research the slide show or mentioned in this article.

Clues on the Photo web sites:

Multiple Source Site – http://www.cyndislist.com/ Cyndi's List is a very good place to start. If you are a beginner, you should start here. Here you will find lists of both general and specific sites for categories such as countries, immigration, states, regions, societies, surnames and a lot more.

Library: Genealogy, Census Records & Histories http://www.larl.org/

Go to the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system home site, click Reference Desk then Online Resources to access Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest (each has their own box near the top of page). You must have a LARL library card bar code number. Not in the LARL system? Check with your own library. Ancestry.com has guest memberships.

Census Records and (sometimes) Ancestral Files—http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/ frameset search.asp

LDS site - You might get the name of a spouse, child a date you can use to search elsewhere. Sources aren't always named.

Photographers and Photography

http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs/exhibitions/photographers.html

At North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies you can Enter the Web site, but for the photographers, scroll down to Click here for Fargo and some other area photographers and studios

http://www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/types.php

Types of Photos by Andrew J. Morris. Just what the title says - click on SAMPLE for an actual image.

http://www.photo.net/history/timeline

History of Photography Timeline by Philip Greenspun is a timeline on the photographic process.

Clay County Genealogy and Deaths

http://www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history/

The Clay County Historical Society web site. Click on Research/Genealogy to access a number of Clay County resources. We have a wealth of sources in the Archives including census, newspapers, family histories and city directories. We can help you with research on your family tree or on almost any other County topic.

http://www.co.clay.mn.us/Default.htm

Clay County Recorder's Office. Once there, about twothirds of the way down in the boxes on the right, you will find Death Record Index On-line and Marriage Record Index On-line.

Minnesota Birth and Death

http://www.mnhs.org/index.htm

At the **Minnesota Historical Society** web site, click on **Family History** on the top bar. You can select from a number of databases including birth and death records.

North Dakota Marriage, Divorce, Death and Obits—http://www.deathindexes.com/northdakota/
Online North Dakota Death Records & Indexes has more genealogy links.

http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs/bio&genealogy/index.html

North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies has a list of sources to check on these topics but to check Territorial and Federal Census records you will have to contact them.

Surname Research—http://genforum.genealogy.com/ You might meet distant cousins using a GenForum through Genealogy.com Just type in a surname, country, state or country name in the Find box!

Illinois State Vital Records Databases

http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html

Does your research take you to another state? See what the state government has in the way of databases as well as the counties.

Dressed for the Camera: Finding Alice

By Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager

The information on the back of Alice J. Westfall's carte-de-visite helped us reunite an unnumbered photo album with a museum collection. The presence of the little girl's name and the location of the photographer were key pieces of information. The bonus was the revenue stamp on the back.

An on-line search for photograph revenue stamp calls up one site titled Military Images: Revenue Stamps & Civil War Photography with an article by David A.

Norris. According to the site, Congress passed a law June 30, 1864, requiring all photographs, ambrotypes, etc. to contain evidence – a stamp on the back – that the revenue tax had been paid. This was the second tax accessed to help pay for the on-going Civil War and only lasted two years - from 1864 to 1866. Our photo has a 2 cent stamp meaning the photo was not valued at over 25 cents. Fortunately, our stamp date is still legible "Mar. 28, 186 (5?)."

Thanks to the stamp, we have a target date. Because

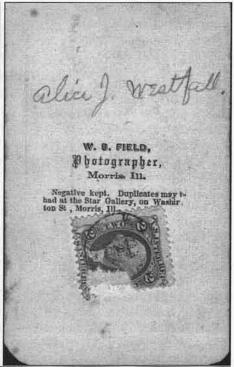
Alice seems to be past the toddler stage, but still doesn't look very old, she might not have been born in time for the 1860 Federal Census so the 1870 one is our best bet. One good resource for census records is through the genealogy site, Ancestry.com, available in area libraries in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) system. An Illinois map places Morris in Grundy County. A broad search for all Illinois Westfalls in the 1870 census finds 400 names with four in Grundy County: Alice, age 9, along with sister Hattie (5) both born in Illinois are daughters of George R. (26) and Cornelia (26) both born in New York state. This might be our child who does look about 4 years old in the photo. A narrower search for an Alice Westfall calls up only one, born about 1861. Why do a broad search when the narrow one proved successful? A narrow search will miss an Alice who might have been recorded as, for example, A. Jane. Also, the name might have been misspelled any number of ways by the enumerator. You can search either way. Having found a target, we are one click

away from viewing the image of the census page. Keep in mind, when searching census records, people are missed all the time; names are omitted, misspelled, overwritten, poorly written, faded or entered incorrectly. If a name doesn't appear on the page you are directed to, try the ones before or after or a different source. You could be directed to the wrong page.

Another source from the LARL system is at your fingertips without leaving home! On their site, you can access the Reference Desk, click on On-line Resources to access a wonderful resource called Heritage Quest. Here you can search most census years, thousands of genealogy books and publications etc. However, you need a LARL library card code number to access the information. Select Access from a remote location and enter your library card number when asked. Select Search Census. Repeating the same broad search enter Westfall for the year 1870 in Illinois. You are shown the Westfall entries for each county in Illinois. Click on

Continued on page 13...





Alice J. Westfall carte-de-visite both front and back: You might be able to find a lot using the information on the back of a photo. W.B. Field had a studio in Morris, Illinois. An on-line map of Illinois places Morris in Grundy County. We can look for a Westfall family through a sites newly available through the Lake Agassiz Library system. The presence of the revenue stamp will tell you which census year to target!

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Finding Alice, cont.

Grundy with its single entry and you get George R. Westfall. Click on the name to open an image of the census page just like Ancestry.com.

To check for Westfalls in the 1880 census, use Ancestry.com again – Heritage Quest doesn't offer 1880 [or 1830 through 1850 either] - or go to the LDS [Latter Day Saints] site. At that site, try entering George Westfall, [Country] United States and [State] Illinois. You get 13 listings, one of which is for a George R. living in Illinois, born in New York. A click on the name shows the census place was Saratoga, Gundy County which is the same as the 1870 listing. A click on Household shows the residents at that one address: George R. has a wife Mary Ann (44) born in New York and daughters Gracie A. (8), Hattie E. (15), and Alice J. (19) and other non-family residents. The LDS record for an Alice Westfall in 1880 gives you eight choices, with two for our Alice J. In the Westfall [surname] Genforum - Genealogy.com's site - none of our Westfalls match postings on the site. Grundy County has several Genforum sites, four for same-name counties in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Tennesee and one for the surname Grundy. No Westfalls are called up when a search is made in the Grundy, Illinois site. We could post a query ourselves at either the Westfall or Grundy County site or check back to see what was added.

Where next? Illinois is a great state for on-line genealogy. There are databases for marriages and deaths among others, and you can check state-wide or by county. Using the Marriage database, first entering [Bride] Westfall, Alice brings up two names, one of which is an Alice J. marrying Edmund Hammett in Cook County on June 21, 1893. The site tells you how to order copies of the original record. That document may confirm this is, indeed, our Alice and have more information. Next, we check on Cornelia Westfall using both the pre-1916 and after 1916 Illinois death indexes. She doesn't appear in either. Checking the marriage record again for [Groom] Westfall, George shows a George R. marrying Cornelia A. Edmunds on Mar. 4, 1858, in Grundy County and on June 15, 1876, (Mrs.) Mary A. Conklin. There might have been a divorce, but more likely Cornelia died sometime before June 15, 1876. Some databases may not include all records for all counties, and they, regretfully, also miss people or misspell names.

At this point, the name Hammett rings a bell. We can continue to look for Edmund and Alice in Illinois and see what happened to the other Westfalls, but Hammett is a Clay County name and is where the album ended up.

Using a resource through the Minnesota Historical Society, we access the main page and click on one topic Family History on the top bar which takes us to a page offering the Death Certificates Index. Births can also be researched. Entering Hammett, Alice searching in All Counties calls up an Alice Jane Hammett who died on June 28, 1931 in Otter Tail County. We're a lot closer!

Where was this Alice Jane in 1930? Back to the census. Heritage Quest not only lacks the 1880 census, but also isn't complete for 1930. Try Ancestry.com again. In Moland Township, Clay County, there is an Alice J. Hammett, born in Illinois about 1861 listed as Mother. Calling up the census page image, we have Edmund J. Hammett (74) and Alice J. (69) living with son Leon E, his wife Anne G. and their children. Working back, the 1920 census places an Edmond J. (note spelling difference), wife Alice J. and son Leon E. (single, born about 1897 in Illinois) living in Morken Township, Clay County. An additional listing (searching for Leon Hammett) is found as an image of a WWI Draft Registration Card. According to this card dated June 5, 1918, Leon Edmund Hammett, born Aug 9, 1896, was a student at the University of Minnesota. His father is given as Edmund James Hammett born in Chicago, Illinois, current address Felton, Minn. [At this point, I checked the original museum records and found a Mrs. L.E. Hammett, mailing address Glyndon, brought in a photo album in 1936 which, up to now, had not been identified. Therefore, this album with no accession number had enough clues in just one photo to associated it with this family.]

Look at the names, locations, dates and other information we've gathered for future family research! But wait, there's more! . . . there are five family trees at **Ancestry.com** site for Cornelia Edmund (Alice's mother). Three have an email address. There are long-lost cousins out there willing to trade information and photos. Of course, you need to be careful when trading information on the internet. Also, all information needs to be and sources recorded as you search.

As you go back in time, information in census records will vary. Those from 1790 to 1840 only list the heads of the households with family indicated by only by sex and ages by categories. From 1850 to 1930, you can find family members and others living in that household. One Federal Census will give the year and month of birth and another only the age.



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