

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



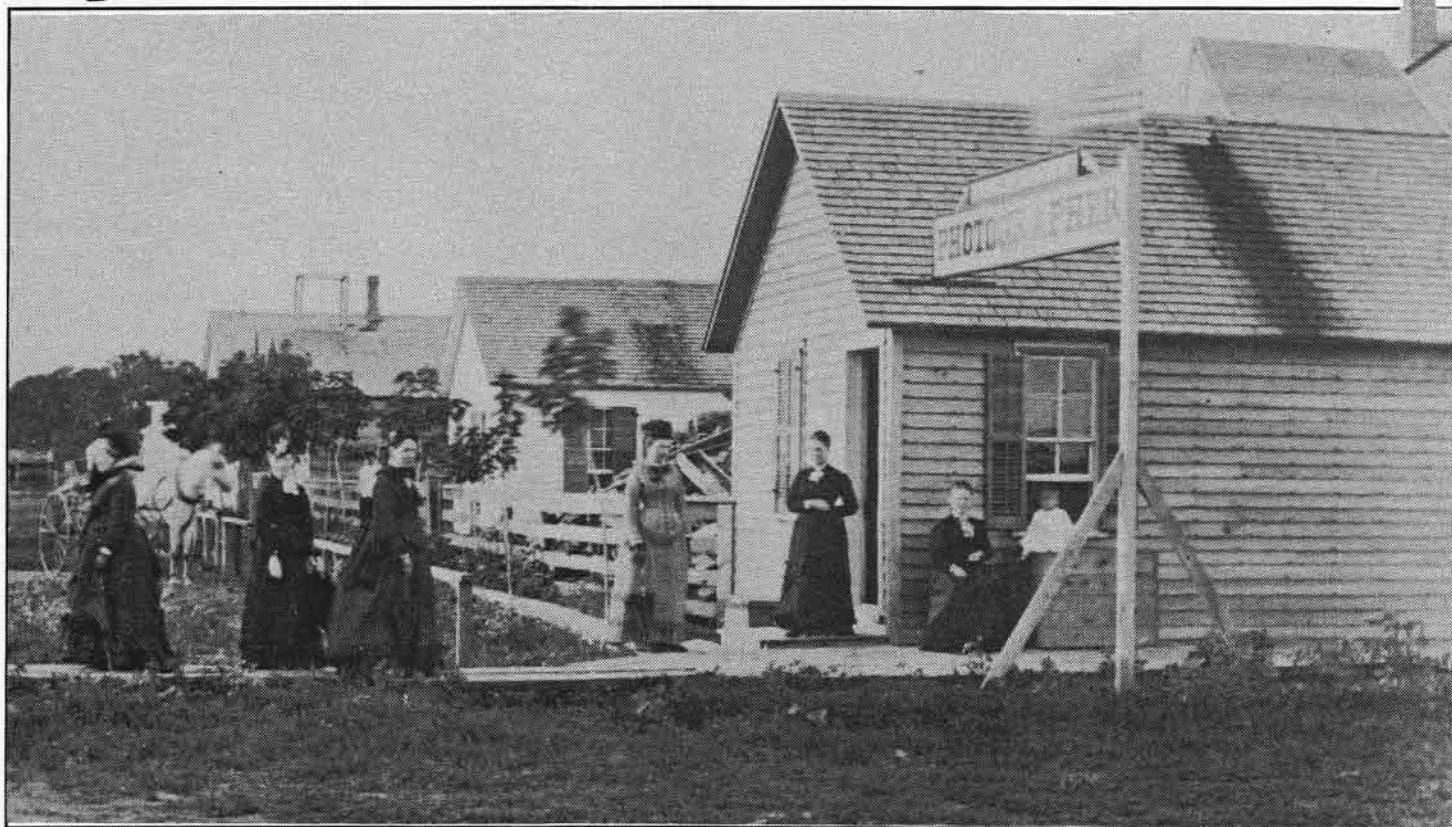
CCHS Newsletter

March/April 2001

Vol. XXIV. No. 2



Annual Meeting - April 19 (See Pages 5 & 15)
National Volunteer Week - April 22-28 - (See Page 3)



This photo was taken outside F. Jay Haynes studio in 1876 Moorhead. Hidden constructions called bustles gave the skirts their distinctive shape. While these women were "bustle-ing" around Moorhead in 1876, what were the men wearing? [See story and photo on Page 5]

President's Report

By Norman Roos, President

The Clay County Historical Society has had another very successful year, I am happy to report.



I wish to take this opportunity to thank and commend our regular staff for their excellent and diligent efforts on behalf of the Clay County Museum and Archives. But we must not overlook the fine work and hundreds of hours performed by our volunteer force.

Among many volunteer functions is the museum staffing on weekends and other periods when the regular employees are not available. This has made it possible to keep the facility open seven days a week in most cases.

We offer our sincere thanks to all staff members, volunteers, CCHS Board Members, and Clay County Commissioners, who have all contributed in various ways to make the operation of this organization so successful.

By the way: Sign up a new member or two when you talk about the Clay County Historical Society.

CCHS receives a quilt conservation grant

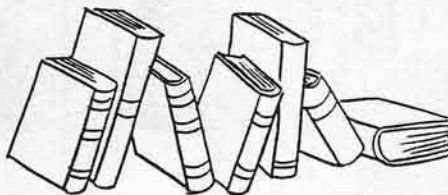
Clay County Historical Society recently received a \$625 grant from the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota. The funds will be used to build three quilt racks to properly store our growing collection of historic quilts. Each rack will be a vertical unit mounted on casters. The grant money will cover the cost of materials to build the racks and for a large quantity of muslin needed to protect each quilt as it is rolled onto the rack. Detailed plans are being drawn up to provide volunteers with working plans to build the racks.

Each year the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota gives something back to the community in the form of monetary grants. This is the end result of a variety of quilting projects. CCHS thanks all of the guild members for their support.

CCHS Wish List: City Directories

CCHS Archives has a complete set of Fargo-Moorhead Directories..... complete, that is, from 1891 through 1994. We would like to update the collection to the present.

If you have directories dating between 1995 and 2001, please contact Mark at 218-299-5520. Thanks!



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Moorhead, Minnesota 56561-0501
Phone: 218-299-5520/Fax: 218-299-5525

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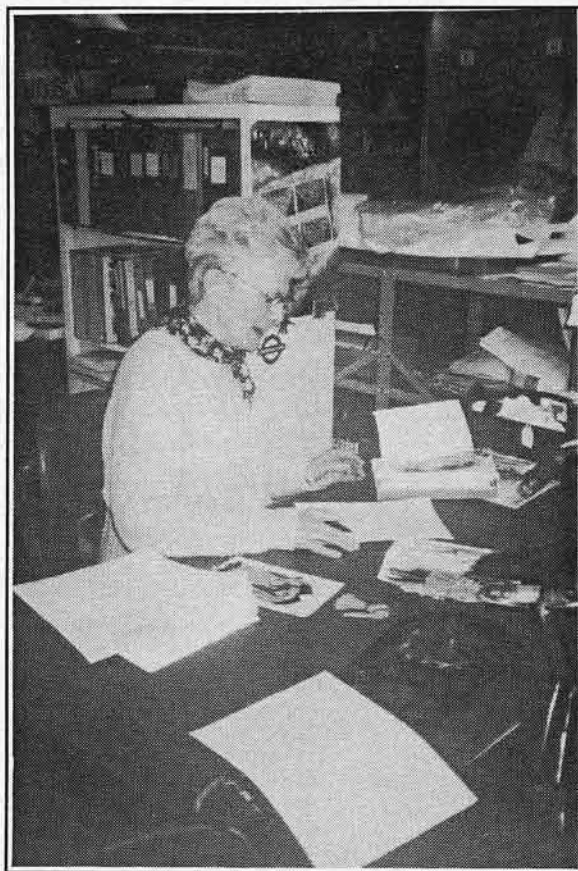
Volunteers make it happen!

Sorting and cataloging paper dolls from the 1930s and 1940s is a time consuming but necessary job, and Volunteer Shirley Stelter (at right) stayed with it through countless hours. Shirley recently observed her 2nd Anniversary (no the paper dolls didn't take ALL of two years) as a loyal volunteer for CCHS. Shirley has done a lot of cataloging during her tenure here and her medical expertise as a retired nurse was very beneficial in helping to catalogue several medical collections belonging to CCHS.

Jason Ruffedt is one of our newest volunteers. One of his first duties was helping prepare artifacts for the "Century of Cycling" exhibit which just opened in the Museum. Jason, a student at NDSU, is a member of Claudia Pratt's Museum Studies Class. The opportunity to volunteer at CCHS will certainly help Jason toward a high grade in that class.

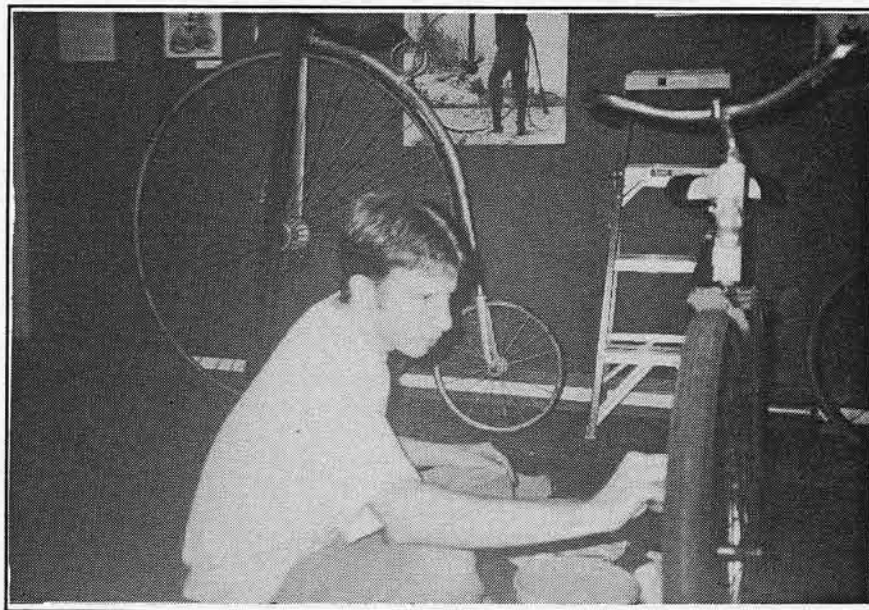
These are only two of the many regular CCHS Volunteers. Many volunteer opportunities exist at the Clay County Museum and Archives in the lower level of the Hjemkomst Center. If you are a history buff and enjoy meeting people, consider volunteering at the museum. We will be featuring other volunteers throughout the year, Stay tuned!

If you are interested in volunteering at the Clay County Museum call Margaret at 299-5520.



Preservation Workshop Set

Bring an heirloom - or even something you hope will become an heirloom - to a special class at the Clay County Historical Society, Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave N. in Moorhead on Thursday, May 17. Bob Herskovitz, an expert conservator from the Minnesota Historical Society, will use family heirlooms brought by participants to show how to care for and protect your old books, textiles, photographs, paper, metal, wood and other items that can be safely transported.



The program, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, is part of the Minnesota Historical Society's Conservation Outreach Program. Co-sponsors are the Clay County Historical Society, Moorhead Community Education and Senior Connections

Admission is free but space is limited, so get your reservation in early. No monetary appraisals are given. For more information or to register call 284-3300.

"Small things,
done with great love,
bring joy and peace."
-- Mother Teresa

Call 299-5520 to
VOLUNTEER



Outreach Displays

The year 2001 will see a change in the outreach case program. We will be closing several outreach case sites in the county. These sites are Ulen-Hitterdal High School and Viking Manor both in Ulen, the Hitterdal Senior Center and Glyndon Community Center.

We will still be providing displays for the libraries in Barnesville and Hawley. A new site was added to the outreach program - the Convention and Visitors' Bureau building on I-94 in Fargo. The new displays will up by the end of March.

Artifacts & Donors

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

Donors include:

Moorhead: Bob Backman, Allen & Ruth Borseth, Charles Selberg, Estate of Irmgard Miller
 Barnesville: Kathie Burud
 Hawley: American Legion Johnson Post 382
 Fargo: Juliet & Harold Hanson
 Fargo/Moorhead: Red River Valley Coin Club
 Anonymous

Artifacts include:

booklet, *The Moccasin*, MSTC spring term 1925;
 (2) FM Telephone Directories dated May 1957 & May 1958; (2) brochures for Red River Area Attractions & the CVB's FM city-Circle tour; (3) postcards by Whiskey Creek Document Design of Barnesville with photos; Civil War sword and sheath which belonged to Wright Works [see below]; meat grinder - "Fleischhackmaschine" with box brought over from Germany; piece of dk red sealing wax which belonged to Ole O. Borseth of Comstock [*Borseth's wall-hung desk was donated in 1986 and both desk & sealing wax are currently on display in the "Keeping in Touch" exhibit in the east hall case outside the CCHS museum gallery*]; wedding dress of Olga Dahlby m. 6-21-1931, photos of couple with relatives and newspaper clipping about the Dahlby's 50th Anniversary; (2) clear glass bottles with labels for Apricot Cordial stamped "Bottled by The Pederson Mercantile Co., Moorhead, Minn." and Blackberry Cordial stamped "Bottled by WH Diemert & Co.,

Moorhead, Minn.;" set of seven commemorative coins, embedded in masonite & encased in plexi celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the RRV Coin Club 1960-2000 - each Canadian and US penny, dated 1960 or 2000, is surrounded by a special token; carton for Red River Valley Select Lager made to hold six 12oz bottles [no bottles included]; girl's "America" bicycle with skirt & chain guard. [see below]

[Civil War sword] Mrs. Wright Works Jr. gave the Civil War sword to the Am. Leg. Johnson Post 382 in Hawley (a charter post). Wright Works Sr. was 17 years old when he enlisted Sept. 24, 1861 with Co. B, 60th New York Volunteer Infantry. He was injured by a musket ball to his right eye on the last day of the battle of Gettysburg. He was mustered out Nov. 30, 1864. Works farmed in New York before moving to Clay Co. He died Oct. 9, 1925 in Hawley.

[girl's "America" bicycle] This bicycle was owned by Nettie Olson (1885-1970) who lived outside Hawley as a child. She was the daughter of Timan and Juliana Olson. Nettie purchased this bike sometime in the 1930s when she was about 50 years old! The tires and saddle on the bike are not original. The Great Western Mfg. Co. was in business from 1899 to 1926. [*This bicycle and others can be seen in the display "A Century of Cycling" in the CCHS museum.*]

Upcoming Schedule:

CCHS Annual Meeting Thurs., Apr. 19
 Preservation Workshop May 17
 CCHS History Tour May/June
Keeping in Touch hall exhibit closes June 11
 Bergquist Cabin Open House June 21, 22 & 23
 Scandinavian Festival June 21-24
 Call 299-5520 for more information.

Monetary Donations

January/February 2001

Darren Leno, Moorhead
 Boeing Gift Matching Program -
 through Howard Roos, St. Louis MO
 Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter
 Helen Rudie, Moorhead
 Georgetown Gardniers, Georgetown
 Jim Puppe, Fargo
 James Nicolai, U.S. Court House, Fargo
 Young in Spirit, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Moorhead
 Dick & Esther Vollbrecht, Moorhead
 Northside Hope Lutheran Men's Club, Fargo
 Pioneer Daughters of Dakota, Fargo Branch

"Dressed for the Camera"- to be presented at Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19

Would you would like to know what was worn by Clay County residents when the county was young? Call now and reserve a spot at the Clay County Historical Society Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19. Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager for CCHS will be presenting a slide show called "Dressed for the Camera: Fashion in Clay County." Burkhardt has a special interest and expertise in clothing trends - including fashion and fabrics. She can usually date a photograph from the clothing worn in the picture.

When our county was settled, crinolines, with their vast expanse of material, were on the way out. Men could purchase ready-to wear shirts as well as suits. Women, too, could purchase ready-made clothing, but they did a great deal of home sewing as well.

Men's clothing was on the verge of settling into a style we would later call the business suit. Men's clothing history consists of subtle differences and slower changes - not the rapid fads and fancies that affected women's fashion. From the Civil War to 1900, the shape of women's fashion is seen in changes in silhouette. For women, this time period included the literal rise and fall of the bustle, the constriction of waists and an explosion in the shape of sleeves. For men, trouser creases appeared, - as did facial hair.

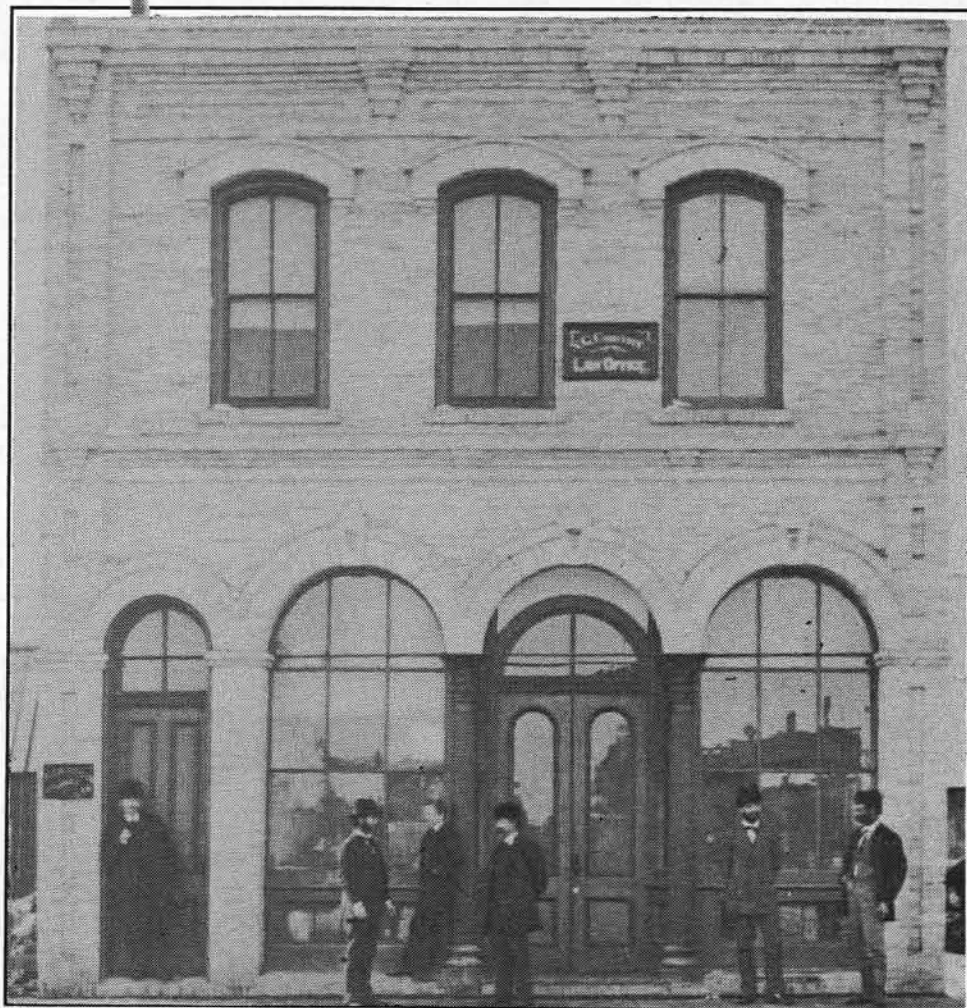
If you have a mental image of a homesteader in Clay County, years behind the current fashion, you might be surprised. It is true that the styles generated in Europe were first popular in big cities where tailors, dressmakers and dry goods stores abounded. But our early citizens didn't necessarily fall behind. You will hear about ready-to-wear clothing as well as what materials and machines were available to our homesteaders.

Also performing at the Annual Meeting will be the dance troupe

"Lunula," a branch of the FM International Folk Dance Association. Children between the ages of 7 and 13 will be performing traditional Irish dances under the direction of Maureen McDonald-Hins, an instructor at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

The business meeting will include election of Board Members and a review of the past year. Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 5:30 to 6:30, followed by a banquet at 6:30, and a business meeting at 7:15. Entertainment will begin about 7:45 p.m.

There will be door prizes throughout the evening. For more information turn to Page 15.



F. Jay Haynes was one of the first photographers in a town only five years old. These men are standing in front of George Comstock's law office in Moorhead, and they are well aware of the camera taking their picture. Why do these three-piece suits look similar to today's suits?

Haynes Foundation Collection, Montana Historical Society, Helena, MT

simple, practical and entirely safe*

A Burning Passion: Pyromania!

By Pam Burkhardt

Pyrography (*pyr* = fire) is a technique using fire to create art. Burning a design into an object is a prehistoric technique that had a revival in Victorian era parlors. Early in the nineteenth century, a variety of wooden items were decorated with the hot tip of a poker (the fireplace tool). The results were called pokerwork or poker art. Designs needed to be burned in quickly because the hot poker cooled off quickly. These items are more rustic in appearance because the poker lacked the narrow point needed to make fine designs. Later, the term "pyrography" was substituted for pokerwork. The technique was taught in art studios in the mid-1800s, but it soon exploded into a fashionable, home-based hobby. Pyrography reached the peak of its popularity between 1890 and 1910.

Pyrography became big business and was promoted through popular ladies' magazines. Factories produced unfinished pieces with a pre-stamped design usually in purple or brown ink. A less interactive product was a pyroengraved design impressed by a heated engraving plate. Pyroengraved items were marketed to hobbyists who would rather paint than burn. The Flemish Art Company of New York was the largest supplier of

tools and wooden items for the hobbyist. Later, "Flemish Art" became another term for pyrography.

Around 1890, a piece of equipment replaced the poker and advertised as a more reliable way for making a metal hot enough to burn wood. A glass jar was heated and a tiny bellows forced the hot air through a tube to a metal tip at the end of a wooden handle. The hot air heated the tip enough to burn designs into the wood. Later, another method was devised. A gas-burning stylus connected to the household gas lighting system (see the Gas-o-Pen illustration). Gas seeped through perforations along the pen tip. When lit, the flames heated the tip. Electricity, not gas, powered the next generation which was a "soldering iron" type of pen.

Avid pyrographers traced printed patterns or designed their own. Pre-stamped designs on the rectangular boxes in our collections feature a common motif of branches, leaves and cherries. The design on the smaller box was enhanced with paint and varnish.


Although pyrography was marketed for amateur decorators, the George Stewart Company put out a line of furniture decorated by pyrography around 1900 to 1905. The company used exotic designs drawn from medieval and contemporary European and Middle East motifs.

Pyrography is enjoying a small revival. Electronic, variable heat-controlled pens reach 2,000 degrees in a few seconds. Tips come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Wood is not the only medium - plastic, gourds and egg shells are a few of the materials the modern pyrographers use.


Have a burning desire to learn more? Read *The Burning Passion* by Richard and Carole Smyth or *The Amazing Art of Pyrography* by Bob Boyer.

Visit these web sites to view new pyrographic artists and their works:
www.acn.net.au/articles/1998/08/pyro
www.geocities.com/Paris/Rue/4029/kathleen.html
www.jkstacydesigns.com/Gallery.html
<http://members.tripod.com/~Laukni/pyrogallery.html>

* taken directly from the *Gas-o-Pen* instruction sheet



TRADE MARK, COPYRIGHT, 1907



In order to give to beginners and schools the advantage of a cheap and practical article that will burn wood and leather in a satisfactory manner, we have devised

The "Gas-o-Pen"

The GAS-O-PEN is an instrument of great simplicity of operation, it being only necessary to attach hose to an ordinary gas jet, and light point, and you are ready for your work.

IT TEACHES THE RUDIMENTS OF PYROGRAPHY in a thorough manner, and gives, to those that have never attempted the work, an inexpensive method of testing the FASCINATIONS OF THE ART, and when proficient, the better and more perfect platinum point outfits can be purchased and MUST be used for the more perfect and delicate work of expert Pyrography.

Simple, practical and entirely safe.

PRICE 35 CENTS EACH, \$4.00 PER DOZEN

DIRECTIONS

Do not take the tip from gas fixture but adjust the gas nipple over same, making sure it is tight and properly adjusted. When you are ready to begin work, turn on gas and light perforations in the front of needle. Do not turn gas jet to full pressure, as this is entirely unnecessary, for the strong flame so obtained is more liable to scorch the work than if a lower pressure is used, and consequently better control is obtained. Do not work too rapidly, but give your point a chance to burn into the wood by working slowly, follow design carefully, without stopping too long in one spot. Let your stroke be bold and strong; if you do this, clean and brilliant work will be the result. If needle becomes coated while burning, let it cool and rub gently with fine emery paper or cloth until clean.

For proper instruction in burning—background shading, coloring, and in fact, for a thorough guide to fine pyrographic work—get our instruction book, entitled, "PYROGRAPHY."

WOOD, LEATHER, VELVET, or CLOTH can be burnt in a satisfactory and artistic manner by the GAS-O-PEN.

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FLEMISH ART CO., 12-14 West 21st St., New York City

"THE WORLD'S LARGEST PYROGRAPHY MANUFACTURERS"

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THE 20TH CENTURY IN MOORHEAD

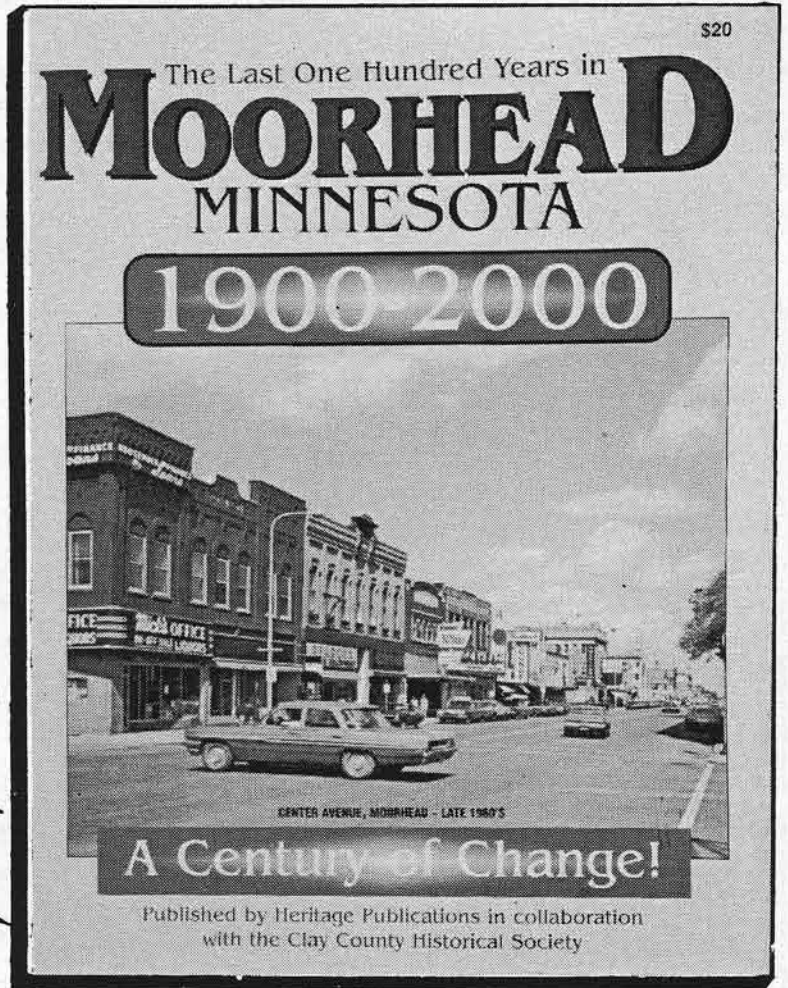
Heritage Publications, in collaboration with the Clay County Historical Society, is proud to announce this unique 184 page book that takes a year by year, decade by decade look at the past century in Moorhead. This book, which is full of historic photographs, provides a glimpse at the last ten decades with major news events of the day as well as several first-hand recollections by people from our community that lived through them.

There is a limited printing. Pick up your copy today at the Clay County Museum and Archives in the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North in Moorhead or send in the form below. Call 218-299-5520 for more information.

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MOORHEAD, MN 1900-2000: "A CENTURY OF CHANGE"

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Lines on a map - Clay

By Mark Peihl

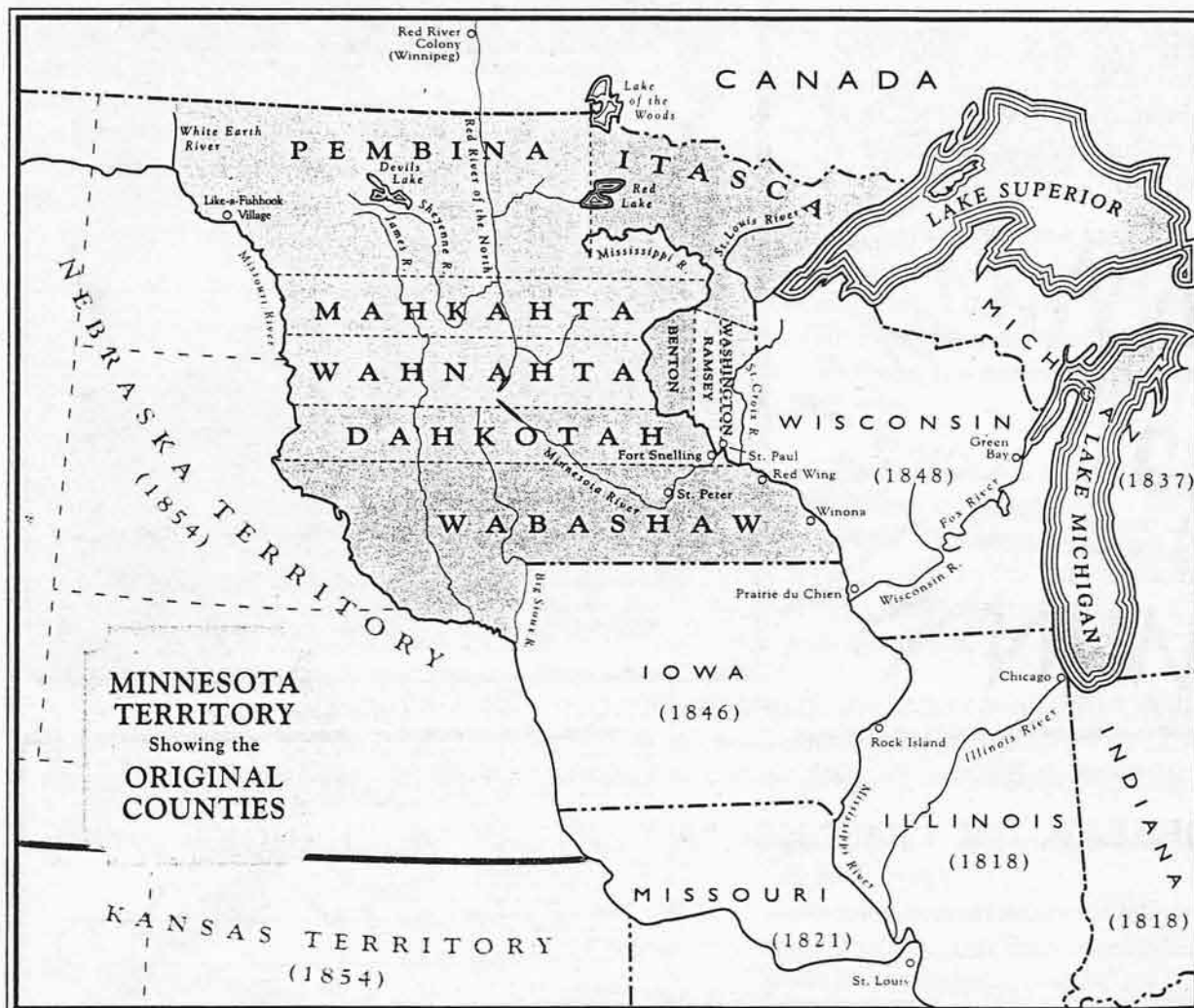
I've always liked Clay County's outline on a map. No mere rectangle, the northern two tiers of townships are offset a mile to the west, creating correction corners along County Highway 26. It's the map maker's way of reconciling the apparently parallel north south meridian lines' actual convergence toward the north pole. Matching that jog on the Dakota border is a conveniently placed westward bend in the Red River - the result of the quirky stream finding a new, more attractive route to Hudson Bay hundreds of years ago. Together they create a rectangle with an attitude; its northern part nudged over like a hat at a rakish angle. Distinctive but easy to sketch free hand - a few straight lines and a squiggly one.

But the County's outline hasn't always looked like this. In this article we'll trace the various claims governments have had on what's now our county and how the lines they drew on maps changed.

The earliest residents had little need for paper maps. Native Americans knew where they lived and hunted and where their neighbors (sometimes friendly, sometimes not) lived and hunted. These relative borders ebbed and flowed as migrations of various groups passed through the Red River Valley and moved on. Most of the details of these movements have been lost to time. It's up to tribal historians and anthropologists to puzzle out these changes through archeological and linguistic evidence and oral histories. We do know that in the 18th century,

Ojibwe Indians were pushing the Dakota out of northern Minnesota. By 1800 the Ojibwe lived in the northern valley, the Dakota to the south. Over the next decades the Ojibwe expanded their hegemony and today's Clay County became a dangerous zone of contention.

At the same time another migration was underway, one which would prove disastrous for both tribes.



MAP 1: The 1849 boundary between Pembina and Mahkahta Counties would cut through Northern Clay County today.

(Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society)

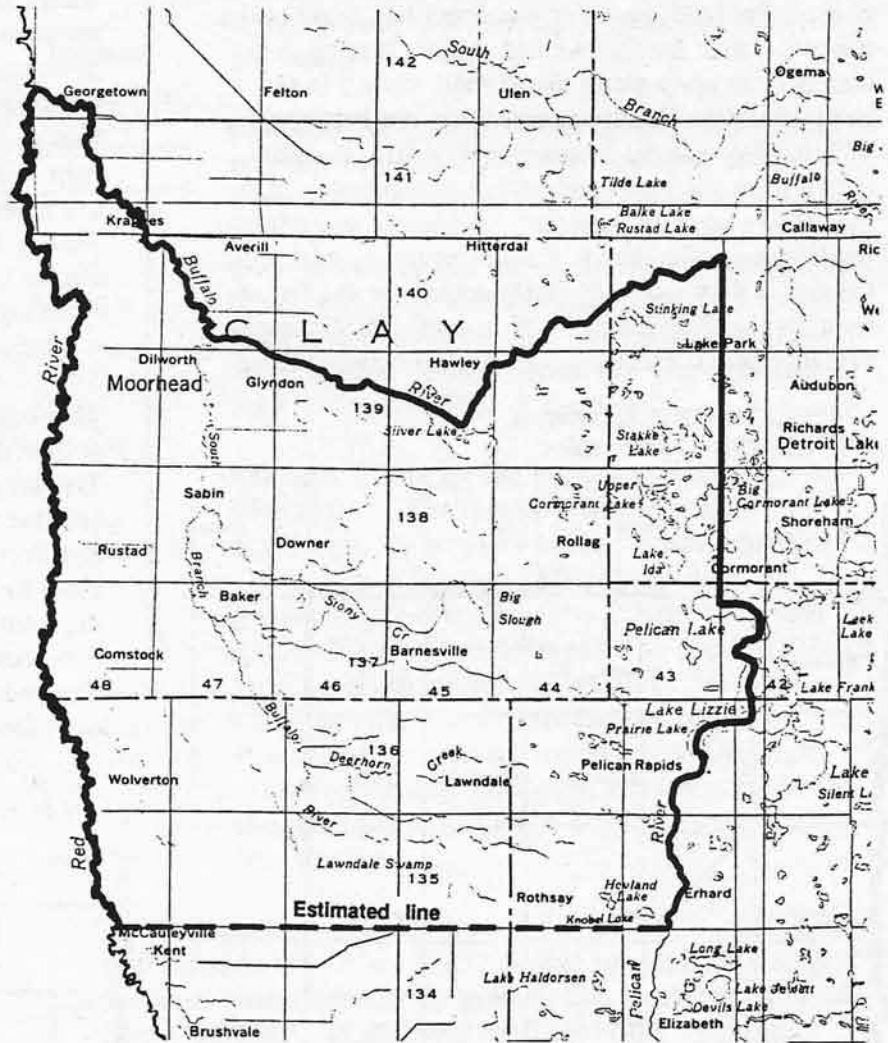
County Borders

The English were the first Europeans to claim Clay County for their own. Henry Hudson in 1610 found Hudson Bay and claimed its drainage for the Brits. Sixty years later King Charles II granted the private Hudson's Bay Company a monopoly on all trade in the watershed. The company also provided what passed for governance in the area. The French also had claims on the drainage but they gave those up in the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

Although the HBC had traders in the lower (northern) valley in the 1790s, they and their Ojibwe allies traveled south into Dakota country rarely and at their own risk.

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 included only the Mississippi River Valley, not the Red River drainage. US and British diplomats in The Convention of 1818 set the border at the 49th parallel, putting the southern Valley in American hands for the first time. We became part of Missouri Territory. Three years later Missouri became a state and the area reverted to "Unorganized Territory." This became a pattern for the next thirty years or so as territories formed, became states and the Valley was taken by a new territory. In

BRECKENRIDGE Boundaries
18 Mar 1858 – 1 Nov 1860



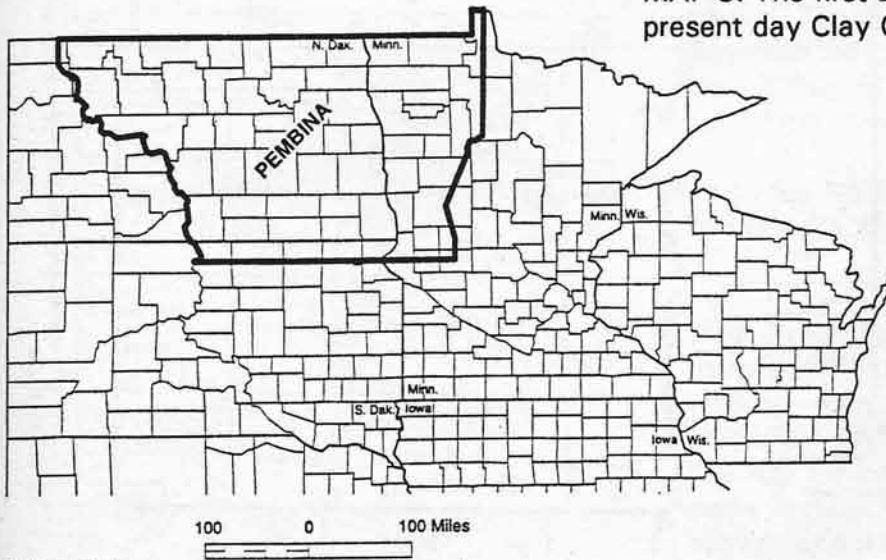
MAP 3: The first Breckenridge County, mother of present day Clay County.

1834 the Valley became part of Michigan Territory. In 1836 Wisconsin Territory took over. In 1838 governance shifted to the desks of Iowa Territorial bureaucrats. Actually, little governance was required. The only white citizens lived around the settlement of Pembina, along the British border.

Finally, in 1849 Minnesota Territory was formed. It stretched from the present Wisconsin border west to the Missouri and White Earth Rivers encompassing all of present day eastern North and South

(Continued on Page 10)

PEMBINA Boundaries
1 May 1851 – 7 Mar 1858

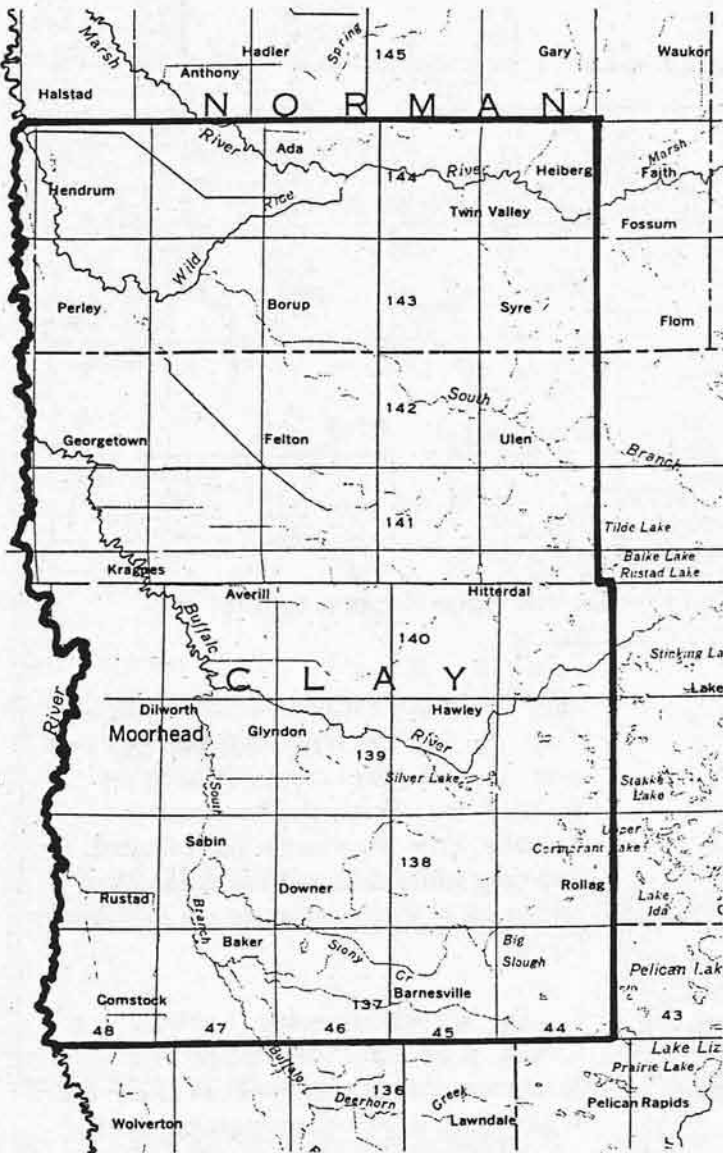


MAP 2: Expanded Pembina County

Borders (Continued from Page 9)

Dakota. Dreamers and schemers in St. Paul established counties in the northern zone. (See map 1.) Little more than lines and names on maps, they stretched in east-west bands to the western border. Appropriately, their names reflected the Native peoples living in each county. (In 1825 the US government had negotiated a treaty between the Ojibwe and Dakota placing their boundary roughly along the Buffalo River.) In the north, Pembina County covered the area between the 47th parallel and the international border. Pembina (taken from the settlement of that name) comes from the Ojibwe term anepeminan, "red berry" referring to the Highbush Cranberry. Further south lay Mahkahto County, a fifty mile wide strip named for the Dakota term for the Blue Earth River in southern Minnesota. Present day Clay County was divided between these

BRECKENRIDGE Boundaries
2 Nov 1860 – 7 Mar 1862



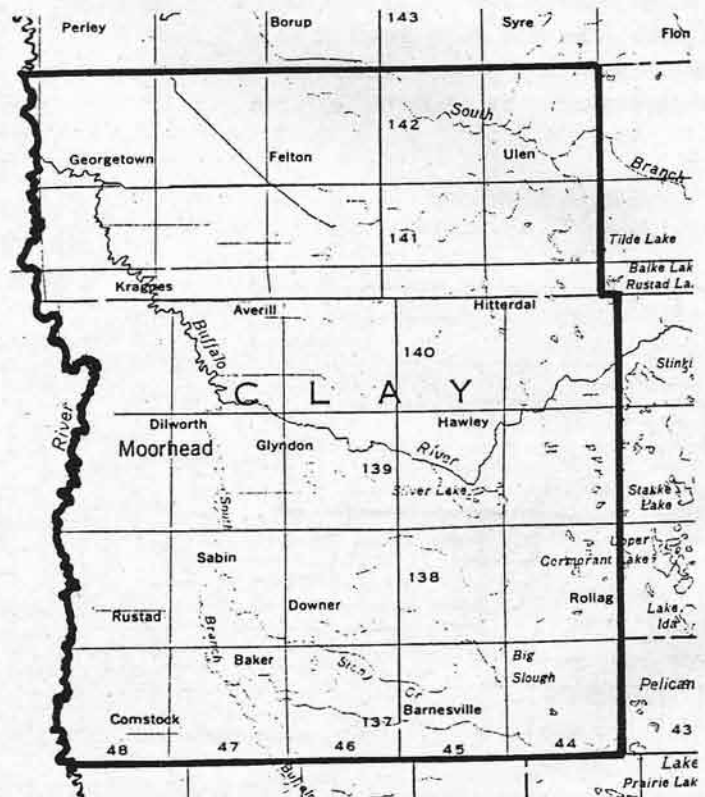
MAP 4: The second Breckenridge County

two. The 47th parallel cuts across the county 1 1/2 miles north of Hitterdal, .6 miles north of Kragnes. South of Mahkahto was Wahnahta County, named for the great Sisseton Dakota chief "Charger."

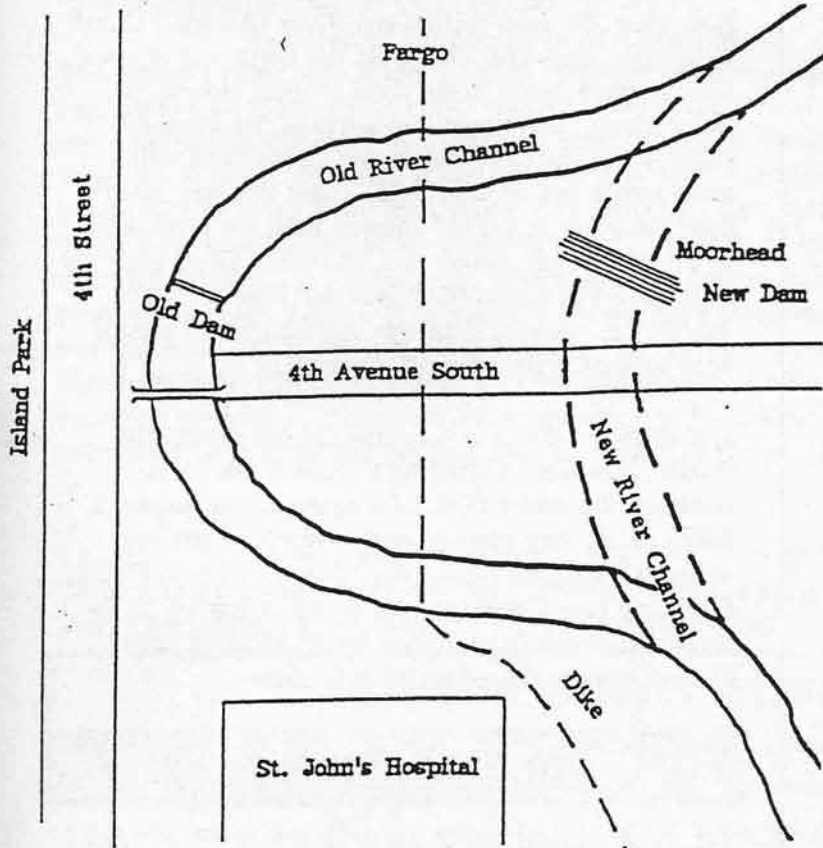
In June 1851 the Dakota ceded their lands in the Valley to the US government and moved to reservations. Perhaps in anticipation, the Territorial government did away with Mahkahto and Wahnahta Counties, extending Pembina's south line over Clay County to past the present South Dakota border. (See map 2.) This and most of the other maps in this article are from the excellent *Minnesota Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*, John H. Long, ed.; Charles Scribner's Sons, NY: 2000.) This, too, basically reflected shifting lines on paper as the Valley was still a place to pass through rather than a place to live.

That began to change in the late 1850s. Settlers by the tens of thousands poured into southeastern Minnesota Territory. Statehood seemed imminent. Rumors of a rail line from St. Paul to the junction of the Otter Tail and Bois de Sioux Rivers circulated. The Army made plans for a fort on the Red River. St. Paul merchants expected steam navigation on the Red shortly. Prospectors discovered gold in British Columbia - hundreds prepared to flock through the Valley to seek their fortunes.

CLAY Boundaries
8 Mar 1862 – 1990



MAP 5: Finally got it right.

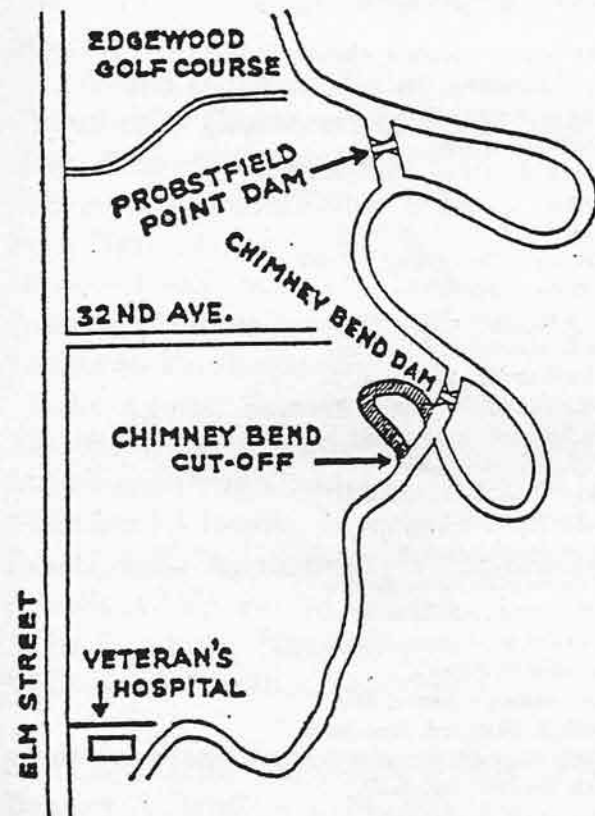


Map 6: Shows the Island Park area river change. Just moving the river did not change the border between Minnesota and North Dakota - that took an Act of Congress.

The Valley was about to boom. Groups of speculators established a string of townsites along the Red between the Otter Tail and Buffalo Rivers to provide for the thousands of settlers sure to follow. (Watch this space for a future article on this fascinating but futile bit of local history.) These included Breckenridge and McCauleyville in today's Wilkin County and East Burlington, Sheyenne City and Lafayette in Clay.

In March 1858, the Territorial government created two new counties in the upper valley to tax and cater to the needs of these anticipated citizens. (See map 3.) The south end of Pembina County became Toombs County (named for Georgia Senator Robert A. Toombs). Its northern border was very near present day McCauleyville. Immediately north was Breckenridge County (named for Vice President John C. Breckenridge of Kentucky).

The later was really the beginning of modern day Clay County. The Buffalo River formed Breckenridge's northern border, the Red its west. On the east the county extended six miles into present day Becker County to Pelican Lake then followed the Pelican River south to Toombs. Thus it included all of southern Clay County, the northern two tiers of Wilkin County townships, part of Becker and the extreme northwestern corner of Otter Tail County. Curiously, the townsite of Breckenridge wound up in Toombs County, not Breckenridge.



These lines, too, would not last. The townsite dreamers lost their shirts in the Panic of 1857. Stakes marking the streets of the paper towns rotted in the ground. But the Army did build Fort Abercrombie across from McCauleyville, Minnesota became a state in May 1858 and a steamboat began running on the Red. The Hudson's Bay Company established a steamboat depot near the mouth of the Buffalo River, just outside Breckenridge County. Also, in 1857 the Ojibwe ceded their lands north of the Buffalo.

These new realities induced the state government to tweak the new counties' borders. (See map 4.) In November 1860 the
(Continued on Page 12)

MAP 7: To speed flood waters out of Fargo Quickly, three sharp bends in the river north of town were cut off with new channels. A permanent channel was cut across the first bend and it became part of North Dakota. Temporary channels cut the other two. Small dams in these channels kept the river in its normal bed but allowed flood water to flow over their tops.

Borders (Continued from Page 11)

Toombs-Breckenridge line was moved 12 miles north to the present Clay-Wilken border and Breckenridge was extended north to between townships 144 and 145 (12 miles north of the present Clay-Norman County line). Breckenridge's eastern border was moved to the present Clay-Becker line. This arrangement centrally located Georgetown and Fort Abercrombie on the western borders of Breckenridge and Toombs Counties respectively.

Minnesota's state borders are the result of a political squabble. Territorial Republicans, representing mainly farming interests, wanted a long, east-west state stretching from Wisconsin to the Missouri with its northern border just north of St. Paul. Democrats, supported by merchants interested in the Canadian fur trade, wanted a north-south state. The Democrats won out. They were the ones who named townships and counties for their southern Democratic allies.

This habit came back to haunt them after the Civil War broke out. Both Breckenridge and Toombs became generals in the Confederate Army. In March 1862, disgusted Minnesota legislators renamed Breckenridge County - Clay County, for the late Kentucky Senator Henry Clay. "The Great Pacificator," Clay authored the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850. He was instrumental in holding the Union together in the four decades preceding the war. (Later, Toombs was renamed Andy Johnson County for then Vice President Andrew Johnson. After Johnson's impeachment as President in 1868 it became Wilkin County, named for Alexander Wilken, Colonel of the 9th Minnesota Infantry in the Civil War. Wilken died in the Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi on July 14, 1863.)

The newly christened Clay County received new borders as well. The legislators lopped off the northern two tiers of townships giving the county its present shape. (See map 5.) Still, the new boundaries meant little until the Northern Pacific Railway arrived in 1871. In February 1872 Governor Horace Austin appointed Andrew Holes and Peter Wilson County Commissioners. A year later the county was fully organized for government.

But Clay County's borders were not done changing. In 1959, the Army Corps of Engineers began construction on the Fargo Flood Control Project. The project effected the border in two places. (See maps 6 and 7.) To protect John's Hospital and other properties around Fargo's Island Park from flooding, the Corps built a dike between the Red River and the

hospital. This required cutting off of a bend in the Red. (See "St. John's Dike and River Change," CCHS Newsletter, Sept/Oct 1990). On the north end of town, several sharp bends in the river channel slowed the flood waters' movement downstream. To move the water out of the cities faster, the Corps built weir dams across two of the bends. These low structures keep the water in the old channel until the level rises to a certain level. Above that, the water flows over the weir dams and across the bends hurrying it downstream. A weir dam was impractical for a third bend so the Corps cut it off completely.

Just changing the river's course did not change the border, however. According to federal law, that remained the center of the old channel. On August 8, 1961, nearly two years after the river's course was changed, Congress passed the *Minnesota-North Dakota Boundary Line Compact*. Minnesota shrank by 22.54 acres and North Dakota grew by 22.54 acres. The borders have remained stable ever since.

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, Silverton 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 Molldrem, Moorhead
 Vincent & Kathie Murphy, Fargo
 James O'Rourke, Moorhead
 Bev & Lloyd 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

Yerkegulova interns at CCHS

By Altynay Yerkegulova of Kazakhstan

The reason I came here is that I had to complete my internship. It was a requirement of the program under which I came to the United States. In my home university my major is translating from English to Russian and Kazakh. When I had to decide which major I would take here, I thought it would be great to know more about the culture of the language I am studying, so I am doing American Studies as my major at MSUM. Though I look Korean I am from Kazakhstan and I am so glad to represent my country here because I am probably the only Kazakh in this area. I did not have many choices to do my internship. CCHS is the first place I came to and I liked it. People who work here have their own small world, a CCHS Community. I never thought I would be doing anything in a museum but now I enjoy it. I found out so many interesting facts about the life and material culture of the people who live in this area.

I am really glad to be doing my internship at CCHS. I am glad I met people whom I really admire and every day I come here I feel I am learning something new. I am grateful to my teachers, Mark and Pam, for that.



Altynay Yerkegulova,
CCHS Intern

Clay County Historical Society

Business, Individual and Organization Support (BIOS) Members

Thank you to these special BIOS Members of Clay County Historical Society

PATRON (\$200 - \$499)

Grosz Studio, Moorhead

SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)

Bev & Lloyd Paulson, Moorhead

Brian Dentinger,

Edward D. Jones & Co., Moorhead

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead

City of Hawley, Hawley

Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton Schools

First National Bank, Hawley

Hawley Public Schools, Hawley

Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead

Lutheran Brotherhood

Lake Agassiz Branch 8430, Moorhead

Moorhead Area Public Schools, Moorhead

Moorhead Drug Company, Moorhead

Moorhead Kiwanis, Moorhead

Rigels, Inc., Appliances-TV, Moorhead

Scheels All Sports, Moorhead

Sellin Brothers, Hawley

Vikingland Kiwanis, Moorhead

SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 to \$99)

Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley

Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo

City of Barnesville, Barnesville

Richard T. McMurray,

C.M. Associates, Annandale, VA

Eventide, Moorhead

Gate City Federal Savings Bank, Fargo

Greater Fargo Moorhead

Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson and

Guy, Ltd, Moorhead

McLarnan, Hannaher & Skatvold,

Attorneys, Moorhead

Melberg Christian Book & Gift, Moorhead

Mid-Day Central Lions, Moorhead

Moorhead Area Retired Education Asso.

National Sojourners Inc., Moorhead

Petermann Seed Farm, Hawley

State Bank of Hawley, Hawley

State Bank of Moorhead, Moorhead

Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead

Veteran's of Foreign Wars, Moorhead

Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead

Wells Fargo Bank MN, N.A., Moorhead

Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

• • • Showing • • •

"Stitches in Time"

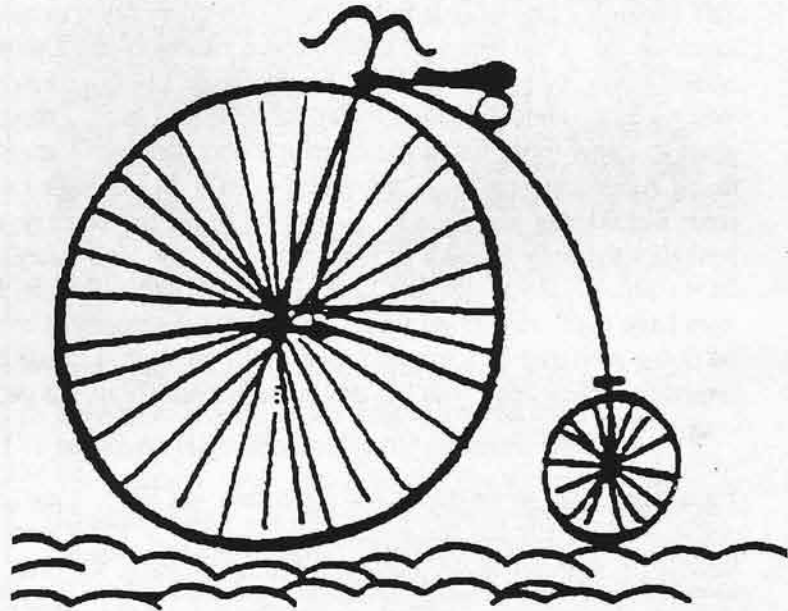
Clay County's Handmade Textiles

"Keeping in Touch"

125 years of Communicating
(from telegraphy to email)

"A Century of Cycling"

(From the high wheels of the 1880s
to the mountain bikes of today.)



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

CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

January/February 2001

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

RENEWALS

A.R. Minch, Fargo
Darren Leno, Moorhead
John & Audrey Elton, Hawley
Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter
Lysle & Diane Meyer, Moorhead
June Adele Dolva, Moorhead
Charles A. Nelson, Alexandria VA
Tim McLarnan, Moorhead
Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley
Mike & Dianne Fillmore, Hawley
W.L. Haggart, Fargo
Helen Rudie, Moorhead
Chris & Ellen Velline, Torrance CA
Gordon & Carol Rustad, Moorhead
Davis & Hazel Scott, Moorhead
City of Barnesville, Moorhead
Alvin & Diane Swanson, Moorhead
McLarnan, Hannaher & Skatvold Attorneys, Mhd
Bea & Arthur Arett, Moorhead
Steve & Lucia Schroeder, Glyndon
T. Brent Larson, Moorhead

Helen K. Austin, Sabin
Carl L. Bailey, Moorhead
Rick Crume, Glyndon
Rakel Erickson, Fertile
Robert & Dorothy Larson, Moorhead
Erling & Janice Linde, Moorhead
Darlene M. Rustad, W. Fargo
Francis Kukowski, Georgetown
Carol Raff Stevenson, Coon Rapids
Barbara Engler, Roseville
Harry Fillafer, Moorhead
Howard Geng, Moorhead
Doris V. Olich, Moorhead
Maxine Workman, Borup
Tom & Beth Iverson, Moorhead
Mary Leach, Glyndon
Vernon Pederson, Moorhead
Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead
Florence & Paul Korsmo, Fargo
Hazel Haarstad, Detroit Lakes
Noma Kane-Rygg, Tucson AZ
Myrtle & Nels Snustad, Moorhead
Edna Anderson, Fargo
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton School, Dilworth
Marlis Ziegler, Georgetown
Dick & Esther Vollbrecht, Moorhead
Mrs. Robert J. Roberts, Moorhead
Sharon Hoverson, Fargo
Ethel Menholt, Felton
Joanne Ogren, Barnesville
Maybelle Dinsmore, Ulen
Patrick & Orpha Smith, Fargo

Lloyd & Bev Paulson, Moorhead
Jim Bergquist & Jan Eastes, Battle Lake
Florene Culp, Georgetown
Roland & Beth Dille, Moorhead
Elmo Erickson, Moorhead
Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon
M/M R.E. McDougall, Hawley
Marlowe & Joan Parries, Moorhead
Larry & Elsie Quam, Hawley
Olaf & Rhoda Wicker, Hawley
Michael Farrell, Barnesville
Grace Landin, Moorhead
Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen, Mhd
Howard & Marcell Wergeland, Detroit Lakes
Sherri & Wayne Arnold, Moorhead
Greg & Mary Gillispie, Fargo
Keith & Lorraine Langseth, Glyndon
Harding C. Noblitt, Moorhead
Shirley Strand, Hawley
William Wallace, LaCanada CA
Bruce M. Thorson, Waite Park
Bernice Peihl, Arthur ND
Don & Rose-Mary Strom, Moorhead
Elizabeth Lorschbough, Fargo

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

NEW MEMBERS

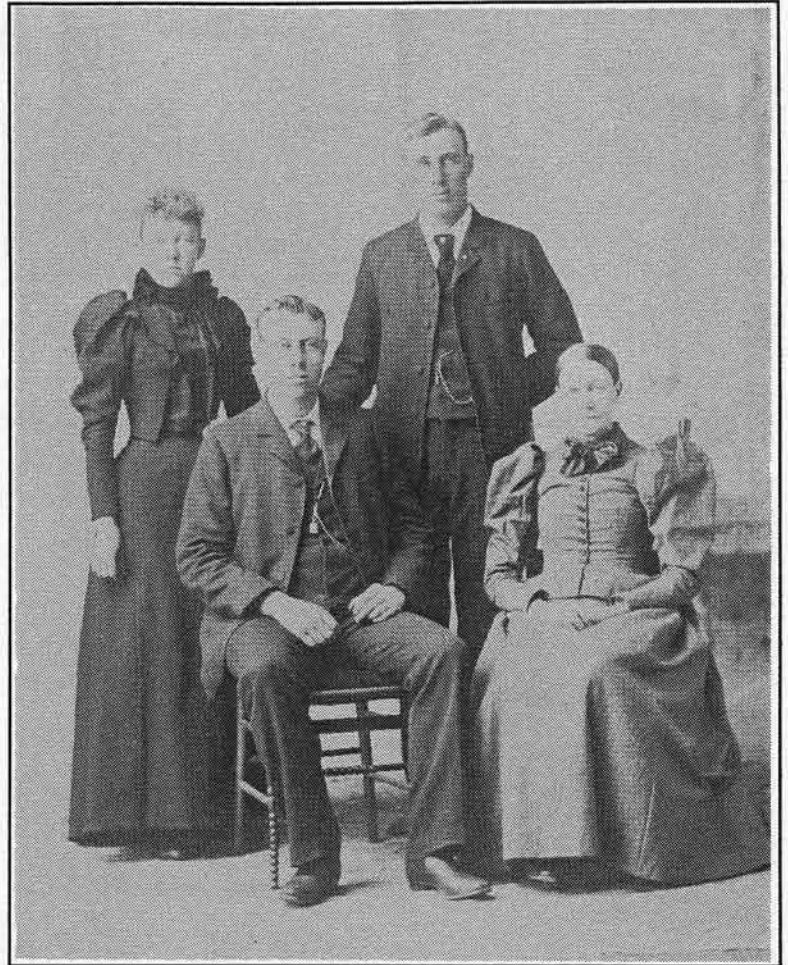
Edith Flaa, Moorhead
Terese A. Cascio, Moorhead
Larry Nicholson, Moorhead

Annual Meeting/Banquet

Thurs., April 19



1902
Sears Roebuck
Catalogue



"Dressed for the Camera:"

Fashion in Clay County "

by Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager



Plus the "Lunala" dance troupe (girls ages 7-13) performing traditional Irish dances.

Schedule 5:30-6:30 Social Hour
6:30-7:30 Dinner/Business Meeting and 7:30 p.m. Program

2001 CCHS Annual Meeting/Banquet

at Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Ave N., Moorhead

Thursday, Apr. 19, 2001

Make check for \$12.50 payable to:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME: _____

Stuffed Pork Chop Chicken Breast (Check one)

2001 CCHS Annual Meeting/Banquet

at Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Ave N., Moorhead

Thursday, Apr. 19, 2001

Make check for \$12.50 payable to:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME: _____

Stuffed Pork Chop Chicken Breast (Check one)

To reserve your meal - please return above coupon by the reservation deadline - April 11!

CCHS BIOS Memberships

- \$ 50 to \$99 Supporting Member
- \$ 100 to \$199 Sustaining Member
- \$ 200 to \$499 Patron
- \$ 500 and up Major Exhibit Sponsor

As a CCHS BIOS (Business, Individual, Organization Support) Member you will receive all benefits of an individual and/or family membership plus a certificate ready to frame and display, extra complimentary passes to visit the Viking Ship, the Stave church, traveling exhibits in the building, and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly Newsletters. To become a CCHS BIOS Member please return this form or a facsimile to CCHS, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 299-5520.

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

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 | * Discount on Photo Reproduction |
| * Bi-monthly newsletter | * Voting Privileges |
| * Discount on Acid-Free Materials | * Invitation to all CCHS Social Events |
| * FREE Admission to Clay County Museum & Archives and two complimentary passes to the Stave Church, Viking Ship and Traveling Exhibits. | * Access to all CCHS Tours |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

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MOORHEAD, MN
56561
PERMIT NO. 494

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



HJEMKOMST CENTER, 202 1ST AVENUE NORTH

P.O. BOX 501

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561-0501

Address Correction Requested