

Clay County Historical Society

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

May/June 2003

Volume XXVI No. 3

In this issue:

**Bergquist Cabin Open House June 27 & 28 • *To Serve and Protect:*
Aprons through the Ages • Reflections on 2003 Annual Meeting**



Annie Stein, a daughter of Adam Stein, an early Clay County pioneer, is pictured here wearing a house dress and long half-apron. Annie was also an amateur photographer, and we have several of her photographs in the collection.

President's Column

By CCHS President, Donna Voxland

As I am writing this column, the leaves are starting to push their way out of the leaf buds, the grass is greening up nicely, and the robins are busy calling to each other and feathering their nests. Spring will soon turn to the fullness of summer with all the vacation and fun family time that summer brings.



I hope that you will remember the Clay County Museum when you are giving the personal guided tour of our area to your out-of-town guests. Our exhibit, Eating Out in Clay County, is great and will definitely get those memories and conversations flowing. The Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival is an extra special time to have travelers visit our area, and our Bergquist Cabin will be open during the Festival weekend of June 27-29.

If you travel to other areas this summer, try to visit their local museum sites and share your reactions with us as we strive to be the best Historical Society we can be.

Have a great summer!



Donations and Memorials

March & April 2003

Helen Rudie, Fargo, ND, In memory of Diane Meyer
Georgetown Gardeniers, Georgetown, MN
Jaquelyn Keck, Williston, ND
Gerald & Kathy Schroeder, Harwood, ND

Donations for Change Collecting Fundraiser

Ben Brunsvold, Moorhead, MN
Kevin Campbell, Moorhead, MN
John Elton, Hawley, MN
Rodney Erickson, Moorhead, MN
Marion Gee, Fargo, ND
Joyce Haug, Hawley, MN
Lee Kolle, Borup, MN
Helen Rudie, Fargo, ND
Alvin Swanson, Moorhead, MN
Merlyn Valan, Moorhead, MN
Donna & Mark Voxland, Moorhead, MN
Dale White, Moorhead, MN

Show respect for your past with a memorial to CCHS for Mother's and Father's Days

Your Mother and/or Father have given you a lot through the years, so wouldn't it be great to honor them with a gift that lasts?

Memorials to the Clay County Historical Society help us continue our work to "collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Clay County," which includes the memory of its people.

Gifts can be designated to the CCHS Endowment Fund, Collections, Archives, Bergquist Cabin, Rollag School, or General Operations.

Honor your roots today!



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Voxland, President, Moorhead
Helen Rudie, Vice President, Moorhead
Alvin Swanson, Treasurer, Moorhead
John Elton, Secretary, Moorhead
Ben Brunsvold, County Rep., Moorhead
Steve Aakre, Hawley
Rose Bergan, Hawley
Rodney Erickson, Moorhead
Sam Leathes, Moorhead
Merlyn Valan, Moorhead
Sherry Watt, Glyndon
Dale White, Moorhead

STAFF

Lisa Hanson, Director
Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager
Mark Peihl, Archivist
Alvera Murch, Bookkeeper
Janet Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator
Jane Renner, Office Assistant (funded by Experience Works)

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

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

CCHS STAFF E-MAIL

lisa.hanson@ci.moorhead.mn.us
pam.burkhardt@ci.moorhead.mn.us
mark.peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us

Bergquist Cabin Open House, June 27 & 28

Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, June 27-29

Once again, the 1870 John Bergquist Log Cabin, the oldest home on its original site in Moorhead, will be open for visitors and enthusiasts on June 27 & 28.



Activities at the cabin will include tours by CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl, music, refreshments, many hands-on Swedish craft activities

and demonstrations, and face painting for the young-at-heart. CCHS and the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society will co-host the event in conjunction with the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival.

The cabin is located on 7th Street, just south of 11th Avenue North in Moorhead. Limited parking is available, and a shuttle bus is planned to transport guests from the Festival at the Hjemkomst Center to the cabin.

The 26th Annual Scandinavian Festival will run June 27-29 at the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave-

nue North, Moorhead. The festival celebrates the cultures and traditions of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Scandinavian America.

Authentic Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American ethnic entertainment, with folk dancing, arts and crafts demonstrations, and music from Scandinavian Folk to the new Nordic Sound will be featured, as well as mouthwatering Scandinavian foods, colorful folk costumes, family history resources, and magical storytellers. With Norway as this year's featured country, learn to cook Nordic-style at the Scandinavian Cooking School, and meet the famous Norwegian Fjord Horses!



Admission to the festival is \$5 for adults, \$4 for 55+, and free for ages 19 and under. Adults can purchase a three-day festival pass for \$8. For more information about the Cabin Open House, contact CCHS at 218-299-5520. For information about festival visit www.scandinavianhjemkomstfestival.org, or call 218-299-5452.

Minnesota Memories author to give brown-bag program at CCHS, Thursday May 22

When faced with the decision of selecting a job description for her business cards, Joan Claire Graham chose "Purveyor of Memories." She thinks her job title might be unique.

Graham has been traveling around Minnesota for the past two years gathering true stories for her Minnesota Memories books and sharing published stories with audiences at libraries, schools, historical societies, book stores and organizations.

Since the recent publication of Minnesota Memories 3, the Purveyor of Memories has set out once again to entertain audiences with the extraordinary stories

of ordinary folks. She will be appearing at the Clay County Museum on Thursday, May 22, 12:00-2:00, for a brown bag program.

Explaining her mission, Graham says, "I spent my first forty years in Minnesota. When I moved to the West Coast, and then to the East, I repeatedly fended off misconceptions about Minnesotans. Based on what they see or read on *The Golden Girls* or the movie *Fargo*, or the popular book *How to Talk Minnesotan*, people in other places perceive typical Minnesotans to be dim bulbs like Ole and Lena who constantly say 'you betcha,' and eat hotdish for

Continued on page 12...

Outreach Displays

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
Hawley Public Library	April	July
Moorhead Public Library	April	July
Barnesville Public Library	May	July
Fargo CVB	April	October



The Hawley Public Library travels back in time with *more THEN & NOW* photos. This display pairs old photographs of Clay County sites with more recent photos taken in the same place.

Moorhead Public Library presents *WHAT IS IT? WHEN WAS IT?* This display tests the knowledge of young and old alike. If you are stumped by these items, you are in the right place to look them up!

The Barnesville Public Library travels back in time with the photo display *THEN & NOW*. This display pairs an old photograph of a Clay County site with a more recent photo taken in the same place.

Visitors at the Fargo Convention and Visitors' Bureau along I-94 will have *FUN IN THE SUN!* this summer. The display highlights fishing, swimming and baseball. Watch out for those pesky mosquitoes!



TEMPORARY DISPLAYS AT CCHS

The CCHS hall case hosts the Norway display as part of the Scandinavian Festival June 27-29, 2003. Norway is the featured country this year. This display will open May 17.

CCHS set up a special display of exquisite, hand-decorated china in the lobby area. These items were painted by Beulah Forness who is teaching a class in china painting in the building on Tuesday mornings.

A small case promoting our *EATING OUT IN CLAY COUNTY* is on view in the lobby in the Hjemkomst Center. We hope this "appetizer" whets your appetite for the "main course" in the CCHS museum just down the stairs.

SCHOOL DAYS AT THE CLAY COUNTY FAIR JULY 11-13, 2003

CCHS will debut a new outreach case display in the schoolhouse at the Clay County Fair this year. *School Days* will feature photos from Clay County schools. A companion display *Fun With Dick and Jane* will also appear. Don't be absent! Stop in during your visit to the fair.

Artifacts & Donors

March/April 2003

Donors:

Moorhead: Donna McMaster, Margret Kragnes, Amy Monson, Sylvia Lell, MSUM Archives, Clay County Recorder's Office
 Fargo-Moorhead: Quest Pioneers, Red River Valley Council Region #18 [formerly Telephone Pioneers of America]
 Barnesville: Joanne Ogren
 Ulen: Maybelle Dinsmore
 Eden Prairie: Marion Dane Bauer
 South St. Paul: Gary Hoffman
 Fargo, ND: Jerry Quam, Mark Peihl
 Alexandria, VA: John Caron

Artifacts include: *The Daily Graphic*, An Illustrated Evening Newspaper, New York, Friday, August 11, 1882, containing an article and drawings of Moorhead made from photos by F. Jay Haynes, Fargo, DT; copy of a photo showing oxen pulling a "Votes for Women" parade wagon; copy of an interview of Adeline Larson by Terry L. Shoptaugh made June 19, 1999; a photo of the depot at Winnipeg Jct. in 1907; photo postcards of Hawley; Normal School programs from 1913 & 1916; Fargo Conservatory & Opera House programs including one for the Opening of the New Auditorium in 1915; roll of 16mm film marked July 9, 1940; @45 photo prints & color photocopies of area autoracing & related activities; book, *Land of the Buffalo Bones*, Diary of Mary Ann Elizabeth Rodgers, An English Girl in Minnesota, New Yeovil, Minnesota 1873 ©2003 by Marion Dane Bauer published as part of Scholastic's Dear America series. Bauer wrote, this is an historical novel based on my great grandfather's—the Rev. George Rodgers'—having brought a colony from England to Hawley in 1873.

One lot with multiple items of Vernon Kragnes, Morken Twp. includes a Recordio-gram made by Vernon at Selfridge Field, Mich., on Nov. 22, 1942. Kragnes died in a plane crash Dec. 27, 1942. The collection has many documents from his early school days, graduation and military service. Some three-dimensional items are included. The lot also has items of Vernon's brother Russell, mother Cora, and Russell's wife Margret.

Other items are a labeled rubber stamp holder used at the Clay County Courthouse; (7) Siegel's "Golden bucks" worth \$5 (similar to a coupon); an uncirculated check from American State Bank of Moorhead 194___; three sets of paper napkins from the late 1940s-early 1950s for a shower, Easter & Thanksgiving; a stick-craft lamp made by Leonard Johnson of Hawley in the late 1970s; a swizzle stick with a green & white whistle attached to one end "Slick as a Whistle Club" "Fredrick Martin Hotel, "Moorhead Minnesota"

Thank you! Results of our Request:

In our March/April newsletter we ask readers to send in cookbooks. We received two so far: the *Pine to Prairie Cookbook*, by the Quest Pioneers, Red River Valley Council, Region #18 ND & MN; and *Recipes & Remembrances*, 125 Years 1876-2001 "A Collection of Recipes by Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women" by Maybelle Dinsmore of Ulen. Both have wonderful recipes and the cover on the Ulen cookbook is lovely. Both donors deserve our many thanks. How about your organization, church or club? We will accept "gently used" or "previously owned" cookbooks, too.

To Serve and Protect

By Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager

In March and April, CCHS displayed a small part of a collection of aprons belonging to Vicky Jo Bogart of Fargo. Most of these aprons were made between the late 1930s and the 1970s. Aprons were essential in the preparation of church dinners, in the food service industry and for home entertaining. In the September/October 1995 issue of our newsletter, we ran an article on aprons. We are rerunning a condensed version of that article, and taking a closer look at more modern aprons.

The lowly apron

Protective or fashionable, age or class-related, gender-specific or genderless, the apron has been with us for centuries. The apron as a special garment attained its function and significance around five hundred years ago.

1500-1600 The apron was worn mainly by the lower classes, workmen, craftsmen and children. For the lower class woman, an apron was worn throughout the day's activities. It protected her clothing while cooking, cleaning and shopping. The apron was a protective part of daily social dress. Workmen and craftsmen would continue to wear aprons for protection through the centuries.

1600-1700 Both lower and middle class women wore functional aprons and toward the end of the century, fashionable upper class women began to wear them as well. However, because they were non-functional, they were often tiny, made from expensive materials, embroidered and trimmed with expensive lace.

1700-1800 Aprons were still a part of lower and middle class protective dress. However, in the middle of the century, the plain, utilitarian apron became a more decorative part of daily social

dress. Servants were required to wear aprons as part of the uniform that represented their lower class standing and servitude.

1800-present An apron was (and still is) a social garment related to domestic activity and a sign of servitude in the workplace. When entertaining guests a "better" apron might be worn than when in the family circle. On more formal occasions, the "best" apron would be worn.

Kitchens and cooking were women's work, but the backyard is less gender-specific. In the 1950s, men's barbecue aprons were practical, but surly slogans might be applied to offset any feminine implications. Waitpersons and maids wear aprons as part of a uniform, but the implied lower social standing is shed at the end of the work shift along with the apron.

Collecting aprons: materials and embellishments

Aprons in the 1900s were usually made of cotton fabrics. These might be embellished with rickrack, embroidery or appliqué. Look for different colors and sizes of rickrack. Embroidery appears frequently on gingham fabric because the regular checks formed a grid for stitching. On aprons with more free-style embroidery, look for pre-printed lines under the stitching. Some of these designs were ironed-on from patterns found in ladies' magazines or made with purchased embroidery patterns. Some aprons have unusual shapes or creatively placed pockets. Money saving, homemade aprons might be made from feed sacks or assembled like a patchwork quilt.

Crocheted cotton aprons were worn for more formal occasions when protection took a back seat to looks. Hankie aprons made from multiple cotton handkerchiefs were also worn on

formal occasions. Special event aprons might have a holiday theme, wedding bells, or be made of less practical fabric such as net.

Not all aprons are cotton. Look for fancy fabrics such as organdy, dotted Swiss or polished cotton. Unusual materials include plastic, net and paper.

Collecting aprons: styles

Look for bib aprons with the neck strap or pinafore-style with crossed shoulder straps. Cobbler aprons cover the torso and the upper part of the skirt. These may have multiple pockets around the lower hem. A similar style is the smock that covers even more. Aprons bearing messages include barbecue aprons and carpenter's aprons displaying company names. Finally, the popular short half apron has numerous variations. A full-circle apron falls in graceful folds because of the extra fabric used. Some aprons have gathers at the waistband, others are pieced to create the desired shape when worn.

Collecting categories and related objects

You might choose to collect aprons with specific embellishments such as embroidery, rickrack or faux jewels. Children's aprons are harder to find, but they are adorable. What category fits your style? Do you like the 1930s mint-apple green or sherbet orange? How about the earth-toned 1970s? Imagine collecting red, white & blue or floral prints or fruit. Preprinted fabrics

Full Instructions And
Cutting Guide Inside

TO MAKE YOUR

WALT DISNEY

CINDERELLA

Apron

Inspired by Walt Disney's full-length Technicolor
motion picture "Cinderella"

Styled by
PENNEY'S
as a gift for you!

J. C. PENNEY COMPANY, INC.

Copyright
Walt Disney
Productions

Walt Disney's *Cinderella* Apron pattern was a give-away by J.C. Penney Company, Inc. The movie *Cinderella* opened in 1950. Like magic (in this case, sewing) your apron can be made for "every day" (untrimmed) or as a "dress-up accessory" (trimmed). Options include ties at the front, back or either side. The instructions and pattern are on the back of this full color promotion. In one corner, Cinderella is shown wearing her apron over Advance [dress] Pattern 5406.

with period graphics would make an attractive collection.

If you are not interested in the apron itself, other related collectibles include apron patterns, booklets, potholders, pot holder holders, hot pads or hot pad covers. Hot pad covers look like a cross between a potholder and a hair net but were made as a decorative covering for store-bought, metal hot pads.

Look around - interesting aprons might be hiding someplace in your house! Aprons of all shapes, sizes and designs are still out there. Aprons are both practical and decorative. Finally, collecting is a good excuse to go to rummage sales and flea markets!

CCHS would like to thank Vicky Jo Bogart for the loan of a small part of her collection of aprons, potholders etc.

Many visitors expressed appreciation for this display as well as for the memories it brought back.

Suggested reading:

Aprons of the mid-20th century: To Serve and Protect, Judy Florence, 2001, published by Schiffer.

Lutheran Church Basement Women, Janet Letnes Martin and Allen Todnem, 1992, published by Redbird Productions.

My Mother's Apron, by Edward Keller, 2001, published by the author as part of the Early Dakota Prairie Series.

Janet Martin a Hit!

CCHS' "Lutheran Lady" program by Janet Martin on March 29 was one of our biggest programs ever, attracting 150 guests! Janet entertained the crowd with her Scandinavian humor, excerpts from her numerous books, and by judging a Jell-O® contest. Rosa Stolzenberg won one of Martin's books for second place in the Jell-O® contest, and Mayor Mark Voxland and Lauri Winterfeldt Shanks were awarded Martin's book *Growing Up Lutheran* for first place for their lefse and Jell-O® dish!



Janet Martin, the Lutheran Lady, entertains the crowd with her critique of the dishes entered in the Jell-O® contest.

Monthly Results of the Favorite Restaurant poll

In CCHS' current exhibit, *Eating Out in Clay County*, visitors can vote for their favorite Clay County restaurant, past or present! The following are the results for the first four months of 2003:

January: 1st place, Sarello's; 2nd place, tie between the Rex Café and Speak Easy

February: 1st place, Subway; 2nd place, Speak Easy

March: 1st place, Speak Easy; 2nd place, 7-way tie, Sarello's, Grand Buffet, Bennigan's, Subway, Burger King, Willy's in Dilworth, Silver Moon

April: 1 vote each for F-M, Gopher Grill, Perkins, Rex, T n' T's Café in the Moorhead Center Mall, Tree Top, Village Inn, and the White Spot.

If you don't see your favorite restaurant here, come in to the museum, bring your friends, and VOTE!

The State of History in Minnesota

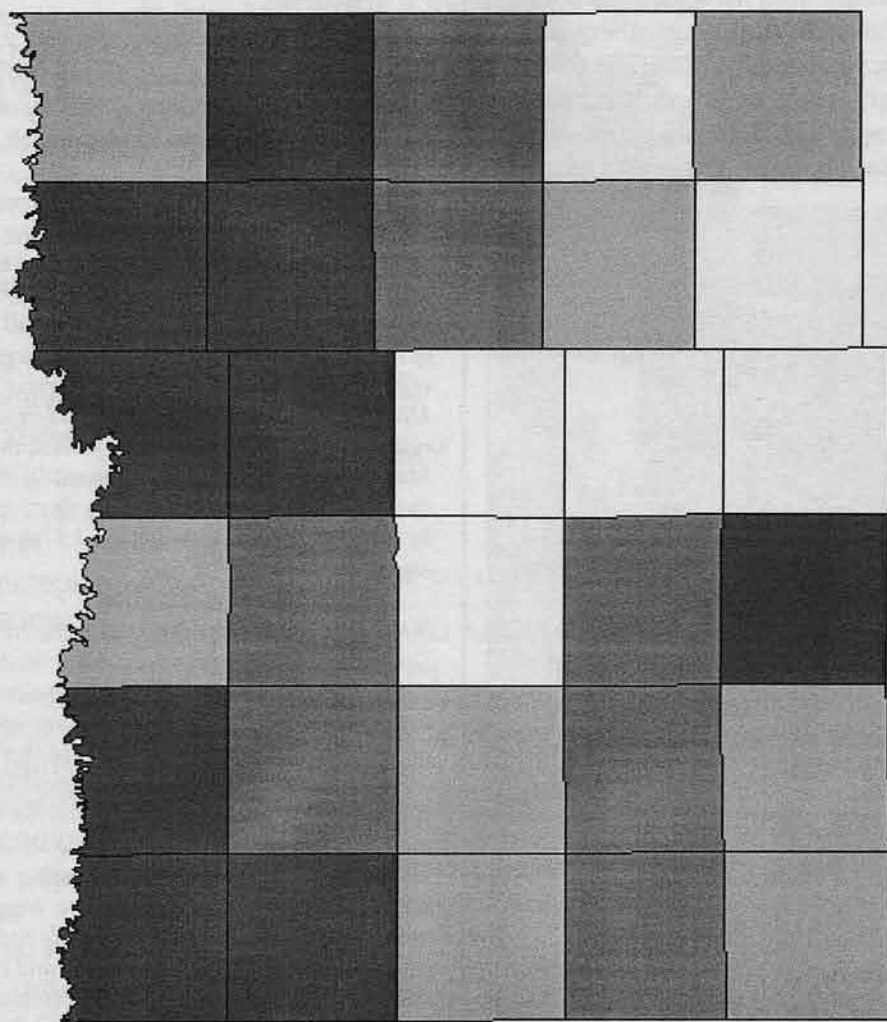
As many of you know, the State of Minnesota is facing an historic budget shortfall. As a result many quality programs are experiencing a crippling reduction in funding. We know that history is important to you as a member of the Clay County Historical Society, and so would like to pass along this letter from the Minnesota Historical Society we received a few days ago. It is reprinted here with permission.

As an active participant in the community of Minnesota historical organizations, you know that among the many qualities that make Minnesota a special place to live is the degree to which Minnesotans value their history. Today, the State of Minnesota faces an unprecedented budget shortfall, which threatens many of the programs and services that Minnesotans have come to value and enjoy. As part of the Governor's budget proposal, the Minnesota Historical Society would experience a 15 percent reduction in funding—over \$8 million in a two-year period. Most recently, the budget proposed by the Minnesota House for the Society would further reduce this appropriation proposed by the Governor by an additional \$1.6 million over the biennium.

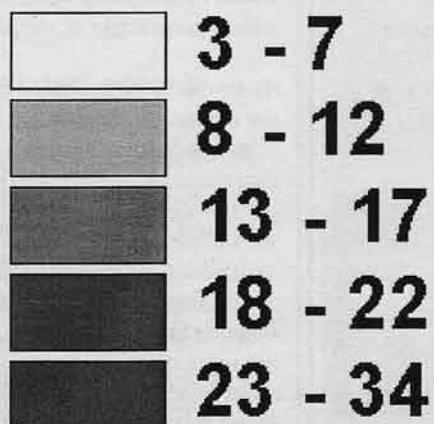
If the Legislature approves this reduced level of funding, the Society would have no choice but to make deep cuts in its services to the state's people. One significant reduction in services to county and local historical organizations would be a very large cutback in State Grants-in-Aid that have helped organizations like yours carry out many important projects. It is also likely that it would be more difficult for you to get answers to the questions you ask of staff members at the Society. There would also be deep reductions in other major programs and services. Historic sites would close. Hours of operation, programs and services would be greatly reduced at those historic sites that remain open. Operations and public programs would be reduced at the History Center Museum and Library. The Society would not be able to acquire some irreplaceable historical materials as they become available on the market. Historic preservation programs would be reduced. And there would be a serious reduction in our services to school children whose knowledge of the past will determine Minnesota's future.

As someone active in a historical organization, you know that the Minnesota Historical Society depends on a base of support from the State of Minnesota for its operations. We recognize that times are tough, and we will do our part to help the state get through this budget challenge. But, in the end, we hope that we will be able to make our high quality programs and services available for this generation and for generations to come. Many of you have called or written and asked what you can do to help. At this crucial time, I ask you to voice your support for the work of the Society. The most effective thing you can do is to let your own elected officials and other key decision-makers know that the activities of the Society are important to you, and

Distribution of Tractor Ownership in Clay County, 1925



Tractors per township



Reflections on CCHS Annual Meeting

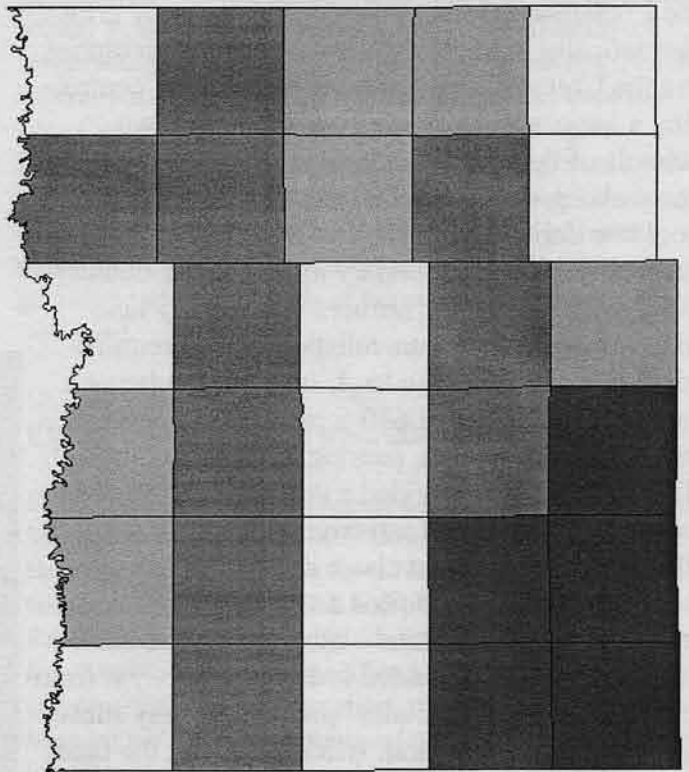
By Mark Peihl, Archivist

On April 8, CCHS members met at the Hjemkomst Center for our annual meeting. I did a program describing ways in which we have been using new technologies to learn about Clay County's past. These included email use, CCHS' website and our use of Clay County's Geographic Information System (GIS) software to create maps from various types of database information "layered" over each other. The demonstration elicited some interesting comments and questions from the audience. I'll try to highlight a couple of those in this article.

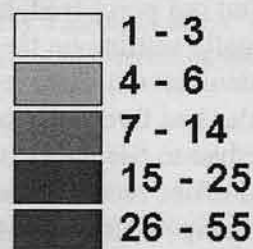
Tractors versus Trucks

Two of the maps I presented showed the distribution of trucks and tractors on farms in Clay County in 1925. (The information came from township by township tabulations of data from the nearly annual Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Farm Census returns. We have photocopies in our collections.) They showed a striking geographic difference in the distribution of these vehicles in the county (see the maps here and on page 8). The western townships show a dramatic concentration of tractors and very few trucks whereas in the southeastern townships nearly the exact opposite was true, very few tractors and lots of trucks. I created the maps only a couple of days before the program (yes, I'm a procrastinator) and didn't have time to think them through. I presented the maps as examples of how trends we don't expect sometimes pop up when we display database information graphically. Fortunately, our members came to my aid. Clay County Chairman Jon Evert suggested that trucks might be more common in the southeast because it's the one part of Clay County without railroads. Former MSUM President Roland Dille suggested that the small farms prevalent in the southeast might have been efficiently farmed with horses and that tractors of the period might not have been as effective on the sloping, hilly country there. Likewise, I suppose, tractors might have been more useful farming the flatlands of the Red River Valley and horses as

effective and cheaper than trucks in hauling heavy loads long distances.



Trucks per township



Preemption?

I also demonstrated the use of GIS to create a series of maps showing US lands taken in Clay County through Cash Entry Sales and provisions of the Homestead Act. I mapped out lands taken year by year and presented them as a "movie" showing the county filling up with settlers. Professor Dille asked what preemption was and how it fit into the public land disposal systems. I said I wasn't sure but

thought it had to do with the taking of unsurveyed lands. Our members quickly disabused me of that idea. I was properly embarrassed at not knowing something I should, so did some research after the meeting. Here's what I found.

With the addition of the Northwest Territories and the Louisiana purchase, the country not only grew dramatically in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, but the United States suddenly found itself controlling a large amount of very salable land. Two schools of thought about how to dispose of the land came about. Some folks focused on the income that could be derived from land sales, others thought the income should be secondary to getting the country filled with productive farmers. Some early land disposal schemes set unrealistically high requirements for acquiring the land, such as mandating a minimum purchase of 640 acres. In 1841, Congress sided with the settlers, passing the Preemption Act. The act basically provided a way for farmers to buy up to 160 acres of US government land on credit. The prospective settler chose a parcel of surveyed or not surveyed land and filed a "Declaratory Statement" with the local land office that he had settled on the parcel and intended to eventually buy it from the government. His claim "preempted" any subsequent claims on the land. After surveying the land, the government offered it up in blocks for outright purchase. If the settler's parcel was on land surveyed and previously offered but not purchased, he or she had thirty days after actually settling on the property to file a Declaratory Statement. On surveyed but unoffered lands, the settler had three months to file. On unsurveyed plots, he had to file within three months of when the land office received the surveyors' plat map of the township. So it was possible for a settler to "squat" on a piece of ground for some time before filing a preemption claim.

After filing, the settler seeking offered land had one year to work the land and save up enough money to purchase the property. At that time, he had to file affidavits from two witnesses proving that he had lived on and improved the land during that time. This was called "proving up." Settlers on unoffered or unsurveyed land had 30 months to prove up and pay for the land.

Most land in the country sold for the government minimum price of \$1.25 per acre. In areas where railroads had been granted land grants (such as in Clay County) the land was presumed more valuable. Here government lands sold at "double minimum," or \$2.50 per acre.

Homestead Act

A perhaps more familiar way to acquire government land was through the Homestead Act of 1862. The provisions were similar to the Preemption Act but the prospective homesteader could acquire the land for free if he or she improved and lived on the land for five years. After filing a homestead claim and paying a small filing fee, the settler had six months to actually move onto the land. At the end of five years, the homesteader had up to an additional two years to "prove up," to provide witnesses to his improvements, etc., much like the Preemption Act.

There are a couple of common myths regarding the Homestead Act. After proving up and receiving title to his property, the Land Office sent the settler a "patent," an official certificate granting the homesteader his land. These certificates often wind up in family papers. Each bears the signature of the President in office when the patent was issued. Many folks have proudly showed me these papers, "signed by President Grover Cleveland" or whomever. Unfortunately, no President had the time to sign tens of thousands of such patents issued each year. A clerk in the General Land Office signed the certificates for him.

Another colorful myth involves stories of unscrupulous homesteaders who noticed that the Homestead Act required the homesteader to build a dwelling "14 x 14." As the Act did not specify feet or inches, some settlers built tiny cabins 14 inches by 14 inches. Charming stories but totally untrue. Fraud was common in homesteading but the government had no interest in the precise size or type of house one built. Nowhere in the Homestead Act nor its amendments is there dictated a required house size.

New Board members elected at Annual Meeting

Rose Bergan, Sam Leathes, Sherry Watt, and Dale White were four CCHS members elected to the CCHS Board of Directors at the society's annual meeting at the Hjemkomst Center, April 8, 2003.

The new directors fill vacant spots on the board left by Marion Gee, Joyce Haug, and Lee Kolle, whose terms had expired. Gee, Haug, and Kolle were thanked during the meeting for their service to the society.

Seventy-seven CCHS Members attended the meeting and dinner, catered by MSUM-Sodexo. CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl presented a program about the use of GIS technology in the CCHS Archives.



CCHS 2003-2004 Board of Directors. Front row, l to r: Helen Rudie, Alvin Swanson, Donna Voxland, Sherry Watt, Rose Bergan. Back row, l to r: Rodney Erickson, Merlyn Valan, Ben Brunsvold, Dale White, John Elton. Not pictured are: Steve Aakre and Sam Leathes.

Biographies of the new board members are printed here for the knowledge of all CCHS members.

Rose Bergan

Elected to 1st three-year term, 2003-2006

Rose Bergan is a graduate of Moorhead State College with a degree in Elementary Education. Rose taught at Hawley School for more than 40 years, and currently serves on the board of the new Hawley School Foundation and the Clay County REACH program. Rose enjoys reading and gardening. Rose's husband Gary's family settled in Skree Township in the late 1800s. Rose very much enjoys local history for its more personal aspect. She thinks CCHS' greatest assets are its excellent staff and leadership, and research facility.

Sam Leathes

Elected to 1st three-year term, 2003-2006

Sam Leathes became a Weekend Volunteer at the Clay County Museum just months after he joined the historical society in 2000. Sam graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He has owned several businesses in Ada, Minnesota, but has lived in Clay County, with his wife Mavis and two daughters, Jenifer and Jelene, for 24 years, and currently works part-time at Meritcare Hospital. Sam enjoys feeling like a part of Clay County's history as a member of the historical society. One of Sam's goals for the historical society is to get more and more people of the surrounding area involved.

Sherry Watt

Elected to 1st three-year term, 2003-2006

Sherry Watt was born in Moorhead and is an alumnus of Moorhead High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Hamline University, and taught Junior High English and physical education in St. Paul before she married her husband Tom, and became a homemaker and mother to Kirk, David, and Lori. Sherry is interested in the preservation of the Bergquist Cabin because her father was born and raised in it. She became interested in CCHS while administering her parents' estate, when she found items that she thought would interest the museum. She believes that supporting CCHS by becoming a member helps "keep the history of Clay County alive and interesting for future generations."

Dale White

Elected to 1st three-year term, 2003-2006

Dale White was appointed in October 2002 to complete Arvid Thompson's term on the CCHS Board. He is currently active on the CCHS Membership Committee. Dale was born and raised in Clay County, and is a retired Counselor and Registrar from Northwest Technical College in Moorhead. He taught English in Minnesota schools for several years, and served as Registrar at NDSU-Bottineau for seven years, but one of his first jobs was as a railroad telegrapher. Dale became acquainted with CCHS through his interest in genealogy and local history. He would like to increase awareness of CCHS in the county, increase membership, and better utilize members' talents and energy. Dale and his wife Elaine have three children and four grandchildren.

Minnesota Memories, Continued from page 3

every meal. Nothing could be farther from the truth.”

“I don’t know if there is a typical Minnesotan, but I do know that Minnesota has been the training ground for some of the most accomplished, enterprising, intelligent, creative and hard-working people in history. Many of these people became famous in politics, medicine, the arts, aviation, education, business and athletics, and their stories have already been told. Their stories are already part of recorded history, so we know who they are and we respect their accomplishments.”

“But I seek and serve a different audience. My mission is to gather extraordinary stories and memories from ordinary folks who might not have another forum for sharing what they have to say with an

audience outside their families or social groups. The *Minnesota Memories*, *Minnesota Memories 2*, and *Minnesota Memories 3* books offer the reader a total of 124 true stories that range in tone from funny to heroic, tragic, historic or reflective. Although these stories are entertaining and fun to read and share with others, they do not make fun of the real people involved in the stories. These stories need no exaggeration or embellishment to be as good as they are.”

Graham, who has entertained crowds throughout the state, will read published stories, sign books, and invite local audience members to submit stories for inclusion in a future volume.

For more information, call the Clay County Museum at 218-299-5520, or email Lisa at lisa.hanson@ci.moorhead.mn.us.

New CCHS Memberships & Renewals

CCHS extends a special thank you to the following individuals who renewed their memberships or became new members in March and April:

NEW MEMBERS

Robert A. Brekken, Hawley
Mike Elton, Burnsville, MN
Patty Gulsvig, Moorhead
Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft, W Fargo
Kathy Richards, Georgetown
Myrtle Tufton, Moorhead
Robert & Judy Videen, Moorhead
Gloria Weisgram, Moorhead
Donna Woods, Georgetown

RENEWALS

Norman B. Akesson, Davis, CA
Florence Anderson, Moorhead
Olive Andvik, Moorhead
Mrs. Helen D. Benson, Moorhead
Dorothy Carey, Moorhead
Donna Chalimonczyk, Moorhead
Kenneth Christianson, Detroit Lakes
Dr. Yvonne Condell, Moorhead
Ann Darby, Moorhead
Paul DesJardins, Felton
Jean P. Doty, Hawley
Gordon & Carol Ekre, Hawley
Arnie & Mary Ellingson, Fargo
Barbara Engler, Roseville, MN

Duane & Joan Erickson, Moorhead
Katherine Erickson, Moorhead
Loretta Erickson, Moorhead
Rodney Erickson, Moorhead
Karen D. Evanson, Moorhead
Clara P. Evenson, Fargo
June & Phil Felde, Moorhead
Janet Fox, Hawley
Howard R. Geng, Moorhead
Robert L. Gerke, Moorhead
Patty Gulsvig, Moorhead
LaVerne Larson Halverson, Minneapolis
Delmar & Rhoda Hansen, Moorhead
Juliet Hanson, Fargo
Loren Helmeke, Fargo
Ralph & Ethel Hest, Moorhead
Robert & Janet Hillier, Moorhead
John R. Holten, Moorhead
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ingebretsen, Felton
Carol M. Johnson, Centennial, CO
Dr. Heidi Kassenborg, Afton, MN
Richard Keeping, Hawley
Diane Kline, Moorhead
Paul & Florence Korsmo, Fargo
Nona Krzyzaniak, Moorhead
Jeanette H. Ladwig, Barnesville
Grace Landin, Moorhead
Keith & Lorraine Langseth, Glyndon
Jerry & Dona Lein, Moorhead
Sandra McEvers, Moorhead
McLarnan, Hannaher & Skatvold,
P.L.L.P., Moorhead

Ethel R. Medalen, Mankato, MN
Eileen Michels, St. Paul, MN
Milo M. Moyano, Moorhead
Karen Myran, Hawley
Harding Noblitt, Moorhead
Lila Ordal, Moorhead
Don & Kathy Pingree, Georgetown
Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo
Roberta Radford, Moorhead
Alfred Rieniets, Moorhead
Mel & Margaret Ristvedt, Hawley
River Keepers, Fargo
Leslie Rogne, Kindred, ND
Karol Kay Rood, Jacksonville, FL
Vilera Rood, Moorhead
Steve & Lucia Schroeder, Glyndon
Mildred Skugrud, Moorhead
Rachael Smithwick, Barnesville
Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead
Ruth & Olin Storvick, Moorhead
O. T. “Bud” Swanson, Moorhead
Aubrey & Catherine Thomas, Moorhead
Mary Ellen Thompson, Roseville, MN
Bruce N. Thorson, Waite Park, MN
Bernadine & Otto Ursin, Moorhead
Vikigland Kiwanis, Moorhead
Ward Muscatell Automotive Group, Inc.,
Moorhead
Arthur & Marie Wenner, Moorhead
Howard & Marcell Wergeland, Det. Lakes
Diane & Tom Wray Williams, Moorhead

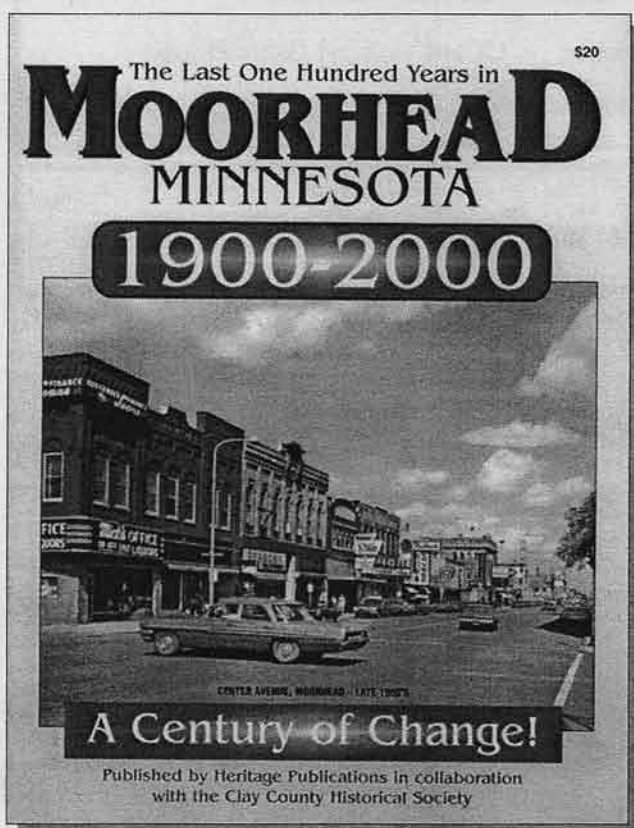
How Deviled Eggs got their name

Source Unknown

Since the late 1700s, *devil* has been a culinary verb, meaning to season highly. But the term "deviled eggs" evolved over time—for awhile, they were known by the French name, *Oeufs à la Diable*. Either way, their hot moniker comes from the flavorings, such as dry mustard, hot pepper sauce, and/or ground red pepper (cayenne). The ingredients vary, but the zesty bite is always there. (Jimtown's John

Werner uses capers, Dijon mustard, and black pepper.)

To get deviled eggs to behave like little angels (and not slip and slide around), our test-kitchen experts cut a thin slice from the rounded side of each egg-white half-after the yolk has been removed—to make a flat base. And they place the halves on a jell-roll pan lined with damp paper towels during prep, filling, and refrigerating.



A Century of Change in Moorhead

Moorhead, 1900-2000: A Century of Change is full of historic photographs and stories that provide the story of Moorhead. See how much Moorhead has changed!

Fargo, ND, From Frontier Village to All America City, 1875-2000 is a unique collection of photos and stories chronicling Fargo's first 125 years.

These high-quality, paper cover books, published by Heritage Publications of Hendrum, MN, are fundraisers for the Clay and Cass County Historical Societies.

Pick up your copies today at the Clay County Museum & Archives in the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, or send your check or money order for \$23.00 with the form below.

Call CCHS at 218-299-5520 for more information.

Moorhead 1900-2000: A Century of Change

Send \$23.00 for each book ordered to:
CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

Fargo: From Frontier Village to All-America City 1875-2000

Send \$23.00 for each book ordered to:
CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

History in Minnesota, continued from page 7

have had a positive impact on the work you do. A communication from your organization would help, and so would individual communications from members of your organization, volunteers and board members.

Tips on contacting elected officials and information on identifying your state legislator ... are ... available on the Society's Web site at <http://www.mnhs.org/about/legis.html>. The Society's Web site also contains further details about the Society's budget reduction plan and the latest information on legislative activities. Please be sure to let us know if you have any questions about our activities or legislative program.

You may call Tim Glines, the Society's Manager of Outreach Services at 651-296-5460, or David Kelliher, the Society's Legislative Liaison at 651-297-8085, for answers to your questions. With your help, the Minnesota Historical Society will continue to be a strong part of Minnesota's tradition of greater understanding and celebration of its past. Thank you for your

Continued on page 15...

Calendar

Summer	Eating Out-themed movie
June 27 & 28	Bergquist Cabin Open House
July 10-13	Clay County Fair, Barnesville
September	Oktoberfest (tentative)
September	CCHS Annual History Tour to Hibbing, Grand Rapids (tentative)
October	Dessert reception—exhibit closes
November	New Exhibit opens!
December	CCHS Holiday Open House
Schedule subject to change	

Sponsor, Patron, Sustaining and Supporting Memberships

Please help us thank these members for supporting the Clay County Historical Society by patronizing their businesses:

SPONSOR (\$500 up) & PATRON (\$200 to \$499)

Richtman's Printing & Thibedeau & Co.

SUSTAINING (\$100 to \$199)

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo
Moorhead
City of Hawley
CM Associates, Richard T.
McMurray, Annandale, VA
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD
First National Bank of Hawley
Hawley Public Schools
Korsmo Funeral Service
Moorhead Area Public Schools
Moorhead Drug Company
Moorhead Kiwanis
Rigels, Inc., Appliances-TV
Sellin Brothers, Inc.
State Bank of Hawley
State Bank of Moorhead
Vikingland Kiwanis

SUPPORTING (\$50 to \$99)

Bentley & Bentley, DDS
Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc.
City of Barnesville
Eventide
Greater Fargo Moorhead CVB
Lutheran Brotherhood, East Clay County Branch 8430
McLarnan, Hannaher & Skatvold, P.L.L.P.
Moorhead Area Retired Educators Association
Moorhead Midday-Central Lions
Stenerson Lumber
Ward Muscatell Automotive
Wells Fargo Bank MN, N A, Mhd
Wright Funeral Home

Thank you also to these individuals in the Sustaining and Supporting membership levels:

Individual Patron Members

Ronald & Katherine Mentjes

Individual Sustaining Members

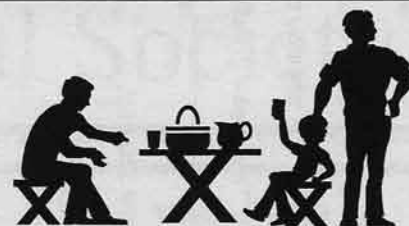
Esther Olson
Lloyd & Bev Paulson

Elsie Pitsenbarger
Bill & Evelette Snyder

Individual Supporting Members

Rod & Audrey Angstman
Roland & Carolyn Barden
Dr. Yvonne Condell
Paul & Joyce Eidbo
Mr. & Mrs. Michael France
Burton & Catherine Grover
John & Beverly Hest
Audrey Jones
Don & Alvina Lein
Darren & Jane Leno
Ethel R. Medalen
Robert & Donna Olson
Lynne Olson
Charlotte Onstine
Maynard & Elaine Oss
Larry & Elsie Quam
Davis & Hazel Scott
Lois Selberg
Jim & Chris Stenerson
Bruce N. Thorson
Phyllis Thysell
Mark & Donna Voxland
Arthur & Marie Wenner

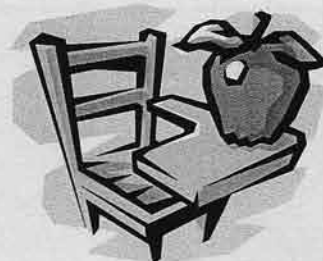
Bring your family and friends to the Clay County Museum



EATING OUT IN CLAY COUNTY

Our tastiest exhibit!

From restaurants and picnics to hospital food and school lunch—menus, lunch boxes, photos, luncheon sets, church dinners, archaeological saloon remains, and more—Every way that residents of Clay County eat—out!



Vote for your favorite Clay County restaurant and menu item, or email or send your choice to us!

lisa.hanson@ci.moorhead.mn.us

Thank you to the businesses, organizations & individuals who donated or lent time & materials for this exhibit!

Auto Salvage, Inc., City of Moorhead, Clay County Social Services WIC Program, Fry'n Pan Restaurant, Heglund Lutheran Church, McDonald's, MeritCare Clinical Nutrition Services, MeritCare Food Service, MeritCare Material Services, Perkins Family Restaurant, Red Bear Grill & Tavern, Speak Easy Restaurant

**Clay County Museum Hours: 10-5 Monday-Saturday, 10-9 Tuesday, 12-5 Sunday
Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN ♦ FREE ADMISSION**

History in Minnesota, Continued from page 14...

support as a member of the community of Minnesota's historical organizations and as an engaged citizen. Legislators will be making final decisions about the state's budget in the next few weeks, so now is the time to make your voice heard. Your voice matters!

*Sincerely,
Nina Archabal
Director*

CCHS has received MHS State Grants-in-Aid grants for many archives projects since the grants first became available in the late 1970s. Please let our legislators know how MHS grants to CCHS impact your family research, and how important MHS historic sites, services, programs, and exhibits are to you.

Elected officials from Clay County are:

Rep. Morrie Lanning 593 State Office Bldg St Paul, MN 55155-1206 rep.morrie.lanning@house.mn	Rep. Paul Marquart 311 State Office Bldg St Paul, MN 55155-1206 rep.paul.marquart@...
--	---

Senator Keith Langseth
122 State Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606
Email: sen.keith.langseth@senate.mn

Find more information about House and Senate leadership and committee leadership at <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/>. Thank you for supporting CCHS and history in Minnesota!



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- ☐ \$20 to \$34 Individual* ☐ \$100 to \$199 Sustaining
☐ \$35 to \$49 Family* ☐ \$200 to \$499 Patron
☐ \$50 to \$99 Supporting ☐ \$500 or more Sponsor

*Businesses are not eligible for Individual and Family membership levels

CCHS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ◆ Support preservation of your heritage
- ◆ Bi-monthly newsletter
- ◆ Discount on Acid-Free Preservation supplies
- ◆ Discount on photo reproductions from archives
- ◆ \$1 off admission to Hjemkomst Center Exhibits
- ◆ Invitation to all CCHS events
- ◆ Access to all CCHS Tours
- ◆ Voting Privileges

In addition to the great benefits listed above, Supporting, Sustaining, Patron and Sponsor members a certificate ready to frame and display, and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly newsletters.

To become a CCHS Member please complete and return this form or a copy of this form to:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501
218-299-5520

Visit our website! www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

Name: _____

Business (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Ave N
PO Box 501
Moorhead MN 56561



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Moorhead, MN
56561
PERMIT NO. 494

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the web!
www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history