

Clay County Historical Society

Volume XXIX No. 3

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

May/June 2006

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These Hawley area folks are out for a ride in a touring car from the mid-teens. Going for a Sunday drive has long been a way to spend a summer afternoon. But with today's gas prices, you might want to check out some other, less expensive summer pastimes in our new exhibit, Boats, Bikes, BBQs & Other Fun in the Sun!

Museums Unveil Passport!

In honor of the Year of the Museum, eight museums in Moorhead, Fargo and West Fargo have created the *Fargo-Moorhead Museum Passport*! Participating museums include: the Clay County Historical Society, Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, Bonanzaville, Children's Museum at Yunker Farm, Fargo Air Museum, Plains Art Museum, Red River Zoo, and the Rourke Art Museum.

Get the passport validated by visiting all eight museums and turn the passport in by December 31, 2006 to be entered in a drawing for prizes from local merchants! The grand prize is a one-year Family membership in all eight museums!

Each museum is also offering additional discounts to visitors who present the passport! The offers include discounts on admission and in museum gift shops. Pick up your passport, pictured at right, today at any of the participating museums!



At the Hjemkomst Center:
Wacapi Wanagi by Laura Youngbird

Run with the Herd on the Prairie!

Take the tour of the Lake Agassiz Arts Council Bison Art Sculptures! You've seen them around town, the fantastically ornamented bison on Broadway, the Main Avenue Bridge and etc. Proceeds from an auction of these art pieces Sept. 9 will

fund grants for art projects in the Red River Valley. Pick up a map at the Hjemkomst Center of all 74 Bison sites!

Fargo-Moorhead MUSEUM PASSPORT

Visit area museums for fun and prizes!

Celebrate the Year of the Museum

Visit all participating museums in 2006 and enter to win prizes from local merchants! Grand Prize is a one-year family membership in all of the participating museums!

How to Enter:

1. Get each square on the card below validated by a museum attendant when you visit.
2. Complete the drawing form on the back of the card and enter it at one of the participating museums by December 31, 2006.



Museum Passport

 1351 West Main Avenue, West Fargo	 1201 28th Ave N, Fargo	 Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave N, Moorhead	 1809 18th Ave N, Fargo
 202 1st Ave N, Moorhead	 704 1st Ave N, Fargo	 4220 21st Ave SW, Fargo	 521 Main Ave, Moorhead



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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President's Message

By Darren Leno, CCHS President

Why are you a Member?

Why are you a member of the Clay County Historical Society? That was a question put to board members several weeks ago during a special meeting to plan CCHS' 75-year anniversary celebration. Some board members joined the society because of deep family ties to the county's history. Others told of their strong interest in local history or genealogy, or spoke of the enjoyment they get from hearing the stories about the county's colorful past.



Personally, I'm a member because CCHS continues to touch the lives of my family in very special ways. For example, I recently brought my five year old daughter to the CCHS Museum. She was fascinated by the Douglas House doll that is on display. She felt very sad for the little girl who lost the doll so many decades ago. But she thought the doll was happy to have been found after being lost for so many years. Thanks to the work of CCHS, a five year old girl left the museum that day having been moved by a fragment of Clay County's history that wouldn't exist were it not for CCHS.

Whatever the individual reason for becoming a member, collectively we agreed that CCHS is a very important part of the quality of life in Clay County. As the guardians, collectors and interpreters of priceless historic artifacts, documents and stories, CCHS helps us all understand who we are, who we've been, and who we may become.

A Challenge to our Members

In celebration of the society's forthcoming 75 year anniversary, we as members of CCHS need to share our good fortune of being part of the Clay County Historical Society. Don't treat your CCHS membership as you would your favorite fishing spot; that is, don't keep it to yourself! Our society becomes more

valuable when we share it with others.

I'd like to invite you to join the board in sharing the good news about the Clay County Historical Society with non-members. The board has taken up a challenge to significantly grow CCHS membership in 2006, but we'll need your help.

Over the summer, I challenge you to bring at least one new person into CCHS membership. Why not give a gift membership? CCHS membership is a great way to celebrate a friend's birthday or anniversary, or to reconnect relatives or former area residents with their roots. The gift of CCHS membership is a very thoughtful gift that keeps on giving. Or, simply invite a friend or neighbor to join you in membership. If you call us with their name and address, we'll happily mail them a membership application.

I hope you'll take up my challenge, and that thanks to you, we'll be able to report healthy membership growth at our next annual meeting.

Election of New Officers for 2006

I would like to thank Dale White for the wonderful job he has done as CCHS president during the past two years. We all appreciate the dedication and commitment he brought to the job, and I for one am pleased that he will continue on the board for at least another year, sharing his knowledge and experience.

I am excited to have the opportunity to follow Dale as CCHS president, and will strive hard to bring the same level of commitment to the role that Dale brought. I'll be joined in the executive committee by Vice-President Rose Bergan, Secretary John Elton and Treasurer Alvin Swanson.

Welcome New Board Member

I'd also like to welcome our newest board member, Duane Walker from Moorhead. We look forward to working with you, Duane. If you know Duane, congratulate him when you see him and thank him for agreeing to serve on the CCHS Board.

Outreach Displays

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



Our HAT'S OFF at the Hawley Public Library to all those who served in the military. Artifacts dating from the Civil War to Desert Storm are featured as well as some interesting facts about Decoration Day, our nation's flag, the GAR and other organizations.

The Moorhead Public Library will host a special display by the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society during June and July as part of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. The CCHS display BUTTER & EGGS will follow, recalling trips to the general store when credit was given for a farm's homemade butter and farm-fresh eggs.



The Barnesville Public Library looks at the art of knitting in A STRING OF PURLS with artifacts from the county's history. The libraries have books for the beginner knitter and the expert.

The welcome mat is out at the CVB (Convention and Visitors' Bureau) with a display of hospitality.

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

IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

The CCHS hall case has a display by the Swedish American Institute of Minneapolis. Half of the case shows household items and art. The rest is the textile artistry of Laurie Jacobi with rugs, coats and other clothing inspired by Viking designs.

The HHIC hall case features dala horses in an incredible variety of sizes and materials. The Dala horse (Dalahäst) was believed to have originated in the village of Nusnäs in the province of Dalarna in Sweden in the 1700s.

A display of Beulah Forness' exquisite, hand-decorated china has been arranged for viewing in the lobby area. Beulah teaches china-painting classes in the building Tuesday mornings.

Artifacts & Donors

March and April 2006

Donors:

Moorhead, MN: CCHS
 Pelican Rapids, MN: Loretta Ishaug
 Richardson, TX: June Probstfield Dobervich

Artifacts: booklet, *Red River Trails* by Grace Flandrau, published in 1926, "Compliments of the Great Northern Railway;" three disk records of interviews of Ben Gustafson by KFGO radio and a Gustafson Seed Treater machine plaque [Gustafson started his seed company in Moorhead]; a mantel clock that belonged to R.M. Probstfield that sat on top of his work desk [currently in the CCHS collections] and daughter Nellie's autograph book given to her by R.M. Probstfield, April 26, 1893; two volumes of the Barnesville High School Annual *The Trojan*, 1951 and 1952; [items collected from the Highland Grove Township Watch Meeting] booklet: *Are You Prepared?: An emergency guide for Cass and Clay counties* (undated), leaflet: *Cass Clay Disaster Response Program* by FirstLink Volunteer Center (undated), single folded sheet, flier: two single sheets stapled together, *Emergency Communications Network*, Code Red; cookbook, *Memories of Yesterday ... Visions of Tomorrow*, Bethesda Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary.

Famous Swedes featured at Bergquist Cabin Open House, June 23 & 24

In honor of the Swedish Year of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, famous Swedes will be featured at this year's Bergquist Cabin Open House, June 23 and 24! A free shuttle bus sponsored by the State Bank of Moorhead will take visitors from the festival at the Hjemkomst Center up to the cabin and back during the open house, 1-4 p.m. both days.

As always, visitors can try their hand at a wide variety of Swedish crafts and enjoy Swedish cookies provided by members of the Swedish Society of the Red River Valley! A new craft demonstrated at the cabin this year will be paper-cutting in the shape of a hedgehog which has special meaning in Sweden. CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl will talk about the cabin's historic background and Ron Anderson will provide live accordion music.



Visitors enjoy making Swedish crafts at the 2005 Bergquist Cabin Open House

the oldest home on its original site in Moorhead. It was originally constructed in 1870 by John Bergquist, a Swedish immigrant. The Open House is conducted jointly by the Clay County Historical Society and the Swedish Society of the Red River Valley. It is held in conjunction with the 29th Annual Scandinavian Festival.

The festival runs June 23-25, and celebrates the cultures and traditions of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Scandinavian America.

The cabin is the only place you can register to win a bobbin lace Swedish heart basket in Swedish colors made by Pam Burkhardt and special door prizes for children! For more information about the Cabin Open House, contact CCHS at 218-299-5520. For Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival information call 218-299-

The cabin, at 1008 7th Street North in Moorhead, is

5452 or visit www.scandinavianhjemkomstfestival.org.

Earn a chance to win a Framed Art Print - Recruit a New Member for CCHS!

CCHS challenged to increase membership by 50% for 75th Anniversary

That's right! You could win a framed art print just for introducing a friend or family member to the Clay County Historical Society!

CCHS has been challenged to increase its membership from 500 to 750 in honor of our 75th Anniversary in 2007. This means we would like to greet 250 new individuals, families and business to the Clay County Historical Society!

To meet this impressive goal, the historical society is entering the names of all new members through 2006 in a drawing for a framed art print! The print will be a nostalgic scene to reflect the rich history and heritage of this area that the historical society exists to

preserve.

CCHS would also like to give our current members the opportunity to be entered for this fabulous prize, so any CCHS member who recruits a new member will also have their name entered for each new member registered by them! To help us, please make sure that your name is included with the new members' registration.

We know that you will want to help CCHS achieve this goal of increasing our membership and becoming better able to preserve Clay County's history! Start now with the membership form on the back of this newsletter!

Go to Winnipeg with us on the Annual History Tour!

Travel to Winnipeg for a 2-day excursion Sept. 21 & 22! CCHS and the Heritag-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center are co-hosting this Red River Valley-themed history tour. Guests will stay at the posh Hotel Fort Garry and visit the fabulous Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature! Thursday evening will be a spooky night with a Ghost Tour of Winnipeg aboard our motorcoach! We may also make a stop at the Pembina State Museum and the Duty-Free Shop at the border. Additional museum and attractions visits are also being planned and will be announced soon. The tour will leave Thursday morning and return Friday night.

The price of the tour will be \$275 per person and includes motorcoach transportation, lodging, attractions

fees, and most meals. Thursday dinner will be on your own at one of the wonderful restaurants within walking distance of the Fort Garry Hotel. Deadline for registration is Monday, August 21, 5:00 p.m., no exceptions. Passports are not required, but for ease in crossing the US-Canada border, guests must bring a photo ID (driver's license) plus either a certified birth certificate or passport.

To register, call Lisa at 299-5520, or send your payment, name, address, and date of birth (for border crossing), to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561. Price and attraction destinations subject to change. Cancellations made after the deadline date are subject to a 30% non-refundable deposit.

Board enjoys an "historic" meal at planning meeting

On May 18, the Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors met to brainstorm for ideas to celebrate CCHS' 75th Anniversary in 2007. Cindy Belohlavek of rural Comstock provided the meal, and just for fun, she did some research with some of her cooking friends, asking them what they consider to be the most historical or traditional foods. The replies are not specific to Clay County, but we thought you would enjoy and relate to the stories, so we have included as many as we could fit in here! By the way, we had homemade fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, jello with bananas and whipped cream, and coffee and rhubarb pie for dessert!

Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy (chicken gravy), corn on the cob, brown sugar baked beans & Pumpkin pie w/ real whipped cream.

I remember as a kid I would love tacos & lasagna. It's funny how the idea of dinner as a kid brings up more about the family around the table than the food! That makes me think that probably my favorite "historical" meal is Thanksgiving dinner!

Larry says fried pork chops and mashed potatoes and gravy. His mother made creamed corn that she froze and haled into town to the locker plant in the fall. He doesn't remember dessert after a meal but they always had plenty of home-made goodies. Peach pie in season and apple pie, always angelfood cake with whipped cream, his mother went through at least 1 quart of whipping cream every week when I met him. And one of my favorites was sauerkraut with pork hocks and dumplings in it.

How about meatloaf with baked potatoes, iceberg lettuce salad, buttered carrots, and apple pie for dessert. For some reason that is what comes to mind. Another thought: fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, a fruit salad and rhubarb dessert of some sort.

My grandma raised her own chickens. I'd go stay at the farm with her when I was a kid for a week at a time and enjoyed it immensely. When she was going to make a nice meal she'd go down and grab a chicken and wring its neck with one flick of the wrist. We'd have fried chicken with milk gravy, potatoes, home made buns, pie (apple, blueberry, pumpkin), and I'm certain we had another vegetable, but I don't recall a specific one. She had a garden right outside the house, so I suppose she picked us fresh peas & beans etc. With cream, of course, because she also milked a cow. Norwegians always had jello with whipped cream and maybe a banana sliced on it. I was not a salad eater (no mayo or salad dressings for this kid) but she probably made a salad too.

Easy: Chicken, dumplings and gravy with pickled beets on the side. No veg needed since this is a filling dish, but carrots or green beans (just with butter/salt) would work. I am not sure we had dessert with this because we were full up to our ears. But, apple strudel was always excellent.

Our evening supper was often a hot dish: hamburger, small noodles, can of tomato sauce, and white bread with butter and corn or green beans from a can.

Ours was pretty simple—steak, baked potato, a vegetable from the garden and fresh tomatoes and ice cream.

Frequently Asked Questions about CCHS

By Pam Burkhardt, CCHS Collections Manager

An article similar to this one was printed in the newsletter several years ago, and we found that it helped people understand what we do at the historical society and why we do it, so we have updated the original. We came up with a lot of questions, so we will be printing another section of questions in a future newsletter. This part deals mainly with the development and preservation of the society's collection of historic objects.

Why do we need a county historical society?

Our holdings represent the collective memory of the county. Our county is like a family in that we need to know who we are and where we came from. The historical society's mission is to document the family's growing pains, successes, failures, events and activities. Our family's photo albums, scrapbooks and documents are the archival materials collected for future generations. Our cherished heirlooms are the three-dimensional collections representing years of activity from personal items and household materials to those pertaining to work and play. We are not an attic for old curiosities, cast-off belongings and broken pieces of life, but a repository for appropriate representations through which we can learn about the past and plan for the future.

How much "stuff" does the Clay County Museum have? At the end of 2005, we counted over 26,500 individual items in the collections. In the archives, we have over 400 linear feet of materials.

How did you get these things? When we started collecting in May of 1936, some items were loaned and some were donated. Now, we accept only donations, or loans for a short, specific period of time, like for display in a particular exhibit. We adhere to strict guidelines for accepting items into the collections. Staff members collect items for the collection, and very seldom a rare item is purchased. Another museum will occasionally transfer a county-related item found in their collection to us.

Where is all the "stuff"? We have storage areas where the artifacts are stored. The artifacts are kept in dark, climate-controlled rooms. This way we can keep them in the best condition for the longest time. This fulfills our first two mission directives - collect and preserve. Our last directive, dissemination, means we can carefully use these artifacts for exhibits, displays, programs and study. Archival materials are generally stored together to retain the meaning through the inter-connection of the individual items. Three-dimensional items are kept together by type because they generally take up similar spaces. Oversized items are stored separately.

What is an artifact? Simply, any object accepted into the collections of a museum is called an artifact. These are usually objects made or adapted for a particular use, but can include natural history items. Did you know an artifact receives special treatment? It is handled and stored according to museum standards. For example: a rug is no longer shaken and dishes never enter a dishwasher. *Attend a program involving the care of heirlooms to learn more.*

What are archives? An archives basically hold the two-dimensional materials. Ours includes city directories, maps, plat books, personal papers, manuscripts, a large number of photo prints and negatives, town and family histories, interviews, videos and film, newspapers on microfilm, census records, military records, property transaction ledgers, a variety of certificates, scrapbooks and photo albums, programs, brochures, organization minutes and treasurers' books as well as a variety of other materials.

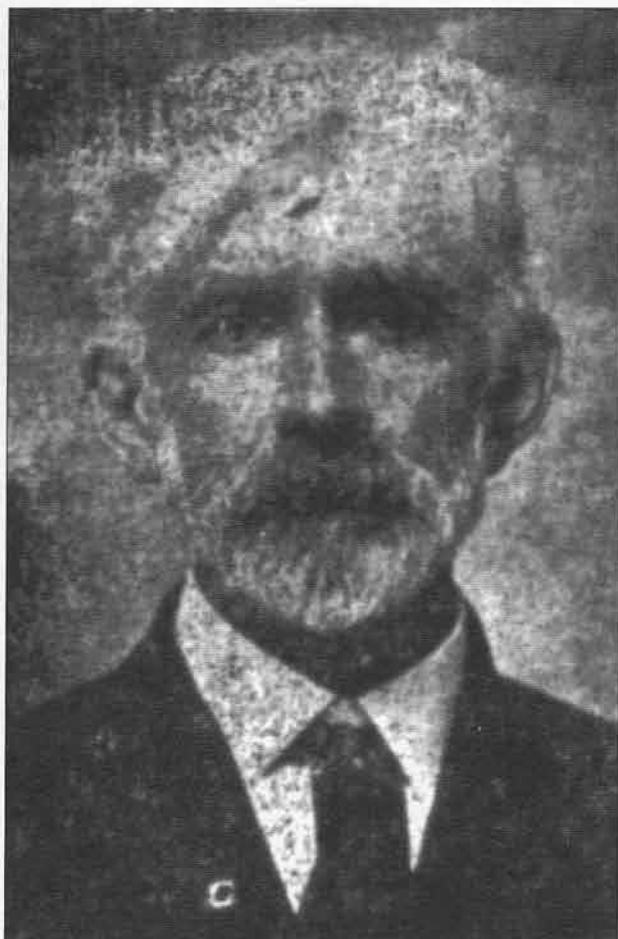
Why isn't more stuff/all the stuff on display?

Light and the changes in temperature in public environments are damaging to most artifacts. The less exposure, the less damage. The damage happens over time and isn't immediately noticeable. However, more artifacts are out than you see at the Hjemkomst Center. We regularly provide artifacts for displays at the three public libraries and Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau. Our artifacts also appear in a number

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Glyndon's Firebug

By Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist



Luther Osborn, editor of the Glyndon *Red River Valley News*. Civil War veteran Osborn started the paper in 1878. A dedicated dry, Osborn was a leader of the anti-saloon movement in Glyndon. *Red River Valley News*, March 23, 1923.

As it approaches its 135th anniversary next spring, Glyndon is a city on the move. The Minnesota State Demographer estimates the city's 2005 population at 1172, up a whopping 11% in the last five years. During the 1990s Glyndon grew by 21.7%, making it by far the fastest growing city in Clay County.

But Glyndon's fortunes were not always so bright. In the 19th century Glyndon rose, fell, then stagnated. Some of the best farm land in the county surrounded Glyndon. It was strategically located at the crossing of the Northern Pacific Railway and the recently completed St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba (Great Northern Railway). The later provided direct connections between the twin cities and Winnipeg. Glyndon's future seemed secure. In 1880, the village's population reached 408. But by 1905 its population had fallen to a paltry 217. This was during a period when the County as a whole grew by over 500%! In 1900, the *Moorhead Independent* published a supplement to boost Clay County around the area. Sections on the towns and villages all portray growing, progressive communities, but the section on Glyndon reads "The village has not 'grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength' of the country at large, population and commercial importance considered." So, what happened to Glyndon?

There are a number of local Glyndon histories in CCHS' collections. All address this question. Some suggest the loss of the Great Northern roundhouse to Barnesville or the grasshopper plagues of the 1870s. Others blame Glyndon's failure to wrest the county seat away from Moorhead (see the CCHS *Newsletter* September/October 2001 "County Seat Fight a Bitter Struggle"). But all refer to a series of arson fires which destroyed much of the village's business district in the 1880s. The fires resulted, at least in part, from divisions over the liquor issue. As damaging as the fires were (and they were devastating) the town's reaction to them are a reflection of a deeper problem in Glyndon's early history. Nineteenth century Glyndon never really came together as a community. Bitter disputes over liquor and personal animosities split the village and limited its ability to achieve common goals.

Liquor divided Glyndon from its inception. During the summer and fall of 1871 the Northern Pacific

Curse: Part 1 of 2

Railway laid rails across Clay County reaching the Red River in September where Moorhead quickly grew up. The NP aimed to link Duluth on the Great Lakes with Puget Sound on the west coast. A subsidiary of the NP, the St. Paul and Pacific Railway, had a different focus. It intended to connect the two main population centers in the upper Midwest, the twin cities and Winnipeg. At some point the St. P & P had to cross the NP. An important city could develop at the crossing. In March 1872, engineers marked the site some ten miles east of the Red. Settlers soon followed. The NP had given a contract to colonize the new town to a Civil War veteran with family connections to the railroad, Luman H. Tenney. He named the place Glyndon, for Howard Glyndon, the pen name of popular journalist and poet Laura Redden. Tenney's Red River Colony was to be a temperance village, where no liquor would be sold or consumed. Soon, however, tent saloons popped up around the outskirts of the small townsite. This set the stage for divisions to come.

Glyndon became the building spot for the St. P & P. Over the next year the railroad laid tracks a few miles south of the crossing and some 60 miles north to the Red Lake River. But in 1873 the over-extended NP fell into bankruptcy and all building ceased. Glyndon struggled through the next five years until transportation guru James J. Hill and associates took over the struggling St. P & P in 1878. Within months Hill changed its name to the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway, extended the line to the international border and completed the connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway and Winnipeg. Glyndon again seemed poised for success.

Businessmen and settlers flocked to the townsite. Among them was another Civil War veteran, Captain Luther Osborn. A New York native, Osborn had enlisted in the Union Army, served as a private, mustered out, reenlisted and commanded Company H, 22nd U.S. Colored Troops. After the war he lived in Minneapolis for a time, then hauled a small printing outfit overland to Glyndon and started the *Red River Valley News* in 1878. As an editor, Osborn was self-deprecating, remarkably funny, pious, deeply opposed to liquor in any form and absolutely convinced of the righteousness of his beliefs. Much of what we know about Glyndon's problems comes from his newspaper files.

Glyndon was a dry community when Osborn arrived. The townsite had not yet been incorporated as a village. Glyndon Township was the governing authority. Each

March township residents voted for a board of supervisors, officers and a constable to administer township affairs. In 1878, a citizens' petition added to the ballot the question of whether or not to license saloons in the township. This would become an annual event for the next decade. The township voted dry – against license – by 17 votes.

The following March the issue again appeared on the ballot. Osborn reported that "after a year of comparative freedom...from disorder and insecurity" the township had again voted dry – but by only one vote, 59 to 60. (Glyndon was somewhat unique that spring. Barnesville voted wet 21 to 3, Hawley went for saloons 89 to 11.) Osborn also reported that though observers contested some voters' residency "nearly every voter was sworn in ... [and] no bad blood was engendered." That would change in following years.

Outlawing saloons did not eliminate liquor. Illegal sales went on through 1879 and at least one resident was arrested and convicted.

By March 1880, the divide between the wets and dries had widened and deepened. It became the only real issue in the election. Citizens held two separate caucuses, each nominating a slate of candidates. In the end, the Glyndon Township voted down license 76 to 69. Dries also won most of the board seats. Many votes were challenged and Osborn reported that "influential citizens freely declared that illegal voting was so patent as to leave no doubt that the election might be involved in the courts." However, no one bothered to pursue the matter.

Evidence of citizen apathy surfaced the following winter. Colony founder Tenney died in February 1880. His will left an entire block "to the people of Glyndon" forever for park purposes. But, as Osborn reported, "the transfer of real estate lacked the important element of a grantee, there being no corporate body legally competent to hold such legal property." Three meetings called in November to discuss the issue "were very slimly attended." A committee appointed to form a Glyndon Village Improvement Society submitted a proposal to accept the property until Glyndon could formally incorporate as a village. Osborn reported that the plan had "thus far failed to enlist the body of our people either in co-operation or opposition to the improvement society

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FAQs about CCHS, cont.

of temporary displays in other venues by request. Artifacts are used in educational programming for service groups, social organizations, nursing/retirement homes and in schools. In the archives, researchers have easy access to an entire wall of materials such as city directories, town histories and cemetery records.

Why don't you have more light in the exhibit?

Even the small amount of light will cause many items to degrade so the lower the light, the better. Damage happens at a microscopic level, but will become apparent over time. Your eyes will get used to the lower levels.

Why can't I take flash photos? Why no food or drink?

A camera flash is brief, but it is also really bright, and thus, damaging. You are welcome to take non-flash photos. Spilled food and drink draws pests. It can get into crevasses in and under display cases where it can't be seen or cleaned up. Worse, damaged artifacts may not be cleanable. Restrictions are clearly posted at the exhibit hall's entrance. Please, leave food outside the exhibit hall and keep the covers on your drink containers.

How can I see what I or my family donated?

It's easy. We prefer that you call ahead (two weeks) so we can schedule adequate time to have the item(s) out for you in a suitable area. That's all it takes. In addition, if you get your request in early enough, we might be able to set up a small display of these items for your family reunion!

Can I see all of the quilts, for example?

Yes. We prefer to do something major like this for a group or study project, but we will, indeed, bring out all of the quilts, or other collections, if you are interested. It will take a little time, so please give us a week or two to reserve the necessary time and make adequate space available. We will include some history on each quilt.

Can I go into the storage areas? These are restricted access areas for security and preservation reasons. It's not like a shop where items are placed for you to see and touch. Some of our artifacts are out of sight in boxes and others are rolled up. A few are so fragile, they are seldom touched. For security reasons,

only a few people at a time can be taken through these areas.

What is the largest artifact? What is the smallest?

Both questions are difficult. Our largest might be our District No. 3 School and grounds in Parke Township or our 1936 Buffalo pumper fire truck stored off site, or the 14-foot Ole Lind rowboat. The smallest are bits and pieces in the three archeological collections. We also have small stud pins, tiny infant pins and three miniature dice each measuring 1/4" on each side.

What is the oldest artifact in the collection? Take your pick. If we eliminate the fossils (none of ours originated in Clay County) and the worked stone tools, the oldest artifacts are pieces of tamarak wood and mussel shells. They originated along the shore of glacial Lake Agassiz and are about ten thousand years old. They were found 25 feet below the surface when the Moorhead sewage lift station was built. Of the manufactured items, we have two copper points (found in the county) that date between 2,000 and 1,000 years BCE (before current era). We have a few immigrant items from the late 1700s and early 1800s, however, most of our collections date from the 1880s to the present.

What kinds of things are you looking for?

We usually answer this question with another question - **What do you have?** There are so many different things that relate to the history of Clay County that we can't list them all! Prospective artifacts should have a connection to Clay County history - our people, places and events, both in Clay County and out. Please, call us and tell us what you have. If we can't accept it, we can suggest alternatives.

What kinds of things are there? We are looking for an unimaginably wide range of things to preserve and use to tell the history of Clay County. We are looking for materials brought by, produced by or associated with an individual, family or group who have made or are currently making a difference (large or small) by their presence and activities in the county. The might have pursued or are pursuing an art, craft, or vocation using specific tools and equipment. They created products and processes or developed services that should be documented and represented by examples preserved at the museum.

Continued on page 13...

Glyndon Fires, cont.

scheme – more than this, it has not even caused the people to divide amongst themselves on any or all the questions involved. An apathetic condition would seem to have supervened.”

In December, accidental fires burned the Glyndon House Hotel and a livery barn. Several concerned citizens formed a committee to investigate measures to protect against fire. They never reported back and Glyndon was without fire protection through the 19th century.

It is not hard to understand citizens' reluctance toward civic improvements. Most of these folks were very recent arrivals. They were gamblers, betting on the railroad crossing to bring them prosperity. If it did not, they were prepared to pull up stakes and try somewhere else.

The Improvement Society did manage to raise money to dig a well on the corner of Partridge and Pleasant Streets. This location was convenient for householders but too far from the business district to be of help fighting fires there. They also petitioned the state legislature to approve incorporation of Glyndon as a village. The legislature acceded and in March 1881, Glyndon voters approved a charter copied from the Moorhead village charter of 1875.

Most people (including Osborn) expected the new village to vote wet; many dry votes had come from the rural township. But the Sunday before the election, a party at an illegal saloon got out of hand. Shots were fired, fights broke out, drunks were rounded up and, although no one was injured, it shocked the village. Dries won 71 to 2.

Voting dry did not mean a dry village. For the next year illegal liquor was easy to get in Glyndon. Local authorities did little about it. In November 1881, a Clay County grand jury had to step in, indicting three Glyndon men.

After a year of illegal saloons, the village voted wet 55 to 24 in 1882. Even Osborn admitted the dries had had little chance of winning. Jacob Unger, James Shea and John Mason of Moorhead each paid \$200 for a liquor license.

Osborn and other dries chaffed under the new arrangement for a year. The next spring, they tried a new tactic – challenging illegal voters. In an aggressive newspaper campaign, Osborn tried to convince dries they had a chance to win a fair election. He published the village personal property tax list identifying each as wet, dry or undecided. It's an extraordinary document. Osborn listed 53 dries, 22 wets and 19 undecided.

On election day 1883, the wets won 54 to 17 but dries contested 17 votes. Local authorities arrested four men



G. S. Barnes store, Glyndon, 1877. The Barnes store on the corner of Main St and Park Ave was one of the few Glyndon businesses to escape fire in the 1880s. The building was razed in 1932. F. Jay Haynes Collection.

for illegal non-resident voting and Cornelius Friezen, owner of the hotel where Unger's saloon was located, for providing the men with free room and board in exchange for wet votes. One of the "migratory electors," Frank Sheppard, was something of a poet. His ode "The Bummers' Retreat" was read at his arraignment. It reads in part,

*Come all yea bummers
In Glyndon does dwell
Oh list to my ditty
I'll sing it right well.
'Tis Friezen who told us
By the book of an oath
That he would give us free lodging
For the sake of our vote...*

The men were held over for trial at district court. Though they had lost the election, dries were elated that action was finally being taken.

Then the fires started. On Sunday March 24, 1883, at four a.m., a passerby discovered the Park Hall ablaze. George S. Barnes had built the Hall as a meeting place for the village and offices. Just the day before it had been the scene of the illegal voting arraignments. The wood frame building burned quickly. Residents just did their best to keep it from spreading. Osborn reported, "The cause? No one knows... The theory of incendiarism has many adherents... [presumably the result of] fraudulent

Continued on page 12...

Glyndon Fires, cont.

voting trials and feuds thus engendered. It seems difficult, however, to intelligently formulate such a theory in view of evidence... some people reason thus: That a license fanatic...as a warning to prosecutors" fired the building.

If this was so it was a curious target. Barnes, a noted dry owned the building but had insurance. The other

tenants were John Mason's saloon and an attorney with an illegal voter for a client.

Nevertheless, it put a scare into Glyndonites. In 1884 and 1885, the village voted wet but, as Osborn later put it, "our elections went against the real sentiment of the people, quite as abruptly as in 1883, but the cost of fighting them was counted too great, and it was let pass." But in 1886, the dries fought back – and the fires returned with a vengeance.

New and Renewed Memberships

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

NEW MEMBERS

Rachel Asleson, Fargo
Ray E. Jacobsen, Clitherall, MN
Ronald Olin, Fargo

UPGRADES

Jeanne E. Aske, Moorhead
Dr. Yvonne C. Condell, Moorhead
Maybelle Dinsmore, Ulen, MN
Gordon & Carol Ekre, Hawley
Mike & Pat Elton, Apple Valley, MN
Delmar & Rhoda Hansen, Moorhead
Gail D. Jordahl, Moorhead
David & Anne Larson, Moorhead
Lynne M. Olson, Fargo
Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo
Marguerite Wardeberg, Barnesville
David Watt, Moorhead

RENEWALS

Herbert & Clarice Aakre, Hawley
Ace Hardware, Moorhead
Olive Andvik, Moorhead
Helen K. Austin, Moorhead
Carl L. & June Bailey, Moorhead
Lois Becksfort, Moorhead
Mrs. Helen D. Benson, Moorhead
Richard & Anne Brakke, Moorhead
Donna & Eric Chalimonczyk, Mhd
Kenneth Christianson, Detroit Lakes

Adeline Corwin, Ulen, MN
Florene Culp, Audubon, MN
Jim L. & Portia Danielson, Moorhead
Paul DesJardins, Felton, MN
Bill DesSaint, Moorhead
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD
Dorothy Dodds, Moorhead
Janet Dolva, Hawley
Vincent & Jean Dolva, Hawley
Arnie & Mary Ellingson, Fargo
Loretta Erickson, Moorhead
Karen D. Evanson, Moorhead
Fargo-Moorhead Heritage Society
Lori & Bob Feigum, Moorhead
Edith L. Flaa, Moorhead
Janet Fox, Hawley
James Gilbery, Yakima, WA
Patty Gulsvig, Moorhead
LaVerne Halverson, Minneapolis
Neil & Polly Hanson, Glyndon
Loren Helmeke, Fargo
Robert & Janet Hillier, Moorhead
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ingebretsen, Felton
Loren & Londa Ingebretsen, Felton
Richard Keeping, Hawley
Keith & Lorraine Langseth, Glyndon
Evelyn Larson, Fargo
Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon
Sandra McEvers, Moorhead
Eileen P. Michels, St. Paul, MN
Moorhead Antique Mall
Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis
Karen Myran, Hawley
H. Allen Ohrt, Fargo
Anne L. Olsgaard, Moorhead
Gary H. & Rebecca Olson, Moorhead
Lila Ordal, Moorhead

Vernon A. Pederson, Moorhead
Charles Peterson, Hillsborough, CA
Sherwood, Jr. & Wendy Peterson, Rochester, MN
L. Diane Pickett, Dilworth
Don & Kathy Pingree, Georgetown
Jim & Dorothy Powers, Fargo
Elsie Quam, Hawley
Pearl & Vern Quinnild, Barnesville
Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead
Joe & Betty Richards, Georgetown
Kathy Richards, Georgetown
Mel & Margaret Ristvedt, Hawley
River Keepers, Fargo
Leslie Rogne, Kindred
Gary & Nancy Ronsberg, Hawley
Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen, Moorhead
Mildred Skugrud, Moorhead
Patrick & Orpha Smith, Fargo
Rachel Smithwick, Barnesville
Bill & Evelette Snyder, Fargo
Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead
Don & Rose-Mary Strom, Moorhead
Sandra Thimgan, Battle Lake, MN
Bruce N. Thorson, Waite Park, MN
Myrtle Tufton, Moorhead
Ron & Deanna Ulven, Hawley
Kirk & Kathy Watt, Glyndon
Tom & Sherry Watt, Glyndon
Arthur Wenner, Moorhead
Olaf R. & Rhoda E. Wicker, Hawley
Diane Wray Williams & Tom Williams, Moorhead
Eldon Wollmann, Moorhead
Marlis Ziegler, Moorhead

CCHS Business Members

Please help us thank these business members for supporting the Clay County Historical Society by patronizing them with your business:

PATRON (\$500+)

Please consider supporting CCHS at this membership level!

SETTLER (\$200-\$499)

Mac's, Inc.

TRAILBLAZER (\$100-\$199)

Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD

Eventide
First National Bank of Hawley
Hawley Public Schools
City of Hawley
Korsmo Funeral Service
Moorhead Antique Mall
Moorhead Area Public Schools
Moorhead Drug Company
Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis
Rigels, Inc.
Sellin Brothers, Inc.
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Ace Hardware
Bentley & Bentley, DDS
Fargo-Moorhead Heritage Society
Harmon Glass Doctor of Moorhead
McLarnan, Hannaher & Skatvold
Moorhead Area Retired Educators
Moorhead Midday-Central Lions
Richtman's Press Club
Stenerson Lumber
Veterans of Foreign War, Post 1223
Wells Fargo Bank MN, N A, Mhd
Wright Funeral Home

FAQs about CCHS, cont.

If that still didn't clear things up, it's because we just can't tell you what we are looking for until you tell us what you have!

Are there things you don't accept? Yes, and there are some things we can't and won't accept! We are reluctant to accept items we have multiples of unless there is a special feature, connection or compelling story. This includes wedding dresses, military uniforms and the many object left behind by rapidly changing technology such as typewriters and other office machines. Parts or pieces of larger things and badly damaged items are generally refused. If you are not sure about something, just give us a call.

We can't accept human remains, objects from a burial, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (belonging to a group) into the collections. One exception concerns human remains. **We will accept them only for transfer and reburial** through official means. We also can't accept protected species, stolen goods, illegal materials or controlled substances. *We do have a tombstone in the collection – visit our 75th anniversary exhibit to find out how we got it and why its still here!*

Should we clean up the items we donate? Dust off, yes. Wash, no.

Can you tell us how to take care of our

heirlooms? Yes! Just call us if you have a question. We also offer programs for the care of archival materials and textiles. You can purchase acid-free boxes, paper and folders. Members receive a discount.

Can you tell us what something is worth like they do on TV? No. Museum staff members are prohibited from making appraisals. We are not in the business of buying and selling, so have no way to know current monetary values. Contact your homeowner's insurance company first to find appraisers in your area.

How can I contact you?

Phone: 218 299-5520

Emails: Curator, pam.burkhardt@ci.moorhead.mn.us

Archivist, mark.peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us

Director, lisa.vedaa@ci.moorhead.mn.us

Mailing Address: PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561

Physical Address: Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN

How can I support the historical society? The most important contribution you can make is through your continued membership. Memberships and donations ensure free admission as well as funding for quality exhibits, displays, publications, programs and visitor services as well as the continued preservation of Clay County's history. At the moment, we also need several pleasant volunteers to greet visitors to the museums on the weekends. Commitment would be only several hours once or twice per month.

Calendar

June 21 Board of Directors Meeting, 8 am
 June 23 & 24 Bergquist Cabin Open House
 1008 7th St N, Moorhead, 1-4 pm
 July 13-16 Clay County Fair, Barnesville
 July 28-30 Loco Daze, Dilworth
 August 19 Ulen Turkey BBQ

Aug. 25-26 Barnesville Potato Days
 Sept. 1-4 Steam Threshers Reunion, Rollag
 Sept. 1-10 Greater Moorhead Days
 Oct. 5 - 7 75th Anniversary Kickoff Activities!
 Oct. 8 74th Anniversary of 1st CCHS meeting
 and Moorhead Fire Dept. Open House

Schedule subject to change

Sponsor, Patron, Sustaining and Supporting Memberships

The number of members in these categories continues to grow! Thank you to all of our wonderful members for your tremendous support.

Individual Patron (\$500+)

Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo

Individual Settler (\$200-\$499)

David R. Alme, Kennewick, WA
 Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead
 Richard McMurray, Annandale, VA
 Lynne M. Olson, Fargo

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 Mark & Donna Voxland
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Summer Fun Exhibits at CCHS!



Boats, Bikes & BBQs and Other Fun in the Sun!

Check out summer fun past and present with lake and water-related activities, the great outdoors and summer sports, and backyard fun. Featuring: Ole Lind boat, Minn-Kota trolling motor, 1930s baseball jerseys from Sabin and Barnesville, historic Dairy Queen artifacts, and 1950s travel games. Have fun with Clay County Summer Travel Bingo! Grand-opening April 30, 1:00-3:30—pick up a 10¢ Dilly Bar coupon!

Inside, Outside, upside

Down

See history from a
different perspective!

Extended through September 24



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



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A Great Summer Read!

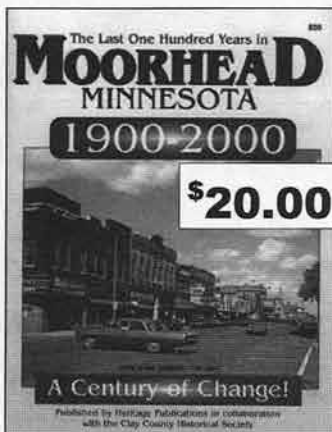
Fill your winter evening hours with stories and images from Clay County's past! Two great books are currently available at the Clay County Historical Society for your reading pleasure.

Just this winter CCHS reprinted *Souvenir of Moorhead, 1905-1906* from an original copy of this publication in our collections! Each page was digitally scanned and cleaned with care to provide a beautiful reproduction for your enjoyment. The 52-page booklet is packed with photos and ads of buildings, businesses, and residences that were the pride of Moorhead.

John Kolness of Heritage Publications (publisher of the *Clay County Union*) searched decades of newspapers for the best stories to include in *Moorhead, 1900-2000: A Century of Change*. The historic photographs and articles transport you into the city's colorful past.

Also available: *Fargo, ND, From Frontier Village to All America City, 1875-2000*.

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 with the order form below to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561.



\$20.00

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CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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YES! I want to help the Clay County Historical Society preserve the history and heritage of Clay County with my membership

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Pioneer (Basic) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Trailblazer |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Patron (10-year membership) | |

*Businesses are eligible for Explorer, Trailblazer, Settler, Patriarch and Patron membership levels

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ♦ Support preservation of the history and heritage of Clay County
- ♦ Bi-monthly newsletter with historical articles by CCHS Staff
- ♦ Access to CCHS History Tours
- ♦ Free or discounted admission to CCHS programs
- ♦ 50% discount on \$20 per hour research fee
- ♦ \$1 discount on admission to Hjemkomst Center exhibits
- ♦ Benefits increase with each membership level!

To become a CCHS Member please complete and return this form or a copy of this form with check for dues payment to:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501
Visit our website! www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

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Hjemkomst Center

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