

Clay County Historical Society

Volume XXXI No. 3

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

May/June 2008



Andrew and Christina Overby sod house, Wolverton Township, five miles southeast of Comstock, late 1890s. Some early settlers, like the Overbys, took the time and effort to plant trees as a wind break for their homes. Others took advantage of the Timber Culture Act of 1873 to acquire a quarter section of land by raising trees on some of it. Others REALLY took advantage of the Act. See the story on page 8.

Celebrating
75

**Clay County
 Historical
 Society**
1932-2007

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CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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President's Message

By Darren Leno, President



If you weren't at the Clay County Historical Society's Annual Membership meeting, you missed a good one! Our guest was, Nina Archabal, the Executive Director of the Minnesota Historical Society. Nina treated us to an excellent presentation about the history of Minnesota, and Clay County's role in that history. With more than 300 historical organizations across Minnesota affiliated with MHS, we were honored that she would travel to Moorhead to speak to us.

At the annual meeting, members elected two new board members, Helen Olson from Hawley and Carol Lockhart from Ulen. Welcome! One of our hardest working board members, Gene Prim of Barnesville was elected to his second term, and Jim Odegard from Hawley, a relatively new board member appointed to fill a term was elected to his first full term. Welcome back, Gene and Jim!

Subsequently, the board met to elect its officers for 2008. Dale White was elected as Treasurer, Pearl Quinnild was elected Secretary, Rose Bergen was elected Vice-President, and yours truly will serve another term as Board President.

There are various committees and subcommittees that meet to carry out the business of the Clay County Historical Society. If you would enjoy taking a more active role in your Historical Society, please call the office and speak with Lisa. I'm sure she'll be able to find a good use for your talents.

After an on-again/off-again start to the spring, it appears that summer is finally upon us. In the Clay and Cass County areas, there will be many wonderful opportunities to get out and enjoy life to the fullest. Many of these opportunities (the Clay County Museum, Hjemkomst Center, Bonanzaville, Steam Thrashers Rally, SS Ruby, Comstock House) can introduce you to colorful aspects of the

region's history. Others (the Clay County and Red River Valley Fairs, Street Fair, MSUM's 4th of July, Trollwood Performing Arts School, Gooseberry Park Players, and local celebrations) are a lot of fun. All are well deserving of your support. We are indeed fortunate to live in an area where culture and history abounds. Be sure to take advantage of it!

Have a wonderful Summer!

Clay County Museum Hours: 10-5 Monday-Saturday, 10-9 Tuesday, 12-5 Sunday

Archives Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday, 10-9 Tuesday

Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN ♦ FREE ADMISSION

Steal a relaxing moment at the Bergquist Cabin Open House June 27 & 28

Visit the historic log Bergquist Cabin this year and enjoy a real treat! The cabin is set away in a shady corner near the Red River in north Moorhead, and the grounds have a lovely, peaceful atmosphere. The Clay County Historical Society, along with the Swedish Heritage Society of the Red River Valley, hosts an annual Open House at the cabin, the Friday and Saturday of the last full weekend in June, 1:00-4:00pm both days. This year's open house is June 27 & 28. Join us!

The cabin, at 1008 7th Street North, was originally built in 1871 by Swedish immigrant John Bergquist, and was reconstructed in the 1970s by Bergquist's great-grandson Jim Bergquist in a movement to save the cabin led by Jim's father, beloved long-time local television



Visitors at the cabin open house last year.

personality Dewey Bergquist. The cabin was turned over to the historical society in 1989.

Refreshments are served at the open house and you can try your hand at making a woven paper heart basket, a traditional Scandinavian craft, and register for door prizes, while Ron Anderson plays old Swedish tunes in the background, live on his accordion. CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl is available to discuss the cabin's

fascinating history. Don't worry about trying to find the cabin on your own—take the free shuttle bus from the Hjemkomst Center, sponsored by the State Bank of Moorhead. The yellow school bus leaves on the hour (1:00, 2:00 & 3:00), and leaves the cabin at a quarter to the hour. The Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival also takes place at the Hjemkomst Center the same weekend.

History Rocks! 1950s Rock and Roll the theme for 2008 Gala

CCHS is very excited to announce that the theme for our 2nd Annual Gala and Silent Auction will be 1950s Rock and Roll and The Shadows and Lew Ronken as Buddy Holly will be the featured entertainment! The gala is our annual fundraising event which was inaugurated with our 75th Anniversary celebration last year. This year's Gala will take place at the Hjemkomst Center on Thursday, October 30.

The Shadows and Lew Ronken have played together for meetings and parties for several years and have put on a couple of shows at the Fargo Theatre to commemorate the fateful night in February 1959 when Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens were supposed to appear at the armory in Moorhead on their Winter Dance Party Tour, and when Bobby Vee and The Shadows got

their start. The 50th Anniversary of the event is coming up next year in February 2009.

The CCHS Gala will feature delectable food from John Alexander's and guests are encouraged to dress in 1950s-style attire—wear your poodle skirt and letterman's jackets! The Shadows will also play a one-hour dance set after the main show featuring Lew Ronken's Buddy Holly impersonation. CCHS will also have a display about the Winter Dance Party Tour and Bobby Vee's Fargo-Moorhead roots.

You do not want to miss this event! Tickets will go on sale soon—watch the newsletter for more information or call the CCHS office at 299-5520.



Do you have photos and keepsakes of area entertainment?



In September, CCHS, with the cooperation of the Clay County Connection and the publishers of the *Barnesville Record-Review* and *Hawley Herald*, will put out another newspaper-style edition similar to the one done for our

75th Anniversary last year. The 2008 "tabloid" will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the crash of the plane that was carrying Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens to Moorhead for the next stop on their Winter Dance Party Tour, and will also feature other local entertainers and entertainment. The plane carrying the three performers left from Clear Lake, Iowa after the tour's performance there on February 1, 1959 and crashed eight miles away in a snowy cornfield. The tragedy has been dubbed "The day the music died."

CCHS would like to add to its small collection of photos and memorabilia of area entertainers in order to do the area entertainment scene justice. We are looking for anything that documents local entertainment, or people from the area who went on to national renown for their entertaining talent. Many names of bands, musicians and personalities have been tossed around in recent meetings, such as: Bobby Vee, Bernie and Woodchoppers, Buckskin



Harry, the Onans, the Fairmont Old Timers, Ken Kennedy, etc. Entertainment is not limited to people, however, and we are also looking for photos and things related to venues where entertainment happened and places like roller rinks, etc., particularly Johnson's

Roller Rink in Dilworth. We would love to have a poster or tickets for the Moorhead leg of the Winter Dance Party Tour. If you have any of these things, but are not quite ready to part with them, we would settle for being allowed to scan an image of the object to be able to use for exhibits and programs. Please help us out by digging out and sharing your photos and keepsakes that relate to local entertainment from the advent of radio into the 1970s and 1980s!



Clay County Recipe selected for MN150 Cookbook



Earlier this year, CCHS Curator Pam Burkhardt received a call asking for help in seeking submissions from Clay County for the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Cookbook. Immediately, one recipe sprung to her mind. It had been in our *Eating Out in Clay County* exhibit, and CCHS Volunteer Coordinator Jan Nelson had concocted a modern adaptation of the recipe for staff taste-testing at the Hjemkomst Center. Just the type of recipe the cookbook committee was looking for! Recipes of the 21st century that reflect or connect with our past and old favorites that have adapted well to modern interpretations.

The recipe was Lilly Saker's Muskoda Special Pie, which she served in the 1930s to many weary travelers who stopped at the Muskoda (pronounced like Muskadee) rail station, just west of Hawley. Pam submitted this and two other recipes for consideration, and in May received word that the recipe for Muskoda Special Pie had been chosen for the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Cookbook *Make it Minnesotan!*

More than 500 people submitted over 800 recipes for the cookbook committee to ponder over. The cookbook is currently at the printers and will be available for purchase by August 1st, 2008, just in time for the Minnesota State Fair, August 21-September 1. Watch the Minnesota Sesquicentennial website, www.mn150years.org, for presale options and more information on ordering the cookbook. Questions? Contact Claire Plank at claire@mn150years.org or 651-296-1870.

Left to right, Mary Hart, Ellen Hart and Bridget Lee at the Muskoda Depot, about 1915. Ellen Hartke Photos.



Oktoberfest and Vatican exhibit on Members History Tour—first in 2 years!

CCHS is pleased to announce another History Tour opportunity for our members! We have planned an exciting tour for Fall 2008. The tour planning began with the idea to visit New Ulm and take in their annual Oktoberfest celebration, but we then got word from the Minnesota Historical Society that they had a very special exhibit coming in September and lasting only through January. Their announcement was this: MHS will be one of only three sites in the U.S. to host *Vatican Splendors*, a traveling exhibit containing approximately 200 works of art and historically significant objects from Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and Swiss Guard, many of which have never before left the Vatican!

Thus, on October 3 and 4 the CCHS 2008 Members History Tour will travel to St. Paul to see the *Vatican Splendors* exhibit and then on to New Ulm to experience Oktoberfest!

From the venerated relics (bone fragments) of Saint Peter to items from the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the *Vatican Splendors* exhibit comprises one of the largest Vatican collections ever to tour North America. Many items have never before been on public view. Michelangelo items and works by Bernini, Giotto, and others. Artwork dating back to the third century. From culture to history to art, explore how the Papacy has impacted-and been impacted-by the world throughout the centuries.

This is the first of the two weekends when New Ulm's Oktoberfest celebration takes place, so all the entertainers and people who help the event happen will be in top form. While in New Ulm, we will also have a city tour of the town's many historic sites and attractions and visit the August Schell Brewery, the prettiest brewery in the U.S. according to many travel writers!

The tour will depart from the Hjemkomst Center Friday morning, October 3 and travel along

Tentative Vatican Exhibit/Oktoberfest Tour Schedule

Friday, October 3

7:30am	Leave Hjemkomst Center
12:30	Lunch at Minnesota History Center
2:00	Vatican Splendor exhibit tour
6:00pm	Dinner and overnight in North Mankato

Saturday, October 4

8:00am	New Ulm city tour
10:30	Brown County Historical Society tour
12:00	Oktoberfest festival, downtown New Ulm
2:30	Schell Brewery tour
4:00	Leave New Ulm
7:00	Dinner
10:00pm	Arrive back in Moorhead



Interstate-94. We will have a brief coffee and rest break at Alexandria, and then travel on to the History Center in St. Paul for lunch at the Café Minnesota and browsing other History Center exhibits before our scheduled tour of the Vatican Splendors exhibit. We will have dinner and stay overnight in North Mankato and travel the short distance to New Ulm the next morning for our

Oktoberfest experience!

All attractions fees, accommodations, bus fare, and most meals are included in the \$200 per person tour price. The price is based on double occupancy and cancellation policy applies. Single-occupancy is available for an additional fee. Deadline for registration is September 1.

We hope you will join us on this exciting trip! Call Lisa for more information and to make your reservation now!

CCHS Tour Refund Policy: Cancellations made after the registration deadline are subject to surrender of 30% of the published tour price.

Outreach Displays

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

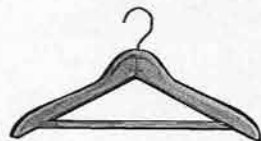
Celebrate the MINNESOTA STATE SESQUICENTENNIAL at the Hawley Public Library. Our state celebrated its centennial 1958. See some souvenirs of the celebrations plus a few fun facts about Minnesota. The official date for statehood was May 11, 1858.



The Moorhead Public Library features a special display of DANISH DOLLS as part of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival held here at the Hjemkomst Center. DANISH DOLLS runs through June. HIDDEN FROM VIEW will be reinstalled until the scheduled change in July.

Barnesville Public Library has COAT HANGERS: THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE REASONS.

Patrons get the inside story on coat hangers in this display. Learn about the history of the wire hanger. Find out what is a "good" hanger and why there are "bad" ones.



The display at the Convention and Visitors' Bureau by I-94 in Fargo honors the Minnesota State Sesquicentennial this summer. Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858. Try a quick Minnesota quiz while you pick up your vacation brochures.

The Hjemkomst Center is featured in a temporary display at the FargoDome in a small case shared between CCHS and HHIC.

IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

The display cases in the hall on the Hjemkomst Center third level will feature displays honoring Denmark and Legos as part of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival June 27 – 29. Denmark is the featured country of the Festival this year. The display about Legos features entries in a Lego-building contest held by the Festival. Call the Scandinavian Festival office at 218-299-5452 for more information.

*Dates and topics are subject to change

Artifacts & Donors

March and April 2008

Donors:

Moorhead: Clay County Extension Office,
Marilyn Kerssen
Fargo, ND: Don Larew

Artifacts: (2) boxes of slides of Fargo tornado June 20, 1957, razing the Hamm's building 1972, various Moorhead buildings 1956-57, and 1962-1967, the 1969 spring flood and buildings along Center Avenue in 1973; Prairie View 4-H Secretary's books (generally 1966-1990) & Treasurer's books (generally 1980-1991); Community Pride folder with reports and photos, instructor's sheets with names and classes offered; t-shirt and sweatshirt with graphic of the Probstfield house.



Above: Donor Marilyn Kerssen's father took this photo of downtown Moorhead on January 30, 1973, just a couple of months before Urban Renewal wrecking balls changed the place forever. The view is to the northwest on Center Avenue from between 5th and 6th Streets. Left: Sweatshirt with image of house on Randolph Probstfield Farm north of Moorhead.

PAST Trunks mark 20th Anniversary

By Pam Burkhardt

They are showing their age and some items have been replaced several times, but our educational trunks are still traveling. This year is the 20th anniversary for CCHS' educational trunk program. They were modeled after the State Historical Society of North Dakota's SEND [Suitcase Exhibits for North Dakota] traveling trunk program.

PAST [Packaged Artifacts for School Teachers] started with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education in 1987 with the first trunk going out January 26, 1988. Each of the four 19"x19"x15" Fiberbuilt cases have a different topic. Each one has a binder with a topic-specific essay, a reading list, photographs, many activities surrounding the trunk's (mostly) hands-on artifacts. Three PAST trunks have videos. Most of the activities were developed for use by students in grades 2 through 6, but senior centers

use them to provoke reminiscing and memory. Therapy groups have used the trunks to stimulate discussion and classes of student teachers have also used them. Recently, home-schoolers have begun to tap into this resource.

Early on, the trunks were scheduled on a two-week rotation, but changed to an actual-use schedule in 1997. At first, CCHS delivered the trunks and the user only had to return them, but in 1991, the system changed – the user picks them up and returns them. In recent years, there has been more multiple-teacher use in schools than in the past.

The trunks are:

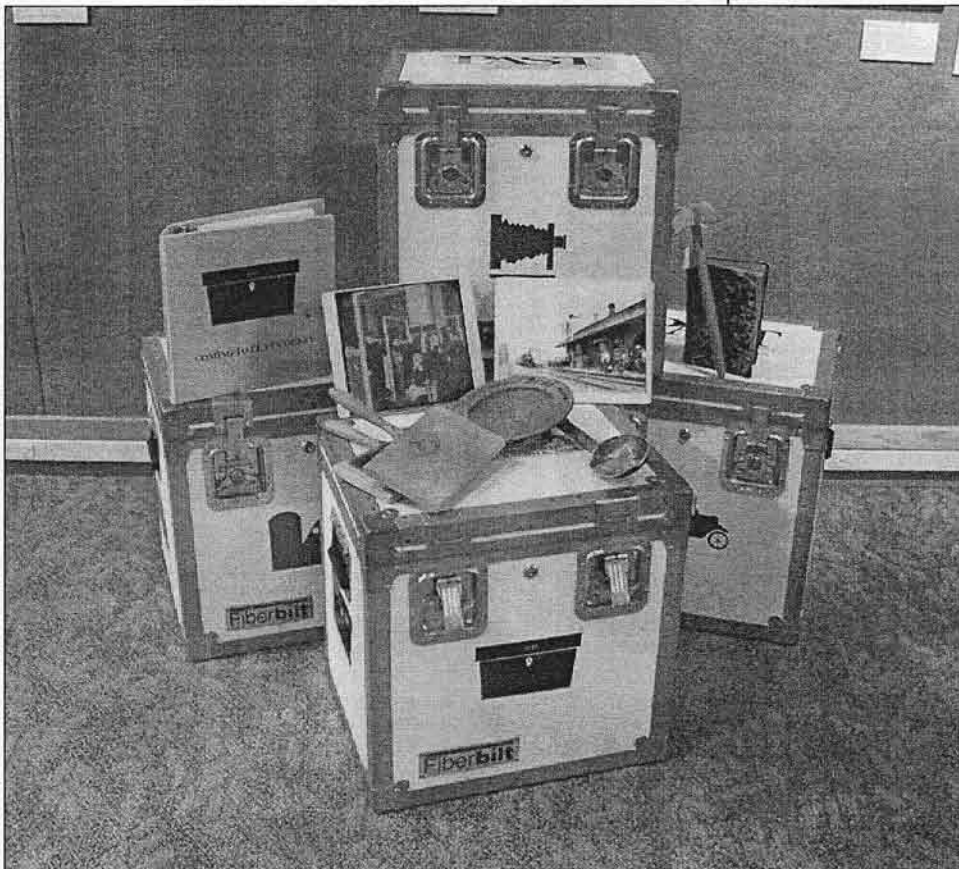
Down on the Farm, the heaviest trunk at 55 pounds, focuses on the farm and rural school. A video in this trunk *When We Farmed With Horses* is always a hit.

Coming to Clay County features our pioneer families from the Thortvedt family to those who came later by rail. This trunk has a number of good stories from our Archives.

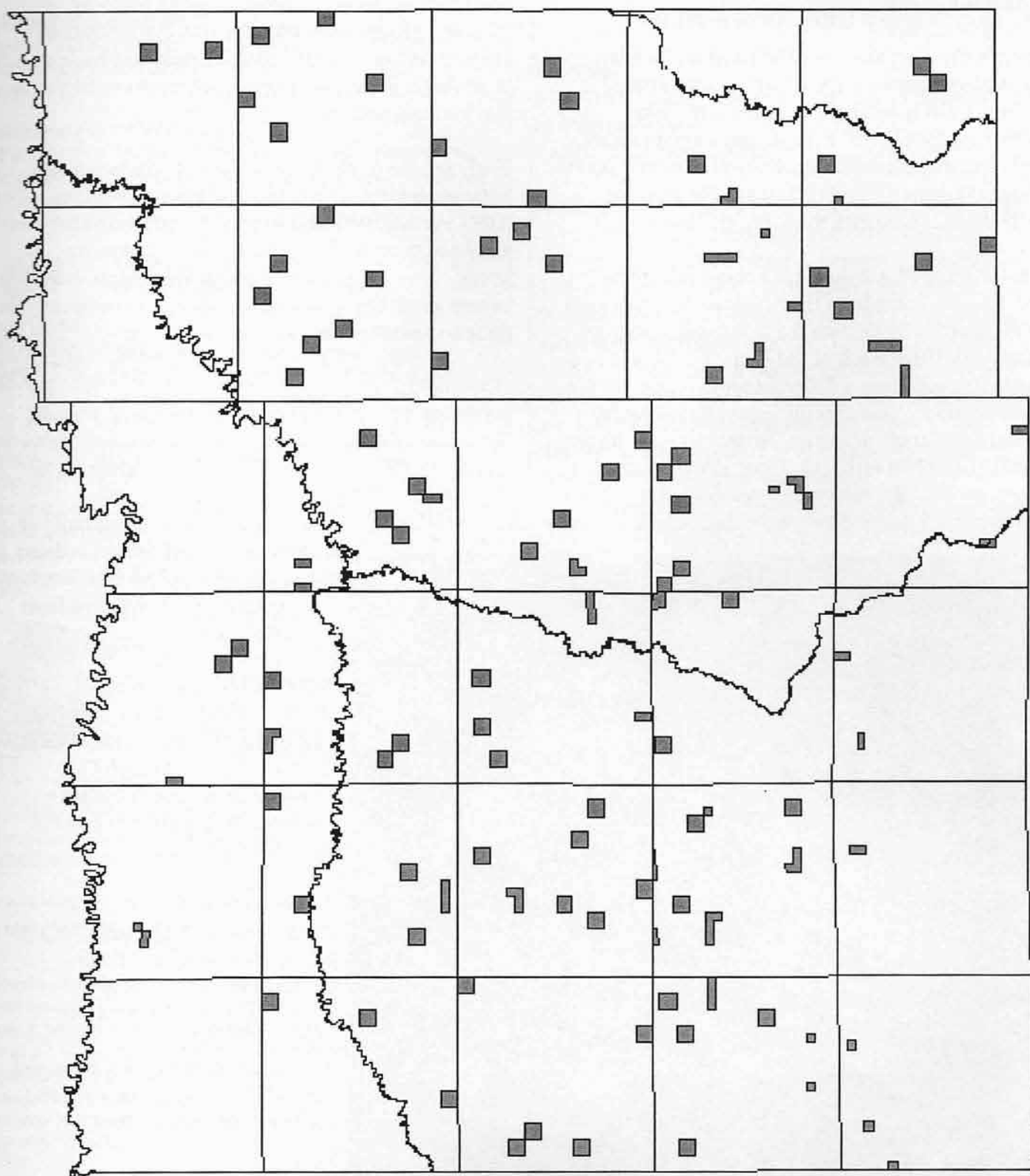
The Good Old Days is about changes in technology in the 1920s. One of the two videos in this trunk, *A Model-T Trip Through Clay County*, was produced by Jim Ellingson, a former Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Frozen in Time is the lightest, weighing only 30 pounds. The topic here is photography including tintypes and snapshots; a stereoviewer and Viewmaster.

To schedule a trunk for pickup and use, call the CCHS office at 218-299-5520 and ask for Pam.



Successful Clay County Timber Culture Claims



Timber Culture Act

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

On May 23 this year, the Moorhead Parks Department celebrated Arbor Day with tree-planting demonstration and informational lectures in Woodlawn Park. Nebraska journalist J. Sterling Morton came up with the idea of a special tree day in 1872. The Michigan native missed the woods of his boyhood home. Through his efforts the last Friday in April became a Nebraska state holiday in 1885. Other states soon adopted the tradition, including Minnesota, whose Arbor Day is the last Friday in May – a more practical date for our northern region.

Planting trees has a long tradition on Clay County's prairies. Early newspaper editors, most of them from the more wooded eastern U.S., regularly applauded locals who set out trees on their properties. Settlers often planted trees around their homesteads to provide physical and psychological shelter from the elements. In an effort to spread woods across the Great Plains, the U.S. Congress' Timber Culture Act of 1873 offered an incentive for settlers to plant trees – free land.

It was one of several ways people could acquire free or cheap U.S. government-owned land. (Last year, in an article about the last homestead taken in Clay County, we discussed some of these, including the Homestead Act of 1862, preemption and cash entry sales.) Congress had several motives in passing the bill. They wanted settlers to move to the plains; thought that trees could provide fuel, fence posts and building materials lacking on the prairies and that if enough trees grew, rain would follow. The later was wishful thinking. Congress hoped that trees would take water from the ground, transpire it to the air through their leaves and create a more humid environment, bringing precipitation to the "Great American Desert." It didn't work.

The plan sounded simple enough. A settler desiring 160 acres (possibly in addition to a Homestead Claim of another 160 acres) just had to

plant 40 acres of it with trees. That was a lot of trees, so in 1878 Congress amended the Act to require a more reasonable 10 acres. The settler filed a claim ("made entry") on a quarter section of land, (the Act allowed only one 160 Timber Claim per section), paid a \$14.00 fee and agreed to plow 5 acres the first year. (This involved breaking the virgin sod with a breaking plow in the spring or early summer. The plow turned over the sod so the grass could rot. Later in the summer or fall he backset the 5 acres, plowing it a bit deeper which threw fresh soil over the turned sod to accelerate the rotting.) The second year he seeded the first five acres with crop and broke another five acres. In the third year he planted 13,500 trees on the first five acres (that's about one tree on each 4 foot square piece of ground) and planted the second five acres to crop. The fourth year he planted the second five acres with trees. By the end of ten years, he had to show he still had at least 6,750 trees surviving on the ten acres (about one per every eight foot by eight foot area). Then he could claim the land as his own.

Acquiring free federal land was no cake walk. Nationally, about only 40% those seeking land under the Homestead Act succeeded. For the Timber Act the success was considerably less, perhaps 20 to 25%. Growing trees was hard work. Not only did the trees have to be purchased, transported and planted but watered and tended, protected from prairie fires and kept alive in a hostile climate. Here in Clay County the success rate was even lower, 16.3%. One would think that in western Minnesota, tree raising would be easier than in Dakota or Nebraska. We receive about 20 inches of precipitation per year compared to less than 17 in central North Dakota, and less further west. The low success rate is likely due more to the fact that there were other ways folks could take advantage of the Timber Culture Act. They involved fraud.

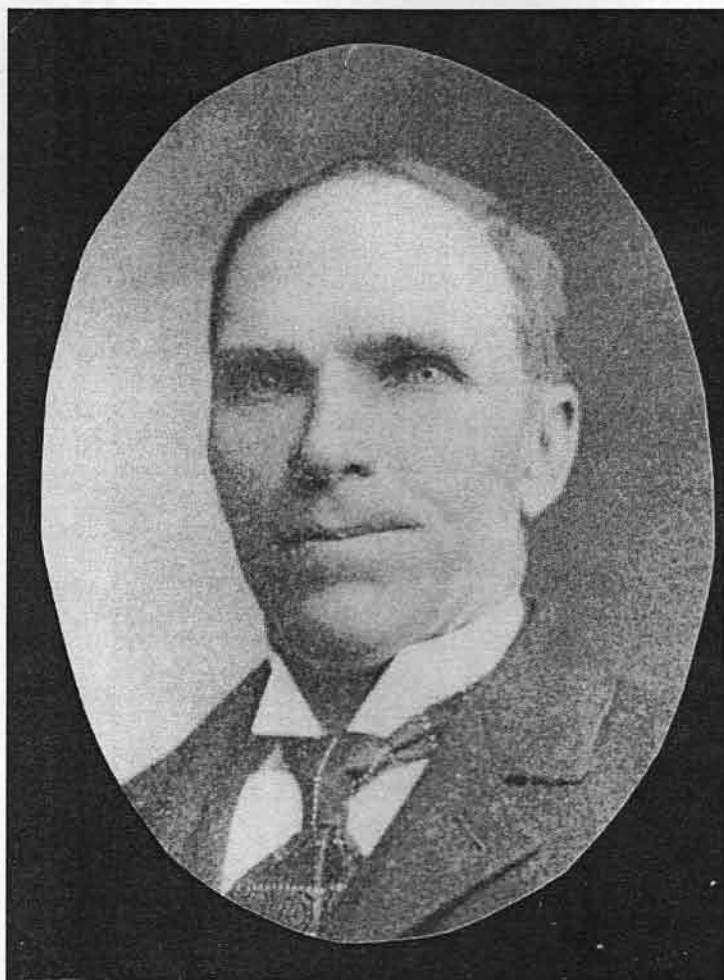
By the early 1880s the General Land Office Commissioners' annual reports railed against the

Continued next page...

Timber Culture Act, cont. from page 9

fraud and abuse rampant in the government's land disposal programs, particularly the Timber Culture Act. Speculators profited handsomely from the act. In 1883, Commissioner N. C. McFarland concluded that "a majority of entries under the timber-culture act are made for speculative purposes and not for the cultivation of timber." Later reports from western land offices placed the numbers much higher, in some places as high as 95%. The flood of settlers created a huge demand for land – pushing prices upward. Speculators filed on parcels and sat on them for years as adjoining federal land disappeared and values went up. The Timber Act allowed people to enter on a piece of land and have free use of it for up to three years without planting a single tree. They didn't even have to pay taxes on it. As the Land Office Commissioner put it in his 1883 report, "A mere entry of record holds the land for one year without the performance of any act of cultivation. The meager act of breaking five acres, which can be done at the close of the year as well as at the beginning, holds the land for a second year. Comparatively trivial acts hold it for a third year." A man could plow five acres in a week. The hard part was planting the trees and keeping them alive.

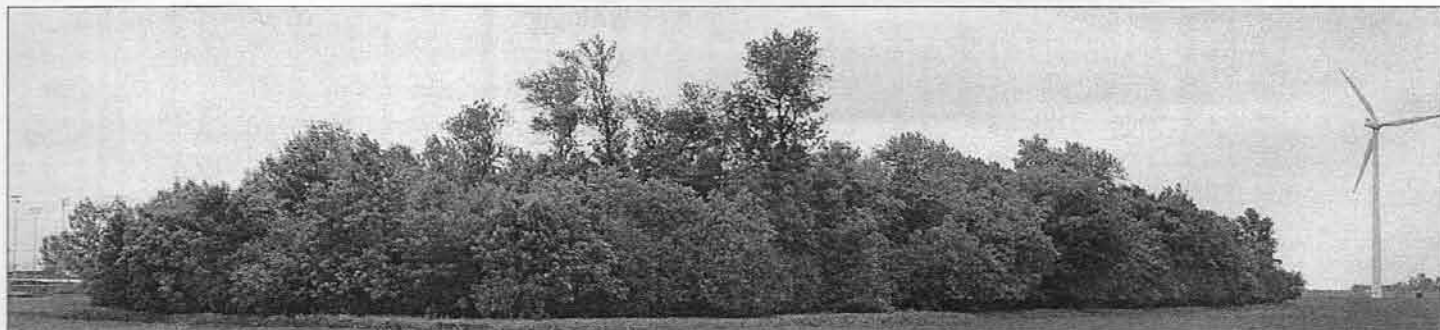
Filers ("entrymen") had the right to "relinquish" their interest in the property and walk away at any time. More often they illegally "sold" their relinquishment to a real settler or another speculator for what the market would bear. Land Commission reports indicate this could be as much



John G. Bergquist, Moorhead pioneer and successful Timber Culture Claim entryman.

as \$200-500 – not bad for a few weeks work and a \$14.00 filing fee.

Continued next page...



This grove of trees is John G. Bergquist's successful Timber Claim. Moorhead pioneer Bergquist built a cabin in what's now north Moorhead early in 1871 and started a successful brickyard nearby. By the early 1880s he had used all of the clay at his first site and opened a new brickyard north of today's Kmart. He also filed a Timber Culture Claim on an 80-acre parcel located just south of what is now the Moorhead Public Service Commission's wind farm. As he claimed only 80 acres, the Land Office required him to plant only 5 acres of trees. He proved up in December 1891. CCHS owns his original log cabin on the first site in north Moorhead.

Timber Culture Act, cont. from page 10

CCHS has microfilm copies of the General Land Office Tract Books for the county. The books record, section by section, land transactions involving property up through their "patenting." (A patent is the deed transferring ownership from the federal government to a private individual, whether through sale or proving up a Homestead Claim, etc) The records are full of examples of entrymen filing Timber Culture Claims, then relinquishing them almost exactly three years later. The very same day, another entryman places a claim and holds it another three years before repeating the process with another speculator or a bona fide homesteader who proves up. These almost certainly reflect fraudulent relinquishment sales.

Sometimes family members or neighbors conspired to defraud the government. For instance, in July 1878 a "Syver Grindy" filed a Timber Culture claim (the tract books refer to these as "T. C" for Timber Culture, but many people read this as the more familiar but slightly inaccurate "Tree Claim") on the NW ¼ of section 20, Barnesville Township. The federal government cancelled his claim on August 7, 1883 for his "failure to comply with the law." Ten days later John Tully, Jr. filed a T. C. claim to the property. Three years and four days later he relinquished his claim. On the same day his younger brother,

William, who had just turned 21, filed another claim on the land. He also held onto it for nearly three years before relinquishing. Again, the same day, a neighbor, Christian Schroeder, filed yet another T. C. claim to the property. He probably did plant trees but after five years "commuted" the claim, instead paying \$2.50 cash for the land. Aside from whatever William Tully may have received for his relinquishment, he and his brother had six-years' rent and tax-free use of the land for grazing, haying, growing crops or whatever. The majority of Clay County Timber Culture entries involve multiple, successive claims on the same parcel.

Not everyone involved bent the rules. Undoubtedly, many filers fully intended to comply with the law but simply found the process too onerous or impossible. Of 732 T.C. entries filed in Clay County only 119 were patented. The successful claims are indicated on the map on page 8. They show an interesting distribution. The claims are concentrated in the central and northern parts of the county. There are few claims in the western tier of townships or in the townships in southeastern Clay County. In the west speculators had acquired most of the land through cash, scrip or other means before the Timber Culture Act passed. (Few Homestead Claims are found here either.) The southeast (Tansem, Parke, Eglon and Highland Grove

Continued next page...

Orders for Forest Trees,

Ash, Box Elder, and Cottonwood, to be delivered this Fall, will be received until October 10th. Prices and terms given on application. If you have Tree Claims to set this Fall, order early.

C. B. KITTREDGE, Glyndon, Minn.

Charles B. Kittredge Ad, Glyndon *Red River Valley News*, September 3, 1885. Of the four local nurserymen we've identified only Timothy O'Leary successfully acquired a Timber Culture Claim, in section 32 Barnesville Township. Kittredge and Andrew Holes, of Moorhead, filed entries but relinquished their claims. A. J. Madland of Fargo may have filed and relinquished a claim in Cass County, Dakota Territory, but he never proved one up.

Heritage Business Members and 75th Anniversary Sponsors

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

PATRIARCH (\$500+)

State Bank of Moorhead (Sponsor)

SETTLER (\$200-\$499)

Cahill Law Office, P. A.

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo-Moorhead

Eventide

First National Bank of Hawley

City of Georgetown

Mac's, Inc.

TRAILBLAZER (\$100-\$199)

City of Barnesville

Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD

Don's Car Washes, Inc.

City of Hawley

Korsmo Funeral Service

Moorhead Antique Mall

Moorhead Area Public Schools

Moorhead Drug Company

Moorhead Kiwanis

Moorhead Midday-Central Lions

Rigels, Inc.

Scheels Moorhead

Sellin Brothers, Inc.

State Bank of Hawley

Talent Productions

Wright Funeral Home

YHR Partners, Ltd.

EXPLORER (\$50-\$99)

Geoffrey D. Bentley, DDS, PA

Kurtz Township of Clay County

McLaughlin Auctioneers, Dilworth

Mickelson Body Shop, Hawley

Moorhead Area Retired Educators

Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis

Richtman's Printing

Stenerson Lumber

75th Anniversary Sponsors

(October 2007-October 2008)

AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Moorhead

Bernie's Wines & Liquors

CMP Consulting

Clay County Connection

Dewey's Septic Service, Lake Park

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Committee

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Gloria Lee

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Juan and Annele Mondragon,

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Juano's Latin Bar and John

Alexander's American Classics

Restaurant and Bar

KFGO 790-AM

Kay Mahar

Kelly Wambach

Kim Brewster, Ice Art, Inc.

Lakes & Prairies Community

Action Partnership

Lichtsinn, Anderson Insurance

Lindsay Ecowater Soft Water

Lynn Brakke Organic Beef

Mikkelson Insurance

Moorhead Antique Mall

Red River Trails & Tours

Roisum Elite Sales & Marketing

Sign Post, Hawley

Snap Dragon Restaurant

Speakeasy Restaurant

Strand & Marcy Insurance Agency

Summit Financial Services

Talent Productions

Village Inn Restaurant

Timber Culture Act, cont. from page 10

Townships) were already heavily wooded. They also harbored the highest percentage of successful Homestead Claims.

Acquiring trees could be a problem. Some entrymen bought seedlings or small trees from the railroads. They had developed nurseries to grow trees to use as natural snow fences along their routes. Some folks dug their own. The Glyndon *Red River Valley News* reported in May 1884 that "good young trees are plenty on the [Buffalo] River banks." Most probably bought from local

nurserymen like Andrew Holes in Moorhead, Timothy O'Leary of Barnesville, J. G. Madland of Fargo and Charles B. Kittredge of Glyndon. They grew their own stock or had it shipped in by rail from other nurseries to the south and east. In March 1882, Kittredge advertised in the *Red River Valley News*:

"Trees for Timber Claims. If you wish Cottonwood trees or cuttings to be set this spring, order them now at the following prices:

Continued on page 14...

Heritage Members

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

Individual Patriarch (\$500+)

Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead
Lynne M. Olson, Fargo
Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo

Individual Settler (\$200-\$499)

David R. Alme, Kennewick, WA
Roland & Carolyn Barden, Moorhead
Burt Grover, Bellingham, WA
Jeff Longtine, Moorhead
Richard T. McMurray, Annandale, VA
James & Chris Stenerson, Moorhead

Individual Trailblazer (\$100-199)

Robert L. & Selma Anderson
Rod C. & Audrey Angstman
Carl L. & June Bailey
Jim Bergquist & Jane Eastes
Al & Meredith Bloomquist
Kevin & Kristy Campbell
Dr. Yvonne C. Condell
Jim L. & Portia Danielson
Paul & Joyce Eidbo
John & Audrey Elton
Rodney Erickson
Graham & Madrene Goeson
Rhoda Hansen
Dennis & Kris Herbranson
Lorine D. Holschuh
Andre & Emily Houghlum
Hal F. Janneck
Ardee & Eunice Johnson
Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft
James H. Landblom
David & Gloria Lee
Patricia Lynde-Hemmah
Dan & Faith Meurrens
Robert & JoAnn Nyquist
E. Robert & Donna Olson
Esther O. Olson
Charlotte Onstine

Elaine G. Oss
Lloyd & Bev Paulson
John D. Peterson
Sherwood, Jr. & Wendy Peterson
Donna M. Richards
Karol Kay Peterson Rood
Bev & John Rowell
Steve & Lucia Schroeder
Hazel & Davis A. Scott
Ruth & Olin Storvick
Phyllis W. Thysell
Chris & Ellen Velline
Mark & Donna Voxland
Tom & Sherry Watt
Ron & Loretta Welch
Eldon Wollmann

Individual Explorer (\$50-\$99)

Marjorie K. Aakre
Mark & Lois Altenburg
Russell & Lois Bekkerus
Genelle Bentley
Mary E. Bolstad
Richard & June Chenoweth
Patrick A. Colliton
Nancy K. Cooper
Helen M. Danielson
Leland & Dorothy Delger
Roland & Beth Dille
Maybelle Dinsmore
Dorothy A. Dodds
Paul & Mardeth Dovre
Gordon & Carol Ekre
Jerome C. & Pamela Ekre
Mike & Pat Elton
Carroll & Joan Engelhardt
Katherine Erickson
Michael J. & Kathy Farrell
Howard R. Geng
Janet Gorman
Lloyd Gunderson
Ann P. Gytri
LaVerne Halverson
Ethel & Ralph Hest
Herman & Gail Holland
Arthur Holmgren
Deborah Janzen & Terry Shoptaugh
Gail D. Jordahl

Audrey Z. Jones
Heidi Kassenborg
Janet Kiefer Martin
Alden & Shirley Knatterud
Paul E. & Florence Korsmo
Lois L. Kundert
Neil H. Larson
John David Lee
Don & Alvina Lein
Bob & Phyllis Litherland
Ethel R. Medalen
Katherine Mentjes
Larry & Jan Nelson
Gisela S. Nobel
Beverly Nokken
Anne L. Olsgaard
Richard & Helen Pemble
Sherwood & Marilyn Peterson
L. Diane Pickett
James & Dorothy Powers
Paul Pratt
Eugene & Karen Prim
Elsie Quam
Pearl & Vern Quinnild
John Reber
Mel & Margaret Ristvedt
Edna J. Rude
Helen Rudie
Carol & Gordon Rustad
Barry & Renee Steen
Dale Stensgaard
Marge Stoa
Ray & Erma Stordahl
Don & Rose-Mary Strom
Alvin & Diane Swanson
Bob & Linda Swanson
Ronnie & Donna Tang
Kenneth & Mary Tangen
Bruce M. Thorson
Ron & Deanna Ulven
Nancy & Marc Valenzuela
Kelly J. Wambach, Moorhead
Marguerite A. Wardeberg
Dale D. White
Dick & Kathy Zaylskie
Mary Kinsella Ziegenhagen
Carol Zielinski

New and Renewed Memberships

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

*Denotes gift membership

NEW MEMBERS

Maria A. Barnes, Fargo

Amy & Shawn Griego, Moorhead

*Dr. Jim Oliver, Moorhead

*Becky Sandstrom, Burnsville, MN

UPGRADES

Nels & Sally Backman, Fargo

Mary E. Bolstad, Moorhead

Jim & Portia Danielson, Moorhead

Burt Grover, Bellingham, WA

Deb Janzen & Terry Shoptaugh, Mhd

Pearl & Vern Quinnild, Barnesville

Dale Stensgaard, Grand Forks, ND

RENEWALS

Herbert & Clarice Aakre, Hawley

Olive Andvik, Moorhead

Arthur & Bernice Arett, Moorhead

Carl L. & June Bailey, Moorhead

Joel Belgum, Moorhead

Michael & Sharon Blasgen, Los Gatos, CA

Grace E. Clark, Moorhead

Adeline Corwin, Ulen

Jim Cresap, Hawley

Helen M. Danielson, Moorhead

Leland & Dorothy Delger, Fargo

Bill DesSaint, Moorhead

Arnold & Mary Ellingson, Fargo

Harry & Phyllis Fillafer, Moorhead

Howard R. Geng, Moorhead

James Gilbery, Yakima, WA

Marjorie Gjevne, Moorhead

Helen G. Haugen, Dilworth

Robert & Jan Hillier, Moorhead

*Ray E. Jacobsen, Clitherall, MN

Audrey Z. Jones, Lexington, KY

Jeanette R. Ladwig, Barnesville

Keith & Lorraine Langseth, Glyndon

Brent Larson & Mary Jo Schmid, Mhd

Robert & Dorothy Larson, Moorhead

Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon

Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead

Kay Mahar, Hickson, ND

Solveig Mead, Moorhead

Ethel J. Menholt, Felton

Arloine S. Mithun, Moorhead

Joanne Ogren, Barnesville

Doris V. Olich, Moorhead

Vernon A. Pederson, Moorhead

L. Diane Pickett, Dilworth

Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo

Elsie Quam, Hawley

Richtman's Printing, Fargo

Leslie Rogne, Kindred

Andrea Rootham, Glyndon

Steve & Lucia Schroeder, Glyndon

Hazel & Davis A. Scott, Moorhead

Lois Cornell Selberg, Moorhead

Mary Lou Shuckhart, Hawley

Patrick Smith, Fargo

Terri L. Smith, Valley City, ND

Bob & Linda Swanson, Moorhead

Bruce M. Thorson, Waite Park, MN

Olaf R. & Rhoda E. Wicker, Hawley

Diane Wray Williams & Tom

Williams, Moorhead

Maxine Workman, Moorhead

YHR Partners, Ltd., Moorhead

Marlis Ziegler, Moorhead

Carol Zielinski, Moorhead

Gerry & Sharry Zimmerman, Glyndon

Timber Culture Act, cont. from page 12

Trees 8 to 15 inches high
\$3 per M. [thousand]

Trees 15 to 24 inches high
4 per M.

Trees 24 inches and over
5 per M.

Cuttings, double length
4 per M."

Kittredge also advertised Box Elder and Ash. Some filers planted many other varieties. In December 1885 the *Red River Valley News* described at length Major W. D. Hall's successful Timber Claim in section 20 Cromwell Township. Hall filed his claim in November 1877 and had recently proved up. The *News* reported there were

"fourteen acres of trees now growing and in a healthy condition on the land, consisting of 15,000 cottonwoods ranging from 10 to 20 inches in circumference; there are 7000 box elders, 5000 ash, 4000 soft maple, several of which are over 5 inches in diameter; 2000 elm, 1000 black cherry, 500 black walnut, some of which are 7 inches in circumference; 500 butternut, and 100 oak. The oak has made the slowest progress but even some of those will measure 4 ½ inches in circumference; making a total of 35,100 trees now growing on 14 acres or a fraction over 2500 trees on each acre so planted. The

Continued next page...

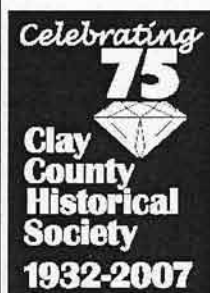
Timber Culture Act, cont. from page 14

hardier varieties were grown from seed planted where they remain, and afterwards thinned out. The cottonwoods were raised from seedlings...He has sold a number of trees, besides having let his friends have free access to the lot for whatever they need for their own use. Several thousand have been contracted for to be delivered next spring, as there are upwards of twice the amount now growing on the land that the law requires."

Careful, industrious and successful Timber Claim filers such as Hall were pretty rare. But the trees they planted and nurtured still mark our landscape today. Congress repealed the ill-fated

Timber Culture Act in 1891 but allowed those who had already filed time to finish their efforts. Anders Herseth proved up on the last Timber Claim in the Clay County in June 1903. A ten acre stand of trees still lines the northern edge of his property in section 28 Goose Prairie Township. Any of his original trees would be well over 100 years old today – that's possible but more likely seeds and shoots from his plantings have reproduced themselves in the protected area over the decades, giving us the woods that remain. A quick check of the locations of successful Timber Culture Claims against current aerial photographs suggests that about two-thirds of the claims still hold trees today. Many are stands around farmyards or long, slender bands on the edges of the old properties. Though the Timber Claims failed to produce climate changes they still provide important wildlife habitat and physical and psychological protection from our raging winters.

Support CCHS! Become a Member or Recruit a new Member!



*Connecting
People
to the History
of Clay County,
Minnesota
for 75 Years!*

Membership Level (check one)	Dues Amount	Benefits
Pioneer Individual	\$25	Bi-Monthly Newsletter and Access to CCHS History Tours Free/Discounted Admission to CCHS Programs/Events 50% Discount on \$20 Per Hour Archival Research Fee \$1 Off Admission to Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center
Pioneer Family	\$40	All of the Above
Explorer	\$50	All of the Above PLUS 25% Discount on Reproductions of Archival Photos 25% Discount on Acid-Free Supplies
Trailblazer	\$100	All of the Above PLUS Frameable Membership Certificate
Settler	\$200	All of the Above PLUS Four Tickets to Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center One Hour of Free Archival Research
Patriarch	\$500	All of the Above PLUS Frameable 8"x10" reproduction of Historic Photo of Choice Two Complimentary Tickets to the CCHS Annual Meeting
Patron	\$5,000	10-Year Membership – All of the Above!

Businesses are eligible for Explorer, Trailblazer, Settler, Patriarch and Patron Memberships

Please complete the form below, and send with your check payable to "CCHS", to: CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561

Name (for membership card) _____

Contact Name (for business) _____

Children's Names (for families) _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Telephone/Email _____

The Clay County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supported by members, the Clay County Commission, sponsors and grants. Contributions to the Clay County Historical Society are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Registration Form
Oktoberfest & Vatican Splendors
CCHS 2008 History Tour
Friday & Saturday, October 3-4

*Copy this form and send in with your check to
CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561, to
register for the Oktoberfest & Vatican Tour!*

Number of Registrants _____
Total Registration (check enclosed to CCHS)
(\$200/ea. double-occ. or \$250 single) _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Thank you for your support!
All proceeds benefit the Clay County Historical Society.

Calendar

June 27-28 Bergquist Cabin Open House, 1-4
Free Shuttle Bus from Hjemkomst
Center to 1008 7th St N, Moorhead

June 27-29 Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival
Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead

July 10-13 Clay County Fair, Barnesville

July 20 Viking Village, 12-4pm, Heritage-
Hjemkomst Interpretive Center

Aug. 21- Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul
Sept. 1

Oct. 3-4 CCHS History Tour, New Ulm, MN
and Vatican Splendor Exhibit at
Minnesota History Center, St. Paul

Oct. 30 CCHS Gala—History Rocks!

Dec. 13 CCHS Holiday Open House, 1-3pm



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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202 1st Ave N
PO Box 501
Moorhead MN 56561

Non-Profit
Organization
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