

# Clay County Historical Society

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter November/December 2004

Volume XXVII No. 6

## In this issue:

- Incredible Response to Donation Request, page 3
- Ugliest Bridesmaid Dress contest and traveling wedding exhibit, page 5
- A Wedding Story scrapbook, page 7
- Birth Record Access Threatened, page 9
- CCHS 2004 Photo Review, page 15

## Artifacts found in Douglas House!

In early December, workers preparing the Douglas House (111 S 4<sup>th</sup> St, Moorhead) for moving found a cache of papers and artifacts hidden behind the masonry of the house's chimney. Kevin Bartram of Sterling Company, developers of the property, brought the materials to CCHS for identification.



Built in 1873, James and Wilhelmina Douglas' house is one of the oldest in Moorhead. Most of the items date from the late 1870s and early 1880s and seem to relate to the family. Our next newsletter will describe this surprise find in more detail. Shown at left are some of the items: a seed catalog from 1878, a china head doll from about the mid-1860s, three men's removable collars (marked "James Douglas") and a pair of men's slippers. Stay tuned!

## President's Column

By Dale White

As I write this column, the temperature is above average, the sun is bright, and the ground has seen no snow. But you will read this column in the November/December newsletter, amid reminders and early bustle of the holidays. For most of our readers this is a comfortable, cozy time of the year, a time when we think about home and family.



"Home" might mean a house or farm, a hometown, or a larger locality. But for most people "home" is a nostalgic blend of the familiar and commonplace, remembering past events and circumstances, and thinking of loved ones both present and departed. A number of our Board members the other day came to the conclusion that this concept of "home" is compatible with the vision of the Clay County Historical Society.

So, we thought, how about giving a Christmas gift of a membership to CCHS. What you really would give is an interesting newsletter every couple of months, the knowledge that the membership is contributing to the preservation of the past, and the connection (or reconnection) with a certain place in Clay County. So, what could be a more appropriate gift than a year's membership in CCHS, especially to someone who has moved away? One size fits all.

I enjoyed the Clay County History Tour on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Post trip evaluations showed that participants felt it was a successful event. It is interesting that the last prior CCHS Clay County tour was 40 years ago—almost to the day of our 2004 tour. In September 1964, the bus visited nearly the same list of sites (also stopping at the Hawley Mooring Stone—remember that story?) that it did this year. I assume Mrs. Fawbush, the CCHS curator at the time, accompanied the group. How many of our current members went on that 1964 tour?

Think about how our county and its towns have changed in those 40 years. Yet our idea of the truly historic places in Clay County evidently has not changed much.

Today this seems a little early, but it's the last Newsletter of 2004, so...on behalf of the Board of Directors, let me be the first to wish you a *Happy New Year!*



### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501  
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[www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history](http://www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history)

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## Please report address changes

Please help us keep our records up-to-date and our postage costs down by notifying us of your new or seasonal addresses. We do request address service from the postal service, which notifies us of your new addresses, but we are charged \$.70 to \$1.00 for each address correction. We currently have approximately an additional \$5.00 postage cost for all the address corrections we receive when each issue of the newsletter is mailed.

Please help the historical society save money for educational exhibits and programs, and assure that you get your CCHS newsletters, by notifying us of your winter address or letting us know if you are going to be away for any length of time. Your help is appreciated!



# Your response is overwhelming!

## Member support shown in generous donations

CCHS is grateful and proud to announce that our members have donated over \$3,000 in response to our request for donations to help funding for the historical society! Your donations this year will help relieve the cuts the Clay County Commission was forced to make to the historical society's 2003 and 2004 funding due to the state budget situation.

More good news is that the Commissioners restored CCHS' funding for 2005 to the amount originally requested in 2003. This amount might have been more without the previous cuts, however, and our rent in the Hjemkomst Center and the cost of producing superior educational exhibits increases each year. Some specific needs we have are shelving for the archives, muslin for textile preservation, a

large format printer for reproducing photos and documents for exhibits, a small shop vac, and tarps for the 1936 Buffalo Fire Engine.

We are genuinely grateful for the support that has been shown. If you have not yet responded to our request, we kindly ask that you consider doing so now. Perhaps you would like to donate \$25 to purchase a shelf or \$150 for a bookcase. \$50 would purchase a bolt of muslin or go toward a good shop vac. You may submit your donation for general operations or designate it for one of these specific purposes. Whatever your decision, we want you to know that your membership and continued support is greatly appreciated. Happy New Year!

Listed here are those individuals and businesses who have answered our appeal with their thoughtful contributions. Thank you so much!!

ACE Hardware  
Norman B. Akesson  
Col. Milton & Armored Arneson  
Robert & Dorothy Belsly  
Aldrich & Meredith Bloomquist  
Rick & Anne Brakke  
Bob Brekken  
Dorothy Carey  
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Edna Rude  
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Phil & Adeline Seljevoll  
Terry Shoptaugh  
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Mildred Skugrud  
Jim & Chris Stenerson  
Roger & Joan Stenerson  
Don & Rose-Mary Strom  
Diane Sylte  
Aubrey & Catherine Thomas  
Phyllis W. Thysell  
Arnold Tranby  
Dick Vollbrecht  
Olaf & Rhoda Wicker  
Evert & Delores Wiisanen  
Edgar & Virginia Wright



## Outreach Displays

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
Hawley Public Library	October	January
Moorhead Public Library	Woodcarvers' display	
Barnesville Public Library	October	January
Fargo CVB	November	January

*EATING OUT*, showing artifacts and photos from CCHS' award-winning exhibit *Eating Out in Clay County*, is at the Hawley Public Library. The artifacts and photos "visit" cafes and restaurants and eating at work and school.



The Moorhead Public Library hosts a special display starting in November created by the Red River Valley Wood Carvers. The display features a large Noah's ark with animals carved by members of the club. The club holds meetings at the Hjemkomst Center.



Part 2 of *BOYS' TOYS* is at the Barnesville Public Library. This display features active toys recalling days of noisy activity. Be prepared to knuckle down with these playthings from the past.

The Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors' Bureau along I-94 has *COLLECTING CHRISTMAS PAST*, a display (WWII to 1960) featuring examples of collectible Christmas decorations from World War II to the 1960s.

## IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

Five generations of Charlotte Watson family wedding dresses from the *Old, New, Borrowed, Blue* exhibit are featured in the atrium display case. The dresses cover more than 100 years of wedding fashion, from 1865 bell-shaped skirts to the 1977 frontier-revival style.

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

## Artifacts & Donors

### September/October 2004

#### Donors:

Moorhead: Renee Betz, Robert & Dorothy Belsly, Terry Shoptaugh, Ona Langerud, Carroll Engelhardt, Churches United for the Homeless  
Glyndon: Dalan Rasmussen  
Hawley: Margaret Ristvedt  
Eglon Township Board of Supervisors  
Fargo: Clara P. Evenson, Gertrude Hansmann-Smith  
West Fargo: Alice Ellingsberg  
Edina, MN: Robert J. Hest  
Seal Beach, CA: Doris Eastman

**Artifacts:** (2 books) *Images of America: Moorhead, Minnesota* by Terry Shoptaugh; copy of manuscript *The Unhallowed Hollow: Prostitution in Victorian Fargo and Moorhead* by Carroll Engelhardt; color photo of the 1985 Dale Store auction; Buckskin Harry's scrapbook, letterhead etc.; (10) boxes of Eglon Township records; photo postcard for Hi-way 10 & Riverside Inn Motel, Hawley (early 1950s); photos of Moorhead Laundry, Hoffaker's Butcher Shop interior, Carlson & Olson Saloon interior; Merry Mixers Home Makers' Club minutes book (1956-1977) and Mable Grover's nurse's uniform and apron; windmill well (1928-1946) from Moorhead Township; from St. Ansgar's Hospital, Moorhead a baby bassinet, (2) patient gowns & doctor's bag and jacket; (2) men's stiff-front shirts (before mid-1920s); mahogany telephone booth from Hawley (originally from Omaha, Nebr.) dated 1953; wedding booklet, copies of photos and wedding suit of Edward Moe worn on July 9, 1939 [see feature story, page 7]

From the Churches United Building at 203-6<sup>th</sup> Street South, Moorhead: (4) Boarding/Lodging House Licenses: 2004, 2002, 1997 and 1996 for that site; (2) signs explaining services and duties; (7) children's books from various sources.

# Do you have the **UGLIEST** **BRIDESMAID DRESS?**

Find out in our

## **UGLIEST BRIDESMAID DRESS CONTEST**

**February 1—March 27**

**Accepting submissions now!**

Space is limited: first come, first served

**Submit your entries at the  
Clay County Museum, Monday-Friday, 9-5**

CCHS is looking for the ugliest bridesmaid dress in Clay County! Oh, now brides, don't get all up in arms—it's all in good fun, plus there are prizes!

While it could be fun to see what people can find on the thrift store racks, we must have the date of the crime and names of the perpetrators submitted with the offensive garment to ensure authenticity. The "outfits" will be displayed in the atrium hall case February 1 through March 27, where the public will be asked to vote on their favorites for Worst Color, Worst Design, Least Offensive, and What Was She Thinking?

Because we know that few people save room in their closets for these eyesores, we have provided a category for Worst Creation Captured On Film, with a prize for those who have, for some reason, kept a photographic record of the atrocity they were forced to endure for the sheer happiness of their friend, sister or cousin. We applaud you for sacrificing your physical and emotional comfort for our entertainment, and offer this occasion as an opportunity for therapy. We invite you to humor us!

## *Here Comes the Bride:* *Weddings in America* exhibit opens January 22

The bride is the central figure in an almost universal ritual—the wedding. Each wedding is a symbol of family continuity that signals the end of a courtship and the beginning of a marriage. While courtship and marriage have changed dramatically throughout history, many elements of the wedding itself have remained remarkably unaltered.

*Here Comes the Bride: Weddings in America*, an exhibit opening January 22 at the Clay County Museum, explores the history of weddings in America from Colonial times up to the present day. The traveling exhibit was developed by the Rogers Historical Museum in Rogers, Arkansas.



Wedding portrait of unidentified couple, 1900 to 1910.

The twelve exhibit panels discuss a variety of topics including courtship, wedding attire, decorating for the wedding, the wedding ceremony itself, wedding gifts, and the honeymoon. One panel is devoted to ethnic wedding customs, while another looks at the influence of royal weddings.

Changes in the wedding dress itself is one focus of the exhibit. Other interesting topics include the evolution of the wedding cake, the history of the diamond engagement ring, fashions in bridal bouquets, the beginnings of the gift registry, and changes in the honeymoon. An interactive portion of the exhibit invites visitors to fill three "hope chests"

### *Here Comes the Bride, continued*

with illustrations of costumes, wedding gifts, and other items appropriate to three periods in American history.



The wedding of George Washington and Martha Custis, January 1759, from a circa 1854 lithograph by Renier after a painting by Junius Brutus Tearn. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

The final panel looks at recent changes in marriage and weddings. The immediate aftermath of World War II was a period of emphasis on home and family that encouraged early marriage. This coupled with postwar prosperity resulted in the big, white wedding becoming a normal part of middle-class life, and weddings became a big business.

Despite all the expense put into the ceremonies, many of these postwar marriages ended in divorce, and many couples now choose to live together without any sort of legal bond. But with all the changes in courtship and marriage, weddings continue to fascinate us. Television soap opera and sitcom weddings have been among the most-watched episodes in history, and millions tuned in for the real-life wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Di. Now as throughout history it seems that everyone loves a bride!

*Here Comes the Bride* is being hosted by CCHS to complement the current exhibit *Old, New, Borrowed, Blue: Weddings in Clay County*. *Here Comes the Bride* will be on view at the museum through March 12 during regular museum hours, which can be found on page 15.

## Consider memorials and gift memberships to CCHS in 2005

For that special person on your list who has everything, a contribution to the Clay County Historical Society is a perfect gift! Consider recognizing someone you love or want to honor with an investment in the CCHS Endowment Fund or with a gift membership to the historical society; a card noting your investment can be sent in the name of someone you love for any event:

- Birth of a child or grandchild
- Special event
- Honor your mentor
- Anniversary
- And many more...

To find out how to make your gift, contact Lisa at 218-299-5520, or complete and send the form included in this newsletter issue.

## Romance Raffle features dinner at Sarello's

To accompany our new exhibit *Old, New, Borrowed, Blue: Weddings in Clay County*, CCHS is holding the "Romance Raffle" as a fun fundraiser! The drawing for the raffle will be held at CCHS on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. (need not be present to win).



**1st Prize**—\$100 gift certificate for Sarello's Restaurant in Moorhead (sponsored by Voxland Electric)

**2nd Prize**—One yard of hand-made Bobbin Lace by CCHS Curator Pam Burkhardt



**3rd Prize**—Scandinavian Iron candle holder from HHIC

Other prizes include one dozen gorgeous red roses, \$20 toward creative framing for a photo of your choice by expert framer Steve Johnson, and a gift certificate for Widman's Chocolate.

Tickets for the raffle are \$2 each, and can be purchased at the CCHS Office Monday through Friday, or from CCHS Staff and Board Members.

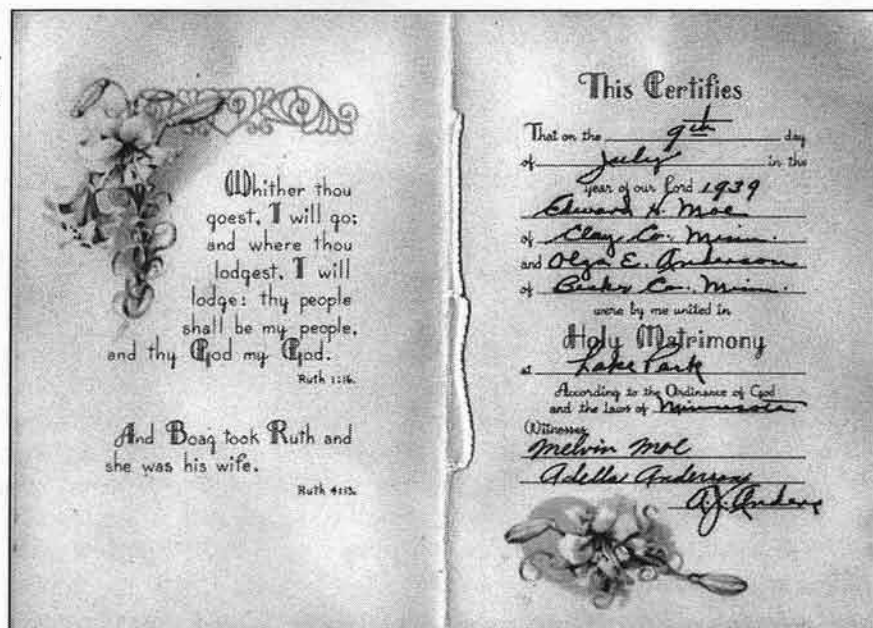


# A Wedding Story:

## Edward Moe and Olga Anderson

By Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager

Information comes to the museum and archives from many sources. Among the best are first-person accounts of an event. When Ona Langerud donated Edward Moe's wedding suit, she also donated a wedding booklet, transcript of the newspaper account of the wedding, and photos for us to copy. She identified the people in the photos for us and explained relationships. The wedding booklet is a real gem. Olga Anderson, later Mrs. Moe, took the time to record bridal showers, her wedding reception and wedding trip. Focusing on that material and more from other sources, we can form a more complete picture of Edward and Olga's story.



The following account was found in the Becker County history album circa 1976, Atlanta Township section, page 127. Adella Mikulecky wrote the history. A condensed version follows:

Ole Anders Son Mulsvor married Oline Seljseth in 1887. Both were born in Horningdal, Norfjord, Norway. The couple came to American in 1902. Ole changed his name from Mulsvor to Anderson when he settled in Minnesota. The couple had four children – one of which was Olai Anderson. Olai married Pernella Seljseth in July 1916 and eventually settled on a farm on Sec. 23 in Atlanta Township. Pernella also came from Horningdal. Olai and Pernella had two daughters - Olga (Mrs. Edward Moe) and Adella (Mrs. George Mikulecky). The Anderson farm was sold to the Mattson brothers.

The "Our Wedding Day" booklet has a 1938 copyright from Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The front page has the official seal of Albert J. Anders, EV Lutheran Pastor. From the title pages to the center are Bible verses appropriate to marriage accompa-

nied by floral images. The right-hand page records the marriage [shown this page]. From the next page to the end, Olga kept a record of events and gifts.

### Olga's record

Olga recorded names and gifts in this booklet in the space labeled "Guests." She also used a separate sheet of paper for the overflow. Olga also recorded two showers:

Shower given at Mattsons the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June – a Sunday. Lovely weather. It was held on the lawn, a mock wedding first. Robert McKeegan, bride & Edith Mikulecky groom. Others: Lucille Mattson, Lila Selseth, Mrs. Oscar Bengsten as minister. Palma Mattson and Mervin Mattson. Alfin Selseth, Frank Milulecky, Elmer Olson. Girls as boys & boys as girls. After lunch we played croquet.

Girls in Minneapolis gave me a handkerchief shower on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, the same Sunday [a] tornado hit Anoka. Held at Hawks.

Continued next page...

Decorations were pink and white. Received 12 lovely handkerchiefs. Also 8 hemmed towels. Lovely underwear from Adella. Buffet style lunch. Olga Mattson poured. Had a lot of fun.

Olga didn't record details of the ceremony, but the *Lake Park Journal* of July 13, 1939 did:

#### Married at Local Church

The Lake Park Lutheran church was the setting Sunday (July ninth) of the marriage of Miss Olga E. Anderson, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Olai Anderson of Lake Park and Mr. Edward H. Moe, some of Mr. Jacob Moe of Hitterdal. The service was read at two o'clock by Rec. A.J. Anders in the presence of 400 wedding guests.

Mrs. A.J. Anders played the *Lohengrin* wedding march and *O' Promise Me* and *At Dawning* were sung by Misses Palma, Lucille, Opal and Matel Mattson of Hitterdal, with Miss Eunice Eide of Hitterdal as the pianist.

The bride, given in marriage by her father wore silk marquisette gown with net veil and carried sweet peas and baby's breath. She wore the wedding brooch of the bridegroom's mother. As maid of honor, Miss Adella Anderson of Minneapolis, sister of the bride, was gowned in embroidered organdy and carried sweet peas and baby's breath. Bridesmaids were Mrs. John Moe and Miss Alice Moe of Hitterdal and Miss Inez Olson of Pelican Rapids, and Miss Sylvia Moe, a niece of the bride was flower girl. Mrs. Melvin Moe was his brother's attendant while groomsmen were Messers. Roy, John and Arnold Moe, all of Hitterdal.

A reception was held in the home of the brides' parents, the out-of-town guests included Mr. and Mrs. Sivert



Moe of Glyndon; Mr. And Mrs. Bernard Moe of Cormorant, Mr. And Mrs. Peter Sande of Fargo and Mrs. George Flagle and daughter, Helen of Detroit, Michigan. Mr. And Mrs. Moe will be at home in Hitterdal after a wedding trip to northern Minnesota.

The *Journal* joins with their many friends in wishing the happy young couple along and happy wedded life.

#### Olga's reception.

At about two forty five o'clock we came out of the church after many best wishes, Maurice Handegard and Mrs. K. Thorsen took several snap shots. After that we left for home in our car with Melvin & Adella, Melvin driving. Art Moe following close behind. We mingled a while with the guests. About four o'clock we had lunch. A table for 19 was set under the trees. About 50 other guests were served buffet style. Adella seated the table of 19. Mr. & Mrs. Anders, Mother & Dad, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Moe, Mr. & Mrs. John Moe, Grandma & Grandpa Arnold, Fay Alice Moe Sylvia Olson, Adella Melain, Inez Olson, Eddie & I. Chicken & cheese sandwiches, lefsa, potato salad, fatigmand, cookies, ice cream with strawberries and wedding cake. Serving were Olga Mattson, Ella Bakke, Adelinde Bokken, Sylvia Lundberg,

Continued page 11...



The wedding reception was held at the bride's home in Cuba Township in rural Lake Park. Members of the wedding party are (left to right): Rev. Anders, Mrs. Anders, Roy Moe, Alice Moe, Olai Anderson, Melvin Moe, Pernella Anderson, Adella Anderson (behind flower girl), Sylvia Moe (flower girl), Jacob Moe (his wife is behind him but doesn't appear in photo), bride Olga, groom Edward, Arnold Moe, Inez Olson, John Olson, Margaret Nelson Moe.



# Birth Record Access Threatened

By Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist

This is another of those good news-bad news stories. The good news is that two new online indexes are making access to birth and marriage records much easier. The bad news is proposed federal legislation may make accessing birth records nearly impossible for genealogists.

First the good news. Our readers may recall that earlier this year the Clay County Recorder's Office added an index to deaths recorded in the county between 1872 and 1982 to their website. Just last month, they added an online index to Clay County marriages, 1872-1939. Information recorded on the index includes the groom's name, bride's maiden name, date of the marriage and the book and page on which the marriage is recorded. This is probably all most genealogists need but the Recorder can provide a copy of the marriage record for \$8.00. The index is searchable by the groom's name or by the bride's maiden name.

Go to <http://www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/Recorder/Recorder.htm> and click on the "Vital Statistics" link then click on either the "Death Record Index On-Line" or "Marriage Record Index On-Line" link.

Some more good news. A few years ago the Minnesota Historical Society, through the cooperation of the Minnesota Department of Health, added an online index to all Minnesota death certificates filed between 1908 and 1996. In 1908 the state health department began recording deaths and births state-wide. Previously this was the responsibility of local and county officials. Also indexed, however, are "death cards," transcriptions of death records filed locally between 1900 and 1907. These transcripts are incomplete and only partially filled in. They are not

official records but can provide researchers with valuable information including the county in which the complete death record may be found. The death index can be found at <http://people.mnhs.org/dci/Search.cfm>.

Early in November MHS began an ambitious project

25599.		(TOWN, VILLAGE, CITY)		COUNTY
BIRTH, 1902.		Apr 2		Stearns
Name	Orville John Parks		White	Male
Father's name	Elmer E.		Age	23
Occupation	Laborer		Birthplace	Minnesota
Mother's maiden name	Pearl Thrasher		Age	19
Occupation	Housewife		Birthplace	Minnesota
Number of child	1			
Attending physician or midwife	E. J. Lewis		Address	Stearns
Reporter	E. J. Lewis		Address	Stearns

Sample Birth Card from the Minnesota Historical Society's (MHS) Minnesota Birth Certificates Index web page. Many birth cards are only partially filled in. Copies are available for \$8.00 through the index web page. Courtesy MHS.

to add an online index to Minnesota births as well. Currently indexed are birth cards, similar to the death cards, from 1900 through 1907. The official Health Department birth records will be added over the next few years; 1908 will be added soon. Eventually births records from 1908 through 1934 will be indexed. (Incidentally, many genealogists are unaware of an existing state-wide index to post-1934 Minnesota births. Though not available on the internet, public use terminals are available in any County Recorder's Office in the state.) Not every birth record will be available. Records of illegitimate births, for instance, are kept sealed to protect the privacy of those involved for 90 years, longer if an adoption is involved.

Continued next page...

PLACE OF BIRTH		STATE OF MINNESOTA		Division of Vital Statistics		220	
County of <u>Witkin</u>		TOWNSHIP of <u>Seaway</u>		VILLAGE of <u>Witkin</u>		CITY of <u>Witkin</u>	
FULL NAME OF CHILD <u>Frank Oliver Garity</u>		COPIED		RECORDED		Registered No. <u>3</u>	
SEX OF CHILD <u>Boy</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>	DATE OF BIRTH <u>1905</u>
FATHER <u>John Henry Garity</u>		MOTHER <u>E. L. Garity</u>		FATHER <u>John Henry Garity</u>		MOTHER <u>E. L. Garity</u>	
RESIDENCE <u>Witkin</u>		RESIDENCE <u>Witkin</u>		RESIDENCE <u>Witkin</u>		RESIDENCE <u>Witkin</u>	
COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>1903</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>1903</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>1903</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>1903</u>
BIRTHPLACE <u>New York City - N.Y.</u>		BIRTHPLACE <u>New York City - N.Y.</u>		BIRTHPLACE <u>New York City - N.Y.</u>		BIRTHPLACE <u>New York City - N.Y.</u>	
OCCUPATION <u>Farmer</u>		OCCUPATION <u>Housewife</u>		OCCUPATION <u>Farmer</u>		OCCUPATION <u>Housewife</u>	
Number of Child of this Mother <u>1st</u>		Number of Child of this Mother, now living <u>12</u>		Number of Child of this Mother, now living <u>12</u>		Number of Child of this Mother, now living <u>12</u>	
<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that I attended the birth of above child, and that it occurred on <u>Sept 11</u>, 190<u>5</u>, at <u>Witkin</u>.</p> <p>When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, household head, etc., should make this return. See instructions on back.</p> <p>Given or Christian name added from a supplemental report <u>1905</u></p> <p>REGISTRAR <u>John H. Garity</u></p> <p>Address <u>Witkin</u></p> <p>File No. <u>12</u></p> <p>Address <u>Witkin</u></p>							

Sample Birth Certificate from the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) Minnesota Birth Certificates Index web page. Courtesy MHS.

Just as with MHS' death index, it is possible to purchase uncertified copies of birth records through the website for \$8.00 per copy. Uncertified copies are not legal documents. This is an important distinction, as we shall see. Certified copies of birth and death records are legal documents and can be used to settle an estate, apply for a driver's license, a passport or a Social Security card. Nefarious people can also use them to steal a person's identity or in other types of fraud. In August 2000 Minnesota instituted new, tougher standards for who may receive a certified death or birth record. Applicants must now show they have a "tangible interest" in the record. According to the Health Department's website, "You have tangible interest in a certificate if you are: the subject of the certificate; if you are the child, grandchild, spouse, parent, grandparent, legal custodian, conservator, or guardian of the subject; if you are a personal representative of the estate of the subject; if you are a licensed attorney; if you are the person who filed or a representative of the organization that filed the birth or death information with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or a local registrar; a successor of the subject; a trustee of a trust and the requested record is a death record; or the representative of an adoption agency." Most

genealogists, however, don't require a certified record. Uncertified records contain the same information as certified records. They just lack an official seal.

MHS' birth record index will be a tremendous boon to genealogists all over the world – if it's allowed to continue. Here's the bad news. Proposed federal legislation may drastically restrict access to any kind of birth record.

After the September 11 attacks, Congress passed the Patriot Act, designed to give law enforcement officials greater powers to protect the nation from further attacks. The act is now up for renewal. One added provision to House Resolution 10 (Patriot Act II), "Chapter 2—Improved Security for Birth Certificates" would severely restrict states from issuing copies of birth records. Applicants would, basically, have to provide all the information on the birth record and certi-

icates could only be issued to the person whose birth is recorded and as yet unspecified close family relatives. The proposal provides no exemptions for uncertified copies or for or for any time limit on the restrictions.

The Act is on a fast track for passage. The House has passed the legislation and a similar bill has passed the Senate. A conference committee will meet to hash out differences in the bills. Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman is a member of that conference committee. Genealogical and historical societies from around the country (including MHS and the Minnesota Genealogical Society) are urging inclusion of an amendment to HR 10 Section 3063(d)(2) which reads as follows:

"However, nothing in this Chapter 2 shall be construed to require a State to change its law with respect to public access to (A) non-certified copies of birth certificates, or to (B) birth certificates or birth records once a period of 100 years has elapsed from the date of creation of the certificate or record." For further information check the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsgs/records.htm>. And stay tuned.



## Scrapbook, continued

Edith Mikulecky in white uniforms.

About five thirty o'clock, I changed my dress with Inez help (or was it) it included a good deal [of] rice. I wore a white felt hat, natural tan packable hopsacking with white saddle shoes. Eddie wore a light green sport suit. With rice all over and the car very decorated with soap & old stockings, tin cans etc. we drove out of the yard. Clarence Peterson trailed us to Callaway. From Callaway, we went to Ponsford north to Highway 71 on to No. 92 and into Itasca Park. Climbed the observation tower and drove in & out. And from there to Bemidji. Came into Bemidji about eleven o'clock. We found Uncle Elmer's cabins after congratulations of a cop. [Next day] Drove around Bemidji, saw Paul Bunyan & his Blue Ox. Had Buckwheat cakes & country sausages at [left blank in record].

Took Highway 71 on to International Falls. Saw where forest fire had passed and saw mill and an ever so long stretch of piled post[s]. Camped on Rainy Lake for a while. Left about 1 o'clock for Orr. [They stopped at a CCC camp.] We stayed over at Orr. Leave nine next morning. Drove to Virginia for breakfast. Visited the open mine then on to Hibbing. Went through Hibbing High School. On to Grand Rapids. Stopped a while at Leech Lake – a lovely place. On to Detroit [Lakes] where we went in the water. Home about 10 o'clock Tuesday nite.

Many gifts and givers are recorded in the booklet. Here are just a few with some typical presents:

Palma Mattson, pillow; Mr. & Mrs. Einar Krogen, lunch cloth; Otto Olson, towel; Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Haugen, cups and saucers; Mrs. J.J. Koenig, dish pan; Mrs. Oscar Solomson, rug; Carl & Rosalie, Pyrex; Adella [Anderson], kitchen set of forks, knives, spoons; Mrs. Sig Wenstrum, double boiler.

More gifts are recorded on a separate sheet:

Lillian Mattson, Fostoria set; Mrs. Albert Lee & Family, Glasses & tea pot; Mrs. Gust Mjos, apron & scarf; Mrs. & Mrs. Stanley Gadsny,

Continued next page...

## Update on 1941 Northwest Plane Crash Passenger

Many of our members have commented on the article about the crash of Northwest Airlines flight Number 5 which ran in our last newsletter. Several folks noticed that we provided information about all of the victims of the crash except Miss Helen Ford. They were interested in who this "mystery woman" was and why she was on the plane. The *Fargo Forum* reported only that Miss Ford, age 33 "had lived in both Minneapolis and Fargo for several years," and that her body was being transported to Mason City, Iowa for burial. The *Forum* printed a small, fuzzy (irreproducible) photo of Miss Ford.



Photo of Helen Ford from the Mason City (IA) *Globe-Gazette*.

The *Moorhead Daily News* indicated Miss Ford was "survived by her mother, Mrs. Mae Ford of Mason City, Iowa." We could find no other obituary for her in either local paper, nor was she listed in the 1936, 1938 or 1940 Fargo Moorhead city directories.

We contacted the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society in Mason City. They provided an obituary from the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* for Miss Ford which said, "Operator of a ready-to-wear store in Fargo, she was born at Monmouth, Ill. Sept. 10, 1908. She attended the Mason City schools and was graduated from the High School, following which she attended the Hamilton School of Commerce.

"Ten years ago she left Mason City for employment in Minneapolis. Two years ago she went to Fargo where she opened a ready-to-wear store. She was returning to Fargo from Minneapolis at the time of the crash.

"Her mother is the only immediate relative surviving."

The 1940 Fargo city directory lists 31 men's and women's clothing stores. We checked the listings for each but could no connection with Miss Ford to any of them. However, she may have just had a local manager for the business. A later *Globe-Gazette* piece about her funeral mentioned among the guests from out of town a "Mrs. Gladys Hall, Fargo." She's the only guest listed from Fargo-Moorhead. Mrs. Hall is mentioned only a couple of times in the city directories, in 1938 and 1940, as proprietor of the Broadway Hotel, 322 ½ Broadway. It's possible that Miss Ford lived at the Broadway Hotel on trips to visit her store and got to know Mrs. Hall that way. This would explain why Miss Ford was not listed in the city directories.

If anyone has any further information about Helen Ford, please contact Mark at the museum. Thanks!



**Scrapbook, continued**

pickle dish; Mrs. Geo. Anderson & Annie, black water pitcher; Grandma, Indian blanket, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Moe, carving set; Mrs. Anton Quam, cake carrier; Mrs. D. Koeing, sugar & creamer; Mr. & Mrs. Gust Bengston, canister set; Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Bengston, ivy plant, Mrs. E.B. Hitterdal/Mrs. Arthur Moe/Miss Helen Moe, Heavy aluminum [pots & pans]; Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Gjelton family, alarm clock.

From the book *Hitterdal, 100 Years*, the Minnesota Death Index located on the MHS site, and information from the family, we learn the rest of the story. Mr. & Mrs. Edward Moe first settled in Hitterdal. Edward bought the former Wilcox Lumber property where he owned and operated Moe Implement – a dealership selling Minneapolis-Moline machinery. After their implement shop burned, they moved the business to an old potato warehouse. Later, Edward and Olga moved to Atlanta Township, in Becker Co. where Edward expanded his farming operation. After their children were grown, Edward and Olga built a house in Hitterdal. Their children are Sandra, Yvette, twins Mark and Mathew, twins Ona and Tim, and Gregory. Olga died in 1991, and Edward 1997. They were married 52 years.

# A Look Back...

## 50 Years Ago

*Moorhead Daily News*, December 31, 1954

Headline: "Construction of Four-Lane Highway to Begin from Hawley to Lake Park"

*Moorhead Daily News*, January 3, 1955

Women who suffer from the scornful term, "women drivers," may not be able to prove they are the equal of a man driving a car but Moorhead women now can claim they're better on foot.

A class at the University of Minnesota undertook a study of pedestrian behavior, including a one-day survey last week at Center Ave. and 6th st. from 2 to 2:15 p.m. Counted were 69 men and 51 women, with the women coming off best in proper observance of pedestrian traffic rules.

The majority of the 120 people waited on the curb but nine men walked against the red light; only three women. Ten men edged off the curb into the street while waiting for the light to change; seven women took the same chance. Two men and one woman disregarded the yellow caution signal and were caught in the middle of the intersection by the red light.

(Note to the men: the survey was taken by a woman.)

## New CCHS Memberships & Renewals

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

### NEW MEMBERS

Lois Becksfort, Moorhead  
Harmon Glass Doctor, Moorhead  
Hal F. Janneck, Vancouver, WA

### RENEWALS

Robert L. & Selma Anderson, Mhd  
Gary & Rose Bergan, Hawley  
Beverly Coleman, Moorhead  
Robert & Mary Davies, Moorhead  
Janet Dolva, Hawley  
Vincent & Jean Dolva, Hawley  
John & Audrey Elton, Hawley  
Art & Gwen Erickson, Moorhead  
Burnice Everson, Hawley

Marion Formanek, Moorhead  
Clifford Gilbertson, North Saint Paul  
Lawrence & Belle Gilbery, Moorhead  
Hazel Haarstad, Detroit Lakes  
Waldo E. Hatledal, Hawley  
Helen M. Hedelund, Moorhead  
Adrie Israelson, Wolverton, MN  
Carol M. Johnson, Centennial, CO  
Audrey Z. Jones, Lexington, KY  
Evelyn Keeping Hansen, Hawley  
Marilyn Krogh, Fort Collins, CO  
Lois L. Kundert, Fargo  
Gary Landgraf, Moorhead  
Morrie & Ruth Lanning, Moorhead  
Sam Leathes, Dilworth  
Shirley A. Manning, Fargo  
Matt & Zona Mathison, Moorhead  
Arloine Mithun, Moorhead  
Larry & Janet Nelson, Fargo

Joseph Pederson, Hawley  
Dewey & Margery Possehl, Moorhead  
Donna M. Richards, Fargo  
George C. Shippey, Fallbrook, CA  
Jim Steen, Moorhead  
Shirley Stelter, Moorhead  
Marjorie A. Stoa, Fargo  
Dorothy M. Storandt, Moorhead  
Ruth Swanson, Moorhead  
Kenneth & Mary Tangen, Moorhead  
Mary Ellen Thompson, Roseville, MN  
Phyllis W. Thysell, Fargo  
Marvin A. Tingdahl, Lancaster, CA  
Mark & Donna Voxland, Moorhead  
Wayne & Loanna Wagstrom, Mhd  
Marrion E. Walsh, Moorhead  
Dale D. White, Moorhead  
Phyllis Wirries, Moorhead  
Maxine Workman, Moorhead  
John, Jr. & Betty Young, Hawley

## CCHS accepts AASLH Award in St. Louis

On September 29, CCHS Director Lisa Vedaa flew to St. Louis, Missouri, to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History and accept the Certificate of Commendation AASLH awarded CCHS for the exhibit *Eating Out in Clay County*.



The AASLH Awards Program, now in its 59th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state, and regional history. The awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States.

Awards for 2004 represent 102 organizations and individuals from the United States. Award winners were honored at a special banquet Thursday night, September 30, during the AASLH 2004 Annual Meeting. A generous contribution from The History Channel helped underwrite the cost of the Awards Banquet for the award winners.

AASLH also gave each award recipient one free day at the

conference, so Vedaa was able to take in sessions on topics of organizational change in history organizations, leadership issues, and building successful community financial relationships, and even had a little time for a steamboat ride and to ride to the top of the famous Gateway Arch.

## Calendar

June 2004—March 27, 2005

*Old, New, Borrowed, Blue: Weddings in Clay County*

August 13, 2004—January 16, 2005

*Mexicanos in the Red River Valley* photo exhibit

Jan. 8, 2005

Rok Day, traditional spinning and weaving, Fiber Artists Guild members

January 22—March 12

*Here Comes the Bride: Weddings in America* traveling exhibit from Rogers Historical Museum

February 1—March 27

"Ugliest Bridesmaid Dress Contest" display & public voting

February 14

3:00 p.m. Prize Drawings for Romance Raffle at Clay County Museum (need not be present to win)

Feb. 26, 2005

"Displays on a Shoe String" FM Communiversity class with tips on making displays with a tight budget by Pam Burkhardt

Schedule subject to change

The Last One Hundred Years in

# MOORHEAD

MINNESOTA

## 1900-2000

A black and white photograph of a street scene in Moorhead, Minnesota, showing historic buildings and cars.

**A Century of Change!**

Published by Heritage Publications in collaboration with the Clay County Historical Society

## A Great Gift for 2005!

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

Also available: *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 to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561.

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

## Sponsor, Patron, Sustaining and Supporting Memberships

This segment of our newsletter keeps growing every issue! Thank you to all of our wonderful members for your tremendous support! Please help us thank these business members for supporting the Clay County Historical Society by patronizing them:

### **SPONSOR (\$500+)**

**Please consider supporting CCHS at this prestigious membership level!**

### **PATRON (\$200-\$499)**

Mac's, Inc.

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Korsmo Funeral Service  
Moorhead Antique Mall  
Moorhead Area Public Schools  
Moorhead Area Retired Educators  
Moorhead Drug Company  
Moorhead Kiwanis  
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Harmon Glass Doctor of Moorhead  
McLarnan, Hannaher & Skatvold  
Melberg Church Supply

Moorhead Midday-Central Lions  
Richtman's Press Club  
Stenerson Lumber  
Ward Muscatell Automotive Group  
Wells Fargo Bank MN, N A, Mhd  
Wright Funeral Home

Sincere thanks goes to these individuals in the Patron, Sustaining, and Supporting membership levels!

### **Individual Patron (\$200-\$499)**

Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead  
Richard T. McMurray, Annandale, VA  
Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter, MN

### **Individual Sustaining (\$100-\$199)**

Robert & Selma Anderson  
Roland & Carolyn Barden  
Kevin & Kristy Campbell  
John Caron  
Paul & Joyce Eidbo  
John & Audrey Elton  
Burton & Catherine Grover  
Andre & Emily Hougum  
E. Robert & Donna Olson  
Esther Olson  
Lynne Olson  
Charlotte Onstine  
L. Maynard & Elaine Oss  
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Elsie Pitsenbarger  
Donna M. Richards  
Bill & Evelette Snyder  
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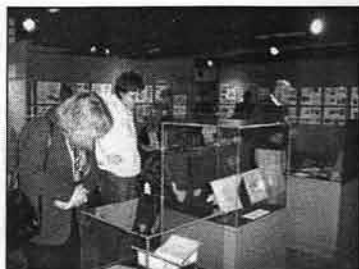
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Dale D. White  
Dick & Kathy Zaylskie



## CCHS 2004—Year in Review



German POW Art & Artifacts



2004-2005 Board of Directors



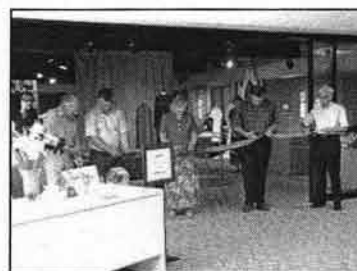
Lewis & Clark Tour



Kate Plagman-Concordia Intern



Jamie Fors-Concordia Intern



Wedding exhibit Grand Opening



Bergquist Cabin Open House



Clay County History Tour



Jane decorating Christmas tree

## Old New Borrowed Blue

*Weddings in Clay County*

30 dresses from 1865—1977,  
photographs and Hands-on Center

Through March 27, 2005

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



# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- ☐ Individual\* \$20                      ☐ Sustaining \$100  
☐ Family\* \$35                              ☐ Patron \$200  
☐ Supporting \$50                          ☐ Sponsor \$500

\*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
- ♦ Access to CCHS history 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 with check for dues payment to:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Visit our website! [www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history](http://www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history)

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