

The Hourglass

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1 • Spring 2010

2010 Annual Meeting

Tickets: \$25



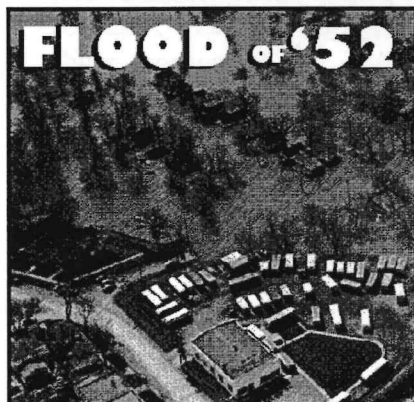
March 11th, 2010

Join us for refreshments and a walk through the Flaten-Wange exhibit at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and program at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy a local-foods dinner and a small silent auction of locally-made-goods baskets. Elect new members to the board. Be a part of your history and cultural heritage society.

**RSVP no later than February 24th, 2010
to Tim at**

**tim.jorgensen@ci.moorhead.mn.us or call
218-299-5511 Ext.6737 with your choice of
Bison Roast with potatoes and carrots,
Italian Pork Sausage Lasagna,
or Vegetable Lasagna.**

(all three choices are served with salad, rolls and dessert)



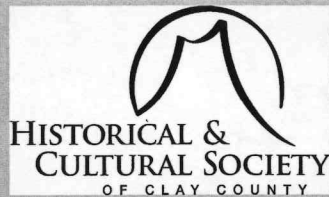
Also in this issue...

Thanks for Volunteering! page 7

The Flood of '52 page 8

Two Old Moorhead Buildings
to get Rehab page 14

Exhibition & Event
Calendar 2010 page 18



202 First Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56561-0157
218-299-5511 • www.hjemkomst-center.com
www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history/

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darren Leno, President, Moorhead
Barb Bertschi, Vice President, Fargo
Neil Jordheim, Treasurer, Fargo
Pearl Quinnild, Secretary, Barnesville
Jon Evert, County Rep., Moorhead
Rose Bergan, Hawley
Gloria Lee, Georgetown
Gene Prim, Barnesville
Helen Olson, Hawley
Joyce Pettinger, Fargo
Jim Saueressig, Fargo
Duane Walker, Moorhead
Kelly Wambach, Moorhead
Dale White, Moorhead

STAFF

Maureen Kelly Jonason, Interim Executive Dir.
maureen.jonason@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager
lisa.vedaa@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Mark Peihl, Archivist
mark.peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Markus Krueger, Visitor Services Coordinator
markus.krueger@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Tim Jorgensen, Events Coordinator
tim.jorgensen@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Brienne Carlsrud, Marketing Coordinator
brienne.carlsrud@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Sandy Braaseth, Gift Shop Attendant
Lynn Catherine, Membership Assistant

CLAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wayne Ingersoll, District 1
Jerry Waller, District 2
Jon D. Evert, District 3
Kevin Campbell, District 4
Grant Weyland, District 5

Our thanks to the Moorhead City
Council for their continued support.

New Marketing Coordinator!



Hello! My name is Brianne Carlsrud, and I am the new marketing coordinator at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County at the Hjemkomst Center. I was born and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, and I graduated in December 2009 from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a degree in mass communications. During my free time, I enjoy reading,

writing, running and spending time with my friends and family. I am so excited to be here, and I look forward to meeting everyone! If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by my office at anytime. You can contact me directly at 218-299-5511 ext. 6736 or brianne.carlsrud@ci.moorhead.mn.us.

Email Address Request

We are in the beginning stages of having a fully developed member e-mail database. We have a few but would love more!

If you use e-mail regularly, please send your address to:

Lynn Catherine
lynn.catherine@ci.moorhead.mn.us

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of paper form, please note that to Lynn in the message.

**Anyone who submits their e-mail
address to Lynn before
May 1st receives a free Hjemkomst
Center lapel pin.**

Letter from the Board President ■ Darren Leno

Perpetuity

Perpetuity is a long time. To some of you, it may seem that I've been on the HCS board of directors for a perpetually long time. As this is my final column as President, I wanted to say thank you for allowing me to serve. I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed my involvement with the employees of HCS, its members, the community, elected officials, and your board of directors. I have been paid for my volunteer efforts many times over through the education I received on local history and politics, the likes of which is impossible to obtain in a classroom. Thanks again for the unique personal opportunity you have afforded me and my family.

Now back to perpetuity...

The staff and board members of HCS have a bold mission, one that requires thinking long term. Very long term, in fact.

In the care of HCS are nearly 30,000 artifacts that they are responsible for in perpetuity. *Forever!*

That's a mighty long time to make certain that the artifacts do not catch fire and burn up, to protect them from moths, damaging ultraviolet light, flooding, sewer backup, little fingers, broken water pipes and theft. They also need to preserve the stories surrounding these artifacts so that they can be interpreted and made relevant to future generations.

HCS also has an important archival collection that must be preserved, forever. Sometimes that means converting crumbling paper into digital information.

Another important part of who we are involves celebrating the cultural heritage of the region. We do this by spending a huge portion of our budget on outside exhibits and by building our own exhibits using our in-house resources.

The Hjemkomst Center, which the City of Moorhead owns and which HCS programs, is also where the community comes to celebrate and learn.

The Center gives our community a distinct identity, pride, and unique sense of place. The celebrations and exhibits hosted at the Hjemkomst Center each year add generously to our quality of life.



Just as HCS has a perpetual responsibility to the community, the community has a perpetual responsibility to HCS and the Hjemkomst Center. If it were suddenly gone someday, there would be a deep cultural and quality-of-life void that would be very difficult to fill. HCS and the Hjemkomst Center are a little bit like air – it's easy to take for granted, but if it should suddenly be removed, it will be sorely missed.

It is important to remember that the organization that we enjoy today was built over many years, by many people, many volunteers hours, many meetings between farsighted elected officials, community visionaries, and employees, all of whom gave generously of their time and treasure so as to ensure that future generations could be blessed with access to a rich cultural and historical experience.

Having come to know the HCS and Hjemkomst Center very well, I am in awe of what this community has accomplished. Building an institution like HCS and an architectural icon like the Hjemkomst Center has been a very long, difficult and serious task that has taken more than 100 years of combined effort, which continues to this day.

The citizens of the Clay County region have inherited this gift. It is yours to enjoy! Now the responsibility for all of us is to guard, nurture and protect this gift so that it can be handed to the next generation and beyond.

It's a long way to Perpetuity, but we can get there together.

Our Mission

To preserve, interpret and celebrate the history and culture of Clay County and the region.

HCS Interim Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason

As I write this message, the winter freeze continues and flood predictions begin. Amidst the usual impending disasters, we have, as always, much to celebrate. Our treasurer Neil Jordheim led a successful end-of-year donations campaign that left our bottom line in the black for 2009 in spite of lower admissions due to the economy and being closed for 30 days during last year's flood. We received a total of \$25,000 in grants last year, and we already started this year with two major awards from the MN Legacy Amendment: \$5962 toward a new microform reader/scanner/printer to which the Alex Stern Family Foundation contributed \$2500 last fall and \$10,688 for archival shelving. We hired a new marketing coordinator, Brianne Carlsrud, in January, and she is busy keeping us in the media as often as possible. We are off to a good start!

We have a strong board of hard-working individuals. Although we will say goodbye to our current president, Darren Leno, and long-time board member Joyce Pettinger at our annual meeting in March, we will look forward to electing a brand new board member and a new president. Board members have helped with policy, budget-planning, programming ideas and execution, and fundraising events and campaigns. We value their service and leadership.

We have many engaging events planned for the year. The annual meeting promises to be a fun time with a local-foods theme and another great history presentation by Mark Peihl on March 11. Our two biggest events return: Viking Village July 17 and 18 and Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures Nov. 13. In between, we have at least one special event a month including exhibit openings. Besides our quarterly newsletter, watch for postcard invitations and check out our Facebook Page for updates.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have closed a successful exhibit of *Lincoln's Legacy in ND* with supplemental information on his influence in Clay County as well. A number of school groups took advantage of our winter special of half-price admission and explored the Lincoln and Flaten-Wange exhibits using Markus's scavenger hunts. We look forward to lots of visitors to see our traveling exhibit of WWI and WWII posters through the end of May.

If you haven't been in to see the Flaten-Wange exhibit, it closes June 18, so hurry on in! There is always much to see at the Hjemkomst Center!

The new year is always a good time to reflect on the blessings of the past and the promises of a bountiful future. Happy Spring, Everyone.



Photo Provided by: The Hawley Herald

End-of-Year Giving Campaign

The following HCS members responded to our newsletter request for annual support:

Aldrich and Meredith Bloomquist
Leland and Dorothy Delger
Dorothy Garven
Robert L. Gerke
Fern Haiby
Ramona Kooren
Eileen Michels
Howard and Linda Roos
Roger Stenerson

As of Feb. 1, the following donors had responded to a special letter of request or a personal visit:

Anonymous \$5000
State Bank and Trust \$4000
Norman and Eunice Jones Foundation \$3000
Heartland Trust \$1000
Nancy and Neil Jordheim \$500
Jon and Phyllis Evert \$500
Mary Langer Gokey \$500
Gerald Sime \$250
Eventide \$250
Industrial Builders \$250
Elaine Baron \$250

Up to \$125
Joan Wralstad
Ron and Loretta Welch
HC and Zona Mathison
Glenn and Harriet Brown
Richard S. Sander
Michael and Jan Benson
Carl and June Bailey
Tom Lorentzen
Arthur Holmgren
Matthew and Meg Luther-Lindholm
Eldon Wollmann
Earl and Kathryn Stein
Border States Electric
Douglas Sillers
Union State Bank
Marcia Hardy

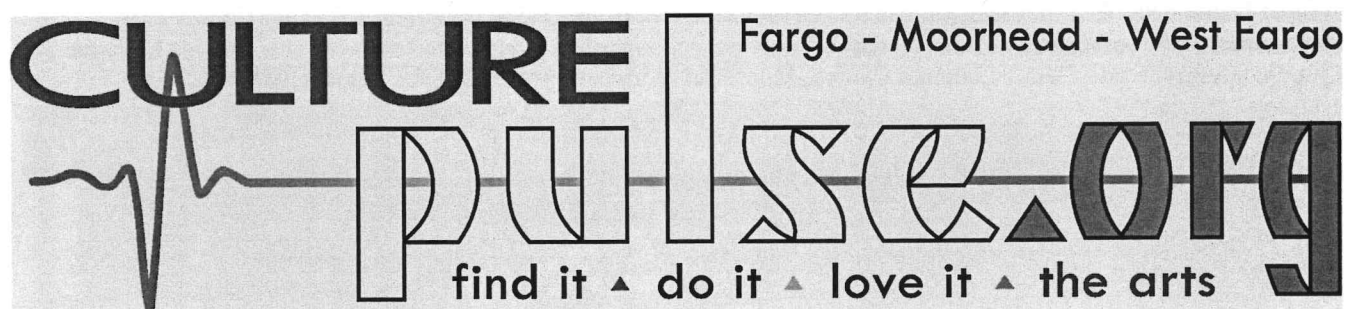
We thank each and every one of you for your generous support. If we have mistakenly missed acknowledging anyone, please let us know and we will make sure it is in the next newsletter.

Grant News!

HCS gratefully acknowledges the support of The Arts Partnership. This organization re-grants funds from the Cities of Moorhead, Fargo, and West Fargo each year for arts projects. HCS typically receives about \$2000 a year for our arts events. Be sure to check out their great on-line calendar of Moorhead-Fargo events at www.CulturePulse.org.



As a result of the Legacy Amendment funds, HCS has received two major Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants: \$10,688 for new archival shelving and \$5962 toward a new microform reader/scanner/printer/computer. We thank the taxpayers of MN for voting in favor of this support for arts and cultural programming. We also thank the Alex Stern Family Foundation for contributing \$2500 toward our equipment needs. This kind of generosity makes it possible for us to replace twenty-year old equipment with new technology that will last another twenty years and to plan for a long future in historical and cultural preservation.





Curator's Corner

By Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager

This episode of the Curator's Corner includes items accessioned May through December 2009! The Corner took a back seat for a little while, due to the plethora of material we had to fit into our 2009 special edition Tabloid in October, and also due to my absence while on parental leave October 18 through December 14. I sincerely apologize to any of our donors who have been anxiously waiting to see their donations listed. We do appreciate your donations! Please do consider contacting me if ever you have even an inkling that something you have come across might be needed for our collection. It might be just what we have been looking for, but we don't know unless you ask! Our main aim is to preserve items that document the history of Clay County and use these items to educate people about our history, which means we want to collect items we can use to tell the stories of the people, places and events that have occurred in Clay County.

May-December 2009 Accessions and Donors

Donors: Carol Crowder Astrup, Moorhead; Bob Backman, Moorhead; Leo Joe Baker, Moorhead; Kathie Burud, Fergus Falls, MN; Harold Christianson, Hawley; Concordia College Archives, Moorhead; Rosalie Goble, Georgetown; Morgan Gunderson, Hawley; Eunice Guthrie, Moorhead; Diane Henry, Pelican Rapids, MN; Diane Hitterdal, Rollag; Mrs. Ron (Dixie) Jackson, Moorhead; Bruce Kiefer, Perham; Arlyn Lang, Moorhead; William Lawrence, McMinnville, OR; Jerry Lein, Moorhead; Linda Ludeman, Moorhead; Eileen Michels, St. Paul, MN; North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Fargo; Dr. Ronald Olin, Fargo; Guy and Beva Paulson, Fargo; LeRoy Pixley, Moorhead; Margaret Ristvedt, Hawley; Lucia Schroeder, Dilworth; Bob Schultz, Glyndon; Gary Stahr, Fargo; University of Minnesota Extension Service of Clay County, Moorhead; Palma Wright, Moorhead; Robert E. Wright, Felton

Artifacts: (1) World War 1 Army uniform and related materials; (1) American Legion 9th District band uniform; (1) photo of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Brendemuhl in oval frame; (10) photos, snapshots of Hjemkomst ship in Hawley; commercial promotional items from Clay County businesses; (1) framed print of drawing of Minnesota State Capitol that hung in Felton School; cornhusker, woman's wool swimsuit, school geography book, and 1977 Clay County atlas; items from collection begun by Frida Nilssen for museum at Concordia College; directories for Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Barnesville and Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, Winston filtered cigarette, items related to sorority events at MSC ca 1960s, track uniforms and varsity letter, MSC freshman beanie, confirmation materials for Ulen Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1944 confirmation class, (1) vol. *Street Scenes of Ulen, MN, 1886-1986*, (1) vol. *Memories of Ulen & Vicinity*, Time-o-Lite projection table slide viewer, (2) dried prom corsages, (2) MSC Junior Senior Banquet and Prom programs, 1960 & 1961, Campfire Girls and Bluebirds items, *Military Sanitation* manual; (1) World War II Army uniform jacket and cap; (3) postcards: Lem Hawkins and KFGO, and Bernie Ostrom and his Minnesota Woodchoppers Orchestra; (1) photo of area people dressed in 18th century costume; (1) square nail from Fountain Family House, Hawley Township; (1) wedding dress, ca 1900-1909; (9) burlap potato bags, used in Elkton Township; (1) autographed program for dedication of replica Hopperstad Stave Church in Moorhead; letters written by Walter Manning while in service in World War I; materials from the Happy Feet 4-H program and 4-H Centennial Alumni Committee 2002; (1) handwritten marriage certificate on stationery from Clerk of District Court, Moorhead, MN, dated December 1, 1917; (3) sheets of photos from scrapbook, mostly Moorhead High School students, many identified, ca 1927; various school geography books, readers and spellers, volumes re: Freemasonry, Methodist Church publications, various booklets re: bird species, and a variety of other titles; military uniforms, Sears catalogs, dishes used on family farm, variety of cameras; (3) volumes: scrapbooks kept by Edwin and Vangie Geizser, Moorhead; lapel pins and membership card for the F-M Hoo-Hoo Club, No. 104; (1) volume, plat book of Cass County, North Dakota, 1893, (1) baptismal certificate, Emil Rudolph Olson, 1916, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead, (1) photo Emil Lambert threshing with steam engine about 1914; (2) rag rugs, (1) volume, atlas of Clay County, 1957, (2) volumes, financial records, Hawley, 1950 and 1952; (3) volumes, programs from Minnesota High School Basketball section 6A and state tournaments, 2003 and 2004; (1) volume, Wage-Hour Social Security Weekly Time Book, KVOX Radio, Moorhead, ca 1947-1952; (1) Ironrite pressing machine with user's manual

Thanks for Volunteering!

A special thank-you goes out to all of our volunteers. Our museum and the Hjemkomst Center could not operate without you!

We thank you for your many hours of dedicated service and the hospitality you show to our visitors.

If you are not a volunteer, please consider becoming one.
Contact Markus, Visitor Services Coordinator at
218-299-5511x6738

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

April 21, 2010 ■ 4:30-6 p.m. in the Hjemkomst Center Auditorium

Save the Date!

A dinner for all of our
Hjemkomst Center Volunteers.
Watch your mailboxes for your invitations!



The Flood of '52

By Markus Krueger, Visitor Services Coordinator

In April of 1952, the Red River reached heights that it had not seen since the great flood of 1897. Today, 1952's high water mark of 34.65 feet seems almost quaint when compared to our record of 40.82 set in March of 2009. It just barely makes it into the top ten historical crests of the Red River at Fargo-Moorhead. At the time, however, it caused 4,000 people in Fargo-Moorhead and hundreds of families across Clay and Cass counties to flee their homes.

The flood was particularly damaging because there were more people living in low-lying areas near the river. The two areas most vulnerable to flooding, the historic neighborhoods of The Point and Woodlawn, have mostly been converted to floodable city parks. Today The Point is called Viking Ship Park and lies between the Hjemkomst Center and the river. A few blocks of the Woodlawn neighborhood still survive near the old power plant but most of the neighborhood is now either part of Woodlawn Park or, because of a 1959-60 flood protection project that rerouted the river, part of North Dakota by the Island Park dike.

In 1952, however, Woodlawn and The Point were home to dozens of families that likely became very anxious every spring when the snow began to melt. It did not take much to flood them out. Most of the Moorhead residents affected by the flood of 1950 came from these two neighborhoods. One hundred Fargo-Moorhead families were forced from their homes that spring by the tiny 21.2 foot crest (official flood level was set at 17 feet at that time, a foot lower than today's mark). The flood of 1950 had a devastating impact downriver, however, where it broke through the dikes protecting Winnipeg, flooding nearly a quarter of the Red River's largest city. The flood forced 100,000 Winnipeggers to flee their homes in what is still the largest mass evacuation in Canadian history.

The flood fight of 1952 was very different than the one our community recently experienced, and not just because of 2009's higher crest level.

Instead of putting up a fight to save every house possible as we do today, the river in 1952 was allowed to basically go where it wanted to go. People simply got out of the way. Indeed, if your neighborhood starts flooding at 21 feet, there is little you can do to fight a 35 foot crest. Mavis Fredericks, one of our volunteers here at HCS, was a student at Moorhead High when the 1952 flood hit. "I don't ever remember them sandbagging when I was young," Mavis recalled, "You just moved." Since the 1952 flood, many of the homes that were impossible to save from yearly flooding have been removed, dikes have been built, floodgates have been added, and the river straightened to allow the floodwaters to move more quickly through town. All of these measures have made it conceivable to hold back the water, allowing our community to fight the flood instead of accept the flood's destruction.

Although the papers were not filled with calls for volunteers to help sandbag in 1952, there certainly were volunteers and neighbors helping neighbors. Many lent a hand by helping residents of the lower areas move their furniture to upper floors or to semi trailers parked on higher ground. So many residents offered up their homes to house family, friends, and strangers that few of the 4,000 Fargo-Moorhead evacuees spent a night in the Red Cross centers. Like in recent floods, students from the colleges were there to help, including 70 from the Moorhead State Teacher's College (now Minnesota State University Moorhead) who were among the hundreds of sandbaggers that helped shore up the dike protecting the Veteran's Hospital as the river crested.

As the snow began to thaw in early April of 1952, American servicemen were fighting Communist forces in Korea. In addition to an increasingly unpopular war in Korea, President Truman had his hands full with a shutdown of the steel industry as 650,000 American steelworkers went on strike. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was winning primaries and it looked like he would be nominated as the Republican Presidential candidate in the upcoming election. The Twins still dominated the sports page, but

these were the Fargo-Moorhead Twins, the local minor league team. The Washington Senators would relocate to the Twin Cities and change their name to the Twins in 1960, bringing major league baseball to Minnesota. Starting on Tuesday, April 8th, however, the Red River stole the front page of the *Moorhead Daily News*.

Residents of the low-lying neighborhoods had little time to prepare. On Monday, April 7th, the river broke its banks. Moorhead mayor Henry C. Steining warned residents in the low areas that they "must make arrangements for moving furniture" to higher ground or upper floors. On Wednesday morning, the water had reached the 21.3 mark and some 40 families in Moorhead and Fargo were already abandoning their homes to the river.

After that, the rising water slowed a bit. Two nights of freezing temperatures delayed the melting snow. Large amounts of water were being held back in the fields by frozen culverts and drainage ditches. The best hope for the cities was for the cold weather to continue so the frozen culverts could trap all that water in the fields while the river water could flow north out of town. Unfortunately, a warming trend hit instead. On Friday, the river rose three feet. On Saturday it rose almost three and a half feet

more to 29.8 feet. The culverts were mostly ice-free and the fields were draining.

The sudden rise forced Fargo's St. John's Hospital to evacuate, just as it had done during the 1943 flood. Today, a large dike protects St. John's and the Island Park area, but in 1952, the river was in hospital's back yard and the whole area was very vulnerable to high water. In all, 115 patients were evacuated. Any patients who were well enough were sent home and the rest were taken to the Veteran's Hospital in north Fargo. The building was abandoned to the floodwaters, which eventually reached the ceiling of the first floor. The estimated \$220,000 in damage was not limited to the basement and first floor, however. Water shorted out the electricity to the elevator, causing it to run for days after the hospital was evacuated. The elevator would dip down to the basement, fill with water, and rise up to the top floor, with water escaping from the doors flooding the floors all the way up.

As the river rose, officials warned parents to keep their children away from the river. They reminded residents of the tragic death of eight-year-old Terry Dennis Jacobson just two years earlier. Young Terry was playing on the ice when he broke through and drowned at Woodlawn

Continued on next page...



A view looking south during the flood of 1952, with Moorhead on the left side. The Point is the rows of flooded houses in the oxbow in the center right of the picture. The Woodlawn neighborhood is the flooded portion in the upper left, just south of the three bridges. HCS

The Flood of '52

Continued from page 9...

Park during the flood of 1950. Cassandra Braseth, our giftshop attendant here at HCS, remembers the death of the young boy. She grew up in the Woodlawn neighborhood and was the same age as Terry Jacobson. Along with other neighborhood kids, Sandy loved to play on the ice when it was thin enough to warp and crack under her feet, "like walking on a trampoline a little." She was only ten during the flood of '52 but she remembers that it must have been a bad flood because she wasn't allowed to play outside, perhaps because her mother knew about how she like to play on the ice.

During the 1952 flood, little Cassandra and her family were living in Woodlawn with her grandparents at the top of the hill on 4th Avenue. One day she and her sisters were frightened at a knocking on the floor coming from the basement. Her grandmother told them not to be scared and took the girls down to the pantry to show them the cause of the eerie knocking. The flood waters had filled the house's basement and the canning jars were bobbing up and down in the water, tapping on the basement ceiling. She recalls that the basement always smelled like bleach from cleaning up after floods.

By Monday the 14th, a week after the waters began pouring over the bank, a thousand residents had evacuated and 25 square blocks in Fargo were under water. Most of the water was out of the fields and on its way to Moorhead. The sewers started backing up in the lower neighborhoods. With the storm sewers filled to capacity, city officials warned people living in basement apartments that even a quarter inch of rain could flood every basement in Moorhead. Meanwhile, unaffected farmers around Felton were already plowing their fields and expecting to plant later in the week.

The river rose above the 1943 crest level, at that time the highest flood of the 20th century, on Tuesday, April 15th. The river in Comstock, on the southern end of Clay County, had crested, as had the Buffalo and Sheyenne Rivers. National Guard units were called up in both Moorhead and Fargo to help with the crest, which was expected the next day.

The Red River crested at 34.65 feet on Wednesday, April 16th. It is still the tenth highest crest on record. The Moorhead Daily reported that 4,000 people were affected; 485 Cass and 355 Clay families.

To put the 34.65 foot crest in perspective, the clearance to the Center Mall/NP Avenue Bridge over the Red River is 34.4 feet. The 1952



A view of downtown Fargo looking south. Saint John's hospital is the large building complex on the upper left. Note how the river used to flow directly behind the hospital, bordering 4th Street. The island in the center of the photo is Island Park. HCS



A view of the flooded Woodlawn area looking south-west. The Main Avenue Bridge is shown in the lower right. The trailers in the parking lot just south of the bridge are most likely filled with the furniture of Woodlawn residents. HCS

flood was only a few inches above 2009's underwhelming second crest. A 34-foot crest today would close the toll bridge and the Broadway Bridge north of town. The First Avenue North Bridge would be blocked by a dike on the Fargo side. Woodlawn Park and Viking Ship Park (where the old neighborhoods of Woodlawn and The Point once stood) would of course be flooded. The 1st Ave North underpass beneath the Center Mall parking lot would be closed and filling with water, and the city would have to build a temporary dirt ramp as the only access to the Hjemkomst Center and the apartment complexes of One Riverside and Park View Terrace. The Rivershore Drive underpass under I-94 would be closed, as would Woodlawn Drive. Residents throughout the city would be advised to plug any basement drains. Some with walkout basements on the shoreline may have to sandbag, but after 1997 many of these homeowners put earthen dikes in place up to 37 or 38 feet. A 34 foot flood today would certainly keep city workers busy, but very few Moorhead homes would be in jeopardy.

On the day of the crest, Orville L. Freeman spoke at a DFL rally at the Comstock Hotel. Using words reminiscent of our elected officials today, he said, "The human misery and great property losses caused by the terrible floods now covering the midwest must never be repeated. It is time to push the special interest

pressure groups aside and get action." After the flood, Fargo's newly-created Flood Control Committee and the Army Corps of Engineers came up with a plan to protect the city from future floods. In 1959-60, the Red River was rerouted to give some protection to St. John's Hospital and the Island Park area. Forty-eight houses in Fargo and 17 Moorhead houses in Woodlawn were demolished, including the house where Cassandra Braseth spent the flood of '52. About thirteen acres of the Woodlawn neighborhood are now part of North Dakota, making room for a large dike, some parking lots, basketball courts and a skate park. In addition, three oxbows north of the Veteran's Hospital were cut off to further straighten the river, encouraging the water to move faster out of town.

In 1969, after another even higher flood, the houses that remained in The Point were condemned and torn down during the city's era of urban renewal. When a new facility was built to house Robert Asp's *Hjemkomst* ship then returning from Norway, as well as the Clay County Historical Society, the area was named Viking Ship Park. Walking the bike trails behind our museum, an old fire hydrant is one of few reminders the park used to be lined with houses and filled with families.

Viking Village Update

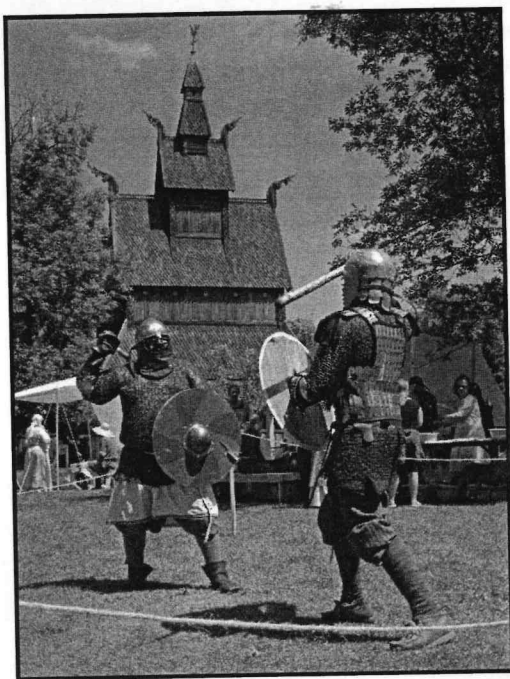
By Tim Jorgensen, Event Coordinator

As you flip through your 2010 calendar, HCSCC would like to remind you to pencil in a visit to our fourth annual Viking Village. Once again, this outdoor festival will be a two-day celebration of all things "Viking" and will be held at the Hjemkomst Center July 17th (10-6pm) and 18th (12-4pm).

Last year's village brought in over 600 visitors. Viking vendors, artisans, craftsmen, and warriors came in from around the US and Canada to educate and inform the public about Viking culture. Additional help came from regional organizations: Northern Prairie Fiber Artists and NDSU Medieval Society.

For 2010, visitors can expect a broad array of hands-on Viking-age games and activities: wire-weaving, card-weaving, felt-making, writing in runes, weapons demonstrations, pottery, metal and wood-working, kubbe, board games, and more. New additions for 2010 include a warp-weighted loom, larger space for fighting demonstrations, Viking bed reproductions, and Viking tent reproductions.

If you know anyone interested in participating in the event, they may contact HCS event coordinator Tim Jorgensen 218-299-5511 ext 6737 or email tim.jorgensen@ci.moorhead.us.

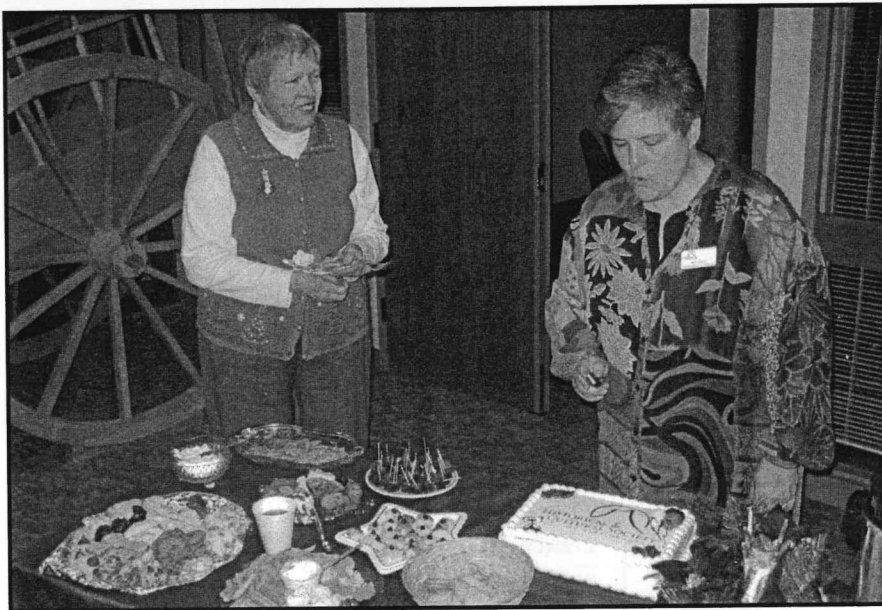


(Left) Sam Swallie (Viking name: Hrodir) demonstrates Viking fighting techniques with his squire Kenan Kobel (Viking name: Morten Himgrimmer)



(Right) Gibb Sheets demonstrates Viking-Age pottery techniques in this hands-on activity for children.

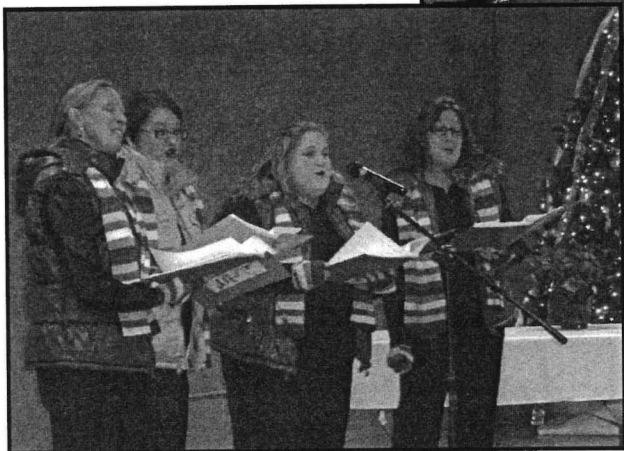
The Holiday Open House



Dianne Swanson (Left) is a long-time member, and Maureen Kelly Jonason (Right) is about to cut the first-year celebration cake.

2009 Volunteer Christmas Party

We had
a good crowd of
about 50 volunteers
(right) that
joined in our
celebration.



At our December 3rd gathering Fourté Quartet (left) performed, and volunteer Bryant Ulseth led a sing-along.

Two Old Moorhead Buildings to get Rehab

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

Last November architect and developer Kevin Bartram announced he had purchased two historic Moorhead buildings: the old Corwin Chrysler site at 904 Center Ave and the Simon Warehouse at 8 10th St N. Bartram told the *Fargo Forum* he may turn the properties into multi-family dwellings.

I applaud Bartram and his adaptive reuse of old buildings. His Sterling Company recently restored Moorhead's Kassenborg Block and the James Douglas house near Main and 4th St.

Both the Simon Warehouse and the former auto dealership date from the early 1920s, a period of much growth in Moorhead. In the 1920s Clay County was the second largest potato shipping county in the US. Only Aroostook County, Maine (seven times the size of Clay County) shipped more spuds. Potatoes are more perishable than wheat or barley. They must be stored properly until they can be sold. In the early days of the County's potato industry many Barnesville businesses rented their basements to farmers and brokers for 'tater storage.

Spud dealer Leo J. Wright built a massive 100 by 202 foot brick warehouse on the Great Northern Railway tracks in summer 1922. The fireproof structure featured three floors and a full basement, brick exterior and hollow tile interior walls. Wright's Moorhead Storage and Transfer Company planned to use two floors for potatoes and the other two for bonded storage of just about anything. Its 84,000 square feet of floor space dwarfed any other building in Fargo or Moorhead at the time. Three of the twelve offices on the west end of the building housed Wright's business. He placed the others up for rent. A concrete loading platform lined the entire north side with chutes for loading potatoes into the basement. A 6000 pound capacity elevator served the upper floors. Builders estimated the warehouse could handle 400 box car loads of potatoes at a time.

Moorhead Storage and Transfer lasted into the 1940s. Other wholesale potato dealers

followed. The Gambles Skogmo Hardware Company used it as a warehouse for a time. During World War 2 the Wilcoh Company, another potato dealership, bought the place and held onto it until the late 1960s when furniture dealers Jack and Leon Simon bought it for rented public storage. The building remained Simon Warehouse until a few years ago.

When you mention "the old armory" around here most folks assume you mean the 1934 vintage National Guard structure that stood on 5th St and 3rd Ave S, famous for being the venue for the ill-fated Buddy Holly Winter Dance Party Tour in 1959. But there was an even earlier armory in Moorhead, at 904 Center Avenue.

The National Guard grew out of the original colonial militias established in the 1700s to protect isolated settlements. These groups armed and equipped themselves, elected their own officers and drilled to varying degrees of effectiveness. George Washington relied heavily on militias at the onset of the Revolutionary War. But they were a rag tag bunch, disinterested in serving outside their colony or state. The Second Continental Congress formed the Continental Army as a result.

Local militias formed in territorial Minnesota in the 1850s. They were equipped and funded by the members themselves. When President Lincoln requested states to send volunteers to serve in the Civil War, authorities organized the militias into volunteer infantry and cavalry regiments. (The army organizes the ranks along a hierarchy. Local units of about 100 men were companies. About three companies made up a battalion. Around three battalions make a regiment. Brigades, divisions and armies follow, in order.) Trained, armed and equipped by the federal government, these volunteers became an important part of the federal army.

After the war the local militias reformed but with greater state support and control. In the early 1880s the state provided



Moorhead's first National Guard Armory, 904 Center Ave, about 1924. Later it housed auto dealerships. Ella Hawkinson Collection.

some funding and the groups became collectively known as a "National Guard."

With the Spanish-American War in 1898 the militia companies again became the backbone of four state volunteer regiments. One, the 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, saw sustained, vicious combat in the Philippines.

According to the Minnesota National Guard's website:

The U.S. gained status as a first-rate world power as a result of its war with Spain, but the war also called attention to serious military deficiencies. Among them was the nature of the National Guard, which had been functioning, more or less, as a group of autonomous "state armies." Landmark federal legislation in 1903, 1908 and 1916 resulted in federal controls that brought standardization and affirmed the National Guard as the Army's primary organized reserve.

Local guard units had been used to quell civil disturbances and provide help during natural disasters. The new legislation gave the President authority to call up the National Guard as a whole for national service. By 1916 three regiments of infantry and one of artillery made up the Minnesota National Guard. That year President Wilson called up all of the nation's Guard forces to patrol the US-Mexico border to

stop raids by revolutionary Francisco "Pancho" Villa. The Minnesota units saw no action but received nearly a year of hard, dusty desert training.

They had hardly been back when they were again called to federal service. Tensions rose between the US and Germany early in 1917. In March the 1st Infantry Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, was mobilized to guard strategic points against saboteurs, including bridges over the Red River. War broke out the next month. In July the other three regiments entered federal service.

The Minnesota Legislature established the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety to ensure support for the war effort. This powerful group not only encouraged Minnesotans to help the fight but it ruthlessly sought out and suppressed any dissent or criticism of the government's handling of the war.

With the National Guard headed overseas, folks on the home front needed a replacement to fill the Guard's traditional rolls of providing relief during civil unrest and natural disasters. In July 1917 the Commission established the Home Guard. Made up of men unlikely to be drafted, these units received surplus National Guard uniforms and equipment. Their job was to drill and be

Continued on next page...

Two Old Moorhead Buildings to get Rehab

Continued from page 15...

available to protect property against anti-government agitators, strikers and radicals such as the labor group Industrial Workers of the World. The Home Guards eventually numbered over 8000 men and officers in 23 battalions, including Moorhead's Company C, 9th Battalion, Minnesota Home Guards.

The state soon ordered the establishment of several new National Guard units for eventual mobilization, including a 2nd Artillery Regiment. By June 1917 the Moorhead Commercial Club was advocating for a battery (the artillery equivalent of a company) made up of Clay County men to serve in the new unit. Within weeks 117 men signed up to join.

The state and locally based units, with men from communities serving with their neighbors, were popular but denied the military the flexibility it needed to shift men where necessary and raise units as needed. During the Civil War occasionally a company or battalion made up of young men from a single community would go into battle. A few minutes later there would no longer be any young men from that village or county. Mixing the men spread casualties out geographically. Of the Minnesota units which entered federal service, only the 1st

Artillery Regiment, Minnesota National Guard (renamed the 151st Field Artillery) remained intact as a group through the war. The others served as pools from which to draw replacements for other units.

After 11 months in limbo, the men of Battery F received word in May 1918 the 2nd Artillery Regiment would be disbanded and several National Guard Infantry regiments would be raised instead. Most of the Battery F boys joined other units. (We'll have to tell the whole stories of the Home Guard and Battery F in these pages someday.)

However, the new National Guard infantry regiments provided another opportunity for a local organization. One, the 6th Regiment, was to be made up of "the best" Home Guard units in the state. Moorhead's Company C quickly applied for consideration and was accepted in September 1918. The Home Guard disbanded and most of its members joined the new Company F, 6th Infantry Regiment, Minnesota National Guard.

The unit met for drills in the Concordia College Gymnasium, just as the Home Guard had. Moorhead residents and the Commercial Club, especially, began agitating for an armory. It would be a feather in Moorhead's cap and could provide not only



Moorhead Storage and Transfer warehouse, 8 10th St S, about 1924. Flaten/Wange Collection.

space for the Guard and its equipment but meeting rooms and an auditorium for lots of other civic activities. The state offered up to \$15,000 in assistance provided the city paid the rest – several thousand dollars, depending on how fancy the place was to be.

Efforts quickly gleaned an agreement from the Great Northern Railway to provide a building site on the corner of Front St (Center Avenue) and 9th St, provided the city vacate the 9th St crossing of the GNRy. The newly organized American Legion post pledged \$3000, provided they could have club rooms in the armory. But the city was still about \$1500 short. And there matters stood for over three years.

The City Council was reluctant to raise taxes to pay for the amenity. Raising money through a “subscription fund,” basically donations, also fell through. Company F was reduced to holding dances to come up with the money.

By 1921 the unit faced the very real possibility of being transferred if an armory in Moorhead could not be had. A last-ditch effort to get the County Commission to fund enhancements providing “a memorial to County veterans” failed in September. Under pressure, the City Council finally agreed to provide \$9500.

Moorhead contractor Nels Melvey received the contract for the armory in late September with ground breaking a week later. The building featured storage and meeting rooms, a large hall for drills, training and large civic meetings, a garage for Company F’s army truck and pens outside for livestock sales, displays and a proposed winter show. The American Legion post met in the basement. Company F held a grand opening dance September 2, 1922.

(The story of our local National Guard unit, like those of Battery F and the Home Guard, deserves to be told. We’ll do that some day, too.)

In August 1932, a sudden downpour flooded the Armory’s basement. President of

the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce, C. P. Brown, there for an event, was furious. He vowed to contact the proper authorities and get a new, better armory for Company F.

The timing was good. Voters elected Franklin Roosevelt President that November. Taking office in the depths of the Great Depression, Roosevelt launched the first in a series of relief efforts. The Public Works Administration promptly coughed up \$73,000 for a new armory on 3rd Ave S. No local funding was necessary.

Meanwhile, Studebaker Auto and farm implement dealers John and Halleck Harris took over the old armory. It remained an auto dealership until about two years ago when Corwin Chrysler Dodge Jeep closed their Moorhead office and moved to Fargo. It’s been empty since.

The Minnesota National Guard built a third armory on Moorhead’s 15th Ave N in 1989. The old 1934 armory came down in 1990 to make way for a retirement community.

Kevin Bartram, president of Sterling Cos. and Mutchler Bartram Architects, has purchased the former Corwin Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep car dealership property at 904 Center Ave.



Bartram, the developer behind the mixed-use development of apartments, condos, restaurants and service businesses on Main Avenue and Fourth Street in Moorhead, has also bought Simon Warehouse at 8 10th St. N. in Moorhead.

The properties will take a lot of work and planning but may eventually become multifamily housing, Bartram said.

“We’ve had good success in down town Moorhead with the rest of our properties there, and we wanted to build on that success,” he said. “We like the fact that it’s so close to the heart of downtown.”

Exhibition & Event 2010 Calendar

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Through June 18, 2010

Two Photographers: the Works of O.E. Flaten & S.P. Wange (Our In-House exhibition featuring the our glass plate negative collection.)

January 2010 - March 2010

A Woman's Perspective on Work and Play

(An un-juried multi-media art exhibition by regional artists.)

January 8, 2010 - February 28, 2010

Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota

(A traveling exhibition by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.)

March 5, 2010 - May 28, 2010

WWI & WWII Posters

(A traveling exhibition by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.)

April 13, 2010 - June 19, 2010

The Red River Water Color Society National Watermedia Exhibition

June 2010—August 2010

Augustus Frederick Sherman: Portraits of Ellis Island, 1905-1920

August 2010 - June 2011

NEW In-House Local Immigration Exhibition

July 6, 2010—September 12, 2010

Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists Annual Member Show (Open Reception - July 13, 2010 ▪ 5-8 p.m.)

September 18, 2010 - December 27, 2010

Crime Lab Detective (Hands-on crime scene with clues for kids to solve the crime!)

October 4, 2010 - January 3, 2010

St. John's Bible

(The brilliant illuminations done at St. John's Abbey near St. Cloud, Minnesota)

Upcoming Events

February 13, 2010 ▪ 1-4 p.m.

Celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 201st Birthday

March 7, 2010 ▪ 12p.m.-4p.m.

A Woman's Perspective on Work and Play literary and performing event, in collaboration with MSUM's Women Studies, celebrates International Women's Day. Admission is free. Please bring food or personal care items for donation.

March 11, 2010 ▪ 6 p.m.— social

Annual Meeting

March 13, 2010 ▪ 10a.m.-4p.m.

Celtic Festival FREE and Open to the Public (Moorhead and Fargo Parks event)

April 20, 2010 ▪ 1-4 p.m.

Opening reception Red River Watercolor Society Annual Watermedia Exhibition

April 21, 2010

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

June 25 - 27, 2010

Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival featuring Iceland (produced by the Nordic Culture Clubs)

July 17-18, 2010

Viking Village

August 10, 2010

Opening Reception for NEW In-House Local Immigration Exhibition

October 29, 2010

Fall Gala Remember the '60's? "A Groovy Gala"

November 13, 2010

Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures

December, 2010

The Holiday Open House

New and Renewing Members November 2009 - January 31, 2010

<u>Individual \$30</u>	Ardis Severson	David & Karen	Vijay & Maryclare Sethi	Erhardt & Nancy
Leona Anderson	Mark Sheils	Danbom	Herbert & Barbara	Dallmann
Delores Bekkerus	Linda Small	Roland & Beth Dille	Dunn Snyder	Glen & Heidi Deeton
Kevin Carvell	Phyllis Thysell	Jerome Ekre	Roger & Barb Spilde	Paul & Mardeth Dovre
Nancy Cooper	Waneta Truesdell	Rev. Clay & Sue	Tony & Jane St. Michel	Corey & Brenda Elmer
Shirley Curfman	James Voytovich	Ellingson	John & Betty Young	John & Audrey Elton
Virginia Duval	Robert Wefald	Armond & Nancy	<u>Booster \$ 75</u>	Carroll & Jo Engelhardt
Janice Fitzsimons	John Woods	Erickson	Alma Cater-Country	Jim & Jan Ness
Fern Haiby	Chester Fritz Library	Ronald & Margaretha	Greenery	Tom & Joyce Pettinger
Tom Hall	Minnesota Historical	Hagemann	Reynold Larsen	Gene & Karen Prim
Dorothy Heieie	Society	Russell & Rita Hoff-	David & Julie Larson	Alan & Sylvia Schultz
Vickie Hendrickson	Wilkin County	man	Paul Pratt	Davis Scott
Celeste Johnson	Historical Society	Daniel Koper	Richard & Mary	Michael Unhjem
Maurice Johnson	<u>Household \$50</u>	Jay & Becky Leitch	Schaefer	Doug & Kristi Vang
Mary Knopfler	Marjorie Aakre	Erling & Janice	Mark & Donna	Alliance Township
Leroy Madison	Norman Akesson	Linde	Voxland	City of Barnesville
Shirley Meehan	Col. Milton &	Larry & Marcella	Kelly Wambach	Moorhead Kiwanis
Arloine Mithun	Armored Arneson	MacLeod	Moorhead Midday-	<u>Patron/Benefactor</u>
Dennis Olsen	Leo Joe Baker	Joe & Betty Manning	Central Lions	Elaine Baron
Trygve Olson	Maria Barnes	Mathison	Moorhead Township	Arnold Ellingson
Janet Ostercamp	Genelle Bentley	Katherine Mentjes	<u>Heritage \$125</u>	Jon & Phyllis Evert
Elsie Peterson	Robert & Eleanor	Cameron & Julie	Roger & Betty Anda	Richard McMurray
Roberta Radford	Brandt	Merkel	Verlyn & Evonne	Korsmo Funeral Service
Mary Ann Scheffler	James & Sandra	Duane & Karla	Anderson	* Any errors are a result
Peggy Ann Scheffler	Christopherson	Mickelson	Rod & Audrey	of mere human weakness
	Keith & Michelle	Sherwood & Wendy	Angstman	and not intended to
	Coalwell	Peterson		reflect a lack of respect.



Did you know?

At the \$125 Heritage Level you can benefit from the **ASTC (American Science and Technology Centers)** passport program?

The Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County participates in this program allowing you and your family to visit other great museums like **Science Museum of Minnesota, Bell Museum of Natural History, and the Duluth Children's Museum.**

This pass can also be used in many other Science Centers throughout the United States and around the world.

(for a complete list visit www.astc.org/members/passlist.htm)

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact Lynn at (218) 299-5511 x6739.

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County
PO BOX 157 • 202 First Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



To preserve, interpret and celebrate the history of
culture of Clay County and the region.

