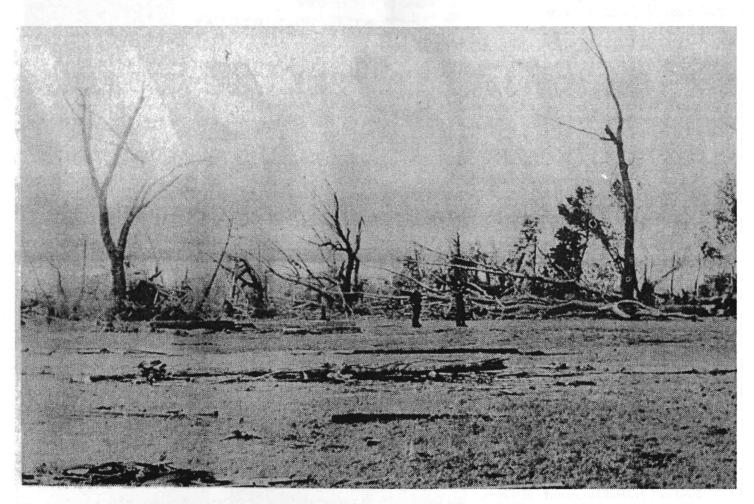
The Hourglass

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2 • Summer 2010



The Glyndon Tornado left only the foundation of the John Sundahl home, northeast of Glyndon. Red River Scene, June 27, 1957. See Mark Peihl's article on page 8 for the full story.

Did you know ...

Clay County is named after Senator Henry Clay?

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

HCSCC News

E-mail 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 at 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.

New Web Site Alert!

We are proud to announce our brand new Web site. Please check it out at www.hcscconline.org and let us know what you think as your feedback is very important to us! Contact Brianne Carlsrud at 218-299-5511 ext. 6736 or Brianne.Carlsrud@ci.moorhead.mn.us with any questions or concerns. Thanks to everyone who contributed in the Web site development process.

Hjemkomst Ship Video

The *Hjemkomst* Ship Video is now available for viewing with Norwegian subtitles. Thanks to Tim Jorgensen of HCSCC, Greg Carlson of Concordia College and Stein and Line Larsstuen of Jessheim, Norway for their work on this project.

Corrections in Spring Newsletter

Betty Stadum's donation of \$125 was inadvertently listed as a membership.

In the *Flood of '52* article by Markus Krueger, a caption of a photo on page 11 was incorrectly identified. The caption reads: "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 furniture of Woodlawn residents." This photo was actually a view of the Pierce Trailer Homes property, a company that serviced trailer homes. Thanks to HCSCC member Arthur Arett for catching this correction.

Anderson Receives Award

Ron Anderson has been the accordion player at the

Bergquist Cabin Open House for the past 19 years. At this year's Volunteer Party we were proud to honor Ron with a plaque as this will be his last year playing at the open house. Anderson started playing for the open houses right when they started in 1991. He plays mostly Swedish music.

We would like to give a special thanks to Ron for sharing his talent with us for the past 19 years!



Letter from the New Board President

Barb Bertschi



I would like to take this opportunity in my first letter as the new Historical and Cultural Society Board President to thank Darren Leno for leading our organization the last few years. The time he spent as Board President brought many changes and with it new opportunities. His vision and leadership were valuable assets to the organization, and we will miss his presence on the board. The Annual Meeting in March

was a success. There was a fun silent auction, and the food was not only organic but delicious as well. Mark gave a presentation on bricks. Who would have thought there was so much to know and that the information would be so interesting? I think everyone who attended had a good time. I want to thank the staff for the work they put into arranging this wonderful event.

There is always a business portion of the Annual Meeting and this year was no different. Two board members, Gloria Lee, Georgetown, and Kelly Wambach, Sabin, had terms expiring in 2010. I am happy to announce they were each elected for a second three-year term.

Jade Rosenfeldt was also nominated and elected to her first term as a member of the HCS Board. She is a criminal attorney with Vogel Law Firm and lives in Moorhead. Jade has a strong interest in Clay County history and is willing to share her legal expertise as needed. I anticipate she will be an important addition to the Board.

The Board of Directors elected officers after the Annual Meeting in March. Pearl Quinnild will continue

as Secretary and Neil Jordheim will serve another term as Treasurer. I was honored to be elected Board President, and I hope my guidance will create a stronger presence in Clay County and the Red River Valley Region for HCS.

The Board of Directors has completed the search for the new HCS Executive Director. We are happy to announce Maureen Kelly Jonason, who had previously served as Interim Executive Director, will take over the leadership role. The search for the right person to fill the position was extensive, but in the end well worth the effort to ensure the best candidate was chosen. I believe Maureen will lead HCS to great accomplishments in the coming months.

We "dodged a bullet" this spring when the flood did not reach the height the Weather Service originally predicted. It may be somewhat superstitious, but I see this as an omen of good things to come in 2010. We have already started out ahead by being open the entire months of March and April (it's funny the things that used to be taken for granted). The good news is that even though we didn't need it, the HCS staff had a written plan ready in case of emergency.

The mission of HCS is to preserve, interpret and celebrate the history and culture of Clay County and the region. My goal, during my tenure as president, is to generate a new energy for the future with a focus dedicated to improving the strengths of HCS. This vision will benefit both the community and the organization.

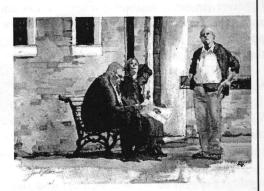
The Board of Directors invites you to be part of the excitement by volunteering, supporting us financially and asking your friends and family to become members. HCS is here because of you.

Red River Watercolor Society 17th Annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition





April 17 - June 19, 2010



Watercolor photographs (from left to right): Theodora T. Tilton, Alexandria, VA, Janet Flom, Fargo ND, Sabrina Turner, Fiddletown, GA.

HCSCC Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason



Greetings Members and Other Supporters and Happy Spring!

The flood of 2010 did not affect us too badly this year, and the City took down the clay dike protecting the back door the day after the crest! What a change from the misery of 2009. The plan is to build up the permanent dike in the back some time

in August, and so there will be a somewhat unattractive pile of clay in the parking lot all summer—a small price to pay for permanent protection for the church and the Hjemkomst Center.

In the spring, we here at the museum get ready to welcome the bus loads of excited school kids in for their annual field trips and the early-bird tourists who stop by on their journeys. We hope to see a lot more tourists this summer as we ramp up our marketing to include interstate billboards and many new promotional opportunities that have come our way since our new marketing coordinator Brianne Carlsrud took over.

The history staff, which includes Mark Peihl, Lisa Vedaa, and Markus Krueger, has been busy researching for a new fall exhibit on local immigration. Be on the look out for a special invitation to that exhibit opening. Events Coordinator Tim Jorgensen is always busy working on the two major festivals, two volunteer appreciation events, and many smaller

events we hold all year round. He has also taken on the duties of Exhibit Registrar and is researching exhibits for our 2012 calendar and beyond. My work has varied from a trip to Saint Paul to persuade MN legislators to continue to support arts funding in Minnesota to writing grants to participating in workshops to putting out small daily fires.

Among our most exciting news is a lighting transformation. Holly Heitkamp, the Hjemkomst Center manager, secured a stimulus grant to convert much of our lighting over to more energy-efficient and cool lighting. Stop by and see how bright and shiny the gift shop is now. In contrast, you will notice that the exhibit lighting is much lower and that is because we have over-lit our exhibits (by museum industry standards) for years. The new lighting is safer for art and artifacts as well as reducing utility bills considerably. Both Heritage Hall and the fourth-floor gallery have been refitted with new tracks and new bulbs.

As we move into our busy season for visitors, we look forward to seeing lots of new faces. Tim Jorgensen has now completed a version of the ship documentary that has Norwegian subtitles for our many Norwegian visitors. We have so much to look forward to: a striking traveling exhibit on Ellis Island portraits taken 1905-1920 June 4-Sept. 12; the Scandinavian Heritage Festival focusing on Iceland June 25-27; the F-M Visual Artists annual exhibition July 1-Sept. 15; Viking Village July 17 and 18; and a new Clay County area immigration exhibit in August. We love to see members, and we hope that you will bring in friends and relatives who visit throughout the summer.

HCSCC Receives Grants

In support of our efforts to provide arts programming in our community, the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) at the Hjemkomst Center applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 Presenter Support grant by the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

The HCSCC was among 19 recipients of Presenter Support funding. This grant program is designed to benefit nonprofit organizations that are not eligible for other grant programs through the North Dakota Council on the Arts. It offers financial support for arts events and programming and supports organizations and artists in communities with a population of 6,000 or more. A total of \$31,800 was awarded during this grant round.

This grant will help to provide funds to the HCSCC for Viking Village 2010, a public event offering Viking-age crafts, demonstrations and other activities educating the public about Viking life, as well as sampling Viking-era food, linking chain mail, playing era games and more. The event is on Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday, July 18, noon – 4 p.m.

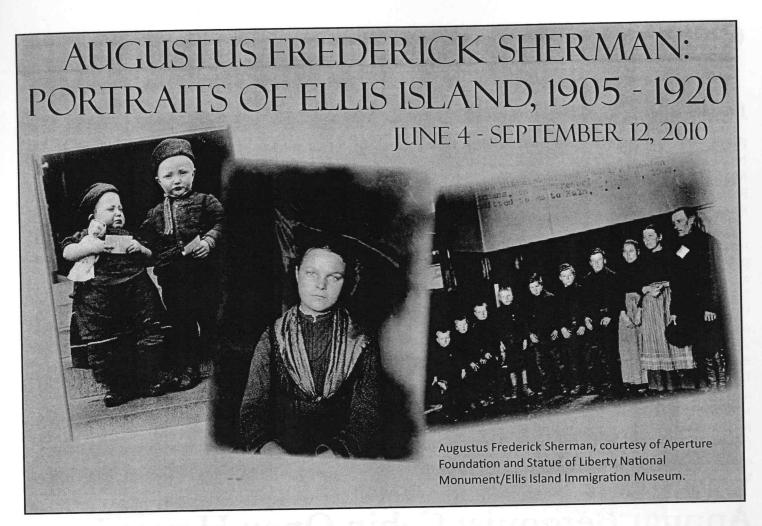
The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In addition, the HCSCC was awarded two Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants in the amount of \$5,962 and \$10,688 by the Minnesota Historical Society. The grants were approved by the Society's awards committee and will support HCSCC's new Reader/Scanner machine and archival shelving.

The Society will award a total of \$6.75 million in Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants to non-profit and educational organizations, government units and tribes during the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years for projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state. Grants are available in three tiers: Small or "Fast Track" grants of \$7,000 or less, Mid-Size grants between \$7,000 and \$50,000, and Large grants of more than \$50,000. For more information, including deadlines, visit www.mnhs.org/legacygrants.

The Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. Its essence is to help illuminate the past as a way to shed light on the future. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesotans' past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.

*Please refer to page 14 to see a picture of the new reader/scanner.



Building Projects at the Hjemkomst Center

By Holly Heitkamp

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) allocated \$146,000 to the City of Moorhead in a direct formula grant. The intent of the DOE program is to empower local communities to make strategic investments to meet the nation's long-term goals for energy independence and leadership to climate change.

The City utilized the funds for lighting retrofit projects in City-owned buildings. Facilities chosen to receive funding from the grant were the Waste Water Treatment Facility, Moorhead Sports Center, and the

Hjemkomst Center museum.

In the Wastewater Treatment-Facility, approximately 500 light fixtures were replaced. An annual savings of \$5,700 in electrical costs is expected. At the Moorhead Sports Center, 81 of the 465-watt mercury lamps were replaced with T5 230 watt fluorescent fixtures in the North rink. An annual savings of \$3,765 in electrical costs is expected.

At the Hjemkomst Center museum, 250 of the 90-watt lamps were replaced with 26-watt lamps. In addition, the gift shop and vending area track lighting was

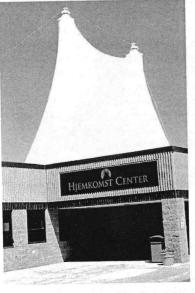
replaced with fluorescent lighting and an energy-saving

switching system. An annual savings of \$4,270 is expected in electrical costs.

Besides energy savings from the new lights at the Hjemkomst Center, the ambient room temperature dropped from 72 degrees to 61 degrees within minutes of the switch. Further, the new fluorescent lamps have a life expectancy of 5 years versus 6 months with the previous lamps.

Moorhead contractor Rick Electric received the bid for the

installation of all projects and local supplier Dakota Energy was selected to provide many of the fixtures.



Collections Donations

By Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager

January-April 2010 Accessions and Donors

Donors: Carl Bailey, Moorhead; Maria A. Barnes, Fargo; Lois Bekkerus, Glyndon; Svein Olav Bø, Oslo, Norway; Don Larew, Moorhead; Dr. Ronald Olin, Fargo; Mark Peihl, Fargo; John Peterson, Moorhead; James Rabe, Fargo; Philip Rystad, Brooklyn Park, MN; John

Roos, Hinesburg, VT; Lisa Vedaa, Fargo

Artifacts: c1940s egg price chart, metal clamp; rooftop VHF and UHF television antennas; color inkjet prints of family photos; (1) cWWII ration book; postcards and commercial items from Clay County businesses; (1) \$40 coupon card issued by US government for TV Converter Box and supporting information for 2009 conversion from analog to digital television broadcast signal; (1) bound volume, Stars & Stripes, A Complete File of the Stars & Stripes, February 8, 1918 to June 13, 1919; (11) family photos; (5) photo prints of fembøringen vessels and Hiemkomst ship and letter describing recollections of stories told by donor Erik Rudstrom; (1) c1870 Norwegian folk costume from Hallindal area of Norway; (3) quilts; (1) teaspoon with Northern Pacific Railroad logo stamp on handle and "N.P.R" stamp on back of handle, NBC Viewer's Guide for 2010 Winter Olympics.

Moldova Group Visits the Hjemkomst Center



Annual Bergquist Cabin Open House

June 25 & 26

If you have never been to our open house at the historic Bergquist Cabin in north Moorhead, you should really attend this year! For the past 19 years, Ron Anderson has graced the peaceful open house atmosphere with the soft melodies of old Swedish favorites on his accordion. Ron is making this year, his 20th, his grand finale. You don't want to miss experiencing this event with all that Ron's music adds to it! Join us Friday and Saturday, June 25 and 26, 1:00-4:00pm at the cabin, 1008 7th Street North, Moorhead.

Visitors to this year's open house can make Swedish "tomte" or "elf" ornaments, enjoy refreshments and learn about Småland, the area of Sweden from which John Bergquist, the builder of the cabin emigrated. Admission to the open house is free. There is an admission is charge for the

Scandinavian Festival at the Hjemkomst Center.

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County and the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society of the Red River Valley host the open house which is held in conjunction with the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival at the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead. A shuttle bus sponsored by the State Bank and Trust of Moorhead picks up visitors at the Hjemkomst Center on the hour at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00, both days. Limited parking is available at the cabin property.

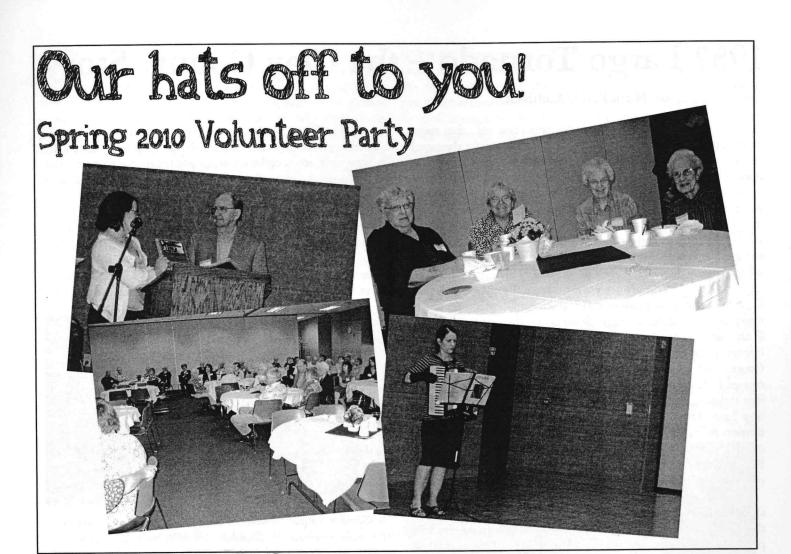
The Bergquist Cabin is the oldest house in Moorhead on its original site, originally constructed in 1870 by Swedish immigrant John Gustav Bergquist. The Swedish homesteader



A picture from the 2006 Bergquist Cabin Open House with the Bergquist Cabin in the background.

worked on the railroad, farmed, sold milk door-to-door, and later became a maker of bricks, using local clay. Grandson Dewey Bergquist, former WDAY weatherman, and his son Jim restored the cabin in the 1970s. The cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned and maintained by the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County.

For more information, call the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County at 218-299-5511.



New Hall Case Exhibit on Level 3

The Midwest History Class of Concordia College presents Locally Grown in the 1870s: Probstfield Family Farm, a

glimpse the daily life of one of Clay County's first white settlers. Midwest The class, History taught by Dr. Lintelman, developed background research, which began in early January 2010, 1870s the digitized diaries Randolph Probstfield. After analyzing entries,



Dr. Joy Lintelman and one of her students at Concordia College working on the exhibit. This is the first exhibit the Midwest History Class has had on display at the Hjemkomst Center.

the class decided to focus their research on the family's food production. This exhibit includes artifacts and images that convey the students' research to the public.

HCSCC Welcomes New Interns

We're happy to announce that we have three new interns starting this spring at the HCSCC.

From left to right: Laura Sawatzke, Mark Stilton and Katie Jahnig.

Mark Stilton is a student at Minnesota State University Moorhead, majoring in history. He will be working in the Archives, primarily indexing the Flaten-Wange images.

Katie Jahnig, a student at Concordia College, is majoring in print journalism and history. She will be helping Lisa Vedaa, Curator, with cataloging

the collections and processing donations to the collection, as well as learning basic museum operations and entering collections information in the museums' database.

Laura Sawatzke is a student at Minnesota State University Moorhead, majoring in mass communications with an emphasis in public relations and advertising. Her main tasks will include helping with events, specifically Viking Village.

will include helping with events, specifically Viking Village.

Please make sure to give them a warm welcome if you

see them around the museum!

1957 Fargo Tornado – the Clay County Story

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

The 1957 Fargo tornado was one of the most memorable local events of the 1950s. The F5 twister damaged or destroyed 1500 homes, caused between 10 and 20 million dollars in damage (more like 75 to 150 million today) and killed 13 people, including six children from one family and injured more than one hundred. It was certainly the deadliest disaster in the city's history. However, Clay County was affected by the storm as well, though, thankfully, nowhere near the degree suffered by our neighbors to the west. We thought we'd look at what happened outside Fargo on June 20, 1957.

The 1957 event was far from the worst in Clay County's history. Tornadoes touch down in Clay County about every other year on average. Sometimes they cause damage. Only two storms have caused fatalities. On June 9, 1902 a twister dropped from the clouds southeast of Ada in Norman County and made a bee-line for northeastern Clay County. It caused little damage until it reached the Andrew Hoium farm, five miles north of Ulen. The family sought shelter in their new barn. The storm smashed their log cabin, carrying several timbers miles away. Then it slammed into the barn killing four of the seven Hoium children. The twister then swept into Becker County, destroying a church and killing Mrs. Elef Berg near Voss. Hundreds of others were injured.

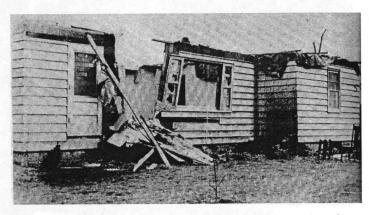
Late in the afternoon of May 27, 1931 another tornado dropped from the sky near Rustad. It swept northeast striking the Great Northern Railway's east-bound Empire Builder passenger train near Ruthruff, a siding 3 ½ miles northwest of Sabin. The storm struck just behind the locomotive. The wind lifted the first car, the mail-baggage car, and turned it on its side shearing the heavy coupling device connecting it to the engine. It carried the car to the left about 90 feet and set it down rather gently in a plowed field. It slid 150 feet before coming to a rest 115 feet from the rails. All 11 of the remaining cars followed the mail coach off the tracks and onto their sides like links in a chain. The locomotive remained on the rails. One man was killed and 57 other passengers were injured, one of whom later died from her injuries.

The storm turned north and began a 50-mile destructive tour of Clay and Norman Counties. Some 50 farms sustained damage. It bore down on Mrs. Clara Hatledal's farm in northwest Moland Township. Mrs. Hatledal, four of her children, and a teacher from a nearby school huddled in the basement. As her 18-year-old son, Melvin, struggled to close the door, part of a concrete block wall gave way and fell on the boy. He died soon after.

The storm tore through the trees along the Buffalo River and slammed into Concordia Lutheran Church. When the dust cleared, only the church's cement steps remained. Several more farms sustained serious damage before the storm dissipated south of Fertile, MN.

In a similar incident, on June 7, 1890 a tornado lifted 12 cars from the Northern Pacific tracks on the west edge of Fargo. No one died on the train, but Mrs. James McCarthy and her seven children died when their north Fargo home collapsed. It was Fargo's worst storm until 1957.

The Fargo twister was one of the most studied storms in US history. A few weeks after the event, Ferguson Hall of the US Weather Bureau collected some photos of the tornado on a trip to Fargo and shared them with meteorologist Dr. Tetsuya Fujita of the University of Chicago. Little was known about tornado formation and development at the time. Dr. Fujita realized that photos could provide insights into the storms. He made three trips to the FM area collecting images. With crucial help from WDAY TV weatherman Dewey Bergquist, Fujita collected hundreds of photos and several reels of movie film from area people. He and Bergquist interviewed



The Glyndon Tornado destroyed the Weyland family's new farm home, three miles northeast of Glyndon. The Weyland's lost several other buildings. Red River Scene, June 27, 1957.

many local witnesses and visited scenes of damage. Fujita combined these images from many different vantage points and time frames into a single movie-like history of the Fargo storm from beginning to end. He also determined that the Fargo tornado was one of a "family" of five separate tornados which stretched 64 miles across Cass and Clay Counties. His seminal report is still studied today. Now-familiar terms such as "wall cloud" and the 1 to 5 Fujita Scale (developed by Fujita to measure the destructive power of tornadoes) came out of this study.

The days leading up to June 20 were marked by turbulent weather. The crops that year were looking fantastic. Several farmers told the *Moorhead Daily News* they were the best they'd seen since 1918 when wheat went over 40 bushels an acre. But on Wednesday, June 12, a nasty wind-rain-and-hail storm wrecked stands around Georgetown and Felton. John Jereszek, 5½ miles south of Felton, said it was so white out he couldn't see anything. The hail pounded his soybeans until he couldn't distinguish the rows.

A week later on Wednesday the 19th, another storm ripped crops from Felton to Hitterdal, Hawley and points southeast. Hail "the size of large apples" pounded Hawley. Propelled by high velocity downdrafts, they sounded like firecrackers when they hit the pavement. Others reported the huge hailstones cratered into the earth making yards look like they had "black measles." A tornado south of Barnesville damaged two farms. Eighty per cent of the crops there were

destroyed.

The main event occurred the next day. About 4:30 pm Central Standard Time (North Dakota did not use Daylight Savings Time then) an observer noticed "a dust cloud picked up by a whirlwind" east of the Wheatland, ND elevator. It dropped a slender ropey-looking funnel which caused some minor crop damage as it passed east-northeast through Cass County before disappearing northwest of the Madsen farm north of Casselton. Fujita called this "the Wheatland Tornado."

Soon after, Mrs. Madsen noticed another dust cloud, this one southeast of her farm. She filmed it with a movie camera. It, too, produced a funnel which touched ground north of Casselton tearing up trees and leaving a damage path 300 feet wide through the crops. It demolished a garage on the Byram farm north of Casselton then abruptly lifted. This Fujita named "the Casselton Tornado."

The huge, black cloud which spawned the twisters grew as it approached Fargo from the west. The Weather Bureau issued several warnings through local TV and radio stations. By 6:00 pm it was northwest of West Fargo heading east. Bergquist took his camera up to what's now 19th Ave N. and watched the storm develop to the southwest. The circulating cloud took on a mushroom shape and then suddenly dropped a funnel about 6:27. Ten to fifteen seconds later it was on the ground throwing debris into the air.

The twister tore into Fargo's Golden Ridge neighborhood at 6:35 and leveled eight square blocks. The worst damage occurred between 23rd and 29th Streets and 7th and 10th Avenues North. The area, then on Fargo's extreme northwest side, was home to folks of modest means, folks least able to bounce back from adversity. Only about 42% of home owners reportedly had any insurance. Most of the rest were under insured. Of the 123 homes destroyed or damaged in Golden Ridge, only three had basements. The neighborhood was home to the Munson children and many of the other victims.

Coursing east, the twister wrecked the million-dollar Peavey fertilizer plant and passed just south of the North Dakota Agricultural College (now NDSU) campus causing much damage to the YMCA and the Hasty Tasty Restaurant on University and 12th Ave N. Veering northeast, the tornado struck Shanley High School, Sacred Heart Academy and Immanuel Lutheran Church. Books from the Shanley library were later recovered north of Park Rapids, MN, nearly 90 miles away.

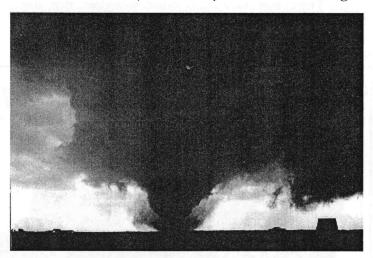
The funnel tore east through north Fargo crossing the Red River just southeast of the El Zagel golf course about 6:45. On the Minnesota side the twister again headed northeast, tearing up trees and wrecking an outbuilding at the Moorhead Country Club. It followed the edge of the river to the John McCann farm, just north of the golf course. The McCanns' initially thought of sheltering in the basement, but John Jr. convinced his parents to flee by car. Mr. McCann had parked his car in the garage, fearing hail damage, so the three jumped into John Jr's vehicle and sped off. The tornado lifted their home off its foundations and set it down several feet away. All the buildings on the farm were destroyed, machinery smashed.

On the Paul Van Vlissigen farm, just to the north, the house was heavily damaged, the barn and granary demolished.

(After the storm passed, neighbors rounded up Van Vlissigen's cattle and tied them for milking to their stall stanchions, the only remnants of the barn left.) The tornado continued northeast across old Highway 75 (11th St N) causing \$100,000 in roof damage to the American Crystal Sugar beet plant. It totally destroyed five buildings at the Moorhead Rod and Gun Club just north of the plant. The Club lost all of its records, hundreds of photographs and many stuffed animal mounts.

Witnesses saw the twister then head north, loop back toward the west and disappear. It left a damage path up to 700 feet wide and 9 miles long. The damage occurred in less than 30 minutes. Fujita called this the "Fargo Tornado."

It wasn't the end. Sometime around 7:00 another funnel formed just north of US Highway 10 on the west edge of Glyndon. It damaged a fence along the Great Northern Railway tracks and then cut east-northeast through what was then a bean field. Now it's home to a trailer park. Over the next mile it built into another huge funnel, tearing a 600-footwide path through trees along the Buffalo River. Mrs. Rodney Wyland and five children huddled in the basement of their new home as the tornado bore down on their farm, three miles northeast of Glyndon. The twister demolished the home and leveled all the other buildings on the farm, but the Wylands suffered no serious injuries. Mr. Wyland was at a meeting in



Dewey Bergquist photo of the Fargo tornado tearing into Fargo's Golden Ridge, 1957. The black object at right is the Starlite Drive-in theater. Dewey Bergquist Collection.

Bismarck. He learned of the storm and hurried home. On the way, he heard that the tornado had struck his home over the car radio.

The twister continued east, considerably weakened, though still strong enough to seriously damage the John G. Ackerson farm, half a mile east of the Wylands. It completely wiped out the Oren Zepper farm, 2 miles northwest of the Buffalo River State Park. It turned northeast heading for the Henry Sandal farm in section 26, Spring Prairie Township. Observers nearby heard the distinct sound of water being sucked up as the funnel crossed a beaver dam nearly a mile to the south. Mr. Sandal was milking in the barn and was unaware of the danger. Alerted by his son, he let the cows out of the barn and headed for cover. He lost some calves but the cows

Continued on next page ...

survived. The house, barn and other buildings disappeared along with two cars. Their engines were found later. The *Hawley Herald* reported the "only objects recognized were a bed spring in a tree and a demolished tractor which was wrapped like a spool with fencing."

The twister continued north for another mile or two and then dissipated leaving a 10-mile-long trail of destruction. Fujita called this the "Glyndon Tornado."

About 8:00 yet another funnel formed about 1½ miles north of US Highway 10 just west of Highway 32. It also headed northeast dropping to the ground east of 32 damaging the Carl Carlson farm just north of Manitoba Junction. From there it headed east destroying barns at the Elmer Frisk and Ben Gross farms. It skirted the north edge of the hamlet of Dale shattering a high voltage electrical pole, stopping a clock on the Wallace Gol farm just to the east at 8:05. The Gol farm was the final target in Clay County. When the funnel passed, only the house remained standing. Gol lost some cattle, but one cow tied in her stall survived the destruction of the barn. After the storm, she flat refused to leave the spot. Feed had to be brought to her. The twister turned southeast toward Lake Park but turned northeast again disappearing over Stinking Lake in Becker County, leaving a seven-mile damage path. Fujita called this fifth and final twister the "Dale Tornado."

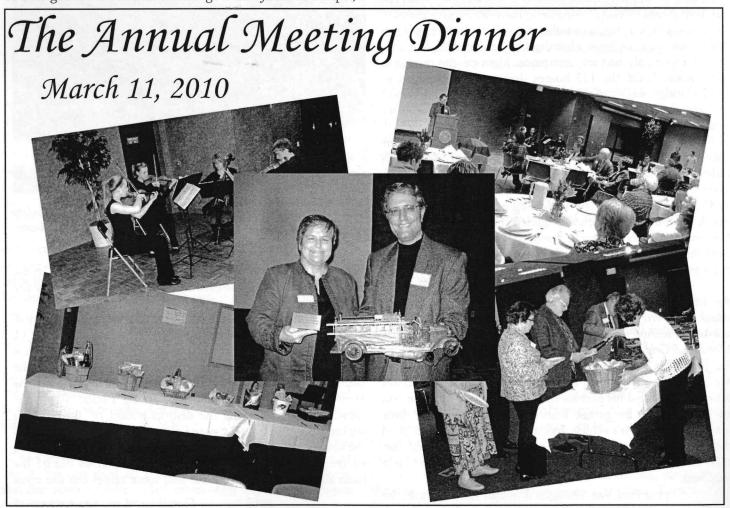
There may have been other tornadoes that day. Reports indicate one or more twisters visited the same area south of Barnesville struck just a week before. These destroyed or damaged barns and other buildings on the John Tschample,

Ben Berndt and Frank Stellmach farms. The *Barnesville Record-Review* reported "conservative [damage] estimates of... over \$100,000."

Folks from all over the area pitched in to help out. Various funds set up for relief raised tens of thousands of dollars. The Clay County Red Cross mounted a door-to-door campaign which netted over \$10,000. Local churches held bake sales, and collected and sent clothes and food. The Hawley Band and FM Symphony Orchestra played benefit concerts. The Fargo-Moorhead Twins minor league baseball team staged two exhibition games against the Winnipeg Goldeyes and the Aberdeen Pheasants to raise funds to aid tornado victims. (The tornado had interrupted a Twins game against visiting Duluth White Sox. Storm warnings sent hundreds of fans scurrying for home while about 50 players, officials and others sheltered in the clubhouse at Barnett Field, some four blocks north of the tornado's path.) Clay County 4-H girls held a pie bakeoff at the Courthouse. The twelve pies went to feed some of the homeless sufferers staying at Fargo's Ben Franklin School. Others found shelter in Concordia College dormitories.

Townsfolk helped area farm families hit by the twister find undamaged items and cleaned debris out of fields. Neighbors held a "disaster shower" for the Sandal family to replace household items lost in the storm.

Though losses in Clay County never approached the tragic levels of Fargo's experience, many here lost their homes, farms and livelihoods. They would never be the same again.



A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the HCSCC Archives with Mark Peihl

By Brianne Carlsrud, Marketing Coordinator

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) at the Hjemkomst Center is home of the *Hjemkomst* Viking Ship and Hopperstad Stave Church Replica, as well as a diverse combination of in-house and traveling exhibits. What some of you may not know is that we also house tens of thousands of archives of Clay County's past, and Mark Peihl, Archivist at the HCSCC, is the man behind it all.

The Archives have a strong photo and manuscript collection. About half or our researchers are genealogists, so we select things that have particular interest to them: newspapers, census records, tax records, and land records.

"The archival materials are kept together as a whole. We keep our materials together as a collection – a bunch of letters, diaries, financial records – they all relate to each other. I see things as a collection, rather than a piece. There are so many here that tell a remarkable story," Peihl said.

Peihl has been with this organization for 24 years in July. He started part-time in Jan. of 1986 and full-time on July 1, 1986. He started with the Clay County Historical Society (CCHS), which was located in the Great Northern Railway Depot at the time.

Peiĥl grew up in Hunter, N.D. and went to school at Dakota Arthur, which doesn't exist anymore. He graduated from the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand

Forks, N.D.

Peihl has always loved history, but he originally

went to college to learn how to write.

"I wanted to be a writer. At UND, I started in journalism, and I realized I hated deadlines. I figured I would work for a small-time newspaper writing obituaries. I eventually switched to history and finished with a Bachelor's of Arts in History, especially American History," Peihl said.

"After I graduated from college I worked for an armored car company. I used to fill out applications and send them in to the Minnesota Historical Society. The CCHS was the best draw and looked like an interesting place to work. So I started working as a volunteer – working with the glass-plate negative collection, cleaning and transcribing the information, and cleaning sleeves. I began to realize that common sense could only get me so far – like cleaning glass-plate negatives. There is a set way you want to do it; otherwise you can mess things up," Peihl said.

Peihl then began reading as much as he could to educate himself about archives management and photo

preservation.

"Fortunately, the North Dakota State University Library had, and still has, a very good collection of books on the subject, so I systematically read through everything that they had on archives management – photographs particularly," Peihl said.

He read as much as he could, a part-time position

opened up, and six months later they hired him full time.

Peihl is responsible for the corporate archives of the organization and its predecessors. He's responsible for the paper collections, photographs, manuscripts, documents and microfilm – all of the materials that the Archives have acquired. He also does a lot of research and writing for public programs. Peihl is a great resource for people with

research questions and reference services.

"There are so many things I love about my job. I really am lucky. One of the most gratifying parts is helping people with research. Like I said earlier, half of our researchers are genealogists. I've had many cases where we've been able to help people find information on relatives they did not know about or find photographs of their grandparents they've never seen before. Several people have broken down in tears. I enjoy not knowing what I'm going to do during the course of my day when I come in the morning. You just never know when somebody is going to come through the door and take you in a whole different direction," Peihl said.

The Archive is open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and open until 9 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more information, contact Mark Peihl at Mark.Peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us or 218-299-5511 ext. 6734.

Annual Fall Tour Offerings

Call Lynn for prices and itinerary: 218-299-5511 Ext. 6739

<u>Dead Sea Scrolls - Amish Country - Lanesboro</u>

• 3 days, 2 nights

• Dinner, theatre production, Amish country tour, shopping

Dead Sea Scrolls - Duluth

• 2 days, 1 night

Local History Buffs 1-Day Tour

- Ottertail County Historical Society
- Becker County Historical Society
- East Ottertail History Museum
- · Lunch included

Clay County Highlights 1-Day Tour

- (Guided by archivist Mark Peihl)
- Bergquist Cabin
- District 3 Schoolhouse
- Yankee Cemetery
- And more . . .
- · Lunch included

Websites and Other Resources for Personal Collections Care and Preservation

From time to time we receive questions from individuals about how to preserve or care for particular family heirloom items. We are happy to help provide useful information to our patrons at any time but thought you may also find this list of online resources helpful in the event you cannot reach either our Collections Manager Lisa Vedaa or Archivist Mark Peihl for objects care advice.

International/National Organizations

The Institute of Conservation

http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9&Itemid=10

Descriptions of how to preserve a wide variety of object types, and examples of types of deterioration and problems that should be referred to a professional conservator.

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

http://www.conservation-us.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=497&parentID=472

Guides for cleaning, storing, displaying, handling and protecting your personal heritage.

Library of Congress

http://www.loc.gov/preserv/familytreasures/index.html Simple instructions for preserving many types of family treasures.

http://www.loc.gov/preserv/careothr.html

Advice on the care of books, photos, videos, and other media in your collection.

National Archives

http://www.archives.gov/preservation/formats/

Preservation and conservation information and practice for specific materials.

http://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/preserving-family-papers.html

How to preserve family papers.

National Park Service (Conserve-O-Grams)

http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/conserveogram/cons_toc.html

Short, focused leaflets about caring for objects, published in loose-leaf format.

Heritage Preservation (The National Institute for Conservation)

http://www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog/default.asp Bookstore of resources

http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TFPublic.html

How to protect and salvage your family treasures.

Regional/State Organizations

Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, MN

Conservation Dept. 651-297-1967, MN Residents 1-800-657-3773

e-mail: conservationhelp@mnhs.org

http://www.mnhs.org/people/mngg/stories/

Preserve Your Family Treasures, Hints from Conservators http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/lhs/technical preservation.htm

Resources listed are written more for museums, but there are some good ones on caring for particular types of items, such as wood furniture, leather items, firearms, scrapbooks and albums, and more.

Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA 978-470-1010

http://www.nedcc.org/resources/resources.php
Advice for preserving your family collections.
http://www.nedcc.org/resources/family.php
Other online resources for family collection preservation.

Midwest Art Conservation Center, Minneapolis, MN 612-870-3128, http://www.preserveart.org/resources.html

Nebraska Public Television

http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/treasures/index.htm Saving Your Treasures: A website based on the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications television program featuring professionals from the Nebraska State Historical Society's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center and the State Library Commission that provides practical and effective methods to help ensure that artifacts, photographs, and documents will survive into the future. Includes videos and a wealth of information.

State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND 701-328-2666

http://digitalhorizonsonline.org/preserving.html Tips and links for preservation of mostly paper-based items.

General Information

About.com Genealogy

http://genealogy.about.com/ A host of information about finding, organizing, preserving and sharing your family heritage.

Search the web! Enter "How to care for family treasures" (or any other variation) in your choice of search engine and see what pops up!

Acid-free Preservation Supplies

Gaylord Bros.

800-448-6160

http://www.gaylord.com

Hollinger Corporation

800-634-0491

http://www.hollingercorp.com

Metal Edge, Inc.

800-862-2228

http://www.metaledgeinc.com

Light Impressions

800-828-6216

http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

University Products, Inc.

800-628-1912

http://www.universityproducts.com

2010 Viking Village Update

By Tim Jorgensen, Event Coordinator

The 4th Annual Viking Village is taking place July 17 (10-6) and 18 (noon-4) this year on the grounds of the Hjemkomst Center and Viking Ship Park. This is an all-ages public event celebrating a broad range of activities, arts, and cultural behaviors unique to Vikingage Scandinavia.

Visitors will enjoy learning from scheduled demonstrations of woodcarving using a spring-pole lathe, blacksmithing with a forge, weaving on a warp-weighted loom, fighting using period-accurate techniques, and

fabric dyeing using natural dyes.

Children will have plenty to experience at Viking Village as they partake in the Viking Quest – a series of activities and informative encounters that educate them in many aspects of Viking culture. Viking Quest includes felting, working with looms, studying chainmail, working with clay, and playing Viking games, among other adventures.

New to Viking Village 2010 is the Viking fencemaking project, a full-scale loom, more merchants, fullscale Viking tents, beds, and chairs, and much more.

If you are interested in volunteering with event

operations, please contact Markus Krueger at (218)-299-5511 ext. 6738. If you would like to be a merchant or set up a booth, please contact Tim Jorgensen at (218)-299-5511 ext. 6737.



A group poses in the Hopperstad Stave Church Replica during the Viking Village 2009 celebration.

Help us Build an Exhibit!

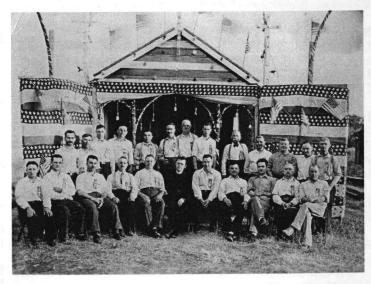
By Markus Krueger, Visitor Services Coordinator

This summer, HCSCC will be creating a new exhibit about immigration to Clay County and Fargo-Moorhead. Our exhibit will explore these questions: Who came here? When? What made them leave their homelands? And why did they choose here to stay? Those four questions cover a lot of ground, so we could use the help of our members! Below are some ways we hope people will get involved:

- •Does your family have any traditional recipes from the old country? Preferably foods that do not need special equipment to make them (like Krumkake irons) so anyone can try them at home. Stories that come with the recipes are greatly valued!
- •Do you have any letters or memoirs written by your immigrant forbearers? Are you an immigrant yourself? We'd love to hear the reasons why people decided to leave their countries of birth and why they chose our community as their new home.
- •While we have a great deal of items in our collection relating to Scandinavian and German immigrants, we have very few items related to other immigrant groups (English, Irish, Canadian, Italian, Mexican, Kurdish, former Yugoslavian, Sudanese, etc.). If you have an item with an interesting story and links to Clay County that we

may be able to borrow for the exhibit—or if you would like to donate it to the county collection—please contact Curator Lisa Vedaa at lisa.vedaa@ci.moorhead.mn.us or 218-299-5511 ext. 6735 by phone.

If you'd like to help, contact Visitors Services Coordinator Markus Krueger at 218-299-5511 ext. 6738 or markus.krueger@ci.moorhead.mn.us.



Our Lady of Monte Carmelo Society members in Dilworth in the 1930s. Society members would put on the Italian Days festivals in Little Italy in the 1920s and 1930s.

Grants Land HCSCC Archives a New Microfilm Reader/Scanner

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

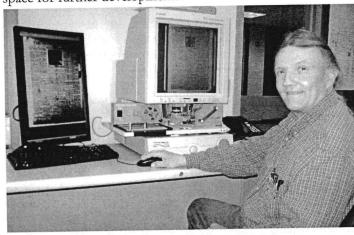
HCSCC recently received grants from the Alex Stern Family Foundation and the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant Program to buy a new microfilm reader/ scanner and attendant computer for our Archives. Our old reader/scanner, twenty-two years old, finally broke down late last year. The new equipment will not only allow our patrons and staff to print copies from newspapers, maps and other microfilmed records but scan them to disks and thumb drives for home printing or emailing. It may be possible to digitize

newspapers for mounting on our website.

Last year Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason secured a \$2500 grant from the Alex Stern Family Foundation to help fund the equipment. Maureen and Archivist Mark Peihl collaborated on a second \$5962 grant to the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant Program to finish the project. (They seemed to like our efforts. Our grant application is now posted online as a good example for other applicants seeking similar grants to follow!) The MHCHG grants are made possible by the Minnesota Legislature from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund created with passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in November 2008. The grants are awarded to support projects of enduring value for the cause of history

and historic preservation across the state.

These Legacy Grants provide a tremendous opportunity for small county and local historical societies to fund projects that would normally be out of reach. We will be applying for many more such grants in the future. Watch this space for further developments!



Archivist Mark Peihl with the new reader/scanner.

Exhibition & Event 2010 Calendar

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Through June 20

Two Photographers: the Works of O.E. Flaten & S.P. Wange Our in-house exhibition featuring our glass-plate negative collection.

April 17 - June 19

The Red River Watercolor Society 17th Annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition

Beginning April 28

Locally Grown in the 1870s: Probstfield Family Farm, a glimpse into the daily life of one of Clay County's first white settlers. Presented by the Midwest History Class of Concordia College.

June 4 - Sept. 12

Augustus Frederick Sherman: Portraits of Ellis Island, 1905-1920 A traveling exhibition courtesy of Aperture Foundation and Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

July 6 - Sept. 25

Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists Annual Member Show

August 2010 - June 2011

NEW in-house Local Immigration Exhibition

Sept. 18 - Dec. 27

Crime Lab Detectives Hands-on crime scene with clues for kids to solve the crime! Oct. 8 - Dec. 27

St. John's Bible

The brilliant illuminations done at St. John's Abbey near St. Cloud, Minn.

Upcoming Events

June 25 - 26, 1 - 4 p.m.

Annual Bergquist Cabin Open House There will be a free shuttle from the Hjemkomst Center.

June 25 - 27

Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival featuring Iceland (produced by the Nordic Culture Clubs) Call 701-478-9150 for more information.

July 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and July 18, noon - 4 p.m. Viking Village

Bring the whole family!

July 27

Author Kerck Kelsey will give a book presentation on his new biography about William Drew Washburn, titled Prairie Lightning, The Rise and Fall of William Drew Washburn.

October 29

Fall Gala: "Remember the '60s? One Groovy Gala"

November 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pangea - Cultivate our Cultures

December 11

The Holiday Open House

Save the date!

Remember the '60s? One Groovy Gala

- Scream for "Elvis"!
- · Rock the night away with '60s hits!
- Come dressed in your favorite '60s outfit
- Bid at the silent auction!
- Food, music and fun!



February 2010 - April 30, 2010

Individual \$30

Katherine Fredette Richard Mische Jean Nelson Cheryl Olson Janet Vining Allen County Public Library

FamilySearch Minot Public Library Norman B. Akesson Kathy Andersen Arthur Arett Sally Backman Les Bakkee Joel Belgum Patty Benson J. D. Bohlman Cassandra Braseth Grace E. Clark Rick Crume

Virginia Duval Loretta Erickson Edith L. Flaa Steven Frankl Robert L. Gerke Marilyn Gilbert Glenn Gilbery Marjorie Gjevre Waldo Hatledal

Irene Hogan Herman & Gail Holland John R. Holten

Tom Isern

Elinor Johnson Dr. Heidi Kassenborg

Kurt Ketterl Judi Koehmstedt Ramona Kooren Francis Kukowski Myrtle Ludemann Shirley Manning Eileen P. Michels

Michael Michlovic Milo M. Moyano Charles A. Nelson

Phyllis Nelson

Joanne Ogren Doris V. Olich Bernice Peihl Gloria Peihl Jean A. Prentice Pearl Quinnild Roberta Radford Pete Rice Vilera Rood Phil Seljevold Gerald Sime Terri Smith Arnold M. Solberg Iim Steen Dianne Stenso Walsh, Marrion Dudley C. Wells Minnesota Historical Society Library

Household \$50

Mark & Susan Altenburg Carleton & Dorothy Borden Verlene & DelRae Dvoracek Gordon Ekre Paul & Wendy Fuglestad Chuck & Tammy Odegaard H. Dennis & Marva D. Odegaard Veronica & David Revier Lyle & Joan Rich Don & Gloria Ruud Jitendra Vaidya Susan Woodstrom & Karen Hefland Pam & Dean Aakre

Bernard & Lois Altenburg Dennis & Kathy Bresee Elizabeth D. Bushell Jean E. & Burney Carver Randi & Christine Cockerill

Leland & Dorothy Delger Hiram M. & Ada M. Drache Duane & Joan Erickson Kathrine M. Erickson

Mike & Kathy Farrell Mike & Dianne Fillmore Kelli & Ryan Froslie Char & Stacy Grosz Bruce & Aase Hamnes Holly Heitkamp Bruce Karevold Robert & Dorothy Larson John David Lee Robert & Carol Muscha Gary H. & Becky Olson Marlowe & Joan Parries LaVonne & Michael Redding Gordon & Carol Rustad Homer & Esther Saetre Lynae Schenck Barry & Renee Steen Sanford & Joyce Steen Jennifer & Brock Stenberg Roger & Joan Stenerson Dale Stensgaard Donald & Rose-Mary Strom Sharon & Clarence Sundlie Alvin & Diane Swanson Al & Janet Traaseth Esther Vollbrecht Don & Dianne Westrum Marilyn Wollitz John Young

Booster \$75

City of Felton Moorhead Retired Educators Association Richard & June Chenoweth Vincent & Shirley Haugen Ralph & Ethel Hest Robert & Leslie Larson Ethel R. Medalen Richard H. & Helen C. Pemble James W. & Dorothy M. Powers Roland & Mary Swanson

Dennis & Mary Walaker

Heritage \$125

Oct. 29, 2010

James M. & Mary J. Hastings City of Hawley Mickelson Body Shop, Inc. Wright Funeral Home Darrell & Dorothy Bauder Barb Bertschi Kevin & Kristy Campbell James & Eleanor Coomber Marilyn Cornforth Maynard Frisk Graham & Madrene Goeson Richard & Roberta Henderson Maureen Kelly Jonason & Martin Ionason Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft E. Robert & Donna Olson Gene & Karen Prim Steve & Lucia Schroeder James & Chris Stenerson Rosa L. & Gary E. Stolzenberg Ray & Erma Stordahl C. Nicholas & Ene Vogel David Watt Diane Wray Williams & Tom Williams

Patron/Benefactor

Arnold Ellingson Mac's, Inc. David R. Alme Eventide R. Douglas & Sally Larsen David & Gloria Lee Bob & Helen Olson Donna M. Richards

*Any errors are a result of mere human weakness and not intended to reflect a lack of respect.

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

PO Box 157 • 202 First Avenue North Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



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

