The Hourglass

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2 • Summer 2011



Summer's a great time to head to the lake, play in the sand, and dip your toes in the water when Mom's not looking. Flaten/Wange Collection.

Did you Know ...

On July 6, 1936, the US Weather Bureau recorded a high temperature of 114° at Moorhead? That's still the highest temperature ever recorded in Minnesota.

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

HCSCC News

HCSCC Member Receives Honor



HCSCC member Conrad Newgren recently became a Knight of Legion Honor (Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur) for his service in the Second World War. This is France's highest honor, equivalent to our country's Medal of Honor. Conrad came in this spring to see Louis Guillotte, HCSCC's intern from France, so Louis

could translate his certificate into English.

Board News

The HCSCC board members appointed Les Bakke to fill a vacant one-year seat. Bakke is currently secretary on the Heritage Education Commission which conducts oral histories, especially of area veterans, and hosts an annual family history (genealogy) workshop. He also serves as president of the Moorhead Community Access TV advisory board and is a Moorhead Public Service commissioner.

The HCSCC board also selected Barnesville newspaper publisher Gene Prim as president for 2011-2012, Dale White, Moorhead, as vice-president, Neil Jordheim, Fargo, as treasurer, and Jade Rosenfeldt, Moorhead, as secretary.

Donate Your Old Cell Phone!

Recycle your old, unused cell phones to help the HCSCC! Look for this GreenCell Recycling collection bin at the Hjemkomst Center to make your donation.



Please Send us Your Addresses!

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to <u>Lynn. Catherine@ci.moorhead.mn.us</u> to make sure you're receiving all the up-to-date information from the HCSCC!



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Letter from the Board President

Barb Bertschi



I can't believe it's been a year since I had the privilege to become the Board of Directors president. It has been a very successful year with many programs, exhibits and community outreach. I wish I could take the credit; however, the kudos goes to Maureen and the staff. They have worked hard to make

HCS a destination in the region, and I would like to personally thank them for all they do.

I also want to thank you for supporting Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC). Your hours volunteering and offering financial assistance are very important to the strength of the organization. To

keep HCSCC strong, it's just as important that you visit the exhibits, participate in the events and use the services (such as the archives). The attendance numbers reflect that you are doing so, and I appreciate that HCSCC is able to carry out its mission because of your alliance.

The members of the Board of Directors have been wonderful to work with and I can't imagine a better group of people. They really care about HCS and the future of the organization. I am grateful that I had the chance to work with such a dedicated group of individuals and I thank them for the effort they put into their position.

I am optimistic that HCSCC will enjoy continued success. I may sound like a broken record, but HCSCC is here because of you. Thank you for your continued support.

2010 Annual Meeting a Success

What a night to remember! May 10 was not only absolutely gorgeous weather-wise, but the 85 people who attended the annual meeting dinner also enjoyed a fabulous feast prepared and served by the Native American Center Project. Executive Director Prairie Rose and her volunteers cooked up a tasty meal of wild rice-and-elk cakes with plum sauce, glazed carrots, venison sausage, bison soup, blueberry pudding, and fresh Indian fry bread. No one went away hungry! This interesting combination of tastes and textures gave us all a sample of some of the foods the earliest settlers would have encountered in their interactions with the Plains Indians. Darren Leno and Gene Prim donated the game. The tables were decorated with little handmade birds' nests created by Gloria Lee. Kirsten Hoaby and Tesssa Wakefield of Moorhead provided lovely dinner music.

During a short board meeting in which the entire board was re-elected in order to begin a new orderly board-term succession plan, treasurer Neil Jordheim presented executive director Maureen Kelly Jonason with a framed copy of the *Area Woman* magazine article that featured her and her work as the leader of HCSCC. Then archivist Mark Peihl's first 25 years of service to the County and the region were celebrated with a gift and cake. The Board gave Mark a beautiful birch bark framed mirror inscribed

with an expression of appreciation for all he has done in

Executive Director Maureen Kelly Jonason and Archivist Mark Peihl with the award he received at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Glyndon, Minn.

his work from 1986 to 2011. Audience members gave Mark standing ovation. Mark went on to share that he has "the best job in the world" before giving one of his trademark fascinating presentations, this one on the WWII German

Prisoner-of-War Camp of Clay County. Audience members asked lots of questions and shared lots of personal stories about those days. All in all, it was an evening of fun and education.

HCSCC Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason



Fresh from a successful and down right fun annual meeting, I am cheered to report that we've weathered the usual spring challenges and look forward to a busy summer. We are fortunate to have a strong, hard-working board of directors steering us in the right direction and a dedicated staff with energy and enthusiasm

for their work. As always, May brings a general gearing up for the tourism season when the bulk of our visitors come in from out of town. The gift shop is restocked with perennial favorites and new offerings from our best vendors as well as local artists. We have fascinating exhibits of history and art to share with everyone, along with the Hjemkomst Viking ship and Hopperstad Stave Church, of course. We host two cultural festivals: the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival by the Nordic Culture Clubs is June 24 and 25 with all the Scandinavian countries celebrated at once this year, and the Midwest Viking Festival is July 16 and 17. It's time to bring the younger generations to these two cultural fairs so that the old traditions are not forgotten!

Summer also brings more chances to get out into the county. Come by our booth at the Clay County Fair and Potato Days—both in Barnesville—and watch for the 1936 Buffalo Fire Engine in several parades.

And don't forget to bring your own summer visitors by the museum to see all we have to offer. Happy Summer!

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"Thank you" Notes from Local Students

We wanted to share with you all some "thank you" notes sent from local home schooled kids after their visit to the Hjemkomst Center (the spelling has not been changed). Enjoy!

To the staff at the Hjemkomst Center:

Thank you for giving us the tour. I enjoyed it immensely. The Hjemkomst and the Viking Church were so cool. The "Immigrant" exhibit was very interesting. I especially enjoyed the work sheet where we had the opportunity to look for the answers in the exhibit. I learned a lot on the tour.

Love, Naomi W.

Hjemkomst

Thank you for the tour. It was fun. I liked the movie. It was cool. The church was awesome, but I'm glad my church has chairs. I enjoyed the immigrant exhibit. I liked the worksheet.

Anna

Hjemkomst Staff:

The immigrant exhibit was good. I learned a lot! Thanks for everything. The thing that I enjoyed the most was the movie.
Tonya, age 8

Dear Hjemkomst Center,

We really enjoyed learning about Robert Asp and the Viking Ship and stuff. We also liked learning about the immigrants.

Thank you,

Jana B. (10), Brook B. (5), Abby B. (5)

Dear Hjemkomst Staff,

Thank you for inviting students to tour your facility free of charge [paid by grant]. It is great for students to learn about history in this setting.

Mandy

Hjemkomst,

Thank you so much for telling us about the Viking ship. The Viking church was super cool. I liked going on the treasure hunt, and putting notes in the old chest. I think the green card which is pink is funny.

Abby

Dear Markus,

On behalf of our Fargo—Moorhead home school support group, I would like to extend a big thank you for the wonderful opportunity

to tour the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County free of charge. Our families enjoyed the Immigration exhibit, Hjemkomst Viking Ship, Hopperstad Stave church replica, Red River Valley exhibit, and the many archives.

Reading about history is wonderful, but being able to use our senses to make a lasting impression is the ultimate. I know that the children and parents learned much in the hours we spent at the center.

The passion you have to direct the center is seen and appreciated. May God bless you in your work.

Sincerely, Julie Walter REACH Board Director

Fall Preview - Save these Dates!

September finds us opening two new exhibits with receptions open to the public: *Quilt National 2009* on **Sept. 18, 3 - 5 p.m.**, and *African Soul, American Heart: Images of Duk Payeul Sudan* on **Sept. 27, 5 - 7 p.m. Oct. 28** is the night of our big annual fundraising gala. This year's theme is "Celebrating the Greatest Generation" and we will honor Dr. Roland Dille with the Clay County Heritage Award for a life dedicated to preserving and sharing history.

Nov. 12 is the free, family-friendly, indoor one-day multicultural festival Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Nov. 19, a brand new Minnesota Historical Society exhibit called *Uncle Sam's New Deal* opens. Nov. 29 join us for *Ordinary Vikings*, an installation by Jill Johnson that includes the wax faces of modern Swedish Americans to portray important figures in Norse mythology. And finally, don't miss our annual holiday open house which

also includes the opening our brand new exhibit about Clay County 1945-1960 on **Dec. 10, 1 - 3 p.m.**



Pangea - Cultivate our Cultures 2010



Doris Larson has been volunteering at the Hjemkomst Center since 1986, when the building first opened. She started in the Gift Shop and eventually made her way to become a church tour guide once the Hopperstad Stave Church was completed.

Doris was born and raised in Moorhead, Minn. and currently resides in Fargo, N.D. She says her husband was "sick of the Minnesota winters," so they decided to move across the bridge to North Dakota, where the weather is, well, about the same!

One of Doris' unique trademarks is her bunad, a traditional Norwegian rural garment she wears while giving church tours. "When I was giving a tour one day, a gal asked me 'where's your outfit?" Doris said. "It turns out she was a docent for a federal house in South Carolina, where she wore a southern belle hoop skirt while giving tours. She said it added a lot to her tours, so I thought I would give it a try." Doris made the entire outfit herself and wears it on every church tour she gives.

Doris enjoys embroidering hardangers (she made the hardanger altar cloths currently in the Hopperstave



Stave Church), giving tours, and instructing water aerobics in her spare time.

"Everybody is so nice, and I enjoy sharing the history of the church," Doris said. "I spent a lot of time with my grandparents when I was younger, who were from Norway. They gave me a lot of background knowledge of the Norwegian heritage, which I thoroughly enjoy sharing with visitors while I give tours."

Collections Donations

By Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager

February-April 2011 Accessions and Donors

Donors (listed alphabetically): James Christie, Moorhead; Clay County Recorder's Office, Moorhead; Fargo Rotary Club; Gene Hoaglund, Hawley; Denise King, Templeton, CA; Martin Kleven, Mapleton, MN; Don Larew, Moorhead; Gloria Lee, Georgetown; Norman County Historical Society, Ada, MN; North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Fargo, ND; Donna Olson, Moorhead; Polk County Museum, Crookston, MN; Dewey Possehl, Moorhead; Dale White, Moorhead

Material (in no particular order): (1) 1961 wedding dress and veil, (2) newspaper clippings reporting the wedding, (2) wedding portraits, one color and one black and white; (1) leaflet, Clay County Minnesota, In the Red River Valley c1930s, (1) envelope, State Normal School, Moorhead, c1917, (9) photo postcards, reproductions of early photos of Moorhead scenes; (1) volume, Chokio Moorhead High School Annual, 1920, (4) bundles/ envelopes film negatives, taken by donor's mother while student at MSNS late 1920s; (1) photo, Felton Depot with railroad workers (section?) posed on tracks with handcart, c1902; (1) Scottish kilt, worn by donor as a young boy in England, (1) dagger, (1) kilt pouch, (1) matching tie, (1) school boy cap, worn by donor's father, (1) Wolf Scouts sweater, worn by donor as a boy in England (Wolf Scouts are the British version of Cub Scouts); (1) volume, 3-ring binder, Genealogy Resource Guide - Jens Olsen Vinjum Children and Grandchildren Information Within

the United States, by Gary Michael Clinger, privately printed, 2010; (1) paper tag, Bon Valet Cleaners, Fargo/ Moorhead, c1960s; (9) photos, snapshots taken June 11, 1999, during construction of Hopperstad Stave Church replica at Hjemkomst Center; (1) color inkjet photo print, Hopkins 1st Ward School, Moorhead, 5th Grade class, 1950, students identified; (1) DVD+R disk with .pdf copies of Fargo Rotary The Wheel, July 2009-March 2011; (2) photo prints, copies of photos of Fisher's Landing in 1870s; (1) footlocker, containing uniform pieces and military accoutrement of Arnold R. Anderson, Hawley; (1) document, "Original Townsite Project Amended Urban Renewal Plan, Revised December 1, 1971;" paper items from State Normal School, Moorhead, MN, c1915-1918; (1) volume, cookbook Favorite Recipes, compiled by The Mary Circle of the Salem Lutheran Ladies Aid, Hitterdal, Minnesota, 1945

Note: HCSCC Collections Manager Lisa Vedaa will be going on parental leave the beginning of June, so there will be a moratorium on the acceptance of donations for the collection from June 1 through July 31. If you have something you would like us to consider for the collection, you may contact Archivist Mark Peihl (ext. 6734, Mark.Peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us) or Executive Director Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason (ext. 6732, Maureen.Jonason@ci.moorhead.mn.us) with information about the items proposed. Mark may also be contacted for the consideration of items strictly archival in nature.

Victorian Trunk and Tea Show a Hit

On Saturday, May 7, we hosted two groups of 30 each for a small fundraiser. Guests enjoyed treats from Nichole's Fine Pastry on 8th street in Fargo and an entertaining talk on vintage clothing of the Victorian and Edwardian periods by collector Barbara Hundstad. We had a lot of competition for people's time and treasure and so were happy to have our small but appreciative groups. Stay tuned for a Clay County Vintage Clothing Style Show planned for next year featuring the historic clothing owned by people all over the County. While donated artifacts cannot be worn, those items still in the possession of families and friends certainly can be and we look forward to a wonderful event showing off the fashions of bygone years.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Gloria Lee at dlee@feltontel.net or 218-494-

3609. We are seeking clothing from all different historical periods as well as models to wear them!



Crowd shot at the May 7th Victorian Trunk and Tea Fundraiser at the Hiemkomst Center.

Two Immigrants' Tales

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

Many of us here in Clay County can trace our family origins to Norway, Germany or other places in western Europe. But folks have come here looking for a better life from all over the world. During research for our exhibit *Coming to Clay County: 150 Years of Immigration*, we came across these two poignant tales of Asian migrants to our county.

Lum Hing from China.

Born in Canton, China in 1862, Lum Hing

came to the US at

age 18. He lived for

a time in Oregon,

then Bismarck and Grand Forks, ND.

In 1896 he moved

to Barnesville where

he ran a successful

years. Lum dabbled in

real estate and bought

and shipped potatoes.

Thev

one son, Clarence.

Well thought of by

his neighbors, Lum

married

many

Ellen

in

had

daughter

Norwegian

grocery for

Jordahl,

1897.

immigrants,

of



Lum Hing in 1891. From his Return Certificate Application Case File # 12017/52321 - Lum Hing. RG 85. National Archives at San Francisco.

prospered in Barnesville.

While in Bismarck, Lum filed a "Declaration of Intent to Become an American Citizen," the first step toward naturalization. In December 1896 Clay County District Court granted his full citizenship. After his wife's death in 1935, Lum decided to travel back to China to visit relatives, probably for the last time. In 1939 he applied for a passport. In 1882, Congress had passed the "Chinese Exclusion Act." Racially motivated and designed to limit Chinese immigration, the Act barred Chinese from becoming citizens.

Alerted by his passport application, the US Attorney General ruled in December 1939 that Lum Hing was "racially ineligible for naturalization." In March 1940 after quietly living, paying taxes and voting in the US for over forty years, Lum Hing was stripped of his

citizenship by the US District Court for North Dakota.

Three years later the Magnuson Act (sponsored by Washington Senator and Moorhead native, Warren Magnuson) repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act. Lum Hing died an alien in San Francisco in 1955, never having made his trip to China.

Nassib Shaheen from Syria/Lebanon.

Nassib Shaheen came to the US from Shabaa in what is now southeast Lebanon in 1905. Then it was ruled by the Turkish Ottoman Empire. He was just 13 years old and probably stayed with brothers Wadie and Tufic in Iowa. About 1915 they moved to Moorhead and opened a pool hall. Nassib worked as a clerk.



Nassib Shaheen in uniform, 1918. Three days after filing his Declaration of Intent to Become an American Citizen he joined a Fargo National Guard unit. It was the quickest way to see service in the War. Clay County in the World War, 1919.

On April 6, 1918 the US declared war on the Central Powers - Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey. - and entered World War 1. On April 29 Nassib filed a "Declaration of Intent to Become an American Citizen," the first step in the naturalization process. Three days later he enlisted in Company H, 1st Infantry, Dakota National North Guard. President Woodrow Wilson mobilized the Guard in July. Nassib and the 1st shipped out for France in September.

Perhaps as many as one in eleven men in service during World War 1 were non-

citizens. The US encouraged aliens to serve. On May 9, 1918 Congress passed an act that allowed aliens serving in the military immediate citizenship without having to file a Declaration of Intent or waiting the normally required five years.

The Act came too late for Nassib Shaheen. On May 28, 1918 Nassib died in an artillery barrage as his unit took the French town of Cantigny. He was the first Moorhead boy to enlist after the War began and the first to die in combat. Nassib Shaheen is buried in the Somme American Cemetery, Bony, Aisne, France.

Two Hjemkomst Center Volunteers Honored at YWCACass Clay Women of the Year Event

By Brianne Carlsrud, Marketing Coordinator

Congratulations to Hjemkomst Center volunteers

Donna Voorhees and Anne Kaese who were both honored at the 38th Annual YWCA Cass Clay Women of the Year event, held on Monday, April 4 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. With nearly 600 guests, 29 women and businesses were honored at this year's event. To see a full list of the 29 nominees who were honored at the event, visit www.ywcacassclay.



Donna was the Volunteer Service Recipient and has been volunteering at the Hjemkomst Center for the past year and also volunteers at Harwood School. Anne Kaese was the Arts & Communications Recipient for her volunteerism in making *The Saint John's Bible* exhibit known to the community.

org.



Anne Kaese

WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

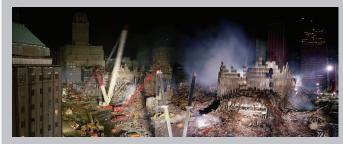


National Juried Show June 21 - Sept. 17

Opening reception: Tuesday, June 21 6 - 8 p.m.

Last years' gold medal winner, Cindy Brabeck-King of Palisade, Colorado

Aftermath: Images from Ground Zero Photographs by Joel Meyerowitz



Aftermath: Images from Ground Zero. All photographs copyright Joel Meyerowitz. This show is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

July 2 - Sept. 11, 2011

Special event commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11: Sunday, Sept. 11

Verlyn Anderson Gives Lecture

On March 19, Dr. Verlyn Anderson gave a talk to 65 people who also came for the opening of *Norwegian Footprints*, photographs by Norwegian photographer Jan Johannessen and text by Norwegian journalist Espen Hansen, the exhibit displays large color images of contemporary Norwegian-Americans and vivid scenery around western North Dakota and reminds us of the men and women who came from Norway to help build our country. This exhibit was completed in 2005 in conjunction with the Norwegian Emigration Museum and Nordic Initiative and is on loan from the Chester Fritz Library, UND.

Originally from Rothsay, MN, Anderson is a nationally recognized expert on Scandinavian history and heritage. In 2009, he received the prestigious St. Olav medal from King Harald V of Norway "in recognition of his great service to Norway, in particular his active work to promote knowledge and appreciation of Norwegian culture, language and history in the United States, especially in the Upper Midwest." Anderson presented on the generation of American-born settlers of Norwegian descent who developed the western North Dakota communities featured in the exhibit. The exhibit closes June 27.

Top Five Oldest American Buildings on the Red River

By Markus Krueger, Visitor Services Coordinator

There is an important project underway that everyone interested in local history should know about. The home of Red River Valley pioneers Randolph and Catherine Probstfield is being restored. I was recently out at the farm with fellow board members of the Probstfield Farm Living History Foundation, wondering how we could bring attention to this project. "This house has got to be one of the oldest buildings on the Red River," I said. That got me thinking. What are the oldest remaining buildings on the Red River?

I found that there was no list compiled of oldest buildings and no one authority to ask, so I contacted local historians around the region to ask them about the oldest buildings in their area. I would like to especially thank our archivist Mark Peihl (of course), Andrew Nielsen of Bonanzaville in West Fargo, Leah Byzewski of the Grand Forks County Historical Society, Diane Rogness of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and Wilkin County historian Neoma Laken for helping me compile this list of the six oldest American buildings on the Red River, plus one honorable mention.

I decided to limit this list to structures in the United States since Canadian settlers beat us to the Red by half a century. There are about a dozen existing buildings in Manitoba that were built before 1870, but anything on the Red River built before the railroad arrived in 1871 is incredibly rare in the United States.

Honorable Mention:
"Folk Arts Cabin" aka "Burbank Station"
Moorhead, Minn.
Built 1932 of reused lumber from an 1860 structure

I thought this building would top the list, but after research and close examination of photographs in the archives, Mark Peihl and I had to downgrade this building to "honorable mention" status.

This is the log cabin that was in Moorhead's Bowman Park (on 4th Street South, overlooking Woodlawn Park) until it was relocated next to Moorhead's old American Legion last fall. While there is some debate about its origin, the building's story most likely began in 1860 as the Burbank Stage Company's stop between Fort Abercrombie and Georgetown. It was built by Burbank

employee Lewis Lewiston, who operated the station until it was abandoned during the Dakota War in August of 1862. When stagecoach service was reestablished two years later, the same man built a new stop a few miles south (Lewiston Station) and Burbank Station remained vacant.

The building became a part of the new village of Moorhead after the Northern Pacific Railway built a bridge a few hundred yards south of it. In the mid-1880s the logs were numbered so the building could be taken apart and reassembled on a new site in north Moorhead. The logs were covered in brick and the stagecoach station turned into a house. There it sat until 1931, when owner Robert Neubarth noticed that the floor was getting soft and rotten. He found that it would cost more to fix it than it would to build a new house from scratch, so the house was torn down.

The destruction caught the attention of the community and was reported in the local news. Levi Thortvedt, whose family of early Norwegian pioneers passed by the abandoned Burbank Station in 1870, came in from his Moland Township farm with his daughters to see the building come down. Thortvedt and alderman A.W. Bowman convinced the owner to donate the logs to the city so something of this historic building might be salvaged some day. They did not have to wait long. The following spring, the city approved the Moorhead Garden Club's proposal to use the logs for a "pioneer shrine" and meeting house for the organization.

Looking at photographs taken from the destruction in the fall and reconstruction in the spring (before the siding of round brown logs was put on) we see some differences. The new building is shorter than the original, the windows are smaller, and the logs are often - but, interestingly, not always - laid in a different order. The Moorhead newspaper accounts from September 2, 1931, say nothing about carefully taking the building apart to be reconstructed later, but rather that the house was being torn down "rapidly" and "hastily," leaving the yard "littered with flying debris." There is no evidence in the Moorhead Garden Club's scrapbook in our archives that the "pioneer shrine" was intended to be a replica of the original Burbank Station. On final inspection, Moorhead's "Folk Art Cabin" is a building built in 1932 from 1860 lumber. After years of being unsafe to enter

Continued on next page...

because the foundation had been weakened by flooding, the log cabin was relocated to Davy Park. The move was very controversial among the neighbors, but Woodlawn area residents can take comfort knowing that the cabin went home. It now sits only yards away from the original site of Burbank Station.

6. The Bergquist Cabin Moorhead, Minn. Built 1871

Although a Top 5 list of buildings would have been more traditional, I just could not leave out the Bergquist Cabin. John Bergquist was a Swedish immigrant who came to America in 1868. Although county lore says he arrived on the Red River in February of 1870, Mark Peihl's research has convinced him that he more likely arrived in February of 1871, which is when he filed his Declaration of Intent to become an American Citizen as well as his homestead claim. He worked as a laborer for early pioneer Job Smith, whose land was just south of Bergquist's homestead. Bergquist was paid \$1 per day, which he gave right back to Smith for the use of his ox team that winter to haul logs from Dakota Territory across the frozen river to build this house. He began construction in February and the cabin was finished by May. The following fall, the Northern Pacific Railway bought Job Smith's land and started selling it in lots to make Moorhead. Within four months of finishing his log cabin, John Bergquist's homestead went from being in the middle of nowhere to being some of the most valuable land on the American frontier.

This house went through a lot of changes. The additions started about five years after John built the house, when he and his brother Peter added the second floor. Charles Peterson and family bought the place around the turn of the century. The Petersons added a number of rooms, sided the house, and plastered the walls. As the years went on, the house was rented out, finally becoming a place for coffee breaks for Peterson farm workers. It was all but forgotten that underneath all the plaster and siding was a building older than Moorhead itself. That is, until a local weatherman took interest.

This weatherman was Dewey Bergquist, a local favorite on WDAY and John Bergquist's grandson. Dewey, his wife Tess, owner Hank Peterson (born in the Bergquist Cabin in 1904), and others formed the Bergquist Cabin Society in 1978 to restore the Bergquist Cabin. The later additions were torn off and the logs of the original structure were carefully numbered before the house was dismantled log by log. A new concrete slab was poured. Logs that were rotten or cut through to make doors into new additions

were replaced with wood from four other log cabins in the area that were being torn down at the time.

In the fall of 1989 the Bergquist Cabin Society disbanded and transferred the ownership of the house to the Clay County Historical Society. Would you like to see it? The Bergquist Cabin is in the same place as it has been since 1871: 1002 7th Street North, Moorhead. Give us a call to schedule a free tour and be sure to come to the annual open house during the Scandinavian Festival on **June 24 and 25, 1 - 4 p.m.** A free shuttle (yellow school bus) will depart the Hjemkomst Center at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Returns within the hour (sponsored by Moorhead State Bank and Trust).

5. The Bernhardson Cabin Northwest of Comstock, Minn. Built 1870

Surprisingly, John Bergquist's cabin is not the oldest Swedish immigrant cabin in Clay County. Bernhard and Kerstin Bernhardson's house is just a few months older. The couple came to America with their three children in 1868, settling in Pope County. Bernhard went out to the Red River in October of 1869, picked a spot in Holy Cross Township, and filed a homestead claim on it. He returned to the site in early July to build this home for his family, finishing it in the fall of 1870. It is a small place with walls just four and a half feet tall, intended to shelter the family only until they could build a proper house. The family lived in this house for a few years (sources vary between one year and six) before they finished their larger, two-story home. This second log cabin has formed the core of a house that Bernhard and Kerstin's descendants have lived in for well over a century.

Larry Dahlstrom, Bernhard and Kerstin's greatgrandson, spent his life on this farm. He recalls the small 1870 cabin being used for storage in his childhood, but his wife Grek would keep it tidy and fill it with photographs of ancestors for visiting family members. In the 1990s, some family members did some restoration work, replacing logs that had rotted out. Larry Dahlstrom, however, has recently moved into town. After 142 years of family ownership, the family farmstead, including the two pioneer log cabins, is up for sale. Although the 1870 cabin has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, being on the list is no protection against owners who wish to tear down a building that is still their private property. The family is discussing options for preserving the Bernhardson Cabin, which may include moving the building to another section of land that remains in family hands. Since this is such a recent development, no decisions have been made and the future of these two historic pioneer homes is still uncertain.

4. "Fargo's Oldest House" aka "the Hector House" aka "the Moore and Mann House" Bonanzaville, West Fargo Built 1869

When Harry Moore came to Dakota Territory, he joined a growing number of people trying to guess where the first railroad bridge over the Red River would be built. It was commonly assumed on the frontier that the next great city of the west would grow up around that bridge. Whoever owned this land could sell their homestead off in city lots at a great profit. Moore hired carpenter George Mann to build a house on his chosen spot in 1869. Around September of 1871, the Northern Pacific Railway's crossing point became known and Harry Moore found out he had chosen wisely. His house stood in what is now Fargo's Island Park.

During the early years of Fargo, Moore and Mann both ran the house as a hotel. It was even rented as the Fargo jail for \$15 per month in 1875 until a permanent jail was constructed the following year. This home is well traveled, as far as buildings go. It was moved an unknown number of times in the early years to avoid the flooding. When Henry Hector bought the place in 1892, it was on the site of the 4th Street YMCA. Although this building is often called the Hector House after him, it causes some confusion with a much larger Hector House on Broadway and 11th Avenue, built by Henry's brother Martin, who made a fortune first as a liquor wholesaler and then in real estate. Henry Hector built several additions to his home over the years and had it sided. The house was sold again in 1953 and moved to 205 23rd Street South, where the old pioneer cabin became part of a duplex. In 1974 the home passed into the ownership of an FM realtor group who donated the building to Cass County's historical society. It moved one final time to Bonanzaville, where it was restored to its original appearance and opened to the public.

3. The Probstfield House Oakport, Minn. Built 1868-69

This is the home of the Randolph and Catherine Probstfield family, known on their gravestone in Prairie Home Cemetery as "Moorhead's First Family." Randolph Probstfield is an important and interesting figure in Red River Valley history. He was one of the earliest pioneers in the valley, an innovative farmer, a community leader, and an influential politician. The Probstfields are also important sources for studying our history. The family preserved hundreds of letters and kept a family diary that began in 1868 and continued on for almost a century.

In fall of 1868, after almost a decade of living and raising a family on the Red River frontier, Randolph and Catherine Probstfield decided to move out of Georgetown to a bit of high ground that they noticed never flooded. They named the place after all of the oak trees around their new farm: Oakport. Randolph built this home of handhewn oak. According to his diary, he had the house sided

in October of 1875 while he, Catherine and the kids were harvesting potatoes. The house regularly served as a hotel for travelers going by steamboat or Red River cart, and was also frequented by many an early



The Probstfield House as it appears today.

Moorhead resident who would walk six miles round trip to pay for Catherine's home cooking. After Randolph and Catherine's deaths, the home and farm were passed down to their children and then to their grandchildren. Like most buildings on this list, additions were built on to the home over the years.

Unlike other buildings on the list, the home was never forgotten, never moved, never disassembled. The family always knew the importance of this place. In 1995, the Probstfield Farm - which includes the house, several other buildings, and over one hundred acres of land - was given to the Probstfield Farm Living History Foundation, a non-profit created to continue the legacy of the Probstfield family and educate the community about our region's agricultural heritage. The land is still being worked today by farmers who rent out some of the land, by historic tractor enthusiasts from the Lake Agassiz Two Cylinder Club, and by local gardeners who rented out 104 plots in the Probstfield Organic Community Garden this year.

The process of restoring the Probstfield House has already begun. In 2009, the house was lifted up and a much needed new foundation was poured. In the process, additions to the house were taken off, leaving only the core log cabin. Grants are being written for funding the restoration and research is being conducted to guide us in bringing the house back to something Randolph and Catherine would recognize.

It will be a long and difficult task to restore this house. The Probstfield Farm has no paid staff and everything from mowing the lawn to painting the barn is done by volunteer power. If you would like to help restore the oldest American farmhouse on the Red River in time for

Continued on next page...

its 150th birthday party, drop me a line: Markus.Krueger@ci.moorhead.mn.us or 218-299-5511 Ext. 6738.

2. The Grand Forks Post Office Grand Forks, N.D. Built 1868

Grand Forks, where the Red Lake River flows into the Red River, has attracted people as a natural settlement place long before the town of that name appeared on the map. In 1870, there were over two dozen people living there in shacks and semi-permanent dwellings. Most of the residents were Métis families working in the fur trade industry, but the town also boasted two postmen: Nicolas Huffman (sometimes spelled Hoffman) and August Loon (interestingly, this Frenchman Americanized his last name from Huard, which translates into Loon). These two men received the contract to deliver mail along the Red River Valley in 1868. They likely built this cabin at that time. Hoffman and Loon chose Grand Forks as their home base because it was midway between Fort Abercrombie and Pembina, the two anchor points on their mail route. The mail would be delivered by stagecoach from Saint Paul to Fort Abercrombie, where either Nicolas or August would pick up the mail. That postman would then deliver the mail on horseback on the way north to this cabin at Grand Forks. The other partner would take the mail from there, delivering between Grand Forks and Pembina. In the early years the building also served as a stage coach station.

Like the other buildings on this list, this log cabin was eventually bought as a house, moved three or four times, sided, added on to, and forgotten. According to Leah Byzewski, director of the Grand Forks County Historical Society, people knew that the old cabin was somewhere near the old Great Northern Depot; they just could not be sure which house it was under all the plaster and siding. When the neighborhood underwent extensive urban renewal in 1974, the historic log cabin was found again. Rather than tear it down, the Grand Forks Post Office was moved one last time, to the Grand Forks County Historical Society's open air museum, where you can visit it today.

Fort Abercrombie Guardhouse Fort Abercrombie, N.D. Built 1862

The honor of oldest known American structure on the Red River goes to the guardhouse at Fort Abercrombie. Fort Abercrombie was established in 1858, then moved to higher ground the following year after the soldiers experienced their first Red River flood. The fort was built to protect the settlers that were sure to come as the Red River frontier opened for settlement. From Breckenridge to the south (which consisted of a sawmill and an optimistically large hotel) to Pembina in the north, this was the United States' only military presence in the Valley. At first, it was not impressive. When the Dakota tribes rose up after years of mistreatment in a last ditch attempt to violently expel all of the white settlers from the Minnesota frontier in August of 1862, the soldiers garrisoning Fort Abercrombie probably wished they had gotten around to building a wall for their fort. They had, however, just finished a sturdy new guardhouse in time for the six-week-long siege of Fort Abercrombie.

The Red River settlers were so far in advance of other settlements during the Dakota War that the battle for the Minnesota frontier raging between the white settlers and various Dakota tribes (with the Métis caught on both sides) was actually to the east of them, cutting the Red River off from the United States of America. About 80 local settlers from around the valley joined the 84 members of Company D, 5th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry inside Fort Abercrombie. Others, such as the Probstfields, weathered out the storm in Georgetown, where a few local families joined the steamboat crew and Red River cart brigade for a nerveracking two weeks before fleeing north to Pembina and Fort Garry. During the siege, one of the fort's three howitzers was placed in this guardhouse. The gun was manned with great ability by Corporal Anthony Probstfield, who trained as an artilleryman in the Prussian army before joining his older brother Randolph in America two years prior to the uprising. Among those evacuees who took refuge in Fort Abercrombie during the Dakota War were Lewis Lewiston (builder of Burbank Station), Nick Huffman (builder of the Grand Forks Post Office), and the reluctant Randolph and Catherine Probstfield (builders of the Probstfield House), forced against their will to evacuate their Georgetown farm after the siege of the fort was lifted.

As the frontier moved west, American soldiers and their forts moved with it. Fort Abercrombie was closed in 1877. The guardhouse was sold at auction the next year to a nearby farmer, who used it as part of his home. There it sat until 1938, when it was taken apart and brought back home to Fort Abercrombie as part of a New Deal project to bring attention to the historic site. Finally, in 2001, Fort Abercrombie's guardhouse underwent an extensive restoration and was moved one last time to be on or near its original site in the fort. The Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site is about 40 miles south of Fargo.

Do you know of any old buildings that should be on this list? Is your home secretly a pioneer cabin underneath the plaster and siding? Let us know!

Historic Preservation The HCSCC **Award**

The Fargo Moorhead Heritage Society recently recognized the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County with a Historic Preservation Award for its work preserving the Bergquist Cabin. The ceremony took place

on May 19 at the Rourke Art Museum. Mav is National Preservation month, and each year the Moorhead Fargo Heritage Society takes time to recognize home and business owners who have done work on or maintained one of



the historic structures in our area.

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 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.

Join us for our annual open house on Friday and **Saturday, June 24 and 25, 1 - 4 p.m.** at the cabin, 1008 7th Street North, Moorhead. Free shuttle buses departing the Hjemkomst Center will be available at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. For more information, contact the HCSCC at 218-299-5511 or www.hcscconline.org.

Receives Grants

In support of their efforts to provide arts programming in their community, the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) applied for and was awarded a \$1,850 Presenter Support grant by the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

The HCSCC was among 18 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 \$25,050 was awarded during this grant round.

The HCSCC was also a Lake Region Arts Council grant recipient of \$1,922 from the Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. This activity is funded by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Both grants will help to provide funds to the HCSCC for Pangea—Cultivate our Cultures, an annual event celebrating our community's traditions and cultures with a local multi-ethnic showcase of music, dance, culinary arts, and children's activities. Founded by Cultural Diversity Resources more than 16 years ago, Pangea— Cultivate Our Cultures moved to the Hjemkomst Center in 2005. This year's event takes place on Saturday, November 12 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Center.

In addition, we received a donation of \$2,500 from Gate City Bank. The donation will go towards general operations for the HCSCC museum and archives.

Save the Date for Give to the Max Day 2011! Click. Contribute. Change Your World. November 16

2011 Exhibition & Event Calendar

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Through Thanksgiving

Coming to Clay County: 150 Years of Immigration

This HCSCC-produced exhibit focuses on immigrant life in Clay County and the region from the 1850s to today and will explore these questions: Who came here? When? What made them leave their homelands? And why did they choose here to stay?

Through Thanksgiving

My Journey, My Story

We hosted a writing contest inviting local students (ages 13-19) to write an essay about their own experiences coming to or living in a country different from their parents' country of origin. The prize winner from each participating school has her or his photo and essay included in this exhibit.

Through Thanksgiving

Georgetown: Transportation Crossroads

This exhibit looks at the importance of Georgetown in the Red River Valley's early transportation network.

Through June 27

Norwegian Footprints

The exhibit displays color photographs by photographer Jan Johannessen of contemporary Norwegian-Americans around North Dakota and reminds us of the men and women who came from Norway to help build our country.

Through June 8

The BIG Art Show

A wide variety of art (2D and 3D) from both emerging and established artists that are members of Fargo Moorhead Visual Artists.

June 21 - Sept. 18

Red River Watercolor Society National Juried Show RRWS is a volunteer organization that serves to promote the interest, display and education in watercolor and other water-based media in this region and nationally through their

July 2 - Sept. 11

flagship National Juried Exhibition.

Aftermath: Images from Ground Zero; Photographs of Joel Meyerowitz A historic, photographic record of the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 tragedy and the neighborhood as it evolved.

Sept. 15 - Nov. 13

Quilt National 2009

An international juried exhibition of innovative contemporary art quilts.

Sept. 27 - Nov. 13

African Soul, American Heart: Images of Duk Payuel, Sudan, by Deb Dawson

These vibrant color photos document the unique beauty and fortitude of the people of the village of Duk Payuel, Sudan, the former home of local resident Joseph Akol Makeer.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 21, 6 - 8 p.m.

Opening reception for Red River Watercolor Society National Juried Show

June 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival

The Scandinavian Festival is brought to you by the Nordic Culture Clubs. For tickets and more information on the event, visit www.nordiccultureclubs.org.

June 24 and 25, 1 - 4 p.m.

Bergquist Cabin Open House, 1008 7th St. N., Moorhead Free shuttle buses departing the Hjemkomst Center will be available at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. (sponsored by Moorhead State Bank and Trust).

Saturday, July 16, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, July 17, noon - 4 p.m.

Midwest Viking Festival

Formerly Viking Village, The Midwest Viking Festival is a twoday event offering demonstrations, performers, merchants and other activities intended to educate the public about society and culture in Viking age Scandinavia and beyond.

Sunday, Sept. 11

Special event commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11

Sunday, Sept. 18, 3 - 5 p.m.

Quilt National 2009 Reception

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 5 - 7 p.m.

Opening reception for African Soul, American Heart: Images of Duk Payuel, Sudan exhibit

Friday, Oct. 28, 6 p.m.

Gala: Celebrating the Greatest Generation

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Pangea - Cultivate our Cultures

Free and open to the public.

Celebrate our community's traditions and cultures with this local, multi-ethnic showcase of music, dance culinary arts and children's activities.

New and Renewing Members

February - May 24, 2011

Individual \$30

Allen County Public Library Minot Public Library Wilkin County Historical Society Kathy Andersen Howard Anderson Olive Andvik Bernice E. Arett Joel Belgum Borgen, Curt Cassandra Braseth Kevin Carvell Gene Christensen Grace E. Clark Rick Crume Jim Danielson Bill DesSaint Ron Ekren Karen Evanson Maurice Floberg Steven Frankl Robert L. Gerke Charlene Gilbert Marilyn Gilbert Glenn Gilbery James Gilbery Marjorie Gjevre Helen G. Haugen Dorothy M. Heieie Loren Helmeke Patricia Hemmah John R. Holten Delayne Karls Kurt Ketterl Janet Kiefer Martin Jeffory M. Kluck Carol Knodle Mary Knopfler Francis Kukowski Myrtle Ludemann M. Leroy Madson Michels, Eileen Milo M. Moyano Charles A. Nelson Nelson, Jean Virginia Nyberg Joanne Ogren Doris V. Olich Cheryl Olson Pearl Quinnild Roberta Radford Judy Rippentrop Vilera Rood Jade Rosenfeldt Peggy Ann Scheffler Catherine Scheibe

Lois E. Schneider Patricia Schutt Gerald R. Sime Mildred Skugrud Patrick Smith Bertha Stangeland Diane Sylte-Tweten Janet D. Vining Esther Vollbrecht Wayne Wagstrom Duane Walker Arthur Wenner Olaf R. Wicker Marilyn Wollitz Ann Zavoral Marlis Ziegler

Household \$50

River Keepers Pam & Dean Aakre Solveig & Ken Berg Julie & David Blehm Robert G. & Eleanor Brandt Jean E. & Burney Carver James & Eleanor Coomber Leland & Dorothy Delger Gordon & Carol Ekre Jerome & Pam Ekre Mike & Pat Elton Kathrine M. Erickson Mike & Kathy Farrell Mike & Dianne Fillmore Kelli & Ryan Froslie Char & Stacy Grosz Bruce & Aase Hamnes Bette & Fred Haring Bob & Jan Hillier Bruce Karevold Zeb Lamp Keith A. & Kay Larson Don & Alvina Lein Zona Mathison Tara Melin Katherine Mentjes Dan B. & Ann F. Murphy Bernard & Eleanor Ohnstad Gary H. & Becky Olson Tom & Maren Oltmeier Marlowe & Joan Parries John D. Peterson Sherwood & Wendy Peterson L. Diane Pickett Don & Kathy Pingree

Grant & Peggy Ramstad

LaVonne & Michael Redding J. Donald & Naomi Rice Lyle & Joan Rich Mel & Margaret Ristvedt Lynae Schenck Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen Barry & Renee Steen Jennifer & Brock Stenberg Roger & Joan Stenerson Sharon & Clarence Sundlie Alvin & Diane Swanson Bob & Linda Swanson Roland & Mary Swanson David & Rhoda Viker Susan Woodstrom & Karen Helfand

Booster \$75

City of Felton Flowing Township Glyndon Township Parke Township PortaCo, Inc. Stenerson Lumber Town of Elgon YHR Partners, Ltd. Llovd Gunderson Vincent & Shirley Haugen Richard & Roberta Henderson Ralph & Ethel Hest Pat Hinze Ken & Jeanette Just Robert & Leslie Larson Ethel R. Medalen Orris & Karen Myran Marc Nokken Anne L. Olsgaard James & Dorothy Powers Donald & Rose-Mary Strom Dennis & Mary Walaker Kelly Wambach Dudley C. Wells

Heritage \$125

Alliance Township
City of Hawley
Keene Township
Mickelson Body Shop, Inc.
Wright Funeral Home
Darrell & Dorothy Bauder
Geoffrey D. Bentley, DDS, PA
Bergquist, Jim & Jane Eastes
Kevin & Kristy Campbell
Olaf C. & Verna Cartford

Marilyn Cornforth Maynard Frisk James M. & Mary J. Hastings Holly Heitkamp Gail D. Jordahl Maureen Kelly Jonason & Martin Jonason Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft Anita Leiseth Darren & Jane Leno Richard T. McMurray Bob & JoAnn Nyquist Gene & Karen Prim Steve & Lucia Schroeder James & Chris Stenerson Ray & Erma Stordahl David Watt Eldon Wollmann Diane Wray & Tom Williams Dick & Kathy Zaylskie Carol Zielinski

Patron \$250

The Chamber
Mac's, Inc.
David R. Alme
Elaine Baron
Arnold Ellingson
Burt Grover
David & Gloria Lee
Bob & Helen Olson

Benefactor \$500

Arnold Ellingson Elsie Pitsenbarger

*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 present the history and culture of the Clay County community and its neighbors.



SATURDAY, JULY 16 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. & SUNDAY, JULY 17 noon - 4 p.m.

Formerly Viking Village, the Midwest Viking Festival offers an educational, interpretive, and celebratory event focused on informing the public about Norse society and culture in the Viking Age.