Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Midwest Viking Festivals

June 28 - 29
10 am - 5 pm

Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56560

HCSCC Members get in FREE with Membership Card!

Adults $10/day
Youth 13-17 $5/day
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Letter from the Board President

Gene Prim

The annual meeting of the Heritage and Cultural Society of Clay County was held at the rehabilitated Garrick Theatre in Hawley on Thursday, May 2. There was a sellout crowd on hand. It is gratifying to see that kind of interest expressed in the activities of HCS. If you have not had the opportunity to see the Garrick Theatre yet, it is truly inspirational.

A building of historic significance, which was on the brink of being torn down, has been completely rehabilitated and we have retained a part of our heritage. It is what every member of this organization should strive for. Jim Bortnem deserves a lot of credit for restoring this grand old treasure. It has cost him a lot in both time and money but the results are beautiful and truly spectacular.

The annual meeting always brings with it changes. This year we had two members of our board who decided to step down and not run for re-election. Helen Jordheim was a member of the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center board which merged with the Clay County Historical Society a half dozen years ago. Between the old board and the new HCS board, Neil had over a dozen years of service to the two organizations. He has gotten the society on a solid financial track that will make it possible for HCS to prosper and expand in the future.

The annual meeting brings with it changes. We have had a very busy year since we had our last annual meeting. We finished up some excellent exhibits and trotted out some new ones during the course of the past few months. The public seems to appreciate the efforts put forth by the staff, and that is evidenced by the increased attendance we have enjoyed at the Hjemkomst Center.

Some of our efforts have been recognized statewide. The tabloid that was produced by the HCS honoring World War II vets was awarded first place in the state in the Minnesota Newspaper Association’s Better Newspaper Contest. The vets will again be remembered and honored by HCS with a major World War II exhibit that will open next year at the Center.

We have made some changes over the past year that will hopefully insure the future of this organization. We continue to make progress on the debt that was inherited when the Clay County Historical Society and the HHIC organizations merged a half dozen years ago. At our present rate of payment, barring some unforeseen calamity such as a flood, we will have the loan off the books within the next couple years.

The increased volume of visitor traffic has allowed us to expand our staff by one full time employee as we more aggressively market sales in the Gift Shop as well as the addition of lunch counter items now being offered for sale there. We’re still shorthanded, especially at the busiest times of the year, but we’re making progress.

Over the past year we adopted a new salary schedule that lets the employees know what they can expect in the way of compensation as the organization moves forward. This is a benefit to our dedicated staff, who now know what they can expect for compensation this year, and the next, and well out into the future. It also allows us as a board to budget more accurately several years out into the future.

I have already mentioned that we had a number of major exhibits and events that were well received last year. In addition to that we are in the early stages of what will become The Red River Exhibit at the Center. This is a really big exhibit with a really big price tag to match. We are putting the skeleton...
From the Executive Director . . .
Maureen Kelly Jonason

I have just arrived home from our highly successful annual meeting held May 2 in the newly renovated historic Garrick Theatre in Hawley. Over 100 members and friends filled the place to capacity to hear the good news about how well HCS is doing, to say farewell and thank you to two board members, to elect new board members, and to hear all the fascinating details about the renovation.

Hawley board member Helen Olson retired after six years of service, but as she told me, “I’m not disappearing forever. I’ll be around to help out.” We will count on it, Helen! Long-time board member Neil Jordheim is leaving the board after serving more than a decade, first on the HHIC board and then continuing for five years after the merger. His common sense and business connections, as well as his encouragement and humor, will be greatly missed.

After a tasty dinner by the Whistle Stop Cafe, attendees elected Jen Tjaden of Hawley to her first term and reelected Dale White of Moorhead (originally from Hitterdal) to another term. We viewed the new 12-minute documentary The Hjemkomst: Thirty Years Later, which is now available for sale in the gift shop. Everyone enjoyed seeing the crew members thirty years after the historic voyage to Norway reminiscing about their life-changing adventure.

Finally, we heard from Jim Bortnem all about his remarkable project: the complete and utter renovation of a nearly 100-year-old community treasure. For many attendees, visiting the Garrick Theatre was a pleasant journey back to fun times of old. Memories—a from paying nine cents for a movie to courting teenagers holding hands—were exchanged throughout the evening. A great time was had by all.

The annual meeting is always a wonderful chance to reflect on all that HCS accomplished in the previous year. But it is also a great opportunity to spend time face-to-face with our members. I especially enjoy matching faces new to me with the names I visit in our database and through letters all year long. The most enjoyable part is meeting YOU and hearing your interest in history as told through your stories about family, events, and places that mean so much to you. The stories are why we exist as an organization. Preserving your history is our mission and our passion.

Throughout the second half of 2013, we will continue to bring you new and fascinating exhibits, fun and educational events, and we will keep collecting the artifacts, photographs, and documents that help to tell the history of Clay County. Please take advantage of your membership and come by the museum often. We are here for you!
Eagle Scout Project Benefits Yankee Cemetery

by Mark Peihl

HCSCC’s Yankee Cemetery east of Rollag recently received some nice improvements thanks to Eagle Scout candidate Shaun Aakre and Boy Scouts from Hawley Troop 656. On May 18 the Hawley High School junior led a group of dozen fellow scouts, various leaders and parents and an aging archivist in the effort. By day’s end the workers had erected a new sign and corner posts to mark the cemetery’s boundaries, cleaned up the grounds and removed two tree stumps. The project will beautify and enhance security for the burial grounds. Improvements to the road leading to the hill-top cemetery will soon follow.

Shaun and his dad, Ron, approached me back in 2010 about a community service project – a requirement for Shaun to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Scout can aspire to. The Aakres had for some time been mowing the grass at the cemetery and the nearby District #3 School, also owned by HCSCC. After discussions, Shaun’s plan evolved to include installing the corner posts and sign, a new flag pole, regraveling the access road to the graveyard and stump removal. Shaun would be responsible for recruiting and leading the workers; arranging the donation of the gravel and equipment; the materials and labor for the sign; sandblasting and powder coating of the sign, corner posts and post caps and overall supervision of the project. HCSCC provided the 4-inch square steel corner posts and the caps and had the property surveyed. It was an ambitious plan, but their new neighbors called them, made up only 19.0% of Parke’s population.

Though they spent a short time here, they made a huge impact on the community. Familiar with American culture and the political system, they quickly established township government, a Union Church to be used by all Protestants, and a school, District #3 – the first rural school in the county – all by 1873.

Primitive or nonexistent medical care and appalling sanitation resulted in many young deaths. Most of those who died in the 1870s were buried in homestead plots on private land. In July 1878, the Moorhead Clay County Advocate’s Parke Township correspondent reported, “Dr. Sill proposes to locate and fence a town cemetery on s.w. corner of … [section] 23…He will have it recorded in proper style as a permanent burial ground, making it safe for anybody and everybody to take a life interest in it for all time to come. Both the interest which the Dr. shows and the cemetery, will be happily appreciated.”

By 1890 it was less than 7%. By 1900 it was less than 7%. By 1900 it was less than 7%. By 1900 it was less than 7%.

Telge Glima at the Midwest Viking Festival

Telge Glima is an entertaining, exciting, and educational performance troupe from Södertälje, Sweden. Their passion for combining bruisers with history is evident in the broad range of documented historical games and sports dating from as far back as the Viking Age and on into the late 19th Century. In an interview with Nordstjernan, Maasing, a member of the group, explains that their interest started with the old Viking wrestling form glíma, which was extinct in Scandinavia except in Iceland where it is a national sport. “We began with glíma but then we discovered a treasure of old games and sports, and decided to widen our horizons. A few of us work at museums and comb through ethnological writings on a regular basis, in search of descriptions of games and sports. Then when we meet next time, we practice the games we’ve read about.” The interactive challenges were originally a part of everyday life for many workers, farmers, and other folk.

Telge Glima will be performing at the Midwest Viking Festival June 28 and 29. Admission to the Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Midwest Viking Festivals is $10 per adult, $5 for youth, and children 12 and under are free with a paid adult. Tickets are sold at the door or online at www.nordiccultureclubs.org. For more information about Telge Glima, check out their website at www.teljeglima.com and www.nordstjernan.com

The entertainment value of Telge Glima is jaw-dropping, especially considering the minimal amount of props and materials used with each activity. Ropes, sticks, cloth sacks, or benches provide enough options for dozens of games. “We’re performing the games of the people,” says Maasing, “not the upper class. Which means not much was required prop-wise, a stick, a rope, your own body. With these simple means you can practice hundreds of different games and sports that test your agility, quickness, strength, hardness and flexibility, for yourself, against others or in groups. Some of the games are more violent than others but most of them are games everyone can try.”

But Telge Glima makes these activities more than a spectator sport. They are performers, dressed in historic clothing and drawing in the audience to play with them and to test their agility or strength. “We want to encourage a zest for playing and a curiosity about our past,” Maasing says. “These games and sports are part of our national heritage.”

The Telge Glima people perform at the Midwest Viking Festival June 28 and 29. Admission to the Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Midwest Viking Festivals is $10 per adult, $5 for youth, and children 12 and under are free with a paid adult. Tickets are sold at the door or online at www.nordiccultureclubs.org. For more information about Telge Glima, check out their website at www.teljeglima.com and www.nordstjernan.com.
Serendipity and Archival Materials
by Mark Peihl

I find the ease with which valuable archival materials can be destroyed disconcerting. How often do the words "Oh, that old box of papers? Get rid of it!" result in the loss of irreplaceable photos, letters and other treasures? Some folks, however, recognize the importance of old records. I love people like that.

In April I received a message to call "Wayne Fuller from Environmental Services" about some old records he found. Wayne told me he was working at the Transfer Station filling a semi-truck with a load of trash bound for the landfill and he noticed a "white box filled with a bunch of books tumbling out onto the ground." Wayne's a history buff and found them intriguing. He looked them over carefully and found they were very early Riverton Township records. They included a Justice of the Peace Docket, a Road Order Book and the a volume recording the minutes of the very first Riverton Township Board meeting in 1882.

Wayne asked if we wanted them. Yes! I offered to pay them and said, "You're out at the Transfer Station filling a semi-truck with a load of trash bound for the landfill and you say that's old records?" He said, "No, I'm in International Falls." How those Riverton Township records wound up in Koochiching County is a mystery. A descendent of those Riverton Township records wound up in the Koochiching County landfill. According to state law, all non-current local and county government records are supposed to go to the Records Disposition Panel to officially transfer them to our custody. Wish us luck!

And hats off to Wayne Fuller and others who recognize that "that old box of papers" may just contain a treasure!

This summer we will be inventorying all of our 75 or so collections of government records (including the Riverton Township materials) and submitting the appropriate paperwork to the state's Records Services Coordinator. Wish us luck!

According to state law, all non-current local and county government records are supposed to go to the State Archives in St. Paul. However, it is possible for county historical societies and other repositories to make arrangements to house records locally.

If These Trees Could Talk
by Maureen Kelly Jonason

Your Clay County historians enjoyed a visit last February by NDSU Extension Forester Dr. Joe Zeleznik. As a dendrochronologist, he studies tree rings to learn more about the past. He is conducting a study of log cabins in the region, hoping that samples from the logs will tell the stories of ecological events prior to the 1880s. He brought with him a "cookie" (round slice of entire tree) from the Kragnes-area farm of HCSCC members Alvin and Diane Swanson that came down in May of 2011. Swanson's grandson Alex, a budding historian, counted the rings and came up with 250 years. He was not far off as Zeleznik confirmed the tree had lived 280 years and dated from the 1730s. Very few trees older than the 1880s still stand in the Red River Valley, primarily because they were cut down for steamboat fuel and firewood. The Swamp tree is special because it is rare to find a tree that old in this region.

Zelenik has also acquired a sample from the Probstfield Farm original cabin. An interesting challenge in that case is that while that sample reveals the age of the tree when it died, the other sample does not have the telltale distinctive rings for each year that the other one does. Bur oak is generally good at revealing its age and conditions through the rings while box elder and cottonwood trees do not provide the same informative variation of rings. The width of the rings can mark years of drought and flood as well as other conditions. He is also interested in learning more about the Burbank Station Cabin and the Bernardson Cabin. Since the logs were cut down in the 1880s, they could well date back to the 1700s as well.

While we know that the Bergquist Cabin in north Moorhead was constructed in 1870, we would love to know exactly when the second floor was added. Though some of the logs of the first floor had been replaced, the second floor is believed to be original. By taking a sample of the wood, Zelenik will be able to tell us when the trees used to make the second floor were cut down, and he will be able to learn more about the climate conditions before the settlement period.

When Zeleznik can't get a hold of a nice slice of the tree or log, he relies on an increment borer to take a core sample. If he is lucky, he can get all the way down to the inner heartwood. Interestingly, most of the water conduction takes place in the last three years (outermost rings).

Bur oak is ND's only native oak, and the oldest Zeleznik has found so far was 450 years old. Most of the logs in cabins he has studied, though, date back to the 1880s. The oldest he has found in Fargo to date was in Edgewood Park at 1750 while the Moorhead Country Club had one dated 1845. The Swansons kindly donated a slice of their massive bur oak to HCSCC for preservation. "Every tree studied allows more accurate data, which will aid us in the Red River Valley," says HCSCC Visitor Services Coordinator Markus Krueger, "not just in dating historic wooden structures but also to study climate, floods, droughts, and other conditions that occurred before records were kept."
Clay County’s Three Civil War Volunteers – Part 1
From Georgetown to Vicksburg
by Markus Krueger

According to the National Park Service, there were 2,672,341 enlistments in the Union Army in the Civil War. Three of those men enlisted from the very edge of the United States, a place that would later be named Clay County. Others could be added to the list of Clay County’s Civil War soldiers, including the dashing spy and cavalryman George Northrup, the Georgetown refugees caught up in the US - Dakota War of 1862, and the more than one hundred veterans who made this place their home after the war. But to our knowledge, there were only three men who enlisted from our area in order to fight the Confederate States of America.

This two-part article traces the experiences of privates Adam Stein and Justice Probstfield of Company G, 4th Minnesota Infantry, and wagoner Anthony Probstfield of Company D, 5th Minnesota Infantry. Through them we will see how Civil War soldiers really lived, how they really died, and why we should be proud of them. This article will take us from before the war up to 150 years ago this 4th of July, when our three soldiers helped conquer the Confederacy’s greatest fortress.

Joining Lincoln’s Army

The Red River was as far north and as far west as America got when the Civil War broke out. The first Euro-American pioneers were just arriving. There were just three settlements of any size at that time – Pembina in the north, Fort Abercrombie in the south, and Georgetown in the middle. For most of the population of the Valley – the Dakota, the Ojibwe, the Métis, and the Canadians – the U.S. Civil War was simply not their fight. Interestingly, the only three pioneers on the frontier who were willing to fight for the United States were from Germany.

It is ironic that Adam Stein fought to put down a rebellion in America because back in Germany, he fought in a rebel army. He was in an army of peasants and townspeople who rose up in the 1848 Revolution to spread equality and democracy across Europe. The revolution was crushed by the princes and noblemen, causing thousands of Germans who craved democracy to flee to the only place in the world at that time that could claim to be “of the people, by the people, for the people.” Adam Stein was one of the “forty-eighters” who came to America. He worked as a laborer all across America, ending up in the frontier town of Saint Paul, Minnesota Territory, by the mid-1850s. There he joined a German choir and befriended fellow singer Randolph Michael Probstfield. In June of 1859, Probstfield convinced Adam Stein to come to him on the Red River, 100 miles beyond the nearest settlement.

The other two Clay County Civil War recruits were Randolph Probstfield’s brothers. When the war broke out, Anthony and Justice Probstfield had not even set foot in the country they would fight to defend. When their father died, Randolph travelled from the American frontier back to Germany to settle the family estate. He returned in the summer of 1861 with his new bride Catherine, two cousins, and three brothers: Anthony, Justice, and Paul. While he was away, the war had begun.

We do not know why Anthony and Justice enlisted, but Germans as a whole were staunchly pro-Union. More than 180,000 German immigrants put on a Yankee blue uniform, more than any other immigrant group. Adam Stein and the Probstfield brothers both joined units that were made up almost entirely of Germans and commanded by Germans. For many German soldiers, the American Civil War was an extension of their 1848 revolution. Many of the leaders of the 1848 revolution became high ranking officers in the Union Army. Those who came to America fleeing arrogant noblemen hated the idea of masters and slaves existing in, as Adam Stein called our country, “the land of freedom,” and rebelling because the opposing side won a fair presidential election is not how democracies work.

These ideas might have been in Adam Stein’s mind when he enlisted, but he had a more practical reason for joining. The powerful Hudson’s Bay Company, a British fur company that literally owned and operated most of modern-day Canada, wanted his land. Adam claimed the land just south of the HBC-run settlement of Georgetown, and the mega-corporation was trying to push him out. Adam Stein heard that the U.S. government promised to defend the land rights of all of their soldiers while they were in the army, so on Christmas Eve, 1861, Adam Stein signed up with the only military outfit in the area - Company G of the 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, the garrison at Fort Abercrombie. At the age of 39, he joined his second war.

Three months later, on March 14, 1862, 21-year-old Justice Probstfield left his brother’s house and joined Adam Stein’s unit. By the time Anthony Probstfield decided to enlist, the 4th Minnesota had moved on to fight in the south. It had been replaced by a newly-formed unit of Saint Paul Germans. Anthony Probstfield, 25 years old, travelled to Fort Abercrombie to drive wagons for Company D of the 5th Minnesota Infantry.

Going to War

Adam Stein, Justice Probstfield and the rest of the 4th Minnesota trudged through the snow to Fort Snelling. “I had the experience of sleeping in under a snow drift, with only a blanket wrapped around me,” Adam recalled. “The snow in some ravines was from ten to twenty feet deep.” Eventually they arrived by foot and by steamboat at the front line near Corinth, Mississippi, in May.

Meanwhile, Anthony Probstfield and the other 81 men of his company felt safe and bored garrisoning their fort on the edge of the frontier. Far away from any danger – or so they thought. On August 22, Fort Abercrombie received terrifying news. Four days earlier, the Dakota people living along the Minnesota River had risen up in violence after years of mistreatment and broken treaties. The U.S. Dakota War of 1862 had begun, and Fort Abercrombie was already surrounded.

Anthony Probstfield watched as settlers from all across the valley streamed into the fort for protection, including his brother Paul and many others from Georgetown. Paul Probstfield and the other refugee men were mustered into a unit called Smith’s Company on August 25. Smith’s Company included many men of importance to Clay County history, but their story deserves an article to themselves. Randolph and Catherine Probstfield, along with their two-month-old daughter Mary, stayed behind with several others at Georgetown. Randolph Probstfield’s harrowing story of the evacuation of Georgetown two weeks later was recounted in this newsletter in the Summer 2012 issue.

It was in the siege of Fort Abercrombie where Anthony Probstfield entered the history books. The rest of the company found out that their wagon driver used to be in the Prussian artillery back in Germany. Anthony manned one of the fort’s four howitzers, using it with deadly accuracy to bombard the Dakota camp. During the heaviest attack of the siege, a direct hit by Anthony exploded the enemy-occupied fort stables. If you visit the fort today, you will see a sign marking the spot where Anthony Probstfield manned his gun.

Down in Mississippi, the soldiers of the 4th Minnesota were angry and anxious when news of the war back home reached them. Justice would be thinking of his three brothers who were cut off from the rest of the country. The soldiers of the regiment petitioned the army to allow them to go home and protect their families, but they were refused.

Continued on next page...
Adam and Justice experienced combat for the first time at Iuka, Mississippi, on September 19, 1862. Adam Stein would write years later that "...there we had a heavy fight, which lasted nearly two hours. There were a few deaths, on our side, and quite a number of wounded. Those whom I knew, who were in Co. G., were Patrick Loftus who stood at my right who had the tips of his fingers shot off of one hand and John Fobe at my left, and who was my bed companion, was shot in the leg. Antoine Montreville received a bullet in his mouth, which knocked out a tooth. He spit bullet and tooth out into his hand and fired away again."

On September 23, the Siege of Fort Abercrombie was lifted. The Dakota warriors fled west and north away from newly-raised armies of Minnesota Infantry. Paul Probstfield left for Wisconsin after Smith's Company was disbanded on October 1st. There would be no more recruits for this war from Clay County because the Red River Frontier was ordered evacuated by the army. Anthony Probstfield and Company D were sent south to join the rest of the 5th Minnesota in Mississippi. Since they no longer had cannons, Anthony returned to his wagons. All three of our Clay County soldiers were reunited in the same army group, commanded by General Ulysses S. Grant. This army's objective was Vicksburg, the fortress city that blocked the Mississippi River.

The Road to Vicksburg

Vicksburg, Mississippi, was one tough nut to crack. The city was on 200-foot-high bluffs in a sharp bend in the river, with plenty of cannons aimed at anything that tried to float past it. An army of 30,000 rebels were stationed there in an elaborate series of trenches and forts, and a second army was behind enemy lines for the next month. By March 12, 1863, they saw officers put on the new uniforms they ordered for this occasion and, as their regiment commander Col. John B. Sandborn wrote, "every enlisted man bunched his gun so that it glimmered in the sunshine like pure silver."

Adam Stein would write years later that "...there we had a heavy fight."

"Many Soldiers," saying "If you can't feed us, you had better surrender, horrible as the idea is... ."

This 4th of July will be the 150th anniversary of the day General Pemberton surrendered the south's greatest fortress and his army of 31,000 men. With the fall of Vicksburg, the Confederacy was cut in half and the Mississippi was once again an American highway.

The Most Glorious Fourth

Adam Stein and Justice Probstfield prepared themselves for a parade on the morning of July 4, 1863. They saw officers put on the new uniforms they ordered for this occasion and, as their regiment commander Col. John B. Sandborn wrote, "every enlisted man bunched his gun so that it glimmered in the sunshine like pure silver."

"Many Soldiers," saying "If you can't feed us, you had better surrender, horrible as the idea is... ."

Our nation's Independence Day 150 years ago was the turning point of the Civil War. The double blow of Gettysburg and Vicksburg ensured that the south would be on the defensive for the rest of the war. The Confederacy was split in half by the Union-owned Mississippi River, and so many men were lost that they would never be able to invade northern states again. The war, however, would go on for almost two more horrific years as the Confederacy attempted to outlast the United States.

This Independence Day, take a moment to remember Adam Stein, Justice Probstfield, Anthony Probstfield and the rest of our American soldiers when you see that we have 50 stars on our flag, or when you realize that in our country all human beings will always be free.

Next Issue: We bury two of our soldiers and find out how one survived the war.
The National Register: Dispelling the Myths
by Laura Weber  Courtesy of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

The National Register of Historic Places can be simply defined: the official list of the nation’s cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation. But the National Register is a federal government program with its attendant rules, regulations and subparagraphs. Describing the program and what it means for a property to be registered is, therefore, a bit more complex.

Besides being recognized as a historically significant, a property listed on the National Register receives: 1. Eligibility for federal tax provisions; 2. Consideration in planning for federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects; 3. Consideration before issuance of a surface coal mining permit; 4. Qualification for federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available; and in Minnesota; 5. Consideration in planning for state, state-licensed, and state-assisted projects.

The National Register program does not offer an ironclad guarantee of preservation nor is it about government acquisition of properties in order to preserve and interpret them. Rather, the preservation program brought to life in 1966 as part of the National Historic Preservation Act (which the National Register is one component) was a “new, diffuse program” that would “exert influence based on information and persuasion rather than ownership.” The program gives preservationists a legal framework for planning on a national scale and for delaying or halting proposed harmful actions to buildings not protected by local preservation ordinances. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of Interior. Minnesota’s first nomination to the National Register was Landmark Center in St. Paul (officially known as the U.S. Post Office, Courthouse, and Custom House) in 1969. Since then more than 1,500 Minnesota listings have been added, including 116 historic districts comprising of 5,225 resources. Perhaps because my immersion into the nuances of the National Register came about while doing a study of Minnesota properties that have been removed from the National Register, it occurred to me to describe the National Register through another inverted method: a list of common myths.

Myth #1: A house/building/ object doesn’t look distinguished, it can’t be eligible for the National Register.

The creation of the National Register program expanded and democratized federal historic preservation efforts by recognizing as significant local and regional resources, as well as national ones, which had been identified and recognized since 1935 as the National Historic Landmarks program. The National Register includes “properties” (i.e. districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture. These properties are said to represent the “major patterns of our shared local, state, and national experience.”

Some National Register Properties are easily recognized as significant because of their association with a well-known individual (Governor Floyd B. Olson’s birthplace) or industry (Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine) or because of its architecture (Purcell-Cutts House). But many properties express their significance neither through name or appearance. Universal laboratories in Dassel, for instance, contributed to the “Broad patterns of the past” through the role the company played as the country’s first reliable supplier of ergot, a toxic fungus that grows on grains and grasses and is the active ingredient in medicines that treat a variety of ailments, from migraines to post-partum bleeding. Other important and fascinating stories are behind the modest facades of many other National Register buildings.

Every property nominated to the National Register is associated with significant persons or events; of architectural or engineering significance or possibly contains important information about a community’s history or prehistory. In addition, a property must possess “integrity,” that is, the property’s physical features must be able to convey its historical significance.

A National Register nomination begins with research into a property’s significance. Individuals, groups, and governments may bring potential nominations to the attention of the State Historical Preservation Office [SHPO] at the Minnesota Historical Society, whose staff initiates most nominations. Completed nominations are presented to the Minnesota Historical Society State Review Board, a volunteer group of citizens and professionals with expertise in history, architecture, architectural history, and archeology. If accepted by this board, a final review is made by the State Historical Preservation Officer, who forwards the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service.

Properties that have “transcendent” value to the nation as a whole may be designated as National Historic Landmarks: St. Croix State Park is Minnesota’s newest National Historic Landmark; in September 1997 it joined 20 other Minnesota properties that have achieved Landmark status. (There are some 2,200 National Historic Landmarks nationwide.)

Myth #2: They can’t tear it down; it’s on the National Register.

The National Register does not interfere with any of the prerogatives of private ownership, including the right to dispose of property. National Register status does offer property owners some protection if a state or federal government project threatens a listed property. Minnesota law requires similar protection from acts of state agencies. Federal agencies are required to consult with SHPO staff to determine whether any listed or eligible properties can occur in cases requiring federal, state, or local action, e.g., issuance of demolition permits. If an owner chooses to tear down his or her property, the only penalty is removal from the National Register.

Myth #3: If my house/building is listed on the National Register, the government will dictate how I use or dispose of my property.

As noted in Myth #2, owners of property listed on the National Register, in general, are free to use and dispose of their properties as they wish. Listing on the National Register does not require that any action be taken to change or improve the property. Property owners are not required to do any additional maintenance on properties that are listed.

As long as federal tax credits are not used (see Myth #4) an owner may remodel, alter, or destroy a building as they choose. When a property is listed, no covenants are put on the deed. Property owners are not required to notify the National Register when their property is sold, purchased or inherited.

National Register properties are not exempt from state and local building codes. But the Uniform Building Code, adhered to in Minnesota, gives local building code officials flexibility to allow, at their...
discretion, some variance for significant historic building features that do not meet modern building codes, provided there is no health or safety hazard. If state or federal funds are used for the alteration of a building listed on the National Register, the alterations are reviewed by SHPO to make sure the renovations are sensitive to the building’s original character. If alterations that are considered unsuitable by the standards of the Secretary of Interior are made, however, the property may be removed from the register for losing the qualities that caused it to be nominated. This has occurred only twice in Minnesota.

Moving a property off its site automatically removes it from eligibility for the National Register; since integrity of location, the actual place where the property played its historic role is of prime importance to its meaning. At least sixteen Minnesota properties have been formally removed for being moved.

There is one way to get around this for properties that were nominated for their architectural significance or because they are the sole surviving links to a person or event. These types of moved properties can be re-nominated if moved to a setting compatible with the original location. Of the 15 removals noted above, only one, the Elisha and Lizzie Morse house in Minneapolis’ Whittier neighborhood, has been successfully relocated (1991) and re-nominated (1995).

Myth 4: The National Register takes buildings off the tax rolls (or reduces property taxes). National register status does not eliminate the requirements to pay property taxes. Further, there is no property tax reduction in Minnesota for National Register properties. (Such programs do exist in some states.) The only tax credits available to the owner of the National Register property is a 20 percent tax credit on federal income tax if the owner rehabilitates the property for income-producing purposes (commercial or rental). Rehabilitation of a private, owner-occupied residence does not qualify.

Myth 5: All National Register properties are open to the public. No. Many National Register properties are privately owned and are not open to the public, nor are they required to be.

Myth 6: There is a thick leather-bound volume in Washington containing, in a calligraphed hand, all the National Register listings. More likely, there is a room of filing cabinets! Each nomination consists of a thick packet of historical documentation, maps, and photos. Copies are kept both in Washington, D.C., and in the state making the nomination. Minnesota’s National Register nominations take up a substantial bank of filing cabinets in the State Historic Preservation Office at the Minnesota Historical Society.

The National Register home page on the Web (http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html) provides access to the official National Register database, which includes information on more than 80,000 properties and has a searchable index of more than two million terms. The home page also describes the process of listing properties, including publications that explain how to evaluate historic places and prepare a nomination; a sample nomination form; teaching tools; and more. SHPO publishes a glove-compartment-sized National Register “Minnesota Checklist.” The booklet describes the program, and lists by county, Minnesota’s National Register properties (with some photos). Also included are a list of removed properties and a map of Minnesota counties. Questions about the national Register of Historic Places should be directed to the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Boulevard W., St. Paul, MN 55102, (612) 296-5434.

This article was originally published in the Minnesota Preservationist by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota: Vol. 1 Number 3, June/July 1998. Reprinted with permission.

My Internship Experience with the HCSCC by Ian Olson

Spring semester, I was the collections intern at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County under the instruction of Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager. I worked primarily with the Hjemkomst Ship Artifact Collection. When I began my internship in early January, I helped take down the Hjemkomst exhibit that had been set up in Heritage Hall in 2012. I assisted with moving the artifacts downstairs to join the rest of the collection and taking down the exhibits. I also helped with setting up the current exhibit, Prairie Daughters. This was a fantastic introduction to museum work for me; I quickly appreciated how diverse the work done in museums actually is. From light carpentry, to electrical work, to moving an outhouse to Bonanzaville (I think I’ll refer to this experience as “oversize artifact removal” on my résumé), what I was doing changed drastically from day to day in the early part of my internship.

Once my workstation had been set up downstairs, my work with the Hjemkomst Collection began. I started by looking for tags on the artifacts and matching those without tags to descriptions on an old list. I retagged the items as appropriate and reboxed them in archival quality boxes. I also cleaned the artifacts where necessary; the only artifacts that really need attention are the ropes, which are in rather poor condition in some cases. Organization was a key element of my work with the Collection, as it should be whenever you work with artifacts in any capacity.

The internship was the idea of my faculty advisor in the history department at Concordia, Dr. Vincent Arnold, and I would like to thank him for it. Without his guidance I would not have known about this fantastic museum opportunity right here in Moorhead. I would also like to thank all the wonderful and devoted staff at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, especially Lisa Vedaa, for all their guidance during my time as an intern. I hope my work will help this fantastic historical society in some small way to continue with its very important and interesting work for years to come.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mavis Fredricks

Mavis Fredricks has been volunteering off and on at the Hjemkomst Center since 1987. She volunteers at the admissions desk and also for the senior center at the front desk.

Mavis volunteers the most hours and will volunteer even when she isn’t scheduled. “I like to talk and meet people from all over the world,” Mavis said. “It gets me out of the house.”

Mavis has a long history of working with the staff in the Hjemkomst Center. She worked for many years at Eventide nursing home with Julie Marxen, the Senior Connections Program Director, and Holly Heitkamp, Hjemkomst Center Director.

Heritage Gift Shop

Regional Food Specialties

- Leatherwood Vinegar from Long Prairie, MN
- Bonnie’s Country Classics - Salsas and Sauces from Fargo, ND
- Curt’s BBQ sauce from Dalton, MN
- Camp Aguila Pure Maple Syrup from Dent, MN
- Wild Rice from White Earth, MN
- Bluehouse Jams and Jellies

New this Summer!

Letter from the Board President continued...

for that project in place now and will continue to formulate not only the exhibit itself but also the mechanisms that will be needed to pay for it. But I can assure you, it will be impressive and will be a suitable companion exhibit to our centerpiece Viking ship. We’re more than just a boat, and we will show you that in the coming months.

This will be my last correspondence with you as your president. After the annual meeting the board will meet on Wednesday, May 15 to reorganize. At that time we will elect a new president. I have served two consecutive years as your president and it has been an honor and a privilege to represent you, but I have reached the maximum term limit dictated by our bylaws.

When the two organizations merged, I volunteered to serve on the Human Resources Committee which reviews bylaws and deals with personnel matters. In that capacity I successfully argued that a time limit restriction be placed on the term of the president at no more than two consecutive elected terms. It was my feeling that a changeover at the top initiates new ideas and policies, and that is good for the long-term health of the organization. I will remain on the executive board as a past president and will also remain on the full board as a director, but there will be a new HCS president presiding at the June meeting.

I thank you for the support you have given and continue to give the organization over the two years that I served as your president. It is my sincere hope that the new president will enjoy that same cooperation and support.

We will look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. Remember to pay your membership dues, contemplate upgrading your membership and sell some of your friends on the idea of becoming a member of HCS.

Here is a photo of the only other 1936 750-gallon Buffalo Fire Engine in existence. It is being cared for in Massachusetts. We were contacted by the owners, and they connected us with the primary Buffalo Company historian, Peter West. Our 1936 Buffalo fire truck appears in summer parades courtesy of board member Duane Walker.
Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Prairie Daughters: Art, Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thorvood.

Open throughout 2013

The untold story of early female artists in Clay County as illustrated through these women’s lives and works of art.

FMVA Big Art Show
April 6 – June 3

FMVA Big Art Show is a wide variety of art (2D and 3D) from both emerging and established artists.

20th Annual Red River Watercolor Society’s National Juried Watermedia Exhibition
June 17 – July 28

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 flagship National Juried Exhibition. Reception is June 18 at 6pm. The reception is free and open to the public.

Minnesota on the Map
June 1 – July 28, 2013

Over the centuries, maps of Minnesota have changed. See what our state has looked like – from the late 1600s to the early 2000s – in Minnesota On The Map, a traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center. It features map reproductions, video and even a giant map puzzle.

The Saint John’s Bible
August 1 - September 15, 2013

Come and see all seven volumes of the Heritage Edition (bound in book form) as well as 25 selected prints from the St. John Bible renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson who produced the first hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible in 500 years. We invite you to explore this work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millennium.

Midwest Viking Festival & Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festivals
June 28 & 29
10 am – 5 pm

A celebration of Nordic culture from the Viking age to today. Scandinavian music, food, and dancing as well as a living history Viking village in the park, enjoy two festivals for the price of one. Admission is Adult $10, Youth $5, 12 & younger are FREE with a paying adult. HSCCC Members get in FREE with membership card.

Bergquist Cabin Open House
June 28 & 29
1 pm - 4 pm

Tour the oldest house on its original site 1008 7th St. N, Moorhead. Free shuttle bus available at the Hjemkomst Center courtesy of Moorhead Bell State Bank.

German Culture Day
September 28
10 am - 4 pm

A free public celebration of German Culture with beer, wine, traditional foods, and music.

German Rhinelander Dinner
September 28
6 pm - 8 pm

Taste the delicious breads, meats and desserts from the heart of Germany paired with a variety of German beers and wines for an authentic Deutschland experience. Tickets required. Contact Tim Jorgensen at 218-299-5511 ext. 6737 for more information.

Midwest Viking Festival
June 28-29

individual: Renewals $40
Allen County Public Library
Anderson, Ron
Bauar, Darrell & Dorothy
Blair, Bette
Bredeson, Edwin
Bushell, Elizabeth
Chalmonezyk, Donna
Chekola, Mark
DesSaunt, Bill
Dvoracek, Verlene
Elingson, Arnold
Frankl, Steven
Gilbery, Donna
Gilbery, Glenn
Handegard, Steve
Heieie, Dorothy M.
Hendriksens, Vickie
Johnson, Anna Marie
Johnson, Virginia
Kassenborg, Heidi
Koehmstedt, Judi
Kolness, John
Leiseth, Anita
Manning, Shirley
Mathiowetz, Candace
Michels, Eileen
Minot Public Library
Nelson, Charles A.
Nyberg, Virginia
Olieh, Doris V.
Olsen, Dennis
Peterson, Jr., Sherwood
Pingree, Dor
Rootham, Andrea
Scheibe, Catherine
Schutt, Patricia
Smith, Patrick
Stadium, Betty
Stensgaard, Dale
Stenso, Diane M.
Swanson, Alex
Swenson, Larry
Truesdell, Waneta
Vollbrecht, Esther
Wagstrom, Wayne

Individual: New Members $40
Askgaard, Darlene
Corner, Marjorie
Kiesebach, Fr. Joseph
Lawton, T. Brent
Ludemann, Linda
Luza, Mavis
Palmer, Ruth
Parker, Jean

Household: Renewals $60
Andersen, Rose and Donald
Barden, Carolyn and Roland
Berg, Eric and Erika
Breesee, Dennis and Kathy
Chalmonezyk, Mark
Cobb, Robert and Dorothy Schmidt
Cockerill, Christine and Randi
Coomber, James and Eleanor
Dale, Donald and Dorothy
Danielson, Jim
Drache, Hiram and Ada
Ekre, Jerome and Pam
Fillmore, Mike and Dianne
Gjevre, Marjorie and John
Hanson, Clarence and Donna
Hanson, Neil and Polly
Harding, Pagen and Lloyd
Hiller, Bob and Janet
Hoffman, Russell and Rita
Jonason, Martin and Maureen Kelly
Jonason
Kaese, John and Anne
Lamp, Zeb and Melissa
Lincoln, Pheilis and Dale
Lindholm, Mathew and Meg Luther
Mathison, Zona
Murphy, Dan and Ann
Myran, Orris and Karen
Pickett, L. Diane
Powers, Dana and Ginni
Odegard, H. Dennis and Marva
Ouzada, Timothy and Anna
Parries, Marlo and Joan
Pembie, Richard and Helen
Rustad, Gordon
Schneider, Karen and Joe

2013 Members Renewals for Jan. 1 - May 1

2013 Exhibition & Event Calendar

Upcoming Events

Midwest Viking Festival & Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festivals
June 28 & 29

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Thank you for your membership!

Booster: New Members $85

Township of Highland Grove
Township of Morken
Township of Skree

Heritage: Renewal Members $125

Alliance Township
City of Hawley
Deeton, Glen and Heidi
Frisk, Maynard
Hastings, James and Mary
Heitkamp, Holly
Lein, Don and Alvina
McMurray, Richard T.
Mickelson Body Shop
Ness, Jim and Jan
Olson, Donna
Peterson Rood, Karol Kay
Schorroder, Steve and Lucia
Scott, Davis A.
Stenerson, Jim and Chris
Stolzenberg, Rosa
Township of Keene
Township of Mankato
Wat, David
Williams, Diane Wray and Tom Williams
Wollmann, Eldon

Patron: Renewal Members $250

Lee, David and Gloria
Township of Eglon

* If you renewed since March 1 and you do not see your name on this list, please give Sarah a call at 218-299-5511, Ext. 6739 (Mon.-Fri. 9-1) or email her at sarah.smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us to check the status of your membership. It may be that we made a mistake! We want to keep our membership active and accurate, so please let us know.

Note: Sarah will be in Tanzania until June 12, so it is OK to leave a message and she will get back to you.

Collections Donations

Donations and Accessions, January-April 2013

Donors: Averill School Reunion Committee; Becker County Historical Society, Detroit Lakes, MN; Vicki Asp Bremer, Coon Rapids, MN; Doris Eastman Estate, Long Beach, CA; Hiram Drache, Fargo; Heather Gaylord, St. Croix Falls, WI; Tom Haas, Minneapolis, MN; Tom Hall, Moorhead; Koochiching County Environmental Services, International Falls, MN; Markus Krueger, Moorhead; Carol Larson, Hawley; Byron D. Lawrence, Enumclaw, WA; City of Moorhead, MN; Dawn Morgan, Fargo; Vernard Olek, Moorhead; Lucia Schroeder, Glyndon; Theresa Softing, Hawley; Edie Thiels, Fargo; Judy Videen, Moorhead

Materials: photo print by S.P. Wange, Hawley; “Mr. and Mrs. Edvin Pederson & Wife”; coffin plate of Mrs. Jacob Burrill of Hawley, clipping of Mrs. Jacob Burrill obituary; Navy uniforms used by Alvin Kronbeck 1942-1944; advertisement, calendar on piece of metal, 1904, Ritterman & Eid Double Front Department Store, Hawley; letter from US Coast Guard Commander J. M. Holmes to Morris Lanning, dated 5 May 1997; (34) photo prints re: construction of Fargo-Moorhead Red River Main Avenue Bridge, 2003-2004; materials re: Per J. Kall family ca: 1880-1920s: approx 115 photo prints; (3) volumes, household and business records, P.J. Kall concrete masonry contractor ca 1901-1925; (1) volume, meeting minutes, Swedish Mission Church of Moorhead ca 1894-1922 [in Swedish]; (1) volume cash book, Swedish Mission Church of Moorhead ca 1901-1925; (1) volume, meeting minutes, Swedish Mission Church of Georgetown centennial 1896-1996; commemorative metal tray and commemorative place cards for St. Lawrence Church of Felton centennial 1881-1981; (1) issue, Our Northland Diocese, June 6, 1991, re: “Oldest Church in [Crookston] Diocese to close” [Felton] Brought in, DOG signed

* Indicates materials added to the education collection for hands-on activities rather than preserved in the permanent collection.
Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

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

To collect, preserve, interpret and share the history and culture of Clay County, Minnesota.

GermanCultureDay

September 28, 2013
10 am - 4 pm
Free admission
with suggested donation of $5

Save the Date!

German Culture Day

September 28, 2013
10 am - 4 pm

Free Admission

Food • Drink • Music • Dancing

Authentic German Dinner
September 28
6 pm - 8 pm
Reservations required