

# The Hourglass

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 4 • Winter 2012

## *Holiday Open House*

**December 8  
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

*Come by for coffee, cider, and treats and enjoy a members-only 20% discount in the Heritage Shop on selected items.*

*Don't miss Gloria Lee's holiday floral arranging lesson at 1 pm.*



### History Sundays with Steve Stark Illustrated History

Discovering local history through art and storytelling that the whole family will enjoy. December 2 thru February 24. See page 18 for more details.

### In this issue

Letter from the Board President	3
Letter from the Executive Director	4
Pie-o-neer Day	5
30th Anniversary of <i>Hjemkomst</i> Expedition	6
Orabel Thortvedt's Altarpiece	7
What's in the Archives?	12
Volunteer Spotlight	16
Exhibition & Event Calendar	18



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

## HCSCC News

### **Please Send us Your Addresses!**

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to [Sarah.Smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:Sarah.Smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us) to make sure you're receiving all the up-to-date information from the HCSCC!

### **Welcome new staff!**

Sarah Smith first joined our team as a tour guide earlier this fall. She has accepted the position of part-time administrative assistant and will share her time at the admissions desk and in the office. Sarah is a student from Minnesota State University - Moorhead majoring in Cultural Anthropology.

She will be in charge of membership renewals and other administrative duties. If you have any questions, please contact her at 218-299-5511 ext. 6739 or by email at [sarah.smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:sarah.smith@ci.moorhead.mn.us).

Matt Calvert, a History and Religion major at Concordia College, is our new Sunday Manager. He began as an intern last year and began as a part-time employee this fall. His responsibilities include opening and closing the museum on Sundays and helping with our events.

Welcome Sarah and Matt to our museum staff!



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# Letter from the Board President

Gene Prim



A Time For Reflection and Resolutions . . .

As we close out another year at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County it seems appropriate that we pause and look forward and back. The beginning of a new year is always an appropriate time to reflect on where we have been and to make a few plans for the future.

The reflections are easy.

Hindsight will always provide us with a much clearer picture of what we did and what we should have done differently. We are all a lot smarter as we look back on what has already transpired and wonder what we would do if we had a second chance.

Overall it was a successful year for the HCS organization. We continue to pay down the debt that was assumed when the Clay County Historical Society merged with the Hjemkomst Society. Another year or two of progress on the debt, assuming no more debilitating floods in the spring, and we can look at being debt free.

There were the inevitable staffing changes during the year. Those are always troubling times for Executive Director Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason since there is usually a two-week notice given and it will take at least a month or six weeks to hire a new person. The new hire, no matter how competent he/she may be, will know absolutely nothing about job responsibilities. That means Maureen and the rest of the staff will cover while the position is open and do the training when a new employee comes on board.

There were two changes in key personnel this year and both of the replacements are doing great work in their respective fields. Maureen has given explicit instructions to the rest of the staff that they will no longer be able to leave HCS and seek employment elsewhere. Those instructions are good, unfortunately, only until the next career advancement opportunity opens up.

We can look back at some significant victories over the year 2012. We saw a huge increase in participation in the Viking Festival, and Pangea continues to grow. The 30th anniversary of our namesake *Hjemkomst* Viking ship was observed with many of the original crew as well as many Bob Asp family members in attendance. There was

a fabulously successful vintage style show that played to a full house. Admissions to the center are up significantly for the year-to-date. Our fall fundraiser was a great event with good entertainment, but it was lightly attended. That event next fall will be changing to a German Culture Festival, which is kind of like an Oktoberfest. It will feature German gourmet cuisine, fine wines and, of course, beer and cheese tasting with perhaps a little polka music tossed in.

Details are sketchy yet, but it's beginning to sound like fun already. So unpack your lederhosen and practice a few dance steps. You will need them at the "sort of an Oktoberfest" held next year in September. If that makes absolutely no sense, good; it shows you're paying attention. If you continue to do that, you will know all about next year's events about the same time we put the finishing touches on them.

As we make our resolutions for the coming year, we will take a good hard look at all of the events we put on over the past 12 months. We may well trim out a few that are not now being well received or we may combine a couple of events into one. We may do fewer major exhibits next year and showcase some smaller displays, so there is always something new to look at at the Hjemkomst Center.

One major task that we will be getting started on this year is a grand Red River Exhibit. There is already \$25,000 in the bank from a grant that has been received. That will lay the groundwork for a permanent display of the historically rich heritage that is the Red River Valley, stretching from Wahpeton to the south to north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

This river corridor is one of the oldest transportation routes in the United States and dates back to fur trade in this area before it was even a territory. River travel and Red River Trail Oxcarts will be prominently displayed. Watch for details on this major exhibit as it is developed and built over the next couple of years.

The year of 2012 was exciting. The new year of 2013 promises to be even more of a challenge as we take on more and more new ideas at HCS. Join us for the ride. Renew your membership at a higher level. Encourage your friends to join. Your membership costs are something you likely will not miss out of your checkbook and your membership dues continue to allow us to grow and expand.



# From the Executive Director . . .

Maureen Kelly Jonason

Photo courtesy of The Hawley Herald.



Another year has come and gone – and we are still hard at it preserving history and cultural heritage for the people of our unique region. As I often say, “We have several lifetimes of work to do!” As I write this message, I am freshly inspired

by a visit from the CEO of the Minnesota Historical Society, D. Stephen Elliott, and his team who selected HCSCC to host a special outreach program they called “Celebrating Minnesota History: A Showcase.”

About 80 people from Clay, Becker, Mahanomen, and Norman County Historical Societies came together to hear from Mr. Elliott the appreciation of the Minnesota Historical Society for our efforts to preserve and present local history. It was gratifying to learn we are well known in Saint Paul and that they think we are doing a good job!

The reception, held Oct. 28, was also an opportunity to thank publically two long-time political forces who have been especially supportive in our part of Minnesota: Senator Keith Langseth and Representative Morrie Lanning. Both of these men were instrumental in building the Hjemkomst Center, and both have remained supportive of the humanities and arts programming that has flourished here since 1986. It was our chance to say thanks for their great commitment to our missions.



Retiring Senator Keith Langseth and Lorrain Langseth receive recognition from MNHS Executive Director D. Stephen Elliot.



Parker Tjaden of Hawley, MN describing the documentary he created for History Day.

The event also gave us a chance to celebrate Minnesota History Day. National honorable mention-winner Parker Tjaden was there to introduce his impressive narrated video documentary (Ken Burns style) on the steam engine's influence in the Red River Valley which he created as a sixth-

grader! Finally, Dr. Joy Lintelman of Concordia College spoke briefly about her way of engaging her history students in active service-learning by collaborating with HCSCC on special projects. It was a great event.



Thortvedt Family honored with the Heritage Award.

Just two days before, we had just held our fall fundraiser with its Boom-era theme to a small but appreciative group of attendees. Guests enjoyed excellent food, the great crooner tunes of Noel Iverson who does a fine Bobby Darrin imitation, as well as the presentation of the 2012 Clay County Heritage Award to descendants of the Thortvedt Family. Linda Hedstrom and her parents Eva and Carl Hedstrom received the award on behalf of their extended family many of whom continue today the tradition of preserving Clay County

**Continued on the next page...**



history started by their ancestors Levi and Ingeborg Thortvedt and their 11 children. They traveled from Anoka and enjoyed receiving the hand-turned box elder bowl created by Kurt Anderson.

We've had a busy year at HCSCC. From installing *The Boom: Clay County 1945-1960* in Heritage Hall in January, to partnering with the Nordic Culture Clubs to produce the Midwest Viking Festival outdoors at the same time their Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival was indoors in June, to the July 21 30th Anniversary of the sailing of the *Hjemkomst* Viking ship to Norway (including helping to install a brand new exhibit on the building of the ship and its historic voyage researched and designed by Claudia Pratt and Amanda Nordick) to our fall fundraiser to Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures in November and all of the “little” events in between—we have kept the Hjemkomst Center humming with activity. We also produced, in partnership with Dr. Joy Lintelman, a new traveling exhibit on Peter Bergstrom, a Swedish immigrant who lived 30 years in Moorhead and made a living by taking advantage of every opportunity that came his way. We hope to send this

low-cost, easy-to-set-up series of retractable banners out to greater Minnesota and beyond in the years to come. We certainly never have nothing to do! History evolves every day, and we are just thrilled to be a part of it.

As you make your end-of-the-year giving plans, please keep us in mind and consider a donation to help us keep going. We have many projects, many events, and lots of educating to do all year long, and we need your help to do it. Have a safe and merry holiday season – and by all means, bring your out-of-town guests over to see us!

## Pie-o-neer Day at the Bergquist Cabin Sept. 22

Because the only time the Bergquist Cabin is open are the days of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, HCSCC staff held its second fall Pie-o-neer Day in September.



*Pie was enjoyed by all!*

Although it was cold and the boxelder bugs were profuse, the staff hosted over 100 visitors and sold lots of pieces of pie! Many thanks to the folks who made and donated pies and to all the people who stopped out to see the Cabin. We look forward to the years ahead when we will once again have school

tours in the Cabin. Work continues on developing interpretation for the Cabin.



*Above: Maureen, Gwen and Lisa getting ready to sell pies.*

*Below: Markus giving tours of the Bergquist Cabin.*



# July 21

## A Big Day to Celebrate

by Maureen Kelly Jonason

On July 21, nearly 700 people came out to help us celebrate the 30th anniversary of the expedition of the *Hjemkomst* to Norway. "It's hard to believe it's been 30 years" was a frequent comment that day. HCSCC staff had been working on the event for two years, starting with tracking down all of the crew members, getting updated contact information, and asking them to "save the date." We knew that Skipper Erik Rudstrom had passed away in September of 2009. We were appreciative that his wife Gertie Verburg and Erik's two children – Henrik and Sunniva—also made the trip to Moorhead to join the festivities. In all, about 20 Norwegians attended between Erik's and crew member Bjørn Holtet's extended families. Five of the six Asp siblings were present to share their experiences: Marjorie, Vicky, Doug, Tom, and Deb. The only crew members who couldn't make it were Roger Asp and Vegard Heiede, who was busy sailing yet another Viking ship in Norway.



*Surviving members and family of the members of the Hjemkomst crew.*

her assistant Amanda Nordick. They were assisted by several interns and volunteers as well as HCSCC staff to install the 2000 square-foot exhibit that features ship artifacts, new interviews, and updates on all the crew today. It is a spectacular exhibit, but it will only be open until January 22; so you should hurry in to see it over the holidays! On exhibit are some never-before-seen artifacts on loan from Asp and crew members. Come take a look before most of it gets put back into storage for preservation.



*Visitors enjoying the grand opening of the new exhibit.*

All in all, it was an extraordinary weekend. Robert Jacobson, a cousin of Bob Asp, who lives in Florida and who is a major supporter of historical preservation, graciously donated \$10,000 to assist in all the arrangements including travel support, refreshments, and honoraria for the panel. Without his generosity, we would not have had the means to provide such wonderful hospitality.

The event opened at noon with free admission and the ribbon-cutting of a brand new exhibit researched and designed by Claudia M. Pratt and

Then a two-hour long panel discussion with crew members and the older Asp daughters took place to a packed house of 350. Throughout it all, a film crew from Los Angeles-based online magazine Good were present to record interviews, document the panel, and take "B-roll" footage of the Hjemkomst Center and visitors to create a short on-line video that will be completed in December. Check out [www.goodinc.com](http://www.goodinc.com).

The day concluded with a private gathering at the lake home of crew member Mark Hilde, so the visitors got to experience that great Minnesota pastime "going to the lake."



*Artifacts and images from the voyage on display.*



# Orabel Thortvedt's Altarpiece

by Markus Krueger

Sometimes a particular work of art is a milestone in the life of the artist. For Orabel Thortvedt (1896-1983), one of those milestone stories surrounds the *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane* altarpiece at the Concordia Lutheran Church in Moland Township. In addition to being an artist, Orabel was a historian, a writer, and a documenter of seemingly everything that surrounded her. Much of the Thortvedt Family Papers collection in the Clay County archives comes from her hand. The story of this painting is preserved in the family diary, collected letters, and photographs from that collection (Also see Mark Peihl's article on pg. 13). It is a story of Norwegian pioneers building a church, a tornado that destroyed it, the death of Orabel's beloved parents and the artist's life coming to a crossroad.

The Concordia Lutheran Church has roots in some of the earliest settlers of Clay County. After the banishment of the Dakota people (aka Sioux) from Minnesota following the 1862 US – Dakota War, and the sale of large expanses of Ojibwe (aka Chippewa) land in the Old Crossing Treaty the following year, very few families lived on Minnesota's Red River Frontier. In the summer of 1870, Ola Thortvedt, grandfather of Orabel, led his and two other families along with five single men from southeast Minnesota to a section of land along the Buffalo River. They were one of the earliest groups of Norwegians to settle the Red River Valley, then the western limit of the American frontier. The railroad came the next year, creating a line of towns south of them – Hawley, Glyndon, Moorhead – and bringing the Buffalo River pioneers new neighbors as the land filled with settlers. Many of the newcomers were Norwegian immigrants, often family or neighbors of the group Ola Thortvedt led. The Red River Valley became a magnet for Norwegian farmers in the 1870s and 1880s.



*The Concordia Lutheran Church in the late 1920s.*

It was not long before these Norwegian immigrant families organized churches. Moland congregation was formed in 1871, and the Thortvedts helped establish the Our Savior's congregation in 1874. The first service for Our Savior's was held in Tarje Grover's house, in the Norwegian language, of course, and then the congregation moved to area schoolhouses before a church building was erected in 1884. In 1892, Our Savior's and Moland congregations merged to form Concordia Lutheran Church. Shortly after the merger, they ordered an altar painting. Copies of the church records in the archives are written in Norwegian. Luckily, I share an office with Joern Bovoll, a Norwegian Concordia College student interning for the Nordic Culture Clubs. Joern explained that the language has changed tremendously since the 1890s, but he did his best to plod through the scribbled cursive. In the spring meeting of 1894, he was able to make out that the church council authorized Pastor Oefstedal and J. Jensen to ask around for a painter so they could order an altar painting that would be fitting for the church and ready for next summer.

That altar painting is now in the care of HCSCC, donated by the church in 1988. The signature verifies that Pastor Oefstedal and Mr. Jensen chose C. Ludvig Bockmann of Saint Paul for the job. He is listed in that city's 1895 directory as one of about 40 artists working in the city, specializing in oil and water color portrait paintings. The scene Bockmann painted was *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane*. You have seen this scene before. Imagine the painting in your head – Jesus kneels in prayer on top of a rocky hill, looking sadly to the sky, waiting for Judas to arrive with Roman soldiers. I'll bet you all my baseball cards that, whether you know it or not, you are thinking of a painting created by German artist Heinrich Hoffmann in 1890. The 1890s was

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the time of Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, and Edvard Munch, but none of these celebrated artists can touch the universal recognition of the paintings of Heinrich Hoffmann, an art teacher in Dresden whose name no one remembers. His *Christ in Gethsemane* has been copied over and over again to hang in churches or illustrate Bibles, adapted into stain glass windows and knick knacks, and, as we can see, copied for an altarpiece in rural Minnesota just 4 years after the original was painted in Germany. C. Ludvig Bockmann's version of the Hoffmann painting hung over the altar at Concordia Lutheran until May 27, 1931, when the church was totally destroyed by a tornado.

In the rubble, the altarpiece was found. It was torn, "rent asunder from top to bottom" in the words of Orabel Thortvedt. It was brought to Orabel to repair. Orabel was home from Minneapolis after her first year of art school and lip reading classes (she was profoundly deaf). "I did my best," she wrote in a 1968 letter to Reverend Joseph Vold about the painting. She taped the painting front



Concordia Lutheran Church's destruction after the May 27, 1931 tornado.

and back where it ripped and painted over the tape on the image side. After fixing the original altar painting, Orabel made her own copy. "When it was finished I could not resist this rare chance to make a smaller copy of this painting so dear to our hearts." She was given \$25 from the Ladies Aide to thank her for fixing the altarpiece, but the painting would stay on the second floor of the Thortvedt house for another five years. There was no church to take it to.

It took a long time to rebuild Concordia Lutheran

Church. To say the Great Depression hit farmers hard is an understatement. In a 1973 interview, Oakport farmer Ray Gesell said "It didn't make any difference how hard you worked or what you did. You couldn't come out even." While much of America experienced an economic boom during the "Roaring '20s," American farmers started their Great Depression a decade earlier than everyone else. For twenty years, prices for grain, vegetables, and meat were too low for farmers to make a decent living. Levi Thortvedt struggled to send his daughter Orabel to college, first to the Minneapolis Institute of Art from 1930-32 and then to the University of Minnesota from 1932-34. In his diary entry for Sept 18, 1933, Levi wrote (excuse his poor grammar and spelling), "Orable told me she would leave for Minneapolis next Saturday this was sad news to me it will be long and weary months for me - we had a long and good talk I much regret my pittypull Financial conditions I would have liked awfull well to aid her financially Butt my money all that I have worked for during my Whole life has gone to make Millionares & Billionares." The Concordia congregation went to other churches for a few years while they saved up to build a new building. Meanwhile, Orabel went back to Minneapolis for school.

Orabel had some success in Minneapolis. All her life, she had a deep love of animals, especially horses and pet dogs and cats. This love and attention translated into her art, allowing her to capture an animal's personality with a paintbrush. She came to the attention of an influential and wealthy member of Twin Cities high society, Mary Saunders Bulkley. Mary and her husband Kenneth Bulkley were both dog breeders, well connected in both the animal breeding circles and the art world. Mrs. Bulkley held a fancy tea party at her home to introduce Orabel Thortvedt to her friends. One of the guests was Clement Haupers, an artist and a king-maker in Minnesota's Depression-era art scene. Haupers asked Orabel to be one of 12 Minnesota artists to have their own displays at the 1934 State Fair. Orabel was kept busy painting the show dogs and horses of Minnesota's upper crust, including a former candidate for governor and the heir to the Hamm's Beer fortune.

Then came October, 1936. Orabel and her sister

Flo, roommates in Minneapolis, were called home because their mother needed surgery. She came out of the operation but did not recover. On October 6, Ingaborg Thortvedt died with her children at her bedside. Her body was brought home for the visitation. Orabel's painting of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane hung in the southwest corner of the room. In her tear-jerking account of her mother's death in the 1934-1937 Thortvedt Family Diary, Orabel wrote "It was a hard day for dad – when he hobbled painfully on his crutches to the coffin to take his first look at his sweetheart and wife – dry sobs wracked his frame...It was a love-match – mama confided to us daughters that papa was the only one she cared for – They had their ups and downs in their marital life but love did not die on either side – and dad paid mother the biggest compliment any person can pay another and that is to die of grief for her."

Orabel said goodbye to her father for the last time on October 13 as she and Flo returned to Minneapolis. Orabel returned to her work. She was doing an ink drawing of some Pekinese dogs when her roommate Florence "Girlie" Johnk tapped her on the shoulder, on the verge of tears. The phone had rung, but Orabel, being mostly deaf, could not hear it. She scrambled for her hearing aid. "Is it papa?!" Orabel asked. The old pioneer was not expected to live through the night. Orabel frantically packed her bags and borrowed \$4 for cab fare and a ticket home.

Orabel Thortvedt was at a crossroads in her life: stay in Minneapolis and continue her artistic career or go home to the farm and family. Just before her father died, she put all of her money into art supplies, a sign that she fully intended to continue in Minneapolis as a working artist until

she lost both of her parents within three weeks. If she agonized over the decision to return home, she did not write about it in any accounts that we have come across in the archives. Orabel took over Levi Thortvedt's duties of writing the family diary and keeping the family stories.

Orabel tried to continue working as an artist at the farm. While it was very difficult to make a living as an artist in Minneapolis, it was all but impossible to make it as a working artist in 1930s in Fargo-Moorhead. She found a few patrons, most importantly Helen and W.W. Wallwork. Helen was a former president of the Fine Arts Club and her husband owned show horses and race horses, ironic considering that, as one of the area's early car salesmen, he was responsible for taking a lot of horses off the roads. Orabel did some illustrations for a book and submitted two short stories to magazines, but nothing was published. She worked on a portrait of her grandfather, Ola Thortvedt, in her attic studio.



*Orabel Thortvedt restoring the original alterpiece at her home in the summer of 1931.*

Meanwhile, the Concordia Lutheran Church was rising from the rubble. On November 12, 1936, less than two weeks after her father died, the Thortvedt house

received visitors: "[A]t noon Rev. Runsvold and Mr. Swanson came to get measurements of "Gethsemane" – the old painting that I had restored after it had been ravaged by the tornado." They came for the repaired 1894 painting but they left intent on convincing the congregation to choose Orabel's version of the scene instead. "There will be a meeting next Monday in which Rev. Runsvold will put it to vote to see if the Congregation will want my painting as altar piece and the old one to be put down in the Sunday School room," Orabel wrote in the diary that day. "I would indeed be honored if my picture is chosen – one of my

*Continued on next page...*



cherished dreams come true.”

November 18 was a good day for Orabel, although she and sister Stella had to pluck 4 roosters for dinner. Her brother Goodwin went to town and bought a large sack of sugar for the first time in ten years. Orabel made lefse. That evening, Aunt Thone Lee and her daughters Signe and Selma came for dinner. They brought good news. Orabel’s painting was chosen to be the new altarpiece. She donated the painting to the church in memory of her parents, Levi and Ingaborg Thortvedt.

On a nice thirty-degree day on December 15, Orabel, her sister Dora, and cousins Signe and Selma Lee brought the repaired 1894 painting to the church to be put in the Sunday School room. Cousin Lenora Lee Grover brought sandwiches. “As the church darkened we finished – again the old painting has its old place of honor and I was glad to see that it looks okay after being fixed by me 5 years ago.” Orabel and Dora visited their parents in the cemetery there. “It is heavy to approach two cold mounds of clay – below which we know our beloved parents lie in sleep Eternal – I also stopped at the graves of Ted Bergh [Dora Thortvedt’s husband who died after only three years of marriage], Grandpa, Grandma, and Great Grandmother Joraand Gjeitsta.” Dora would join them five years later, stricken down by encephalitis at age 51.

When the altar finally came at the end of January, Orabel loaded her painting into a sleigh to be taken to the church. “Obert and Andrew Gunderson took my painting and put in new altar – they said it looked nicer than the old one but ‘shined’ from center aisles other wise looked okay from pews and gallery – we were worried about this ‘shine’- I think it’s the light from the gallery windows – I should not have applied the copal varnish.”

Orabel was always too modest. Her painting is still hanging above the altar 75 years later and it looks great.

For the rest of her life Orabel continued to paint animals for friends or patrons, but she devoted more and more of her time to the study of local history after she returned to the farm. Orabel spent her days studying history and compiling her findings in her scrapbooks and journals. She became recognized as the most knowledgeable historian of the Buffalo River Settlement, writing

articles for local newspapers on historic subjects, and working with other leaders in local history like Forum reporter Roy Johnson. Orabel used her art to bring history alive, painting scenes from the past with a scholar’s attention to historic detail. “She filled and catalogued hundreds of old film boxes with her clippings: ‘165A Oxen and Covered Wagons,’ ‘385 Womens Hairstyles,’ ‘487 Men in Hats,’ etc.,” recalls niece Eva Hedstrom. Orabel’s passion for art and history were fused: she used her art to illustrate history and she used history as inspiration for her art.

In addition to gathering an archive of information, she wanted to share the findings. Visitors would learn about their

ancestors by looking up their families in her books. Schools would arrange fieldtrips to her house so Orabel could teach the children about local history. On one occasion, she went to a local school to demonstrate how artists paint portraits. Young Eileen Olson posed as Orabel’s model that day. Remembering that Orabel painted the altarpiece at her church, Eileen asked “When did Jesus pose for Orabel?”



*Orabel Thortvedt's Christ in Gethsemane altarpiece in the Concordia Lutheran Church today. Special thanks to Sylvia Teigen for taking HCS staff out to the church.*



# Launching the Bergstrom Exhibit

by intern Brit McInnes

On October 16, 2012 the exhibit *Peter Bergstrom: Swedish Immigrant Worker and Entrepreneur* was unveiled here at the Hjemkomst Center. This



The unveiling of the Peter Bergstrom: Swedish Immigrant and Entrepreneur exhibit.

exhibit is the result of a collaborating effort between HCSCC staff Lisa Vedaa, Mark Peihl, and Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason and Concordia College's Dr. Joy Lintelman and her assistant Jenny Battcher. *Peter Bergstrom: Swedish Immigrant Worker and Entrepreneur* is a fascinating collection and presentation of one man's story of his pursuit of the American Dream. Through numerous photographs and letters that were sent back to Sweden, one can experience the life of Peter Bergstrom's colorful trail through America. It portrays his willingness to take advantage of any

opportunity to make a living, his family life and trials, and his determination to succeed.

In 2004, Lintelman had her Concordia College Scandinavian Immigration class research the life of Peter Bergstrom, whose collections of letters Lintelman found a decade ago in a Swedish archive. The class created a website as its final project. Jonason saw the website in 2009 and approached Lintelman about creating an exhibit. It took until 2012 for Dr. Lintelman's schedule to clear sufficiently to work on further research, verifying facts, finding photos, and securing permissions to use the photos. Graphic designer Jaron Theye of Red River Valley Design joined the team and pulled together the diverse ideas to create a colorful and engaging exhibit of nine retractable panels of text and photos. The exhibit was supported in part by the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society of the Red River Valley and the Swedish Council of America. Bergstrom has a captivating story that can now be shared. As a traveling exhibit, his story will appeal to anyone with an interest in the immigrant experience of 100 years ago. It is available for groups, museums and libraries to rent for just \$100 plus shipping.



Above: Maureen Kelly Jonason, director of HCSCC, showing the educational materials that will accompany the traveling exhibit. Left: Gwen McCausland and Brit McInnes looking at one of the panels from the exhibit.

# What's in the Archives?

## The Thortvedt Family Papers

by Mark Peihl

In researching local history it's often easy to find out what happened during a particular event or time period. Newspapers, land and tax records and city directories are great sources for this information. But understanding how people felt about the things going on around them can be very difficult. Diaries and letters can help unlock those mysteries. Sadly, those are as rare as hens teeth in local archives.



Fortunately, HCSCC is home to a remarkable collection which sheds exactly that kind of light on the past.

*Thortvedt family and friends playing a game of croquet. Circa 1910s*

The Thortvedt Family Papers are a collection of diaries, letters, photographs, financial records and more that are unique to Clay County and probably the state. They are a true treasure for local historians. HCSCC is blessed to have them.

The Thortvedts were among Clay County's earliest settlers, arriving before the railroads. Ola and Tone Thortvedt left Telemark in Norway for Houston County in Minnesota in 1861. In June 1870 they, their daughters Jorand, Thone and Signe and nine-year-old son Levi and a number of friends and relatives left Houston County by covered wagon for the Red River Valley. Their search for land brought them to Dakota Territory, across the Red from Georgetown. They found the land covered with driftwood indicating potential flooding problems. Dismayed, they planned on trying the Otter Tail County area when they met another early settler, Randolph Probstfield. He steered them to some of the finest land in the Valley, along the Buffalo River northwest of present-day Glyndon. More friends and family followed, settling along the stream in what is now Moland, Oakport and Kragnes Townships. Today it's still known as the "Buffalo River Settlement."

Ola and Tone's son Levi stayed on the family farm

in section 28, Moland Township, and married another Telemark girl from Houston County, Ingeborg Midtgarden. They raised ten children on the farm. Levi and Ingeborg were very conscious of the family's story and its significance in early Clay County history. They instilled that consciousness in their children. They also shared with them their passion for keeping that story alive by documenting their own experiences. Levi kept a detailed daily journal from 1904 until just before his death in 1936. He encouraged his children to do the same, several of whom did. After his death his daughters took up the pen and continued the journals into the 1980s.

Unlike most other diaries in our collections, the Thortvedts' journals go way beyond weather reports and mundane daily activities. They record the comings and goings of family members and neighbors, the details of trips to town, holiday celebrations, comments on local and national affairs, community events, parties, farming activities, financial difficulties and successes and much more.

Between 1913 to 1918 Levi and three of his daughters, Dora, Florence and Orabel, all kept daily diaries. Through them we see the events



of World War 1, the Spanish Influenza Epidemic and the family's concern for the safety of our boys overseas (including Levi and Ingeborg's son, Goodwin) from four different perspectives.

Many of us have heard that the armistice ending the war was signed at "the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" (11:00 am, November 11, 1918). But that was Paris time. Here it was 3:00 am. Later that day Dora wrote, "At 3 o'clock this morning [her sister] Adela and I awoke. I dreamt I heard our threshing engine whistle, which proved to have been the whistles in Mhd. & Fargo. It was then a tremendous blowing of whistles, ringing of train bells and church bells. It impressed us beyond words. I woke Pa, whistles blew every half hour until daylight. We knew what it meant – Peace – the War is Over..." (The racket must have been impressive. The family lived seven miles from town!)

Later the girls went to town with neighbors and described the day-long celebrations there. Dora wrote, "When we got up town great excitement. Parade of girls boys old & young people, cassoo [kazoo] bands etc. old boilers and old kitchen ware tied on to the autos and bicycles, cheering. flags – flags everywhere also our allies' flags. 'Over There' was played, very impressive. Was sorry I did not have the camera." The others gave their versions of what happened and their thoughts, all somewhat different.

We can use the diaries to not only learn about specific events but to help us to study the courtship habits of young people in the 'teens, the effects of



*Stella Thortvedt mowing the lawn. The Thortvedt family documented the life on the farm. It is rare to find photographs of everyday activities from this era.*

technology on farming and daily life and changing communication and transportation.

Though the diaries provide the backbone of the collections, the collection holds much more. The family carefully retained their letters, financial records and other minutia, all of which add to our understanding of life in the past. In 1927 Levi wrote a manuscript describing in detail the trip his family made to the Red River Valley and the early years of the Buffalo River Settlement. The compelling tale was printed at least twice in Clay County newspapers.

Of the children, Orabel stands out in her devotion to family and history. At a young age she showed a talent for drawing. The family encouraged her in this and, despite difficult finances, sent her to study at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the University of Minnesota. Levi's manuscript and his stories resonated deeply with her. After his death she wrote that she "thought that the well of history had gone dry." But in the late 1930s she



*Left to right: Orabel and Florence Thortvedt, Jonnie Skrei and Ted Bergh playing the game Pedro, February 15, 1920.*

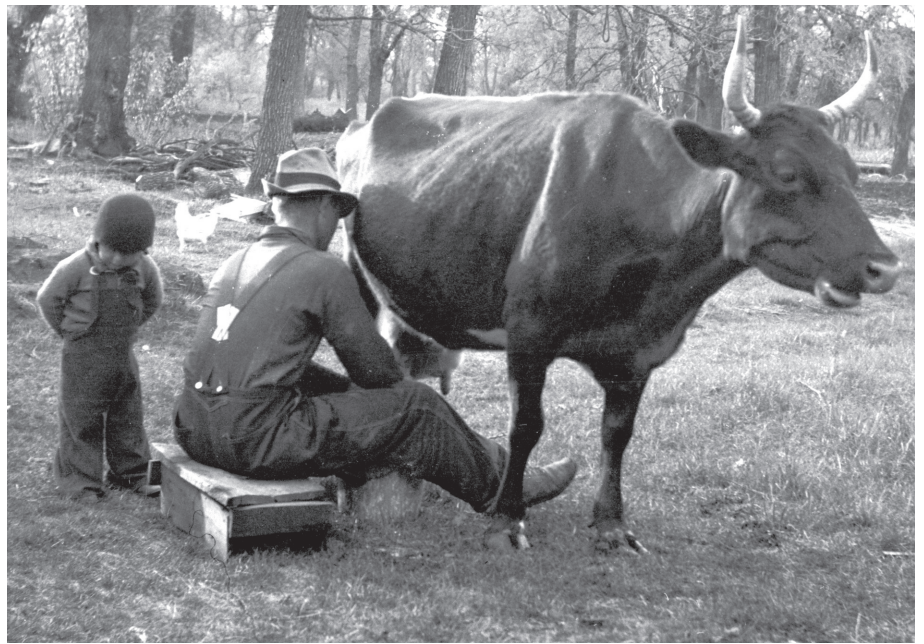
**Continued on next page...**



discovered copies of a publication by an organization about and for descendants of immigrants from Telemark, Telesoga. They featured interviews done in 1907 with many of the Buffalo River Settlers. They introduced Orabel to other sources for learning her community's history.

For the rest of her life she immersed herself in researching her family, the Settlement and, eventually, anything related to local and regional history. Orabel sent questionnaires to and interviewed lots of area pioneers, collected clippings and photographs and compiled scores of scrapbooks on a wide variety of area history subjects, each carefully cross-indexed and meticulously illustrated by herself. One of her favorites (and mine) features precise drawings and floor-plan sketches of her neighbors' homes and buildings in Moorhead, Fargo, Glyndon and other communities. Another, titled "Old Biography," consists of biographical sketches of Buffalo River Settlers and other people she knew, complete with drawings of the individuals and her own very subjective comments about each.

The Thortvedts were real shutterbugs and saved dozens of photo albums. These are annotated, not only with the names of the people represented but of the horses, dogs, cats and other critters, notes about when the photo was taken, by whom, what was going on and other details. And they took photos of activities rarely documented: mowing the lawn in 1918, filling a manure spreader, milking a cow in the backyard, shucking peas on



Hilman Nelson with his son Denis, milking the Thortvedts' cow in 1938.

the front porch and making a phone call in 1915. They held onto hundreds of their negatives, sorted and indexed them by subject. Incredible.

The last of Levi and Ingeborg Thortvedt's children, Florence, passed away in 1997. The family's descendants carefully kept the collection together, out on the farm. Over the last 15 years they have graciously donated these materials to HCSCC, so that we can continue to preserve, cherish and share these remarkable treasures from a remarkable family. We are deeply grateful for the privilege to do so.

*Below: Thor Sheridan spreading manure on the fields.*



# Sifting Thru Clay County Records

By Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Deputy, Chief Genealogical Officer of *FamilySearch*

In doing family genealogical research, there are numerous record sources which can be checked. At the top of the list should be the county historical societies which have a distinct collection of records that are not available anywhere else. Such is the record collection at the Archives of the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.

That was our reason for visiting the Archives in Moorhead the middle of October 2012. All of my husband's maternal side of the family settled in Clay County after arriving from the Solør region in Hedmark County, Norway. Their surnames were Shulstad, Hough, Sillerud, and Muslien.

Over the years we have researched the individuals mentioned above in the Norwegian Church Books which are now digitized and on the Internet. We have been to Norway a number of times to visit the ancestral farms and meet living relatives. We have also obtained numerous birth, marriage, and death records from the Clay County Courthouse. But we wanted to find more family information in the local Clay County sources about all of these families.

Upon arriving at the Clay County Archives, Mark Peihl, Archivist, greeted us and showed us some of the main records in their collection. He did a marvelous job of steering us in the right direction and then left us alone to do our research, which was much appreciated. For two entire days we searched in the Clay County Land records, the Tax Lists, Township Plat Maps, City Directories, Rural School records, photographs, microfilmed newspapers, and other records. We made about seventy photocopies of pertinent family documents to take home with us.

It was thrilling to locate the Rural School records in which we found my husband's mother teaching in District 19 in 1936-1937. It even listed her Boarding Place as the C.R. Reiersen home which, according to the 1939 Skree Township Plat Map, was in close proximity to the school. A School Districts – Clay County Plat Map showed us precisely where District 19 and her school were located.

We had thought only my husband's maternal families lived and transacted business in Clay County. Imagine our surprise when we located his paternal grandmother in the Clay County Land Records. But here was Grandma Hasleton, in the Grantee Index to Deeds, receiving property after her sister, Marie, died. Marie with her husband, Axel, lived in Moorhead for thirty-five years. Then we found in the 1940 Moorhead City Directory the listing for Axel where even his death date was stated in the directory, as 4 Jan 1939. We knew that Marie's death date was April 1948. That led us to the microfilmed *Moorhead Daily News* newspapers where we found both of their obituaries in 1939 and 1948.

There is a great deal of genealogical data available on the Internet such as the digitized images of the Clay County Land and Property Records 1872-1947 (31,600 images) on the [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) website for free. On the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County website, there is a listing of the more frequently-used records under the Research tab at [www.hcscconline.org](http://www.hcscconline.org). Some of their records are also posted online such as the 1905 Tax records and the 1915 Moorhead section of the City directories. They also have posted online the 1933 rural resident list, property ownership plat maps, the 1899 Complete Atlas of Clay County, and many other sources.

County historical societies where your ancestors lived play an important role when researching your family history as that is where unique and even common records are found all in one archive. The Archives at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County definitely rank as one of the best. Now we can't wait to return next year to find more gems.





# Volunteer Spotlight

Margaret Callsen



**When did you start volunteering at HCSCC?**

*I began volunteering in 1994 after I retired from Oklahoma State University.*

**What did you do at Oklahoma State University?**

*I taught in the Education Department. I taught education to Home Economics teachers and Extension agents.*

**What do you enjoy the most about volunteering?**

*I enjoy meeting new and interesting people. There is such a diverse group of visitors.*

**What do you least like about volunteering?**

*That there is only monkey bread once a month. Ha ha.*

[Jan Nelson, another volunteer, brings monkey bread once a month for the staff and volunteers. We all love it!!]

## Sales Increase in the Gift Shop



If you haven't seen the Heritage Shop lately, you will notice a great improvement in the overall look and feel of the gift shop. As you may remember in the summer newsletter, Kelly Wambach came on board as a part-time manager for the summer and became a full-time staff member in August. Under his creative eye and retail savvy, the gift shop is up

in sales by 12.5% compared to this time last year. We are on target to meet or exceed our 2012 gift shop sales goal! Kelly has worked on bringing in quality, locally-made pieces that reflect the diverse heritage of the area and one-of-a-kind crafts such as Gloria Weisgram's Prairie Wreaths. Featured artisits will change on a regular basis so stop in to see what is new in the Heritage Shop.

This winter, the Heritage Shop is sponsoring a Heritage Craft Workshop series. Each workshop teaches a different traditional craft such as German feather trees, wood chip-carved Christmas ornaments, German cookie ornaments, floral arranging and rag rug weaving. Registration is required and the fee is \$25 each except for the floral arranging demonstration, which is free. Supplies vary from class to class. More information is available on page 18 or contact Kelly Wambach at 299-5511 extension 6731. All of the classes are held at the Hjemkomst Center.



# Heritage Shop

That Special Gift  
for that Special  
Someone!

OPEN  
MONDAY - SATURDAY  
9-5  
TUESDAY  
9-8 (THRU DEC)  
SUNDAY  
12 - 5

Hand-made  
Soaps

Holiday  
Delights



# 2012 & 2013 Exhibition & Event Calendar

## Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

### **Through December 30**

#### *The Boom: 1945 - 1960 in Clay County*

From the GI Bill to the Baby Boom, changes on the farm and TV to the Korean War, this exhibit looks at the exciting years that created modern America.

### **July 21 through January 22**

#### *Hjemkomst Sagas: One Dream, A Viking Ship, Many Stories*

The exhibit will bring a fresh perspective about the *Hjemkomst* expedition. The public can look at this exhibit with new eyes and be amazed again at what an accomplishment the expedition was—for the Asp family, the voyage crew, as well as the businesses and communities that supported it.

### **Opening January 22, 2013**

#### *Prairie Daughters: The Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thortvedt.*

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

## Upcoming Events

### **Saturday, December 1, 1-3 pm**

#### **German Cookie Ornament Workshop**

Virginia Dambach will teach the various steps to creating stamped ornaments using cookie dough and various clays. Participants will take home two hand-made ornaments. Fee is \$25 (includes materials). Registration deadline is November 24.

### **Saturday, December 8, 1-3 pm**

#### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County's Holiday Open House**

Enjoy free admission to the museum, 1-3 pm with cookies and refreshments. Gloria Lee will be giving a holiday floral arranging presentation starting at 1:00. She will demonstrate how to use fragrant pine, fresh fruits and flowers to create easy and unique holiday arrangements you can make for your home. Handouts for basic floral design will be provided. Presentation is FREE. No registration required.



### **History Sundays with Steve Stark, 1 pm**

Like a story book unfolding before your eyes, listen and watch Steve Stark tell the fascinating stories of the Red River Valley as he illustrates them with speed and skill. Each program is chock full of local historic heroes that helped make this region great. Bring the whole family for a multi-generational learning experience you'll talk about for weeks to come! The presentation is free but there is an admission fee to see museum galleries.

**December 2:** Red River Valley History – Part 1

**December 9:** Red River Valley History – Part 2

**December 23:** Lincoln Legacy

**December 30:** Theodore Roosevelt

**January 13:** Carl Ben Eielson

**January 20:** Pioneer Power Couples of Clay County

**January 27:** Local Women of Influence

**February 3:** Smith Stimmel

**February 10:** Bonanza Farms

**February 24:** Propellers & Pantaloons: Female Aviators

### **Saturday, December 15, 1-4**

#### **Rag Rug Workshop**

Unlike other rag rug classes, this workshop offers a different technique by knotting fabric around twine on a three-point hand loom. It is a different twist on an old tradition. The fee is \$25. This includes the hand loom, but participants are asked to bring fabric scraps and scissors. Registration deadline is December 8. Call Kelly at the Heritage Shop 299-5511 ext. 6731.



# 2012 Members List

## Individual \$40

Allen County Public  
Library

Bank of America

Chester Fritz Library, UND  
- SER

Family Search Intl, Library  
Rights

Grand Forks Public Library

Minot Public Library

ND Institute Regional  
Studies

Norwegian Consulate of  
North Dakota

Serenity Assisted Living

Tochi Products

Wilkin County Historical  
Society

Rose Andersen

Jacqueline J. Anderson

Ron Anderson

Olive Andvik

Bernice Arett

Sherbanoo Aziz

Erwin Backlund

Arlie Barrett

Delores Bekkerus

Joel Belgum

Dorothy L. Bentley

Sharon Benzel

Yvonne Bethke

Helen Bjornson

Michael Blasgen

Phyllis Boatman

J. D. Bohlman

Curt Borgen

Michelle Bowlin

Einar Bredeson

Verona V. Burbeck

Elizabeth D. Bushell

Herb Buttner

Kevin Carvell

Donna Chalimonczyk

Mark Chekola

Ken Christianson

Grace E. Clark

Patrick Colliton

Nancy K. Cooper

Rick Crume

Sandi Dahl

Bill DesSaint

Ione Diiro

Anne Dilenschneider

Jennette K. Dittman

Donald Dobmeier

John Docken

June Adele Dolva

Roger and Gladys

Durensky

Virginia Duval

Verlene Dvoracek

Peter Edson

Ron Ekren

Arnold Ellingson

Verdie L. Ellingson

Karen R. Erickson

Loretta Erickson

Rodney Erickson

Karen D. Evanson

Burnice Everson

Sharlowe Farrell

Betty E. Feder

Philip E. Felde

Harry Fillafer

Janice Fitzsimons

Edith M. Flaa

Henry Fleming

Maurice Floberg

Steven Frankl

Ruth Franzen

Teresa Garske

Dorothy Garven

Mae Gee

Robert L. Gerke

Sharon Geyer

Charlene Gilbert

Glenn Gilbery

James Gilbery

Carole Lee Gislason Hays

Helen Glawe

Ruth E Glover

Rosalie Goble

Marilyn Gorman

Jo Grondahl

Edward A. Gudmundson

Virgil Gunnarson

Fern Haiby

Tom Hall

LaVerne Halverson

Steve Handegaard

Bette and Fred Haring

Alice M. Hauan

W. Joyce Haug

Helen G. Haugen

Dorothy M. Heieie

Loren Helmeke

Pat Hemmah

Vickie Hendrickson

Mary E. Hennessy

Larry Henning

Jessica M. Henry

Irene Hogan

Herman Holland

Dr. John R. Holten

Richard Horst

Patricia Hoversten

Judith A. Huck

Karla Huebner

Renae S. Ingersoll

Tom Isern

Anna Marie Johnson

Carol M Johnson

Celeste Johnson

Dolores M. Johnson

Douglas P. Johnson

Joyce Johnson

Maurice M. Johnson

Doris Jorgenson

Delayne M. Karls

Dr. Heidi Kassenborg

Kurt Ketterl

Janet Kiefer Martin

Jeffory M. Kluck

Carol Knodle

Mary Knopfler

Judi Koehmstedt

Virginia Kolba

John Kolness

Daniel Koper

Lois Lamb Schur

Gary Landgraf

Dorothy Larson

Anita Leiseth

James B. Lichtsinn

Erling Linde

Joy K. Lintelman

Myrtle D. Ludemann

M. Leroy Madson

Ron Martin

Candace Mathiowetz

Ona McMillan

Shirley Meehan

Deloris A. Mellon

Eileen P. Michels

Michael Michlovic

Sandra Miles

Roger J. Minch

Richard L Mische

Arloine S. Mithun

Milo M. Moyano

Charles A. Nelson

Jean Nelson

Phyllis J. Nelson

Conrad Newgren

Denise K. Nissen

Beverly Nokken

Jean Norman Parker

Virginia E. Nyberg

Lisabeth A Nyhus

Joanne Ogren

Elizabeth Olday

Doris Olich

Dr. Jim Oliver

Dennis W. Olsen

Anne L. Olsgaard

Cheryl Olson

Terry V. Olson

Trygve Olson

Bernice Peihl

Dewey Possehl

Jean A. Prentice

J.D. Quam

Roberta Radford

I. Morris Rasmussen

Michael G. Rasmusson  
 Timothy Ray  
 Sharon M. Rezac  
 Judy Rippentrop  
 Vilera Rood  
 Jade Rosenfeldt  
 Helen Rudie  
 Darlene Rustad  
 Paul H. Rustad  
 Richard Sander  
 Margaret A. Sarbacker  
 Susan Scheel  
 Mary Ann Scheffler  
 Peggy Ann Scheffler  
 Catherine Scheibe  
 Joanne Schlanser  
 Lois E. Schneider  
 Paulette Schneider  
 Virginia Schnekenburger  
 D. John Schultz  
 Patricia J. Schutt  
 Ardis Severson  
 Mark Sheils  
 Margaret Sillers  
 Mildred Skugrud  
 Linda (Kopp) Small  
 Patrick Smith  
 Teri Smith  
 Arnold M. Solberg  
 Bertha Stangeland  
 Barry Steen  
 Jim Steen  
 Bernice Stensgaard  
 Dianne M. Stenso  
 John Stern  
 Alex Swanson  
 Justine Swanson  
 Larry Swenson  
 Sophia Swenson  
 Mona Tedford  
 Phyllis Thysell  
 Marvin A. Tingdahl  
 Arleen C. Torkelson  
 Waneta Truesdell  
 Diane Tweten Sylte  
 Jan Ulferts Stewart  
 Janet D. Vining

Esther Vollbrecht  
 Wayne Wagstrom  
 Arthur Wenner  
 Dale D. White  
 Olaf R. Wicker  
 Phyllis A. Wirries  
 Donna Woods  
 John P. Woods  
 Ann Zavoral  
 Marlis Ziegler  
 Deloris A. Zwack-Mellon

### **Household \$60**

River Keepers  
 Spring Prairie Township  
 Marjorie Aakre  
 Pam and Dean Aakre  
 Bernard and Lois  
     Altenburg  
 Mark and Susan Altenburg  
 Steve and Michele  
     Anderson  
 Rod and Audrey Angstman  
 Col. Milton and Armored  
     Arneson  
 Riaz and Mary Aziz  
 Les Bakke  
 Barb Beckman  
 Jolene Beckman-  
     Sternhagen  
 William Sorenson and  
 Carol Beckstrom  
 Russ and Lois Bekkerus  
 Robert and Dorothy Belsly  
 John Benson  
 Genelle Bentley  
 Ken and Solveig Berg  
 Milly and Alden Bevre  
 Julie Blehm  
 Rev. Carleton and Dorothy  
     Borden  
 Joanne Boyland and Oscar  
     Flores  
 Robert and Eleanor Brandt  
 Jerry O. and June Brantner  
 Warren Brendemuhl  
 Dennis and Kathy Bresee

C. Owen and Catherine  
     Carlson  
 Jean and Burney Carver  
 Mark Chalimonczyk  
 Gene Christensen  
 James and Sandra  
     Christopherson  
 Elizabeth and Edward  
     Clark  
 Keith and Michelle  
     Coalwell  
 Christine and Randi  
     Cockerill  
 James S. and Eleanor  
     Coomber  
 Lisa and Steve Cron  
 Diane Dabbert  
 Donald and Dorothy Dale  
 Robert and Virginia  
     Dambach  
 David B. and Karen  
     Danbom  
 Jim Danielson  
 Marv and Clare Degerness  
 Leland and Dorothy Delger  
 Vincent and Jean Dolva  
 Hiram M. and Ada Drache  
 Owen and Collette  
     Dramstad  
 Gordon and Carol Ekre  
 Jerome and Pam Ekre  
 Mike and Pat Elton  
 Duane and Joan Erickson  
 Mike and Kathy Farrell  
 Mike and Dianne Fillmore  
 Kelli and Ryan Frosli  
 Paul and Wendy Fuglestad  
 Vijay Gaba  
 Marjorie Gjevre  
 John and Nadine Glas  
 Raymond and Joan  
     Grefsrud  
 Char and Stacy Grosz  
 Betty Gulbrandson  
 John and Patti Hageman  
 Ronald and Margaretha  
     Hagemann

Bruce and Aase Hamnes  
 Clarence and Donna  
     Hanson  
 Gary Hanson  
 Neil and Polly Hanson  
 Pagyn and Lloyd Harding  
 Paul Harris and LuAnn  
     Hagel  
 Joel and Debra Haugen  
 Kate Henne  
 Bob and Janet Hillier  
 Russell and Rita Hoffman  
 Mitchell and Jackie Holter  
 Dave & Rhonda Holzer  
 Scott Horvik  
 Larry and Regina Jacobson  
 Erick Johnson  
 John and Anne Kaese  
 Maureen Kelly Jonason and  
 Martin Jonason  
 David and Marilyn Kerssen  
 Frank and Loureigne  
     Kimm  
 Zeb and Melissa Lamp  
 Keith and Kay Larson  
 Neil H. and Lois E. Larson  
 John David Lee  
 Phyllis and Dale Lincoln  
 John Lindholm  
 Jane Loeffler  
 Meg and Matthew Luther  
     Lindholm  
 Larry and Marcella  
     MacLeod  
 Joe and Shirley Manning  
 Zona Mathison  
 Joy and Maurice  
     McCormick  
 Margaret S. McPhillips  
 Tara Melin  
 Duane and Karla  
     Mickelson  
 Gail and Robert Monson  
 Amy Muhlenkort  
 Dan B. and Ann F. Murphy  
 Natasha and Tom Neihart  
 Marc and Shirley Nokken



H. Dennis & Marva D.  
Odegaard  
Gerald I. and Arlys Ohe  
Bernard and Eleanor  
Ohnstad  
Michael and Martha Olsen  
Gary H. and Becky Olson  
Jim and Judy Olson  
Sibyl and Gordon Olson  
Tom and Maren Ortmeier  
Janet and Daryl Ostercamp  
Timothy and Anna Ourada  
Ann Overby  
Marlowe and Joan Parries  
Mike Pehler  
Russ and Denise Pesola  
Elsie Peterson  
Sherwood and Wendy  
Peterson  
L. Diane Pickett  
Donald and Kathy Pingree  
Grant and Peggy Ramstad  
Joel and Patty Ransom  
LaVonne and Michael  
Redding  
David R. and Lorraine W.  
Reed  
David and Veronica Revier  
J. Donald and Naomi Rice  
Margaret and Mel Ristvedt  
Doug and Michelle Roise  
Gordon and Carol Rustad  
Darrel and Gloria Ruud  
David and Ann Sandgren  
Kelly and Enrico Sassi  
Lynae and Shane Schenck  
Dorothy and Robert  
Schmidt Cobb  
Karen A. and Joe Schneider  
Vijay K. and Maryclare  
Sethi  
Terry Shoptaugh and  
Deborah Janzen  
Warren and Roberta Shreve  
Gary and Yvonne Smith  
Herbert Snyder and  
Barbara Dunn  
Roger and Barb Spilde  
Tony and Jane St. Michel

Betty A. Stadum  
Jennifer and Brock  
Stenberg  
Dale Stensgaard  
Scott Sternhagen  
Donald and Rose-Mary  
Strom  
Sharon and Clarence  
Sundlie  
Andrew and Patricia  
Svenkeson  
Alvin and Diane Swanson  
Bob and Linda Swanson  
Roland and Mary Swanson  
Bob and Cindy Swenson  
Ken and Mary Tangen  
Molly Thomas  
Mary Ann and Eldon  
Thompson  
Jennifer J. Tjaden  
Lynn and Hank Tkachuk  
Al and Janet Traaseth  
Matt Trumble  
Robert and LeAnn  
Ulvestad  
Judy and Robert Videen  
David and Rhoda Viker  
Renee F. Weddell  
Howard and Marcell  
Wergeland  
Don and Dianne Westrum  
Ruth E. Wibe and Hollis  
Heimark  
Lauri Winterfeldt  
Marilyn Wollitz  
Susan Woodstrom and  
Karen Helfand  
John Young  
Gerry and Sherry  
Zimmerman

### **Booster \$85**

City of Felton  
Don's Car Wash, Inc.  
Flowing Township  
Glyndon Township  
Harmon Glass Doctor  
IdeaOne Telecom Group  
Minnesota School of

Business  
Moorhead Midday-Central  
Lions  
Moorhead Township  
Parke Township  
PortaCo, Inc.  
Stenerson Lumber  
YHR Partners, Ltd.  
Roland and Carolyn Barden  
Ken and Jan Bauer  
Shawn and Gail Blair  
Olaf and Verna Cartford  
Richard Chenoweth  
Rev. Clay and Sue Ellingson  
Armond and Nancy  
Erickson  
Lloyd Gunderson  
Vincent and Shirley  
Haugen  
Richard and Roberta  
Henderson  
Loren and Londa  
Ingebretsen  
Ken and Jeanette Just  
Justine and Richard  
Kingham  
Laurine and Don  
Kounovsky  
Margret Kragnes  
Reynold T. and Marlene  
Larsen  
Dave and Julie Larson  
Robert and Leslie Larson  
Floyd Lecy  
Robert and Phyllis  
Litherland  
John and Bess Manesis  
Ethel R. Medalen  
Robert and Carol Muscha  
Orris and Karen Myran  
Richard H. and Helen C.  
Pemble  
John D. Peterson  
Sherwood E. and Marilyn  
Peterson  
Lloyd and Earlyce Pladson  
Dana and Ginni Powers  
James W. and Dorothy M.

Powers  
Paul D. Pratt  
Lyle and Joan Rich  
Richard and Mary Schaefer  
Charles E. and Gertrude  
Solum  
Roger and Joan Stenerson  
Richard H. Stern and  
Nancy Torson  
Ronnie and Donna Tang  
Andrew H. Townsend  
Clark and Harriet Tufte  
Ardis VanRoey  
Chris and Ellen Velline  
Dennis and Mary Walaker  
Duane and Theresa Walker  
Linda K. Wange  
Robert O. Wefald  
Dudley C. and Kaila Wells

### **Heritage \$125**

Alliance Township  
Cahill Law Office, P. A.  
City of Barnesville  
City of Hawley  
Clay County Connection  
Hennepin County Library  
Independent School  
District #52  
Keene Township  
Mickelson Body Shop, Inc.  
Moorhead Kiwanis  
Northern Plains  
Distributing, Inc.  
Rigel's, Inc.  
Sellin Brothers, Inc.  
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Anderson  
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Anderson  
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PA

Gary and Rose Bergan  
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Barb Bertschi  
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Diane Wray Williams and  
Tom Williams  
Steve Wright  
Al and Char Zaeske  
Dick and Kathy Zaylskie  
Carol Zielinski

**Patron \$250**

Carol Bergquist  
David & Gloria Lee

**Benefactor \$500**

June Bailey  
Jon and Phyllis Evert

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





# Collections Donations

By Lisa Vedaa, Collections Manager

## May – August 2012 Donations

Donors: Thomas Asp, Edgerton, WI; Vicki Asp Bremer, Coon Rapids, MN; Kathy Burch, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ; Erik Christiansen, Lakeland, MN; City of Moorhead; Peter Gandrud, Bemidji, MN; Dorothy Garven, Los Angeles, CA; Chet Gebert, Fargo; Georgetown Community Affairs Committee; John and Susan Helgeland, Fargo; Ruth Herring, Detroit Lakes, MN; Celeste Johnson, Fargo; Steve Johnson, Fargo; Marg Asp Kuenn, Lee's Summit, MO; John and Marie Leseth, Celebration, FL; Erling Linde, Moorhead; Anne Moore, Moorhead; Gail Nokken Leary, Bismarck; Mark Peihl, Fargo; Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead; Carmen Rinehart, Olathe, KS; Charlotte A Sabby, Coon Rapids, MN; Deb Seitz and John Seitz, Northfield, MN; Jeff Solum, Deephaven, MN; Donard Thue, Fargo; Sherry Watt, Glyndon

Objects donated: (1) shirtwaist, ivory silk, from a wedding dress worn by Olga (Holie) Johnson; (1) photo postcard, JL Beers, (1) brochure, 2012 FM Red Hawks Baseball ticket guide; (1) brochure, "Barnesville Area News," Dec 2011 edition, (2) fliers and (1) poster, re: 2012 Scheels Fargo Marathon; (1) booklet, "A Walking, Driving or Horse & Buggy Tour of Historic Fargo," FM Heritage Society, 2011; (1) booklet, "Look Around Downtown: Fargo Heritage Discovery Walk, Spring 2007," FM Heritage Society; (1) City of Moorhead gavel; (10) photoprints, Georgetown area scenes and people, in particular John Stein, Mrs. Herman (Grace) Bariletti, Georgetown church, and dam north of Georgetown; (1) copy, log of journey from Norway to America April 27-June 13, 1870; (1) volume, Reliable Cookbook, Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, 1940; (3) school souvenir booklets, Moland Township School, Dist. No. 8: 1905-1906, Jan.-Apr. 1903, and 1911; (1) welcome banner made for the Hjemkomst ship when arriving in Bergen, Norway; documentation: DVD copies of Hjemkomst-related media coverage, daily log of Hjemkomst journey kept by Jeff Solum; (1) volume, The Hanson Family, 2011 (Olavus

Hanson and Julia Engebretsen); (2) boxes, records, secretary and treasurer books, membership rolls, Chapter O PEO; (1) map, topographical, "North Dakota-Minnesota, Fargo Quadrangle," Mar 1897, reprinted 1926, shows "Navan" instead of Baker, MN; high school annuals: (3) Glyndon Buffaloes 1963, 1964, 1965 and (7) Dilworth Locomotives 1966-1972; photos and other materials from Bue-Rushfeldt families of Hawley; materials from Trigve and Mariel Leseth, Rustad, MN; (1) volume, Andreas Historical Atlas of Minnesota, 1874; (1) photo of circa 1920s Minneapolis postmaster conference, including Ralph Peterson, Dilworth, correspondence and maps from Dilworth post office; (1) volume, "Tante Inga and Dr. Linde," Lew Linde about Dr. Herman Linde, photographs for copying: Herman Linde, Inga Linde, Herman Linde with sons Erling and Lew; Hjemkomst and Asp family materials including plaques, telegrams, envelopes w/ signatures, buttons, Bob's "Dream" book, proposals, photos, newspaper articles, postcards, photos of Bob Asp and Hjemkomst journey; (1) paper potato sack, Hank Peterson Farms, Moorhead; circa late-19th to early 20th century handmade clothing (added to education collection); photos, news clippings and assorted materials about the Hjemkomst and its journey collected by Chet Gebert; Hjemkomst collectible items and media coverage, scrapbook made for Bob Asp, photos; ¾" tape of Bob Asp featured on "Real People"; 1972-1982 slides taken by M. Oliver Asp; ball peen hammer used by Bob Asp to install rivets in Hjemkomst ship, Pentax 35mm SLR Spotmatic camera used by Thomas Asp to take photos on Hjemkomst voyage; lamp used on Hjemkomst voyage

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County  
PO Box 157 • 202 First Avenue North  
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To preserve, interpret and present the history and culture of the Clay County community and its neighbors.

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