MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 1, Issue 1: May, 2007

Mark Your Calendars!

May 10: Minnesota City Historical Association meeting; 6:30 at Riverway.
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May 17: Minnesota City Community Readers; 6:30 at Riverway.

ARCHIVAL HELP

Special thanks to *Lori Donehower* for Bridge Research and to *Don O'Neil* for photos and information about the swinging bridge and additional photos. Thank you to *Roger Church* for discussion of the filling station and garage information and to Andrea Church for the swinging bridge photo CD.
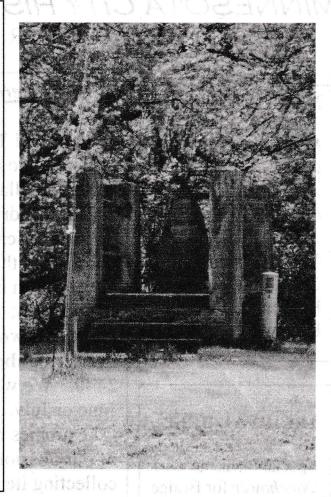
Generous Response to Membership Drive

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! to everyone who responded to our recent membership drive. Over six hundred dollars has been realized to date. The mailing list for this drive was generated from past Minnesota City Historical Association attendees or friends. We know from this response that many persons are interested in helping support the goals of the Association. **If you have addresses of any persons you think would support us, please email: deckert@hbci.com or phone O'Grady @ 507-689-2440**. We will do a second mailing to new names in June or July.

The monies received will be used to accomplish goals of our mission statement from 2002. These include collecting items --archeological materials, papers relevant to the genealogical, biographical, civil, political, military, transportation, religious and general history of the area. These items will be preserved and displayed by the Association. It is our hope to contact all persons who have indicated interest in being actively involved. All members are invited to attend meetings which are on the second Thursday of the month *at Riverway Learning Community, 115 Iowa Street Minnesota City*, at 6:30 p.m. All members are invited to visit the website developed by the Association, **www.minnesotacity.org.** It is becoming increasingly informative. Again, thank you for your contribution.

The Minnesota City Historical Association extends sympathy to the families of Doris (Mrs. Gerald) Nichols and of Darrell Peterman. Mrs. Nichols was a teacher for many years in the Minnesota City School and lived in the area all of her life. She is the aunt of Jean Gardner and Dorothy Brom, Association Members. Darrell Peterman is a brother of Margaret Elliot, Ruth Mrozek and Kenneth Peterman, all long time residents of Minnesota City.

Marking the Swinging Bridge

 The Association is in the process of securing signage at the former site of the Minnesota City Swinging Bridge (just south of the Post Office). A grant of $300.00 was secured from the Experiment in Rural Cooperation to partially fund this sign. Many Minnesota City residents recall the bridge which was eventually removed because of liability issues. It is the hope of the Association to eventually commemorate a number of the historical Minnesota City sites — houses, churches, etc., that could become part of a walking or bus tour. To date, with the cooperation of City Council and private owners, commemorative markers have been placed at The Oaks, The First Baptist Church, and at the entrance marker to Minnesota City on former Highway 61. Updates on this project will be on the website.

Two individuals have requested information that we are still researching. Does anyone have photos of filling stations/garages other than the Church Store and Cisewski garage? Another request is for information about a former resident on the old Minnesota City Road. The name being researched is Bingham. Please call Gen O'Grady if you can help on these requests. (507) 689-2440.

REMINDERS

Please send your e-mail address to **deckert@hbci.com** if you are willing to receive MCHA news electronically. E-mail addresses will be used strictly for MCHA communication and business. MCHA will not sell or distribute address information outside of the organization.

If you know of others who may be interested in joining MCHA or hearing about our events, please send contact information to **deckert@hbci.com** or call Gen O'Grady at (507) 689-2440.

Check the Minnesota City website, www.minnesotacity.org, for other area information.