

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 14, Issue 1: January 2019

“Minnesota City: a Past that we honor; a Present that we give meaning; a Future that we build together”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 12:

Minnesota City Historical Association Monthly Meeting; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Minnesota City City Hall, 149 Mill Street.

January 24:

Minnesota City Community Readers; Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; Minnesota City City Hall, 149 Mill Street. Selection: Peter Geye, *The Lighthouse Road: A Novel*.

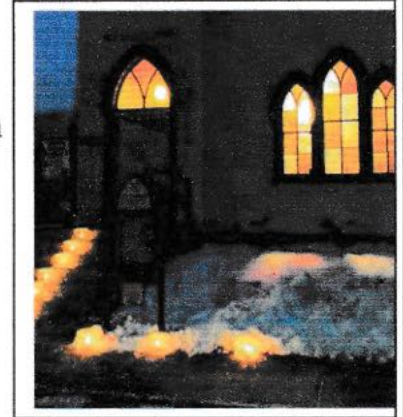
May 18: Minnesota City Day

“Go Green!”

If you receive this letter in paper “hardcopy” and would prefer to receive it electronically, call 689-2440.

Community Caroling-2018: Shared Laughs, Favorite Carols, Wagon Rides and More

The warm glow of the stained glass windows and the luminaries and the horse drawn wagon viewed from outside the Historic Baptist Church was equaled by the warmth of the laughter, the conversations, the hot beverages and yes – almost by the stove - inside the building on December 8. Even though each year offers attendees some same elements of holiday atmosphere, each year brings a new blend of musical rendition, attendees, refreshments, adornments and renewed appreciation for all persons who have become part of this unique community.



This year MCHA thanks especially

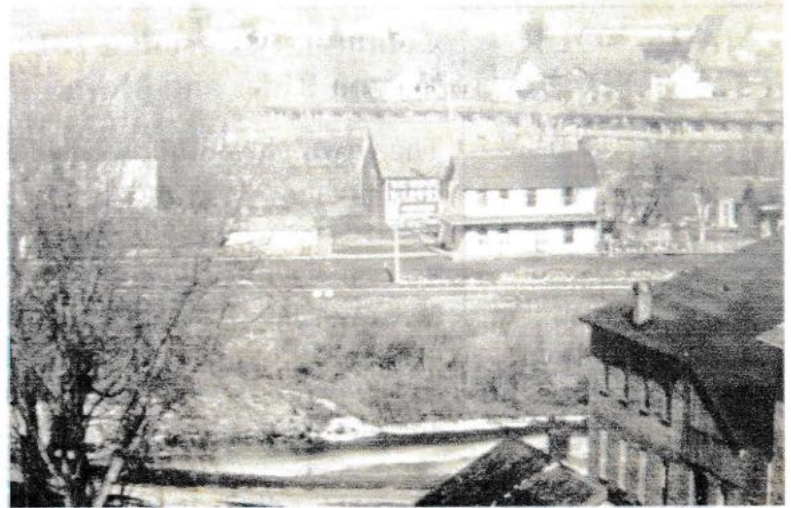
- the Ferden family who live next to the church, for shoveling, plowing, and “lookout” help
- the Maus families for the horse drawn wagon rides
- the musicians—Ed Maus, Steve Schuh, Brian Ebbinger, Jim O’Grady, Kate O’Grady, Rebecca O’Grady Weiss, Bernadette O’Grady DiMauro, all the singers in attendance
- the readers and skit participants: David Eckert, Marv O’Grady, Maxine Church Spaag, Mike Butenhoff, Vanessa Butenhoff, Scott Jensen, Isabella DiMauro, James O’Grady, Samuel O’Grady, Patricia Wurdemann, Bernadette O’Grady DiMauro, Rebecca O’Grady Weiss, Steve Buswell, Phillip Streng
- Decorators: mostly Eckerts and O’Gradys
- All persons who brought refreshments
- Area and out of area residents who supported this presentation
- And importantly, First Baptist Ladies who support, attend and share their building and lives with MCHA (See page 4 for more photos)

To facilitate work of MCHA personnel, all newsletter readers are asked to consider January as the due date for membership payment. Suggested donation is \$15.00 per household. All other donations are appreciated. Fees are used largely for postage and printing costs. Please send to MCHA, Box 21, Minnesota City, 55959. Thank You. Readers who have recently paid dues and keep account of their own payments should, of course, not duplicate.

This is also an opportune time to consider attendance at monthly MCHA meetings which are held at the City Hall, 149 Mill Street, at 9:30 a.m. the second Saturday of every month. More participants in this group would be very welcome.

Neighborhood News in January, 1903 (Winona Republican Herald, 1-31-1903)

Minnesota City, January 31—"There was not much interest manifested at the creamery meeting held at Miller's hall one evening last week. Sam Miller did most of the talking on the audience side and was about the only man who seemed to know what he wanted. There has been more talk since the meeting and Mr. Smoke, the creamery man from Stockton is working the matter up now with pretty good prospects of a creamery or a skimming station. Charles Daering who owns several hundred acres of land on the river has promised as many cows as he can get help to take care of them, up to two hundred... Mr. Biesanz and his men are making very rapid progress in opening up



Miller Hall owned by Sam and Johanna Miller, 1893-1920

the Rollingsstone ditch. It won't be long before the water flowing by the depot for the last few thousand years will be a thing of the past... The masquerade dance at Miller's Hall last Wednesday night was largely attended and a jolly good time was had by all. The Christian Endeavor society will give an oyster supper at Miller's hall Friday evening. It is safe to predict that their receipts and attendance will be about twenty cents on the dollar compared with the dance. Nothing but a dance or a ten cent medicine show pays in this town... Wednesday night was so dark and the roads so poor that Rev. Anderson came down from Stockton on the cars to hold meeting and walked home. Had he stayed until about 4.a.m. he would have had plenty of chances to ride home... Albert Thomas and his father fixed the pump. The head of the pump struck Albert's head and came pretty near to fixing Albert, in consequence of which Albert is decorated with a patch of court plaster just over the left eye. It might have been much worse. Moral—Let some other fellow fix the pump."

MCHA Extends Sympathy to:

- The family and friends of Thomas Kosidowski, 80, Minnesota City, who died on November 27 in Minnesota City.
- The family and friends of Diane Nelson, 67, who died on November 28 in Stockton.
- The family and friends of Lucille C. "Bunny" Mahaffey, age 99, of Minnesota City, who died on December 20, 2018, in Winona.
- The family and friends of Dolores Mae Kreidermacher (Wise), 83, of Rollingsstone, who died on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, in Winona.
- The family and friends of Olga Berndt, age 100, who died on December 19, 2018 at her home.

Notice of Filings for Rollingsstone Township Board

Readers of Winona Post will have read the notice of filing dates for Rollingsstone Township Board. These include openings for one three year term supervisor and one two year term treasurer. Filing is open until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 15. Marcia Anderson, Township Clerk may be called at 507-454-3849 with any questions. The annual election and meeting date is March 12.

(Winona Post; Dec. 12)

Coyotes Prowl in S.E. Minnesota



Jim O'Grady photo: Coyote north of Minnesota City

(Information from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) The coyote is Minnesota's most abundant large predator. Coyotes usually prey on small mammals, but sometimes they kill large mammals and livestock. Coyotes resemble a small, lean German shepherd with a bottle-shaped tail. Its fur is long, coarse, and heavy. Coyotes also have large, bushy tails, and long, erect ears.

Weight: Adult female coyotes average about 25 pounds and males about 30. The animals have a shaggy, grayish coat, white at the throat and belly. In autumn, coyotes are vocal and howl or bark alone or in groups. Younger coyotes have higher pitched voices than adults. A coyote's yipping sounds can be heard for miles.

Coyotes begin to mate at age two, and may pair for life. The mating season begins in January and lasts through February. After breeding, females search for dens, either digging one in loose soil or enlarging the den of another animal. Five to seven pups are born in April. The animals eat carrion, mice, snowshoe hares, porcupines, and occasionally, livestock such as sheep and small calves.

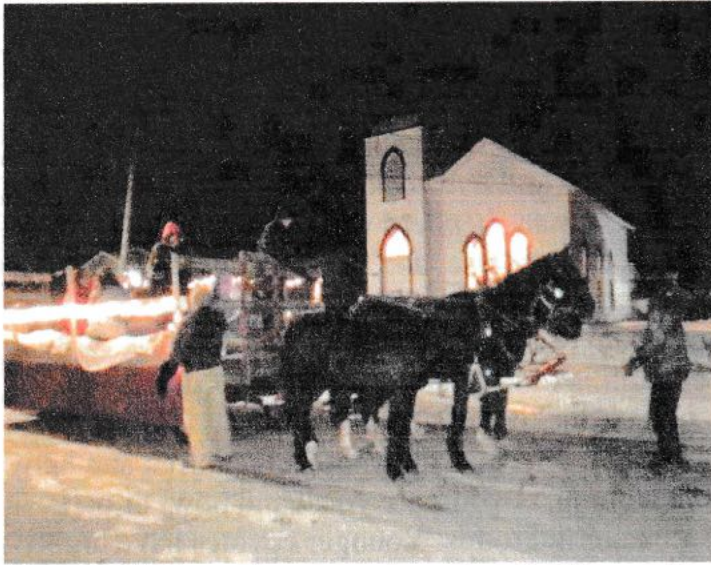
Males may roam over territories as large as 36 square miles, though females usually stay within a six square mile area. Coyotes normally move two to three miles per day. They are increasing in southern Minnesota, including the Twin Cities area. Coyotes prefer a combination of farm land and forest habitat, but survive well in the prairie or dense forest areas.

Standing Invitations:

- to attend regular meetings of MCHA. These meetings are usually held at 149 Mill Street.
- to respond to newsletter content. Please send additions, corrections, suggestions, calendar information (meetings, reunions, birthdays, other significant dates) etc. to mgogrady@embarqmail.com.
- **Writers of regular columns (or one time submissions) would be welcomed.** These might include monthly columns on area businesses, churches, schools, organizations or other relevant topics on the area and/or our history.



Caroling Memories ...



Maus family horse drawn wagon arrives for the caroling evening event.



Adults and children form the Yule Log Procession, the opening of the evening's event, with accompanying chants of "The Yule Log is Coming."



Jim O'Grady passes the Yule log to his father, Marvin O'Grady, for placement in the antique stove. Steve Schuh and Ed Maus accompany with accordion and violin.

At Christmas ... Edgar Guest

"A man is at his finest
towards the finish of the year;
He is almost what he should be
when the Christmas season is here;
Then he's thinking more of others
than he's thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children
is a joy worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than
at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him
he comes close to the sublime."

Anyone who wishes to donate to or be a member of the Association is invited to send \$15.00 to:

*MCHA, P.O. Box 21,
Minnesota City, MN 55959*

All monies will be used to support Association goals.

MCHA invites readers to submit dates for the newsletter of family reunions, milestone birthdays, and other events about which readers wish to share information.

Check www.minnesotacity.org or use the QR code. Submit information to mgogrady@embarqmail.com

