

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 13, Issue 8: November 2018

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 10:
Saturday,
MCHA Monthly Meeting; 9:30 a.m.;
Minnesota City City Hall, 149 Mill Street

November 15:
Thursday,
Minnesota City Community Readers; 6:30 p.m.; Minnesota City City Hall, 149 Mill Street; Selection: *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway

December 8:
Saturday,
Annual caroling Event; 6:30 p.m.; historic First Baptist Church

“Go Green!”

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

October 28 Hometown Harvest Shares Material and Friendship

On Sunday afternoon, Kate O’Grady, Rebecca O’Grady Weiss and Susan Whetstone Althoff demonstrated again their creative energies at the second Hometown Harvest observed at the historic First Baptist Church in Minnesota City.



Attendees visit awaiting Hometown Harvest 2018 events

The trio’s organizational skills brought together people, mixed performance genre, lovely décor and tasty refreshments.

Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) thanks these women, all program contributors and all contributions as well as audience members which validate the event.



Steve Schuh and Ed Maus prepare to perform at the Hometown Harvest 2018

Correspondence From Mary Jacob, Arlington, Texas: “I will not be able to come this October but hope you continue the harvest festival each year. I will try to make it again. Next year my high school reunion is in the first week in September so I’ll be back for that. Best wishes for a great tradition to continue....” Mary was here for the Hometown Harvest Festival in 2017. This summer she visited with childhood neighbors about experiences in Whitman Deering Valley, and about changes in friends’ lives.

Thank Yous came from Sister Marielouise Jilk, Techny, Illinois, and Kathleen Streng Twite, East Grand Forks, Mn.

Standing Invitations:

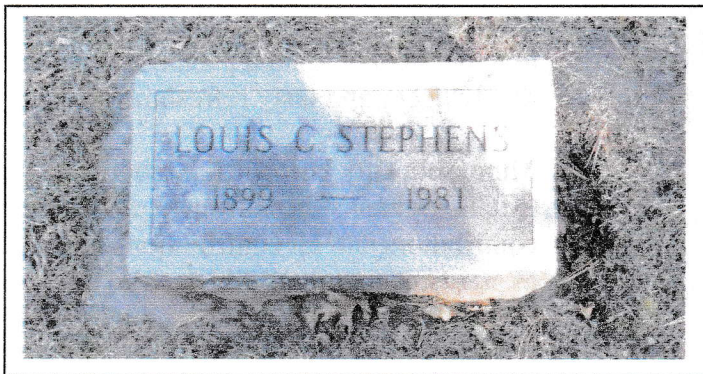
- to attend regular meetings of MCHA. These meetings are usually held at 140 Mill Street.
- to respond to newsletter content. Please send additions, corrections, suggestions, calendar information (meetings, reunions, birthdays, other significant dates) etc. to mgogrady@embarqmail.com.
- **Writers of 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.

Louis Stephans, One Part of the Minnesota City Waste Management Story

When Riverway Learning Community students interviewed Kateri Mueller in 2002, she recalled a Minnesota City individual, Louis Stephans, who helped keep the city clean. According to Kateri: “Across Highway 61 and the train tracks and then up and around the bend was the city dump. We would go with my dad to take our garbage in the evenings. This man’s name was Louie. I don’t remember him ever saying a word. You just tossed your junk over the hill where Louie pointed and he would burn it when the weather cooperated. Louie always fascinated me. He had a little shack by the dump. Sometimes we would see Louie walking through town with his wheelbarrow. He helped people clean their yards. Other than that I believe he was rather reclusive.” Louis was one of nine children of Louis and Anna Stephans; he is buried next to them in Oakland.



Possible dump site at the end of Dakota, Minnesota Streets in Minnesota City



In 1962, a Winona Daily News Story relates the meeting of an area committee to discuss possible dump locations. The meeting was held at Minnesota City Village Hall by officials of Minnesota City, Goodview, Rollingstone Township and Rollingstone Village. At the time, Rollingstone was the only one of the four that had a dump. Committee members included Glen Alleman, Minnesota City Trustee, Howard Volkart, Rollingstone

Township supervisor and others. Perhaps the most interesting dump story to emanate from Minnesota City is that of the identification in 1940 of a skull from an “Indian Grave”, a story preserved by local media. The skull was found in the dump “about a half block back of the City Nite Club.” Residents called the sheriff who came to investigate, and theories included murder. As the sheriff dug to extricate additional bones, a bridge worker revealed his discovery of the skeleton at the Val Denzer farm two miles south of Minnesota City along with the entire skeleton and number of Indian artifacts. After keeping it for some time and because his family did not like it, he threw it in the dump in back of the hotel. The sheriff was going to give it to the County Coroner, Dr. Tweedy. Physicians disposed of skeletal parts, sometimes purchased from medical supply houses according to regulations of the time. In later years, the Mayo Brothers use of these models was sometimes discussed in media reports.

New Lighting in City Hall

Minnesota City Community Readers who meet monthly in City Hall were impressed and pleased with the new lighting in the building and thank the City Council for this improvement which will hopefully enlighten users work, discussion, and presence in the building.

Thank You City Council

TAKE ONE Spreads Minnesota City Historical Association Effort

Several newsletters are placed monthly in the TAKE ONE Box beneath the Minnesota City Historical Association/First Baptist Church sign on Mill Street. These are intended for any readers who do not receive the letter by email or surface mail. If these are taken, others will replace them. Persons who pick them up are invited to share them with any persons they know with interest in history, particularly that of the Minnesota City area. The Take One Box was temporarily out of use during the building improvements and landscaping.



Take One Box at Historic First Baptist Church on Mill Street

MCHA Members participate in Restoration of Historical Markers

The Winona Daily News (October 23) carried the story of the restoration of historical markers in the city of Winona by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The markers co-commemorated Captain Orrin Smith who named Winona, Stephan Taylor, who fought in the Revolutionary War, the Sugar Loaf Property and others. The article provided ample information about the sites. The Wenonah Chapter of the DAR started in 1898. The group contributed \$1000.00 to this project which included location and restoration of the monuments. **Jean Gardner and Susan Whetstone Althoff are members of the group.**

According to the Daily News (October 23) The Daughters of the American Revolution started in 1890. It is a nonprofit, non-political, volunteer women's service organization. All members must prove they have forebearers who served in the American Revolution. The organization is dedicated to preserving American history, securing America's future through better education, and promoting patriotism.

Little Libraries Founder Dies

Last month newsletter reported on the abundance of books in the Minnesota City Little Free Library. This week we read the following: "The Little Free Library movement -- in which books are available for free or exchange from freestanding wooden boxes -- has grown from its start nine years ago near Madison, Wis., to more than 75,000 registered sites in 85 countries. Madison alone has about 200 registered libraries and another 200 unofficial ones, based on an informal count. *Wisconsin State Journal, Madison (9/24)*. Todd Bol, who founded the movement and built the first one, was born in St. Paul, lived in Hudson, Wisc., died of cancer on October 18. He was 62.



Mushrooms (Sulphur shelf?) grow at the base of a hackberry stump

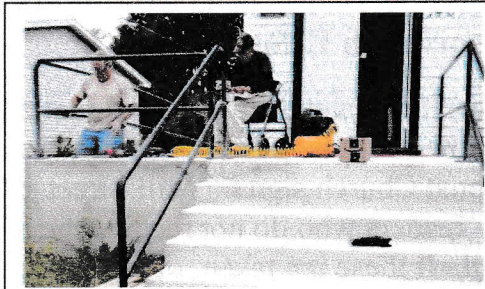
Happy Thanksgiving

**Minnesota City Historical Association Extends
Congratulations to**

- Howard Volkart who turns 100 years old this month.

**Minnesota City Historical Association Extends
Sympathy to**

- The friends and family of Christopher John Schultz, 46, who died on October 16. Chris lived in Minneiska and his parents live in Rollingstone.
- The friends and family of Roger Rumstick, 79, Osseo, Wisconsin who died on October 18. Rumsticks lived for many years in the Rollingstone and Minnesota City area.



**Howard Volkart works on
handicap renovations at First
Baptist Church, Summer 2018**

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 (mgogradey@embarqmail.com)

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 8

*MCHA Community
Caroling*

