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Cook County Historical Society Continues Restoration of Chippewa City Church

In 1999, the roof and chimney of the St. Francis Xavier Church in Grand Marais, also known as the Chippewa City Church, were restored. Shutters for the church windows, constructed by Ernie Olson of Grand Portage, who donated his labor, returned the church to its original appearance. The Grand Portage Tribal Council paid for the building materials.

The Cook County Historical Society (CCHS), which owns the church, will begin another restoration project this spring: restoring the front steps and making the church handicapped accessible.

The church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was donated to CCHS by the Catholic Diocese of Duluth in 1998, with the provision that the church building be used only as a museum and not for religious services. Grants from the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) have supported the restoration work.

The church will again be open to visitors this summer, on Saturdays from late May to early September, 1 to 3 p.m. The first musical event in the church took place in August 1999, and more musical



Courtesy Cook County Historical Society



SHPO file photo

Top: One of the first musical evenings in the restored St. Francis Xavier Church, 1999. The clarinetist is Kathy Bolstad, and the violinist is Dr. McDonald. Note the interior walls of split logs and mortar. Bottom: The exterior of the St. Francis Xavier Church (Chippewa City Church), 1999.

events in the church are scheduled for June 22, July 4 and August 17. The musical events help to raise funds for the church. The church also will host a rendezvous on Aug. 11-12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ellen Olson, who lives in Grand Portage, manages the church. She can be contacted by calling the CCHS museum, 218/387-2883, or by e-mail at cchistsoc@boreal.org.

Editorial Change Information

All issues of the *Interpreter*, "Tech Talk" articles, and the *Planner* from fall 1996 to the present, have been posted to the MHS web site at www.mnhs.org/about/publications/index.html. They will appear as PDF (Portable Document Format) files, which can be viewed or printed using your Web browser and Adobe's Acrobat Reader software. Adobe provides downloading instructions for the free Acrobat Reader for Macintosh and Windows.

Jim Smith continues as editor of the *Minnesota History Interpreter* and assistant editor of the *Minnesota Preservation Planner*, but will be working primarily from his home. He can be reached by telephone at 651/222-7384 or by e-mail, jpcsmh@uswest.net. To send materials by fax, please continue to use the present fax number: 651/297-3343. Kate Raver, graphic assistant in the public relations and marketing department at MHS, will do the layout of each issue.



Blue Earth County Historical Society's 'Travel Like Bert' Tours

Since 1998, Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS) has conducted three tours of places of historical, geographical, geological and social interest. The tours are called "Travel Like Bert," or "TLB" tours in honor of Bert Burns, long-time BECHS member and volunteer who loved to visit out-of-the-way places with students and friends.

The first tour in 1998 focused on the history and development of the bluff country of Southeastern Minnesota. The second, in the spring of 1999, followed Red River Trails to Lake Itasca, north to Winnipeg, east to Lake of the Woods then home via Grand Rapids. The third tour, in the fall of 1999, focused on the history of Southwestern Wisconsin, the Wisconsin River Valley and the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Indians.



Two TLB tours are being planned for this spring and fall. The first is planned to leave Mankato on Monday, May 8, and return on Friday, May 12; the tour will visit the eastern parts of Wisconsin to retrace the routes of explorers such as Marquette and Joliet, Father Hennepin and Joseph Nicollet. The second tour will leave Mankato on Thursday, Sept. 21 and return on Sunday, Sept. 24. It will follow the course of battles fought during the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 to the area of Fort Thompson and Pierre, S.D., where Dakota and Ho-Chunk Indians were resettled after the war.

Detailed itineraries and costs will be announced in the near future. For more information, contact TLB Tours, BECHS, 415 E. Cherry St., Mankato, MN 56001.

Century History Projects

Swift County Historical Society Seeks Recent Items for Fund-raiser

For its annual fund-raising event, the Swift County Historical Society (SCHS) is planning to present a special program in July based on the theme "1900 to 2000," which will include entertainment and special exhibits covering the period. The museum's permanent exhibits contain many artifacts and much information about the early 1900s, but there is much less material relating to the time since then. To fill the gap for the special exhibits, SCHS is seeking loans or donations of photographs and posters, current photographs of the county, and volunteers to help work on the exhibits.

The fund-raising program is scheduled for Sunday, July 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the SCHS museum in Benson. For further information, contact SCHS, 2135 Minnesota Ave., #2, Benson, MN 56215; 320/843-4467.

Wright County Historical Society Collects Anecdotes from 1900

To help its supporters appreciate the differences between life now and in 1900, and the impact of technology on their lives, the Wright County Historical Society (WCHS) has invited supporters to submit short, two- or three-sentence anecdotes about what their family members were doing around the year 1900. The stories can include what the ancestors were growing in their gardens.

The announcement was made on a separate insert in the WCHS newsletter, and included examples of the kind of anecdote being sought. One of the examples stated, "My grandfather, Karl Lundquist, was sailing the North Sea as a First Mate on a merchant ship out of Stavanger, Norway. A few years earlier, he and wife Dorthea had visited the Czar's palace in St. Petersburg."

To facilitate the submissions, the reverse side of the announcement insert contains the WCHS address and a postage box so that it could be easily tri-folded, stapled, stamped and returned to WCHS.

For more information, contact WCHS, 2001 Hwy. 25 N., Buffalo, MN 55313, e-mail: wchsmg@visi.com.



New University Library Houses Immigration History Research Center and Seven Library Units

The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) is now located in the spectacular new Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The library is located on the West Bank campus, between Willey Hall and the Studio Arts building just north of the Washington Avenue bridge, on the bluff above what was once called "Bohemian Flats." For the first time since it was founded in the early 1960s, the IHRC will have sufficient storage space. It opened its new facility on Feb. 10 and resumed full services in early March. For more information, see the IHRC web site (www.umn.edu/ihr), call 612/627-4208, or e-mail: ihr@tc.umn.edu.

The IHRC is one of eight special collections and archival units to be housed in the library. Others include the MINITEX Library Information Network (the nation's largest library loan program, providing access to library materials for patrons in the Upper Midwest), the Charles Babbage Institute for Computer History, the Social Welfare History Archives, and the Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC). With its climate-controlled, state-of-the-art storage facilities, MLAC will support important, infrequently used, always-growing collections for libraries throughout Minnesota.

The library's three-story surface structure will house the offices, reading rooms, exhibit and meeting areas, and technical services. The archival collections and library books will be stored in highbay shelving in the huge constant-temperature caverns carved out of the sandstone, 80 feet beneath the surface.

The idea of using the cavern for archival storage originated in 1989, when Don Kelsey, University Library facilities planner, noticed that the cavern's humidity (76 percent) and temperature (57 F) were

almost perfect for storing paper. Armed with a 30-year-old research project on using mined space, he started planning the facility and led the way to secure legislative support.

Nearly three million cubic feet of sandstone were removed, making it possible for semi-trailers to load and unload at the docking area inside the cavern. The

library was designed by James Stageberg Partners (now Stageberg Beyer Sachs, Inc.), who designed the detailing in the Archives area as well.

The grand public opening and official dedication of the Elmer L. Andersen Library is scheduled for April 7-9. For further information, visit the MLAC web site, <http://kinglear.lib.umn.edu/mlac>.



The new Elmer L. Andersen Library can be seen on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Below it is the service entry that leads to the cavern storage areas; note the van to the right, which gives an idea of the size of the cavern entryway. To the left is the Washington Avenue bridge, and to the right can be seen the new 60-foot obelisk of red granite, "Stepped Tower," a sculpture by Jackie Ferrara.

Photo by Jim Smith

Pot Luck Planning

The program for the December 1999 meeting of the Clearwater County Historical Society (CCHS) included a pot luck dinner. Knowing that members would ask "What should I bring?", CCHS uses a simple, common-sense method. The announcement in its Nov/Dec 1999 newsletter stated:

Members whose name begins with the following, please bring:

R - Z, a main dish of your choosing;

J - Q, a salad or bread item; and

A - I, a dessert or appetizer.

Plates, utensils and beverages are provided by CCHS.

The categories are rotated each year to achieve some variety; Executive Director Tamara Anderson-Edevold reported that the method works very well: "It made sure we had a good mix of dishes."



Improving Public Presentations

Patricia Nelson Limerick believes that “effective communication with the public is an acquired, not an inherited skill.” A professor of history at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Limerick devised 15 “strategies, techniques and even tricks” that have helped her improve her own public appearances. Her list is directed primarily to academics, but could be useful for anyone with public speaking responsibilities.

The list below gives an idea of some of her suggestions. For the full description, see “A How-to Guide for the Academic Going Public,” *Perspectives* (newsletter of the American Historical Association), Vol. 37, No. 9, December 1999.

- If you are about to speak to an outside organization, find out about its preoccupations, worries and enthusiasms; read its newsletter or talk with someone from that organization.
- Assume that your audience is facing some kind of dilemma, such as too little time, shrinking resources, etc., and express your sympathy for their situation.
- Bow to the audience’s expertise and express your gratitude for what you are about to learn from them.
- Leave unnecessary dignity and claims on authority at home. When someone points out a mistake in your presentation, thank them, and take it like a good sport.
- If you are having a particularly tough time, think of the experience as a kind of rodeo. The tougher the animal, the higher the score.
- Let the audience know you are aware of the time element by specifying how many points you intend to make.
- Every 10 minutes, do something that brings oxygen to the listeners’ brains, e.g., humor, ask for audience response, etc.
- Hang around after your presentation; do not rush off in your car or to the airport.



Working with Reporters: Tips from a Reporter

Tim Huber, a reporter with the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, offered some advice about “developing a relationship with local reporters” in the summer/fall 1999 issue of *Collections Caretaker*, the newsletter of the Northern States Conservation Center. The following suggestions are taken from that article.

Never forget that everything you say to a reporter is “fair game,” he advises, and in interviews, “get to the point right away. If you don’t, you run the risk of the reporter thinking you’ve emphasized something you haven’t.” Remember also that: reporters are not experts, so they ask many, many questions; and keep in mind that they are always working on deadlines, which Huber calls “the tyranny of the clock.”

In interviewing, remember that the reporter is not your audience, and ask for a little bit of time before the actual interview so you can be fully prepared. Also: Get to know reporters outside the interview

situation, “to get a sense of what the person is interviewing you about.” Then you can offer your ideas, “but please don’t pester.” And you should not ask to see a copy of the article before it is printed.

If a report is inaccurate in some way, ask for a correction, and if you think the reporter did a good job, call or write with a compliment. “That means a whole lot and can help develop a good relationship with a reporter that may pay benefits down the line. I cherish the eight notes I’ve received in 11 years as a reporter.”

For the full article, contact the Northern States Conservation Center, P.O. Box 8081, St. Paul, MN 55108; 612/378-9379; e-mail: altenhuber@wavetech.net.

For a general discussion of media relations, see “Media Relations,” by Barbara Averill, *Tech Talk*, *The Minnesota History Interpreter*, May 1997.



Conservation Outreach Workshops in May and June

The Minnesota Historical Society's Conservation Outreach Program will hold eight more workshops designed to help participants care for and store all types of family treasures, including books, papers, photographs, textiles, metal and wood. Exact times and locations of the workshops will be announced later; for more information, call 651/257-5310.

Monday, May 22: Pipestone, co-sponsored by the Pipestone County Historical Society

Tuesday, May 23: Fairmont, co-sponsored by the Martin County Historical Society

Wednesday, May 24: Winona, co-sponsored by the Winona County Historical Society

Thursday, May 25: New Ulm, co-sponsored by the Brown County Historical Society

The following four workshops are made possible by a grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation.

Monday, June 19: International Falls, co-sponsored by the Koochiching County Historical Society

Tuesday, June 20: Warroad, co-sponsored by the Warroad Historical Society

Thursday, June 22: Roseau, co-sponsored by the Roseau County Historical Society

Friday, June 23: Lake Bronson, co-sponsored by the Kittson County Historical Society

Index to W.H.C. Folsom's *Fifty Years in the Northwest* Published by Washington County Historical Society

The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) has compiled an index of more than 5,400 entries to the original version of W.H.C. Folsom's *Fifty Years in the Northwest*, which was re-published by the Taylors Falls Historical Society in 1999. The index is available for \$15, plus \$2 for shipping from WCHS, Folsom Index, P.O. Box 167, Stillwater, MN 55082-0167. For more information, call 651/439-5956, or visit the WCHS web site at <http://members.aol.com/WashingtonCoHist>.



Blue Earth County History to be Reprinted

"The Heritage of Blue Earth County, Minnesota" was first published in 1990 and quickly sold out. Many people from around the state have shown an interest in it since then, so author Julie Schrader is considering having the book reprinted. The 950-plus page book contains more than 750 biographical and family history entries; histories of all cities, towns and townships in the county; and the stories of transportation, communication and agriculture in the county.

Before the printer (Hennington Publishing Co., formerly Curtis Media) will agree to do a reprint, a minimum order must be guaranteed. When enough orders have been received to warrant reprinting, an exact cost will be determined and all interested persons will be notified; currently it is estimated that the cost per copy will be \$130. To be placed on the order list or for more information, contact Julie Schrader, 205 Ledlie Lane, Mankato, MN 56001; 507/625-8056, e-mail: jschrade@mctcnet.net.

Center for Rural and Regional Studies: Program and Fellowships

The Center for Rural and Regional Studies (CRRS) was founded in the fall of 1999 at Southwest State University (SSU) in Marshall. Its purpose is to increase knowledge of rural life in the entire Upper Midwest region through interdisciplinary research and public and school programs.

The center staff comprises SSU professors Joseph A. Amato (founder and dean of the center), Anthony J. Amato and Geoff Cunfer; and Donata DeBruyckere, Jan Louwagie and Beth Spieles.

The center offers research fellowships for projects that promise to result in useful knowledge that can be disseminated through the center's publications or programs. Fellowship applications for the fall 2000 semester must be received by April 30.

For further information, write CRRS; SSU; Marshall, MN 56258; 507/537-6226; fax 507/537-6147; e-mail: amatoj@ssu.southwest.msus.edu; or visit the SSU web site: www.southwest.msus.edu.



Museum News: New Publication; State Association Comes to Life

New Book from AAM

Museums and the Internet: Tax and Other Legal Issues promises to be a very useful publication for museums of all types and sizes. Published by the American Association of Museums (AAM), it is organized according to the types of Internet-based activities a museum might undertake, such as: creating links, selling goods and services, and fund-raising.

The book presents an analysis of the tax issues related to each of the activities. The tax issues fall mostly into three categories: effect on exempt status, unrelated business income (UBIT), and sales tax and tax on business activity outside the United States. Important non-tax issues such as copyright, protection of intellectual property, invasion of privacy, and the impact of multi-site operations.

The publication was originally written for the Georgetown University Law Center by Catherine E. Livingston and Amy R. Segal; the authors helped re-format the publication for distribution by AAM.

Source: *AVISIO* (AAM newsletter, March 2000); the publication is available under "hot topics" at www.aam-us.org. For more information, call AAM government and public affairs, 202/289-9125.

MAM Gets Going Again

The Minnesota Association of Museums (MAM) had a successful annual meeting in June of 1999, and is hoping to keep its momentum going. MAM has a membership of approximately 600 museum professionals, students and volunteers throughout the state. It provides a forum for the discussion of common issues and educational opportunities for the members. Currently, MAM is compiling a database of members' e-mail addresses and a web site at www.minnesotamuseums.org.

For more information, contact MAM at P.O. Box 14825, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Membership fees are \$25/year for professional museum staff and \$20/year for students, volunteers and retired persons.

Fund Raising Instruction and Resources

Resources and Counseling for the Arts

Resources and Counseling for the Arts (RCA), is a non-profit clearinghouse for cultural organizations that is based in St. Paul. Its schedule of workshops for 2000 includes a series on fund-raising in April and May. The workshops are "Planning your fund-raising program," April 19, 1:30-4:30 p.m.; "Direct Mail Campaigns," May 4, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; "Benefit Events that Work," May 10, 1:30-4:30; and "Membership Programs for Arts Organizations," May 18, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Individual workshops cost \$55; the cost for the series is \$200.

RCA also offers other workshops of interest to historical museums and societies. Two workshops are related to questions of board development: "Board Basics," and "Recruiting and Orienting Board Members," \$40 each.

For further information, contact RCA at 308 Prince St., #270, St. Paul, MN 55101-1437; 651/292-4381; e-mail, info@rc4arts.org; web site, www.rc4arts.org.

Minnesota Council on Foundation

The Minnesota Council on Foundations is offering three more "Grantsmanship for Beginners" workshops in 2000. Led by well-known fund-raising consultant Barbara Davis, each workshop will include presentations on computer-based research on foundations, and a panel discussion by representatives of funding agencies of the proposal review and decision-making processes.

Each workshop costs \$75, which covers the costs of a box lunch, refreshments and materials. Attendance is limited to the first 125 paid registrants. For more information, contact the Minnesota Council on Foundations, 15 S. 5th St., Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55402-1570; or call 612/338-1989; or visit the council's web site, www.mcf.org.



New Addition to Wright County Historical Society Heritage Center by Maureen Galvin, Curator/Coordinator, Wright County Historical Society

Expansion of the Wright County Heritage Center is nearing completion. The addition includes two office spaces, a lunch/small committee meeting room, and office space that now houses the copier, fax machine and office supplies. A microfilm reading room has also been added, though the only way to enter it is through the library research room.

The Heritage Center was completed in 1991, and in 1993, archives and object storage was added. Since 1991, the desk areas for the two full-time employees and one part-time employee were in the library research room. This left space for only four patrons to do research in the library, where the three microfilm readers were located. When the library tables and chairs arrive in April, there will be room for at least 20 library patrons, or for a class of students to research in the library.

We felt that this move also was a good time to change the color of the library walls from neutral gray to antique white. The mood of the room has certainly changed for the better. It's amazing what a lighter color can do for the staff and patrons. A Sentenced-to-Serve (STS) crew painted our library walls and also moved office furniture for us more than once. For instance, timing the telephone system installation with the move proved difficult, and the STS crew had to rearrange furniture at least four times.

Soon after the move into the new addition, General Mills Inc., in a surprise answer to an earlier request, donated and delivered some file cabinets, folding tables and office chairs. We couldn't have asked for better timing and are very grateful. (STS once again was called out to move around our "new" office furniture.)

Another benefit of the new addition is that we were able to install a sprinkler system in the entire Heritage Center building. Though we will have to move most of the artifacts out of the way during the installation, that is a minor aggravation compared to the benefits of having a sprinkler system. It is truly a preservationist's dream, for the risk of

loss due to fire is certainly diminished. We are installing a wet pipe system in the heated areas and a dry pipe system in the unheated spaces. Security and environmental controls were always problematic during the construction phase, as many other museums constructing additions can attest to, though we tried to prepare for those issues as carefully as possible.

We are sure we will be more efficient with our use of space, and can give our patrons the research area they have needed for the past nine years. Also, with the new lunch-room, WCHS employees can take a break away from the library patrons and office phones for the first time since 1991.



Courtesy Wright County Historical Society

This is the new addition to the Wright County Historical Society Heritage Center. The first room on the left houses various kinds of equipment, followed by two offices, the lunch/meeting room, a room for the copier and office supplies, and the microfilm reading room. The corner of the library can be seen at the far right.

'Open Book' Grand Opening

The grand opening of "Open Book," the new 50,000-square-foot home of the Loft Literary Center, Milkweed Editions and Minnesota Center for Book Arts, will be held in May. The first book and literary arts center of its kind in the nation, it will also house a second location for Ruminator Books (formerly known as the Hungry Mind bookstore) and Coffee Gallery. Open Book is located at 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

A gala fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, from 7 to 10 p.m., and the grand opening will be on Sunday, May 21, from noon to 4 p.m. For further information, contact the Capital Campaign Office, Open Book, 333 Washington Ave. N., Suite 301, Minneapolis, MN 55401; call 612/349-2720, or e-mail at OpenBookMN@AOL.com, or visit its web site, www.OpenBookMN.org.



Reminder: Three Field Workshops Left



Three of the four workshops conducted around the state this year by the Field Services Program of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) remain.

- **Friday, April 28:** Heritage Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN 56560, 218/233-5604.
- **Thursday, May 4:** Winona County Historical Society, 160 Johnson Street, Winona, MN 55987, 507/454-0006.
- **Friday, May 19:** Black Bear Casino, 1785 Highway 210 and I-35, Carlton, MN 55718, 218/878-2445.

There is a registration fee of \$25 per person; contact David Nystuen, MHS Field Services Coordinator, MHS, 345 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906, 651/296-5460; fax 651/282-2374; e-mail: david.nystuen@mnhs.org.

Quarters in Film Canisters for the Crow Wing County Historical Society

Film and historical organizations have at least one thing in common, namely the preservation of memories. In an extension of that common feature, the Crow Wing County Historical Society (CWCHS) is asking its patrons to use the plastic canisters in which 35mm film is packaged in a novel fund-raising plan. CWCHS hopes to enlist the help of its supporters, especially school children and businesses, in keeping the canisters when they buy film, filling them with quarters and donating them to CWCHS. The motto of the campaign is "Help us 'develop' and preserve the 'images' of our county."

For more information, contact CWCHS, P.O. Box 722, Brainerd, MN 56401; 218/829-3268; e-mail: cwchistsoc@brainerdonline.com.

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Readers are invited to submit information for publication. To be considered, items must reach the editor by the 18th of the month, two months before publication (example: the deadline for the October issue is August 18). Send to: *Interpreter* Editor, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; 651/222-7384 or jpcsmh@uswest.org.

Send address changes to David Nystuen, 651/296-5460; e-mail: david.nystuen@mnhs.org.

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