

Territorial News

A Publication of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, Inc.

Winter 2009

Volume 3

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Associated Bank Building,
Room 103, 176 Snelling Ave. St Paul, MN 55104

This room is off the main hallway of the atrium, before you enter the inside bank.

All are welcome.

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| February 21, 2009 | 10:00 am |
| March 21, 2009 | 10:00 am |
| April 18, 2009 | 10:00 am |

May 9, 2009 Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon, Lowell Inn, Stillwater

May 16, 2009 Annual Board of Director Meeting, Associated Bank
(At this time the Executive Board members are elected)

*Please consider joining the Board of Directors as we embark on
our new Fiscal Year 2009 starting May 1, 2009*

Minnesota State Fair

August 27 - September 7, 2009

Mark your calendars and think about which dates you can volunteer in the Log Cabin.
Look for exciting news for State Fair Volunteers in the next Newsletter.

MTP MEMBERS

Send us your tales of heritage.

Let us know the colorful stories of your family's past. We are looking for good stories to print in the newsletter. Share with the MTP members and us the tales you tell at your family get-togethers.

BOARD NOTES

The 2008 Christmas Party was once again a success. All who attended enjoyed themselves. We had over forty people in attendance; and the meals were great, as well. (Only the Board singing left a little to be desired, jokingly!) Everyone cleared their throats and joined in singing the familiar Christmas songs.

Donations to the food shelf were plentiful. Even better, the Toys for Tots request drew quite a few donations. The toys were taken later to KARE 11 for distribution by the Marine Corps. I wish to thank all who participated!

Coming in March, the Pioneers will again be representing the history of Minnesota Territory and the MTP itself at a trade show in New Ulm. We will be attending and bringing our traveling display along, including some of our valued artifacts. What a great time to be looking for new members, including our new category of "Sesquicentennial" membership. It will wonderful and fun to educate the attendees about the MTP.

A sincere ***Thank You*** to all the members who have donated to the projects we are currently working on. Every donations help with the progress of these projects.

We continue to receive applications for new membership. Please consider including *your* family as members in this wonderful organization.

Board of Directors

TIDBITS OF HISTORY: *My uncles Robert and Albert Martin fought in the Civil War. They were brothers of my grandfather, who was rejected on account of his teeth. That is . . . no front teeth. I am a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church in Belle Plaine. My husband was postmaster during President Woodrow Wilson's Administration. I was Assistant Postmaster and a member of our public library board since it was organized. From the membership application of Nellie E. Irwin, 9/2/1955.*

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THE BOUNDARIES OF MINNESOTA. THE UNITED STATES & CANADIAN BORDER

Part 1 - THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES

Minnesota's northern border is also an international boundary. This boundary was the hardest to determine and took decades for both countries to agree upon. In 1783, America had just won its' independence from England. So representatives of the newly formed United States meet with representatives of the British government in Paris. The diplomats sat down to try and settle the differences between the two nations. This included the problem of where to locate the boundary between British and American lands in North America. First, they must determine the entire boundary; from the Atlantic Ocean to the French territorial claims west of the Mississippi River. Secondly, this area of the country (Minnesota) was so ambiguous; none of the diplomats actually understood the terrain.

According to the Treaty of Paris, the international boundary in the northwest should extend through Lake Superior northward of Isle Royal, the Isle of Phelipeaux to the Long Lake, then through Lake of the Woods to its' most northwestern point and the a straight line due west to the Mississippi River.

Three items in this description are somewhat confusing. First, where is Isle Phelipeaux? Next, which lake is Long Lake? Indeed, even if it is a lake at all. Finally, the Mississippi River is not west of the Lake of the Woods. One of the maps used was drawn in 1755 by John Mitchell, a Doctor from Virginia. His map was based on stories and rumors he had heard about the region, even though he had never visited the area. Four major errors on Mitchell's map that made the boundary placement impractical were; he depicted Lake of the Woods as being oval in shape and the source of the Mississippi as is located in area of Fort Winnipeg. Also, no one knew the location of Isle Phelipeaux or Long Lake. The treaty delegates adopted Mitchell's map and hence negotiated the boundary to the best of their ability.

In 1798, David Thompson, a British surveyor and map maker, was hired by Hudson's Bay Company to locate the source of the Mississippi River. While Thompson traveled only as far as Turtle Lake River he proved that the source of the Mississippi River was not west of the Lake of the Woods.

Prompted by this discovery, British and American diplomats met in 1803 to again discuss the issue of the boundary that had been drawn inaccurately twenty years prior. Hence the new boundary was an altered straight line drawn south from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods to the mouth of the Mississippi River. All that remained was for Congress to ratify the new treaty.

But, Congress was not about to ratify the treaty. The reason: the Louisiana Purchase. Now the United States owned land on both sides of the Mississippi River. Congress did not want to take action to set a northern boundary that might decrease the amount of land that United States had purchased from France. Congress delayed ratification in the hopes of obtaining more territory from the British.

by Michael Robin

Next in the series: The Northern Border - Part 2: The War of 1812

Wish List

As usual, we are looking to our members for donations towards some of our larger projects.

Portrait Project: The cost of one archival unit needed for storage of the portraits is approximately \$1,300. We did receive a grant that covered the cost of one unit, but we need to do matching funds for that amount. Our estimate is that we need at least 40 units.

Scholarship Fund: In order to award a scholarship in the upcoming fiscal year, we need to have \$2,500 in our fund. To date, we have around \$1,100.

MTP Buggy Restoration: We need to restore the buggy back to its original condition. The estimates, that we have received, come to about \$10,000 for a quality restoration. The last time anything was done to the buggy was about fifteen years ago when it was restored using imitation leather instead of real leather. The seats, originally leather, are velveteen covered. This is a Studebaker buggy and it will be a shame if we cannot restore it to its former state.

Pioneer Activities Past, Present & Future!

The 2008 MTP Holiday Party was held on December 6th. There were 43 attendees. Thank you to "Carolyn's Flowers" for providing the centerpieces and to everyone who donated to "Toys For Tots" and the food shelves.

The entertainment was provided by the newly formed "Territorial Troubadours", leading a sing-a-long. The attendees seemed to enjoy this. It was suggested that we have a seasonal sing-a-long again next year lead by the same group if they are willing!

Donations

LakeShore Theater Group
vintage clothing

A. D. LaFond

Buggy Repair - \$100.00

Mary Gross

General Operating Fund - \$10.00

Mark Green

General Operating Fund - \$4.00

John H. Hanson

Portrait Project Fund - \$200.00

James Eckert

General Operating Fund - \$124.07

Eugene Ewer

General Operating Fund - \$158.70

Donald Pates

Scholarship Fund - \$100.00

In Memory of his wife, MaryLou Pates

Monies given in memory of

Ilyne Nesheim

Elaine Dalager

Scholarship Fund - \$15.00

Mary Vavrosky

Scholarship Fund - \$10.00

Board Members!

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There are several openings available on the Board and now is the time to stand up and be involved in what will be a very exciting year!

Please contact me at (651)203-1845 or the MTP office (651-379-1849, if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to further the legacy of our Pioneer ancestors.

Sam Fudenberg, Chair,

Board Nominating Committee

