



No. 82 February 2016



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Minutes

From the secretary's pen

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Deane, Secretary

The MGHPS met Thursday, January 21 at the History Center.

The treasurer's report:

Balance of \$1,608.40

Income from memberships of \$60.00.

Expense for the last newsletter and postage was \$61.87.

Money Market balance with a donation of \$100.00 for Jim Deane memorial and interest of \$1.31 equaled \$5,770.50.

Discussion was conducted on income which includes memberships (\$400.00) and donations. Disbursements include the newsletter (\$240.00) Supplies – office, displays \$200.00, Membership – MN history, website - \$200.00. Advertising – promotions, --- we did not have a public presentation with a speaker this past year.—this would have cost several hundred. Members donate their time and talent managing the museum and activities so there are many “in-kind” donations. The historic site has been maintained, mowed etc. by Don Kisch for several years. So far our advertising has been by connections with various media people with no expense. In keeping with most area museums our individual/ senior membership will be \$15.00 in 2017. Family

will be \$30.00 and supporting member will be \$100.00. The membership flyer will be reviewed further at another meeting.

Old Business

Next newsletter deadline is early February.

Pat Ruffing will be editor for this edition.

Volunteers for Sunday, Feb. 14 will be Al and Sharon Madsen.

The July Open House will be Sunday, July 17 which is during Maple Grove Days. Al is working with Scott Anderson for the Weather events in Maple Grove display. He will check on the availability of the Channel 4 Mobile Weather Unit. Stories, pictures, etc. are needed.

New Business

All volunteer hours must be recorded and tracked if we are to apply for a grant. This meeting is one of your volunteer times. A slip was passed around to list hours.

Publicity for our events is a necessity. Patty will talk to Prime so we get promotion for July.

We have a request from a Cub Scout group for a tour. After discussion we decided on February 17 – 7:00 p. m. Walter, Pat, Al, Mary, Roger, Joyce will be tour guides for this group of 26 people. Pat and Louise offered to do a question sheet on various displays/articles to encourage interest from the children. Joyce will bring candy canes.

Caroline will contact Dough Ohman for his presentation of Minnesota's role in the Civil War. Al said the government center might be busy in October because of the election year. Other possible large group meeting locations are Great River Energy, Boston Scientific. Al will check when we have a date.

Due in  **January**
Yearly Dues



OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, Feb. 14 open house will be Al and Sharon Madsen.

Sunday March 13

Sunday April 11

Sunday May 8



Wanted!
Pictures of members,
when they were younger!
Send them to Joyce Deane



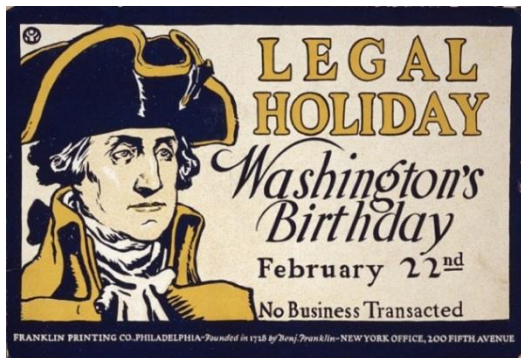
February meeting. –
February 18, 7:00 p.m.
Virginia will bring treats

NO Electricity

By Walt Schumacher

In 1938, when I was eight years old, my father had Northern States Power Company install electric power to a pole and the buildings that needed power. My father hired an electrician to help install all the wiring to the lights, fixtures, switches, fuse boxes in the house, barn and chicken coop. My father helped him, showing him where to drill the holes in the wall, floor, and ceiling to install the wiring. They removed the wallboard on the stairs to put the wiring behind it. When everything was finished, my father nailed the mop board back on.

Evening came, and we turned the light switch on NO LIGHT upstairs! My father used a nail puller to pull out a nail near the wiring. That was the problem! The nail had hit the wire and burned out the fuse. Finally, we entered the new age of electricity!



Wikimedia.org

“The holiday became popularly known as Presidents’ Day... moved as part of 1971’s Uniform Monday Holiday Act ... to create more three-day weekends for the nation’s workers.”

<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/presidents-day>

Did you go around the house muttering “Electricity is Penny cheap from NSP?”



“Electricity is Penny Cheap”

ad campaign of Northern States Power Company (now Xcel Energy) ran from 1959-1973. It featured the cartoon duo Homer and Roy, who promoted the use of electricity.

Penny Cheap Electricity from Hennepin County Library

Do you have memories – pictures or items to share?

Of weather related storms in Maple Grove.



Example: Jim had the park board check book in the Mini -van before the tornado picked up the van... the check book ending up in a cornfield in Wisconsin and was returned.

Please submit to Joyce Deane or send to:

Maple Grove History Museum.
P.O. Box 1180, Maple Grove, MN 55311.

Parlez-vous français ? *Ils parlaient français-*

Right here in Maple Grove!
By Pat Ruffing

Since I am a member of the French-American Heritage Foundation, I wanted to cull some information found in a soon to be published book:

They Spoke French Compiled by Mark Labine French Heritage in Minnesota!

1. Who was the first white resident in Anoka County?



Joseph Belanger was the first white resident in Anoka County. He was born in Quebec and came to Minnesota in 1836, as one of 93 men employed by the American Fur Company. He built a house in Anoka in 1844. He became a lumber river- rafter from Stillwater to St Louis and a boat captain for 12 years. He lived in Anoka until his death in the 1900's. p. 15

“The first settler in the Anoka area was Joseph Belanger who built a log cabin on the east side of the Rum River near its mouth. Initially, the cabin was used as a trading post with the Indians, but later was used as a temporary home for a number of early settlers” from Anoka City web

2. What did these men: Norman Kittson, Antoine Blanc Gingras, Joe Rolette, and 5th Earl of Selkirk, have in common?



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

They were all involved with “The Red River Ox Cart Trails; which were a network of routes connecting Red River Colony and Fort Garry (now Winnipeg) with the riverboat landing in St Paul. They ran by various routes. The carts were two-wheeled wooden carts drawn by oxen or horses and useable in the open prairie and the shallow water. This kind of cart was common in Quebec. The trails were used by 1820's with the heaviest use in 1840-1870s; and then became obsolete with the railway.’ p. 172-173

Norman Kittson was sent by his employer, Pierre Choteau Jr. fur trading family, to open a fur trading post at the border in Pembina and to organize brigades of two-wheeled ox carts to travel from Pembina to St Paul. p.14, p.40, p.84

Antoine Blanc Gingras was a métis (mixed blood) pioneer in Minnesota and North Dakota. He was involved in the Red River Ox cart routes and created a business of pemmican (dried buffalo meat) He became

wealthy: worth \$60,000. He was elected to represent the Nation Métis at the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in the years 1852 and 1853. p.34-35

Ox Cart Trail Historical Marker



MGHPS website

Maple Grove has a historical marker! Located on Territorial Road, the marker is set in a scenic location, overlooking the dry creek bed.

When Fort Snelling was built in 1819, fur trade was vigorous. Joe Rolette listed 17 fur posts under his control. The American Fur Co. provided trade goods to Rolette, who supplied fur trader's goods on credit, which they often traded to the local Indians on credit for 100 percent up to 400 percent profit Many French Canadians fur traders and their families, had established connections, had built homes and had relatives in the local tribes. . p. 83



Historic Fort Snelling FROM Fort Snelling webpage

Settlers travelled by ox cart to Fort Snelling, among them, the 489 refugees of the Selkirk Red River Colony, who had lived on the land granted by the Hudson Bay Company to Thomas Douglas the 5th Earl of Selkirk, in 1811. The Colony was made up of Scottish, French speaking Swiss and French Canadians who wanted to escape the harsh conditions (fights between fur companies, grasshoppers, flooding, and harsh winters of the Red River Colony. p.91-

3. Whose house is in Elm Creek Park Reserve?

This Minnesota Frontiersman 1817-1895 was born in a hunting camp on the buffalo trail near present day Grand Forks. His father Charles was a French Protestant Huguenot, and his mother "Clear Sky Woman" was half Dakota and half Ojibwe. He was a voyageur and a scout, and was called the "Kit Carson of the Northwest". He founded a number of cities in Minnesota and North Dakota, including Osseo, Maple Grove, Elk River and St Anthony. Have you guessed who he is yet? p. 17 p.140



Pierre Bottineau!

photo from Wikipedia

4. How did the city of Dayton get its name?

Paul Godine was the earliest settler of Dayton. He was of French heritage. He settled there in 1852. The Church of St John the Baptist was on his claim and was built in 1857. p. 105



“The city of Dayton, platted in 1855, is named for Lyman Dayton (1810–1865). Lyman Dayton was instrumental in bringing the railroad into Minnesota and development of the *Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad*

From Wikipedia

5. Who wrote this poem?

....“This with joy beheld I go
And he said in haste: "Behold it!
See the sacred Star of Evening!
You shall hear a tale of wonder,
Hear the story of Osseo,
Son of the Evening Star, Osseo!"

(Maine Historical Society Website)

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW in the poem “Song of Hiawatha” in 1855.

In July 1852, Pierre Bottineau found an area he called “Bottineau Prairie”. He was soon joined by Warren Sampson, Isaac Labissonniere, Clark Ellsworth, Seneca Brown, DB Thayer and James McRay. In 1855 – 1856 the area was renamed Osseo, which is a Native American name “Waseia”

meaning “there is light”; or more commonly “Son of the Evening Star.” Henry W Longfellow mentions Osseo in the “The Song of Hiawatha”. p. 127.



1st catholic church in Osseo from St Vincent De Paul History web

St Vincent de Paul Church was built in Osseo on Main Street on land donated by Peter Gervais. In 1866, the first doctor in Osseo was Dr. A Gueron, a French Canadian. p. 127

Many French Canadian settlements began in Minnesota after the Dodge Treaty in 1837, which purchased the land rights from the Dakota tribe between the Mississippi and St Croix Rivers. Many of the towns and cities west of the Mississippi River, also bear French names, as do many of the churches. p. 93

Even the Minnesota state motto,



“l'etoile du nord”

is French for "star of the north”

reminds us that many of our ancestors

“Ils parlaient français”

They Spoke French! p. 202

From James Deane's Diary

1948

Earnings 1948	
Shopper's route	# 69.00
Sold movie tickets	4.85
Sold golf balls	1.70
found	.10
work at home	.60
Sold bottles	.45
Carried Dispatch	4.00
Sold junk	1.00
Sold books	1.00
Total =	# 88.70

1949

Earnings 1949	
Shopper's route	#78.00
Found	.80
Birthday present	2.00
Sold movie tickets	.50
Como checks	219.38
Carried Dispatch	5.50
Tore down garage	5.25
Total =	#311.43

OLD SAYINGS

Sent in by James Sable

- Pennywise and pound foolish!
- Take care of the dimes and the dollars will take care of themselves.
- Buy what you need, not what you want.
- It doesn't cost anything to wish.
- Spare the rod and spoil the child
- Marry in haste, repent in leisure.
- Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
- The empty barrel makes the most noise.
- Nothin' on earth is better than a good, slow 2 inch rain.
- Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb but how well you bounce.
- If at first you don't succeed , try, try again.
- If at first you don't succeed, try raising rabbits.



COMING FOR
OCTOBER -

SEND IN YOUR
MILITARY
MEMORIES -

TO GO WITH CIVIL
WAR EVENT.

The Great Northern Hotel Osseo, MN.



Do you know that the one square mile town of Osseo once had 2 hotels? And now Maple Grove has 6 very large places of lodging.

The Great Northern Hotel was located near the south end of Main Street. Main Street used to meet County Round 18 where it crossed the rail road tracks. If people arrived at the Osseo depot needing lodging they could walk to the Great Northern Hotel. Bottineau Blvd and Main Street would be the location of the hotel now.

Additional information on the Osseo Hotels is from the History of Osseo- 1875-1975

In 1867, Rudolph Niggler, who had previously kept a smaller house for boarders and transient guests, erected a hotel at the cost of nearly \$4000.00. It was not considered a good investment, because there wasn't enough

business to sustain it. This hotel house burned in 1870.

The International Hotel was built by Fritz Schmidt in 1874. It was two stories in height and had rooms for thirty guests. It was conducted by Mr. Schmidt at its opening.

The Great Northern Hotel, also two stories, a completely modern structure for the times, was erected by Peter Neuman in 1907.

When asking long time Osseo resident, Roger McHugh about it ...He said he remembered the pump which was outside and can be seen in this photo of the hotel.



Check out the vintage postcards at the museum!