

Joint Newsletter of the
CLAY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION,
CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
AND THE W. H. OVER MUSEUM

Clay County, Vermillion, South Dakota

Summer 2020

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W.H. OVER MUSEUM

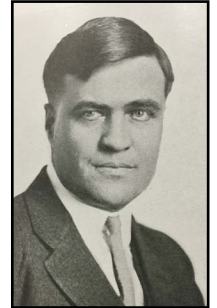
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Then and Now, A Series on Historic Homes

The fate of buildings in Vermillion differed greatly. Some were moved to other locations such as the President’s house, some were markedly changed over time so that the original structure was no longer easily recognizable, and some were demolished and records remain only if that structure was documented. A number remained remarkably similar to the original structure. Below are examples of the fate of two buildings built about the same time.

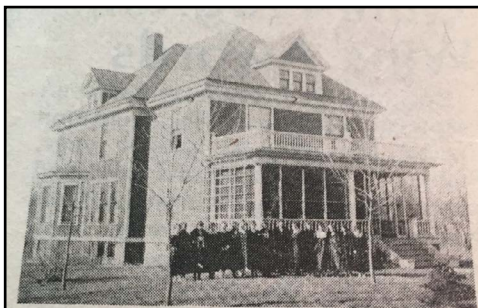
The series of pictures below document a 1900 house that Jason Payne occupied from 1909 - 1941, located at 111 South University. Payne was a lawyer, professor in the University of South Dakota Law School when it started in 1901, a land owner, and involved in several civic endeavors including the formation of the downtown Carnegie Library and President of the Dakota Hospital Foundation for 11 years. Below are pictures of Jason Payne, his home in 1919 with

law students in front (Coyote Yearbook 1919), and a recent photograph of the same house taken in 2020. The architectural features of the house are remarkably the same in the two photos.



Jason Payne

Eugene Stansbury was a physician who practiced medicine and surgery in Vermillion from 1914 until 1950. In 1923 he transformed the house located at 25 Prospect into the Vermillion Hospital as noted in the photograph and Sanborn fire map. By 1930, the Vermillion Hospital ceased to operate with the promise that the Dakota Hospital would be constructed within the next year. Unfortunately, the Dakota Hospital did not come into operation until October of 1935. Although Stansbury used some of the rooms in the Prospect Avenue building as his office and clinic, the house was made into apartments. The more



**1919
 111 S. Univ. (Payne House)**

A photograph of the house in 1919 from the Coyote Yearbook



The House in 2020

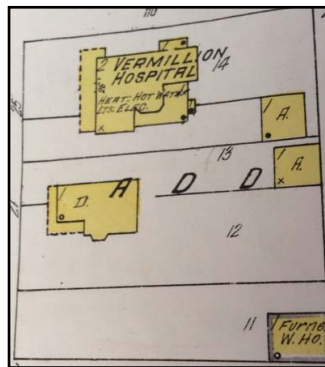
Continued on page 2

Then and Now, continued

recent photograph illustrates the dramatic changes that occurred in the architectural features of the building from 1923 until today. Still recognizable is the roofline and the windows on the second and third floors. The porch was enclosed, a new entrance added, and a fire escape from the third floor to the second floor added.



A photograph of the Vermillion Hospital in the 1920's and a Sanborn fire map of its footprint.

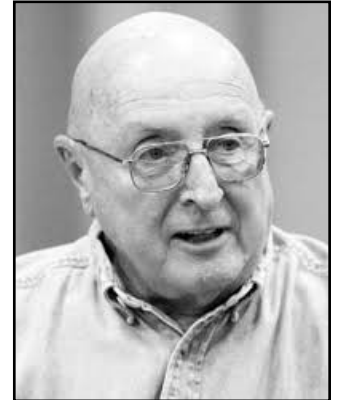


A recent photograph of 25 Prospect Avenue.

Transitions: Clay County Historic Preservation Commission

Since the last Newsletter was published, two Board members and officers retired. One was the long serving Chair of the CCHPC, Jim Wilson and the other our Treasurer, Gloria Hensley.

We have been fortunate to have Patrick Morrison take over the position that Gloria held for almost two years. Gloria came to the CCHPC with a wealth of information in accounting, since she worked for many years at the University of South Dakota. She moved to Mitchell, SD, her home town. Prior to



Jim Wilson

leaving Vermillion, Gloria was involved in several organizations in Vermillion including the CCHPC, the Clay County Historical Society (as President), the Vermillion Area Community Foundation, and the Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission.

Jim Wilson is a retired architect and historic preservation consultant. He worked in the South Dakota Historic Preservation Office for over 16 years, and was Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Deadwood. Since moving back to Vermillion after a 16 year hiatus, Jim has been active in many organizations in Vermillion including as a founding member of the Vermillion Cultural Association, the CCHPC, the Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission, and as a member of the Vermillion Planning and Zoning Board. Jim Wilson was Chair of the CCHPC for about 10 years and authored several booklets including "Vermillion Architects and Contractors". He presented several OLI courses on Preservation and was Chair in 2018 when the CCHPC hosted the Missouri Valley Historic Preservation Conference May 16-18 in Vermillion, S.D. Fortunately he still resides in Vermillion for part of the year.

Salvaging Historic Items from the Thompson House

By Jim Stone

The Thompson House on East Main Street, just west of the USD president's house, was purchased by the USD Foundation in 2018. The intent of the purchase was to restore this historic building for people visiting the University to have a place to stay. After some research, it became apparent that the cost to restore the structure exceeded the money budgeted. The W. H. Over Museum asked the foundation if they could salvage historic items to construct an exhibit before the building is demolished. Members of the museum have been working countless hours saving beautiful wood doors; very elaborate wood door trim, some picture hanging molding, a leaded bevel glass window, some elegant wainscot paneling, antique light fixtures and a fireplace with beautiful woodwork and decorative tiles. A pair of very elegant pocket doors in the large north-east room on the second floor has been saved. The track is hardwood and after all the years is still in excellent shape. However, ten feet of wall would have to be removed to salvage this sliding door track. This presented a problem because this wall is a supporting wall holding up the ceiling and the roof. In removing a three panel folding panel door on the first floor, it was decided to remove the door jamb and trim. Low and behold we found the pocket for a 4' pocket door. The door was missing but the same hardwood track was

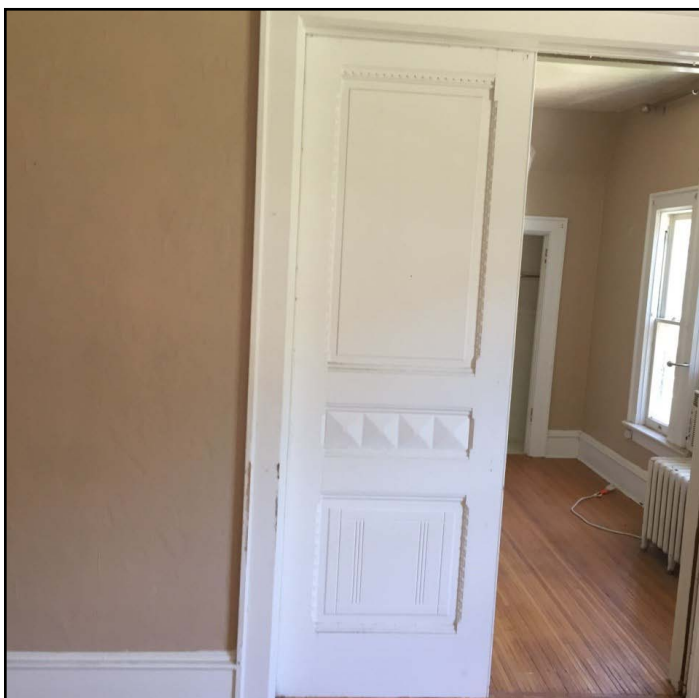


The pattern of tiles at the base of a fireplace

still intact. After removing enough of the wall to save this track, we found out that the wheels that roll on the hardwood track had come off the track and ruined the track.

Between the kitchen and the living room on the first floor there was a six foot wide by seven foot high four panel bifold door. We removed the door and the door jamb and found another pocket that was missing double pocket doors. It was determined that this wall was not a supporting wall, so twelve feet of wall was removed and we saved all of the track for the pocket doors. This will allow us to install a double pocket door unit in our exhibit, using all original parts.

The next project will be building an exhibit at the W. H. Over Museum to preserve some artifacts from this historic building for all to see. Hopefully, COVID-19 will soon be history and the museum will be open to the public again.



Part of the pocket door on the 2nd floor



View of the white painted wainscoting

Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission (VHPC) Update

The Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission's mission is "...to protect, preserve, and restore Vermillion's historic and cultural assets through public education, workshops, and outreach to the community.

In order to recognize and encourage protection of some of Vermillion's original properties, the VHPC is continuing its pursuit of a possible new historic district in an area bordered by Main street on the north, S. University St. on the east, the bluff on the south and the Forest Ave. district to the west. This year the commission received funds from the State Historic Preservation Office to hire a consultant to begin a formal survey of a new historic district in Vermillion for application to the Department of the Interior for potential listing on the National Register. These funds represent the first successful Certified Local Government (CLG) special project grant from SHPO since our founding in 2018 and Vermillion's establishment as a CLG in 2019.

One of our city's historic properties is Prentis Park. It was built in 1923 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. In cooperation with the city Department of Parks and Recreation, we are beginning to plan for a centennial celebration in 2023. All interested persons are invited to contact us with any historical accounts, pictures and suggestions relevant to this celebration.

A recent educational project of the commission involved consulting all Vermillion realtors to find out how we can help them to provide more information to clients who consider or purchase historic properties. We are completing a brochure with some basic information and contact information available in each realty office. This information can be online on realtor websites as well as on our page on the city of Vermillion website at <https://www.vermillion.us/324/Historic-Preservation-Commission>.

Commissioners can receive education and training by attending historic preservation conferences. Due to COVID19 restrictions, several conferences throughout the country were easily attended virtually. Several of our members chose to attend the 2020 Preserve Iowa Summit and the Arizona Preservation at Home. Session topics included sustainability and preservation, diversity and preservation, local preservation successes, preservation techniques and materials, grant writing and more.

The VHPC is comprised of seven members with rotating terms. Members are chosen for their interest and expertise in history, architecture, archeology, city plan-

ning and related fields. Interested residents of the city of Vermillion may apply annually at the city website. Current commissioners are Susan Keith Gray, chair, Ed Gerrish, vice-chair, Bill Dendinger, Dietrik Vanderhill, Johnny Beyers, Cyndy Chaney and Jim Wilson.

University Historic District Association Activities July 2020

The University Historic District Association (UHDA) held its annual meeting virtually on June 12th. We continued our discussions about zoning protections for our neighborhood. City engineer José Dominguez met with us and presented various options which included a new historical residential zone. We are preparing the wording for this type of proposal and our board members will begin to meet with neighborhood residents.

Each fall and spring, we hold a neighborhood Clean Up Day to take yard waste and unpainted wood from our neighborhood to the city landfill. Our spring clean-up was limited by COVID19 concerns, but we made ourselves available on an individual basis to property owners. A decision about the fall clean-up will be made at the August board meeting.

The UHDA board meets monthly. General meetings for the entire neighborhood are held in June, September and March (postponed this year). The June meeting is the annual meeting where new board members are selected. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Meeting will be held online until further notice. For information, visit our Facebook page or contact Susan Keith Gray, president, at susankeith.gray@gmail.com or Randy Von Ehwegen, co-secretary, at randyvonehwegen@gmail.com. Other board members are Jill Von Ehwegen (co-secretary), Ed Gerrish (vice-president), Dan Neufeld, Teresa Gilbertson, Claude Garelik, Joan Holter, Martha Fagg and Ariel Wei.

CCHPC

Clay County Historic Preservation Commission



211 West Main Street, Suite 102
Vermillion, SD 57069
Website: cchpc.org
Email: tomsesq@gmail.com

Officers and Board Members of the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission 2020-2021

Tom Sorensen (Interim Chair)
Patrick Morrison (Treasurer)
Evelyn Schlenker (Secretary)
Dennis Konkler
Patrick Morrison
Bill Ranney
Jim Stone
Monica Iverson
Tim Schreiner

Proposed Prentis Park Renovation

Prentis Park was placed on the Nation Register of Historic Places in 2001. Although in the past few years many changes were made to structures in the park with the construction of the Prentis Plunge, the iconic entrance to the park remains. Unfortunately, over time the bricks have disintegrated that comprise the pillars supporting the metal arch bearing the name of the park and the date of its inception. Below is a current photograph of the entrance to the park that illustrates the condition of the bricks.

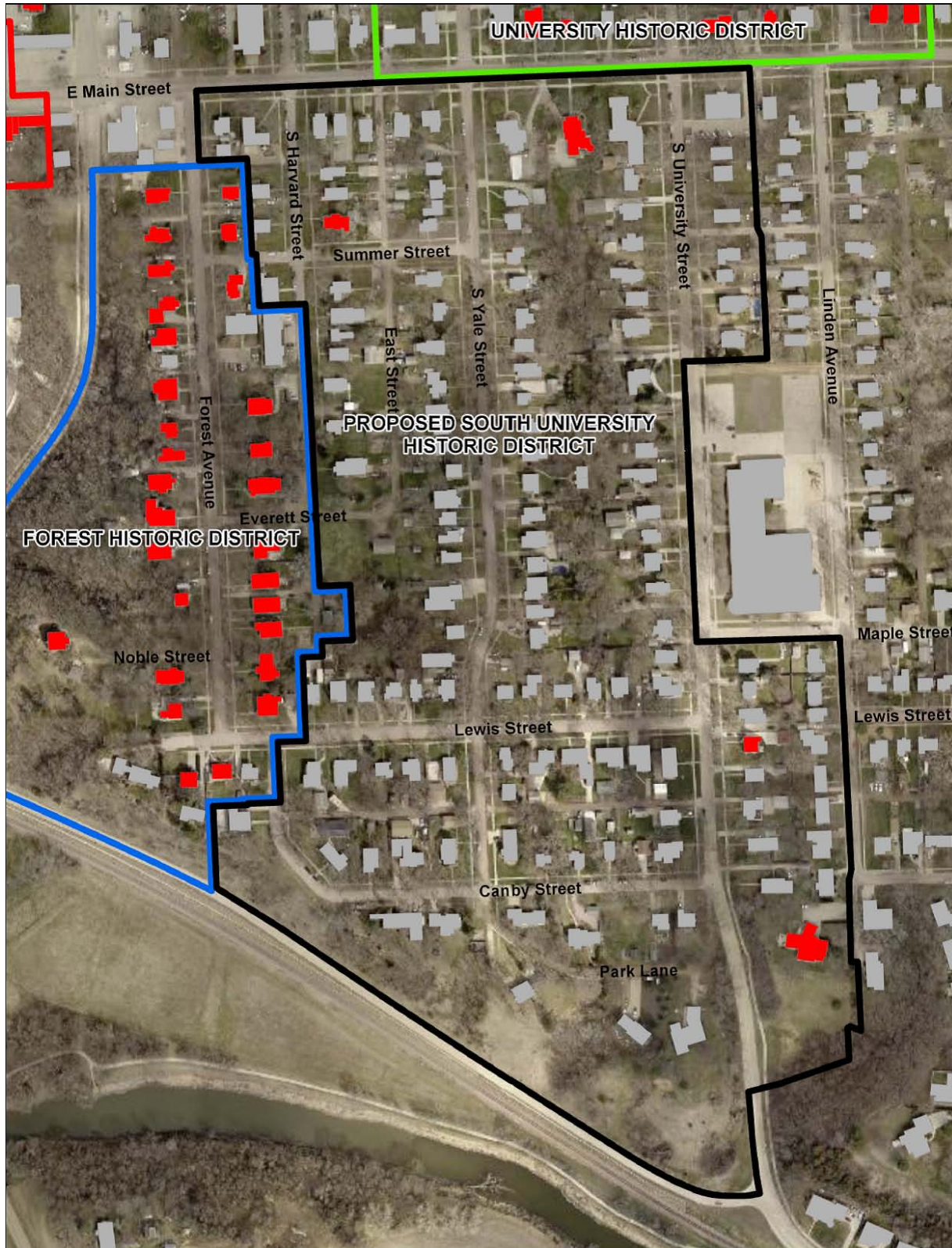


Photograph by Evelyn Schlenker

New Members for the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) Requested

If you are a resident of Clay County (which includes Vermillion) and have an interest and expertise in historic preservation, the CCHPC Board is requesting you to become a member. You are welcome to attend a meeting to determine what we do. The next one will take place on Monday evening at 7 pm, August 10, 2020 in Prentis Park by the northwest shelter. Because of COVID-19 social distancing and wearing a mask is preferred. Please feel free to visit our website for additional information (cchpc.org) and contact Tom Sorensen at tomsesq@gmail.com.

Proposed South University Historic District



*Above outlined in Black is the proposed South University Historic District.
The buildings in red indicate that they are on the National Register of Historic Places.
The northern boundary is Main Street and the Southern boundary is the bluff.*

<https://www.vermillion.us/DocumentCenter/View/609/Proposed-South-University-District-Map?bidId=>



Clay County Historical Society
15 Austin St, Vermillion, SD 57069

Phone - 605-624-8266

Web page - cchssd.org

Email - claycohistory@yahoo.com

We are on Facebook – Search for Clay County Historical Society Vermillion South Dakota

The Austin Whittemore House is closed until further notice, but can call or email.

CCHS Web Page includes:

- Upcoming events
- Newsletter
- Story of Austin-Whittemore House
- List of pictorial books and maps of Vermillion and the Clay County area
- Officers/Directors

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE April 1, 2020

Membership Dues are:
Individual \$25
Family \$40
Institutional \$75
Life Member \$250

CCHS Elected Board of Directors: April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021

President - Dan Christopherson
Vice President - Kevin Jacobson
Recording Secretary - Erin Burrow
Membership Secretary - Ruth Bylander
Treasurer - Joni Freidel
Past President - Maxine Johnson
Directors - Barb Campbell,
Jim Stone, Art Rusch, Judy Sullivan,
Tom Sorensen

Appointed Positions
Executive Director Wess Pravecek
CCHPC Representative Jim Stone

From the Desk...

I think I can honestly say that I have been adjusting my daily schedule to something quite different than I'm used to. Even though I've been somewhat retired for the past six years, I haven't taken the time to get acquainted with my recliner.... until now. There have been a couple of months that I was feeling guilty about being good at doing nothing but I'm finally moving forward with projects in my house that have been on hold for about 20 years. My dog has kept me busy with about 20 walks a day (exaggerating a little). She should be shorter, and I should be thinner but that doesn't seem to be happening.

The loneliness that I've felt periodically, because of not being able to spend time with friends and family members, has been the hardest. I do still see people while out walking and taking my once-a-week trip to the grocery store so that is my new social life. I can't help but think of the pioneers before us who spent weeks and months without much interaction with others. Shopping may have happened only every few months and depending on how far out they lived, their existence depended on what kind of a garden or farm they had. Plus, there's always the weather. A young man named Horace Austin came to Dakota Territory in the mid 1800's and became the mover and shaker of getting the territory surveyed but according to his diary, he spent some pretty lonely times. He was new to the area, as everyone was, but he had no family here. Transportation was limited and oh the weather. He spoke of being lonely but appreciated the friendship of others when they could get together. The man who was worried about not being married in his 30's lucked out and met a pretty young woman who came to the territory to teach and the rest is history, literally.



Horace Austin

I'm still going to the Austin-Whittemore House, on a limited basis, to check mail, email and the phone. It appears that with people spending more time at home, there is a new interest in family history. It's been fun to see what we have for documents at the house to fill in some gaps for families. Another fun project has been adding photos to our Facebook page. There are all kinds of photos at the A-W House and lots of them don't have names or dates on them. By posting the photos, I occasionally get feedback on the identify of some of the people and places, so this has been a win-win project.

We will be missing a few of our yearly fundraising activities this year. Our Music Mondays, Ice Cream Social, and holiday Tour of Homes are on hold until 2021, however the Unspoken History Cemetery Tour, which will feature politics, is still on and scheduled for October 12th. More details are included in this newsletter.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the Clay County Historical Society. Don't hesitate to stay in contact if there's something you're interested in and we may be able to help you with.

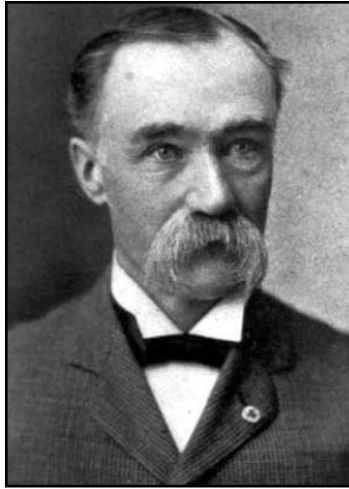
Stay safe, stay home and wear a mask. We'll keep you posted on when the welcome mat is out again!!

Wess Pravecek
Executive Director, Austin-Whittemore House

Mark Your Calendar for the 2020 Spoken History Cemetery Tour

“It’s All About Politics”

The Clay County Historical Society invites you to explore the history of six Clay County politicians and activists during our 2020 cemetery walking tour. The Bluff View Cemetery (599 Pinehurst Avenue) is the final resting place to two of South Dakota’s 33 governors, Andrew E. Lee and Carl Gunderson.

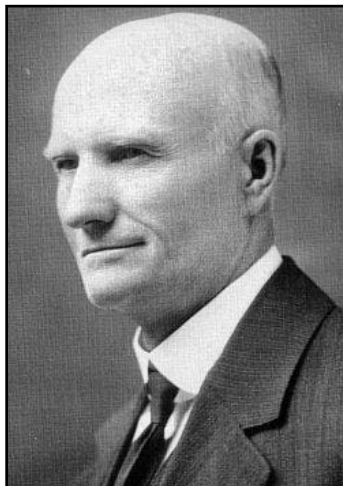


Andrew E. Lee

Andrew E. Lee (1847-1934) was born in Bergen, Norway, and at a young age moved with his parents to the United States. His childhood was spent on a farm in Dane County, Wisconsin, and at the age of 20, he moved to Vermillion, Dakota Territory. Two years after arriving, Lee and Charles E. Prentis became partners in a mercantile business. The business operated for over forty years and made Lee one of South Dakota’s wealthiest citizens.

He started his political career as a city alderman (1881) and completed it as the third governor of South Dakota. His first term (1897) was won on the Populist ticket by only 319 votes. His second term was on the newly formed Fusion Party ticket, an alliance of independents opposed to the Republican Party platform.

Carl Gunderson (1864-1933), the nephew of Lee, was born in a Clay County log cabin in the Dakota Territory. He considered farming his lifelong occupation. As a young man, Gunderson filed a claim to a Clay County homestead and also attended both USD and Cornell University.



Carl Gunderson

He was elected to state office starting in 1892 and served in the SD House of Representatives, as the 13th Lieutenant Governor



Grave Stones for Lee and Gunderson



(1921), and the 11th Governor (1925). In his bid for reelection, Gunderson was defeated by the previous gubernatorial rival which was viewed as a personal defeat as all other Republican candidates were elected that year.

Although he moved to Mitchell and it is listed as his residence while governor, he is buried on his original homestead which is now the location of the Bluff View Cemetery.

As Abraham Lincoln said, “*Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history,*” nor do we want to. Clay County is rich in political history. Others depicted will include citizens who were devoted to city/county government, activism, suffragette, or prohibition movements.

Admission is by presale only and \$10 tickets will be available at the Austin-Whittemore House on Monday, September 28. Ticket sales will be limited to allow for social distancing and masks will be expected. Rain or shine - mark your calendars for Monday, October 12 @ 5:30 pm.

Joni Friedel
Cemetery Tour Chairman

In Those Old Days . . .

Stolen from Facebook - 4-24-20

by Dan Christopherson

People used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery.....if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor"

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot.....they "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June.. However, since they were starting to smell Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting Married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof... Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was

placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would Sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive... So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth....Now, whoever said History was boring?

We Believe that Clay County Needs to Preserve Our Handsome, Historic Courthouse

The courthouse was built in 1912-1913 and has served Clay County for over one hundred years as the center of county government and for judicial functions. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and has been on the register for over 35 years.

In most counties, courthouses are unmatched in terms of architectural and historical significance, making courthouse preservation an important issue. This is certainly true in Clay County.

The recent studies of the Clay County Courthouse, done by Klein McCarthy Architects of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, who were hired by the Clay County Commissioners at a cost of \$68,970 (according to the County Auditor's Office), recommend and report:

1) Both the courthouse and the Public Safety center are in relatively good condition for their age and type of building. (KM 3/13/18 report pages 30, and 105 and 7/31/18 report page 10)

2) Both the courthouse and the Public Safety building have many years of life remaining but are in need of repairs and upgrades (KM 3/13/18 report Page 105) which are possible and less costly.

3) The existing courthouse building is not suited for many other purposes and would have very little value for a new owner other than gaining property in the downtown area. (KM 3/13/18 report page 112)

4) Klein McCarthy recommends that Clay County adopt Option D (an addition to the current courthouse), as that continues to utilize the existing historic courthouse with the least cost to the taxpayers. (KM 7/31/18

report page 47) Klein McCarthy specifically recommends against Option RG (building a completely new courthouse at a remote site), because that is the most expensive option. They estimated that would cost \$49 million dollars plus the cost of land. (KM 7/31/18 report page 45). TLM Correctional Consultants, who were hired by Klein McCarthy, reported that Clay County has some of the highest median property taxes in the United States. (KM 3/13/18 report, Appendix page 56).

5) Klein McCarthy recommends Option D (continuing the courthouse in the downtown location) as the best solution with the least construction costs (KM 7/31/18 report page 47). Contrary to the architect's recommendation, which keeps the existing historic courthouse with the least cost to taxpayers, the county's facility planning committee recommends relocating "all government services to a remote site" and vacating the present historic courthouse.

We believe that Clay County should preserve our historic courthouse under county ownership and control with the necessary maintenance and updates to make it a quality workplace for our county employees. Covenants covering the historical attributes of the courthouse may or may not guarantee preservation of this important structure. If it is sold to someone else, for whatever purpose, then the county may have very little control over what the subsequent owners do to the building, including tearing it down, allowing it to deteriorate or changing its outward appearance.

Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors



Photo from the archives of the courthouse



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

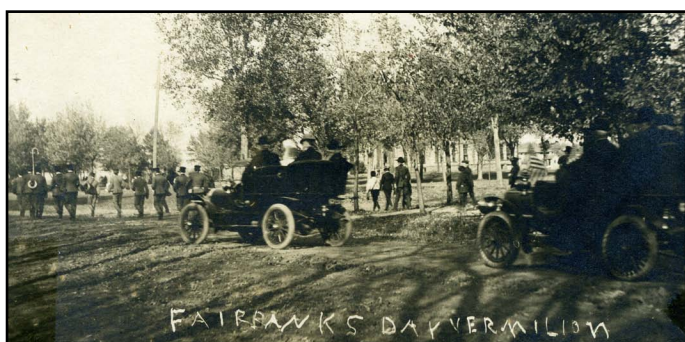
The courthouse today

Fairbanks Day In Vermillion



Postcard card photo – The City Extends Greetings. Celebrating Fairbanks Day in Vermillion, October 19, 1907.
The building is located on the corner of Main and Center Street, with the writing of J.S. Palmer, advertising dry goods, shoes, produce etc. This is now the new McVicker Plaza. (postcard courtesy of Ruth Bylander)

Charles Warren Fairbanks, (born May 11, 1852, Union County, Ohio, U.S.—died June 4, 1918, Indianapolis, Ind.), 26th vice president of the United States (1905–09) in the Republican administration of President Theodore Roosevelt. He was sometimes referred to as “the last of America’s log-cabin statesmen.”



In Memoriam: Drs. Jack Powell and Allen Johnson

During this time of COVID-19 the Over Museum has been closed to the public, but work on exhibits and care of the museum continues. In a couple of articles in this Joint Newsletter work on the Thompson house exhibit is introduced including some items that were found and retrieved. In addition, we have had some very sad events occur with the passing of two very involved Friends of the W. H. Over Museum, Mayor Jack Powell, Second Vice President, and Allen Johnson, husband of our First Vice President Maxine Johnson.

John Edwin (“Jack”) Powell was born June 21, 1936 and passed away in Vermillion, SD on April 20, 2020 after a prolonged illness. Jack was a faculty member and Division Chair in the business school at the University of SD for 45 years. He served as alderman for ten years and as mayor of Vermillion for ten years. He was active in numerous organizations including the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company, National Music Museum, WH Over Museum, Main Street Center, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (twenty-five years), USD Foundation, USD Athletics, United Church of Christ, Vermillion Lions Club, Dakota Hospital Foundation, United Way of Vermillion, Clay County Historical Society, Vermillion Area Community Foundation, South Dakota Community Foundation, Heartland Humane Society, Missouri Valley Growth/Vermillion Now, Vermillion Area Dance Organization, Vermillion Public Transit, Vermillion Public Schools Foundation and Booster Club, Vermillion Public Library, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Integrated Community Action Plan, Welcome Table, Vermillion Food Pantry, and Community Connection Center. At WH Over Board meetings he always had significant contributions to make and challenged other Board members to consider alternative ideas.



Another important contributor to the well-being of the Museum was **Allen Johnson** who was born June 18, 1932 and passed away on June 21, 2020. Allen was a faculty member in the Biology Department for 32 years and also served as Chair of the Department for several years. According to his obituary after retire-

ment in 1997, Allen served as “president of the USD Professor Emeritus Club for several years; as a member, board member, and president of the Vermillion Lions Club; as board president for the Main Street Center board of directors for several terms; delivered Meals on Wheels; enjoyed playing tuba in the University band, the Yankton summer band, and the Lennox summer band. He received recognition for his community service by receiving the Woodman of America Award for Volunteerism, the Melvin Jones Award which is the highest honor a member of Lions International can receive; and also, the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service award.” For several years Allen was chair of the Nominating committee for the Board of the the Friends of the Over Museum.



Both men will be missed by the Over Museum, USD, and Vermillion Community!



W. H. Over Museum

Address: 1110 N. University
414 E. Clark Street | Vermillion, SD 57069
605-659-6151

Email: whover@usd.edu
Website: whovermuseum.org

WH Over Museum Officers and Board Members 2020

Larry Bradley (President)
Maxine Johnson (First Vice President)
Evelyn Schlenker (Secretary)
Nancy Craig
Kevin Jacobson
Scott Jensen
David Moen
Lynn Muller
Gary Bottolfson
Sarah Chadima
James Stone
Bill Ranney
Patrick Gross (ad hoc)
Gene Iverson (honorary)

Found in Collections: Northern Plains American Indian Dolls

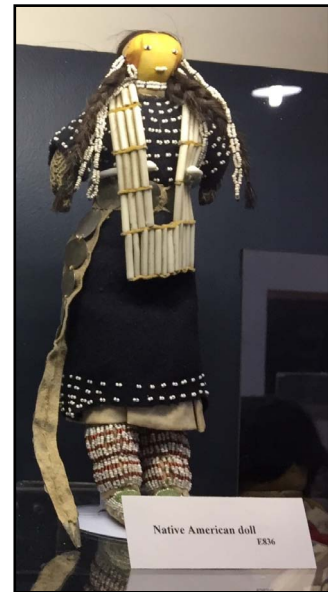
The W. H. Over Museum has an extensive collection of exquisite Native American artifacts. Included are beautifully made Native American dolls. In Joanita Kant's 1975 manuscript published in *The South Dakota Museum* (Volume II, No. 1), an extensive description of 19 dolls, and several other toys including miniature saddlebags, a cradlehood and Tipi's are highlighted. Joanita Kant also interviewed Nancy Rockboy, a member of the Creek Sioux Tribe, to obtain more information about the use of dolls as playthings and to emulate outfits that adults would wear. According to Rockboy, the play dolls tended to be plainer and latter were highly decorated and not played with. Four of the dolls simulating what adults would have worn described below come from two time periods: three from the late 1800's and two the late 1930's and one would have been played with. Four these dolls described below were a gift from Wesley R. Hurt, Jr., who was Director of the Over Museum from 1948-1963. The last is part of the David W. Clark Memorial Collection.

The first two dolls, a male and female both Oglala Dakota, were made by Mamie Yellow Bird, Pine Ridge Reservation in 1937. The male doll (see below) is composed of cloth body with a buckskin head covered with a human hair doll represents a warrior and wears a fringed and beaded buckskin shirt, leggings and moccasins. The front bottom of the shirt is decorated with a beaded eagle. The warrior doll holds a beaded pipe bag and a bow and arrows.



The second doll also made by Mamie Yellow Bird is a mother doll wearing fringed buckskin dress decorated

with an elaborate seed beaded yolk. Under the dress the doll is wearing cotton undergarments as well as beaded leggings and moccasins. Around her waist is a leather belt decorated with metallic studs to simulate conches. The doll has human hair and dons a bead headband, earrings, and a necklace. In her right hand she holds a bead-decorated club and in the left hand a baby doll within a beaded cradlehood.



The next doll (shown to the right) made after 1870, according to Kant's description represents one of the daughters of White Bull, a Teton Dakota warrior. The doll's head has a human braided wig and cotton cloth body is covered by a dark blue strouding (a blanket trade material common at the time) dress decorated with white seed beads that emulated elk incisors. The doll is wearing a bungle bead breastplate that would have been made of hair (bone) pipes in adults. Around her neck is a beaded choke necklace and she wears beaded ear bobs. As the previous doll, this one also has a leather belt adorned with metal discs to simulate conches. She wears a cotton petticoat under her dress and also beaded leggings and moccasins.

The next two dolls are shown in one photo. The smaller and plainer Dakota doll was made after 1885, according to Kant, wears a hood (capuche). Its body is made of buckskin and stuffed with cotton cloth. It is an example of a doll that would have been played with.

The larger doll is a male Oglala doll from 1880. The doll has beaded facial features, wears fringed light and dark blue beaded buckskin shirt and pants. In addition, the doll dons a bead necklace and beaded moccasins.



Locations and Descriptions of Wallpapers Found in the Thompson House

According to Judith Krueger's book on houses on Forest Avenue, the original Thompson house built in 1873 above the bluff was located at the southern most end of Forest Avenue and the western end of Lewis Street. Several renovations to the house occurred in that location before the building was moved in 1882 to 403 East Main Street where a tower was built on the south west corner of the building. In 1892 the front of the house was enlarged and a rose quartz façade was placed on the first floor. In addition, two rose quartz porches were added to the house, one on the east and another one on the west side of the building. In 1931 the building was remodeled into an apartment building. Over the years significant changes were made to the building including removal of the tower and the porches.

Inside the building there is evidence of a house built within a house as evidenced by outside siding within walls. In the process of collecting items for the W. H. Over Museum and removal of appliances and walls, I found examples of vintage wallpaper in several rooms. Below is a description of the locations and characteristics of the wallpapers I discovered as well as photos. In some cases, impressions of the wallpaper were found on the underside of the paint or on the wall itself.

First Floor Samples

1. West room that had wainscoting around the walls that were painted gray over wallpaper called "Brittany" made by the Thomas Strahan Co. (dates 1928-1950). The wallpaper consists of 4 panels containing two shepherds, lambs, flowers and butterflies. Impressions of the wallpaper were transferred to the paint as well as small sections of wallpaper were found.



2. In the large room facing north with beveled window the top of the south wall found under the wooden trim was a border of wallpaper containing a scrolled pattern.

3. Room on the East side of the building that was possibly a formal dining room. Originally the ceiling was covered with wood paneling. At least three layers of wall paper were found on the walls covered with dark gray paint and on parts of the ceiling. Bordering wallpaper in geometric designs was located at the top of walls. The outer layer directly under the dark gray paint consisted of a three dimensional wallpaper, the next layer of paper contained small gold flowers on a white background, followed by paper consisting of floral and leaf scrolled patterns, and finally, the most interior paper consisted of gold circular and medallion patterns.



4. Room to the southwest of the building the walls contained an elaborate floral pattern on the wall and under the gray paint. When the wall on the east side of room was removed a 2nd and then a 3rd wall were exposed.

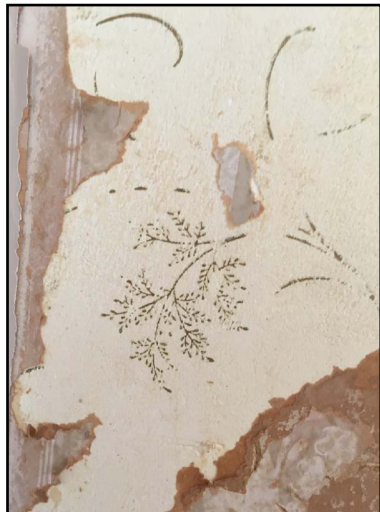




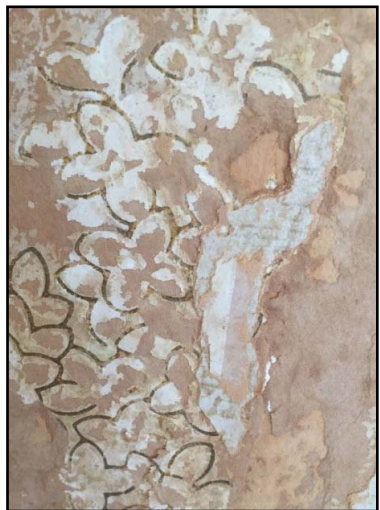
Second Floor Samples

1. Large north facing room had 4 layers of wallpaper under brown paint.

The most inner layer directly on the walls (1) consisted of sprigs of grasses in green and gold on a beige background containing larger leaves, followed (2) by a layer of wallpaper consisting of gold painted stylized flowers and leaves.



That wallpaper was covered by wallpaper (3) consisting of vertical stripes with large white flowers in the center of the strips. Finally, (4) a layer of pink wallpaper covered by small white flowers, was found directly under the paint. Information on the edge of the pink wallpaper indicated that the company that made the wallpaper was the Imperial Wallpaper Company. The same company produced #3 as indicated by information found on a sample of wallpaper in the next room.



2. A smaller room to the east of the former room had two layers of wallpaper, nearest the wall #3 described above covered by #4 directly under the paint.

Thus, this grand house revealed several wallpaper secrets. The wallpaper specimens collected will be included in a new exhibit at the Over Museum commemorating the Thompson House and family.



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CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
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