



Austin Whittemore House

Home of the

Clay County Historical Society
15 Austin , Vermillion SD 57069
605-624-8266

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Spring/Summer Newsletter - April 2012

Greetings from CCHS Board President, Gloria Barnes

This New Year 2012 has been a wonderful year filled with great weather, donations of priceless items and hard work from our dedicated CCHS Board. The CCHS Board sponsored a Quilt Show on March 23 & 24 at the AW House. Ann Severson, life time member displayed her private collection of quilts. This was a fund raiser and guests enjoyed looking at the quilts as well as lemonade, tea and sugar cookies.

April 26, Thursday at 6:05 the CCHS Board will host a potluck, followed by a program "Antique Appraisals" by Joe Hoffman. You can bring items and have Joe appraise them. A brief annual Board meeting will follow the program.

June 2, Saturday morning 8-12 am will be the annual "Attic Treasure's" rummage sale at the AW House. You can donate items for the sale and bring them to the AW House during the week. We cannot accept clothing or furniture.

The annual Ice Cream Social will be Thursday, June 21 from 5-7 pm at the Eagles. Donation will be taken for the delicious food.

I have enjoyed my two terms as President of this fine organization. I have also volunteered over the years on the Tour of Homes. I am happy to announce that I have married Bill Hensley so it is time to turn over the reins to someone else. We plan on selling our homes and doing some traveling and eventually moving.

Thanks to all of you for your great support to the CCHS. Also a special thanks to my dedicated and hard working Board. I will miss all of you but I am looking forward to the changes in my life.

Gloria Hensley
President CCHS

Notes From The AW Office

This has been a busy month at the office. The nice weather has brought many visitors and we have received some very nice items to add to our collections.

One of the important history items that we received was the Secretary's Book with the minutes from 1926-1946 for the Clay County Fair. We thank Carolyn DeRoos for thinking of us and getting these records to us. This is the first history of the fair that we have seen.

One of our Board members, Luann Ouellette, donated a great number of items including a beautiful quilt top made by her Grandmother and her sister in the 1930's. We contacted a lady in Vermillion that is a quilter and she took the top, assembled the quilt and machine quilted it. The Board of Directors decided that we would raffle the quilt off with the sale of tickets beginning on May 1 and the drawing will be held on Dec 1st. Tickets will be \$5.00 each or 3 for \$12.00. Winner does not have to be present at the drawing and the winner will be notified. Other items that Luann donated include:

- 3 piece child's silver plate flatware set. "Old Grape Pattern", circa 1900.
- 6 place settings of silver plate tableware, circa 1900's.
- 2 beautiful antique china serving bowls.
- Large Victorian milk pitcher with floral decorations.
- Shawnee pottery vase, pre WWII.
- Hand painted tea pot trivet.
- Hand painted serving plates.
- 2 1890's pattern glass kerosene lamps. One has handle.
- Man's watch chain with a sterling silver cigar cutter on one end.
- Several postcards and valentines.

Mr. Roger L. Dimick of Houston, TX sent us four record books of the Bruyer School dating between 1871 - 1938. Names and grades of children in school at that time are listed. A great historical source for families living in the Fairview Township area in the early days.

Gary Bottolfson gave us a framed copy of the Land Grant, Certificate # 399 that was given to Probate Ole Bottolfson for the City of Vermillion, dated March 2, 1867. The original copy of this piece of history now hangs in the Vermillion City Hall.

The Foundation at USD purchased a box of our Sesquicentennial books to give to former residents of Vermillion.

Our 4 dining room chairs sport new caned seats. A great job of caning by Dan Johnson.

We now have the early records of the Bluff View Cemetery stored at our office. We are reading the early minutes of the meetings that began in 1891. A group of men seemed to fail when getting the cemetery started so a group of five local women took over the management of the cemetery. They called themselves the "Vermillion Cemetery Improvement Association". They were successful in their endeavor and the minutes of their meetings are very entertaining. In 1905, they dropped "Improvement" from their title.

Cleo Erickson
CCHS Board of Director

W.H. Over Museum News

The annual W. H. Over Museum fundraising banquet/auction was held on March 31. This year's banquet was held in Sletwold Hall at the Museum. We have had many improvements over the past few years and we enjoy our guest seeing them. The meal, which was catered by Cherry Street Grille, started at 6:00 p.m. followed by the auction. Larry Larson and the Highway 50 band provided music and Larry was also the auctioneer. The proceeds from the tickets will be used for "scholarships" for students who are working so hard to help out at the Museum.

On April 7, we will have a children's activity and the children will make rabbits to take home, and will fill their bags with piñata candy. Last year's "pin the tail on the rabbit" was so popular that we will plan to do that again.

Museum hours are from 10 to 4:30 daily and we welcome visitors.

Maxine Johnson
CCHS Secretary

Financial News

- During the confusing time about our financial fiscal year and the date membership dues spanned, we have a number of people who graciously paid twice and we've credited them. If you're curious, if you're one, please let me know ... 605-624-8298 or louellette@vyn.midco.net
- I hope all of you who live in the area will be able to attend the Annual Meeting on April 26. At that time I'll distribute the Financial Report for April 1, 2011-March 31, 2012.
- Kay Powell has joined the ranks of Life Members.
- CCHS has several fund raising projects planned for this year
 - Attic Treasures June 2
 - Ice Cream Social June 21
 - Tour of Home December 1

And we're requesting City Council approval for a quilt raffle to be held starting June 1. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Tour of Homes.

Luann Ouellette
CCHS Treasurer

CCHS Awarded the Organizational Governor's Award

The Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) of Vermillion has been selected as the winner of the 2012 Organizational Governor's Award for History by a subcommittee of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

The award will be received by Cleo Erickson (our local historian) on behalf of CCHS, April 14 at the Ramkota in Pierre. Cleo will also give a talk on the work of the CCHS in preserving state history in the Vermillion area.

Jim Wilson, a long time member of the CCHS, submitted the nomination in honor of the CCHS. He stated that the Society was deserving of the award for a long time. This is what he wrote and submitted to the SD State Historical Society:

The Clay County Historical Society was established in 1968 to preserve and publicize the history of Clay County and its inhabitants. The Society has an active membership that supports a variety of activities.

The Society is headquartered in the Austin Whittemore House. This house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was acquired by the Society shortly after it was established. The first floor spaces and the exterior have since been restored and the second floor spaces are used for storage and office space. The Society also provides a convenient meeting place for a variety of local organizations.

The Society maintains a large library of historic documents consisting of many family histories, county cemetery records, over 2,500 obituaries and extensive files of city, county, church and school histories. The Society also maintains an extensive photo archive. The Society and its executive director, Cleo Erickson are the central depository of Clay County history.

Regularly scheduled events include the following:

- A June Ice Cream Social is one of the major fundraisers.

- A Tour of Homes in early December that always concludes with refreshments at the appropriately decorated Austin Whittemore House.

- Monthly meetings centered on a pot luck supper and a presentation on Local history.

- A regularly published newsletter.

- A weekly newspaper column devoted to excerpts from historic newspapers.

All staffing is done by volunteers.

The Society provides excellent cooperation with both the W. H. Over Museum and the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission.

The Society has been heavily involved with the ongoing preservation/restoration of the historic replica first schoolhouse log cabin. The Society has also been intimately involved with maintaining the historic character of Historic Bluff View Cemetery. The Clay County Historical Society has been responsible for the printing or reprinting of a series of books and documents that illustrate and promote the history of Clay County including:

From the River Valleys to the Rising Bluff. A Pictorial History of Vermillion, South Dakota, 1859-2009.

History of Dakota Territory. Originally published 1869-70.

Dakota's First Lynching.

Hay Country. History of Meckling and Gayville.

History of Clay County. 1976

Clay County Place Names.

Clay County Country School CD.

Clay County Homestead Map of 1884.

1902 Clay County Map.

Slate of Officers for 2012-2013

Election of officers for the 2012-2013 year, for a one year term, will be held April 26, 2012 at the annual meeting. We encourage other members to run for an office. If someone is interested on being on the CCHS Board, please do not hesitate to let us know. The following is a slate of officers that has been proposed. The President will call for other nominations from the floor.

President:	Tom Thaden
Vice President:	Maxine Johnson
Secretary:	Judy Sullivan
Treasurer:	Luann Ouellette
Elected Director:	Marvin Walz

In closing, thank you to last year's CCHS Board for their unconditional time and duties:

President:	Gloria Barnes	Elected Director:	Judy Sullivan
Vice President:	Tom Thaden		
Secretary:	Maxine Johnson	Life-time Directors:	Cleo Erickson
Treasurer:	Luann Ouellette		Ann Severson
Past President:	Joe Hoffman		

Judy Sullivan
CCHS Director

HISTORICAL RELATED ITEMS AVAILABLE

From the River Valleys to the Rising Bluff ... A Pictorial History of Vermillion, South Dakota 1859-2009

304 pages. This publication was sponsored by the Clay County Historical Society, Inc. for the Vermillion Sesquicentennial in 2009. The book conveys Vermillion's history through pictures and text.

Price \$35.00 + 7.5% tax = \$ 37.64 / add \$ 5.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$35.00 + 5.00 shipping/handling to other states

History of Dakota Territory ... originally published in 1869 and 1870. 125 pages

A history of the Territory of Dakota tells about the Homestead land and the towns in the area. It describes the location of timber land, steam mills, water, and the climate and soil. It's a good source for those looking at the area.

Price \$15.00 + 7.5% tax = \$ 16.13 / add \$ 5.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$15.00 + 5.00 shipping & handling to other states

Dakota's First Lynching ...

The booklet tells the lively story about James Hogan, a "desperado of the worst character". James Hogan's body was seen hanging from a roadside tree near the mouth of the Vermillion River on 26 February 1866. It's a mysterious little book to read.

Price \$5.00 + 7.5% tax = \$ 5.38 / add \$ 3.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$5.00 + 3.00 shipping & handling to other states

Hay Country ...

A history of the Meckling and Gayville SD area makes this a great book for a historian. It also contains the history of many families that settled in Norway and Meckling townships.

Price \$12.00 + 7.5% tax = \$ 12.90 / add \$ 5.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$12.00 + 5.00 shipping & handling to other states

History of Clay County ...

The book was written in 1976 by Dr. Herbert S. Schell and tells the "grass-roots" story of Clay County. The author traces Clay County from the pre-settlement period to the 1970's. It has numerous illustrations and a comprehensive index.

Price \$15.00 + 7.5% tax = \$ 16.13 / add \$ 5.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$15.00 + 5.00 shipping & handling to other states

Clay County Place Names ...

Names of schools, churches, villages, parks are listed in the book. A map of the county is included showing exact locations of the above name places. Some pictures are included.

Price \$7.00 + 7.5% tax = \$7.53 / add \$ 5.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$7.00 + 5.00 shipping & handling to other states

Clay County Country School CD ... A history of the country schools in Clay County with many photos of schools buildings and students. The CD contains many Clay County 8th Grade Country School graduation pictures. Most have students identified. Would appreciate names of "unknown" students pictured.

Price \$10.00 + 7.5% tax = \$10.75 / add \$ 3.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$10.00 + 3.00 shipping & handling to other states

Clay County Homestead Map of 1884 ... approximate size 17-1/2" x 22-1/2"; shipped in mailing tube

Price \$10.00 + 7.5% tax = \$10.75 / add \$ 3.00 shipping & handling to SD addresses

Price \$10.00 + 3.00 shipping & handling to other states

1902 Clay County Map ... compiled and drawn from Special Services and Office Records by E. Frank Peterson, Map Publisher, Vermillion. Approximate size 17-1/2" X 22-1/2"; shipped in mailing tube.

Price free / \$3.00 for shipping & handling to either SD addresses or addresses in other states

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#### **TO ORDER:**

please make check payable to Clay County Historical Society, Inc.

and mail to 15 Austin St.  
Vermillion, SD 57069

At this time, we do not have the capability to accept debit or credit card charges. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

#### **QUERIES**

Questions, such as shipping and handling costs outside the United States, please contact the Historical Society at the address above or

phone 605-624-8266 e-mail [claycohistory@yahoo.com](mailto:claycohistory@yahoo.com) website [www.cchssd.org](http://www.cchssd.org)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Clay County Historical Society
Membership Application / Renewal
Membership Year is April 1 – March 31*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

_____ Individual Member: \$15.00	_____ Family Membership: \$ 25.00
_____ Institutional: \$50.00	_____ Life Member/per person: \$200.00

Please mail check payable to Clay County Historical Society, Inc.
And mail to CCHS
15 Austin Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

If you have questions about membership or the Society, please call us at
(605) 624-8266 or e-mail us at claycohistory@yahoo.com or write to us
at the above address.

***NOTE:**

In a revised opinion, we were able to revert to the CCHS Fiscal Year being April 1-March 31.

Any news you'd like to share?

Clay County/Vermillion area surnames of interest to you
