



Austin-Whittemore House

Home of the

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

www.cchssd.org

claycohistory@yahoo.com

Spring/Summer - April 2013

A Letter from Your President

Greetings from the President. It has been very busy at the Clay County Historical Society this year, with hard work from our dedicated CCHS Board members and donations of priceless items to the museum.

After many meetings, it has been decided to relocate the old log schoolhouse replica on the SW corner of the grounds of the Austin-Whittemore House. The Board has decided to salvage what they can (floor, furnishings, A-frame) and to start new with the rest (logs, shingles, concrete slab, etc). The anticipated cost is between \$15,000-\$25,000 and the CCHS has already started raising money for this. It is hoped to have everything completed by October, 2014, in time for the 150th Anniversary of formal education in South Dakota, the 75th Anniversary of the original replica, and the 100th Anniversary of Dakota Days. Donations for the fundraising campaign can be sent to the "Preserving the Past Project," c/o Clay County Historical Society, 15 Austin St., Vermillion, SD, 57069. An account for the project has been established at First Bank and Trust in Vermillion.

We served lunch to the Clay County Commissioners and Auditor on March 26th. It was so nice to meet our county officials and tell them about the CCHS and the many projects that we are involved with.

On Thursday, April 25th, at 6:05 pm the CCHS Board will host a potluck, followed by a program and our annual meeting with the election of new officers. We are always looking for members with an interest in the history of Clay County to serve on the Board. A speaker for the program has yet to be determined.

Saturday morning, May 4th, from 8-12 am will be our "Attic Treasures" rummage sale at the Austin Whittemore House. Please bring your donated items by the AW House M-F between 9:30-2:30 or call and arrange a time. We cannot accept clothing, mattresses or large furniture items.

The annual Ice Cream Social will be Thursday, June 20th from 5-7 pm at the Eagles Club. We will be serving taverns, homemade pies, cake, ice cream, chips, coffee and lemonade. A freewill donation will be accepted. The John McNeill will once again entertain us with their music.

We hope you will join us for our upcoming events. We appreciate your continued support of the Clay County Historical Society.

I have enjoyed my time as President and plan to turn over the reins to someone else, as I will be leaving town to take advantage of a new job. 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.

Tom Thaden, CCHS President

News from the Office

During the past weeks, we have had more visitors than during the winter months. Our calendar is filling up with events for the spring and summer.

April 25th is the date of the Annual Meeting. We begin at 6:05 pm that evening with a pot luck dinner and program to follow. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the good food and program.

On May 4th, our Annual Attic Treasures Sale will be held at the Austin Whittemore House. If weather is a problem, the sale will be held inside the house. The income from this event helps to keep the Austin Whittemore House open for visitors and researchers.

On June 20th, the Annual Ice Cream Social will be held at the Eagles Club. Special music will be provided by Mr. McNeil and a presentation of Robin Hood will be given by the summer theatre group. Serving taverns, pie, cake and ice cream.

The signature quilt blocks that date from 1896 to 1930 are now on display. Please come and check them out. This is a great history of the ladies that served as Noble Grand for the Rebecca Lodge in Vermillion. Our thanks go out to the family of Dale and Evelyn Severson for gifting them to the Clay County Historical Society.

Cleo Erickson
CCHS Board of Director

An Update from the CCHS Treasurer, Luann Ouellette...

Thanks to each of you who have paid your dues for the year starting April 1, 2013. Included in this issue, as in each edition, is a form for paying dues. It's included as an invitation for new members to join us as well as a reminder to pay dues you might have overlooked.

Below is a listing of members paid as of March 5, 2013 ... if your name or business isn't there, please complete the form and send it to the CCHS, 15 Austin St, Vermillion, SD 57069.

If there are questions, please contact me at 605-624-8298 or louellette@vyn.midco.net

PAID THROUGH MARCH 31, 2016

George & Terry Horner

PAID THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015

Lloyd Helseth

Joy C. Linsmaier

Eileen Turner

PAID THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014

Deanie Christopherson

Marianne Jepsen

Wayne & Beverly Hanson

Alan Clem

Pat Kozak

Gloria & Bill Hensley

Sylvester Clifford

Barbara Kronaizl

Barbara & Fred Humpert

Jean Girard

Mary Rosencrans McBride

Wayne & Esther Knutson

Maria Heimstra

Larry & Trudy Anthofer

Mike & Jane Slattery

Margaret Hurowitz

Sandy Dickenson

Friends of W. H. Over Museum

LIFE MEMBERS

Priscilla All

John & Patricia Gors

Young Moore III

Edis Anderson

Paul S. Hasse

Ted & Karen Muenster

Dr & Mrs. Francis Armstrong

Jay & Mary Lea Hennies

Robert Oden

Joyce Benson

Joan Holter

Emogene Paulson

Michael Bottolfson

Mary Ellen Jensen

Kay Powell

Connie Smith Bowen

Dale & Lisa Johnson

Ann Severson

Troy Boysen

Jerry & Betty Johnson

Robert Stark

Drs Kevin & Cindy Brown

Ronald Johnson

Glennis Stewart

Cyndy Chaney

Marion Kryger

Judy Sullivan

Leone Christopherson

Don Lancrain

Beverly Swanson

Mary Beaty Edelen

Sylvia J. Lynch

Tom Thaden

Cleo Erickson

Nancy McCahren

Lyle Wagner

Robert Fallan

Mary Merrigan

Martin Weeks

Esther Girard

Marlys Miller

Ken Whitehorn

Dorothy Golden

Jeanette Williams

Bank of the West

Vermillion Cemetery Association

Vermillion Civic Council



ATTIC TREASURES SALE

May 4th, 8:00 am is the magic day for our ANNUAL ATTIC TREASURES SALE. This is one of the best fund raisers we have for the Austin Whittemore House. We ask you to help us by donating items you no longer use. Best sellers seem to be kitchen items, towels, pillow cases, sheets, and blankets. Cook books, baskets, dishes and knick knacks are popular items as well. Some people look for Christmas, Halloween, Valentine or other holiday items. Small lamp tables, lamps. Throw rugs are also needed.

Just give us a call or leave a message at 624-8266 and we will pick up your donation. However, we are unable to handle clothing, large appliances, computers and mattresses.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please help us out. We would like your items by April 29th so we have time to sort and mark the items.

Thanks, we appreciate your help.

Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors:

Tom Thaden, President

Maxine Johnson, Vice President

Judy Sullivan, Secretary

Luann Ouellette, Treasurer

Gloria Hensley, Past President

Cleo Erickson, Director

Ann Severson, Director

Joe Hoffman, Director

Gary Bottolfson, Director

Marvin Walz, 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 BUSINESS

Check out the [Clay County Historical Society](http://www.cchssd.org) website for upcoming events, links to other interesting historical websites, to order historical books and for new or renewal membership forms.

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
