



Home of the

Clay County Historical Society
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Spring Issue, April 2011

Greetings from Board President, Gloria Barnes

It does not seem possible my year as Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) Board President is coming to a close. This year has gone by so fast. If I am unopposed at the Annual Meeting on April 28 for a second term, I will be honored to serve again as President.

The Board served lunch to the Clay County Commissioners and Auditor on February 22. We appreciate their taking time from their busy schedules so we could tell them about the CCHS, which is a well-kept secret.

On March 24 we had a potluck, followed by Judge Arthur Rusch's program on "The Kidder Family". This was such a great program and so well attended. Thanks, Judge Rusch, for sharing your research with us.

April 28 will be a potluck followed by Joe Hoffman's ever-popular program "Antique Appraisal Fair". You are invited to bring an item for Joe to "appraise" as well as provide information about origin, manufacturer, etc. The Annual Meeting will follow Joe's program. The Annual Meeting will include Election of 2011-2012 Officers and FY2011 Annual Financial Report.

May 14 will be our "Attic Treasures" rummage sale at the Austin Whittemore House. The sale starts at 7:30 am and ends at noon. Please bring your donated items to the Austin-Whittemore House Monday-Friday between 9:30-2:30; or feel free to call and arrange a time. We cannot accept clothing, mattresses, or large furniture items.

The Annual Ice Cream Social fund raiser is Thursday, June 23, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the W. H. Over Museum. Thank you, Lisa Johnson, for again agreeing to chair the event. We will be serving taverns, chips, homemade pies, cake, ice cream, coffee and lemonade. A freewill donation will be accepted. Carry outs will again be available. The McNeills from Springfield will provide music for our entertainment. Transportation will be provided from the parking areas to the front door of the Museum.

We're on Facebook at Clay County Historical Society and elsewhere in this newsletter is an article on our website www.cchssd.org

Just a reminder that 2011-2012 memberships now cover January 1-December 31. If you haven't renewed or upgraded your membership level, please do so soon. The Membership form is available elsewhere in this newsletter and is on the website www.cchssd.org

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

SLATE OF OFFICERS for 2011-2012

The 2010-2011 elected officers listed below have expressed a willingness to serve another one-year term.

Officers up for re-election are ...

President	Gloria Barnes	Secretary	Maxine Johnson	Director
Vice President	Tom Thaden	Treasurer	Luann Ouellette	Cyndy Chaney

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting April 28, 2011 for any of the elected offices listed above. Unless there are nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting which necessitate a vote, the officers will be re-elected and join the Board members below to form the 2011-2012 Board of Directors.

Past President	Joe Hoffman	
Directors:	Cynthia Chaney	Judy Sullivan
Life-time Directors	Cleo Erickson	Ann Severson

Judy Sullivan, Nominating Committee Chairman

Notes from Cleo

Two surprise packages arrived at the Austin Whittemore House this past year.

The first contained an autograph book owned by Miss Annie Ross and dating back to 1885. Many names of early Vermillion residents signed the little book. This little treasure was sent to the Clay County Historical Society by Marlene Jakoubek of Hermann, Missouri. She had found the book at a yard sale in Hermann and wanted to return it to its home.

The second came to us wrapped in tissue paper with a beautiful ribbon tied around it. This is another beautiful treasure from the 1890's. The gift was from Barbara Mellers of Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is a collector of family photo albums and found this album at an estate sale. She felt it should be returned to its homeland since many beautiful wedding photos were taken by local studios in Vermillion and Elk Point. The outside of the album is in mint condition. We only wish the names of the people were on the photos.

The Historical Society is very grateful to the ladies who searched us out and returned the items to their place of beginning. People who appreciate preserving the history for future generations are many times very helpful to local families. We thank them for their kindness.

On another note, please mark your calendars for the Attic Treasurers sale on May 14th. Come and check out the items that have been donated by friends and members of the Society. We have some very nice items this year and the prices are right!

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CCHS) WEBSITE

We have a new website! The CCHS website address is www.cchssd.org. With the help of Kent Osborne, one of our new members, the CCHS went on line February 15, 2011. The website tells of the Austin Whittemore house, historical books that are available, upcoming events, links to other interesting historical websites, and a membership form for new or renewal membership. We will be adding new items as time goes by so please check often.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please send an email to us at claycohistory@yahoo.com.

Judy Sullivan, Webmaster

LOG CABIN SCHOOLHOUSE

The Clay County Historical Preservation Commission (CCHPC) has teamed up with the Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) in an effort to get the old log cabin schoolhouse listed on either the State or National Register of Historic Places.

Throughout its history in four different locations, the old log schoolhouse has served to help educate the citizens and school children of Vermillion and the surrounding area. When Dr. W.H. Over came up with this idea in 1938, it brought together everyone in the community, including the instructors and students at the University of South Dakota, the businesspeople of Vermillion who donated money for the projects, and prominent citizens of the city who served on the committee. Ever since then, the building has remained intact, although relocated many times and repaired to look like new each time it was moved. As Vermillion was the site of the first permanent schoolhouse in Dakota Territory and Rachael Ross (Austin) was one of the first teachers, it is only just that the old log schoolhouse finally be given a permanent home on the SW corner of the Austin-Whittemore property. Both the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission and Clay County Historical Society will take part in this project to once again give Vermillion's students the opportunity to learn about the early education history of the city and what it was like to attend class in a one room log cabin schoolhouse.

Tom Thaden, Board Vice President

NEWS FROM THE W.H. OVER MUSEUM

The South Dakota Quilt Documentation Project chairman, Mary Fitzgerald, will be conducting a Documentation Day for Vermillion on May 14 and 15. The hours will be from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on May 14 and on May 15 from 1:00-4:30 p.m.

The purpose of the project is to record quilts completed in South Dakota before 1970. The identification and history of the quilter/s will be included as a tool for examining the contribution and place of women in our territorial and state history. Photographs and biographical information about the quilter is welcome. The information collected will be archived at the State Museum in Pierre and will be available for future research.

To make an appointment to have a quilt documented, please contact the W.H. Over Museum at 605-677-5228 or Mary Fitzgerald, Dell Rapids, at 605-428-5629.

On June 4 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., the Annual Celebrate Rhubarb Day will be observed at the W. H. Over Museum. The event features a recipe contest with lots of tasting, a bake sale, games, and photographs. This year's featured guest will be Ian Sanderson of Brookings who has acres of rhubarb near Brookings.

On June 11, the first Knit in Public Day in Vermillion will take place. This is part of a world-wide knit in public event. The featured project will be to knit a hat for a newborn at the local hospital. Everyone is invited to participate in Museum events.

Maxine Johnson, Secretary

VERMILLION SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Watch the Vermillion Plain Talk weekly for the Sesquicentennial Highlights compiled by Cleo Erickson... Usually found on either page 2 or 3, Cleo's articles consist of excerpts from both the Dakota Republican and Vermillion Plain Talk.

The articles started appearing in 2007 and will remain in the newspaper until Cleo runs out of information from the newspapers; she is currently up to 1953. Small tidbits of what life was like in and around town, gossip about friends and neighbors, ads for medicines that will cure everything, and prices for food and goods are just some of the topics covered. Don't miss out on these great stories. Collect them for future generations.

Visit the Links tab on www.cchssd.org and click on City of Vermillion Sesquicentennial Articles for Highlights #1-101. Since the City is no longer including the articles as part of the Sesquicentennial articles on their website, the CCHS will be adding to a link on our web site. Watch for items #102 on.

Tom Thaden, Vice President

CCHPC SPONSORS PRESERVATION WEDNESDAYS

The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission will be sponsoring Preservation Wednesday on April 20, 7:00 pm at the Vermillion Public Library. Paul Porter and Liz Almlie of the South Dakota Historic Preservation Office will be discussing historic preservation tax benefits and grants that are available to the owners of historic buildings.

There are buildings in Vermillion that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places individually or as parts of the residential district south of the University, the Forest Avenue Historic District and the Downtown Commercial Historic District. Owners, potential owners and realtors should be aware of these substantial benefits and how to apply for them. This presentation is free and the public is encouraged to attend. For further information contact Jim Wilson at 605-624-4579.

Tom Thaden, Vice President

Clay County Historical Society

Membership Application / Renewal

Membership Year is January 1-December 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:**

The membership year has shifted from April 1-March 31 since the IRS has advised that our "year" is calendar. We hope this does not inconvenience you. Our Annual Meeting will continue, at this time, to be in April.

Any news you'd like to share?

Clay County/Vermillion area surnames of interest to you

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, 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