



THE MINNETONKA MILLWHEEL SPRING 2017



St David's Center History Presentation by Julie Sjoldal and Maureen Walsh

You are cordially invited to the Minnetonka Historical Society presentation about the history of St. David's Center in Minnetonka Mills. For over fifty years, St David's Center has held a special place in our community. It began as an outreach of St David's Episcopal



Church in Minnetonka Mills and later the Center moved to it's present headquarters in the Burwell School on Minnetonka Boulevard and Plymouth Rd.

St David's Center has provided a half century of services for thousands of children. We invite you to share your memories of St. David's if you were perhaps a student or a teacher there. And as usual, tea and cookies will be served, hope to see you there.

Above is a photo of St David's in 1946.

And here is the composite photo for the class of 1929; (at the start of the Great Depression.)



Minnetonka Historical Society completes first phase of Archive Project

The first phase of our MHS Archives Project was completed this winter! Our MNHS Legacy Grant funded the creation of our new CMP: Collections and Management Policy. This serves as an organized foundation for the stewardship of our Minnetonka archives. It includes various legal documents for accession and deaccession of archive objects, for example; "deed of gift" and "condition report". This CMP will enable us to keep an accurate inventory of our assets for decades to come.

It was reviewed in detail by our our MHS Collections Committee in January when we attended our daylong workshop with two museum experts from Museology. Our MHS Collections Committee includes: Lorena Hooyman, Phyllis Mattill, Petey Ellis, Joe Van Sloun, and Bill Jepson. Afterwards we shared it with the rest of the MHS Board and approved it unanimously. We will apply for another MNHS Legacy Grant for the second phase of our four phase MHS Archives Project in June. This next phase will include an updated digital inventory of all of our present archives.

Bill Jepson

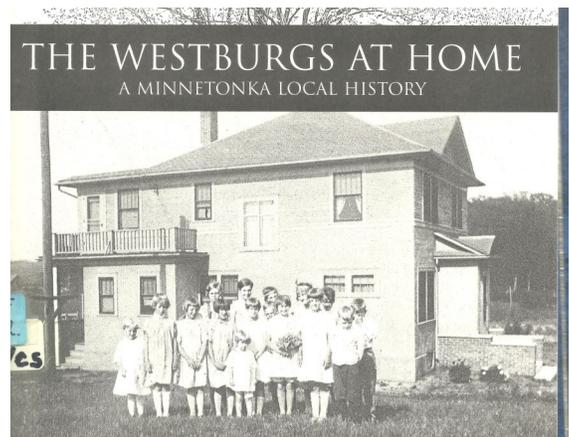
MHS Calendar: Spring 2017

May 2nd, Tuesday 7PM: St David's School History Presentation

Burwell Tours : Tues, Sat., Sun. Noon to 3PM (June 3rd to August 27th 2017)

June 3rd Noon: Walking Tour of Minnetonka Mills starting at the Burwell House.

June 25th 10AM to 4PM: The Burwell Festival (formerly the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social)



The cover of a newly found book about the Westburg family who lived near Excelsior Blvd. and 101. We will share excerpts from their 1997 oral history in our next issue. Thanks to Mary Ofstie for donating it!

Minnetonka Historical Society Board 2017

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Dorothy Welch - - Director, Marketing (D@dwelch.org)

Jim Whisler— Director, Treasurer (jwhisler@deloitte.com)

Petey Ellis, our newest MHS Board member is writing a new **Monthly MHS Newsletter** about our history and related events going on in Minnetonka!

The first one page issue was sent out by email in March using our member list. Please let her know if you want to receive it by sending your updated email to pellis7@cs.com.

Bicycles in Minnetonka

By Lorena Hooyman

Nothing is more pleasant on a mild summer afternoon than a bicycle ride from Minnetonka to Excelsior on the current bike trail, and the reward is an ice cream cone at Mr. Lick's or a stroll through the Commons to gaze at Lake Minnetonka. It occurs to history minded bicyclists that bikes were invented in the early 19th century and have gained popularity ever since. They became especially more popular in the 1880's when several new design features came together in the "safety bicycle": two wheels of equal size, conveniently placed pedals, and a more comfortable seat.

An intriguing photo (seen here) at the Burwell House of Mr. Burwell and his friends about to commence a bike hike catches the eye. The women's outfits stand out as so incredibly unlike today's biking outfits (think shorts, sleeveless tops and helmets) that one has to chuckle: divided skirts, long sleeve blouses and especially the sailor hats perched precariously on their heads. You're sure a strong wind would launch them. So where did Charles Burwell and Company do their biking? The first issue of **Minnetonka Back Then**, edited by Betty Johnson (our current City historian) dated June, 1976 provides the answer. We take the liberty to quote the article. Enjoy!

A Bicycle Path

"A popular route for bicyclists was constructed by the county in the early 1900's along the south side of Minnetonka Boulevard from Lake Calhoun to Highway 101. It was four to five feet wide and six inches above the level of the road. It was surfaced with gravel taken from the high hill where Burwell School (St. David's) now stands. On Sundays and holidays hundreds of cyclists rode out from the city to Lake Minnetonka. They often stopped at Frear's pop stand (where Station Pizza now stands) to pump a tin cup full of cold clear well water. As automobiles became more popular, the bicycle path gradually came into disuse and was eventually incorporated into a wider Minnetonka Blvd."



Bicyclers at a Burwell Reunion August 28th 1898. Charles Burwell is third from the right.

THE MILLWHEEL

Minnetonka Historical Society

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MHS Membership

All of us in the Minnetonka Historical Society would like to invite you to become a member. With your membership, you will receive this semi-annual Historical Society Newsletter, "The Millwheel." You will be kept up to date with Society events and happenings in and around Minnetonka and have a 'voice' in preserving Minnetonka's past. We all greatly appreciate the support you have given us, so that we can continue with our vital projects and activities that preserve Minnetonka's heritage.

Individual: \$15.00, Family: \$15.00, Student: \$10.00, Senior: \$10.00

Contributor: \$25.00, Sponsor: \$50.00, Benefactor: \$100.00

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This is a new membership ____ Yes ____ No Today's Date: _____

I would like to help the Minnetonka Historical Society by: _____