



THE MINNETONKA MILLWHEEL SPRING 2016



Minnetonka Historical Society Antiques Appraisal

You are cordially invited to the Minnetonka Historical Society Antiques Appraisal
Tuesday, April 19 from 7 to 9 pm in the Community Room, at Minnetonka City Hall.

Well known appraisers Mark Thompson and James Mariman will be providing verbal assessments of submitted items. We will project close up live video of the antique items on a big screen as the appraisers make their assessments for the audience! The public is invited to attend this fun and educational event!



There are a few openings remaining if you want to register to bring an item.

Maximum 2 items per household - \$12.00 per item

Note: Because of time limitations, appraisers cannot review stamps, sports cards, weapons, coins, dolls or fine jewelry.

Please bring only items you can carry safely yourself. We do not assist with transport.

Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

You can have your antique appraised by printing out a Registration Form linked to the homepage of our website at minnetonka-history.org and mailing to us at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd C/O City Hall.

Minnetonka: From Township to Village to City - by Lorena Hooyman

In the very early 1970's if you were new to the city, you'd hear old time residents refer to Minnetonka as "the Village". How could that be, you'd ask, when there had just been a dedication of a new CITY hall at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Granted the new building looked a bit forlorn and awkward sitting out in the midst of open fields, but it was a CITY HALL.

If you showed further interest and pursued the issue, the old timer would tell you the full history: how Minnetonka went from township to village to incorporated city. In addition to the Burwell House which the city had just purchased, there was a modest white structure at the intersection of Baker Road and Minnetonka Boulevard, very New England-ish in appearance the original village hall. If you were still curious, Dana Freear had left a history of the city's early days, and the full story could unfold.

Minnetonka Township was formed the very year and day that Minnesota became a state, May 11, 1858 at a meeting held in the Minnetonka Hotel. Future township meetings were held wherever there was sufficient space, sometimes at a church or the Minnetonka Mill. When Ed Eidson built a store with an upper level dancehall in the mid 1870's, township meetings switched to that location. Later in the 1890's W.S. Freear bought the store and the meetings continued there with the township charged a rental of \$5.00.

Sentiment had been gradually growing for a meeting hall owned by the Town. This was partly due to the belief that \$5.00 for the day was too much rent for the hall and also for the need for a place to keep Town records. It seemed that the voters were not too enthused about spending money for a hall when \$5.00 for a yearly meeting seemed a good bargain.

But eventually sentiment changed. Funding of \$2500 was arranged, a lot was purchased from Charles and Mary Burwell for \$200 and building commenced. The grand opening was held on June 21, 1907. Because of its rural character Minnetonka continued as a township for many years, losing territory to surrounding communities, but eventually changing its status to "village." And village it remained in many people's minds even after the late 1960's when it transitioned into CITY with a population of about 35,000 plus.

This information is based on Betty Johnson's book: "Minnetonka Mills, A Historic Profile" with a dedication to Dana Freear (1884-1975), who recorded much local history, and whose memoirs are currently being edited by Betty. The Mills book is for sale from the Historical Society for \$10.00 with a society membership. To order, please call the Minnetonka Historical Society at 952-930-3962 or visit our website at www.minnetonka-history.org.



The Minnetonka Town Hall in the 1950's



Our Mystery Photo this issue is of "The Spinsters Convention" - Minnetonka MN Nov. 1905
 Does anyone know more about this apparent gathering of older unmarried women?
 Please let us know at Phone 952. 930.3962 or Email mhshistory@yahoo.com

MHS Calendar - Spring Summer 2016

May 10th Tues. 7PM: MHS Spring presentation: About the interesting Ice family of Minnetonka. In the Community Room at Minnetonka City Hall.

June 25th Sat. 10AM to 4PM; The Annual Minnetonka Ice Cream Social: June 25th. At the Burwell House property on Minnetonka Boulevard.

May 9th Mon. 7PM Vintage postcard of Minnetonka area by Chuck Donley - At Excelsior Brewery

Minnetonka Historical Society Board 2015

Bill Jepson - President, Newsletter, Website
 (wjepson@comcast.net)

Florence Bogle - Secretary, Holiday Tea
 (fbogle@phouse.com)

Charles Donley - Director (mndonley39@msn.com)

Lorena Hooyman - Membership, Newsletter
 (BIHooy@aol.com)

Phyllis Mattill - Director (pmatill@comcast.net)

Barb Mattill - Director (pmatill@comcast.net)

Joe Van Sloun - Archives (jvansloun@comcast.net)

Dorothy Welch - Marketing (DAWelch@District287.org)

Jim Whisler - Treasurer (jwhisler@deloitte.com)

Jan Cook - Antique Appraisal (jan.cook@usbank.com)

The Burwell House tours will be open on Saturdays beginning on Sat. June 4th. From June to August it will be open on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and Sundays from 12-3PM. Tour guides will be there but more volunteer tour guides are needed.

For more information please contact Moranda Zimmer at