



## THE MINNETONKA MILLWHEEL FALL 2018



### **MHS Fall Presentation - Minnetonka Farming History 'THE GRANGE MOVEMENT IN MINNETONKA MILLS' Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00pm at Minnetonka City Hall**

Our Speaker is T.J. Malaskee. He is an expert on the History of the Grange, which was a farmer's union that helped them organize to provide better farm prices and make their voices heard throughout the United States. It's founder was Minnesotan Oliver Kelley whose family gave us the Historic Farm Site in Elk River. The Grange was an important organization within the Democratic Farmer Labor Party in Minnesota. A building which served as a meeting hall for the Grange still exists in Minnetonka today on Martha Lane (a private home now).

Also, the Historical Society will present some highlights from past Minnetonka Animal Husbandry presentations like the Paulson Dairy Farm and the Jondahl Sheep Ranch and the Benson Horse Ranch.

Please join us at the Minnetonka City Hall Community Room on May 8th at 7PM. Beverages and cookies will be provided as usual.



"Haying crew" on (Campbell's ?) Minnetonka Mills Farm in the 1890's near Inverness Road.



Mystery artifacts: 1 - Who are these Minnetonka Civil War veterans?



2. Who are these Minnetonka champions in this scrapbook?



3. What was this 19th century "steam punk" artifact?



4. What was this iron and wooden artifact used for?

## MHS Calendar: Fall 2018

**Oct. 2nd, Tues 7PM:**  
**Minnetonka City Hall - MHS**  
**Presentation - Farming - Grange**

**Oct. 9th Tues 5PM to 8PM**  
**Minnetonka Open House**

**Sundays: Nov. 11th to Dec. 2nd**  
**Noon to 3PM**  
**Burwell House Holiday Tours**

## MHS Email Newsletter:

Petey Ellis, our MHS Board member has been writing a **Monthly MHS Newsletter** about our history and related events going on in Minnetonka! These interesting one page issues are sent out by email every month using our member list. Please let her know if you want to receive it by sending your updated email to [pellis7@cs.com](mailto:pellis7@cs.com)



## Minnetonka Historical Society's 2018 Archive Inventory Project

The MHS Inventory Project - Phase 2 is almost done at the Burwell House

This fall we have finished the data input process of our Inventory Project. Each object in the Burwell House was photographed from all sides and entered into our Past Perfect software database in terms of size, condition, and description etc. We were lucky to receive the volunteer help of four students from Wayzata High School: Ava Schaeffel, Sarah Cao, Abby Meyers, and Sonia Gazula to do these tasks for everything in the Museum. We still have some boxes of paper documents to scan and type up into digital



form. The high school volunteers have also been typing two priceless records that are only in paper form now. One is Dana Frear's "Minnetonka Town" manuscript about the history of Minnetonka. Once it's 400 pages are digitized we can edit it, add photographs, and create a book to be published, which was Mr. Frear's dream to do his whole life.

The other important records are in the three ring binder of 25 Oral Histories taped and typed over the last few decades but only on paper. These digitized documents will hopefully be accessible and searchable online next year on our website at [minnetonkahistory.org](http://minnetonkahistory.org)

The next step will be the big job of transferring the newly formed database of all of the historic artifacts and creating an online virtual exhibit where the public can search for different artifacts in the collection.

We wish to thank again the **Minnesota Historical Society** and their generous Grant from the **Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment** that made our Inventory Project possible!



### Minnetonka Historical Society Board 2018

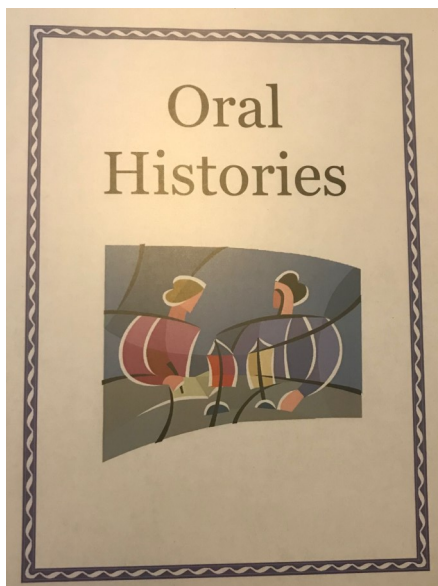
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**Florence Bogle** - Secretary, Tea ([fbogle@iphouse.com](mailto:fbogle@iphouse.com))  
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**Dorothy Welch** - Director, Marketing ([D@dwelch.org](mailto:D@dwelch.org))  
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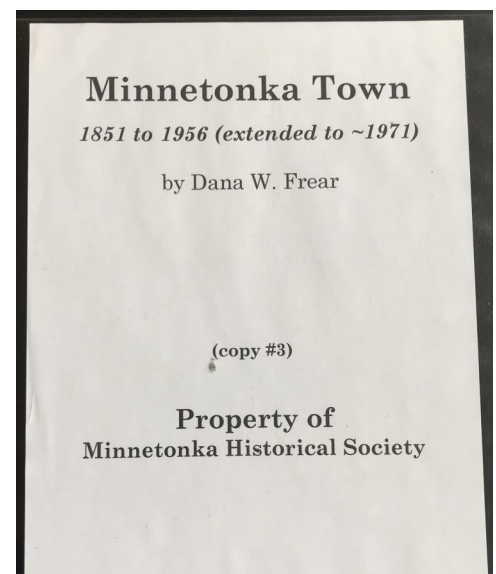
Walter Scott Frear, at 82 years old plowing one of the fields on his farm near Minnetonka Mills. He arrived in 1869 and his son Dana wrote the history of Minnetonka.



We have recently obtained the Dana Frear Archives, which include his detailed research manuscripts for writing the only book about the City of Minnetonka's History. Dana Frear was a Minnetonka Mills resident whose family owned the grocery store, near the present day Dairy Queen, in the late 19th century. Their store supplied the early farmers in the area and was also the Town Hall for many years. Mr. Frear held a PHD in Agriculture and was an expert on grains. We are hoping to publish his "Minnetonka Town History" as a book. His old homestead with a boulder stone fence still exists on McGinty Road next to the Burwell House. An excerpt from Dana Frear's book is on the next page.



Oral History Transcripts	
Contents	
Abel, Ty	
Alsaker, Kay	
Andrs, Gayle; Benhardus, Odell	
Chope, Horace	
Deveau, John	
Engler, Mildred	
Feltl, Mrs.	
Frommes, Judge William Thomas	
Good, Helen Chastek	
Hanus, Fred	
Hermeling, Bill and Shirley	
Hentschel, Berna	
Jenkins, Keith Alfred	
Kokesh, Frances C	
Lane, Nancy	
Mitby, Sigridt	
Nordquist, George	
Pauly, Lloyd	
Quam, Ernie	
Smith, Ann Cullen (12/11/1996)	
Smith, Ann Cullen (01/10/2001)	
Smith, Delores	
Stewart, Shorty	
Wanek, Martha	
Winther, Dorothe	
Quam, Ernest; Porte, Robert; Johnson, Robert; Deveau, John	



Volunteer students are typing up our paper manuscripts so that we can publish them! Including 26 Oral Histories transcribed since the 1970's, and Dana Frear's History of Minnetonka entitled "Minnetonka Town". Here are the covers and list of interviews.

Excerpt from 'Minnetonka Town' by Dana Frear: "His father W. S. Frear and the other young bloods wrote a poem which was reported to the Hennepin County Review in 1951 by Mrs. W.S. Frear as follows."

Those among the readers of the Review who remember events of 1872 and 1873 may be interested in reading the following poetical effusion that was composed by the young bloods of that time, of which our respected and dignified townsman W. S. Frear was one, to be read in the village lyceum that was held weekly in the little chapel then used for a schoolhouse by the Mills people; which chapel had not been used for religious services in many years, but later was renovated and rededicated to divine worship, and destroyed by fire a few years ago. The three neighborhoods, Groveland, Minnetonka Mills and what is now Hopkins, mingled in social activities and were designated as the upper, middle and lower neighborhoods. There were ten occupied houses in the Mills burg. The rhymes are a play on the names of the heads of the families occupying them, and all, excepting the hotel keeper and merchant, were employed in the copper shop and flour mill that was running day and night, to which farmers as far out as Watertown, came with their wheat. Every farmer raised wheat in those days.

"First comes Mr. Knight who keeps the village inn,  
When a good square meal you want, you'll do well to visit him;  
And there is also his better half - we do not mean to mock her,  
But of all the women in town, she is the fastest talker;  
Mr. Narramore lives next door - he runs the blacksmith shop,  
He can mend a plow or make a rod  
And to him the farmers flock  
When they want their horses shod;  
Next comes Mr. Works, the wheel-right of the town,  
To him the folks their wagons take when're they break down;  
Mr. Bushnell keeps the store - he keeps a splendid stock  
Of dry goods and hardware, drugs, groceries and whatnots;  
Also a fine assortment of candies, cheap and sweet,  
But a pokeful of cash you'll need when you go there to treat;  
Next comes Mr. Perkins, the landlord of the town,  
He owns the mill, a mile square of land, and all the houses 'round,  
And upon financial matters his mind is very sound;  
And there is Frank, the old man's son,  
Of all the boys, he sure is one;  
He loves to fish and hunt the deer, And play the violin,  
and dance the light fantastic Til the midnight hours grow dim;  
Upon the hill lives Mr. Ed,  
If it wasn't for him we might all be dead."

## **THE MILLWHEEL**

### **Minnetonka Historical Society**

C/O The City of Minnetonka

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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

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a new membership \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help the Minnetonka Historical Society by: \_\_\_\_\_