



THE MINNETONKA MILLWHEEL FALL 2023



High school students help put up Holiday decorations at the Burwell House.

CMHS President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends,

The holidays are rapidly approaching, and CMHS will once again open the Burwell House for tours.

The house will be gaily decorated for a Victorian Christmas, and CMHS will welcome you for self-guided tours. We are sure that young and old will enjoy this beautiful house!

The house is open on the following dates and times:

Sunday, November 12th 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, November 19th 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, November 26th 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, December 3rd 1 to 4 pm Holiday Open House – join us for a self-guided tour and refreshments in the cottage.

We recently welcomed Mariah Wise to our board of directors. You can learn more about her and her interest in history below. Over the past year, CMHS arranged, coordinated, and gave several interesting and fun presentations ranging from local history, to orphan trains to the history of the early Native Americans. We are planning additional topics of interest for the spring of 2024.

We recently received two pieces of farm equipment that once belonged on the Dvorak farm on Rowland Road. The first is a walking plow designed to be pushed by a human, not driven by animals. The other is a knife sharpener bicycle, powered by pedaling. We are excited to add these two items with Minnetonka History.



**Welcome to
Mariah Wise
our newest
CMHS Board Member!**

Mariah Wise became involved in Minnetonka's history as a first-year tour guide at the historic Burwell House. She enjoys the ability to tell stories and share her love of historic preservation with others. In her free time, Mariah loves visiting other Minnesota Historical Society sites to learn more about Minnesota's past. In addition, her professional background in copywriting and marketing gives her a unique skillset to assist Bill Jepson, and other board members, with the Frear Manuscript project. She's grateful to be considered as a new inductee to the City of Minnetonka Historical Society!

CMHS 2023 Board of Trustees

Jan Cook - President - jbcook220@gmail.com

Lisa Fowler - Vice President - lisaannfowler01@gmail.com

Jim Whisler - Treasurer - jimwhisler63@gmail.com

Stephanie Herrick - Collections - steph.herrick@gmail.com

Bill Jepson - Secretary, Millwheel - bjepson99@gmail.com

Rick Kruger - Social Media - rmkruger@msn.com

Ian Baxter - Technology - iankbaxter@live.com

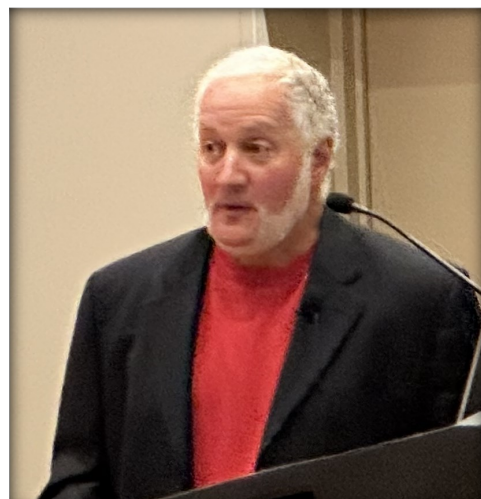
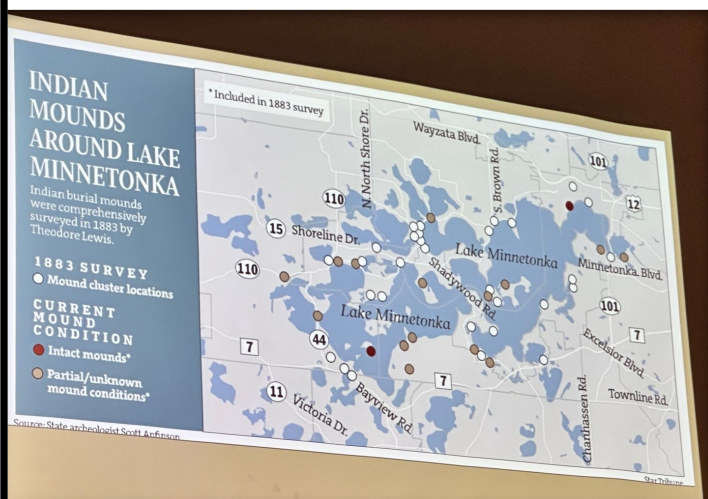
Barb Lindgren - Collections - barbara.lindgren@yahoo.com

Mariah Wise – Marketing - mariah.e.wise@gmail.com

CMHS Presentation by local author Paul Marvelas “Lake Minnetonka as a Native American Place”

Paul gave a very interesting presentation to a large audience at the Minnetonka city hall on September 26th, about the Indigenous People of the Lake Minnetonka area. He displayed many old photographs that showed different aspects of their culture. And he traced the story of how their land around Minnetonka was lost in the treaties with the European Americans.

He has written a book that will be released Nov 1st, which is entitled “The History of Big Island, Lake Minnetonka, with Chapters on the Historic Landscape, the First People, and the Dakota Indians.”



CMHS 2023 Calendar

Burwell Holiday Open House - sponsored by CMHS:

Tour Hours:

Sunday, November 12th - 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, November 19th - 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, November 26th - 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, December 3rd - 1 to 4 pm

Please join us for a self-guided tour and refreshments in the cottage.

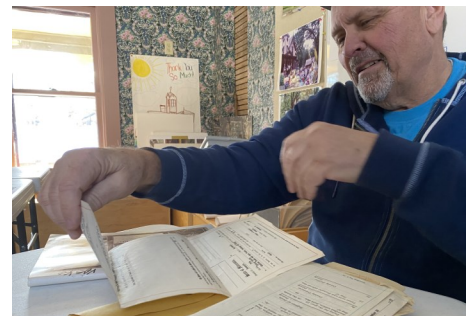
New donations given to CMHS

CMHS would like to thank Paul Kellner for donating some antiques from the farm he used to live in near Lone Lake in Minnetonka in the 1980s. It was a 32 acre farm with 6 horses just southwest of the present Lone Lake Park. He donated a hand held plow and a bicycle powered axe grinder and a horse sled harness from the turn of the last century (pictured on the right). On the right he is holding a painting of the farmhouse that he lived in.



CMHS would also like to thank Scott Vasco, who donated some of his family photos of his father's Grocery Store in the 1960s on Minnetonka Boulevard by the Dairy Queen. After his father it became Glenn's 1 Stop for the last 30 years until it recently became a Holiday Station.

If you would like to talk about donating your artifact to the City of Minnetonka Historical Society, please contact Stephanie Herrick via email at stephanie.herrick@cityofminnetonkahistory.org.





Ann Cullen Smith oral history from 2003 now online.

Ann Cullen Smith lived in Minnetonka at 2510 Oakland Road until she was 106 years old. In 2004 she placed her 32 acre farm into a permanent conservation easement through the Minnesota Land Trust. After her passing in 2015, Ann’s property was transferred to the City of Minnetonka and is now the Cullen Nature Preserve.

Minnetonka historian, and our former CMHS president, Betty Johnson had the foresight to conduct an oral history with Ann in June 2003. And we are thankful to her family who has given it to us to share. We digitized the tape so that [anyone can listen to it at this online link.](#)

You can learn more about the Cullen Nature Preserve and their projects at cullennature.org.

Frear Manuscript Update

The first step in the process of publishing Dana Frear’s manuscript “Minnetonka Town” has been accomplished with a Clean Water Land and Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society and Dan Hoisington’s editing of the pages that were handed down to us. We as a board have determined that the manuscript is not yet a narrative history of the City of Minnetonka, and therefore it is not ready for publication. We are, however, moving ahead with the project by choosing a series of excerpts from the manuscript and pairing them with related photos and pictures. Additional treatment of the manuscript is to be determined.



Excerpt from the Frear Manuscript

“In the 1890s, bicyclists stopped at the town pump, on the rear porch of the Frear Store, which provided cool refreshing drinks of water. The well was subsequently capped and is still under the asphalt between Station Pizza and the Dairy Queen. “

THE MILLWHEEL

City of Minnetonka Historical Society
C/O City of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard

The City of Minnetonka Historical Society is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 1970 as the successor to the Minnetonka History Commission. We are a non-profit dedicated to preserving Minnetonka's past. Our mission is to protect, preserve and promote our unique history for generations to come. In order to fulfil our mission, we are dependent on member support and appreciate your continued help.

Benefits of membership

- Voting privileges. You'll have a "voice" in preserving Minnetonka's past.
- Subscription to *The Millwheel*, our semi-annual newsletter.
- Discounts on Society events.
- Invitations to our community education programs.
- Support the maintenance and operation of the CMHS Museum
- Support the preservation of CMHS's ever-growing archival collection.

Levels of membership

- \$15.00 Youth (ages 25 and under)
- \$25.00 Individual
- \$40.00 Family
- \$75.00 Small Business Sponsor
- I would like to provide additional assistance in the amount of \$ _____

*The City of Minnetonka Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit; your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.

Name* _____

Address* _____

Phone * _____

Email* _____ *Required

Membership Level (check below)

Individual ___

Youth ___

Family ___

Small Business Sponsor ___