



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427
Historic Church and Museum: 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley
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Don Anderson, Editor

763-588-8578

e-mail: maryanddon3030@aol.com

Construction to begin before year end...

BZA approves zoning variance

On Tuesday, June 25, 2013, the Golden Valley Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) reviewed the petition of the Historical Society for a variance from the zoning code. City Code requires that side yard setback areas in institutional zoning districts be a minimum of 50 feet. The Society is seeking to build an addition 14.75 feet off of the required 50 feet to a distance of 35.25 feet at its closest point to the side yard (west) property line. The purpose of the variance is to allow for the construction of a 1,263 square foot addition.

The Society's architect, Robert Shaffer of Foundation Architects, presented our case to the BZA members using an architect's rendi-

tion of an aerial view, a site plan and existing and planned building footprints. BZA members each made favorable comments and when a vote was called by the chairperson, members unanimously voted to approve the petition for a variance.

This is the first step toward construction of an addition to display the many archival materials now owned by the Society. The next step will be drafting of construction plans for the addition and, after review and approval by the board of directors, a call for bids from qualified contractors.

The goal is to begin the construction yet this year, with completion by the year's end.

June program saluted MN Civil War soldiers

The June 13 general membership meeting program was presented by Wayne Jorgenson author and publisher of "Every Man Did His Duty", about members of the First Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War. Jorgenson showed photos from his book as he shared details about the people and places depicted. He knew, for instance, that George Nassig was one of the Civil War volunteers from Golden Valley, wounded in battle, released from the Regiment and returned home to Golden Valley. (Editor's Note: Later, Nassig and his family harvested ice from Medicine Lake that was stored in barns and then sold to milk dealers, restaurants, railroad companies and others during the warmer months.)

Jorgenson has researched the First Minnesota for decades and has accumulated many original historical items from the Civil War that will be donated to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Thirty-two members and friends attended the program.



Colwell, Andre make donations

John Colwell donated a copy of "Every Man Did His Duty" by Wayne Jorgenson. (See June program for more information.) Jeanne Andre, recently retired assistant to the Golden Valley City Manager, donated a bound copy of "Report of

the Valley Square Redevelopment Area C Task Force, including goals and criteria for Area C, adopted Feb. 6, 1995 by the Valley Square Redevelopment Task Force." We thank John and Jeanne for their contributions to our collections.

The garden is blooming!

Garden Club members Paula Perkins, Barbara Ego and Linda Loomis spent three hours preparing the soil and planting the beautiful display in front of the historic church. Our thanks to the Garden Club for their wonderful support.

September program preview...

Ohman documents state cemeteries

The next general membership program will be 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 12, with the return of Doug Ohman, Pioneer Photography. Ohman will present his latest research and photos of Minnesota cemeteries, one of which is the pioneer cemetery of Golden Valley, located on the SW corner of Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka. Ohman has been bringing his wonderful photos and research to our Society

for over 10 years. Each subject is unique – Schools of Minnesota, Churches of Minnesota, Court Houses of Minnesota, and Exploring the Mississippi River from its source to the Iowa state line. He is also a member of the Golden Valley Historical Society. We look forward to his latest adventures.

The program will be held at the historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road.

Boyd joins Society Board of Directors

Crystal Boyd has been appointed by the Society's Board of Directors to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mike Freiberg when he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Ms. Boyd, who recently joined our Society, has a master's degree in museum studies and experience

in planning, collections management and grants, both locally and nationally, that support collections in small museums. She will help design the internal shell of the new addition. We welcome her as a valuable addition as well to the other volunteer members of the board of directors.

Early teachers lived a restricted life

From the Golden Valley Historical Society newsletter of May 1980, we quote the following "RULES FOR TEACHERS":

"Each day teacher will fill lamps, clean chimney, and trim wicks.

Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.

Make pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupil.

Man teachers may take one night each week for courting purposes or two nights if they go to church with much regularity.

After school the teacher must spend the time until supper reading the Bible or other good books.

Women teachers who marry or en-

gage in unseemly conduct will be discharged.

Every teacher should lay aside from each month's pay a goodly sum for his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.

Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, shall give good reason to suspect his worth, integrity, and honesty.

The teacher who performs his duties regularly and faithfully, and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty five cents a week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves."

Editor's note: The president of the Society and editor of the newsletter of May 1980 was Fred Wandersee.

Nominations sought for GVHS Board

John Colwell, the Society's Vice President, serves as the Nominations Committee Chairperson.

Nominees are being called for the election of board members at the September 2013 general membership meeting. Members will be elected to a three-year term. Current board members whose terms will expire on August 31, 2013 are: Don Anderson; Jerry Breth; Betty Crews and Jim Hera.

The board of directors meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the historic church. They conduct the business of the Society and set policies for the organization. Board members may also serve on one or more committees, which are: Program; Building and Grounds; Finance and Development; Wedding Review; Wedding Hosts; Building Construction; Media Evaluation; Historic Displays and Nominations.

Members of the board, officers and committee members are all unpaid volunteers.

If you would like to be a part of the Golden Valley Historical Society team please contact the Nominations Committee Chairperson, John Colwell. 763-377-1975; email: John@colwellcolour.com.

Dues statement

Annual dues for the Society are now being collected for the next fiscal year. This newsletter envelope includes a dues statement for those who have not yet renewed their membership. Lifetime members will not be receiving a dues statement but additional contributions are always welcome!