

Mary Lou Bennis
3845 Virginia Ave.
Wayzata, Mn. 55391



Deephaven Historical Society Newsletter
Spring Report 2004

Dear Fellow DHA members,



Election time is here again. Not only for the National, State and Local, but for your Deephaven Historical Society, also.

Last year we began staggered terms for the nine board seats. This year the one-year terms are up for renewal. These seats will be three-year terms. Up for re-election are Tom Anderson, Bob Gerlicher and Ruth Eldridge. DHS is accepting nominations for these three seats from now until April 7th. On or before April 15th, you will be receiving your ballot. You may vote by mail or come in person on the 24th of April to City Hall at 9:30 AM. If you chose to mail your ballot, send it to Deephaven City Hall, 20225 Cottagewood Road, Deephaven, MN 55331. Attn: DHS. All ballots received on or before April 25th will be counted.

DHS Meeting Schedule

Deephaven Historical Society meetings are held the last Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM at the City Hall. All members are welcome. These meetings involve planning and reporting by the committee chairs, the board, and the President. Plans for the upcoming year are discussed as well as decisions regarding the gathering and distribution of funds.

The following is a list of meeting dates that have been altered due to their proximity with several holidays:

- May 29th, 2004 will be held June 5, 2004
- November 27, 2004 will be held December 4, 2004
- No December 2004 meeting – Holiday party TBD

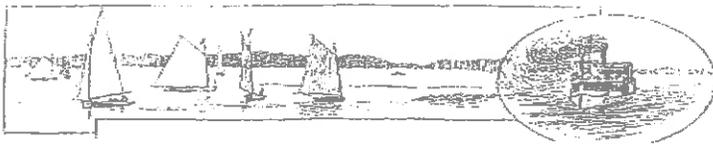
CHARLES HARALSON

Blanche Nichols Wilson in her book *MINNETONKA STORY* writes about fruit growing in Deephaven. Horticulturist Charles Haralson's home stands on Minnetonka Boulevard at Honeysuckle Lane. He came from Jareda, Sweden and learned English after his arrival.



While working for Rose Hill nursery, he decided to devote his life's work to plants and fruit trees. As assistant to Dr. Niels Hansen of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture, he traveled through Russia, China and northern European countries. He gathered plants, grasses and fruits which could be crossed with American varieties to survive out northern climate.

When Haralson became superintendent of the Minnesota University Fruit Breeding Farm at Zumbra Heights in 1897, he developed over a 10 year period, a large, red, delicious winter apple for the Dakotas and Minnesota—the Haralson apple. Those 10 years of fruit breeding involved repeated grafting and hand pollination—the seedlings were then grafted onto other varieties of apples. Haralson also developed the Latham raspberry and worked with currents, as well as other apple varieties.



LAKE MINNETONKA TIME LINE

- 1670s** French trappers refer to Minnetonka as "*lac gros*" in the "*grand bois*," "Big lake in the woods"
- 1819** Ft. Snelling is established as north-westernmost army post on the U.S. frontier
- 1822** Fort Snelling teens, Joe Brown & Will Snelling paddle up Minnehaha Creek and **discover Lake Minnetonka**
- 1851** Important "Traverse de Sioux and Mendota Treaties" are **signed with Indians**, opening way for pioneer settlement
- 1852** Simon Stevens and Calvin Tuttle **re-discover** Lake Minnetonka, **build dam and sawmill** at Minnetonka Mills
- 1853** **First Hotel in lake area opens**, located at Mtka. Mills. Governor Alexander Ramsey visits lake. After learning that Indians call it "Min-ni-tanka," he officially names it Minnetonka. Pioneer Association headed by George Bertram arrives from New York and settles Excelsior
- 1854** The "Pre-emption Privilege Act" is extended to Minnesota Territory. Allows settlers to stake a claim. Village of Wayzata is laid out by Oscar Garrison and Alfred Robinson. Cook House built in Mound
- 1855** "Song of Hiawatha" is published by Longfellow. Puts Minnehaha Falls and Minnesota on the map. **First stagecoach begins operation** from Wayzata to St. Anthony and St. Paul, operates three times weekly. Cholera breaks out in Wayzata. First death is recorded
- 1857** Ginseng plants found growing wild. Digging the sought-after medicinal roots brings quick money to many
- 1858** Minnesota admitted to the Union. **Becomes the 32th state** on May 11, 1858
- 1860** Rev. Charles Galpin of Excelsior **builds first steamboat**, named the "*Governor Ramsey*." Lincoln elected president
- 1862** **Indian uprising** at New Ulm panics local settlers, many head for safety at Fort Snelling. Others board boats to Big Island
- 1867** Railroad comes to Minnetonka, first train arrives at Wayzata on the 25th of July
- 1868** First propeller steamboat, the "*Sue Gardiner*," launched by Charles Gardiner
- 1869** Following the Civil War, **visitors begin arriving** from the deep south. Area seen as healthy, cool nights, and beautiful
- 1876** Editor A.S. Dimond begins publication of *Lake Minnetonka Tourist*. Chapman House opens in Mound on 4th of July
- 1879** Sir Charles Gibson opens Hotel St. Louis in Deephaven. **First major hotel** on the lake, 200 rooms. Huge Lake Park Hotel at Tonka Bay is also completed and open
- 1881** 1000 passenger, 160 ft. "*City of St. Louis*" steamboat, owned by W. D. Washburn, launched at Wayzata on June 4th
- 1882** Not to be outdone, James J. Hill builds enormous Hotel Lafayette at Mtka Beach. Also commissions "*Belle of Minnetonka*." The 300 foot steamboat **dwarfs all others**. Great rivalry develops with the "*City of St. Louis*." Minnetonka Yacht Club is organized. George Brackett becomes first Commodore
- 1883** *Glory Years* at Minnetonka are here. Hundreds of visitors arrive weekly. **10,000 guests were registered** in the three major hotels during June & July
- 1885** With his railroad tracks now reaching Spring Park, J.J. Hill opens Hotel Del Otero. One of the largest on the lake. It will survive for the next sixty years. Keeywaydin Hotel also opens in Cottagewood
- 1892** Heyday of the big steamboats is drawing to a close. "*Belle of Minnetonka*" remains tied to the dock all summer. An **incredible new sailboat** the "*Onawa*" is designed and built in Deephaven by Arthur Dyer for the Burton family. The "*Onawa*" sweeps every race in which it is entered
- 1897** Hotel Lafayette destroyed by fire. The *Glory Years* are ending. One by one, the fabulous hotels & huge steamboats are disappearing. **Guests from the South and East are going elsewhere**
- 1904** Excelsior Casino opens on the shore at the foot of Water St. Features a bowling alley, restaurant and a roller skating rink
- 1905** *Golden Years arrive*. Excelsior residents **awake to the rumble of streetcars** on Water Street. Thomas Lowry's Twin City Rapid Transit Company is about to forever change Lake Minnetonka
- 1906** Six unique, fast **Express Boats** resembling their yellow streetcar cousins, **are launched in Excelsior**, and begin new shuttle service to anywhere on the lake. TCRT also opens a Picnic and Amusement Park on Big Island. *Minnetonka once more comes alive*. J.J. Hill relents and constructs new train depot at Wayzata. Said to be the finest on the line
- 1911** First bridge spans the Narrows replacing hand operated ferry. President Wm Howard Taft tours the lake and makes Lafayette Club his summer White House. **TCRT abruptly closes Big Island operations** at end of season. Ferry, excursion boats and island structures are dismantled
- 1925** Excelsior Amusement Park opens. Has a roller coaster, merry-go-round, ferris wheel, a fun house and other attractions
- 1926** Ridership has fallen off sharply. Streetcar boat operations are suspended. **Three boats, including the "*Minnehaha*," are sunk in deep water** off Big Island
- 1945** Hotel Del Otero burns on July 4th. **Last of the big hotels**, the end of an era
- 1973** Excelsior **Amusement Park closes** on Labor Day, September 3, after forty nine seasons of operation
- 1996** **Discovered, raised and restored**, the steamboat "*Minnehaha*" is returned once more to passenger service on the lake

HEATHCOTE

Originally from England, the Heathcote family settled in New York State where father and son ran a jewelry business. Grandson Edwin with his wife Josepha moved to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1926. Edwin invested in real estate. However, the stock market crash of 1929 and the Depression of the 1930s wiped out much of this value.

Edwin bought 64 acres in Deephaven from Charles Bratnover in the 1930's. The acreage included a small farm called AP-Berry Farm with its orchards and a large house at 18405 Minnetonka Boulevard. The house, stone pillars, tennis court, main house and cottage still stand. The 64 acres included the present Thorpe Park, Hillcrest Road and the Heathcote Road Addition (south almost to the railroad line). In 1941 the property was sold to the present owners.

BRACKETT'S BATTALION

Minnesota Cavalry in the Civil War and Dakota War
Kurt D. Bergemann

Amidst the chaos of a two-front war—one against the Confederacy and the other against the Dakota Indians—Brackett's Battalion of Minnesota Cavalry transformed from raw recruits into seasoned and battle-hardened troops and served longer than any other Minnesota unit in the Civil War.

After two years in the Southern theater of the Civil War, *Brackett's Battalion* became part of the Northwestern Indian Expedition of 1864 and rode into Dakota Territory to seek out and engage the Indians in response to the attacks on settlers in Minnesota. On July 28, 1864, during a decisive battle against a large Dakota contingent at Killdeer Mountain, Brackett's men conducted a remarkable three-mile-long saber charge that resulted in vicious hand-to-hand combat and eventually turned the tide of the battle.

Told through the extant journals, diaries, and letters of the troopers themselves, Brackett's *Battalion* brings to light a long neglected aspect of Minnesota's role in the Civil War and reveals a side of the conflict rarely portrayed in the war's literature.

Kurt D. Bergemann has long been a student of the Civil War. This book is a result of his research on his great-great-grandfather, who served in Brackett's Battalion.

MINNESOTA IN THE MAIL

A Postcard History

Bonnie G. Wilson

"Arrived safely, will write more later."
"Having a wonderful time, wish you were here." The briefest of messages, displayed for all the world to see, is scrawled across the back of a picture postcard of a placid lake or a small-town main street. Historic black-and-white images, gorgeous linen postcards and contemporary chromes all tell stories of the state and its visitors over the decades.

In *Minnesota in the Mail*, curator and postcard collector Bonnie G. Wilson highlights both the images and the curious stories behind them. Using 185 postcards selected from the extensive collection of the Minnesota Historical Society, she helps readers understand the needs and wants of postcard makers and senders, at the same time sharing historical details that go beyond the captions and messages. Grouped in four categories—towns, businesses, families, and vacations—are postcards showing resorts and main streets, the world's largest ball of twine and a barber shop on a railroad train, oversized fiberglass sculptures and ads for flour, an Ojibwe family and a woman baking in her kitchen.

Wilson's concise history of the postcard industry is a helpful overview for postcard enthusiasts and novices alike. For those interested in learning how to "read" a postcard—beyond the penned messages and preprinted captions—a postcard primer offers a starting point, while cards and captions throughout the book illustrate this practiced skill. Details about regional publishers, including brief business histories and signature elements, are gathered in an appendix that collectors will appreciate.

For over a hundred years, postcards have been created to show off a place and the people in it. *Minnesota in the Mail* uses these exquisitely distilled depictions to display the images and identity of the state itself.

"*Minnesota in the Mail is a handful of terrific books wrapped up in one cover. On the one hand, it's a detailed guide to collecting, identifying, and understanding the cards themselves; who made them and why, how they were used and when. Beyond*

that, however, Bonnie Wilson offers a delightful mini-history of Minnesota in pictures—a saga composed of snatches and snippets gleaned from the messages on backs of cards and the scenes illustrated on their fronts.”

--Karal Ann Marling, author of *Blue Ribbon: A Social and Pictorial History of the Minnesota State Fair and Merry Christmas! Celebrating American's greatest Holiday*

Bonnie G. Wilson, a collector of postcards since her teens, is curator of sound and visual collections at the Minnesota Historical Society.

School Days.....School Days

Have you ever been sitting around the lake on a warm summer afternoon just daydreaming? You probably were thinking about the Deephaven School and all of the great times your parents, you and your children had while attending. Then it dawns on you that you have never seen a picture of Deephaven School from 1919. Well, for all of you daydreamers, here it is:



Thank you Harry and Helen Peters for your donation of this lovely picture.

Committees:

Finance	Dan Nelson	952-449-0730
Publicity/Publ.	Bob Gerlicher	952-474-7248
Museum Dev.	Tim Alt & Mark Read	952-470-8889 952-474-4091
Newsletter	Bill Robinson	952-473-3130

Mark your Calendar with these dates circled for attending the Historical Society meetings at City Hall.

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