



## Deephaven Historical Society Newsletter Winter Report 2009



### Christmas in January!!!!

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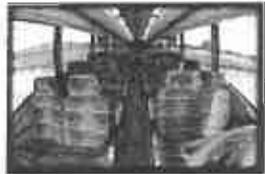


That's right....Christmas in January! ....Unfortunately, The Deephaven Historical Society was unable to arrange our annual Christmas get together in December, so not to disappoint, we put together an exciting

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> event !**

to be held at the Minnesota State Historical Center in St. Paul. DHS has scheduled a **VIP lecture and tour of the State Historical Facility!**

**WHEN : Meet at City Hall @ 10:30 AM** for cookies and cider. We will depart **the Deephaven City Hall @ 11:00 AM sharp** by **luxury motor coach** and return from the State Historical



Center @ 3:00PM arriving back in Deephaven at about 4:00 PM.



Upon arrival at the State Historical Center, the group will eat lunch “on your own” in the cafeteria. Promptly at 1:00 we will regroup in the Rotunda and will be escorted to the “Congress Room” in the library where State Historical Staff will present exciting and useful information about preservation and storage of artifacts as well as info about the State Facility. Following the lecture, we will be given a VIP tour of the facility. What an exciting and entertaining day we have planned!

**To reserve your seat, please call Nan Nicolle @ 952-473-3682.**

**The cost of the trip is \$10 for DHS members and \$15 for guests.**

The bus can only accommodate 45 people so please reserve your seat early! Our last event attracted over 65 people.

**Part 5—History of St. Louis Bay – by Barb Sykora**

During the week of July 20, 1878, leaders of commerce and industry from both Minneapolis and St. Louis, Missouri gathered at Gibson's prestigious Northome estate on Lake Minnetonka. Minneapolis political, business, social and cultural leaders of the day, such as Mayor Rand, Richard Chute, W.D. Washburn and his brother, C.C. Washburn and Professor Folwell of the University of Minnesota welcomed the delegates from St. Louis and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. These businessmen and elected officials from St. Louis and Cedar Rapids were invited by the managers of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad to show the grandeur of Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota's great agricultural district and the thriving city of Minneapolis. About one hundred and fifty men and women were shown all the large manufacturing plants, the Falls at St. Anthony, and the lakes of the region. A day was spent at Lake Minnetonka where the men had dinner outdoors under the trees, while the ladies in the party were served in the dining room at Gibson's Northome estate.



Several men including Gibson made speeches that day. He spoke of wanting to show the group from St. Louis and Cedar Rapids what Minnesota and Lake Minnetonka had to offer. He sought the advancement and improvement of the lake area. Gibson said that all should be indebted to W.D. Washburn and the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad for the trip. "St. Louis and Minneapolis are and will ever be the largest and greatest cities along the west bank of the Mississippi River."

He talked about bringing in the two cities together and urged that there be no rivalry between the two cities. He hoped that all western cities would unite and make one common cause of all western interests. By bringing the men of the south here to Minneapolis, he would show how all were alike with the same common interests. By bringing the men of the south here to Minneapolis, he would show how all were alike with the same common interests: Make the Mississippi from the Falls at St. Anthony to the Gulf be improved, have faster mail service from Minneapolis to St. Louis Railroad and let Lake Minnetonka be the natural resort for those from the south.



William D. Washburn, miller, water-power owner, railroad president and the Republican congressional candidate spoke next to the distinguished group and said he arranged this excursion because after he started the railroad he was surprised at how unknowledgeable the people of St. Louis were about Minneapolis. He said that the people of St. Louis were uneducated about the vast and beautiful region of our state and he made up his mind to arrange this trip and the easy way to get here would be through his railroad!

As far back as 1869, Washburn conceived the idea to bring a line of railroads to Minneapolis and furnish an outlet to the Great Lakes and be independent of Chicago. In a letter to his brother, Cadwallader, dated June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1869, Washburn was "worried at the shape railroad matters are taking. Our St. Paul friends are doing everything in their power to centralize all the railroad interest of the state there." According to Washburn, 1878 marked the beginning of the upgrade movement in commerce and trade in Minneapolis. It was the year that established commercial independence and the railroads made all this happen.

*Continued on page 3 ...*

**Continued ...Part 5—History of St. Louis Bay by Barb Sykora**

Without the completion of these railroads from Albert Lea, Minnesota to Minneapolis, the expansion of the state in commerce and industry would have not been successful. Also, the masses of people they hoped would come to visit Lake Minnetonka would not have been successful if not for the railroads. With the railroads came progress and continued development of the state of Minnesota.



St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, 1874

On the following day, the former governor of Missouri, B. Gratz Brown, gave a farewell speech to the excursionists. He spoke of trying to travel and visit the Falls at St. Anthony, thirty years earlier. He traveled by steamer and was left fifty miles below on a sandbank and never succeeded in getting to the Falls until W. B. Washburn, president of the Minneapolis and St. Louis railway, completed the direct line of connections to St. Louis. He also spoke of how important it was to have a railroad running north to south. He said that all progress here in the United States was streaming east to west, but now along with improved navigation on the Mississippi River, both cities will prosper.

As Minneapolis and the state grew in population, on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1878, and filed on October 28, 1878, Victor R. Gibson, Charles S. Gibson's oldest son, purchased 108.55 acres from Elijah and Mariah Carson. It was described as "the west half of the northwest quarter of section nineteen, township 117, range 22 and lot two in section 24 in township 117, range 23, containing 108.55 acres of land according to Government survey of the same." As a land title attorney, Gibson foresaw the opportunity in developing the lands that his son just purchased. The total cost of the land was \$2,713.75. It was agreed that \$1,150.00 was paid to Carson at the time of purchase and \$800. would be paid one year from the date of closing and the balance of \$813.75 plus interest paid the following year.

Little is remembered of Elijah Carson. He was born in Somerset County, Maine in 1806 and spent his first thirty years there. He then spent one year in Chicago where he lost his whole family except for one daughter. He moved to Excelsior in 1855, and purchased 119 acres of land, which was then still considered part of Excelsior Township on an inlet of Lake Minnetonka called Pig Inlet. He married his second wife, Mariah in 1866. The inlet was renamed Carson's Bay after he and his wife lived there for over thirty years.



On October 28, 1878, there was a quit claim deed filed to Charles Gibson and Alonzo Slayback, an attorney and friend of Charles Gibson who was also from St. Louis, Missouri. This included them on the original purchase from Carson. Then on November 22, 1879, Charles Eginton, administrator for Thomas Eginton, paid off the mortgage and interest of \$1,613.75 to Elijah Carson. Eginton then paid off Charles Gibson and his wife Virginia, Alonzo W. Slayback and his wife, and Victor Gibson on February 26, 1879 the amount of \$1,150.00 for the portion they paid as a group when the property was first purchased from Elijah Carson.

*To be continued in our next newsletter....*

**DHS Meeting Schedule**

Deephaven Historical Society Meetings are held the last Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM at City Hall Council Chambers. **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.



# DHS

**Acknowledgements –  
Current members  
Thank You!**

John Ahern  
 Tim & Pat Alt  
 Tom & Nancy Anderson  
 Steven & Leah Barnacle  
 Marty Baskerville  
 John & Nan Beard  
 Mary Lou Bennis  
 David & Marion Bickford  
 Don & Moonyeen Bongaards  
 Dianne H. Brackett  
 Richard & Jean Brown  
 Barbara Burgum  
 John & Janette Burton  
 Mildred L. Carbonneau  
 Alan & Sarah Dale  
 Donald Davis

John Dupont  
 Robert & Judith Evans  
 Mrs. Paul Flaten  
 M.J. Florance, Jr.  
 Judi Forsmark  
 Rosemary Fruehling  
 Furst Foundation  
 Rob & Ann Furst  
 Jerry & Pam Gens  
 Bob Gerlicher  
 Paul & Ann Gesme  
 Marty Gilbert  
 Rosemary Gluek  
 Louise Heffelfinger  
 Barbara & Leslie Hexum  
 Gordon & Betty Huber  
 Kathleen Jewett  
 Burton Johnson  
 James & Camilla Johnson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jones II  
 Sheila Laughlin

Walter & Constance Linder  
 Robert & Siri Marshall  
 Doug McNaught  
 Nancy Middleton  
 Mark & Michelle Mitchell  
 Edgar & Elizabeth Morsman  
 Chris & Sandra Napolitano—Wallace  
 Sue Neff  
 Dan & Joan Nelson  
 Nan Nicolle  
 Ed & Charty Oliver  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Peters  
 Judd Peterson  
 Julia Cole Peterson  
 Tom Pokonosky  
 Ronald Poole  
 David Pratt

Gary & Susan Rappaport  
 Mark A. Read  
 Dorothy C. Robb  
 Bill & Donna Robinson  
 Ben & Roamaine Shank, Jr.  
 Craig & Maureen Shaver  
 Clinton & Lois Shaw  
 Paul Skrede  
 Lewis Sopko  
 Peggy Stefan  
 Tom Sween  
 Bryan & Barbara Sykora  
 Robert & Nancy Woodburn  
 Dr. Gary & Vicki Wyard  
 George & Cynthia Yared

**Take advantage of the books that are available for sale at City Hall!**

Picturesque Deephaven	\$15.95
The Excelsior Amusement Park	\$11.95
Life in the Early Days of Cottagewood	\$ 6.25
A Post Card History	\$25.00
Sunsets	\$50.00
Lake Minnetonka 1850 – 2000	\$32.00
Lake Minnetonka 1905	\$20.00
The 1893 Handbook & Souvenir	\$10.00
Minnetonka Yacht Club Centennial 1882 – 1982	\$15.95
Tales of the Steamboat Minnehaha 1906—2006	\$20.00
Minnesota Vacation Days	\$34.95

**DHS Committee**

**Finance**  
 Tom Anderson 952-474-3515  
**Publicity / Publ.**  
 Bob Gerlicher 952-474-7248  
**Museum Development**  
 Tim Alt 952-470-8889  
 Mark Read 952-474-4091  
**Newsletter**  
 Bill Robinson 952-473-3130

Meetings held the last Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM in the Deephaven City Council Chambers.  
 All Members Welcome!

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