

Early Meeting Minutes from the Watertown Area Historical Society (WAHS)

First Three Months, May-July 1998

May 19, 1998

The first Watertown Area Historical Society meeting was held on May 19, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. in the Watertown Community Center. The guest speaker was David Nystuen, Field Service Coordinator for the Minnesota Historical Society. He was invited by Earline King and Corky Ibeling to speak on establishing a historical society in Watertown.

Mr. Nystuen gave a brief history of the Minnesota Historical Society. He stressed the importance of preserving a community's heritage by doing oral and written history, taking pictures of every building in the downtown area and of every home in the community. An example would be to collect a picture of when the house was built along with the date and address, and a current picture (dated) of what the house looks like now. Mr. Nystuen gave pointers on raising membership, long-range goals, projects for the public to become involved in and sources to find funds. He also said this is a good time to be starting, with the year 2000 just around the corner. It is hoped that every community throughout the state will be doing something.

Earline King gave a brief summary of how she has used the research she has done to compliment the third grade Social Studies units.

A question and answer session prevailed. The meeting ended at 8:30 P.M. The next meeting scheduled will be printed in the Carver County News.

Attendees:

- Mr. and Mrs. David Nystuen - Field Service Coordinator for the Minnesota Historical Society
- Mr. Jim Bart - Editor of the Carver County News
- Mrs. Earline King - 3rd grade teacher at the Watertown Elementary School
- Mrs. Corky Ibeling - Driver for the Watertown School District
- Ms. Marie Luptak - Clerical and Secretarial Skills
- Mrs. Iona Meyer - Cartographer
- Mrs. Chris Boerner - Education
- Mrs. Barb Carlson - Genealogist
- Mr. Jim Gothmann - Retired
- Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Adelle Peterson - Retired Farmer
- Mrs. Jann Anderson - Nurse
- Mr. K.J. McDonald - Retired State U.S. Representative

June 11, 1998

The Watertown Area Historical Society meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 11, 1998 with minutes of the May 19, 1998 meeting being read by acting Secretary, Marie Luptak. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a few brief facts about themselves. The President, Earline King; Vice President, Corky Ibeling; Secretary, Marie Luptak; Treasurer, Barb Carlson; Website, Annie Lahtinen; Membership, Jann Anderson.

Yearly membership dues were discussed and agreed upon as follows:

Senior Citizen (55 and over)	\$10.00
Junior Members	\$3.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Patron	Donation
Charter Member (one-time fee)	\$50.00

The address of the Watertown Area Historical Society will be:

309 Lewis Avenue South
P.O. Box 836
Watertown, Minn. 55388

The first order of business discussed was of a county-wide quilt. The Carver County Historical Society needs ideas from the Watertown Area Historical Society (WAHS) for a quilt being made of the whole county. WAHS suggestions were of possible pictures from the following:

- Railroad Bridge
- Dr. McCann's Office
- Caleb Lewis' Tombstone
- Napa Building
- Harms Building
- St. Peter's Church
- Gazebo at Public Cemetery

The Watertown Rails to Trails Festival will take place July 24 - 26, 1998. The old Watertown Post Office has been requested for the display of the Luce Line Railway. Dr. Niederkorn, Professional Model Builder, will be assisting with the displays and layout of the model train, researched by Earline King.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. The next meeting will take place on July 9, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. in the Watertown Community Center.

Members present were: Jim B., Earline, Corky, Marie, Iona, Chris, Barb, Jim G., Glen, Adelle, Lilly and Jann.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Luptak
Secretary

July 9, 1998

The WAHS meeting came to order at 7:00 P.M. with President King presiding. Members present were: Marie Luptak, Earline King, Barbara Carlson, Jim Bart, Jim Gothman, Corrine Ibeling, Annie Lahtinen, Jann Anderson, Evelyne Swanson, Molly Hoff, Christina Boerner, Lilly Luke, Adelle Peterson, Glen Peterson and Iona Meyer.

The minutes of June 11, 1998 were read and approved.

The Treasurer, B. Carlson, stated that the Society has two new members - one Charter and one Senior for \$55.00. The bills reported were \$14.00 for the post office box and keys and \$17.65 for printing. The cost of printing was cleared by the Carver County News.

President King reported that while on her trip to Louisiana, she met two teachers from Watertown, Connecticut. One teacher's class has done history of their town and plans to share that with King. They will compare research regarding the Lewis family who lived in different parts of Connecticut, but left that state in 1830.

President King inquired whether the Society would be interested in spotlighting a town in the Watertown area that no longer exists. Hazelton was suggested. President King will write an article for the newspaper and include the history of Addie Street, of which parts of are being excavated by the City of Watertown. (Addie Street was named after Isaac I. Lewis' daughter and Caleb Lewis' granddaughter.)

Vice President Ibeling stated that the old post office had been secured for the Rails to Trails festival display of the Luce Electric Short Line History. The amount of \$25.00 Ibeling would donate to the Society so that we could be represented at the Watertown Business Expo on November 14, 1998. Molly Hoff offered to get information about the Carver County Fair so we could be represented there also. It was noted that Waconia and Delano have expos and that information would be attained from them in the future.

Vice President Ibeling will be calling on volunteer members to staff the table and oversee the displays at the Rails to Trails Festival, beginning July 24-26, 1998. A suggestion was made to set up patio tables and chairs and serve refreshments for a donation. Molly Hoff volunteered to check with McDonald for the donation of the refreshments. The overlapping of one hour of Society members was suggested so that shift changes would go smoothly.

Leanna Brown from the Waconia Historical Society has invited us to have a meeting at their Society in the near future.

New Business will be to work on the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation. A special meeting was set by Vice President Ibeling for July 16, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Center to focus on the Rails to Trails Festival schedule of volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. with Corrine Ibeling first and Christine Boerner seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Luptak

July 16, 1998

The members present at this meeting who signed in are: Marie Luptak, Earline King, Ann Lahtinen, Corky Ibeling, Lilly Luke, Adelle Peterson and Jann Anderson.

An informal meeting was called by Vice President Corrine Ibeling to discuss the schedule of volunteers for the Rails to Trails Festival and the setup for the membership drive. A sheet was passed around for people to sign up for the time they could help.

President King reported that Martin Hrabe will be at the Rails to Trails Festival between 10:00 and 11:00 A.M. He is putting together a tape for Cable TV.

A discussion took place about making a website for the Watertown Area Historical Society. It was tabled for another meeting after the Rails to Trails Festival.

President King read the article for the History Corner to be printed in the Carver County News.

The meeting closed and all members went to the old post office building to plan the layout for the displays.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Luptak