805 Minnesota

Construction of a 1 ½ story frame house was completed in the fall of 1910. The house belonged to John O. Hoganson. His brother Anton boarded there. The two brothers owned the Model Dry Cleaning House in Bemidji. They moved out of this six room house Nov 1, 1912. George and Susan (Simenson) Sthol lived there for a few years. The house had porches on both the east and west ends of the house. Nels Rode lived there from about 1924-1935 when he moved to Dewey Avenue. All three lots, 801, 803, and 805, do not have dwellings on them at this time.

807 Minnesota

In March 1907, a number of children were entertained at this home for the birthdays of Merideth and Mercedes Clark, the son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark. The house belonged to Emmet Burns in 1913. A young couple, Mr. and Mrs. N. Burns returned from a short honeymoon and made their home at 807 Minnesota avenue in March 1916. C. C. Burns also lived at this address. This became the Simenson home. Leo Simenson enlisted in the naval militia in Bemidji in 1915, and when the Bemidji boys received the “call” he went with them. He never regained his health. He died at the age of 28 on April 10, 1921. Miss Susan Mae Simenson became the bride of George Andrew Sthol in a home wedding on Nov 15, 1919. The bride was attractively attired in taupe satin, and carried white bride's roses. The only guests were the immediate families of the contracting parties, and Rev. and Mrs. Warford. A wedding dinner was served after the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Sthol then moved next door to 805 Minnesota avenue. The house continued as the home of Emma Simenson and her son Sidney Simenson, a baggageman for the Great Northern Railway. She rented out rooms to working girls. Emma Simenson was a partner in the O’Leary Bowser Company in 1921. Sidney Simenson died in 1923. The house then went to Charles and Nora Wagner about 1922. He worked for the M & I railroad. They lived there for about ten years until they moved to Los Angeles.

Harry Pearson worked for the county highway department from 1936 until retiring in 1975. He and his wife Margaret moved to Bemidji and into this house in 1943 and the house stayed in the family for nearly fifty years. They raised four sons, Charles, Stanley, Raymond and Clinton. Charles was a Green Beret in the U.S. Army with 21 years of service. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding on Nov 3, 1977. Harry Pearson died Jan 1984. Margaret Pearson died on April 4, 1997. She lived at 807 until at least 1991.

809 Minnesota Avenue

This lot was sold to Judson J. Cameron for $250 on Nov 29, 1907. The house was built about 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Marc Adams set up housekeeping at 809 Minnesota following their honeymoon in Minneapolis in June 1912. August Streiber and family were living here when he died during the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918. The next residents were Anton
On behalf of the board of directors, I am pleased to announce we have a new board member. Former Judge Terry Holter joined us in April. Mr. Holter is a long-time Bemidji resident. He brings knowledge of Bemidji history and a strong desire to learn, preserve and share history.

We have two board members stepping off the board effective June 30th. Linda Lemmer has been a board member since 2012. Ms. Lemmer has been a very hard-working board member and for a time served as president of the board. Linda always could be depended upon to work on our fundraisers. Without her involvement, many projects would not have been successful. The board wishes her the very best and hopes she knows how much she’ll be missed.

Andy Mack has been a board member for 12 years (2005 to 2017). The board has appreciated Andy’s knowledge of the restoration of the Great Northern Depot and help with his connection with the City of Bemidji. He has always been willing to offer his advice and help wherever needed. His connection with the railroad club, knowledge of the railroads in the area, and connection with many people who have knowledge of the early history of railroads in Beltrami County has offered much to the history center for all those years. Andy will be missed but we know we’ll be able to call him if we have questions.

Good luck Linda and Andy—thank you for being such a major part of the Beltrami County Historical Society.

Summer means that we will see an increase in visits from tourists coming to Bemidji. Don’t forget to bring your family and visitors to the museum. Our pop-up WWI exhibit will be on display until late fall.

Check out this newsletter for upcoming events at the Depot this summer and fall.

Have a great summer and see you at the Depot!

The mission of the Beltrami County Historical Society is to provide connections to county history through public archives, collections, interpretive exhibits, and programs that educate, invite dialogue, and inspire self-reflection.

### Affinity Plus
Federal Credit Union
1510 Bemidji Ave N
Bemidji—312-9907

### Beltrami Electric Cooperative
4111 Technology Dr NW
Bemidji—444-2540

### Bemidji Bus Line
1507 Naylor Dr SE
Bemidji—751-5311

### Bemidji Veterinary Hospital
3610 Comfort Dr NW
Bemidji—751-2753

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Our World War I centennial exhibit is on display through autumn. Check out this issue’s double-page spread (6-7) for more information. Make sure you’re subscribed to our Facebook, Twitter and other social media feeds for the latest on related activities and events throughout its run, including movie screenings, lectures, and a special history book club selection that looks at warfare through a literary lens. (Orwell, anyone?) Please note: our research room remains open and available for the duration of the exhibit.

In other Society news, the BCHS bylaws have been revised and must be voted on before officially taking effect. Voting will take place during our annual meeting on Saturday, June 24th and all members in good standing are eligible (and encouraged!) to cast ballots. In advance of the meeting, proposed amendments will be available for review on our website (www.beltramihistory.org). You may also request a hard copy through the mail, or obtain one in person at the history center during regular business hours. Call or write with any questions: (218) 444-3376 or depot@beltramihistory.org.

We hope you’ll make an effort to attend—ours is a member driven organization; your involvement and input benefit the work we do. Members will also have an opportunity to vote on the incoming executive committee, and to weigh in on collection items slated for deaccession. Please contact us if you’re unsure of your membership status; renewals can be processed over the phone, or by mailing your dues along with the completed slip found on the back of this newsletter.

Safe travels this summer...we hope the Great Northern Depot is one of your destinations!

yours, Gary.
Calendar of Events

**June 24: Annual Meeting**
A members-only event. Following a brief meeting to conduct society business, including a referendum on proposed amendments to our bylaws and the ceremonial induction of honorary and lifetime members, guest lecturer Michael Meuers will present “The Teachings of Larry Stillday,” a well-known spiritual leader, healer and teacher from Red Lake Nation who touched many Ojibwe people in northern Minnesota. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors: new members are welcome, but must have their dues paid in full before **Saturday, June 24th at 12:00 p.m.**

**July 2: Independence Day Parade**
Hooray for history! Celebrate America’s 241st birthday and help cheer on the Historical Society as we march in the Bemidji Jaycees’ 73rd Annual Water Carnival Parade. Watch for our float — a restored baggage cart used on Great Northern Railway passenger trains — along the parade route on **Sunday, July 2nd at 1:00 p.m.**

**July 29: Depot Day!**
Our annual open house is the perfect way to spend a summer day — free admission to our galleries, children’s activities, souvenir photo station, and more! Plus, try out our new telegraph and learn how depot agents of days gone by communicated (on loan courtesy of the Headwaters Science Center). **10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**August 9-13: County Fair**
Find BCHS at the Beltrami County Fair just inside the main entrance at the Doud Cabin and Sunnyside School. Step in the Doud Cabin to enter Beltrami County’s Pioneer Era. Make ice cream, churn butter, master your rope-making skills, enjoy a scavenger hunt, and socialize with our volunteers and BCHS Board Members. All of this and more at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds, 2 1/2 miles north of Bemidji off Highway 71. For more information visit: beltramicountyfair.org.

*For the latest calendar updates go to our website: http://beltramihistory.org/events*
Doehle, a bookkeeper for the American Cedar Co. and his wife Mary. The property was sold by the Camerons to A. T. Guiness in 1924. There was a turnover in residents until it became known as the McLaurie property. Edward McLaurie and wife Merle moved to Bemidji in January 1968. He was a veteran of World War II and a member for the Bemidji VFW. In 1978, Edward McLaurie was retired; he died in June 1985. Merle worked at North Country Regional Hospital and was a volunteer at the Bemidji Senior Citizens center.

813 Minnesota Avenue

H. Rhoda purchased this lot for $50 on Jan 23, 1900. A hotel owner, Roscoe Miller, was living in the house in 1904. In 1914, this 8-room house was up for sale for $1850. Frank Patterson purchased it. In August 1920, about forty ladies made an unannounced call on Miss Arvilla Patterson for a surprise pre-nuptial shower. Her marriage to A. T. Guiness took place on September 6, 1920. The evening was spent in a social way, with music, and a delightful lunch which the self-invited guests provided. The young couple shared the home during the 1920's with her parents. Mrs. Patterson died in 1926. Frank S. Patterson celebrated his 75th birth anniversary on Feb 20, 1931, by entertaining several of his old friends at a supper at his home at 813 Minnesota Ave. The invited guests were Thomas Brennan, Garry Brennan, George Brennan, Harry Bowers, Sr., Joe McTaggart, Al Collard, Frank Miller, Robert Brownlee, Alex Cameron, Dan Gainey, and Robert Miller. Frank Patterson died in 1939. In the 1950's, the house was occupied by Felix and Myrtle St. John, and Mrs. Kathryn McCormick. The house was owned by Ken K. Thompson by 1964 and belonged to them until at least 1989. An open house was held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ken K. Thompson on their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept 8, 1974.

817 Minnesota Avenue

Zelotis Henry Haney purchased lots 4 & 5 for $50 each on Dec 9, 1899 from the Bemidji Townsite Co. It became the home of James Cahill by 1904. James Cahill was appointed warden for the State Game & Fish Commission in October 1908. Jim Cahill had previously been a cruiser for several local lumber companies and had much needed practical experience in the woods. Several families moved in and out until Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Shannon moved to the house in March 1918. On May 16, 1920, their daughter Marjorie, a 1916 graduate of Bemidji High School, was married to R. George Mawhinney, an employee of the First National Bank. The ceremony was very simple and was performed in the presence of only the immediate family and a few close friends. After the ceremony, a buffet luncheon was served and the happy couple were escorted to the depot, and took the noon train for Deer River, where they attended the marriage of his sister, Mary, the next day on May 17, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brownlee, 125 Mill Park, purchased the residence at 817 Minnesota avenue in October 1921. He was a watchman at the lumbermill. The Presbyterian Division No. 1, known as the Apron Division, of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid met at the home of Mrs. Clifford Montague and Mrs. Robert Brownlee on Sept 19, 1922. Pearl Brownlee was married Nov 28, 1920 to Francis Clifford Montague, so the Montagues were the daughter and son-in-law. They lived there until about 1942. Clifford Montague was president of Palace Meat & Grocery. He died Nov 23, 1940. Kathryn Montague was born April 25, 1922 in Bemidji to Francis and Pearl (Brownlee) Montague and grew up in this house. She attended Central Elementary School and graduated from Bemidji High School, then attended French's Business College in Bemidji. She married Jule "Red" Basinger Nov. 28, 1945. In 1972, she and her husband began construction of the KOA Kampground in Bemidji and moved to Bemidji upon its completion and opening in 1973. They had owned and operated it at least until her death in 1995 and received numerous awards through the years for the campground and their work there. The house was owned by James and Evelyn LaMont by 1964. He was manager of the Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Company. Jim LaMont died at Bemidji Hospital on Feb 29, 1976. Evelyn LaMont lived in the house until her death in 1988.
Our Spring

BROCCOLI HOLLYWOOD

1 pkg. frozen cut or chopped broccoli
1 lb. can cream style corn
1 egg, beaten
⅛ c. soda crackers (crumbs)
2 tbsp. melted butter
1 tbsp. instant onion flakes
½ tsp. salt, dash of pepper

Mix together, pour into casserole. On top sprinkle - ⅛ c. cracker crumbs with 2 tbsp. melted butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min.

Marion Doyle - Secretary

Recent donations to our collection included the Pot Luck Cook Book: Recipes from Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Ralph Gracie Post 14. Thank you, Clifford G. Johnson!

Many thanks to the hard-working clean-up crew who helped make our first annual Spring Cleaning such a success: Jodey Tusler, Joelle Brunder, Jeannie Fenner, Bill Underbakke. Thanks also to Wal-Mart for materials & supplies.

1st Annual National Poetry Month open-mic night. (In Flanders Field, a WWI poem recited at the event, appears on page 7.)

North Country Dental
1311 Bemidji Ave N #601
Bemidji—751-1111

Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society
Bemidji—444-2111
As we approached the 100th anniversary of our country’s entrance into WWI, I realized how very little I knew about The Great War. Interested in the local and regional impact of the war, I dug through our archives at the History Center and found photos of young men training and marching. Soon I was reading old newspaper accounts about those young men leaving Bemidji to fight in a war across the Atlantic.

I read the memoir of a young nurse from Bemidji named May MacGregor, who crossed an ocean to care for injured men. I read about Ralph Gracie, the first Bemidji man to die in WWI. Through their stories, I could hear the heavy artillery of the fighting, see the spiraling crashes of fighter planes, read the terrifying “regret to inform you” letters, see the lists of “killed in action” in the local papers.

I pictured May -- the same age as my daughter is now -- in a mobile hospital, handing her rosary to a dying young soldier. I saw her preparing the body of a fellow nurse for burial. I looked away when she and the other nurses tried to relieve the pain of the men who had been exposed to mustard gas.

I saw 25-year-old Ralph Gracie shoot down an enemy plane, mark the spot, visit it later, and examine the bodies of the dead Germans, one whom he described as having a “youthful clean-cut face which might have belonged to some young American.” Just days later, Gracie’s plane was shot down.

As I wrote their stories, May and Ralph became friends, family. When I visited Gracie’s grave in Greenwood Cemetery, I brushed the dried grass clippings from the surface of his grave marker and read the dates that parenthesized his life. Not even 26 years old when he died, I thought – four years younger than my own son is today.

“I feel as if I know you,” I said as I ran my fingers over the recessed letters on the stone. “You’re not forgotten.”
Thank you to our sponsors!

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae, 1872 - 1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Please mark your calendars: our annual Fall Fundraiser will be held at the Bemidji Eagles Club on Thursday, October 5th, 2017. Tickets include your choice of dinner and a “live” presentation by Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States. All proceeds support the mission of the Beltrami County Historical Society. Call for advance sales Information: 218-444-3376.
**Beltrami County Historical Society**

**Annual Membership Benefits:**

- Free museum admission
- 3 hours of free assisted research
- 10% gift shop discount
- Voting privileges
- One-year subscription to the BCHS quarterly newsletter *The Depot Express*
- Perks at 300+ historic sites in the United States through the Time Travelers Network ([timetravelers.mohistory.org](http://timetravelers.mohistory.org)).

**Annual Beltrami County Historical Society Membership**

Name ________________________________
Address ____________________________________
City __________________ State ____ Zip _____
□ Charge my credit card or make check payable to:
*BCHS, 130 Minnesota Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601*
Card #____________________ Exp. Date____ Sec. Code___
Signature______________________________

**Membership Levels**

- □ Individual $25
- □ Family $45
- □ Sponsor $75
- □ Benefactor $100
- □ Patron $200
- □ Supporter $500

Thank you for supporting the Beltrami County Historical Society!

Your memberships and **tax-deductible** donations preserve collections of manuscripts, textiles, maps, photographs, and artifacts.

*BCHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Federal EIN: 41-1484638 / State of Minnesota Tax ID: 6530934*