



THE MINNETONKA MILLWHEEL FALL 2017



Minnetonka Historical Society's Antique Appraisal Event

Tuesday October 3rd 2017 7PM – 9PM
at the Minnetonka City Hall Community Room 14600 Minnetonka Blvd

Each exhibitor will individually tell the story of their item. Assessments will be captured on the big screen so the audience can enjoy an up close view. Two knowledgeable local professional appraisers will provide oral appraisals. Refreshments will also be served.

In previous years, we've seen objects ranging from \$200 to \$10,000 in value.

\$12.00 per item (Limit of 2 items per person) that you bring to be appraised by:
Mark Thompson of Muirfield Antiques, and James Marrinan of Appraisal Specialists Midwest
Sorry our registration slots are all filled now, but you can come and watch!



MHS Archive Project Phase 2 is approved for a Grant from MNHS!

The second phase of our MHS Archives Project was approved this month for a Minnesota Historical Society Legacy Grant of \$9,990. It will facilitate the hiring of a professional Curator and an Inventory Specialist to assess our collection and advise us on cataloging everything in it. It will also help us purchase the up to date digital equipment to record and preserve our archives that are now located in the Burwell House and Museum and our storage facility.

We have not undertaken a comprehensive inventory of our collection since the 1980s when it was created on an Apple II computer with obsolete software and printed on a dot matrix printer. So our goal for many years has been to inventory the MHS collection according to the best modern practices in archives management. This has been a daunting task with volunteers and no professional experts.

The advice of a professional Curator will help us to discern how our archives should be organized, what to include, and what should be de-accessioned from our collection. Having a comprehensive database of our archives utilizing Past Perfect software will ensure intellectual control of MHS's varied antiques, letters, maps, and photographs. This will ensure that easy access to them on a timely basis is greatly enhanced, and so that the collection information is appropriately managed for years to come.

Bill Jepson
President MHS

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this exciting project, or if you are interested in perhaps becoming a MHS board member, please contact us.

Minnetonka Historical Society Board 2017

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Jim Whisler - Director, Treasurer (jwhisler@deloitte.com)

MHS Monthly Email Newsletter

Petey Ellis, our newest MHS Board member has been writing a **Monthly MHS Newsletter** about our history and related events going on in Minnetonka!

The eighth one page issue was sent out by email this week in Sept. using our member list. Please let her know if you want to receive it by sending your updated email to
pellis7@cs.com.



MHS Minnetonka Mills Walking Tour led by our President Bill Jepson was well attended this summer. We hope to lead more tours next summer. They start at the Burwell House and walk along Minnehaha Creek past St David's school and church, as well as the business district and the little Pavilion Park which was the site of the lumber and flour mills of the 1800's. You can peruse the 200 slides of the tour from the home page of our website at minnetonka-history.org

MHS Calendar: Fall 2017

Oct. 3rd, Tuesday 7PM: Minnetonka City Hall - MHS Antique Appraisal Event

**Oct. 10th Tuesday 5PM to 8PM:
Minnetonka Open House at City Hall**

The Victorian Holiday decorated Burwell House will be open on Sundays from 1 to 4 for the whole month of November (5th,12th,19th,26th)

**Dec. 3rd Sunday 1PM to 4PM:
Burwell Victorian Holiday Open House**



Hatpin Vase donated by the Windahls

**Antique Furniture donated to the Minnetonka Historical Society by Pete, T and Zach Windahl
Here is their story in their own words with many thanks from MHS !**

My family has lived in Minnetonka Mills for the past 25 years. In fact, we've learned that our property on Plymouth Road South, near St. David's, was part of the Burwell farmland. The history of the Mills and Lake Minnetonka were among the reasons that we chose to live in the area. We have also been members of the MHS in years past. We love it here!

My wife "T" and I have always been interested in antiques and for me, this interest has evolved since my childhood. I was always interested in buried treasure, rooting around in my grandma's attic, fossil collecting and antiques. In fact, I spent 10 years producing interviews with some of the greatest archaeologists in the world when I was the Producer of a theatrical documentary motion picture called Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus. Perhaps you saw it!

Since my side of the family has always known of my love and respect for antiques, we have been the beneficiary of several items. Most recently, from my aunt, Zana Sehlin. Aunt Zana and my dad grew up in North Branch, MN. and their mother died when they were children, resulting in their split among two families. My dad lived with his grandmother in Isanti and my aunt lived with my great aunt Thelma in the Twin Cities. Thelma loved antiques and taught Zana to have a similar respect for our history and for the antiques represented at the time. The items that we donated to the Burwell House belonged to my great aunt Thelma and then to aunt Zana after Thelma's death in the 1980's. They always held a prominent place in their homes and were well cared for.



Thelma did the needlepoint on the East Lake style platform rocking chair that sits next to the grandfather clock in the Burwell House. This is an interesting piece as it shows the diminutive stature of people from the latter half of the 19th century. It is very small when compared to modern furniture today! This chair was manufactured sometime between 1850-1880 and is a grand example of the Victorian East Lake style. Great aunt Thelma also had the fireplace screen that will be displayed very soon at the Burwell House. Thelma purchased that screen during a trip to New York during the New York World's Fair when my aunt Zana was a young girl in the 1930's. Zana believes that it came from an antique store and she remembers that it was carefully packed and driven back to Minnesota. It was Thelma's pride and joy and Zana remembers that it was an expensive purchase. In fact, through our research, we have yet to see a more elaborate fireplace screen in this fragile but beautiful barley twist style. We believe that it is a true treasure in the Burwell House and we're so happy that thousands will get to enjoy it in the future! When you see the detail of the screen it is clear that a great deal of work went into it's manufacture. Since Zana gave the screen to me this spring, I have learned that it could be English in origin and the date of patent is September 15th, 1885...the month and day of our son's birthday!

Finally, the hat pins and vase are also unusual and rare examples of Victorian artwork. The key collectible period for hatpins began in about 1875. In the late 1800's they were extremely popular and hats of the era sat on hair that was ridiculously high! It took 3 to 6 hatpins to balance the hats on the hair. This vase looks like sterling silver and porcelain and could be an example of early art deco artwork. This is likely a turn of the century piece. And the women of the Burwell House surely used pins like these during events at and around the house!

It pains my wife and I to see that antiques have lost so much value during the past 15+ years. For that reason, "T" decided that these antiques should live on in history - safe and protected - and in a local "museum" of sorts - The Burwell House! It is our pleasure to bless the visitors of Burwell with these interesting and authentic antiques.



1885 Needlepoint Fireplace Screen for the Parlor



1870's Needlepoint Gliding Chair for the Dining Room

THE MILLWHEEL

Minnetonka Historical Society

C/O The City of Minnetonka

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MHS Membership

All of us in the Minnetonka Historical Society would like to invite you to become a member. With your membership, you will receive this semi-annual Historical Society Newsletter, "The Millwheel." You will be kept up to date with Society events and happenings in and around Minnetonka and have a 'voice' in preserving Minnetonka's past. We all greatly appreciate the support you have given us, so that we can continue with our vital projects and activities that preserve Minnetonka's heritage.

Individual: \$15.00, Family: \$15.00, Student: \$10.00, Senior: \$10.00

Contributor: \$25.00, Sponsor: \$50.00, Benefactor: \$100.00

Last Name: _____ First Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

This is a new membership ____ Yes ____ No Today's Date: _____

I would like to help the Minnetonka Historical Society by: _____