

WINTER/SPRING 2019

Our Mission

To preserve, document and classify the physical history of the Lake Minnetonka area. To provide a means by which everyone can share in the history of the lake area. To stimulate interest in the cultural heritage of the area.

Founded in 1972, the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society preserves the history of Lake Minnetonka and the communities of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay.

The Society's Museum and Archives are free and open to the public, and hold a large collection of historical artifacts and documents. It regularly presents programs and publishes books on topics of local historical interest.

ELMHS

PO Box 305

Excelsior, MN 55331

952-221-4766

info@elmhs.org

www.elmhs.org

ELMHS

Executive Director:

Rachel Houck

ELMHS

Board of Directors

President: Deanna Bunkelman

Vice President: Tom Williams

Treasurer: Cheryl Ahlcrona

Secretary: Scott Dake

Directors: Peter Kizilos-Clift, Francesca Landon, Mark Read, Tad Shaw, Lisa Stevens, Jacob Westman.

Emeritus Board Members:

Jerry Holl, Betty Peck

The Harborage

Exciting Changes for ELMHS in 2019!

First, I have to say a huge THANK YOU to those of you who contributed to our 2018 Annual Campaign! It has been a number of years since ELMHS sent out an annual appeal letter, and it was great to see the number of you who responded. The donations are still coming in, but so far we have received \$1,795. I will provide a final total and acknowledge all those who contributed in the next newsletter.

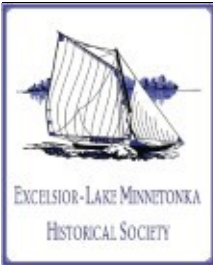
Looking forward in 2019—we are acquiring a new digital microfilm reader for our Archives! The new reader is made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The new reader will allow us to better use our microfilm collection for research, programming, and exhibits. The grant also provides funding for a new guest computer in the Archives so researchers, volunteers, and staff can view the microfilm on a computer screen and then either digitally save the material or print out a physical copy. It will also allow us to email material from microfilm to researchers around the world! This critical piece of equipment is fundamental to all the big strides we want to make in the coming year!



Also, we are creating new programming to serve youth! ELMHS is working with Annie Schilling to create new history summer camps for children ages 5 to 10. Schilling is writing curriculum for three summer camps for ELMHS this year. For more information or to enroll your children or grandchildren in these programs visit the Minnetonka Community Ed website after February 11. More details will also follow in the next newsletter! Schilling currently works for the Edina Foundation in Development Relations and formerly worked for the Edina Historical Society as the Interpretive Program Director.

If you would like to get involved with all the new amazing things happening this year at ELMHS, I would love to talk to you.

Rachel Houck
Executive Director
Director@elmhs.org



TAPPING HISTORY

Pints & Reflections on Lake Minnetonka's Past

Tapping History
Second Monday of the month
At Excelsior Brewing Company
421 Third Street, Excelsior
Free & Open to the Public.

Doors Open at 6:00pm, Program begins at 7:00pm.
Seating is First Come, First Served.

For more information: info@elmhs.org, 952-221-4766, www.elmhs.org.

Monday, January 14, 7:00pm

The Diaries of Lydia Ferguson, Excelsior Pioneer

with ELMHS Board Member Lisa Stevens



Portrait of Lydia Ferguson, ca. 1855.

Much of what we know about early Lake Minnetonka history comes from the pages of this frail woman's diaries. She recorded it all, from 1854 -1886, in a clear eyed chronicle which includes her own family's tale of suffering, insanity, death, love, endurance and guts. Experience a sepia tone-free view of the past in Lydia Ferguson's own words.

Monday, February 11, 7:00pm

Maps Tell a Story with Darel and LaVerna Leipold



Map of Lake Minnetonka, 1909

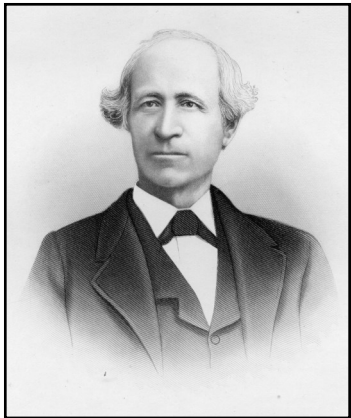
The Leipolds will draw from their collection of Lake Minnetonka and regional maps to show how each map has a special and unique story to tell. The Leipolds' store in Excelsior has been in business for 47 years and has built a general and special collection of Lake Minnetonka memorabilia.

What history should we tap into next?

Is there a Lake Minnetonka topic you've always wanted to learn more about? A speaker you've always wanted to hear speak? Whether aboard the "Minnehaha" or on land—please send your ideas to info@elmhs.org.

Monday, March 11, 7:00pm

Peter Gideon: The Apple Wizard
with Sharon Dana

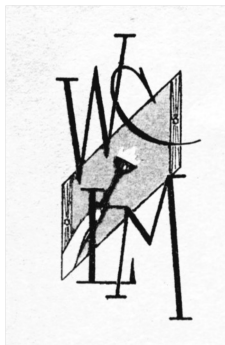


Portrait of Peter Gideon, late 19th century.

Peter Gideon was an Excelsior pioneer and a world-famous horticulturalist whose crowning achievement was the creation of the Minnesota hardy apple, the Wealthy. He was also quite an eccentric and controversial character for his time. Join us as Sharon Dana presents her research on the life of this multifaceted and determined man.

Monday, April 8, 7:00pm

Social Media Before the Age of Computers
with Peter Kizilos-Clift



Woman's Club of Lake Minnetonka logo, 1918

How did people connect before they connected to the internet? Through an investigation of Excelsior area service clubs, newspapers, and magazines, ELMHS board member, Peter Kizilos-Clift will explore the social experience of the early 20th century.

*** SAVE THE DATE ***
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

**When: Wednesday, May 8,
7:00 pm**

Where: Old Log Theater

**What: *On the Waters of
Lake Minnetonka***

There will be no Tapping History program in May. Join us instead for our Annual Fundraiser at the Old Log Theater. The program this year will include a panel of experts on the history of sailing on Lake Minnetonka. More details to follow in the Spring/Summer 2019 newsletter.



The Onawa on Lake Minnetonka, 1893.

Thoughts from the Archives

By Rachel Houck, Executive Director



Board member Lisa Stevens had her work cut out for her as she attempted to orient me to the Archives here at ELMHS. I am a lover of all things history, but get especially excited when I see scrapbooks, so when Lisa opened a drawer and started talking about the types of things one could find within, my attention was immediately drawn to a small scrapbook titled “The Girl Graduate.” I picked it up and carefully

opened to one of the pages so none of the contents would fall out. According to the inscription on the inside of the front cover, the book belonged to Margaret Alice Way, a senior at Excelsior High School who graduated on June 1, 1921. Now, I am sure when Margaret Alice Way started collecting mementos for her senior scrapbook she did not imagine it ending up in the archives of a local historical society, but here it is.

Margaret was the valedictorian in a class of 13 students. Clearly she was a stellar student and if there was any doubt, her report cards are saved here for posterity, as is her commencement speech and an essay she wrote for English class on which the teacher wrote, “have you considered a career in literature?” Paging through her scrapbook, one can see all the extra curricular activities she participated in including basketball and theater as well as portraits of her classmates and scraps of fabric from her prom dress. There is also a rather forward inscription by Edwin (Ed.) Ferris which reads, “Remember- good things come only to those who hustle while they wait- I’m waiting.”



Portrait of Margaret Alice Way taken during her senior year 1920-1921.

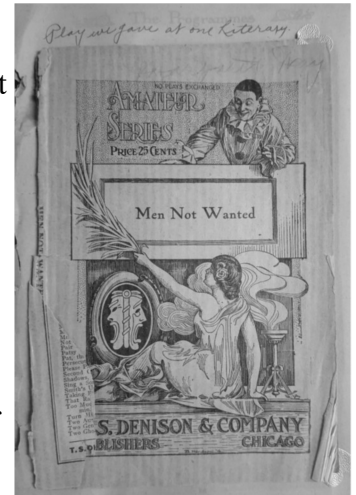
All of these things give a brief glimpse into the life and personality of Margaret Alice Way. Smart, well liked, creative, and driven. Excelsior High School did not have yearbooks, but Margaret’s scrapbook made me think of my high school yearbook with inscriptions from my friends and photos capturing little moments of the school year. However, my book was not personalized in the way that Margaret’s scrapbook was. I had not saved my report cards, no special writing assignments. And, even though I collected senior photos from all my friends, I could not tell you where they ended up. No one picking up my mass-produced year book would get a sense of who my friends were or my favorite subject.

This in turn makes one think about the future seniors and how they might collect and preserve their mementos. With the rise of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and personalized websites, less focus is being placed on physical items such as scraps of fabric and trading card-like photos. More emphasis is placed on images of food and trendy clothes or makeup that is “on point.”

What will the graduates of the future want to preserve to remember high school and how will museums collect these items in the future, not only to preserve history, but also personality? Can digital artifacts give the same kind of personal connection that physical artifacts can? Write to us and let us know your thoughts.

ELMHS, PO Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331 or info@elmhs.org

[To learn more about the people who built and lived in our community, visit our Archives located in the lower level of the historic Excelsior Public School building, 261 School Avenue, Excelsior, 10 am-1 pm, Wednesdays and the second Saturday of the month.]



Program for a play titled “Men Not Wanted,” in which Way played the character Margaret.

The Society Column



Peter Kizilos-Clift and Pam Koenig.

Peter Kizilos-Clift and Pam Koenig hosted the 2018 ELMHS Members' Holiday Party at their historic home in Excelsior. The large crowd included many new faces as well as some longtime members that we were thrilled to see again. The rooms glowed with the spirit of the season, and we were happy to have so many excellent cooks (and purchasers) contribute to our traditional potluck supper.

Other Society events in 2018 included a delightful fall Volunteer Appreciation event, again hosted by Peter and Pam and an Ice Cream Social in the summer at our museum to welcome our new Executive Director, Rachel Houck.

Board member Jacob Westman and his wife Shay are expecting their first child! Shay is an Excelsior native and Jacob is a teacher in the Minnetonka school district. They met at 318 and now work together at the Excelsior Brewing Co. The two were married July 22, 2017 on Big Island.



Jacob and Shay Westman on their wedding day July 22, 2017. Photo taken at the Excelsior Brewing Co.

Their baby girl (name TBD) is due on February 7. Jacob made the announcement to a small group of board members and volunteers at the 2018 Member's Holiday Party. We wish them both the best of luck!

Watch our newsletter, website and Facebook page for upcoming events and you too may find yourself preserved for posterity in the The Society Column! *Submissions to the Society Column can be made year round. Not all articles or updates submitted will be printed.*

THANK YOU 2018 VOLUNTEERS!

A very special thank you to all of the ELMHS volunteers who gave their time in 2018 to the Museum, Archives, selling merchandise at various events, presenting at our public programs and so much more...

We wouldn't be here without you!

Cheryl Ahlcrona & Carl Floren
Jeanne Andersen
Terry Bolin
Deanna, Bob & Kyle Bunkelman
Tim Caron
Scott & Joey Dake
Brianna DePauw
Kay Derner
Meric, Doc & Maureen Dougherty
Drue Gisvold
Jerry Holl
Gunnar Jagodzinske
Dan Johnson
Olga Kelly
Peter Kizilos-Clift
Steve Kobs
Pam Koenig
Francesca Landon
Darel & LaVerna Leipold
Alan Lizee
Paul Maravelas & Joni Scheftel
Scott McGinnis
Ann Merriman & Chris Olson
Jodi & Bruce Noll
Aaron Person
Mary Pat Peterson
John Purdy
Rene Qiu
Mark Read
Alice Reimann
Holly Rocca
Tad Shaw
Maybeth Sheridan
Lisa Stevens
Mary Upgren
F. Todd Warner
Jacob Westman
Kathe White
Tom Williams
Nan & Bob Woodburn

If anyone was left off of this list, please let us know so we can properly thank them as well!

MEMBERSHIP

Members shape the Society's policies and programs, and support our work in preserving the area's history.

Annual member benefits include:

- ◆ The Society's newsletter and mailings
- ◆ Invitations to special events
- ◆ Discounts and special member privileges on select opportunities
- ◆ Voting privileges

Membership Levels

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Platinum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 | Household |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Silver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Bronze | | |

Or, make an individual contribution of any amount!

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail form and check made out to ELMHS to PO Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331. You can also join or contribute online at www.elmhs.org. The Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

VOLUNTEERING

- Please contact me about volunteering for the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

DONATION OF ARTIFACTS

- Please contact me regarding the donation of historical items to the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

Volunteer with Us!

The Society is staffed entirely by volunteers and welcomes people of all ages and abilities to pursue their passions and assist in areas including:

- **Archives:** Assisting visitors, scanning, filing, researching, data entry.
- **Museum:** Serving as a host, cleaning and upkeep, data entry.
- **Publications:** Marketing merchandise to vendors, conducting inventories, selling merchandise at events, creating new books.
- **Programs and Events:** Set up and take down for Tapping History, welcoming people, creating new programs.
- **Membership and Fundraising:** Recruiting new members, contributors and volunteers, helping with direct mail appeals and special fundraising events, data entry.
- **Communications:** Writing press releases, creating marketing materials, contributing to social media, maintaining our website.
- **Technology:** Maintaining the Society's computer network and hardware, troubleshooting IT issues.

Training in all areas is provided. Contact us at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766 to learn more or visit our website at www.elmhs.org/volunteer.

Donate Artifacts

Donations of historic artifacts, photographs and documents pertinent to the history of the south Lake Minnetonka area are welcome for preservation in our Archives and display in our Museum. Help us share our community's history with future generations by sharing your history with us! (Due to space limitations, the Society is unable to accept all donations.)



Major George Halstead at his "Hermitage" in Minnetrista, discovered and donated by Excelsior's Lori Anderson while remodeling her historic home.

Thanks for your support!
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS
August 1—November 30, 2018

MEMBERSHIPS

Gold Level

Anne Obermeyer

Silver Level

Lydia Botham
John & Meric Dougherty
Jean Gray
Lorrie Hall
Ralph Hatch
Ann Sampson Heimerl
Ron & Marcia McDaniel
Doug & Lori McDougal
Ruth McLeod
Mary Pat Peterson
F. Todd Warner
Tom & Barbara Warner

Bronze Level

Mary Jane Barnard
Deanna Bunkelman
Robert & Judy Evans
Sandra Hotvet
Thomas & Sarah Kolar
Susan Queen
Patrick & Elizabeth Schiltz
Robert Schneider
Nancy Steege
Kevin Wehrmann
LaWayne Yaeger

Household Level

Shirley & Bill Baxter
Debby Bluem
Cathy & Cam Guthrie
Steve & Judy Krause
Mark & Deb Laurent
Tim Soboleski
Gary & Kay Thompson

Individual Level

Carol Carmichiel
Nancy Christianson
Sharon Dana
Mike Dierks
Michael Goertel
Lindsay Hannah
Judith Allen Kim
Pamela Koenig
Susan Mark
Jim Moffett
Cynthia Paul
John Purdy
Mark Read
Lori Schlottman
Cheryl Webster

Senior/Student Level

Jerald Anderson
Dan & Terry Austin
Dawn Bjornstad
Cindy Busch & John Knox
Carol Downie
Elaine Dunn
John DuPont
Paula Giovannetti
Drue Gisvold
Pamela Horton &
Michael Mason
Kathy Johnson
Bruce L. Kerber
Alan Langstaff
Janice Leafer
Ted & Cathy Lebens
Lin & Mike Maki
Jean & Dick Mueller
Judy Mueller
Marla Mullaney
Randi Murphy
Betty Peck
Linda Putnam
David & Judy Rients
Dale Rostad
Staney Rostad
Vernon Schaaf
Maybeth & Ed Sheridan
Will & Kathleen Skadsberg
Nina Stark
Gregory Thomas
Paul Tierney
Clitheroe Ugboajah
Joan Wolfe
Tom Wolfe
Albert Zakariasen
Louis Zakariasen
Jim Zakariasen

Life Members

(No longer offered.)
Bart Baker
Alec & Marianne Beck
Bob & Diane Bolles
Dr. Milton H. Seifert
Lisa Stevens & Jeffrey Hatcher
Suellen Douglas
Don & Frannie Douglass
Kristin & Ken Dowell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Fayfield
John Gorecki
John P. & Jan Gray
Phil & Eileen Hallin
Paul Huber
Ron Hughes
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Julian
Terrance Kellogg

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson
Mark Knowlton
Tom & Carol Knowlton
Michael Kramer
Ann Lundsten
Scott D. McGinnis
Minnesota Streetcar Museum
Robert L. Naas
Bill & Steph Naegele
Aaron Person
Sharon Provost
Kellie & Gary Ringate
Kathy Knowlton Schmid
Carol Schmidt
Tad Shaw
Rodney Thompson
TSP Architecture, Inc.
Ruth Witrak

CONTRIBUTORS

Cheryl Ahlcrona & Carl Floren
Excelsior Brewing Co.
Shirley & Bill Baxter
Deanna Bunkelman
Brianna Randall Depauw
Ralph Hatch
Kathy Johnson
Dale Rostad
Nina Stark
Lisa Stevens & Jeffrey Hatcher

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Culligan of Brooklyn Park
Dunn Brothers Coffee, Excelsior
Excelsior Brewing Co.
Excelsior Vintage

ACCESSIONS

August 1-November 30, 2018

Thank you for allowing us to preserve your history for future generations!

- **Mary Burton:** Postcards of the Minnetonka Yacht Club, Race Day at Lake Minnetonka, Crane Island, St. Louis Hotel Pavilion and Dock,
- **Robin MacGregor:** Sheet music and recording of "Dear Minnetonka," 1906.
- **Sherri McCallson:** Photos of the Excelsior Amusement Park, various homes on 3rd Street, SuperValu on Water St.
- **Tom McCarthy:** Large collection of photos, correspondence, and other archival material relating to the Horrace M. Hill and Frank P. Leslie families and their lives at Cottagewood and Maplewood. As well as glass plate negatives of Lake Minnetonka
- **Scott McGinnis:** Three Minneapolis Street Railway Co. tokens. Photo of the *Columbia*. Hennepin County Assessor Photos. Correspondence, photos and archives relating to the Lee and Ruth Hutton family.
- **Jean Mueller:** 1933-1934 Excelsior High School Senior class photo. 1932-1933 Excelsior High School Junior class photo.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 305
Excelsior MN 55331

