

HISTORIC HOMES OF YANKTON

A Look At The Matthiesen House

Yankton's Territorial Homes, Revisited — A Sesquicentennial Series

"The sesquicentennial series titled "Historic Homes of Yankton" prepared by members of Yankton Questers Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794 continues this week with its Eighth selection."

The Matthiesen House

416 Pine Street

Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794

When Mathias M. Matthiesen arrived in Dakota Territory in 1864 and established a general store on Levee and Capital, a timeline of events was already in motion.

On April 19, 1858, a treaty was signed by the Yankton Sioux leaders ceding tribal land to the federal government for \$1,600,000 in annuities and other considerations. It was ratified by the U.S. Senate Feb. 17, 1859, and a steamer arrived at Yankton July 10, 1859, with payment of annuity goods as well as gold and silver coins.

Dakota Territory was created and signed into law March 2, 1861. The territory included what is now North and South Dakota, Montana and portions of Wyoming and Idaho.

Yankton was designated the Dakota Territory capital that same year. By the fall of 1861, there were 11 post offices in this massive area, among them Yankton, Vermillion and Sioux Falls.

The first meeting of territorial law makers convened at Yankton on March 17, 1862, consisting of nine council men and 13 representatives. Business transacted provided for ferries across territorial rivers, banning gambling and bawdy houses, upholding the sanctity of the Sabbath and organizing the Dakota militia. They established Yankton County and on May 8, 1862, they incorporated the town of the same name, finally giving it an official birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthiesen found housing near his general store and in 1879 they built the red-brick home at 416 Pine Street. These bricks were shipped in from St. Joseph, Mo.

There were 10 rooms with front and back stairs and walls 18 inches thick, an Italianate marble fireplace in the back parlor and sliding doors between the parlors and into the dining room. The spacious rooms with high ceilings, large windows, and beautifully carved walnut staircase were the scene of many parties and dances for their family of six young people.

Mrs. Matthiesen obtained the first carpet brought to Yankton and hired several Indian women to work on it (perhaps to add fringe).

The eldest daughter, Mrs. Jessie Bartholomew served as librarian of the newly built Carnegie Library, which was opened to the public Oct. 8, 1903. Six women submitted applications for the position and Jessie, a young widow of 36, was hired at \$30 a month. However, because she had no formal training for the work, she was asked to attend a summer school for librarians in Minneapolis at her own expense. Jessie served in that position from 1903-1942. She died in 1959 at age 90 and is buried next to her husband, William Earl in the Yankton Cemetery, Block 470, Lot 2, Grave 5, within the Matthiesen burial site.

In the early 1900s the home was purchased by Olaf Nelson, by coincidence a man also in the grocery business. It became their family home after porches were added along with plumbing and heating facilities, and is still heated by a boiler system. The house has an unusual round

window in the square tower attic, and window caps and carved roof brackets are of similar design.

During the 1940s and '50s Don Cadwell and family lived in the house. Mr. Cadwell was an insurance agent in Yankton and an avid fan and supporter of the local "Terrys," baseball team.

Earl and Beth Medeck purchased the home in 1965. They made a number of improvements, restoring much of the original charm to the historic home. Their six children — David, Donn, Bob, Jim, Lisa and Jonathan — have fond recollections of "This Old House." Remnants of the past still remain, such as a hall stand in the foyer and a glass-front bookcase which has been restored to house dining room china and precious remembrances. The marble fireplace has been replaced by a Franklin Stove. The sliding doors to the back parlor are long gone.

Son Donn Medeck and his wife Regina purchased the home from his mother in 1999. They have three children, Jake, Emily and Paige. To accommodate their needs, the restoration still goes on. Donn and Regina have stripped multiple layers of wallpaper from almost every room in the house, updated heating and wiring and are now in the process of updating the kitchen and bath on the first floor. The open front porch is home for wicker furniture which overlooks pretty flowers and landscaped shrubs, which provides a special place to sip lemonade and dream of days gone by.

THIS WONDERFUL HOUSE IS 132 YEARS "YOUNG" THIS YEAR, AND CONTINUES TO BE A CROWN JEWEL OF HISTORIC YANKTON.

PLANT EXCHANGE

Exploring Nitrogen Loss In Area Gardens

BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON
P&D Correspondent

In the July 2 *Press and Dakotan*, Dr. Ronald Gelderman had an article on cropland nitrogen loss. Since I have seen some evidence of possible nitrogen loss at the community garden plots, I contacted him to discuss nitrogen loss in gardens.

Q: Do these yellow leaves with green veins on squash and other vegetable plants indicate lack of nitrogen?

A: Cropland may have nitrogen loss as a result of extra rain this season, according to the July 2 "Nitrogen Loss Expected With Heavy Rainfall" article in the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*. Gelderman, South Dakota State University Extension Soil Specialist, looks at the time of the season, soil moisture and the soil's ability to hold moisture as well as rainfall amounts to determine possible nitrogen loss.

Some nitrogen fertilizer applied at planting time may be lost. Leaching can occur when nitrogen moves farther down in the soil than the root zone, or denitrification may occur when nitrogen is lost in the atmosphere as a gas.

If gardeners see plants with uncharacteristically yellow leaves, especially on the lower, older leaves, lack of adequate nitrogen may be the problem. A second opinion from a county Extension office is an option. Thanks to Dr. Gelderman, he has additional comments for home gardeners.

"I think gardeners could have lost some nitrogen as well or moved it beyond the shallow root zone of many garden plants. If the gardener has used organic sources of nitrogen such as manure, compost, etc, they should not be too worried. These sources will continue to produce nitrogen throughout the season."

Some gardeners applied chemical nitrogen fertilizer at the beginning of the season. "For them, I would recommend applying about 1 to 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet especially if the plants look very yellow and stressed. If plants look fairly healthy, wait to apply extra nitrogen until the tomatoes and vine plants have set some of their fruit. Too much nitrogen at flowering sometimes can delay or inhibit fruit set."

Dr. Gelderman adds these points: "The gardener can use either dry or liquid products that have a high nitrogen content (the first number in the analysis). For example, if they wanted to use a 15-5-5 product (N-P205-K20) for example, the first number tells them there is 15 percent nitrogen in this product. Therefore if they want to apply 2 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, they need 2/0.15 = 13.3 pounds in that 1,000 square-foot area. It doesn't have to be real accurate. They can either water or till the fertilizer into the soil."

Homeowners have similar questions about their yards. "For lawns, I would follow their routine fertilization schedule. If their lawns are light green and they desire a more green color, apply no more than 1.0 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet and then water in," concluded Gelderman.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR:

- Plants are short.
- Pale green-yellow leaves, especially on older foliage.
- Young leaves at the top of the plant maintain a green but paler color and tend to become smaller in size.
- Branching is reduced resulting in short, spindly plants.



MEETING MINUTES

TOASTMASTERS CLUB 6217

Taylor O'Bryan led the pledge following his invocation at the Toastmasters Club 6217 meeting held at noon in the Benedicline Center on June 23.

Toastmaster Muriel Stach introduced the evaluation team with grammarian Jane Miller, timer David Fiebelkorn, and "ah" counter Tim Bohn.

The impromptu speaker was MJ Rogers, who gave a humorous account of his building experiences in CA compared to SD and IL. Rogers' evaluator was Stan Sudbeck. Sudbeck enjoyed the body language and voice variety used by Rogers. The Best Speaker's trophy went to Rogers and the Best Evaluator's trophy went to Sudbeck.

Kary Beltz asked the Table Topics questions with Rogers and Bohn typing for the Best Respondent award.

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The 91st annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska, was held at North Platte Neb., on June 23-26, 2011. Members from across the State enjoyed an informative and entertaining weekend. On Sunday, June 26 Mrs. Donna (Michael) Hatfield from Lexington NE was installed as the Department President for 2011-2012. President Donna brings with her a wealth of knowledge of the many programs of the Auxiliary coupled with hands-on experience in the programs including Finance, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Poppy, to name a few.

President Donna's theme for her year is "Rolling Forward with the American Legion Auxiliary and Family." Her symbol is the Wagon Wheel and her colors are those of the Rainbow. She emphasized working with The American Family; namely, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Auxiliary Junior Members, Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and Legion Riders. Telling everyone that we are going to have F.U.N.N. this year — Faith that we can get the job done; Unity in accomplishing our goals; and all this in the Neighborhoods of Nebraska.

Leadership across the Department will be led by District Presidents of Nebraska — District 1 Connie Frandson, Chadron; District 2 Pam Biernbaum, Brunswick; District 3 Sharon Heineman, Pender; District 4 Bonita Dickinson, Sidney; District 5 Twilla Dike, Hershey; District 6 Mary Ann Boldt, Callaway; District 7 Elizabeth Paes, Prague; District 8 Sally Johnson, Millard; District 9 Karen Brown, Lebanon; District 10 Sonja Budd, Minden; District 11 Sharon Brozovsky, Wilber; District 12 Jenice Bates, Syracuse; and District 13 Bobbi Albers, Cook.

Department Officers serving along side President Hatfield include Vice President Cheryl Vap, Red Cloud; Secretary/Treasurer Jacki O'Neill, Lincoln (Jackson Unit); Historian Setha Zimbelman, St. Paul; Chaplain Rita Wagner, Elgin; and National Executive Committee-woman (NEC) Charleen Walters, Weeping Water.

SHANNON TRAIL PROMOTERS

The Shannon Trail Promoters signed on July 6, 2011, at the Cozy Corner Café in Verdigré. The group then moved to the Commercial Hotel for the meeting. In attendance were Laurie Larsen, Herb and Susan Bengston, Steve and Bonnie Ruzicka and Shirley Kehne.

Kevin Millikan and wife Becky came to speak on the possibility of an Archery Tournament. They had met with Bill Hughes the new director at the National Archery Headquarters in Yankton. He is eager to work with our group in promoting the sport in area youth. After much discussion, Bonnie moved that we hold our regular team 3-D shoot at the Hartington Range this Aug. 21. This was seconded by Herb. We will look in to having indoor shoots at Yankton during the winter months, perhaps November and /or March. They said we could have a reduced 1/2 price rate of \$200. The Promoters may sell concessions in both cases.

Herb, Susan and Shirley will attend the National Lewis and Clark Foundation annual meeting in Omaha July 31 and Aug. 1 setting up and manning a Shannon Trail display.

Sad news from Crofton where their Pvt. Shannon statue was destroyed by vandals. Thefts and pranks to our geocaches have occurred in our communities. Replacements are being made.

The state-required number for the placement of the "Shannon Country" sign was found at a Hartington office. After diggers hot-line check the location, poles can be set and the sign erected. Gary Howey is taking care of this.

We are very grateful to have received \$600 grant money from the Knox Co. Lodging tax. Any communities wanting to order the yellow 3x5" flag type flags should notify Laurie Larsen as soon as possible.

A 60-minute documentary "Standing Bear's Footsteps" should be of local interest. The Ponca chief and his tribe made their home near Niobrara. This show will include his declaration in an Omaha Court room of "I am a man. The same God made us both." This will be shown on Nebraska Public Television on Friday, July 22 at 7 and at 10 p.m. It repeats on Saturday, July 23, and on Monday, July 25, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, July 24, at 9:30 p.m. Standing Bear was a noble man and he tried so hard for his people yet they were sent off to Oklahoma with many perishing enroute. He is honored with the naming of the Niobrara/SD bridge we can't use presently.

The next meeting will be at the Two Rivers Saloon and Steakhouse in Niobrara on Wednesday, Aug. 3. Dinner at 6:30 and meeting in their private party room at 7:15.

INTERCHANGE

President Kathy Jacobs called the meeting to order. Guests introduced were Lauren Fosheim, 4-H Youth Development, and Jeanette Schramm, mother of Mary Kay Cwach. New member Jamie Schaefer, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital was also introduced.

Announcements included: information

of private fundraising for middle school athletics. United Way and agency moves to 610 W 23rd Street, and a reminder to pay annual dues.

Kathy introduced speaker Stan Hofart on behalf of Julie Perakasis, Keep Yankton Beautiful, who spoke about the current project for landscaping in Tripp Park, a vision of what a Meridian Bridge park project could look like, and a history and description of the Dorothy Jenks garden at Cramer-Kenyon House. He also gave tips on planning and planting for your own garden. Next meeting will be at noon at Minerva's when Mary Pesek will be hostess to Sarah Hirsch Wittmus speaking about Cyber Law.

OUTLAW TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

The June meeting of the Outlaw Trail was held at the Valentine Public Library on Tuesday, June 21.

The meeting opened with introductions of all members present. Secretary and treasurer's reports were given and approved. Bills were presented for payment.

Committee reports were given. "See the Byway the Quiltway" presented the brochure to be distributed. Dean Jacobs reported that Cherry County had approved a donation to the Byway for the Quiltway promotion.

Al Brock gave a report on the Trail Ride held at Valentine May 22nd. Also he is making plans for trail rides at Devils Nest, Turkey Creek and Kid Wade Canyon, dates to be announced.

Jan reported the Byway did not receive the grant from Walgreen's.

Angie will work on the "Byway the Pieway" project in the future.

Marita reported the book, Legends and Lore of the Outlaw Trail, is selling very well.

Twyla Witt gave her report. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on July 19 at South Sioux City.

GET UP AND GO

The Get Up and Go 4-H club met July 10 at the Irene Legion Hall.

Secretary Stephanie Hauger called the meeting to order. The American Flag Pledge was led by Trevor Hansen and the 4-H Pledge by Erin Hansen.

Katrina Hauger's demonstration was on how to make a flower vase. Heater Hauger's demonstration was on how to make a bracelet. Peter Hauger's demonstration was on how to make a Lego creation.

This year for the Barnyard Olympics our club will be doing the wheelbarrow races. Our club decided to give \$150 to the 4-H kitchen.

Stephanie Hauger did Special Foods this year and got a purple, she also did an illustrative talk and got a blue and she also did a judging school and made it on a team for state fair.

Lunch was served by Heather, Katrina, and Peter Hauger. Our next meeting will be on Sept. 11, 2011.

State Cooties Donate For Hospitalized Veterans

"Keep them smiling in beds of white" is the motto of the National Cooties Organization in serving military veterans that now require temporary or long-term hospitalization. This organization of dedicated volunteers holds fundraising activities throughout the year to provide for the special needs of hospitalized veterans.

Robert Bender is the Grand Adjutant of the State Military Order of the Cooties Grand of South Dakota. He also serves as Seam Squirrel with Pup Tent #12, Yankton.

Grand Adjutant Bender, of St. Helena, Neb., recently visited the South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC), Yankton. Bender presented a check from the Cooties, to Cory D. Nelson, HSC Administrator, CEO. The donation will be used to purchase special items needed for military veterans that are hospitalized at the Center.

"It is a privilege to assist those who have served our country that now need HSC services. HSC employees are honored to



ROBERT BENDER, GRAND ADJUTANT OF THE STATE MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIES GRAND OF SOUTH DAKOTA PRESENTED COREY NELSON, HSD WITH A CHECK TO HELP SERVE HOSPITALIZED VETERANS.

provide high quality treatment and services to military veterans and all patients hospitalized at the Center," Nelson said. "We are also grateful to the Cooties for their commitment to caring for those who served in the military."

Nelson explained that, with the generosity of the Cooties,

special programming can be provided at HSC for hospitalized veterans.

Nelson said, "This Cooties' donation offers staff additional opportunities to recognize the contributions of those that served our country who now receive services at HSC."

SCHOLASTICS

UI STUDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES AFTER 2011 SPRING SESSION

The University of Iowa awarded an estimated 4,400 degrees at the close of the 2011 spring session. Among the students from the Yankton area who received degrees at the UI commencement are:

Jefferson: Nathan Andrew Bockholt, MBA, with Distinction; Leslie Marie McDonald-Gonzalez, MSW, Social Work;

Vermillion: Lindsay Leigh Neth, MSW, Social Work;

Yankton: Brooke Leigh Balaidd, MSW, Social Work; Ryan David Cwach, JD.; Krystal Lynn Lohff, MSW, Social Work; Blair Angela Sedlacek, MSW, Social Work; Kari Kay Syverson, MSW, Social Work; Tracy Larena Taylor, MSW, Social Work.

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