

CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

July 1, 2007

CASS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 505
201 MINNESOTA AVENUE W., WALKER, MN. 56484

The Grand Old Flag

Out of the dust-covered papers found in an old home on Birch Lake in the midst of the 10,000 Lakes vacation country came the discovery that the American flag, as it is known today, was not the creation of Betsy Ross but the design of one of the Revolutionary ancestors of a Minnesota family.

The discovery was made by Jack Wendover, Kansas City musician, in the 10-room house at Hackensack, Minnesota, willed to him by his grandmother, Jennie Wendover. Peter Alpheus Wendover died in Cass County on July 18, 1924. On the 1930 federal census, Jennie was a widow and was managing a small hotel in Birch Lake Township.

In that house on Birch Lake, delving among old papers, old documents, and old historical records, the Missouri musician learned about his great-great-grandfather, Peter Hercules Wendover, from a biographical sketch which read:

Peter Hercules Wendover was a member of the firm of Wendover and Lewis, sailmakers of Little Water Street, Thomas Street, Albany pier, Little Queen Street and Front Street, New York City; member of the old volunteer fire department, 1796; in October 1802, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention at Albany; member of the assembly from New York in 1804; member of congress in 1818. And as a member of congress, the great-great-grandson found that his Revolutionary ancestor had served on a committee on the national flag.



1913 -- 4th of July Postcard mailed to Augusta Raw at Walker Minnesota.

Story continued on page 3

Cass County Research Center

Our facility has been quite busy again this summer. Many people are viewing the 15,000 names in our obituary index on our website and have been requesting copies.

We've received a few postcards and photographs to add to our files. The Itasca County Historical Society forwarded a huge box of photos and hundreds of negatives from the Grand Rapids Herald Review. These are mainly portraits and resort photographs from northern Cass County. We are working at indexing them and adding them to our collection.

Another item of interest is a small collection of photographs pertaining to the CCC Camp at Breezy Point, Walker Camp #3709, which came to us from out of state. If you have any photos, which could be copied of the CCC Camps in Cass County, or were a member yourself, please consider contacting us and sharing some information on this period of Cass County history.

Our website was one year old in May. Traffic to the website increased as of January 1st, 2007 when we added the obituary index. We expect to add early deaths in Cass County 1896-1904 within the near future. Please visit us at:
www.casscountymuseum.org

W. H. Lyons Secures Patent for Grader in November 1919

The distinction of being the first Chippewa Indian to secure a patent from the United States belongs to W. H. Lyons, a resident of Bena. In 1919, he secured a patent for a road grader. The Walker Pilot reported: "Mr. Lyons had a photograph of his new invention and it appears to be one of the most practical road working machines that has ever been brought to realization. The machine will do anything that any other machine will do and is very simple. With the aid of only one team of horses, or a small tractor, it will do the work that heretofore has required three or four teams. A Lyons road grader will be on display in various places in Northern Minnesota as soon as a number of them can be manufactured. Cass County will have an opportunity of trying out one or more of them on its extensive road projects in the county next summer.... Mr. Lyons should find a ready market for his production. Here's wishing him success."

Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors

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Cass County Research Center

The research center is staffed by the Cass County Historical Society at the Cass County Museum in Waker. Someone is available to assist you in your research Tuesday-Friday from 10:00 - 5:00 from May 15-Sept 15. Research is also available by appointment through the winter. The research library, obit indexes, newspaper microfilm, and other archival materials are accessible for a \$10 research fee for non-members.

One of our immediate goals is to expand the microfilm collection of newspapers and census records as we have the only microfilm reader/printer available for public use in the county.

The Cass County Historical Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the Museum.

The next meetings are August 14th & September 11th.

Delving further among the papers, he found a newspaper clipping, an article by one A. Bedford, which said:

In 1817 an attempt was made to change the flag, as there were 20 states and all wanted to be represented on the flag (then with only 13 stars arranged in a circle). Hon. Peter H. Wendover was chairman of the committee to select a design. The committee found great difficulty in securing a design to please all the members of congress. The representatives of the seven new states declared that if they could not have stars and stripes for them, they would demand to have a single figure and preferred to go back to the original pine tree. Mr. Wendover, chairman of the committee, replied that it ought not to have been changed from Washington's plan of 13 stars and 13 stripes (the Betsy Ross flag) but that he would offer a compromise. He said:

"We now have 15 stripes and they are not wide enough to show well at a distance and make sure that it is not a red flag. I suggest we make it 13 stripes as before (one for each of the original 13 colonies) and give you each a star."

This was acceptable to them and the committee reported Mr. Wendover's motion as follows:

That from and after the Fourth of July next, the flag of the United States be 13 horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have 20 stars, white in a blue field. That on the admission of every new state into the union one star be added to the union of the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the Fourth of July next succeeding such admission.

This resolution was adopted as a law by congress on April 4, 1818 to take effect July 4, 1818, and this is our flag today.

When the present flag was adopted it had 20 stars with a star to be added for each new state; it provided 13 stripes, seven red and six white, thus defining how they should be placed, but no plan was made as to how the stars should be arranged.

Mr. Wendover asked Captain Reid for his idea, and Mrs. Reid made one on which the stars were arranged in the shape of one large star. Mr. Wendover said it was very pretty, but so much space was wasted that the stars would be very small, and he predicted that over many years there would be 50 states in this great and

glorious union, and that the stars would become so small that another change would have to be made and he wanted the flag fixed this time permanently.

He suggested that the stars be placed in lines so that the space of the canton might be fully utilized, and even be enlarged a little and the same style could be kept up indefinitely. Mr. Reid's plan was dropped and Mr. Wendover's adopted. On April 13, 1818, a severe storm tore the flag on the capitol to shreds. Mr. Wendover objected to transacting business without a flag over them, and as no other was handy, he gave them the flag that Mrs. Reid had made, which was the only time that it was ever used.

Abstracted from the Walker Pilot, October 23, 1936.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are urged to meet again on a regular basis at the museum to read newspapers and abstract the pertinent information and put it on 3x5 index cards. Obituaries from the Cass Lake Times have been completed from 1899 - 1980. Please call for information on dates and time.

Volunteers are also needed to file material into our archival collection. This involves completing a collection information form and determining which file to enter the information into.

Centennial of Bena Celebration -- August 18, 2007.

As soon as the Great Northern Railway built its tracks through the Bena location in 1898, Ernest Flemming built a little log stopping place. The whole country was timber, and he saw the potential in the thousands of acres of white and Norway pine. The road between the government dams at Winnibigoshish and the Leech Lake Dams intersected with the railroad tracks and Ernest knew that if there was going to be a town, it would be at that site.

A bitter fight occurred when another group of investors wanted to establish the townsite at Richards rather than at Bena. After a battle in the courts, the townsite was finally established at Bena and the town was incorporated on October 3, 1906. There were 214 residents within the town at that time. The town swelled in population and at one time, Bena was reported to have had a population of 1800, but no doubt all the lumberjacks in the large camps were counted. The village had five saloons, a sporting house, and at least five hotels.

George Perry built "The Pines," one of the earliest summer resorts on Lake Winnie in about 1902 and ran it until his death in 1932. The Lyons family established a popular guide service on the lake at Lyons Landing and helped make Bena a destination for many fishermen from Iowa, North Dakota, and the Chicago area.

Although the depot and the big hotels are gone and the logging camps are silent, Bena continues to be a destination for tourists and fishermen. Many area resorts offer recreation and outdoor fun in all four seasons.

A centennial history will be available in August 2007. Discover the history of this interesting area in hundreds of photos and stories collected from the families of this thriving area on Lake Winnibigoshish. Revisit old locations or learn more about the area from the people who lived there and put down roots in one of the most scenic areas of northern Minnesota.

Mose's Place on Lake Winnibigoshish

Mose's Place was one of the earliest resorts on Lake Winnibogoshish. It was run by Mose and Bertha Letourneau. They were married about 1910 and had one daughter Jeanette about 1913. Sometime in the 1930's, they built Mose's Place on Winnie. In June of 1943, Judson Daniels bought **Mose's Resort** on the southwest side of Winnie from Mrs. Bertha LeTourneau; and Judd's new resort was renamed **Judd's Resort**. Mose's Place had six log cabins, plus an owner's office, which served guest meals. Since Judd needed a lodge to live in, he built that first, followed by eight more cabins.



Membership

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Carl & Judy Berg
Don & Margaret Brown
Dan & Sue Eikenberry
First National Bank of Walker
Jeanette Fisher
Marcella Fisher
Gramma Jo's House
Betty Hutt
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Dr. Otto Ringle
Spencer & Miriam Turner
Tom & Doris Williams
Underwood Family Foundation
Walker Rotary

Cities & Townships

City of Bena
City of Chickamaw Beach
City of Federal Dam
City of Lake Shore
City of Remer
City of Walker
Blind Lake Township
Boy Lake Township
Deerfield Township
Fairview Township
Inguadona Township
Kego Township
Leech Lake Township
Leader Area Lions Club
Lima Township
Loon Lake Township
Otter Tail Peninsula
Pine Lake Township
Pine River Township
Poplar Township
Powers Township
Salem Township
Smokey Hollow Township
Shingobee Township
Sylvan Township
Torrey Township
Trelipe Township
Turtle Lake Township
Wabedo Township
Wilkinson Township
Woodrow Township

Individual

Frances Bean
Bob Bean
Vi Blackburn
Margaret Dewey
Bessie Engebretson
Dick Hein
Beulah Hendricks
Mary Louise Isakson
Nancy Jacobson
Karen Kezele
Diana Kramer
Richard Myrha
Elsie Nelson
Frank Olson
Mary Paskvan
Diane Pitzen
Howard Prushek
Erma Schantle
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Jeanette Silbaugh
Sherry Wagner
Betty Zaffke

Patron

Audrey Chelberg
Tom & Sarah Cox
Leland & Dorothy Delger
Tony & Pat Doughty
Don Flyckt
John & Thelma Grimley
Dave & Honey Hamilton
D. W. Jones
Cecelia McKeig
David Nieman
Norbert & Rosie Ochs
Lois Orton
Carol Sargent
Jerry & Greta Steelman
Dick & Kathie Stoneking
Gary & Margaret Trimble
Harry & Martha Winter

Friend

Cindy Alto
Carol Bennett
Sylvia Peterson
Dana and Bev Sheldon

Family

Virginia Abullarade
Henry & Ardyce Achermann
Bob & Dodie Burdick
Jim and Shirley Dowson
Ken & Tanya Estabrooks
Dick & Donna Evenson
Jerry & Renee Geving
Don & Karen Jensen
Steve & Kay Johnson
Robert & Betty Kangas
William Kline
Richard and Carol Knapp
Molly MacGregor
Eric & Dawn Myhra
Chris & Dorothy Opheim
Bob & Sandy Pauly
D. Scott & Cindy Peterson
Jim and Rhoda Pope
Jocelyn Reus
John Risteau
Richard & Glenna Tappe
Bob & Ann Winegar
Bob & Germaine Yochum

Business

Acorn Hill Resort
Dr, Steve & Sharon Bilben
Walker Animal Hospital
Eric Myhra Ford
Frizzell Enterprises, Inc.
Heritage Arts & Gifts
Hummingbird Press
Huddle's South Shore Resort
Leader Lions Club
Leroy Strand Electric
Little Apple Bookstore
Orton Oil Company
Relative Research by McKeig
Trapper's Landing

In Memoriam for :

Dale Wilbur Geving

2007 Membership Drive

My/Our Pledge for 2007 membership in the Cass County Historical Society \$ _____

<u>Category</u>	<u>Pledge</u>
Single	\$10
Family	\$15
Friend	\$20
Patron	\$50
Business	\$50
Donation or Memorial	\$

If you haven't renewed your membership for this year, there's still time. Please fill out form on this page for renewing your membership and return with check to the Cass County Museum, PO Box 505, Walker, Minnesota 56484

Cass County Historical Society PO Box 505 Walker, MN 56484
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10:00 - 5:00
Or by Appointment