

CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

Jan 1, 2010

CASS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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

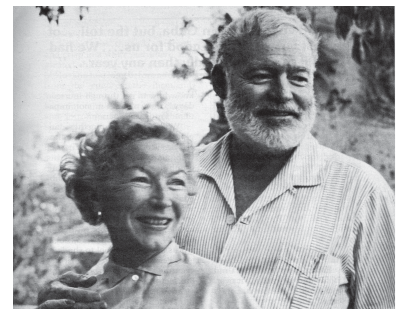
Mary Welsh Hemingway

As a small boy Tom Welsh's first job was hauling hot lunches to men working in the woods. Employed for a time by the Backus-Brooks Timber Company, Tom Welsh cruised most of Cass County. There were few men who could follow him in the woods for a day. By 1904, he and his wife decided that the village of Walker should become the base of his lumbering operations. They bought a cottage on the high bank near the Dan DeLury residence, which had been used as officer headquarters for the 3rd U.S. Infantry during the Indian Battle of Sugar Point in October 1898. The only child of Thomas and Adeline Beehler Welsh was born on Sunday, April 5, 1908, at that cottage. She was named Mary.

Shortly after Mary's birth, Tom began logging operations on 800 acres in Welsh's Bay, which is now referred to as Moonlight Bay of Leech Lake. North of here is Welsh Lake which still bears his name. Tom Welsh donated land for the Welsh School, later known as the Leech Lake School. Mary attended and finished the eighth grade at the old Leech Lake School. It was used as a town hall for many years until replaced with a new building in 1997. Tom also opened a general merchandise store, the Leech Lake Store, on the property he owned on Moonlight Bay.

Tom moved Mrs. Welsh and Mary to a house on the corner of Bemidji Avenue and Twelfth Street in Bemidji where she attended high school in the winters. By 1915 Tom had purchased the Northland Steamboat and was using it to haul booms of logs across the lake to his mill in Moonlight Bay. Mary wrote about her summers in her book, "How It Was." Mary often went out on the steamboat. When the Northland was plying the lake on errands, the pilot house on her top deck was the mind and heart of Mary's summertime world. One summer she and her father came upon a pasture full of sheep, running wildly. "Aren't they silly, Papa. They could hurt themselves running so blindly." Mary wrote that her father laughed and said, "Remember this Mary. Never be a sheep. Never follow a leader only because he is ahead of you. Take time to look around and see for yourself if you are going in the right direction."

Mary graduated from Bemidji High School in 1926 and attended Northwestern University. She left college in her senior year without taking a degree and began her apprenticeship as a reporter at a Chicago newspaper. In 1937, she quit this job and went to London. She covered events such as the Munich Agreement and the March into Czechoslovakia, served as correspondent with the Royal Air Force and Allied Expeditionary Forces, and covered the London Blitz during the war. During this time, she met Ernest Hemingway, a war correspondent for Colliers magazine and fell in love with him. They married in Cuba in March of 1946. (continued on page 3)



**Needed: Two Members willing to serve on the Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors for the coming years.
Please call Renee at 218-547-7251.**

Volunteer Projects

We have some really neat projects that we'd like to get accomplished this winter. If you have any expertise or just would like to be involved, please let us know by giving us a call or dropping us a note.

We would like to develop trunks filled with local history that can be used by county elementary teachers to introduce their students to local history.

Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors

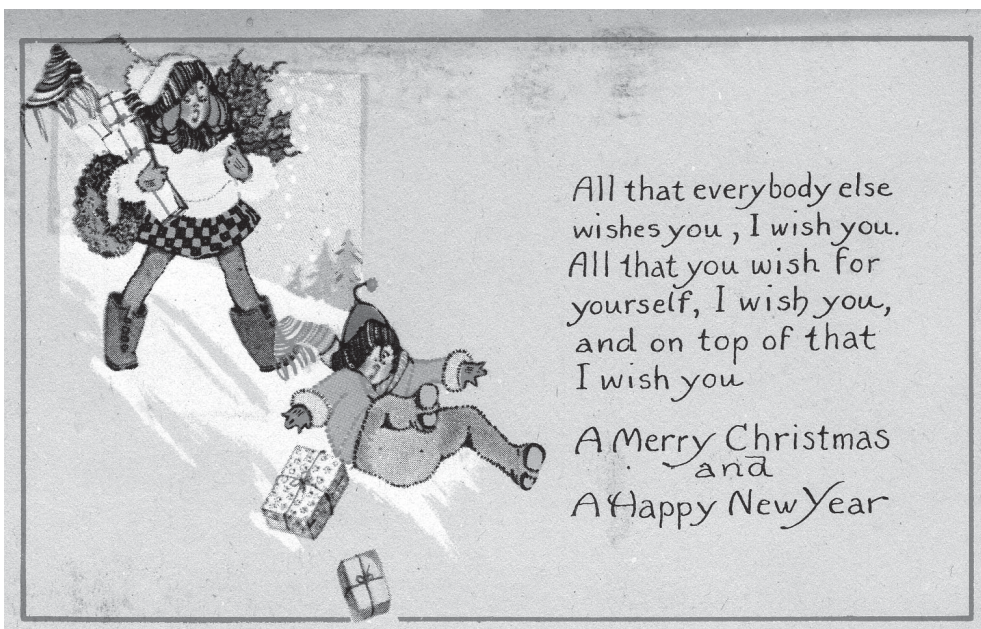
Dan Eikenberry, Pres.
Lois Orton, V-Pres
Karen Keener
Elsie Nelson
Sue Eikenberry
Don Beadle
Alexis Hadrava - Treasurer

The Cass County Historical Society Upcoming Meetings

**Jan 25, 4:00 p.m.
March 1, 4:00**

Cass County Research Center

The research center is staffed by the Cass County Historical Society at the Cass County Museum in Walker. Through the winter, research help is available by appointment. The research library, obit indexes, newspaper microfilm, and other archival materials are accessible for a \$10 research fee for non-members.



AH GWAH CHING BRICKS FOR SALE

A limited number of Ah Gwah Ching bricks were salvaged after the buildings were torn down at the site and were delivered to the county garage as promised. These bricks have been carefully cleaned. They are for sale as a fundraiser for the Cass County Historical Society. The price for each brick is \$10. They are going like hot cakes! Please contact Renee Geving at 218-547-7251 to purchase a brick.



(continued from page 1)

Mary was charming, witty, exciting, a good wife, excellent fisherman, a fair wing shot, strong swimmer, good cook, good judge of wine, an excellent gardener and amateur astronomer, a student of art, and spoke Swahili, French, and Italian. She quit writing and devoted the rest of her life to typing Ernest's manuscripts. She was particularly outspoken on the question of women's rights. She had no use for their insistence on talking about equality with men.

Every so often she would come back to Walker to visit her friends in the area. One fall, Ernest came with her. It was October and had begun to sleet as they stepped off the train. He was freezing. She took him in tow and walked him to Lundrigan's. There she purchased long underwear for him. That story is that he went to a dressing room, put the underwear on, and stepped out muttering expletives as to the roughness of the material, wool. He couldn't quit itching so went back and removed the underwear, rolled it into a ball, and on the way back to the depot said to Mary, "You can stay in this god-forsaken place if you want to, but I'm going home!" He boarded the next train south. Mary had a nice visit. The underwear is on display at the Cass County Museum.

Ernest committed suicide in July of 1961. Mary died at age 78. Both are buried in Ketchum, Idaho. (Researched and written by Nita Frink-Eagle for the 2009 History Walk)

Tobique

The Soo Line Railroad started to run in 1910. Tobique was known then as Rogers Spur. There was a store owned by Art Rogers and his wife, south and west of the road crossing the railroad grade. A wooden bridge was built over the railroad tracks for horses and wagons.

My father William E. Houchins came on the train taking lumberjacks for Duluth Log Company to work in the logging camps which they had then. One was between Remer and Rogers Spur and the other was west of Rogers Spur. This was the winter of 1911 and 1912. Sometime later Al Warnert and his wife started a store north of the railroad on the hill. The area later was named Tobique. Al Warnert had a farm there and sold his own beef and also bought cattle.

Some of the people that lived east of Tobique were: Art Magoon, Carl Roxin, Bill Pohl, Frank Pohl, Sorings, Holts. Northeast: Robert Pohl and Martin, Jake Carr, Slaters, John Anderson, Charles Godfrey. South of the tracks: John Pohl, Bill Ruby, Miss Flynn (school teacher), Brauns, Percy Slater, Ben Spieker, Floyd Raines, Jack Bolin, Jelens.

Tobique had a school house, a Catholic Church, and a depot which was a box car on the south side of the tracks. It had a stove in it and there was a mail bag catcher. There was a small stockyard by the railroad tracks. (Written by Elwood J. Houchins, Feb 23, 1998)



65-Year-Old Man Walks 220 Miles

Ned Bartson of Tobique Shows Caliber of His Generation, Beats the Railroads

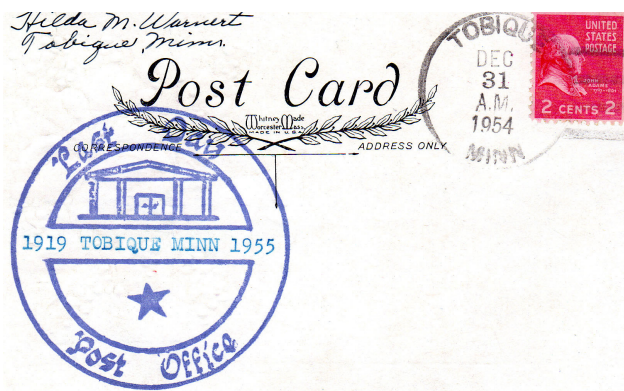
Ned Bartson of Tobique, who is 65 years old, purchased a team of horses nine miles west of Larimore, N.D., and as harness was so high there he decided to try and ship them through to Bena, Minn., but upon inquiry found it would cost him \$80.00 to ship, so decided he would walk and lead the team the entire distance, some 220 miles. He arrived home at Tobique Friday. He says he saved \$50 by walking all the way so figures he made good wages. He has a good team and was about ten days making the trip following the Yellowstone Trail, No. 8, the entire distance. Ned is a tough old Irishman and if all the younger generation were like him, wouldn't we have a prosperous country? (Cass County Independent, Dec 9, 1921)



Tobique Store and Post Office 1940-1963

Hilda Warnert

My husband, Al Warnert, whom I married in October 1916, worked in a general store and butcher shop until he retired. In 1916, we moved to a little place called Rogers Spur 320, a railroad station on the Soo Line Railroad. We arrived at 10:00 p.m. and found there were no roads, telephones, school or church. Mrs. Kate Rogers was the postmaster and before long she asked me to handle the post office, a position I had for 37 years [1918-1955].



My husband and I had three children and raised three foster children. During 1939 and 1940, we cared for four little girls for a sick mother. I am Grandma Warnert to all their children. During the 47 years we lived in Tobique there were many changes, first a Post Office, general store and gas station, then a country school and Catholic Church. (written by Hilda Warnert, 1894-1987)

“The Little Brown Church on the Hill”

St. Cecelia's Catholic Church of Tobique reckons its beginnings from the year 1918. At that time, Fr. Matheus Cummings came to Tobique and gathered a few Catholics together for Mass. Those who attended this first Mass were Mr. and Mrs. A. Warnert, Mr. and Mrs. G. Soring, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pohl, J. Carr, Ben Spieker, Miss Ellen O'Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jelen. A first Mass was said in a tarpaper shack in back of H. Warnert's store. In 1921, they moved to the Tobique School House, where they continued to worship until their own church building was completed in 1933. During this time the members were busy gathering money for a church. By having suppers, bazaars, sales, socials, etc., they gathered \$600. The timber was donated and hauled to the mill for sawing. The men donated their labor. They received financial help from several people. A wealthy lady who lived in Chicago donated a generous amount of money. She died the same year she gave the money and didn't get to see the church when it was built. It was a frame building, finished off with rough siding, which was stained brown and had a green trimming. It had a green asphalt roof. There was a full basement, fully equipped. The foundation was made of split stone mortared together with cement, artistically finished. It was neatly finished off inside with artistic Nu-Wood. The church was dedicated July 12, 1933 by Bishop Thomas H. Welch. The church building was moved to Federal Dam on August 21, 1961 and is still used at that site today.

Membership - 2009

Individual (\$10)

Judy Laverne Arens
Karin Arsan
Dale Barto
Francis Bean
Bob Bean
Vi Blackburn
Margaret Dewey
Karen Keener
Karen Kezele
James O. Mans
Elsie Nelson
Frank Olson
Diane Pitzen
Dr. Otto Ringle
Robert Rogers
Tom Salwasser
Elizabeth Sauer
Erma Schantle
Arthur Shenk
Jeanette Silbaugh
Claudia Srok
Gloria Stewart
Glenna Tappe
David Yde
Betty Zaffke

Business (\$50+)

Acorn Hill Resort
Anderson's Grand Vu Lodge
Anderson's Spirit of the North
Anderson's Cove
Anderson's Northland
Chippewa Lodge
Hummingbird Press
D. W. Jones, Inc.
Orton Oil Company
Leech Lake Lumber
May Creek Senior Living Campus
Frizzell Enterprises

Benefactor (\$20 - \$99)

Virginia Abullarade
Charles & LaVonne Beckman
Clarence & Bonnie Byersdorfer
Audrey Chelberg
Tom & Sarah Cox
Gordy & Liz Dahn
Leland & Dorothy Delger
Mike & Karla Eisenpeter
Jack Fitzgerald
Don Flyckt
Jerry & Renee Geving
Dick Hein
Nancy Jacobson
Don and Karen Jensen
Bob & Shirley Jewell
Diana Kramer
Cecelia McKeig
Steven Mecklenberg
Pat Munkel
David Nieman
Norbert & Rosemary Ochs
James & Leona O'Neal
Chris & Dorothy Opheim
Oliver Opheim
Carole Sargent
Dana & Bev Sheldon
Dick & Kathie Stoneking
Gary & Margaret Trimble
Bob & Ann Winegar
Harry & Martha Winter

Family (\$15)

Doug & Lynda Birk
Dick & Donna Evenson
Alice Groth
Steve & Kay Johnson
Bob & Betty Kangas
Glenn & Patricia Mechelke
Glen & Jocelyn Reus
Bob & Esther Rupp

Friend (\$100-\$249)

Willard Arends
Carl & Judy Berg
Dr. Steve & Sharon Bilben
Don & Margaret Brown
Jim & Shirley Dowson
Dan & Sue Eikenberry
Betty Hutt
Harry Loger
Dr. Noel Mills
Jerry & Greta Steelman
Tom & Doris Williams

Cities & Townships

City of Bena - \$100
City of Chickamaw Beach - \$25
City of Federal Dam - \$50
City of Lake Shore - \$50
City of Walker - \$500

Blind Lake Township -- \$100
Boy Lake Township - \$250
Fairview Township - \$1000
Kego Township -- \$250
Leech Lake Township \$200
Loon Lake Township -- \$100
Pine Lake Township -- \$200
Pine River Township - \$100
Ponto Lake Township -- \$200
Powers Township - \$150
Rogers Township -- \$50
Salem Township - \$30
Shingobee Township -- \$1300
Smoky Hollow Township - \$100
Sylvan Township - \$85
Torrey Township - \$50
Trelipe Township -- \$150
Turtle Lake Township - \$500
Wilkinson Twp -- \$25
Woodrow Township -- \$50

Sponsor \$250-\$999

First National Bank of Walker
Bob & Nita (Eagle) Frink
Ron Libertus
Lois Orton

2010 Membership

The Museum depends on your membership and donations to keep it going. Please consider your pledge for 2010 in one of the following categories.

Membership

Single (\$10) _____ Family (\$15) _____ Benefactor (\$20-99) _____

Business (50) _____

Friends (\$100-\$249) _____ Sponsors (\$250-\$999) _____ Patrons (\$1000) _____

Memorials in any amount are also welcome

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Cass County Historical Society
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Assistant: Jolene Safranek

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Email:
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Newsletter:
Cecelia McKeig
Renee Geving

Museum Phone: 218-547-7251
Winter Hours: By Appointment