



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
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## THE SOCIETY TO AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN THE GOLDEN VALLEY ARTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL:

On Saturday, September 17th, 2016, the Society will host a booth in the upcoming Golden Valley Arts and Music Festival staged at the Golden Valley city hall campus. As in past years, the Society will have displays of some of the heritage of Golden Valley, a display of second generation Golden Valley street signs, and, a popular event for the kids will be Society President Ken Huber's collection of antique kids riding toys, on which they can actually ride.

A parade will be held starting at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue North and Duluth Street, travel south on Pennsylvania Avenue to Golden Valley Road and then west to the Golden Valley city hall.

The Festival sponsored by the Golden Valley Community Foundation will include an art fair, musical entertainment all day long, games for children, a classic car show, and the community organizations area.

## NEW SOCIETY FISCAL YEAR KICKS OFF WITH THE HISTORY OF WHAT INDUSTRY THAT FATHERED THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS? - THE LOGGING INDUSTRY!

On Thursday, September 8th, Steve Marking will present the history of the logging industry on the Mississippi River, at 7:00 P.M. at the Society's historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley. This is a fascinating talk about how millions of logs were brought down the Mississippi River on lumber rafts by brave and daring men in a dangerous

occupation.

This was a boom and bust era that saw the beginning of log rafting, the introduction of steamboats and the end of the beautiful white pine forests, all in the span of one man's lifetime.

Mark your calendar, plan to attend this part of our history of Minnesota.

## THE SOCIETY IS TRANSFERRING ITS RECORDS INTO A RELATIONAL DATA BASE CALLED PAST PERFECT:

Collections Committee Chairperson, Crystal Boyd, is seeking volunteers to help organize and data base its collections. Volunteers should be detail-oriented, comfortable with computers, and interested in history.

A one day training session will be held at the Society's historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn, on Saturday, August 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The collections work is on-going with a six month minimum commitment of 3 hours per week.

The schedules to be determined with the volunteer supervisor. Volunteers will handle objects and transfer records from a handwritten inventory into a relational database called Past Perfect.

Please RSVP by August 4th to Crystal Boyd at crystal.boyd@colorado.ed or 612-247-5283, also indicate if you would like a free box lunch or if you will bring your own lunch. Your help in this important phase of the Golden Valley museum is greatly needed and appreciated.

## **“I did not know that Golden Valley owned a cemetery!”**

Frequently made statement followed up with, “I thought that cemetery was part of the church just west of the cemetery.” Yes, in addition to raising families, building houses, and planting crops, the early settlers provided a place to bury their dead.

On the southwest corner of Winnetka Avenue and Medicine Lake Road, there is a small cemetery. It was formerly known as The Mutual Cemetery Association of Golden Valley. This cemetery was founded on May 17, 1869, by 12 of the earliest settlers. These pioneers were: Henry Yentsch, Sr., Henry Yentsch, Jr., Frederic Boldt, Peter Bofferding, Ignatius Becker, Charles Nassig, William Younker, Frederick Bies, Mathias Messerschmidt, William Roggemann, John Roggeman, and David Bies.

At the time, David Bies owned the land where the Midland Shopping Center is now located. He offered to donate one half acre of land for the cemetery. In Germany, the homeland of all the founders, it is a tradition that all cemeteries face the east. Because the Bies’ property did not have the proper slope, the offer was turned down. Instead, the men accepted a donation of one half acre from Henry Yentsch, Sr., who owned the property where the cemetery now stands.

During the organization of the cemetery, the founders stipulated in one of the by-laws that no one would be excluded from membership in the cemetery association because of religion or race. At present, this law as well as many of the original by-laws remains unchanged.

According to the records, the cemetery was first organized

under the name of the Crystal Lake and Minneapolis Township Cemetery. On May 20, 1907, the annual cemetery association meeting was held. It was at this time that the name was changed to The Golden Valley Cemetery. The first person buried in the cemetery was Caroline Bies who died November 13, 1869, at the age of 25. She was the daughter of Mathias Messerschmidt, one of the charter members of the association. The second grave belongs to her 20 year old brother, Friedrich Messerschmidt, who died December 8, 1869.

The small cemetery is also the resting place for veterans of the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

Because the cemetery was small and times were hard, funds were not available for many improvements so desperately needed. Between the years 1950 to 1967, meetings were rarely held on an annual basis. Due to lack of interest by the directors and many of the members, the appearance of the cemetery had greatly deteriorated. It became apparent that something had to be done to insure the future of the cemetery. It was for that reason that a concerned member called upon George W. Nassig to reorganize the cemetery. Nassig was the grandson of Carl Nassig and David Bies, both charter members of the cemetery association.

During the summer of 1967, Nassig began his task of reorganizing the cemetery by notifying many of the members he felt would be interested in improving the cemetery. He found the support to be unanimous. At that point he began to study the original by-laws, however they

were written in German by the association’s first secretary, Elias Frick. Nassig translated the by-laws into English and by doing so, he accomplished his first goal.

Many subsequent meetings were held and it was at the meeting on May 22, 1968, the name was changed to The Mutual Cemetery Association of Golden Valley. As time passed, and the cemetery association members passed, interest was lost and the ownership changed to the City of Golden Valley, as required by Minnesota Statutes. This was in 1992. The Golden Valley Planning Department now oversees the cemetery and the sale of cemetery plots. (Golden Valley 1886-1986, Author Dorothy Wandersee, ETAL, Golden Valley Historical Society)

## **GOLDEN VALLEY FACTOID:**

The Byerly’s innovative and magnificent supermarket attracted visitors from many countries when it opened in 1968 west of Highway 100 on Duluth Street. This was the first of many stores opened by Don Byerly. Spring Gate Shopping Center followed in 1972. (Golden Valley 1886-1986, Author Dorothy Wandersee, ETAL.)

## **ALDEN (AL) HALLORAN:**

Our sincere condolences to the family of Alden (Al) Halloran who recently passed away. He and wife, Carol, were frequently in attendance at our Society’s monthly historical programs.