



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
Historic Church and Museum: 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley  
September 2012

Don Anderson, Editor

763-588-8578

e-mail: maryanddon3030@aol.com

September 13 kickoff program...

## Ohman's "Journey Down Our River"

The September 13 fiscal year kickoff membership meeting will again feature Doug Ohman and his latest published work, "Journey Down Our River (Mississippi)". Travel with Ohman as he continues his journey from the headwaters of the Mississippi at Itasca State Park downriver toward the Twin Cities, highlighting the historic sites and structures that are quickly being lost to history.

Ohman has 12 published works about Minnesota including, "Barns", "Churches", "Schoolhouses", "Historic Homes", "Cabins", and "Libraries". He will also tell his own story about how he took his passion for history and love of photography and combined them into a successful career.



Doug Ohman

This meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Society's Historic Church and Museum, 6731 Golden Valley Road.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

## Program schedule through December

**October 11:** William Ewald, great-grandson of Chris Ewald, founder of the Ewald Brothers Dairy, will present the history of Ewald Dairy and the Ewald family

**November 8:** Greg Gruman, president of the Winkley Company, manufacturers of artificial limbs since the civil war. Located in Golden Valley, Gruman is the fifth generation family member to be president of the company, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary. He will relate the history of both the company and artificial limbs.

**December 13:** Pam Weiner, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, will bring the history of the women who created the wildflower garden located in Golden Valley but owned by the Minneapolis Park System.

## Society accessions

David Heim of Bloomington donated a complete set of half section maps of Golden Valley. The maps are on the heavy paper that is now obsolete since Hennepin County converted maps to electronic data.

## Board nominees, directors and officers listed

Society Vice President, John Colwell, reports that the following members have been nominated for a three year term on the Society's board of directors. They are: Kenneth Huber, Nancy Kochenderfer, Linda Loomis, Peggy Nelson, Rudi Martignacco and Lyle Mottinger. The election will be held at the September 13 general membership meeting.

Continuing on the board of directors are: John Colwell and Mike Freiberg for two years; Don Anderson, Jerry Breth, Betty Crews and Jim Hera for one year. DeDe Scanlon is the Golden Valley City Council representative. Officers for the 2011-12 fiscal year have been Ken Huber, president; John Colwell, vice president; Don Anderson, Secretary and Treasurer.

## New members

**Linda Loomis**, 6677 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley.

She joins these other members who joined in the past fiscal year: Gary Cohen and Margaret Macneal, Bob and Sharon Mattison, Peggy and Scott Nelson, and Ginger Zoubec.

Please take a moment to welcome them at the next general membership meeting.

## Anderson summarizes “State of the Society”

*President Ken Huber has asked Secretary/Treasurer Don Anderson to write the Summary of the State of the Golden Valley Historical Society for the past fiscal year. (The Society’s fiscal year runs from September through August each year.)*

As the 2011-2012 fiscal year comes to an end for the Society, I would like to summarize some of the year’s highlights. The mission of the Society is to find and preserve the heritage of the City of Golden Valley and to educate about that heritage. That mission statement was designed back in 1974 when the Society was organized and chartered. We thank all of the members who volunteer their time and talents to help our Society in reaching our mission goals.

The monthly membership meeting programs from September through May were exceptional and the members attending were educated as well as entertained. All of the presenters were also volunteers and experts in their field. We will continue to bring programs of historic interest to the meetings. This being the 150th anniversary of the Civil War some of the programs will feature some aspect of the Civil War.

New “hardware” has been acquired which will allow us to convert our VHS video tapes to DVD and we are researching and hope to obtain in the near future a modern electronic “camera” to record our activities which is adaptable to power point projection.

Our volunteers have kept the historic church grounds and interior in “spic and span” condition. A major rehab was completed with the basement perimeter interior being drain tiled and a new concrete well cap installed over the well pit, which now at last creates a dry lower level, and completes the “laundry list” of items needed to be accomplished before we could have a permanent museum display area.

A replacement of the front concrete steps and sidewalk became a repair item and was accomplished and adds to the beauty of the historic site.

The general public has become aware of our historic site and word has spread that the Golden Valley Historical Society historic church is a “cool” place to have a small wedding. In the last fiscal year the number of weddings held at the facility has doubled the previous fiscal year. We now have a committee of volunteers who host the weddings held at the historic church. We expect that in the coming fiscal year we will see even more people wishing to be married in our historic church. In every case, the history of the church is revealed to the couple and they like to learn about the church’s history.

The newest public relations project brought to the Society in June, 2012, by the Golden Valley City Council was the donation to the Society of several hundreds of old Golden Valley street signs. These signs, some of which go back to the 1940’s, are being offered to the general public by the Society as a fund raiser for the Society. Calls and emails are coming in from Golden Valley residents and from around the country from former residents of Golden Valley who want a piece of memorabilia from Golden Valley. From Hawaii, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, New York, Wisconsin and even Northern Minnesota, emails requesting specific old street signs, most saying that street is where they grew up or their parents used to live on x street and they want to give the street sign to them, or, I want x sign for a garden ornament in my yard, and many more exciting reasons for the desire to have a “memory” of Golden Valley.

The Society has an excellent group of volunteer board of directors to carry the organization into the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the 39th anniversary of the Golden Valley Historical Society. We hope that you will also come and participate as often as you can.

Thank you members and friends of the Society for your continued support. You are appreciated!

For president Ken Huber  
Don Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer