



VOL. 29 NO. 1

N E W S L E T T E R

FEBRUARY, 2004

REVOIR COLLECTION DONATED TO THE RWCS FOUNDATION



*Rare photo of an Ink Stamp, Brushware, Stoneware, and Spongeband display.
Probably taken inside the factory office. Early 1930's.*

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Show and Sale - Cindy & Pete May
Display Room - Julie & Glenn Beall

To BLEACH OR NOT TO BLEACH...

....that is the question. All pottery collectors have encountered a beautiful piece of pottery, perfect in appearance except for an ugly, greasy stain. Should you attempt to remove the stain, or should you leave it alone and enjoy the piece as is? Is cleaning pottery with bleach safe? Are there better alternatives? Those are the questions to be addressed here.

Larry Roschen

This article will reflect my experiences with deep cleaning dinnerware and my opinions on the subject. Please understand I am not an expert in this area, I am simply sharing my experiences and opinions with my fellow collectors. Also, my experiences do not include deep cleaning stoneware. In a few months I plan to write a follow-up article after doing research on the scientific and chemical principles involved. In that future article I'd like to include opinions and experiences from other collectors. (Please see my contact information on page 9.)

CLAY IS POROUS

Those ugly, greasy stains are located in the clay below the surface, not in the glaze. How do those stains get into the clay? That shouldn't happen if the glaze remains intact. But fine cracks in the glaze can develop; this is called crazing. Crazing occurs when the glaze shrinks at a slightly different rate than the clay beneath it. To some art pottery collectors crazing may be desirable, and some glazes are purposefully made to craze. But that's not true with

dinnerware, where the potter's goal is to create a barrier to keep grease and liquids out of the clay. Crazing is commonly found in Red Wing Potteries' earliest dinnerware (the Gypsy Trail and Provincial lines), but is less common with later lines. The pottery's early experiences apparently lead to a better match of glaze and clay.

BLEACH

Some collectors use bleach to clean pottery. Some pottery reference books recommend the use of bleach. I've never used bleach to clean pottery, but have seen the damage bleach can do. While visiting an antique store recently, a very nice Brittany teapot caught my eye. As I approached the teapot, fine white powdery lines across the entire surface became evident. Closer inspection showed the powder was oozing from crazing in the teapot's glaze. A quick sniff revealed the telltale odor of bleach. While the teapot was still lovely at that point, without action it would eventually become a pile of dust. It may have already been too late.

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

Other collectors use hydrogen peroxide, and I've successfully used this method on pieces in our personal collection. I'll describe my method, along with some cautions, a bit later. I am not aware of any piece damaged by cleaning with hydrogen peroxide, thus it's my opinion that hydrogen peroxide is significantly safer than bleach for this purpose.

WHITENING vs. CLEANING

Logic would say bleach and peroxide make pottery appear cleaner because they are whitening agents. While whitening no doubt helps, my experience shows that peroxide also forces grease out of the clay and thus truly cleans the pottery. How do I know? After soaking a grease-stained piece in my peroxide bath, greasy scum floated to the surface. Because I have no experience with bleach I cannot vouch for it as a cleaning agent.

BASIC SCIENCE: GET THE BLEACH OUT

All matter is composed of molecules, and individual molecules want as much elbow room as possible. Whenever possible, molecules will flow to an area of lower concentration. Think of a group of people in a small space, such as an elevator. Rather than crowd into a corner, people tend to disperse themselves evenly as much as possible within the available space. That's exactly what molecules do, too.

As a piece of pottery sets in a bath of cleaning agent (bleach or peroxide), molecules of the agent will try to enter the clay because density of the agent is lower there than in the bath. If the glaze is not intact, the cleaning agent will successfully penetrate into the clay. The clay will absorb more and more of the agent, until the concentration of agent is the same both inside and outside the glaze. At this point the clay is saturated with the cleaning agent.

If the pottery is removed from the bath and dried without first

extracting the absorbed cleaning agent, the agent will remain in the clay. And if that agent chemically reacts with the clay (and apparently bleach does), damage will occur over time. Thus it is vital that the cleaning agent, especially if it is bleach, be extracted before drying.

How to extract the agent? Simply soak the pottery in clean water. The same chemical process that allows clay to absorb the agent also works in reverse. Agent-saturated clay will release the agent and absorb water in an attempt to maintain equal concentrations on both sides of the glaze. Eventually water will replace nearly all the agent in the clay. The piece can then be safely dried because water does not react harmfully with clay.

How long should the piece soak in clean water? One rule of thumb is to soak the piece in water at last one day for every day the piece was soaked in bleach or peroxide. Thus pottery soaked for two weeks in agent should be soaked at least two weeks in water. You may want to change the water occasionally. Doing so will eliminate any agent already expelled by the clay, and since the fresh water contains no agent it enhances the ability of the clay to further expel the cleaning agent.

It's my belief that most damage to pottery from bleach occurs because the owner skipped or shortened the water soak step that removes the bleach from the piece. Can an item be saved if it has evidence (odor, powder) that it was bleached? Perhaps. Soaking the piece in clean water would draw bleach out from the clay, as described above. But if

(continued on page 9)

MEMBERSHIP

A Primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$25 annually and an Associate membership is \$10.

There must be at least one Primary membership per household in order to have Associate membership. Members can pay for more than one year membership fee when renewing.

Contact the RWCS business office for additional details.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Issue	Text/Editorial	Advertising
February	January 1	January 10
April	March 1	March 10
June	May 1	May 10
August	July 1	July 15
October	September 1	September 10
December	November 1	November 10

EDITORIAL BOARD

Clifford Ekdahl, Dave and Diane Hallstrom,
Al Kohlman, Ron Linde, Larry Peterson,
Ray Reiss, Con and Sandy Short, Dave Short.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

The Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation is pleased to announce the acquisition of Mr. Phil Revoir's photographic archives of the Red Wing clay industry. In July of 2003, the Foundation accepted a donation of over 1000 original photographic negatives and a three-ton fireproof safe. This donation was the result of Phil's ideal that it was "important to preserve the collection and make it available for use." Phil saw, through the Foundation's establishment of a local museum, that the Foundation

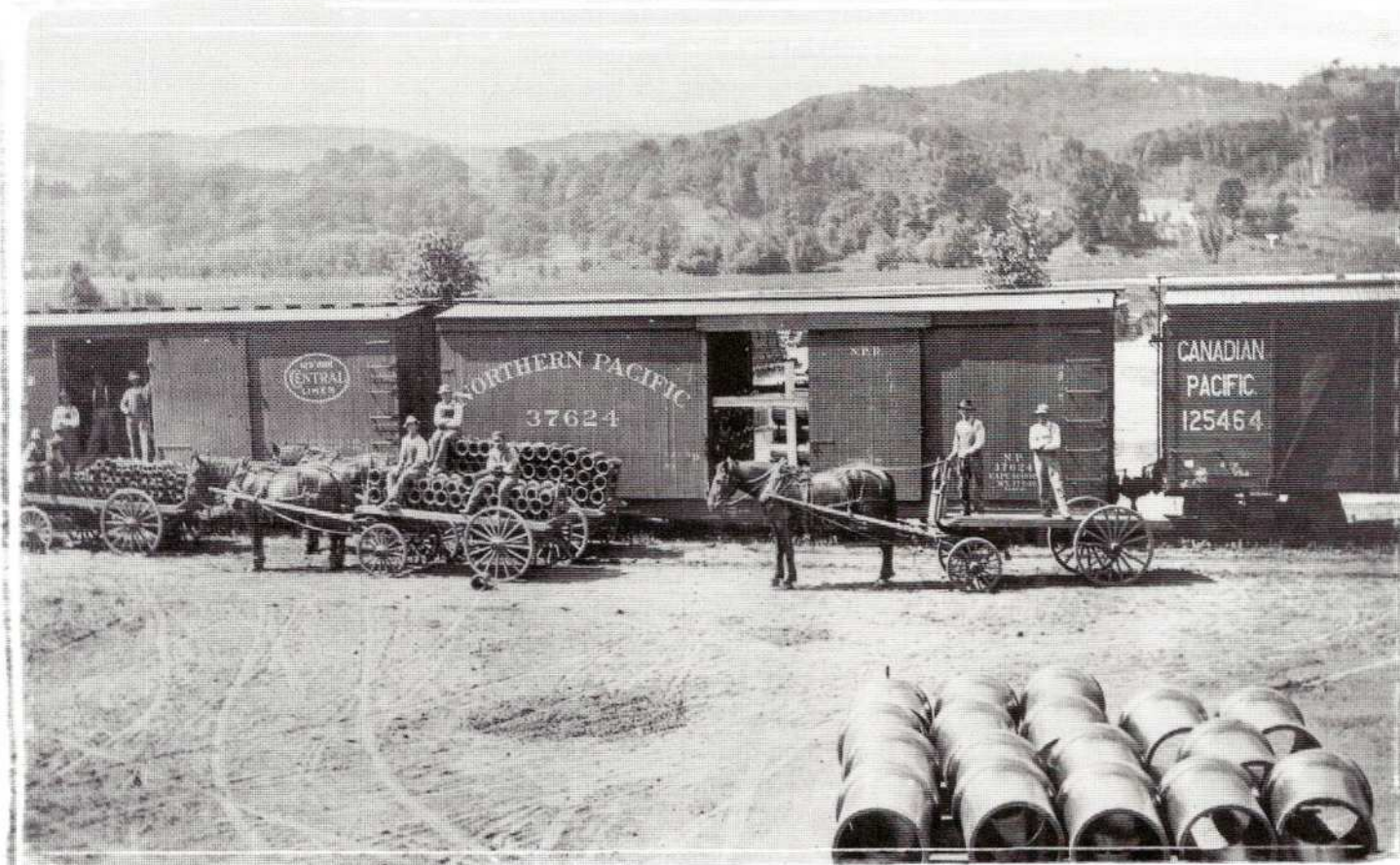
also shares his commitment to preservation.

Phil was born and raised in Red Wing. He opened his first photography studio in 1953, and only recently retired after nearly fifty-one years in business. From 1953 to 1967, Phil provided the commercial photography for the Red Wing Potteries' marketing literature and catalogs. The Potteries would frequently deliver a number of pieces to Phil's studio to be photographed. Although most pieces were decorated and finished, pieces were sometimes

delivered in bisque since this unglazed form was better suited for black and white photography.

The heart of the collection is 864 four-inch by five-inch negatives resulting from this association with the Red Wing Potteries. These images cover the wide range of artware and dinnerware the company produced during the final fourteen years of operation. The vast majority of this work has been reproduced in the various Potteries' artware catalogs, print advertisements, and dinnerware brochures of that timeframe.

Notice the Canadian railcar with the Northern Pacific railcar. This photo is of the Red Wing Sewer Pipe Company shipping yard. The horse drawn wagon was filled with sewer pipe and then loaded onto railcars. Early 1900's.



Over the years, Phil collected additional photos of Red Wing, including the clay industry, that date back to the early 1900s. Items from this assortment include 45 eight-inch by ten-inch negatives of the Potteries' artware production for RumRill from the mid-1930s. The remaining 140 negatives faithfully document a range of local clay industry subjects including Claybank, sewer tile, and stoneware-era employee photos. Through the generosity of monies donated to the Foundation from the Red Wing Collectors Society, each negative has been made into a black and white photographic

print. This effort was completed last fall. The challenge ahead for the Foundation will be to finalize the cataloguing of this extensive collection and to identify how to properly display a portion of this collection in the Red Wing Pottery Museum.

The value of this donation is enormous as it enhances our understanding and appreciation of the ceramic industry in Red Wing. This type of photographic material rarely, if ever, becomes available on the open market. When it does, a single, vintage print fetches well over \$100. Today, it would take over \$10,000 to simply replace the

safe. Possession of the original negatives is simply priceless and is expected to produce some interesting future research possibilities. The Foundation is hopeful to reproduce additional photos in future editions of the Newsletter.

Phil, and his wife, Joan, continue to live in Red Wing, and have three daughters and eight grandchildren. Both the Red Wing Collectors Society and the Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation extend our heartfelt gratitude to Phil and his family for their generosity. 🍷

Loading the railcars at the Red Wing Sewer Pipe Company with horse drawn carts. Notice the Sewer Pipe Company in the background.



CLUB NEWS

from the

Interim President



SUE JONES TAGLIAPIETRA

The RWCS enjoyed a good year in 2003. Membership numbers remain relatively stable and the Society continues as one of the largest and successful collector organizations in the nation. The 2003 budget was within the projected revenues and expenditures. The newly established 2004 budget was developed with caution to ensure that expenses did not exceed projected revenues.

The changes to the constellation of the RWCS Board of Directors were completed without any disruption to the overall operations of the Society.

The comments I have heard from those joining the RWCS Cruise in November were very positive. It seems that everyone had a great time and the words "fun and fellowship" seemed to be the theme.

I look forward to serving as the interim president for the next two years. The Board will be concentrating on working on ways to grow the organization, increase sources of revenue and implement the goals of the Vision 2010 report. We need your help in accomplishing these goals and welcome any suggestions you may have regarding ways to maintain and improve this great organization. 

FORT DODGE STONEWARE

The following article will be the first in a couple articles based on the Fort Dodge, Iowa pottery. Mr. Gregg Steffens was the keynote speaker at the MidWinter GetTogether in Des Moines, Iowa, and he shared his knowledge with the attendees. Mr. Steffens recently completed his research and compiled it into a book titled, "From Iowa Clay: The Stoneware of Fort Dodge."

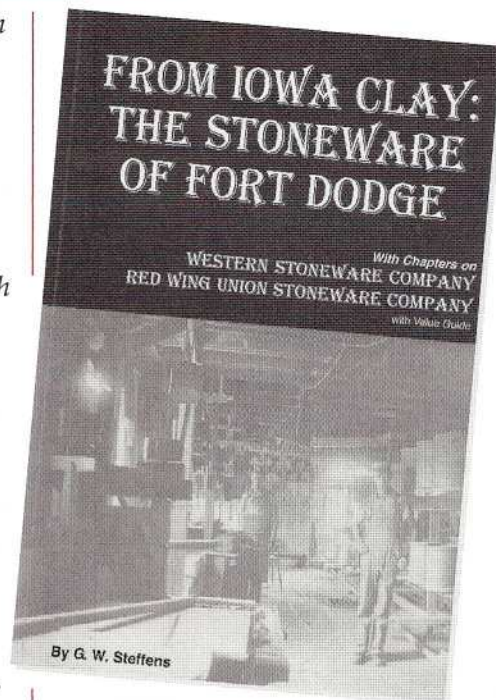
In the preface of his book, Mr. Steffens writes:

This book is for everyone who appreciates history and the historical artifacts that appeared in the daily lives of our ancestors...

The various companies are represented in sequential order. The business relationships that transpired between the earliest stoneware companies and the subsequent companies ensured a well-documented chronology. The vital bond between Fort Dodge and companies such as Red Wing Union Stoneware of Minnesota and the Western Stoneware Company of Illinois are further explored to clarify their relationships. Mergers and product marketing confirmed the legacy of Fort Dodge stoneware.

The introduction talks about the desire for land, prosperity and a new beginning for settlers in the new American West. As America migrated westward, the growing population of the Midwest grew rapidly in need of goods and services to accommodate the new inhabitants.

The need for stoneware was no different. Fruits, vegetable and



meats needed to be preserved for the harsh mid-western winters. Stoneware found in Iowa in the 1850s was either from a few small potteries along the Iowa rivers and streams or imported from Ohio. "Queensware" (porcelain) had to be shipped from the East or imported from Britain. Midwestern grocery stores at this time often set up displays to sell local goods on consignment and paid independent local farmers cash for produce. Along with the produce, pottery was displayed.

Martin White knew clay and the types of clay that were workable and how to transform clay into finer shapes and forms. Born into a family of potters in Germany, he left his ancestors at fifteen for the allure of America. Departing Germany in 1843, he arrived in New York and worked in the pottery industry for sixteen years.

(continued on page 13)

SALT GLAZE CROCK RESCUED

Michael J. Theune submitted an interesting story about how he came upon a rare salt glazed crock.

I have been a member of the RWCS for the past six years. I happen to mention to a friend that I collected Red Wing crocks. He invited me to his mother's home to look in her basement at the crocks she had and wanted to sell. The crocks were all the common variety and I was not all that interested in them as

collectors items. I had many of them in my own collection already. As I was leaving, I happened to walk through my friend's garage and noticed the salt glazed crock sitting on the garage floor. To my dismay, it was being used to hold oily rags discarded during his work on his vehicles! Now this crock is one of my favorites in my collection. 

SEE THE RWCS 2003 CONVENTION VIDEO

For those who are interested in re-living the 2003 RWCS Annual Convention in Red Wing or those who have never attended and would like to see what they are missing, contact the business office. A special video was created during the weeklong event and RWCS members may borrow the videotape to watch the highlights free of charge. The videotape must be returned to the business office so it is available for other members to view. 

Please contact Marcia Hislop at 1-800-977-7927
or email rwcsmem@redwing.net for details.

MidWinter GetTogether

As this issue of the Newsletter is being mailed, your fellow members who traveled to Des Moines, Iowa are experiencing everything that the MidWinter GetTogether has to offer. Here is a brief summary of what was happening and we will follow up with a more comprehensive overview in the April edition.

MidWinter education started with a general session at 8:30 am Saturday morning. Greg Steffans talked about Fort Dodge stoneware and the connection with the Red Wing and Western potteries. The educational sessions started at 9:40 am in the conference rooms in the lower level of the hotel. Art Holiday brought some of his favorite pieces in his personal collection for show and tell in 'Art's Favorites'. Wally Armstrong gave an updated version of his 'Odds and Ends of Red Wing'. In the 'Red Wing Stoneware,' Con and Dave Short discussed their favorite subject. These three seminars were repeated at 10:40 so people had the chance to attend more than one session. 

RWCS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2004 NATIONAL EVENTS

May 1 & 2: Board Meeting in Madison, WI

July 8-10: Annual Convention - Red Wing, MN

October 16 & 17: Board Meeting

2004 CHAPTER EVENTS

March 6: Nebraska Redwingers - evening meetings TBA.

March 13: Golden State Meeting Modesto, CA at home of S. Hardman

March 14: Puget Sound Meeting Maple Valle, WA at home of the Sandmans

April 2004: Trails West Meeting in St. Joseph, MO at home of Dennis & Jeanne Weber

April 10: Iowa Meeting in Elkhart, IA 9:30 am at Chichaqua Wildlife Refuge

April 24: Spring Meeting 12:00 noon at the Pizza Ranch in Flandreau, South Dakota

What Do You Collect And Why?

Everyone has a favorite piece of Red Wing pottery. We'd like to ask you to share your thoughts on this topic by mailing or e-mailing your story and photo to us, as we are always looking for member contributions. Please enclose a photo of yourself or your collection, to add a more personal touch.

Please contact us with any questions you may have about submitting articles. 

CLUB NEWS

from the
Business Manager



KAY WILSHUSEN

It's that time of year again! Look for your Convention forms inserted in this Newsletter. Mark your calendars for the annual Convention July 8-10, 2004, to be held at the Red Wing High School. The tentative schedule is printed in this Newsletter so join in on the fun, fellowship, and education and pre-register!

Enclosed are the pre-registration, commemorative, and auction forms. If you did not receive your inserts, please contact Marcia Hislop at 800-977-7927 or e-mail at rwcsmem@redwing.net.

Take the time to read all the applicable information! All deadlines are final. Please see important information is listed on this page. 🍀

KIDSVIEW

Exciting KidsView activities are planned again for this summer. We need volunteers to help during the kids auction and during seminars. We also need items donated for the KidsView auction.

If you are interested, please contact either Wendy Callicoat or Sue Jones Tagliapietra.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2004 CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

- Morning Board of Directors meeting (open to the public)
- Outdoor brat feed at Pottery Place Mall (sponsored by Pottery Place Mall)
- Early badge pickup at brat feed
- Auction Check-in

CONVENTION

Red Wing High School

THURSDAY, JULY 8

- Orientation for First Timers
- Chapter Presidents Meeting
- Commemorative Distribution
- Auction Check-in
- Keynote Address
- Chapter Meetings
- Kids' Seminars
- Sales of Educational Material
- Shared Interest Groups
- Narrated Bus Tour of historical Red Wing, including a visit to the "Clay Pits"
- Display Room Viewing
- Evening Auction

FRIDAY, JULY 9

- Orientation for First Timers
- Commemorative Distribution
- Adult and Kids' Seminars
- Sales of Educational Material
- Display Room Viewing
- Annual Business Meeting
- Picnic at Colvill Park (sponsored by Red Wing Chamber of Commerce)

SATURDAY, JULY 10

- Commemorative Distribution
- Display Room Viewing - open to the public
- Show and Sale
- Commemorative Lottery
- Evening Banquet - St. James Hotel

SUNDAY, JULY 11

- Brunch - St. James Hotel

PLEASE NOTE: CONVENTION INFORMATION

- ✓ Record your membership number on the form. If you have misplaced your number, leave it blank.
- ✓ Pre-registrations postmarked after May 15 will be returned!
- ✓ Seller's table contracts must be requested by May 1 and returned by May 15.
- ✓ No commemoratives are mailed until dues are paid.
- ✓ Mailed commemoratives will be shipped by the end of July. Commemoratives shipped to the same household may not arrive on the same day.
- ✓ After October 1, 2004, members with expired memberships will forfeit their commemoratives (no refunds).
- ✓ Kids' View seminars are for kids 15 and under.

deterioration has progressed too far, soaking in water may cause the piece to break apart. But that would likely happen anyway with time, so it may be worth the risk.

MY METHOD:

Here is the process I follow using hydrogen peroxide. Please understand this is not a recommendation to others, I am merely sharing my experiences. While I've encountered no damage to pottery with this method, any use of hydrogen peroxide is at your own risk.

Hydrogen peroxide is available at beauty supply stores labeled as 20, 30 or 40 volume as either a clear solution or an opaque liquid. Volume is a term that means "percent", so these products are 20, 30 or 40% hydrogen peroxide. Strong stuff! The peroxide used to treat cuts and wounds is only 3%; it will not work well for cleaning pottery. I use the 40 volume clear solution because it works quicker and lasts longer, but 20 or 30 should also work. I've never used the opaque liquid form and can't see any advantage to it.

Hydrogen peroxide in these high strengths must be used with extreme caution. From my experience it stings on bare skin, eats a hole in clothing if not promptly washed out, and causes blistering on Formica tabletops if not wiped up. Use rubber gloves when handling the peroxide, unless you don't mind the sting. I store my peroxide bath and supplies in an unused plastic shower, so any messes can be quickly and easily cleaned up. I use a covered plastic Rubbermaid tub to hold my

peroxide bath. The container size needed depends on the size of the item to be cleaned. Of course a bigger container will require more peroxide. The peroxide can be reused numerous times. I've used my current batch of peroxide for nearly a year. Over time the peroxide weakens and the extracted soil and grease becomes a problem. I've tried to filter off the grease but with limited success. Eventually it is necessary to discard to weakened, dirty peroxide and start over with fresh solution.

How long should an item be soaked in peroxide? It depends on the piece. Some pieces clean up in just a few days; others can soak for a couple of months and still not be clean. Generally a couple of weeks are sufficient, but I use my judgment to decide if a longer soak is needed. Another plastic tub is used for a water bath soak after the peroxide cleaning. As previously stated, I soak the piece in clean water for at least as long as the item soaked in peroxide.

I have used peroxide to clean stains from dinnerware, but not art pottery or stoneware. Gypsy Trail and Provincial (Orleans, Brittany, Ardennes and Normandy) clean up quite well, but I've had little success with later dinnerware lines. This is likely due to the crazing issue described earlier.

ETHICS

Opinions vary on whether or not cleaning pottery in this manner is ethical. Some believe this process merely deep cleans the pottery.

Others believe it is a form of restoration similar to repairing cracks or chips. In my opinion, if the only benefit from treatment were whitening of the clay then I'd feel this is a form of restoration. But since the treatment (at least with peroxide) actually removes grease from the piece, I believe this is a cleaning process rather than restoration. In any event, collectors would be well advised to clean only pieces that will be retained in

Opinions vary on whether or not cleaning pottery in this manner is ethical.

their collection. Pottery to be resold should be left "as is"; let the buyer make the decision. Your ethics and reputation may be called into question if the buyer learns the piece has been cleaned with bleach or peroxide.

FUTURE ARTICLE

As stated earlier, I would like to gather input from other collectors on this issue. I plan to compile that input along with my research in a future Newsletter article. Your name will not be mentioned in the article unless you specifically ask me to do so. Please send your thoughts and experience on this subject to:

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Coon Rapids, MN, 55433
or send an e-mail to
redwinglr@aol.com. 

ATLANTIC CITY ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE SHOW A SUCCESS

In October 2003, the Red Wing Collectors Society had the opportunity to send the traveling display to one of the country's largest shows, the Atlantique City Antique & Collectible Show. We were able to do this because of our organization's membership in the Association of Collecting Clubs (ACC).

The Atlantique Show is now in it's 18th year and is the world's largest indoor antiques and collectibles fair. There were more than 1,000 exhibitors at the October show. There were three special exhibits for the visitor's enjoyment. The first commemorated the Wright Brothers first flight, a lineup of classic Ford automobiles to mark the 100th anniversary of Ford Motor Co., and a special quartet of rare Harley Davidson motorcycles. This was the first time that ACC had prepared a show booth for the promotion of collecting clubs. The Atlantique City Show management, Ted Jones and Mary Ann Torres and the rest of their staff, were very accommodating. The management provided ACC 1-1/2 booths to display their member's organizations.

The ACC's initial goal was to have 50-60 clubs participating so they could offer the Atlantique show-goers a good variety of club opportunities. By the time the show got started they had over 130 participating clubs with a wide, wide range of collecting interests. They were also happy to have several clubs from Great Britain and Canada represented. A detailed list of the participating

clubs, including the RWCS are available online at www.collectors.org.

All of the participating Clubs provided promotional materials, and the ACC pulled items from their own personal inventory to illustrate the collectibles of many of the participating clubs. The show attendees expressed a lot of interest in the booth and thousands of pieces of educational material were selectively picked up. Although it may take awhile, the goal of the ACC is that some of this exposure will generate some new members for the participating clubs.

A number of people representing various clubs, both participating and non-participating, stopped by and liked what they saw. You can view online some of the photos taken during the show.

ACC is pleased to have this partnership with the Atlantique City Show - the largest indoor antique & collectible show in the world - which is sponsored by Antique

Trader, a Krause publication.

The next Atlantique City Antique & Collectible Show will be on Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28, 2004 at the same location, the Atlantic City Convention Center. The ACC again plans to be there - promoting collecting clubs and club memberships - with an expanded 2½ booths area! Plus, we may have some other activities for participating clubs during the 2-day show.

The Red Wing Collectors Society has plans to again send a small display and informational material to be displayed at the show in hope of increasing awareness and membership in our organization. We will keep you informed as to what the RWCS plans to do at the March show.

We would like to thank Rick Moses and Larry Krug of the Association of Collecting Clubs for their review of the Atlantique Show. You can find information on the RWCS on the ACC website at www.collectors.org. 

IT'S AUCTION TIME AGAIN!

It's Auction time again! The 2004 Convention Auction will be here soon. The Auction is open to the entire RWCS membership. Each member may submit an item into the Auction Lottery. Please feel free to photocopy the Auction Registration Form. The Registration Forms must be postmarked by May 1st. There will be the 12% commission on all items and a \$12 minimum commission charged on any item that sells for less than \$100. Items selected for the Auction must be brought to the July Convention by the owner or another member. Please do not ship your item to the Business Office or the Auction Manager. If you have any questions regarding the Auction, please feel free to drop an e-mail or a phone call to the Auction Manager directly. Jeff Floyd, RWCS Auction Manager

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Once again we present RWCS members who will be running for an elected position in the Red Wing Collectors Society. We like to provide membership an opportunity to learn more about the person by providing some background information.

Diana Bailey is seeking the Education Manager position.



Diana Bailey

I am married and have one child, a daughter (also a member of the RWCS) who lives in eastern Pennsylvania with her husband and our two grandsons. My husband, Bill, and I have collected antiques for many years. When I must work, I am Manager of Integrated Sales for a Chicago managed care company.

I joined the Society in 1999 after a trip through Red Wing and my first Convention was in 2000. During the Convention of 2001, I attended the educational seminars and realized how much those seminars positively impacted the knowledge that I took home with me!

As a sales manager, I'm equal parts planner, educator, organizer, social chairman, and negotiator! Those

skills coupled with past experience as Social Worker and Teacher will be a strong asset in carrying out the duties of the Society's Education Manager. I don't think in terms of obstacles, but rather challenges. Active participation on all levels by current members and the ability to attract new members are key issues.

The love of collecting Red Wing materializes from exposure to knowledge of the history of the Red Wing Pottery, its products, and the history of the area itself. All Society members are ambassadors for the promotion of membership within the organization. All Society members need to examine their role in sharing their knowledge of Red Wing to add vitality and validity to the organization.

John Tremble and Matt Huepfel are seeking election as Commemorative Co-Managers. They will work as a team to manage the commemorative process.

John Tremble

My wife and I joined the RWCS in 1997 after collecting Red Wing items for several years. The interest in the information about the Red Wing potteries and the chance to meet other Red Wing collectors was one of the reasons we joined. I received my first Red Wing crock from my grandmother in 1987 and my wife and I have collected pottery since 1994.

I have had the pleasure of being the Commemorative manager for the

past term and have learned a lot about successfully creating a commemorative piece and distributing thousands of them to members. I hope to continue to provide exciting and interesting new commemoratives that will be treasured by the membership for years to come.

Matt Huepfel

Matt has been a long-time member in the RWCS. He has been very supportive in a variety of roles in the past, helping with the commemoratives with John Tremble. Matt has also worked with Larry Roschen when Larry was Commemorative Manager. Matt is looking to officially partner with John Tremble to share in all the responsibilities and duties that the Commemorative Manager has to take care of prior to and during Convention.

NOTE: At this time there is not a candidate for the Auction Manager position. The RWCS Society Board of Directors is still seeking a candidate. Interested members should contact any board member for more information. Board contact information is listed on page 2 of this Newsletter.

FINANCIALS

RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY

As the Society continues the transition from "an all volunteer" organization to a professional one with a paid Business Manager and staff, the RWCS Board of Directors continues to be committed to the development and implementation of an annual budget to assure the long-term financial stability of the Society. In addition, the Board desires to frequently communicate with the membership - with the goal of keeping the members informed with the most current financial information available. This issue of the newsletter contains the most current financial information. For a complete listing of 2003 expenses, contact the RWCS office. 

Jerry Schleich,
RWCS Treasurer

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - ALL SOURCES

For the Period Ended December 31, 2003

REVENUES	12 Months Ended Dec. 31, 2003
Advertising	\$ 401.53
Legacy Book	12.00
Auction	161,271.00
Catalog	2,150.00
Commemorative	102,760.00
Commemoratives - Mailed	82,740.00
Mailing Fees	23,880.00
Lottery Sales	29,880.00
Banquet	5,169.00
Memberships	129,307.00
Picnic	2,506.00
Pre-Registration	46,760.00
Sellers' Tables	7,275.00
Tote Bag	430.00
25th Anniversary	200.00
Walk-in Registration	10,500.00
Cruise	12,668.00
Interest	10,021.91
Banners	310.00
Total Revenue	\$ 628,241.44
EXPENDITURES	
(See Schedule)	\$ 610,325.16
NET REVENUES	\$ 17,916.28
Under Expenditures	

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - ALL SOURCES

For the Period Ended December 31, 2003

EXPENDITURES	12 Months Ended Dec. 31, 2003
Accounting	\$ 2,680.00
Executive Board	3,248.88
Auctioneer	3,225.30
Badges/Buttons	3,178.50
Full Board	15,670.65
Commemoratives	69,902.45
Computer & Rental	1,348.24
Computer Programming	12,363.03
Convention Banners	820.00
Data Entry Service	4,579.59
Mailing Boxes	2,880.33
Donations	13,632.76
Dues/Subscriptions	495.00
Education Programs	9,789.57
Facilities	22,582.57
Equipment Rental	4,864.39
Cruise	10,955.63
Insurance	9,084.78
Kids View	1,682.86
Membership Costs	736.97
Memorials	160.00
Mileage/Travel	1,618.51
Newsletter	130,478.01
Office Supplies	1,958.91
Hall of Fame	1,156.93
Paid To Owners	140,770.80
Payroll Taxes	5,347.52
Petty Cash	1,476.55
Postage & Shipping	12,354.29
Printing - Commemorative	590.00
Printing - Convention	2,349.55
Publicity/Marketing	1,156.92
Registration	59.90
Supplement	2,500.00
Salary - Stipends	7,960.00
Salary - Business Manager	42,410.04
Salary - Assistant	17,803.30
Sample	7,000.00
Security	7,614.62
Shirts	4,672.53
Showcases	1,275.70
Show & Sale Printing	422.93
Social Event - Picnic	2,520.00
Social Event - Banquet	6,990.84
Supplies	188.23
Telephone	5,859.11
Tour Bus	330.00
Trademarks	1,916.50
Truck	307.57
Website	2,354.40
Expense Contingency	5,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 610,325.16

RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY RED WING, MINNESOTA - BUDGET 2004

	2003 ACTUAL	2003 BUDGET	2004 BUDGET
REVENUES			
General & Administrative	\$152,410.44	\$143,500.00	\$131,900.00
Convention	65,325.00	78,180.00	66,845.00
Commemorative	239,260.00	246,240.00	237,250.00
Auction	163,421.00	122,000.00	127,000.00
MidWinter	7,825.00	8,150.00	8,375.00
Total Revenues	\$628,241.44	\$598,070.00	\$571,370.00
EXPENDITURES			
Newsletter	\$130,478.01	\$115,000.00	\$105,600.00
General & Administrative	156,448.62	161,440.00	146,012.00
Expense Contingency	5,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Convention	66,991.53	63,158.00	63,140.00
Commemorative	96,119.17	118,312.00	106,700.00
Auction	145,470.62	110,150.00	114,700.00
MidWinter	9,817.21	8,770.00	10,250.00
Total Expenditures	\$610,325.16	\$596,830.00	\$566,402.00
NET REVENUES	\$17,916.28	\$1,240.00	\$4,968.00

Arriving in Iowa in 1859, Martin White settled in the Cedar Falls area where he quickly set up his own shop.

His shop was successful but costly in the fact that clay was shipped in from outside the area, which included delivery by horse teams and then rail. In 1870, White departed Cedar Falls and the Fort Dodge pottery industry was born. He set up shop in Fort Dodge and soon thereafter acquired an investor partner, Richard Meigs. This was the beginning of a nearly 20 year association with Fort Dodge stoneware companies. Meigs obtained primary ownership of the new company with White as superintendent. By 1875, White would buy into the partnership.

Pottery created by the new company was very popular with the community. The company was run under the name of Meigs & Co. The alliance between Meigs and

White lasted nearly a decade. After this time, White once again wanted to establish a stoneware company of his own, White would sell his interest in the pottery to Meigs. He took with him two key employees and established a new company to supplement the demand for pottery and would compete directly with Meigs. The Union Pottery Works was created.

UNION WORKS POTTERY

The Union Pottery Works was started in 1880 and only lasted three years. It became a full scale operation very quickly. There are more marked pieces of Union Pottery Works than the longer running Fort Dodge Pottery.

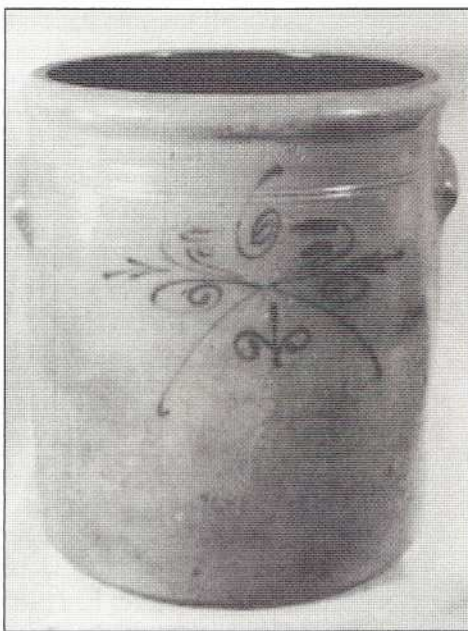
The Fort Dodge Pottery of Richard Meigs continued to operate simultaneously next to Martin White's Union Pottery Works. In 1893, Martin White changed the name of his pottery to White's Pottery Works. Then Ebenezer Hartwell and Joseph Bower of the Fort Dodge Pottery ventured

enough capital and leased the plant, changing the name to Hartwell and Bower Pottery.

Identification of stoneware manufactured under the name Hartwell and Bower remains difficult, as no pieces were marked specifically under that name. However, the "FORT DODGE, IOWA" embossed front impression of the Fort Dodge Pottery is seen on other salt-glazed stoneware. The stoneware is decorated differently from the brushed cobalt pieces but the impressed characters are the same.

White's Pottery Works used different colors of glazes and the use of both hand-thrown and molded pottery pieces attested to the creativity of Martin White. In 1890, Martin White died, leaving the company in the hands of his sons William and Arthur. The company continued to flourish along with the Hartwell and Bower Pottery right next door.

This Union Pottery Works piece shows the creative side of many early potters. This marked example is extremely rare.



This excerpt is part of a new book and value guide written by Greg W. Steffens.

If you are interested in adding this book to your collection, here is the contact information to order the book. Kilnbsmoke@hotmail.com Greg Steffens, 519 West Fillmore, Winterset, Iowa 50273-1042. Cost per book is \$19.95 and includes free shipping/tax.



This 6 gallon storage crock has the typical markings of Fort Dodge found on many salt-glaze stoneware vessels.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are 15¢ per word;
\$3 minimum charge.

Ads are divided into the following sections: *Red Wing For Sale*, *Red Wing Wanted*, *Other Pottery For Sale*, *Other Pottery Wanted*, *Events*, *Clubs*, *Auctions*, *Publications*, *Announcements* and *Services*. You will not be charged for these words, but please indicate which section your ad should be placed in. If ad is to run in more than one issue please indicate at time of placement.

Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	1x	6x
Full page	\$400	\$360
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	200	180
1/4 page	100	90
1/8 page (includes typesetting)	60	45

Display Ad Dimensions

Full Page	7½x10
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	7½x4½
1/4 page	3½x4½
1/8 page	3½x2½

Display Ads are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The publisher reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason.

The Newsletter is produced on a Macintosh in Quark XPress. Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or TIFF file for Mac. Be sure to include all fonts used. If you are unsure about acceptability, inquire with the Editor. Quotes supplied for design and makeup if needed; there is a \$50 minimum. Unformatted or unreserved ads will be treated as classifieds.

DEADLINES

Issue	Advertising Deadline
February	January 10
April	March 10
June	May 10
August	July 15
October	September 10
December	November 10

EDITOR ADDRESS

Send all ads with payment. Make checks payable to **Cindy Taube** and mail to: Creative Communications
27950 Bayview Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

We can't accept checks made out to the Red Wing Collectors Society.

CLASSIFIEDS

RED WING FOR SALE

20 Gal. Crock, Minnesota Stoneware Co. with #1 Minnesota Identification Stamp, Double Birchleaves, Ear Handles, Dark Brown Salt Glaze Inside, Mint Condition - \$1700.00.

5 Gal. Koverwate - \$175.00, Smallest Refrigerator Jar - \$125.00, Saffron Pitcher - \$100.00, 5 Gal. Wing Beehive Jug - \$350.00, 2 Gal. Brown Top Wing Jug - \$200.00. Call 701-749-2586.

5 Gal. Butter Churn Union Stoneware Co. Red Wing, MN Double Birch Leaves with Cover (has few chips) Hairline Crack Near the Base. - \$400.00

Handles and Wooden Lids. Send SASE for flyer to: Larsen's Collectibles, 757 120th Street, Hampton, Iowa 50441-7555. Phone 641-866-6733. 4/04

Bottom signed Minnesota Stoneware 3 Gal. Birchleaf Elephant Ear Churn - \$500.00, 1/2 Gal. Morris Fink St. Paul Jug - \$275.00, 3 Gal. Wing Milwaukee Wis. Jug - \$350.00. Call 701-749-2586.

Set of Handturned Watercoolers 2-10, Set Blue Birchleaf Beehive Jugs, Pantry Jars: 1, 5, 10#, 1, 2, 3 Gal., Green Xmas Stand, 1/2 Gal. & 1 Gal. Brown Top Jugs with Wing, Ice Waters: one-3 Gal., two-4 Gal., three-5 Gal., one-6 Gal., one-8 Gal., two-10 Gal., one-15 Gal., with 6 spigots. Phone 402-379-4895.

RWCS Newsletters from 1978-2003, Short Dec. 1994, Dec. 2000, Oct. 2001, June 2002, RWCS Convention Newspaper Supplements 1985-1998 - \$450.00 or b/o. Call 651-388-3660.

OTHER FOR SALE

Used but good-condition Remmler Brewing Security White Cross paper label beer bottle, circa 1950, for sale at \$25.00 plus P & I. Call 952-920-4205 or s.ketcham@unique-software.com.

RED WING WANTED

Early RWCS Newsletters. Koverwate 3,6,25. 10 Gal. Water Cooler Cover. Signed Viel #1 & #3 books. Call 320-290-5505

Saltglaze Crocks, Churns and Coolers wanted. Looking for all patterns especially the drop eight pattern. Also a four gallon Minnesota Lid as pictured on page 145 in the white book, ski oval and Colfax Beehive Jugs. All Blue Panel Sponge Bowls, Salt Glaze Churn Lids and Crock Lids. Chris Tincher 316-250-3416. Please have price and description, condition is important. 4/04

#256 Fruit Juicer and Cup, any color. #M3013-15" with Silver Green Cystalline Glaze. Call Tim at 641-862-3239. 2/04

OTHER INFORMATION

Looking to buy Art Pottery? Trying to find a particular shape or glaze? I can help! Contact Ron Linde, 500 South Water Street, Northfield, MN 55057 or email ronlinde@clear.lakes.com or leave a message at 507-645-6946.

CLUBS AND PUBLICATIONS

New 2004 Values for both Red Wing Stoneware and Red Wing Collectibles. \$9.95 each or \$17.95 for both plus \$1.50/\$2.00 postage, respectively. Quantity discounts available. Gail Peck, 2121 Pearl, Fremont, NE 68025. 402-721-5721. 12/04

NEW! 2003 price guides now available for each of my three books: Red Wing Art Pottery Including Pottery Made for RumRill (book one), Red Wing Art Pottery TWO, and Red Wing Dinnerware Price & ID Guide. \$5 each s&h \$2 (1-3 price guides). Red Wing Art Pottery Two (\$29-\$6 s&h) and Dinnerware (\$12.95-\$3 s&h) books available while they last. Sorry book one out-of-print. Send check to Ray Reiss 2144 N. Leavitt Chicago, IL 60647. Phone 773-235-7393. 6/04

UPCOMING AUCTION

2nd Annual Stoneware and Pottery Auction. 450+ pieces - Sunday, April 18, 2004 - 12:30p.m. Storden School City Center. Croatt Auction Service - Storden, MN. John Croatt - 507-445-3919 or 507-445-3475. www.midwestauctions.com. 4/04

CURRENT PRICES & SCOOPS

Tell us about the price received for a Red Wing product. Briefly describe item, where sold, date, venue (store, auction, etc.) and price paid. Send in on a post card. Multiple submissions mean multiple entries in Newsletter Special Commemorative Lottery at the 2004 Convention. Send to the Editor at the address on page 3. All entries received between July '03 and June '04 are eligible whether published or not. Please keep submittals with purchase dates within six months of the Newsletter issue.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE SOLD	VENUE	PRICE PAID
7" Spongeband (Greyline) Casserole - no lid	Springfield, OH	5/03	Antique Shop	\$28.00
10" Panel Spongeware Mixing Bowl - small hairline		6/03	Ebay	\$22.08
Christmas Tree Holder w/Water Hole - mint	Hartford, CT	6/03	Liquidation Sale	\$170.00
Stoneware 1Qt. Mustard Pitcher - mint	Central Indiana	8/03	Antique Shop	\$15.00
Minnesota-Michigan Mini Jug	Detroit Lakes, MN	8/03	Flea Market	\$80.00
"Land of Sky Blue Waters" Beverage Server (p.182, Reiss, 2nd Book) - mint	Decatur, IL	8/03	Antique Shop	\$40.00
4 Piece Red Wing #526 Ivory/Brown Wipe Centerpiece - Set, Deer Frog, Long Bowl (w/sticker), 2 Candlesticks - all mint		9/03	Ebay	\$25.00
Blue Dutch Girl Cookie Jar - mint		9/03	Ebay	\$36.00
RWUSC Brushware Vase/Urn w/Handles Bottom Marked - mint	Central Ohio	9/03	Antique Shop	\$59.80

TWO DAY ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLES

AUCTION

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • MARCH 27 & 28, 2004
10:30 A.M. EACH DAY

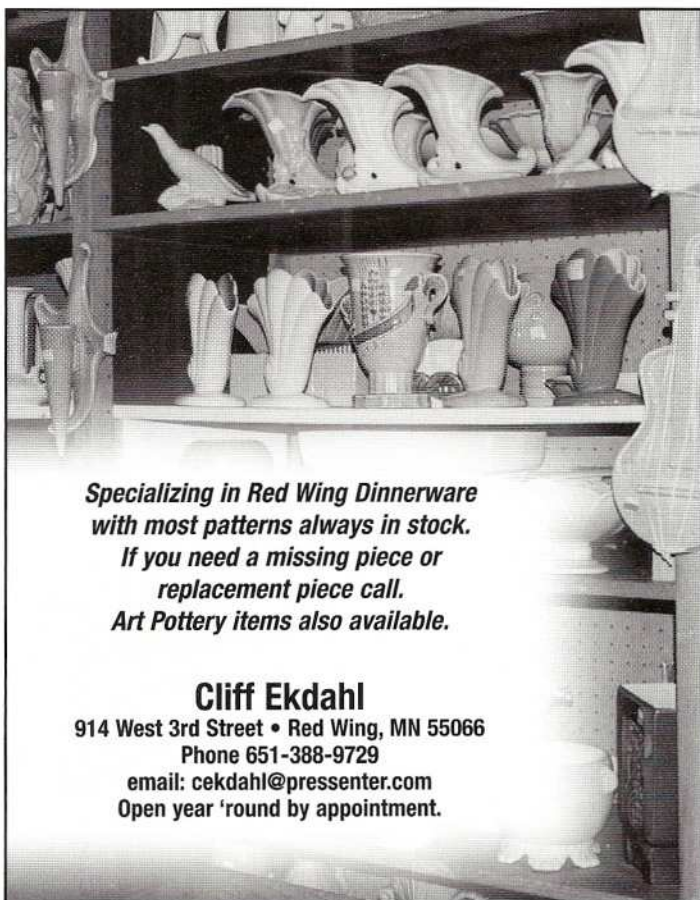
Selling Saturday: Over 200 pieces of Red Wing Stoneware including, but not limited to: Water Coolers; Churns; Collection of 1-60 Gal. Wing Cocks; Three 20lb. Butter Cocks, Rolling Pins; Ice Water Coolers; Fancy Jugs; Commemoratives; Ball Locking Jars; Koverwates; Nest of Sponge Bowls; Collection of different 2 Gal. Cocks; King of Tarts Cookie Jar; Ko-Rec Feeders; Shoulder Jugs; plus many more items.

Full sale bill available after February 10, 2004.

Call for more details.

GULBRANSON AUCTION SERVICE

Dean C. Gulbranson - Auctioneer • 605-695-0133



Specializing in Red Wing Dinnerware
with most patterns always in stock.
If you need a missing piece or
replacement piece call.
Art Pottery items also available.

Cliff Ekdahl
914 West 3rd Street • Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone 651-388-9729
email: cekdahl@presenter.com
Open year 'round by appointment.

*M*ORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE REVOIR COLLECTION

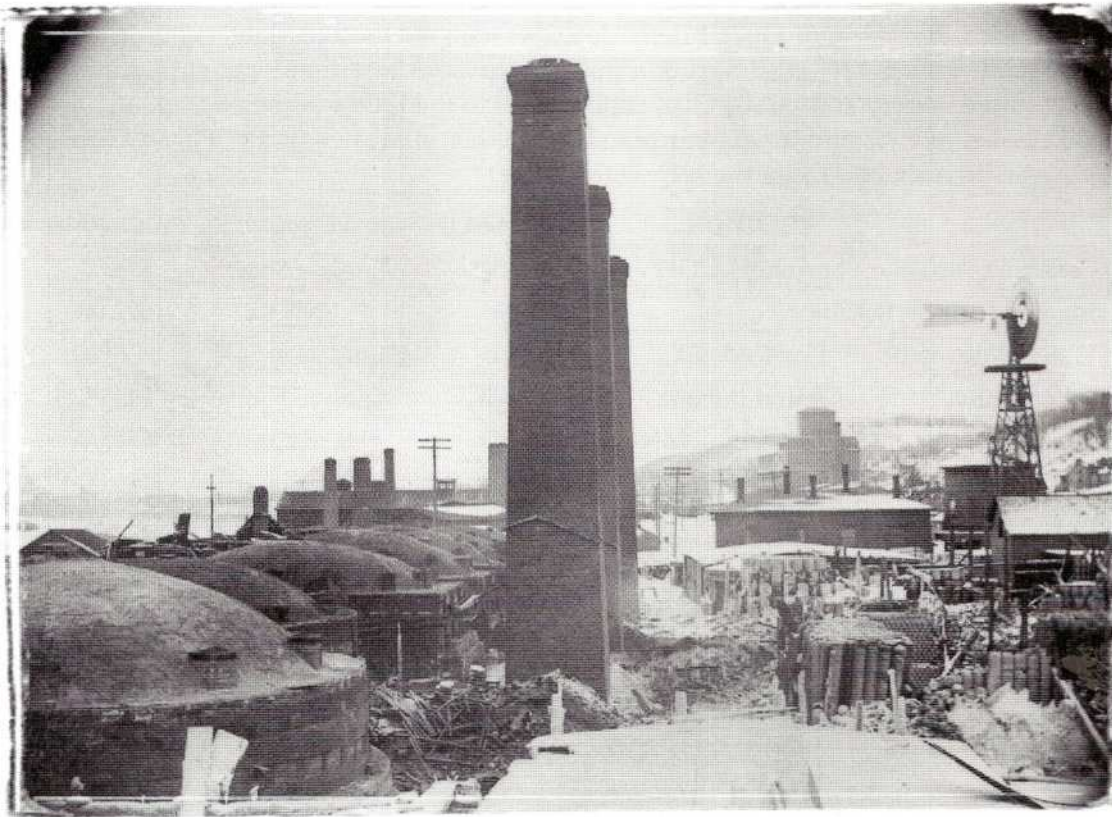
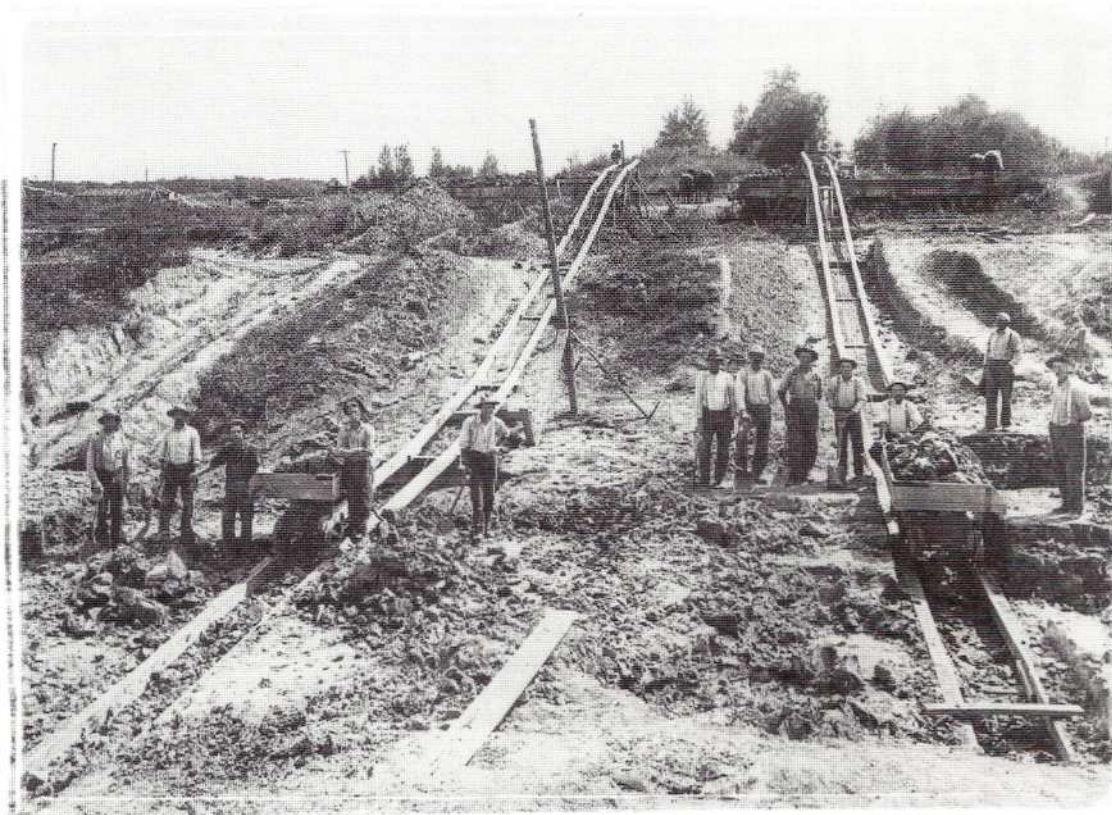


Photo of the kiln yard of the Minnesota Stoneware Company which is overlooking the North Star Stoneware Company looking East toward downtown Red Wing. Notice the wood piles beside the kiln for burning. 1890's.



Clay Pits near Goodhue, MN. Note the horses in the background which were used to pull cables which were attached to carts filled with clay.