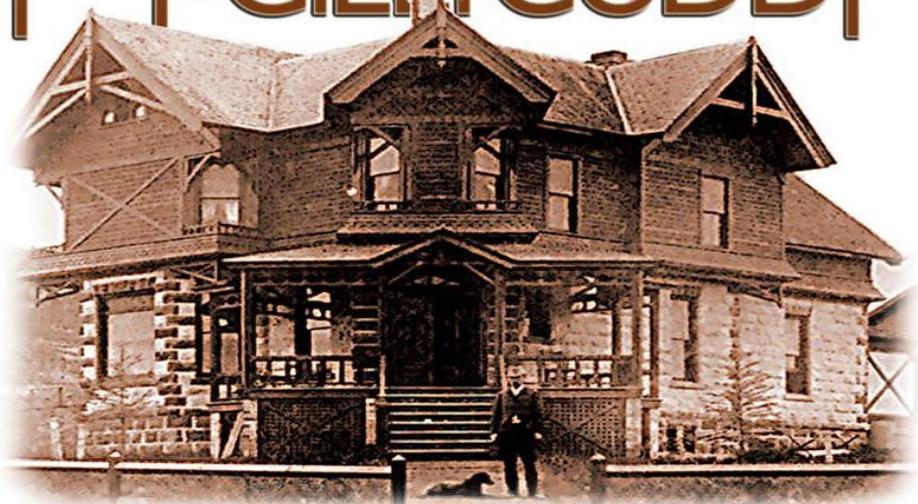


# VALENTINE McGILLYCUDDY



## The home. The man. The life.

A Rapid City Cultural & Historic Preservation Project

December 2018 Issue

### A McGillicuddy House family reunion

Although Valentine McGillicuddy wasn't there in person, he was definitely there in spirit on the July afternoon this summer as his descendants gathered at the McGillicuddy House. They stood on the house's restored front porch and shared the same view that Valentine had 120 years ago. However, it was a much different Rapid City spread out before them.

Also there in spirit was Dale Gianturco, Valentine McGillicuddy's grandson. Dale served on the Historic Rapid City Board until his death in June 2015. HRC is the organization behind the restoration of the McGillicuddy House. Dale's widow and their children gathered in Rapid City on July 22 to meet with the HRC Board and tour the house their storied ancestor had built.

Liz Gianturco, Dale's wife, traveled from Falls Church, VA. Her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Kathleen Giaturco were here from Herndon, VA. Her daughter and son-in-law, Scott and Lisa Daugherty of Raleigh, NC, brought their children Caitlin and Ryan. Daughter Grace

Gorenflo, of State College, PA., brought her daughter Lauren.

"To be standing on the original wood floor (of her great grandfather's house), it's very exciting," Grace said. "My daughter said to me, 'Can you imagine? Valentine stood right here!'"

It was the biggest gathering of McGillicuddy descendants in Rapid City -- perhaps ever. After the death of his first wife, Fanny, in 1897, Valentine moved to California for a fresh start and a new life. In 1899, he married Julia Blanchard, a young woman who he had met as a young girl on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

They had a daughter, Dale's mother. Dale and his sisters, Adriana Saltonstall and Manuela Banerjee, never knew their grandfather. They were McGillicuddy's only grandchildren — the closest living links to a Black Hills heritage that stretches back to 1875.

Earlier in the day, board member Nancy Gowen and her husband Richard hosted an afternoon party at their home overlooking the West Boulevard neighborhood. Dozens of project volunteers and well-wishers were on hand.

Among the guests was well-known artist Jon Crane, who painted a watercolor of the McGillicuddy House as it looked on a winter day 120 years ago. Jon donated the painting to Historic Rapid City for fundraising. The original was sold at auction, and prints in a variety of sizes are being offered for sale.

During the party, board member Fred Thurston introduced sculptor James Van Nuys, who unveiled a model for a sculpture of Valentine McGillicuddy and his dog, which may some day grace the front yard of the McGillicuddy House.

The following night, board members and family dined at Dakotah Steakhouse, a restaurant owned by longtime McGillicuddy House supporters Ed and Peg Seljeskog. In fact, they bought Jon Crane's original McGillicuddy House painting. It hangs on the wall at Dakotah Steakhouse.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Newman Grove is historic preservation Disneyland

Newman Grove, Neb., 125 miles west of Omaha, is a community of about 700 nestled in a grove of trees that were planted by a man named Newman Warren – probably where the town got its name. It was platted in 1887 when the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad extended that way.

That is the same year that the McGillycuddy House was built, so it's as if our trip to Newman Grove was meant to be.

Newman Grove is to a historic preservationist what Disneyland is to a child. A town where the historic brick buildings and any other available buildings are filled to the rafters with pieces of our history. Buildings are full of doors, plinths, baseboard, rosettes, trim, flooring and on and on. Every type of architectural detail you didn't even know you needed.



Tom Slaughter

We were there for flooring. I heard of Newman Grove from a kindred spirit of sorts who knows what this stuff means to us preservationists. I came prepared, but was still overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of so much of our history that is contained in about a half a square mile. There is overflow as well, stored in Quonset huts on neighboring farms.

We needed a certain type of flooring to fill in where wood in the McGillycuddy House was damaged or destroyed when the upper story of the house was reconstructed. A phone call confirmed that Newman Grove did indeed have just what we needed. However, we would need to bring our own trailer for transport, because there is no place to rent one

in Newman.

We settled on a date for the trip, and I called to give them a heads-up. Oops, I was told, they are not open on the weekends. That time is spent scouting for materials or much-needed rest. Rearranging our schedule, we decided that Thursday would be good. No go again. Thursday is their day off. OK we were on for Friday.

We rented a trailer and headed out, taking the scenic route through Valentine, Neb., (no connection to our Valentine). It was a pleasant drive, but after pulling a very noisy trailer for about six hours and making a few wrong turns, we were ready to stop. No hotels in Newman Grove, so we had booked a room in Albion, about 16 miles west of Newman Grove.

Rolling into Albion, we could not find our hotel. Long story short, they were expecting us in Albion, Wis. Eventually we found a room in one of the two hotels in the Nebraska Albion. Anticipation made for a restless night, so we arrived in Newman Grove about an hour early.

Calling Jim the owner of the salvage Mecca to announce our arrival, we were graciously welcomed by his partner and brother Brad, who walked down from the local bank he manages. We were taken out to a Quonset hut at their nearby farm to check out the flooring and realized it would take a long, long time to get 1,600 linear feet of flooring loaded and covered as it began to rain.

Jim called in help, and he and I left Bill with the helpers to load flooring while we drove back to

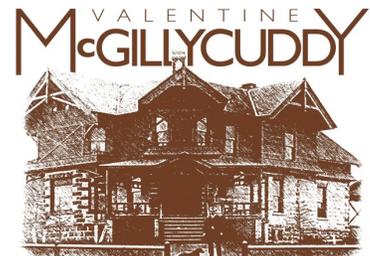
town to check out the other stuff we needed. He chuckled all the way to town, and when we got there I realized why.

I was armed with a list, but as we walked from building to building, I became totally overwhelmed. It was a good thing, because when Bill finally showed up, the trailer was full and we wouldn't have room for doors, or anything else for that matter. But, Jim insisted on loading more flooring as he remembered there was some more in this building and some in that building until we said we had enough – we have to go.

The six hours back with a more than full load, flapping tarp and shifting wood kept us stopping from time to time to check the load, so we were more than relieved to see the lights of Rapid City on the horizon.

Six hours is a long way to go, but Newman Grove, Neb., is well worth the drive. It is refreshing to see that all that stuff will not be ending up in our landfills, but restored to its former glory or repurposed into something useful. I can't wait to go back.

— JEAN OLESON KESSLOFF  
President



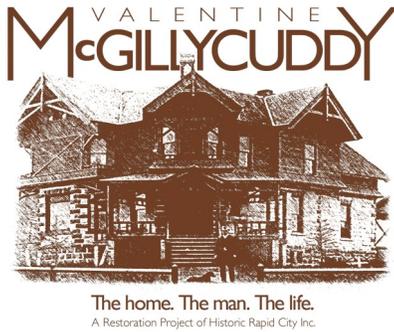
The home. The man. The life.  
A Restoration Project of Historic Rapid City Inc.



Melody Jacobsen



Jenny Lenz



## Mines freshmen pitch in to help out

Valentine McGillicuddy would have been proud. Students from the school where he served as dean from 1893 to 1897 – the title of president was not used until 1899 – volunteered again this year to help with the rehabilitation of the McGillicuddy House.

It was the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology's Annual Freshman Day of Service, and for the last couple of years the McGillicuddy House was chosen to be part of this program.

Incoming freshman participate in a variety of community service projects as part of New Student Orientation every fall semester. School officials feel that through experiences such as these, students will be prepared for their future roles as leaders and citizens.

This year, as in the past, the students were outstanding. Taking only one break and time out for orientation and wrap up, they spent every minute doing a variety of work. Mowing the lawn, moving rocks and cleaning flooring. The students attacked their assigned projects with enthusiasm and good ol' Midwestern work ethic.

### Historic Rapid City Inc.

**President** – Jean Kessloff

**Vice President** – Nancy Gowen

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Trisha

Melahn

**Board :** Fred Thurston, Sylvia Conrad, Paul Swedlund, Donovin Sprague, Bill Kessloff, Adriana Saltonstall, Jeff Reuppel, Tom Slaughter, Melody Jacobsen, Jenny Lenz

**Advisory Committee:**

Gavin Williams

### December 2018, Issue 8

The McGillicuddy House Newsletter is published by Historic Rapid City Inc. If you have questions or comments, contact Bill Kessloff at [jkbmk@rap.midco.net](mailto:jkbmk@rap.midco.net) or 605-341-5398.

Historic Rapid City Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

#### Stock donations:

If you would like to give stock or other securities to the project, contact Michelle Sterkel or Sandra Shaw at RBC Wealth Management. They can explain the best way to do that. The telephone number is 605-343-7720. Donations are tax deductible, and the capital gains are not taxable.

#### Learn more online:

[historicrc.org](http://historicrc.org)

[facebook.com/mcgillicuddyhouse](https://facebook.com/mcgillicuddyhouse)



Jake Oberpriller



Eric Spilman



Alexandra Gregor

### Black Hills Weekly Journal Oct 15, 1897

-Dr. McGillicuddy is anxious for the weather to change so he can take his new bicycle to the sunny side of a back ally and chastise it sufficiently so that hereafter it will stand still while he mounts it and keep from bucking after he is seated.

## SAVE THE DATE

McGillicuddy Birthday Party,

February 9, 2019, 6:30 PM

Hotel Alex Johnson

## Donations to Historic Rapid City

Would you consider a year-end gift to Historic Rapid City. Use the enclosed envelope or go online to [www.historicrc.org/donate](http://www.historicrc.org/donate) to make your donation. Donations of any size are welcome and greatly appreciated. Do you know someone who would like to donate? Give them the envelope if you don't use it yourself. Thank you!

### THANK-YOU NOTES

We want to offer a sincere thanks to the individuals and companies that have recently helped us move closer to our dream of a restored McGillicuddy House.

In particular:

Craig Jensen  
Jensen Hardwood Floors

Black Hills Historic  
Preservation Trust

South Dakota Magazine

Black Hills Boomer Magazine

Craig Waddington

Gianturco Family

C. E. Landscapes

Agan Drywall Drywall, Inc

Barbara Thurston

Western Mailers



### Jon Crane prints are still available

Jon Crane, limited-edition watercolor prints of the McGillicuddy House are still available for purchase. We have a variety of sizes available for purchase and all proceeds go directly to restoration of the McGillicuddy House. This year we added a 150 piece puzzle based on Jon's print. Also new this year is a small print framed in repurposed wood.

#### Print sizes available

5 x 7	\$15.00	
18 x 13	\$160.00	\$213.00 Artist Proof
26 x 18	\$320.00	\$373.00 Artist Proof



Puzzle — \$20.00



Note Cards — \$20.00  
package of 12



Small framed print — \$25.00  
all size approx. 7 1/2 x 9 1/2

\*includes tax