

BFNA Newsletter

March 2019

Dear Cousins,

Our Blaisdell Family has spread its wings across America, including the beautiful northern mid-west...Wisconsin and Minnesota. A perfect excuse for us to gather for our **Blaisdell Family National Association 2020 Reunion** in River Falls, Wisconsin. Mark your calendars now for the opportunity to come together for our **18th Quinquennial** from **Thursday, July 29th, 2020—Saturday, August 1st, 2020!**

Our hosts will be the “Lemuel Blaisdell Wisconsin Branch” that have been holding annual reunions here for 64 years! Seasoned experts at hosting reunions, they will be coming together to provide all Blaisdell/Blasdel cousins with a wonderful opportunity to explore history, culture, shopping, and adventures in Wisconsin as well as, Minnesota.

River Falls, WI is within 45 minutes of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and near the Great Rivers Confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers you will quickly see how our Blaisdell ancestors came to love this land. Lemuel Blaisdell’s father, Albert Corydon Blaisdell, migrated from northern Vermont, and his great grandfather, Phillip Blaisdell 6.109, served in the Revolutionary War. Further information will be included in future editions of the Blaisdell Papers.

Another one of the early Blaisdell pioneers who came to this region was J.T. Blaisdell. John True Blaisdell left his home in Maine at age 21 in 1849 to pioneer in Minnesota. He lumbered for two years and then laid out the land between Nicollet and Lyndale, from Franklin to Lake, in present day Minneapolis. In the 1860’s his first log house became a six-room frame house, where the first school in the neighborhood (called the Blaisdell School) was later held. It was renamed the Whittier School when it was annexed by the Public Schools.



Kayaking along the Kinnickinnic River



The “Swinging Bridge” in River Falls



Famous Wisconsin Cheese Curds



JT Blaisdell Monument in Lakewood Cemetery

You’ll be able to walk along “Blaisdell Avenue” and explore the vibrant “Blaisdell/Whittier” neighborhood in Minneapolis, when you attend the Blaisdell Family National Reunion next year. There are beautiful historic homes, including the “Blaisdell Event Center,” the Blaisdell YMCA, unique shops, and popular restaurants, such as the “Copper Hen,” that welcome you to this wonderful area of Minneapolis.

The beautiful Lakewood Cemetery on Hennepin Avenue is the resting place of J.T. Blaisdell, as well as many other notables. The Memorial Chapel with its soaring 65 foot mosaic dome includes 24 stained glass windows and is renowned for its beauty and superb acoustics.

There will also be lots of genealogy and history for you can explore by visiting the Minnesota State Library or the Minnesota Historical Society.

If shopping is in your plans, then you will want to make a stop at the immense “Mall of America,” just across the road from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. With over 550 stores, loads of restaurants, nightclubs, and even Nickelodeon Universe Amusement Park...you will find everything you need.



So, don’t forget to mark your calendars and start planning now, for the **18th BFNA Quinquennial NEXT July 29th—August 1st, 2020!** You will love getting to spend time with your Blaisdell/Blasdel Cousins in River Falls, Wisconsin!