

## A BRIEF REPORT ON OUR DELANO, MINNESOTA, REUNION MEETING

By Terry Delano

So, what did we do in Delano, Minnesota besides have our Annual Meeting? We had a wonderful time, a little sad that more of our “cousins” couldn’t be there with us.

For the “Reunion” portion of our meeting, we enjoyed *A Brief History of Delano from 1860* presented by local historian Kathy Workman, learned *Who Was Francis Roach Delano?* (for whom the city was named) from our Delano Kindred President Tom Delano, and heard about *The Early Years of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad* in and around Delano from the retired Archivist of Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, Duane Swanson. We had pictures taken in front of the Delano Senior Center/City Hall by local photographer Joe McDonald. We went on a walking tour of Delano with our excellent tour guide, Sarah Hellmich, Vice President of the Delano Arts and Culture Council. We had an opportunity to roam through the Delano Heritage Center. We attended the annual Delano *Oktoberfest!* celebration in Delano Central Park. Oh, and we made the front page of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Delano Herald Journal.

You may have noticed on the meeting announcements that there was a Reception/Buffet at the Historic Rieder Barn and Homestead scheduled for Friday evening. Well, this turned out to be the surprise hit of the trip for many of us. Sue Ellis and her two brothers, Dave and Dan Rieder, of the locally-famous Rieder family had invited the Delano Kindred to gather at their barn for socializing and camaraderie. It turns out that the 1885 “barn” actually is a repurposed barn; the livestock have moved on and it is now a very well-known performance venue for musicians and others. The barn is still there of course, but the main attraction is “out back” on the hillside and under some shelters where there are wonderful spaces for gathering, eating and listening to live music. We hired a local caterer, April Foss, to supply “heavy hors d’oeuvres” and beverages which turned out to be more than sufficient to deliciously feed all of us and then some in place of dinner.

What was the surprise, you ask? While we chatted, ate and socialized, a trio of musicians was creating beautiful music that slowly but surely crept into our heads. Sue Ellis had asked the trio if they’d play for us; they agreed and they were

wonderful. Their group name is 3<sup>rd</sup> Elephant. Unusual? Yes, but then so is their music. From their website, 3rdelephant.com:

“The music of **3rd Elephant** is a rich blend of traditions. Classical works, hymns, and ethnic folk melodies share the stage with jazz standards, soundtracks, and original music. Violin and cello find themselves sitting comfortably alongside banjo, guitar, mandolin, and even baritone ukulele. The trio's unique sound reflects the diverse musical backgrounds of its members.”

On the banjo is Benji Flaming, with Charles Asch on the cello and Nathan Wilson on the violin. By the end of the evening, most of the social chatter had ceased and we were all just listening to the music of this talented trio. The trio thought to leave quietly, but instead wound up with a standing ovation and a loud, insistent request for an encore.



Thanks to Benji, Charles and Nathan for an evening of excellent music and a very special thanks to Sue Ellis for putting all of this together. We had a great time!