



History of Franconia Township

In 2007 a committee was established to ensure a proper celebration was held to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the organization of the township. Voices called out during meeting after meeting that a book must be written to honor and tell the story of those who came to this area. Funds raised during the 2008 Sesquicentennial events provided seed money for this project and in 2009 an Editor was selected.

Volunteer grant writer is needed to identify grant opportunities and assist volunteers in submitting requests for funding the publication of a Town of Franconia History Book.

Volunteer writers are needed to meet with residents and others with knowledge of the recent past of Franconia Township.

Individuals or groups are needed who are interested in sharing stories of remembrance of Franconia Township. This may include one or more meetings. Topics being researched at this time are businesses located within the township and may include saw mills, saloons, hotels, farms, etc.

If your Franconia Township family has a book you would like to donate or borrow for this cause, we appreciate your generosity.

Please contact Tony Minnichshoffer at tonyminn@gmail.com or info@franconiamn.us.

Read about our Editor:

Tony Minnichshoffer grew up on a diversified farm in Franconia Township near Taylors Falls, Minnesota. An active 4-Her for ten years while growing up, he showed dairy and beef cattle at the county and state levels. He graduated from Taylors Fall Public High School and subsequently earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism at the University of Minnesota.

During college Tony began his business career as a freelance writer and photojournalist. After graduation he became a field editor for *The Farmer* magazine. While still in his twenties he joined the Washington D.C. staff of Walter F. Mondale, then a U. S. Senator from Minnesota. He wrote speeches, drafted legislation and worked with constituents and associations on agricultural and environmental issues.

Throughout his career Tony has directed his communication expertise toward public relations in crops, dairy and energy. He's published hundreds of articles in agricultural and business magazines. While a corporate spokesperson and issues manager for national and multinational corporations, Tony was often interviewed and quoted by weekly newspapers, radio stations and news services including the *New York Times*, CBS news, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, Reuters and the BBC.

Now, in his sixties, Tony has moved out of corporate and executive life. Rather than retire, though, he works where he can help others learn and have fun. In summer he works at Minnesota's Interstate State Park. He recently became a Master Naturalist. During winter he works in the rental shop at Wild Mountain Ski and Snowboard Area as a certified ski and binding technician. He enjoys his family, gardening, hiking and photography as well as church and community projects.

Tony and his wife Barb, married 43 years, have two adult children, four grandsons, West Highland Terrier named Maggie and a massive extended family.