

# Greetings homeowner!

## Would you like to be part of local history?

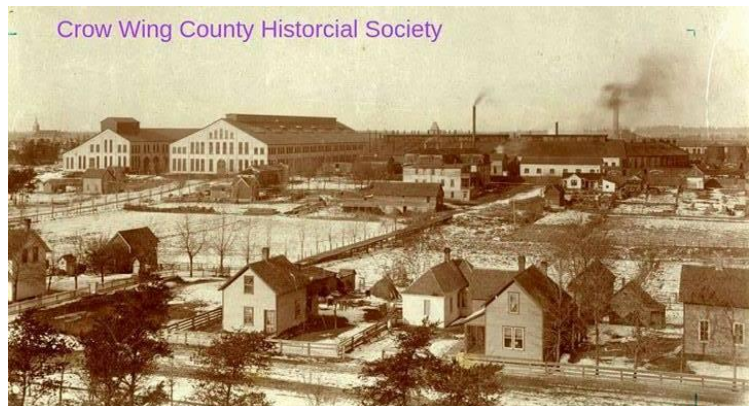
In the summer of 2016 local historians ran across a group of guys from the twin cities area that have an unusual hobby...they do PRIVY DIGS! Yep, they locate and dig up old outhouse pits, and look for artifacts that are of interest to collectors and historians and historical societies.

Any house (or even vacant lot) is a candidate if it was built before about 1910, and the older the better. Late 1890's house pits yield dozens of old medicine bottles that are valuable clues to researchers. Typical booty are bottles such as liquor, beer, bitters, ketchup and mustard, and there is crock ware, fine china, bones, you name it. Privies were also the household dump in most cases. The diggers make arrangements with the owners and the items are split up between the owner, the diggers and the local historical society if they have need for them. How can you help? You will need to white-flag the perimeter and request an 811 "locate" so underground utilities can be located, which can take up to 5 days, so plan ahead of the diggers. <http://call811.com/>

Digs are done carefully, meticulously laying back the sod on a tarp, putting the dirt on another tarp, and re-laying the sod so you will barely notice they were there! Most older homes, even vacant lots, have several such pits. On 9/11/2016 we found an early 1900's photo of 3 houses in SE Brainerd, and got permission to dig the one seen on the right in the foreground, connected to the one in the middle. The left house shows a privy, but we could not secure permission from the owner. The middle house is now gone, as seen in the google map. The right house was good to go from the owner, and the diggers probed 3 pits as positive. Sure enough, all 3 produced bottles and other artifacts. Probing is done non-invasively with long, thin steel rods up to 8' long. Digs are done only after permissions and a "locate" by utility companies. **We hope you can be a part of history!**



The older photo was taken from the top of Harrison school, ca. 1910>



If you would like to have a privy dig done on your lot, please give Mark a holler at (651) 329-0815 (text is best), or [myoung6766@aol.com](mailto:myoung6766@aol.com). The diggers will stop over and determine if the lot looks promising. These guys are good, having dug over 1,000 pits in 30+ years! The whole thing is done inside of 2 hours, and after a few rains you will not see where they dug. Want more info?



**See the boys in action!**

Diggin' 101, Menomonie, WI: <https://youtu.be/PYNWXWYnmBg>;  
Plainview: <https://www.facebook.com/gregory.logajan/videos/10207654835222833/>;  
Marks Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mark.youngblood.92?fref=nf>;  
St. Croix dig: <http://eastmetrowater.areavoices.com/2013/08/29/digging-for-treasure/>