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Henderson Heritage Days

September 24th and 25th

Museum open Saturday September 24th 10AM to 5 PM

9:30 pm Flag Raising by National Sojourners in front Community Building

11 PM Brown Cemetery Tour

12:15PM Presentation of Masonic Records to SCHS in front of museum

12:45 PM Slide presentation of moving county seat from Henderson to Gaylord in 1915

Many other activities in Henderson

Sunday September 25th

9 AM—1 PM Pancake Breakfast at Community Building

11:15 AM Ecumenical Worship Service

Museum Open 12 to 5 PM



Calendar of Events

Check our website for 2011 programs.

STARTING TIMES—7PM

Sept 27—Lawrence Crawford Presents—at Lawrence and Phyliss Crawford's farm, 42213 266 ST, Arlington. Gather at 5:30, POTLUCK SUPPER at 6

Oct 25—Alfsborg Homemakers' Club. By Gisela Meyer and Neva Paulson 7PM at the museum

If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3345
Calendar Subject to Change.



The Prez Sez
by Jerome Petersen

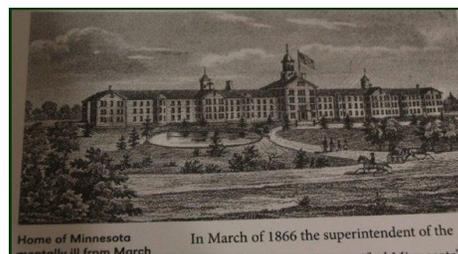
Our newsletter is pregnant! There was so much to put in this issue we added four pages.

It was a busy summer at SCHS. We didn't even have time for a porch party for four months. Will we be like Jack; all work and etc.

The June program was at the Henderson Community Center where we not only heard about ghosts and weird stuff, the presenter had photos when enlarged we could see the ghosts. She had recordings where you could hear them speaking. Eerie! I thought I might have to go home and change underwear. She found ghosts all over; homes, cemeteries and businesses. If you have a haunted house, she would come and get them to move out, a genuine *ghostbuster!*



Our guide at the Mental Health Facility telling us the history of the hospital. .



Home of Minnesota In March of 1866 the superintendent of the

Judy Loewe had two summer tours this year. The first was to St. Peter where we had a tour of the regional Mental Health Facility, which was started in the 1860s. It was a huge place
(Continued on page 10)



The Woodbury Chronicles

Conclusion

By Charles W. Erickson

SCHS MEMBER

I thoroughly enjoyed writing about the lives of the Charles Wesley Woodbury family. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to share it with all of you.

The conclusion contains more of their journey again using excerpts from daily hand written journals and letters to and from relatives in New Hampshire. I have chosen to use their written words and spelling. Due in part to the writer's style and the clarity of the documents, the use of capital letters and punctuation is inconsistent. Part I and II spanned the years of 1854 through 1872. The conclusion continues in 1873 and concludes with the passing of Charles Wesley Woodbury on July 13, 1908.

In June 1873 there was talk about starting a Farmer's Grange.

A Farmer's Grange was an association of farmers organized for mutual welfare and advancement.

Sun 15 Mr. Phillips called in. They are starting a Farmers Grange. Charles & I signed our names to the paper. Men pay three dollars membership & women fifty cts.

In July the talk turned into action. The organization as recorded with the State of Minnesota was entitled the Rush River Grange No. 296. The documented roll includes the names of the candidates, their ages, the dates that they received their first, second, third, or fourth degrees as members, and their occupations. As the years passed, new members were added to the roster.

Wed 2 We met at Mr. Frank Moores house to organize a Grange. Got 11 men & 11 women as charter members. Mr. Colby, wife, two daughters, Mr. E. D. French & wife, Mr. F. More wife daughter, Mr. Phillips & wife, Mr. Woodbury wife & daughter, Mr. Ed McEwin & wife, Jim McEwin & wife, Mr. L. Riley, Wm McEwin, Mr. Orton, Mr. Walter. Three dollars for men and 50 cts for women.

Sun 20 Charles went down to Mr. Colbys. They were appoints to make bylaws for the Grange.

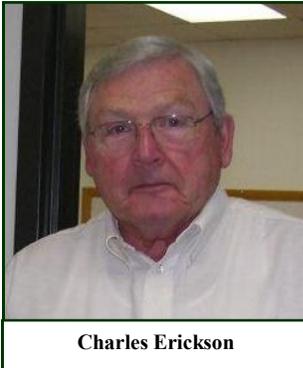
On May 17, 1874 C.W. went to look at some land west of their present location. They refer to this property as 'Sand Lake'. They often went to Sand Lake for recreation and yes, to get sand for a variety of uses.

Charles Wesley and Martha Elizabeth went down to Mr. Frenches to take the oath of office as mail carrier and postmaster on May 19th. Their term began in June and ran for one year. Saturday was the day that he usually made the mail run to LeSueur.

Socially, there is a wonderful account in the journal about an outing that occurred on Friday and Saturday in June 1874.

Fri 4 A party of us started on a fishing excursion up to Clear

Lake. Mr. & Mrs. Phillips, Mr. & Mrs. French Jr, Mr. French Sr, Charles & myself, the two French children. We went to a Brother Grangers Mr. Wakefield to dinner. Then with another load of folks went six miles further to Clear Lake & fishing but did not get many. We spread us a table in the woods on a planing bench. Took the cloths & paper we had with us for a table cloth to spread our provisions on. Made some Tea in a house near by and did justice to the good things before us. Thirteen of us in all. Fishd awhile longer then went back to Mr. Wakefields to stay over night.....Sat morning we had the fish for breakfast then started with the family to another Lake called Sand Lake. Stopst and fishd till near noon then spread our lunch on the grafs to eat and started for home. It raïnd some while coming but got home just in time to escape a ducking. It is quite a pretty country that we traveled.



Charles Erickson

Another social event, a competition, was noted in June 1875. There were two teams, parties as they were called at that time, comprised of 27 members each. Documents in hand contain a list of the members of each party. The goal was to accumulate as many rodent tails as possible in a pre-determined amount of time. After the time expired, all of the tails were brought to the Woodbury home where a committee containing two members from each competing party met to tally the tails. In the evening, after the winner of the competition was decided, there was a dinner and dance. The party that had the least amount of points had the responsibility to provide, prepare, and serve the dinner. They were called the Table Committee and their names are also listed in the documents.

Tue 8 The long anticipated gopher picnic has come with very good attendance. Met in Dan McEwin grove. This year both parties caught over seven thousand points counting grey gophers three points, striped two, pocket gophers & house rat five points.

At this time I'm guessing that reference to the grey gophers are the same critters we refer to as gray squirrels today. In later years, journal entries they do make reference to gray squirrels.

Yet on one more social occasion in June, Charles Wesley and Martha Elizabeth traveled to Clear Lake with friends. Martha describes it in the journal.

Tues 20 We got to Fort Ridgly late in afternoon but could not find any accomodation unless at the hotel but we did not wish to be at the expense. As it began to rain we started back about one half mile to an empty house and took posession for the night. They say there ten or more families are living at the fort but I do not know what they can do for a living. They have one store, two hotels. The fort buildings are getting in a very dilapidated condition. They say that it is being stolen by the load. The roof of the soldiers quarters is half gone, doors & windows all out. I should like to have gone in the graveyard and seen more of the fort but the weather was not favorable. The next morning we

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

started on again. Took our dinner at Birch Coolie where a small body of our soldiers my brother included while camping overnight was attacked at early morn by Indians and all would have been killd but for a timely recruit of fresh soldiers from the fort. The battle was desperate. The battle ground is now a cultivated field and the horses that were killed in the battle, their bones are in piles against the fence bleaching in the sun.

The reference that Martha makes to her brother is George B. Gardner, a name that is engraved on the monument high upon the hill in Morton, Minnesota.

That summer grasshoppers were worth two cents a pound and some folks were catching a barrel full a day.

C.W. and Martha Elizabeth made a decision in March of 1876.

Sat 18 Charles came home with the money. We have mortgaged our farm for five yrs for twelve hundred dollars at 10 per cent interest.

Mon 20 Charlie putting up a cow shed for the extra cows that we are going to buy to go into the dairying extensively.

By the end of the month they had purchased a bull for \$112 and six cows for \$141. Cattle at that time were ranging from \$21 to \$25 per head. Of course if you were going to be in the dairy business, a milk house was a requirement. They hired a hand, August Anderson, for \$250 a year. On May 31st August Anderson began to dig the cellar for the milk house and they contracted two stonemasons from the Swede Grove for two dollars per day to lay the stone for the milk house cellar. The milk house itself was then framed, sided, and roofed. Sawdust was used for insulation between the walls and roof.

On November 5, the election found Tilden and Hayes running for president. Tilden carried the day there.

It is unknown why the pages of the journal are missing from May 1878 through March 1880, a period of almost two years. During that time they left their farm in Sibley, Sibley County.

CORNISH, MINNESOTA, SIBLEY COUNTY

Legal documentation verifies that they purchased the Sand Lake property. When the journal entries resume in April of 1880 they identify the location as Cornish, Sibley County. The boundaries of the property are noted as Township 112, Range 30. Their new house was on Section 13 and they worked Sections 18 and 24. They continued to develop the farm site. A milk house complete with a well to hold and cool the milk cans, a granary, cow stable, hen house, and a wire fenced cow yard were built. The temperatures in August reached 100 degrees but that did not dampen their enthusiasm or slow them down.

A letter from Charles Wesley to Clarissa's

daughter Myra on March 6, 1881 describes their new surroundings.

One don't feel the cold anymore but you would not I presume like the country part as the neighbours are a good ways apart. Our nearest neighbour East is about one mile. The one North the same and those south and west two miles away and most of them Sweads Germans, and other foreigners and they have different habits and customs from us. But this is great country. One can see a great many miles each way. We can see the R. R. smoke on the North and South although each one is 15 miles away. We have a spy glass that we can see a person a good many miles off with.

Our place is on a small pond or lake as they are called here. It has a hard shore all around it and most of the way sandy. It is a very pretty lake to look at. Our house is about 40 rods from it. We have a boat on it and there are fish in it. We sometimes ketch a pickeral that will weigh 5 lbs. Some have caught them of 17 lbs weight.

You ought to come out and stay with us this summer. It is very nice in the spring and summer on the prairie such a nice green carpet smother and soft as velvet to look at as far as the eye can see.

On July 3, 1881 Charlie E. acknowledged the shooting of President James Garfield in his journal. For those that do not remember, President James Garfield was shot in the back four months into his term and died in September from blood poisoning.

C.W. wrote to his niece Myra again on July 4th.

We have four hired hands besides our own family. Have 45 cows to milk and 35 calves to feed twice a day. Make a cheese and churn every day except Sunday. It is lots of work.

Martha Elizabeth draws our attention through journal entries to a couple of new developments during the months of November and December 1881.

Wed 30 Charles & Willard went to Gaylord a new town on the R.R. formerly calld Harris Grove.

Thur 15 Charles & myself with Willard as driver went to see the new R.R. at the future town Winthrop three miles north from here.



At one time Charles had mentioned to his niece Myra that he had kept all of the letters that her mother Clarissa had written to him over the years. He offered to send them to her so she could read them but he expressed his desire to have them returned. He wrote a letter to her on June 5, 1882.

I did not think of your mothers letters till I had sent the one I wrote off. The mice found their

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(Continued from page 3)

way to some of them and there are some more that we will send some other time. Please take care of them as I value them highly.

Later he wrote to her saying that he didn't know of anyone that would be more careful of the letters and they would be safer if she kept them.

In September of 1882 they began meeting in what was called 'school affairs'. They began building a new school and completed it in December of the same year. Mrs. Scriber was hired as the first teacher. It is noted in the journal that the schoolhouse was banked for the winter with two loads of manure.

The journal closed out 1882 with the following December entry.

Mon 25 Very Pleasant for Christmas. Had a small tree fixed up which got better filled than we expected. Charles got an ink stand. I got a glass measure, dress, tape measure. Gertrude a photograph album, Bertha a tin set and box of sliced animals sent by Nels. The rest had to look on.

Martha Elizabeth maintained the journal from January 1883 through November 1892. She made this notation at the beginning of 1883.

Charles has presented me this book to last my life time as a diary.

There were six days in January 1883 when the temperature was recorded in the journal at minus 24 degrees or colder reaching a maximum low of minus 35 degrees on January 22nd, which happened to be the 60th birthday of Charles Wesley. Many other days were in the minus teens below zero making it a January and February to remember.

C. W. wrote a letter to Myra dated September 26, 1883 relating his thoughts to her as they pertained to a nearby religious rite.

There has been several Camp meetings close by us this year but I don't go so I cant tell whither they are good or not. Sand Lake is used by the regenerated to wash out their sins. I was amused to see one of their ministers try the depth of water. He evidently hadn't the faith of Peter not the ability of Elishas axe for he was very carefull to try the debth.

It is written in the journal that in December 1884, they sold their Sand Lake farm.

wed 10 Mr. Gustafson came to buy the farm for \$600. Charles and myself went to town to sign the deed

FRANKLIN, MINNESOTA

RENVILLE COUNTY

The first four months of 1885 found them preparing and completing their planned move to Franklin, Minnesota, Renville County. They gathered all of their farm equipment and other unnecessary items, held an auction and then proceeded to move the

remainder of their belongings to Franklin. Their plan was to build and operate a creamery producing butter and cheese.

Through the years, prior to 1885, entries in the journal record the hundreds and hundreds of pounds of butter and cheese that they produced and marketed. Based on those numbers their plan certainly contained creditability.

Prior to getting the creamery up and running, they had to build a house for the storage of ice, or an icehouse. A major part of operating a creamery was to be able to harvest and store enough ice during the winter months to last them from spring through fall until the following winter. In those years the ice was covered with sawdust to insulate it against the heat of the warmer months and preserve it for later use.

On April 20, 1885 they plowed to level the ground for the foundation of the creamery and on April 25th they started to frame the structure. Charles Wesley wrote a letter to Myra dated May 24, 1885.

You will see by the heading of this letter that we are not at Sand Lake. I have sold our my Sand Lake farm and stock and am building a creamery here in Franklin 26 miles west on the Minneapolis & St Louis R.R. It is a very pretty place. Shall commence to make butter next week. Shall make but little this year from 150# to 300# per day. We are in the vilage and on the banks of the Minnesota River. I have three acres of land which borders on a small creek that emptys into the river about one mile after passing our place.

After the framing for the creamery was raised, the walls and roof were boarded and the roof was shingled. During construction they purchased equipment for the creamery and they hired a carpenter to make a buttermilk tank for them. One of their biggest challenges was to find and purchase enough milk cans to distribute to the dairy farms. The Fairfax tin man couldn't make them fast enough. They explored every possible resource in which cans might be obtained and finally they secured enough to establish a route. From then on it was a matter of collecting the cream during the day on a regular schedule, churning it to butter in the evening, and shipping the butter to various locations, Minneapolis and Saint Paul just to name a couple. It is noted that they also shipped butter to the Morton Eating House. That schedule was repeated day after day, month after month, as a part of each daily journal entry.

In September 1885 Charles Wesley visited the Minnesota State Fair. The results of that visit created a lot of excitement as Martha Elizabeth noted in the journal.

Mon 7 Charles gone on noon train to state fair.

Fri 11 Charles came home from the fair on the eleven o clock train last night.

Thur 17 Our creamery got a prize of \$25 for best one hundred lbs butter at state fair.

Mr. Osterman purchased their Sibley farm in January of 1886 for twenty-four hundred dollars. Martha Elizabeth signed

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away her right to the farm on Friday the 15th.

They purchased a Modesta Organ and it was delivered to them in Franklin on Monday, April 19th.

Does anyone have a Modesta organ from 1886 or a picture of one?

In March 1887 they had numerous meetings with Mr. Forsythe, a miller, regarding the building of a mill in Franklin. The Co-operative Milling Association was organized and directors were chosen. Mr. Forsythe surveyed the building site on Friday, April 8th.

Excavation for the foundation began on Thursday, April 21st and about four months later, on Saturday, August 27th, they made their first flour. Soon after that, their flour was distributed over a wide area.

In April there is an entry in the journal of which a part of it is novel enough to bear repeating.

Sat 9 Mostly cloudy strong S.E. wind....Frogs peeping.

All my life I have always thought that frogs 'croaked'. I have never heard their 'croaking' referred to as 'peeping'. 'Peeping' is an interesting description.

Butter, cheese, and the creamery are not mentioned again after 1887 except for the liquidation of related equipment in 1889. The words mill and milling replaced them in the journal on a daily basis.

In April of 1890 Charles Wesley had health issues and was in and out of bed for over a month. The doctor diagnosed it as facial neuralgia on April 27th. Two weeks later after many days of pain, sleepless nights, and doctor calls, C.W. felt well enough to walk over to the mill. He did have a host of visitors including Mr. Cornish.

On Monday, July 28, 1890 Charles Wesley's first born son, Charles Edmond, started out for Lincoln, Nebraska in an effort to settle down. Charles Edmond had been a very hard working, active son throughout the preceding years helping on the farm, in the creamery, and in the mill. In addition, he worked any part time employment he could find. They missed him and his wife Effie a lot.

In 1891 Charles Edmond and Effie had twin girls. C.W. wrote a letter to C.E. on May 18, 1891 offering fatherly words of wisdom.

Our regard to the "babies". They do well enough in their place. Hope they will pay for raising. Of course they are a present gratification and pleasure to you but how about the "babies" pleasure. Did you ever think that with the rate of increase since the first census of U.S. in 1790 the people of Neb would stand so thick that every person could rest his hand on his neighbors shoulder in a time less than has passed since the U.S. was first settled by Europeans and that it is a possibility

that the "babies" descendant of the 7 generation would see that time. Think what a struggle for existence people must have when the country is people twice as thick as China. I can't see much cause for congratulations. However you have my best wishes for your present happiness and success.

I find this whole paragraph rather interesting beyond description. I am sure that Charles Wesley is a proud grandparent however his message gets mixed reviews from me. The above words are from a man that helped to raise seven children of his own in a time far wilder than the time of this letter. Yet he seems wary about bringing new life into a world far tamer than the one he experienced at that age. Perhaps his age altered his opinions on other things as well. Our son Chad Wesley Erickson decided to make Raleigh, North Carolina his home. He moved there several years ago and we miss him greatly. Personally, the thought of him ever leaving Minnesota never entered our minds. In August of 2008 Chad and his wife Leslie brought our grandson Tyler Alexander Erickson into the world. Many of you have probably experienced the same thing. Hundreds of miles can make personal visits few and far between. We are blessed to have our daughter Kristin Marie living just a short distance from us and we do cherish the time we continue to share with her.

Charles Wesley wrote to Myra on April 26, 1892.

Our oldest daughter Alice and her two children are with us. We live in the Village. Have three acres of land. Alice feeds and takes care of a cow and has about 175 hens which and the housework keeps her and her girl bussey. I am not able too do much. Get to the Post Office every day when not too stormy. Read the papers, talk politicks and Religion. About 1/2 are Catholic 3/4 remainder Lutheran the rest Methodist. The Catholics had a Priest here who when we were first introduced thought to make me a Catholic. I told him that I was all right as it was the truth I was after. After a few discussions he said I did not want to be convinced. I told him I was after the truth but he had not enough of it for me to see it. He never spoke to me after. I suppose he is in the 1/2 way house (Purgatory) he used to talk about.

On November 2, 1892 Martha Elizabeth fell and was bed ridden for several days. It wasn't until November 22nd that she was able to go into the living room but was unable to stand on her own. Because of her injuries Martha Elizabeth Woodbury never made another entry into the journal. Charles Wesley picked up the pen again and kept the journal up to date during the month of November.

Then, on November 26th, almost 38 years after he made his first entry into the journal, Charles Wesley Woodbury made his final entry into the journal and it was about an old friend of theirs whose name had appeared often through the years.

Sat 26 Luke Riley died Saturday 19 aged 74 years.

Bessie Gertrude Woodbury was the next to youngest child of C.W. Woodbury. Bessie wrote to her brother Charles Edmond regarding the health of their parents in a letter dated September 23, 1900.

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Mother did not seem so bright when I was there Friday as she has been. She pointed to a piece of paper on the floor and asked Doris if she "saw that chicken sitting there" She has seemed real well all summer. Father has failed a good deal in the last year.

Bessie was married to Peter Erickson, my great grandfather. They had a son named George or Georgie as referred to many times in the journals and letters. George or Georgie is my grandfather. I do not recall anyone calling or referring to my grandfather as Georgie. I never knew of the name until I read it in the journals and letters.

Martha Alice Woodbury, the oldest child of C.W., wrote in a letter to her cousin Myra that Charles Wesley's hand was too shaky to write and in fact he had given up writing all together. She also mentioned that Martha Elizabeth was almost helpless.

On the evening of February 11, 1901 Martha Elizabeth Woodbury passed away. It was noted that there was quite a number of people at the funeral and she was laid to rest on February 13th, a pleasant day, near Mrs. Forsythe in the "Camp burying ground".

Martha Alice was wrong about Charles Wesley giving up writing. Both C.W. and Martha Elizabeth wrote letters quite often to their son Charles Edmond. After Martha Elizabeth's passing, Charles Wesley continued to write to both his son and niece Myra regularly.

The last letter that I have from Charles Wesley Woodbury to his son Charles Edmond Woodbury was written on November 24, 1905. There is nothing of note in the letter. Just having the letter has significance.

Charles Wesley Woodbury passed away on July 13, 1908. The Franklin, Minnesota newspaper printed his obituary as follows in part.

DEATH TAKES TOLL

**Charles Wesley Woodbury Passes to the Dreamless Sleep
Monday morning**

WAS TOWN'S OLDEST RESIDENT

Oddly Unconventional and Alert

Mentality, He was Very Peculiar Person

Early Monday morning there passed from "beyond the flaming ramparts of the world" a man who for many years has been a peculiar figure in the life and annals of this town—Charles Wesley Woodbury—at the ripe old age of 85 years and about six months.

Deceased was among the town's very first settlers, coming to



CW at his desk and library

Franklin in the year 1885 with his wife and family. Mr. Woodbury purchased the little farm on which he has since resided. At first he engaged in the creamery and cheese manufacturing business on a small scale, but later abandoned this and devoted his time, before he became infirm, to chicken raising.

Mr. Woodbury's social and religious ideas were strangely unconventional and he took great joy in exploiting them for the sake of controversy. He was a man of fine mental attainments and a student of philosophy, pursuing his studies in his large library up to a very short time before the end came. He was extremely punctual and honorable in the discharge of business obligations and his lifelong abstinence from tobacco and intoxicants is probably one of the secrets of his longevity.

The funeral was held from the home of the deceased on Tuesday afternoon. The remains were interred in the Camp Cemetery.

This completes the journey of Charles Wesley Woodbury from 1854 through to his death in 1908, fifty-four years of being a part of the settling and development of a portion of Minnesota. I am extremely proud to know that my great-great grandfather played such a role. As I began, so shall I conclude. How I would have loved the chance to sit down and enjoy an armchair, in front of the fireplace, face-to-face chat with him.



Heritage Days

September 24th and 25th

We really had some great visits with guests during Henderson's recent Hummingbird Hurrah, from Hutchinson, Norwood/Young America, Twin Cities even as far away as South Dakota and Iowa and they really seem to enjoy the museum. Coming up next is Heritage Days weekend, September 24-25.

Here's how that weekend is shaping up:

9:30 a.m. Commemorations will be given during this 150th anniversary year of the start of the Civil War, via a ceremonial flag raising by The National Sojourners; A flag which was flown over Washington DC on the 4th of July 2011 will be used. It was sent for our use by Congressman Collin Peterson of Minnesota for this event,

This will be immediately followed by a reading of the names of 63 Civil War Soldiers who are buried in cemeteries in Henderson. At 11 a.m., a tour of the Brown Cemetery led by The National Sojourners in full Revolutionary War Regalia will take place. Burial sites of 6-8 the Civil War Era pioneers &/or freemasons family sites will be highlighted and commemorated.

At 12:15 we will gather in front of the Sibley County Historical Museum where Glenn Kiecker, who has indexed the names and affiliations of all deceased Masons and Eastern Star members of Sibley County Lodges, will present Historical Society President Jerome Petersen with this genealogical data. This gift of information is a first in Minnesota Masonic history and will be witnessed by officers of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota wearing their symbols of office. Thank you to SCHS member Glenn Kiecker for his work on getting this compiled.

Immediately following we will be presenting a PowerPoint program telling about the controversial move of the county seat from Henderson to Gaylord in 1915. This program will be repeated at 2PM and 4 PM.

And best of all we'll be visiting with great people like you from all around the state.

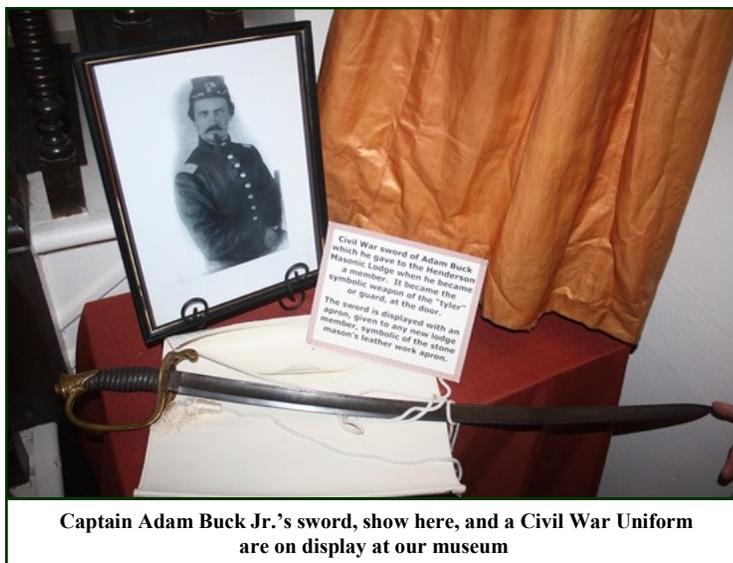
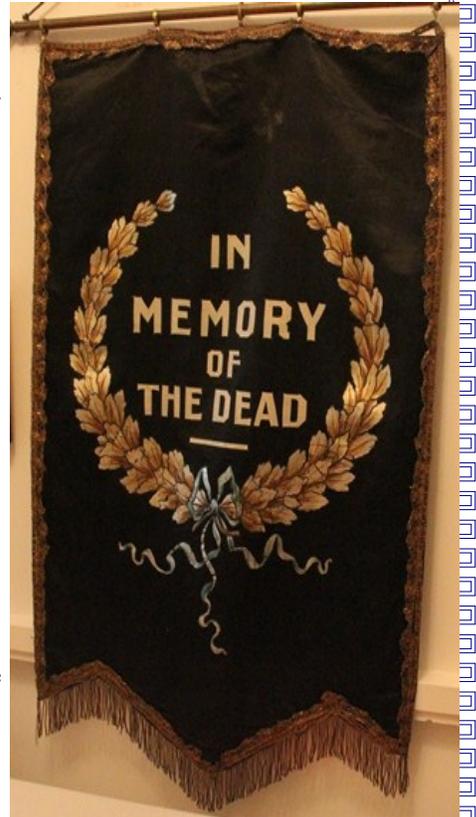
SHOTS FIRED AT FORT SUMTER

One hundred and Fifty years ago in 1861 shots fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay by Rebel forces began the Civil War.

Before the conflict was over 279 men from newly settled Sibley County would be mustered into Minnesota volunteer regiments. The list can be found in "Bits and Pieces", published by SCHS. This record indicates 23 died from wounds or illness.

Documents and articles from the war years are now on display. Included are items donated by great grand daughters of Adam Buck Jr. --his photo in uniform, and his commission to raise Company A of the 11th Regiment. He also had raised Company H of the 7th Minnesota during the war with the Dakota Indians.

His Officers Sword came to the museum from the Henderson Masonic Lodge. A banner welcoming returning Union Soldiers, made by New Auburn Ladies of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) is displayed. (See back page) Thirty veterans of the Civil War are buried in High Island Cemetery at New Auburn. These names are listed in a booklet under the words "In Memory of the Dead".



Captain Adam Buck Jr.'s sword, show here, and a Civil War Uniform are on display at our museum





Fun at the Fair. . . .

By Dorothy Peterson

Once again the Sibley county Fair is over and we can reflect on the fun visits we had with our over 300 guests. The Arlington



Cub Scout building at the fair grounds is a perfect place for us to spread our wings and celebrate Sibley County History.

This year we highlighted the Home Extension Work that has been done in Sibley County. Especially during the County Fair, we think of Extension

as being all about 4-H work, and that is a big part of their job. During the fall and winter months however, Home Extension Groups meet. For almost 90 years, the Rural Welfare Club of Alfsborg Township was one of the most active groups in Sibley County. They not only presented the Extension lessons, they went on to design their own group to fit their rural neighborhood. If there was a need in the area, they were there to help; cleaning, making food, bringing clothing, making quilts, and helping in any way they could. This Club has now disbanded but the memories are still there. We will be having a program October 25 featuring the Alfsborg Township Homemakers' Club who will be presenting the program at 7PM at the museum.

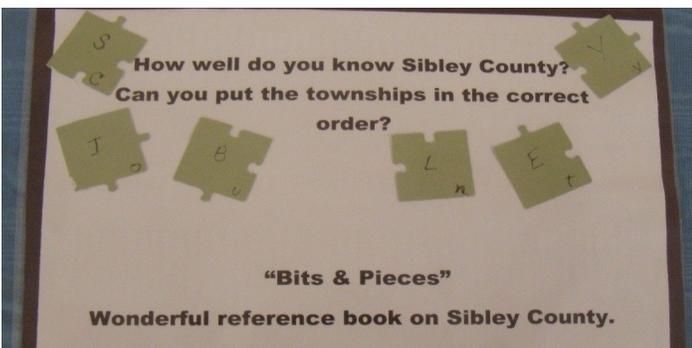


Another familiar and popular feature of our fair exhibit is the Sibley County Barn Books that Harriet



Traxler has created. A gifted photographer, she has been very generous with her time and talent. If you ever need a gift for that especially hard to buy for man (or woman) in your life, this is a good choice. Check out her website at www.barnsofsibleycounty.com.

Many people seem to enjoy puzzles, so we had one especially for the kids, a map of "Sibley County, divided into the 17



townships and we invited them to put them in the correct order. Even many adults admitted they didn't know the exact order of the townships. It was part of our "Bits & Pieces display, highlighting the Sibley County Sesquicentennial effort of a few years ago. It is still our most popular book if you need to know something about Sibley County. Get your copy at the museum or via our website: www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com.



A special feature at the fair has been for us to take a "mystery item" from the museum to see if you can guess what it is. This year, we decided to really do it up big and we brought 10 items. About 60 people made some funny and nostalgic guesses at them, but no one got all 10 correct. In fact, 5 was the most items anyone got correct. There were 3 entries that came up with 5 correct guesses. They were Steve Herberg, St. Peter, Justin Blood, Lino Lakes & Richard & Sandy Weckwerth of Gaylord. Justin will receive a 2012 Barns of Sibley county calendar (created by Harriet of course) while the other 2 will be given a 1-year free family membership to the Sibley County Historical Museum. Since there was a lot of interest in knowing what the items were, I will picture and identify the 10 items. Sorry about the small pictures, but "the Prez" only gave me a page and a half to get this all in.

Item # 1 A Mousetrap



Item # 2 Nutmeg grater



Item # 3 . This is a goffering iron or pleater. It is cast iron and was heated on the wood stove and used to put pleats in collars, sleeves, etc.



Item #4 was one of the most troublesome items. (Actually no one got this right) . It is a

(Continued on page 9)



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glove stretcher used on men's leather gloves.

Item #5 One of the easier items was this silverware holder, used to store silverware.



Item #6 is a spoke cutter/tightener used for making furniture, etc.



Item #7. A spittoon. Aren't we fortunate these aren't needed anymore.



Item #8 A coffee bean roaster. (not coffee bean grinder like many thought.)



Item #9 Our museum expert Googler (Ruth Ann Buck) went online and researched this. It is a clover head harvester. Evidently at one time clover was thought to be medicinal and was harvested with this type of tool. Don't feel bad if you didn't know what it was, no one else did either.



Item #10 Last, but not least, this item that stood on our deck, was a grape press for making wine or juice.

Hope you enjoyed the fair. We sure did! Come back next year and we'll see if we can stump you again. (Maybe not 10 items next year though.)

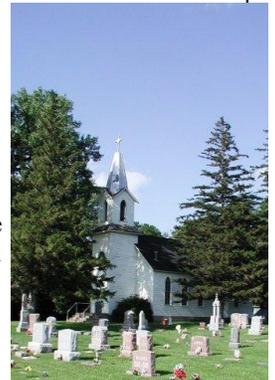
FindAGrave

By Dorothy Peterson

Now that the busy summer is over, with fairs and vacations and family celebrations almost done, we have settled back into getting more done with putting local church records onto our new website. For those of you new to SCHS, we are putting all our cemetery records onto a program called FindAGrave. It is a very large database, with millions of cemetery records, worldwide. It is a great help to those who do genealogy work but do not live in an area where their ancestors lived and are buried. We started this project a year ago when we designed our new website www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com and had to find a place to put our cemetery records. It's been a long, and not always easy, process but has been made a lot easier by a friend we've met with ties to Sibley County. Steve Carlson, with family roots in the Gibbon area, has been our mentor and helper along the way, and we say a **huge** thank you. If you've checked out Sibley County graves on FindAGrave you've probably seen some of his pictures. He has taken thousands of pictures of churches and grave stones on local cemeteries and is adding them to the database. Thanks Steve, we appreciate all your help.



Here's how you access this database: on the internet, type in www.findagrave.com. When the site comes up, look on the right column and you will see a line called *search for a cemetery*. Clicking on that will bring you to a page called *cemetery search*. I find that the easiest way to access our local cemeteries is to click on the link just above the space that asks for the cemetery name. This link is called *browse by US county*. It will ask you to choose a state, then a county. When you put those in, you will find yourself on the Sibley County site with a listing of all the county cemeteries. Some of our cemeteries might be known by more than one name, so choose carefully. There are some with very similar names, depending on which town or township you are looking for. For example there are 4 or 5 St. John's cemeteries in the county. By clicking on one of them you get further information on where that cemetery is located. Is it in Faxon Township, Arlington Township, or Bismark Township? Is it a Lutheran cemetery or a Catholic cemetery etc. so it can be a bit confusing. We're working on trying to make this list easier (and more accurate) to navigate.



As we work more on entering specific information about individuals buried in our area cemeteries, there is another person who deserves a great deal of credit. Gail Nuessmeier of Arlington has been clipping obituaries of deceased local residents and assembling a book each year for many years, and I am sure it is many times a thankless job. But, these books are invaluable to those researching their ancestors. It gives very detailed information about the individual, listing birth and family information that is not always easy to find. So we thank you Gail, for all your time and effort. Anyone who does genealogy work in Sibley County will surely find these books helpful. We have copies at the museum for many years, and some of them go back a long way. So be sure to ask about them when you come to the museum to do research.

If you need help getting acquainted with this website, let us know, we can try to help you find your way around it. It takes a little time, but you will find it gets easier as you use it more. Contact us through our website www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com, by phone 507 248 3434, or e-mail schs1@frontiernet.net.



(Continued from page 1)

complete with a working farm. The labor was supplied by the patients. It was mostly self-sufficient, raising livestock, grain and making patients' clothing. As time progressed, some outsiders complained about having patients working, so the farm was closed down. The only people who were happy with this decision were the complainers. After lunch we had a tour and presentation of the Treaty Site History Center, which is the Nicollet County Historical Society. Because many of us work at the museum we were allowed in their storage area where we were told how they organize, enter information into PastPerfect, as we are doing and store their artifacts. It was an interesting day.

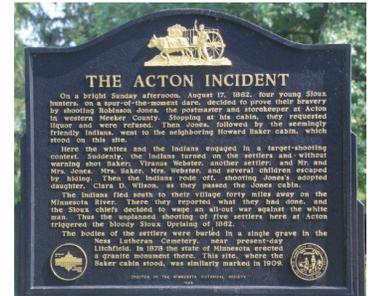


Our August tour was to Litchfield, Forest City and Acton. Litchfield has the last of the 100+ GAR halls, which were started after the Civil War. It is managed by the Meeker County Historical Society which is connected to the back of the hall. The hall has a great collection of Civil War memorabilia. Our next stop was the Forest City Stockade, which is a replica of the stockade built in the 1860. When the area residents heard that the Indians might be a threat, they constructed this 120' square fort of upright logs for protection. It was complete in only a couple of days and the settlers were protected. In the center

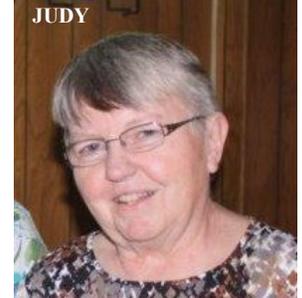


was a log cabin, and at one end a barn for livestock. We had our noon lunch there, buffalo sandwiches and fixings. Our tour continued as Bob took us through the log cabin and many other buildings on the grounds. On the way home we stopped at the Acton Monument.

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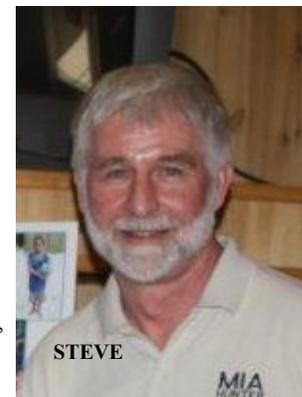
We have a magician on our staff. And it is Judy Loewe. She keeps pulling these excellent programs and places out of the hat and so many I have not heard of. If you have not been taking advantage of these, try it, you'll like it!



I want to recognize a few of our great volunteers. It always amazes me how this organization runs without paid staff, and somehow it all gets done pretty much on time without a boss saying "do this today." Starting off alphabetically; Becky and Steve Briggs. Becky took over the Ostrom project after Millie Doering had worked for several years on it. She scans hundreds of pictures, arranges to have them in the local newspapers, organizes the dozens of boxes of film in or storage room, brings the data to the museum (she scans at her home), married Steve Briggs so we had an expert to do all the website postings (Becky might have had other reasons), Steve updates the Ostrom



photos on line, adds the identified ones from the newspapers, (he does not seem to get the Prez Sez piece updated often) gave a superb program last year on his MIA adventures in the South Pacific, is the Porch Party Wine Steward. They were the ones who got us connected with Gustavus for our newsletter printing, saving us 20% on printing. They are fun to work with. We are grateful for their help and generosity, and we love them!



Dorothy Peterson is our secretary. That is the least of her jobs. She makes posters, types, works with PastPerfect, writes articles for this newsletter, she picks up, she delivers, works on

(Continued on page 11)



HARJES CENTURY FARM

The farm of Herman and Marie Thalmann celebrated being a Century Farm this year. Its history is shared by Roger, their third grandson.

The farm is now owned by Roger & Holly Harjes. It is known as Her-Mar Belted Beef. Her-Mar is in remembrance of Herman and Marie. The grandparents were married on October 1, 1911 and moved here from a Thalmann homestead between Green Isle and Hamburg.

It was always a family Holstein dairy farm. Since 1991, Galloway Belted Beef were added. Many foundation animals have been sold for other farmers to start and enhance their herds.

A complete set of buildings were constructed by Herman, relatives, and local carpenters. The Thalmann's raised five daughters, improved the land, and were involved with church, school, and neighbors. The grandparents lived here until 1950 before moving to Green Isle. Della, the oldest daughter, and husband William Harjes Sr. rented the farm until 1981 when their son Roger purchased the farm from Grandfather Herman. Farming remained a family endeavor by Della & Bill and their three sons.

Buildings, cattle, and the land expanded. Bill Jr. had his own farm

Thanks!

Thanks go out to all these people and their generosity for contributing to funding our needs; Holly Harjes to honor Earl Renneke, Elaine Thies in memory of Irene Hahn, Marie Kramer in memory of Fran Wright, Sharon Shimota, Ruth Ann Buck, David and Marie Main and Dorothy Peterson each honoring Rommie and Mary Petersen for their 50th Wedding Anniversary, donations from Rosemarie Thiel, Beverly Christianson, Steve and Becky Briggs, anonymous and another familiar name; Harriet Traxler.



Holly and Roger Harjes with grandson Noah Nielsen at the Fair with their Century Farm Designation

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to Sibley County Fair Association for our Century Farm recognition. Sunday, Aug. 7—this day was for you too, Bob, for your 50+ years for always being there, and to all who ever worked on the farm. It is for all of us to remember great-grandparents down to present family for all their dedication. A time to remember military past and present so we could farm together as brothers, family, neighbors, and friends. To church and community for all your support. Thank you, Holly, for your caring and leadership for the last 25+ years. Thank you Lord for taking care of us and the memories.

The 5 families of
Marie & Herman Thalmann

joining the original 120 acres. Roger and Robert had a partnership. Bill Sr. and Della were always involved, especially by giving their support. Many family activities have taken place here. Thalmann grandchildren were born in the

present 1926 farm house. Wedding parties for daughters, grandsons, and even for Great-Great Granddaughter Britta, were celebrated. International visitors have come from up to 15 countries. The Class of 1957 has had reunions and even a U.S.S. Sibley reunion group came from many states.

We are here believing what our ancestors believed that the church and family farm are the foundation for a quality way of living.

Visitors are always welcome! *Roger & Holly Harjes*



NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Carol E Pogatchnik	Finlayson MN	Beverly E Christensen	Chanhassen MN
James & Ruth Nytes	Henderson MN	Sam H Fudenberg	Roseville MN
Linda L Cancio	Sacramento CA	Paula M Nelson	Platteville WI
Pat D Steckman	Henderson MN	Harold & Bonita Pettis	Gibbon MN
Don & Betty Strobel	Henderson MN	Wayne & Louise Quast	Arlington MN
Wallace & Delores Johnson	New Ulm MN	Barbara Congdon Louis Van Doiren	Wenatchee WA
Allen Co Library	Fort Wayne ID	Eugene & Janice Isakson	St Peter MN
Joseph & Yvonne Mullen	Minneapolis MN	James Berger	Minnnetonka MN
Dayle & Harriet Troidahl	Gaylord MN	John G Berger	Lafayette MN
Carol E Jackson	Eden Prairie MN	Mary L Brenke	Albert Lea MN
Steven Kleist	Richfield MN	Connie Fox	St Petersburg FL
Wallace & Delores Johnson	New Ulm MN	Eldrene Ebert	Gaylord MN
Richard & Janet Graupman	Gibbon MN	Lowell Hanson	North Oaks MN
Philip Nelson & Barbara /Richmond*	Green Bay WI	Maureen & Gordon Krumrey	Glencoe MN
Doris M Wigand	Henderson MN	Shane & Kris Zeppelin	Litchfield MN
Cliff Zieske	Gibbon MN	Jance A Parrow	Minneapolis MN
Roman Jaus	Winthrop MN	Harry W Kreger	Ocean View DE
Bernice V Hanson	New Brighton MN	Cynthia Manthei	Henderson MN
Pat Keating	Oconomowoc WI	David C Chevalier*	Henderson MN
JM Ducharme	Henderson MN	Tiffany M Reinitz	Henderson MN
William & Vickie Holtz	New Auburn MN	Karrie J Hanson	Westfield NJ
Lucille Timm	Fairfax MN	Joy Cohrs	Glencoe MN

Membership Form

I would like to become a member of the Sibley County Historical Society.

NAME _____ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS _____ 49858 316 ST

_____ Winthrop MN 55396-2038

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Individual--\$20, Family-- \$25, Business-- \$50 Send to:

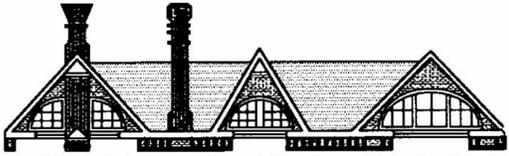


Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March thru November at the museum in Henderson. The public is invited. The museum is open to the public for tours on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. June thru October and by appointment.

Send articles, announcements, photos and comments to the SCHS Newsletter, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or Email: schs1@frontiernet.net

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to anyone who is interested.





SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Dwight Grabitske	Vice-President
Dorothy Peterson	Secretary
Ray Meyer	Treasurer
Sharon Haggemiller	Curator
Judy Loewe	Marie Main
Millie Johnson	Sharon Shimota
Ruth Ann Buck	Mary Petersen

Made by Betsy Rosses of 1863—Civil War Banner

In 1863, two years of the Civil War had gone by. Northern men were dying in the southern swamps, in southern woods, in southern fields, dying of wounds, of fever, of starvation. Back home women waited and hoped and prayed.

It was the day of the Indian, the ox cart, and the log cabin. Women in the new settlements carried and chopped wood and spun and knit and sewed by hand.

They tended gardens and children and milked cows and churned. They worked from sun-up into the heart of the night finishing by the light of flickering candles.

Yet Mesdames Margaret Vaughn, Maria Arnold, Almira Arnold, Martha Green and Frances Hubbard, six of the pioneer women in the tiny settlement of New Auburn, Minnesota, met each afternoon at the home of Mrs. Martha Green in the south end of the village to sew on the banner they were making for use when the war was over and the boys came home.

It was huge, 20 feet in length, sewn with tiny, hand-made stitches, fine and even. The 36 stars for the 36 states, then embroiled in a civil war, were placed to form a huge US on the blue field, US for the North and South together, one flag, one nation forever.

There was no formal dedication of the banner. One by one the soldiers straggled home from the war. IT WAS FIRST USED AT A SERVICE IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAD DIED ON THE SOUTHERN BATTLEFIELDS, THOSE WHO HAD DIED TO PRESERVE THE UNION. For years it was reverently taken out and used at the services on Memorial Day until it became worn with the passing years. It was found in storage in the old New Auburn Baptist Church and donated to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Al Rivers

Information adapted from an undated newspaper article

This picture and text are from a display in the Military Room in SCHS Museum

