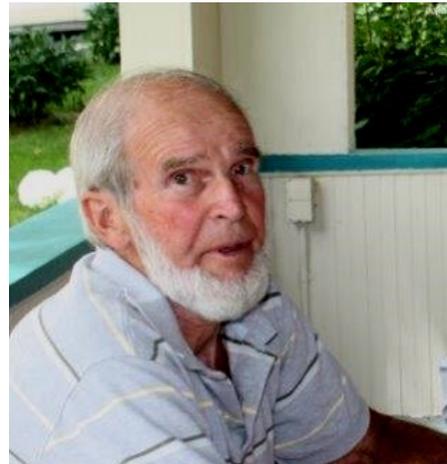




RAY

Ray Meyer has been our treasurer for about a generation. He pays the bills, takes the membership, sends the email newsletters, gets the labels ready and printed for mailed newsletters, keeps a keen eye on economizing and he is an all around good guy. The very day after we folded, labeled and sent the June newsletter, Ray had a bad fall, hit his head on the basement floor, and had a severe concussion and was flown to a Minneapolis hospital by helicopter to treat his injuries. He was hospitalized for a while, then entered a nursing home in Gaylord for further care. While there, he had a gall bladder attack and was sent back to Minneapolis. It was a major setback. Then back to the nursing home. He was able to come home after weeks of care and reha-



bilitation. While at home, he had another gall bladder attack, just when he was starting to get mobile. It has been a long ordeal for Ray and his family. Keep them in your prayers.

Gisela, Ray's wife, notified us that he would not be able to continue with his duties as treasurer. His family gathered all the records and files, bills and memberships, and that is in the hands of Rich Nagel, who has agreed to assume the duties of SCHS Treasurer. He was named to that position, approved by a special board

meeting with a unanimous vote. Rich and his wife Roseann had been volunteering before this all took place. We are glad to have him on board as the new treasurer.

Inside this issue:

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Calendar of Events

Check our website for 2014 programs.

- September 20, 21 Henderson Heritage Days
- Tuesday September 23 7PM Ox Cart Angel author Joel Arnold. At the Henderson Public Library
- No October program. Our focus is on the Country School Book
- Check Website for details
- 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

A big thanks to Ray for the many years he has served as treasurer for SCHS. His reports were always timely, thorough and flawless. He is a computer whiz and helped us with technical problems, and he helped me with technical problems with my own computer. But his talents didn't end there. Ray and his wife, Gisela, are guides, planted flowers and greenery for landscaping around the museum. Gisela brings interesting tasty items to our porch parties. And I consult them with questions about gardening. Great volunteers as well as friends. I hope and pray Ray will make a full recovery from his nasty fall. When I last visited him, he was looking much better. Recovery has been a long bumpy road. Ray; treasurer, consultant, mentor, technician, guide,

gardener, - and friend.

Diane Isakson of Gibbon was helping Mili-cent Grewe Jannicke dispose of her collection of scrapbooks, dating back nearly 100 years. Her mother started scrap booking before 1920. There are clippings of weddings, births, funerals, war news, sports, accidents and lots of other newsy items. What a fabulous collection of history. There are reports on the progress of WWII, then the Korean War, Babe Ruth, the retirement of Rev. Boettcher in Gibbon after being pastor for 47 years. (He then went on vacation, his first in 25 years!) The clippings are from various newspapers, but mostly the Gibbon Gazette, New Ulm Journal and Minneapolis Tribune. Ms. Jannicke was from Moltke, and now has moved from her farm home to Winthrop. More headlines; **Ike Beat Adalai In landslide; MacArthur Fired; Slavery Sentence 3 1/2 years, \$2,500 fine for George Stark; John Raforth of Gibbon Aviation Cadet; Elizabeth Flies Home**

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

to Begin Rule- Plane Due in London Today, Long Live Elizabeth—Queen!; Babe Ruth—Highlights in Career of Nation's 'Sultan of Swat'; Arden Lentz Killed in Korea; Truman Escapes Assassin's Bullets; Community Mourns Death of Dr. Esser; Sleepy Eye Gets Peek at Seifert Quads. It is hard for me to put these scrapbooks down!

These are some samples of the clippings in Millie's scrap books. Come and take a look at these treasures.

'Pie Lady' reaches her 103rd birthday

By KITTY McGARRY
Journal Staff Writer

WINTHROP — Mina Peterson began working in earnest at the age of 18 when her mother died and she began taking care of her family, and got a chance.

At 103 years, Mina doesn't get out much anymore but she does still live in the home she's lived in since 1947, with the help of her four daughters, who all live in Winthrop.

She also doesn't get to go to church

Dewey Concedes to Truman

Humphrey Beats Ball; Truman Carries State

GEORGE STARK INDICTED ON SLAVE CHARGE

(Photo and Story Courtesy of the St. Paul Dispatch)

George Stark, wealthy Sibley county farmer, charged with forcing a Mexican-American to slave labor on his farm posted a \$5,000 cash bond with the clerk of federal district court in St. Paul, to appear in Mankato's U. S. court.

Stark was indicted by a federal grand jury in St. Paul Thursday afternoon and was taken into custody a few hours later at his farm in Bemis.



Body of Pvt. Arden Lenz Arrives In N. U. Thursday

PVT. ARDEN J. LENZ



Nancy Hauser Weds R. Ringold Sept. 9

Marriage vows were exchanged by Miss Nancy Hauser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Hauser of Gibbon, and Robert Charles Ringold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ringold of 287 E. Magnolia, St. Paul at the Augustana Lutheran church in Gibbon Sunday evening, September 9th. Rev. Vernor C. Johnson, pastor of the church, officiated at the 7:30 o'clock candle-light ceremony. Assisting him was

Marlene Bruns John Weller Married July 19

The marriage of Miss Marlene Bruns to Mr. John Weller was solemnized at a candle-light ceremony in the Immanuel Lutheran church at Gibbon Thursday evening, July 19th. The Rev. H. H. Kesting performed the double ring ceremony at 7:30 o'clock. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Bruns and the bridegroom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weller.

Miss Joan Ohland played traditional wedding music at the organ and during the ceremony Miss Barbara Glaeser sang "Wedding Benediction" and "The Lord's Prayer." The church was decorated with

Ben Loftness Married Sept. 16

The marriage of Miss Ben Loftness to Mr. ...

Community Mourns Death of Dr. Esser

The death of Dr. ...

Millie had more than one year in each book. I took some from several book to show the variety of subjects; sports, politics, weddings, funerals and other newsy subjects.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church To Observe Centennial



Reburial Services Sunday for Gordon Lunderborg

Reburial services for Gordon Albert Lunderborg will be held at the Clear Lake Lutheran church Sunday afternoon, November 21, at 2:30 o'clock.

Gordon Lunderborg was killed in France, June 21, 1944, while serving with the 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division. He was a member of Co. I.

His remains will arrive at the station in New Ulm Friday, Nov.



Temperatures dip to minus 30 degrees

morning following the weekend snowfall.

Gibbon Man Killed and Farms Levelled In Saturday's Tornado



Big Stone's new plant humming at Arlington

WHEN Big Stone Canning Company opened Oct. 6, 1971, Arlington was its first plant. An industrial bond for this year's pack.





In just 3 months the days will start to get longer. That oughta make you feel better.

Jackie Halverson Schlueter recently donated her father's (Herman Halverson) WWII dress uniform to SCHS; the jacket, pants, shirt, tie, brass and even his dog tags and commendations. Among the campaigns he fought in, was the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944 and January 1945. It was a huge battle involving 610,000 American forces. 19,000 were killed. Mr. Halverson's commendations included a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Another Sibley County hero. We are grateful to all who have served, and are serving our country.



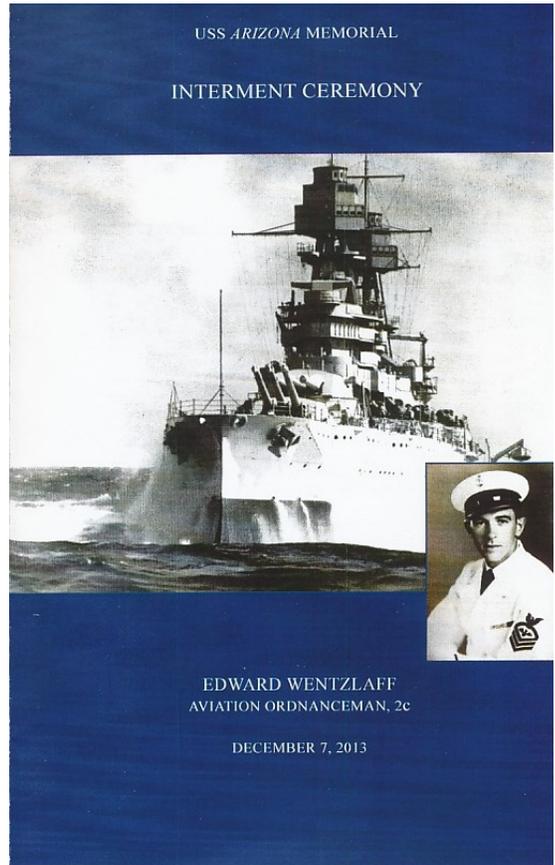
The family of Ed Wentzlaff gave us a very interesting presentation on the interment of their father, joining his shipmates on the USS Arizona, which was sunk by the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Their program included a video and slide show. Sharon Shimota told about video taping Mr. Wentzlaff not long before he passed away last year. He told of his experiences on the day of the attack, and how being on deck, he was able to survive when so many of his shipmates perished. Ed's son and daughter told of the ceremony of interment at the Memorial. Their presentation was outstanding. Daniel Martinez of the National Park Service is a key person in these events, as are the Navy SEALs who accompanied the Wentzlaff Family group to the Memorial Services. They were respectful and generous to the family. Ed would rightly be proud of his offspring! And they can be very proud of their dad. After all his wartime experiences, Mary told me, one thing he would not tolerate is whiners. If you Google Ed Wentzlaff you can see much more.

"It is always hard and a challenge to go back and see all the names on the wall of the Memorial. It is good to see the friends that I knew at age 25...and then wonder why I survived. I feel I should pay homage, respect to the crew on each of these visits. Eventually, I plan on being buried on the ship and put to rest with my shipmates."
--Edward L. Wentzlaff, USS Arizona Crew Member

This takes a load off my mind!!

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information stored in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive becomes more full, so humans also take longer to access information, it has been suggested.

Researchers say this slowing down is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more but just may not be able to access the information. Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.



**USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER EDWARD WENTZLAFF
INTERMENT**

WELCOME

Daniel Martinez, Interment Officer,
WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument
National Park Service

REMARKS

CAPT Lawrence Scruggs, USN

INVOCATION

CAPT Brent Scott, Chaplain, COMPACFLEET

INTERMENT

National Park Service
United States Navy

RIFLE SALUTE

Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard

TAPS

United States Navy
Pacific Fleet Band

FLAG PRESENTATION

Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard

BENEDICTION

CAPT Brent Scott, Chaplain, COMPACFLEET

CLOSING

Daniel Martinez
National Park Service

Special thanks to SEALs, divers, and support from Naval Special Warfare Group 3, United States Navy.



SIBLEY COUNTY FAIR

Member volunteers of SCHS were on hand to greet visitors during the Sibley County Fair. Many fairgoers were interested in hearing about the Country Schools project and were able to read some excerpts from the book. Some enjoyed seeing the advertising items from businesses in Sibley County. Others were in awe and spent their time looking through a recent donation of scrapbooks full of news from the Gibbon area. Are you wondering about our “what’s it” items? Quite a few guessed item # 1 which was a food chopper. We had to draw from the correct answers and Gail Herschman of Gibbon won the draw. Only one person, Clinton Prahl of LeSueur, guessed correctly on the long handled item #2 which was a tool used to sharpen disk blades. These two people will each receive a one year membership to the Sibley County Historical Society.



Food Chopper #1



Disc Sharpener #2



Dorothy had a colorful display of segments from each township for our School Book. Our visitors liked the display of old county business advertising. Some exhibits pertained to our schools project, prepared by Eldrene Ebert.

Photographs by Sharon Shimota



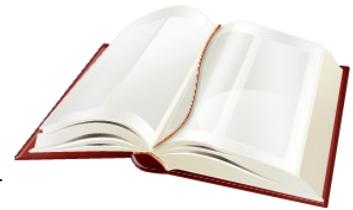
Picture display of county houses



Rommie and son John Petersen hanging banner

Country School Book

You will not be surprised to learn we are working on producing a book, Country Schools! We have spent thousands of hours and driven thousands of miles gathering information, photographs, conducting interviews, doing phone consultations, video taping meetings, photographing buildings and people, editing text, proofreading, arranging and rearranging. It is slowly coming together to be a worthwhile project. Purchasers will be pleased with the finished product, as will their children and grandchildren and generations to follow. The book will be a 500 page hard cover volume. The experiences and stories students and teachers have shared with us will delight people for generations to come. The Sibley County country school era begins about 1860 and continues through the mid 1950s. Kids today could not relate to those experiences; walking to school, no electricity, pumping drinking water, sometimes dozens of kids in 8 grades in one room and one teacher, drinking from a common dipper, kids from 6 to 16 playing together for recess or eating a cold lunch. You will be able to read all this and more in the upcoming book. In order to have the several thousand dollars up front money needed for printing the book, we are having a presale, and here it is...



COUNTRY SCHOOLS BOOK PRE-SALE

Our book will be for sale in December for \$30, or \$27 for members. Just another perk for our members but:

For a limited time, we will be selling our books for \$25 (\$5 off) and an additional \$3* off for members, only \$22.

This offer may be withdrawn at any time!!! I think they say that on TV! After the presale, they will be full price.

If you want one of these wonderful books, send your check to

Jerome Petersen

PO Box 25

Gibbon MN 55335

Make your check to Sibley County Historical Society and note that it is for THE COUNTRY SCHOOL BOOK. Include a note with your address, phone number and email. We will notify you when they are ready, and where you can pick them up. Shipping will be available for an additional charge.

***Note; Members will always get the 10% discount (\$3.00)**

You are allowed to purchase more than one book at this unbelievable low price,



Ed Wentzlaff Interment at USS Arizona Memorial

By Sharon Shimota

Back in the December 2013 newsletter I wrote an article about my mother's first cousin, Edward Wentzlaff. He was one of the 335 survivors of the USS Arizona the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941.

I had read stories about Ed both in the newspapers & on the internet but had never met him. I needed to find out more about this Wentzlaff relative of mine who served his country and who witnessed what I had only learned in a U.S. History class in school. With help from his daughter, Mary Flock, a visit was lined up and a group of us drove up to Milaca in May 2012 to meet Ed. With our camcorders recording, Ed told us his memories of the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He also showed us a picture that day of a gun turret and told us that he would be buried there someday. Ed had made 9 trips back to Pearl Harbor with the last one being on the 70th anniversary commemoration in 2011. Ed passed away on September 10, 2013.

On December 7, 2013, Ed's interment was held on the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. He became the 38th survivor to be interred within the ship. Over fifty members of Ed's family attended and it has been the largest group for an interment there so far.

For the SCHS August program, two of Ed's children, Mary Wentzlaff Flock, and Peter Wentzlaff, came to the Henderson Public Library to tell us about their Dad. Mary had made reprints of Ed's survivor story & the interment ceremony program for everyone. We got to see early childhood pictures, family photos, and the photos that were taken on the day of the interment. They both shared their moving experience at Pearl Harbor and wonderful stories of their Dad from how the urn and his ashes arrived in Hawaii to their final good-byes when they handed the urn to the divers.



Ed Wentzlaff



Peter Wentzlaff



Mary Wentzlaff Flock



Ed's name etched into the marble Wall of the Survivors in the Shrine Room.



Flag being presented to Ed's family: Mary Flock and two of her brothers, Paul and Peter.



Daniel Martinez, National Park Chief Historian, carrying the urn.



National Park Service divers that take the urn back to the ship.

I am so happy that I didn't wait any longer than I did and got to meet Ed. Many of us have been to Pearl Harbor but now we know we have a connection that links back to Sibley County. The USS Arizona Memorial has taken on a different meaning now that I know that Ed is there...may he rest in peace along with all his shipmates.



Country Schools Book Nearing Completion

We have completed the research portion of the Country Schools Book and are now finalizing the township and district chapters. We appreciate the help of all who have allowed us to interview them or have submitted pictures and other information. This is going to be a very special book that we think will be of interest to everyone, regardless of age.

I will share with you some of the ways in which we have gathered this information.

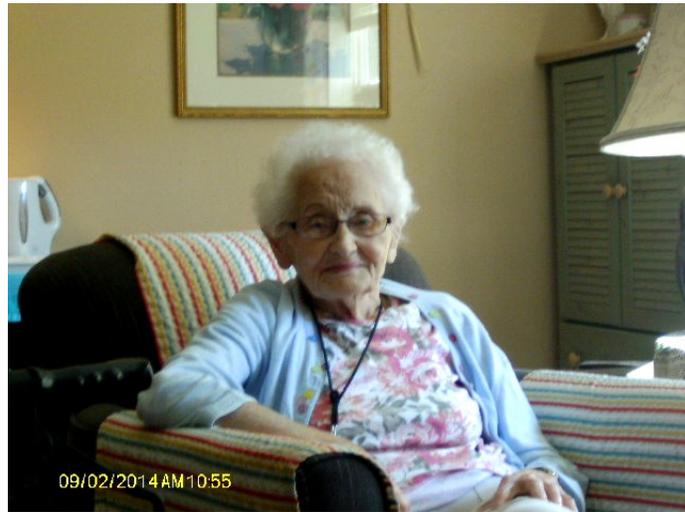
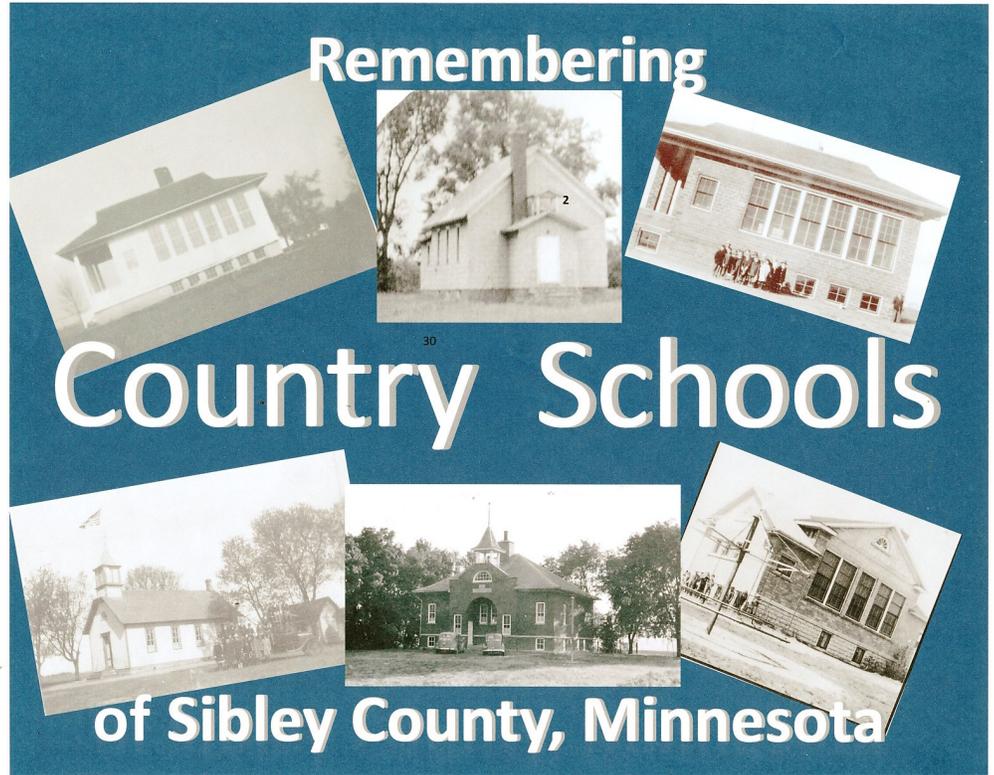
Mary Petersen and Ruth Ann Buck, two of our book staff members went to Le Sueur recently to interview Marge Henrich, pictured here. Marge, who is 101 years old now lives in LeSueur Assisted Living & Memory Care Center and still enjoys reminiscing about the “good old days”, according to her daughter Denise Pogatchnik. She was able to remember teachers names and tell Ruth Ann & Mary a little about “her” school, District 10 of Jessenland Township. Several of her daughters also attended country school there.

This is one example of the many visits that have been made throughout the county and surrounding area. Thousands of hours of research, and literally hundreds of phone calls, video and audio interviews and personal visits have been made by our awesome *Country Schools Book Staff*. We have done video interviews with groups in Henderson, Gaylord, Arlington, Gibbon, LaFayette, Le Sueur and Fairfax. Eldrene Ebert & Ruth Ann Buck spent countless hours on the phone and in person, interviewing and tracking down people to interview. Transcriptions of those interviews then had to be done so we could use the material on them. Eldrene and Arlene Busse wrote and re-wrote the township history sections several times. Eldrene spent a lot of time in research at the courthouse and we even went to St. Paul to the Minnesota History Center, twice, to get information. While there, Becky Briggs discovered several boxes of Sibley County teacher index cards, from 1915 to consolidation, that we were able to get copied and will use as a special teachers index in the book. Another index will list all names of those on pictures and in stories. Millie Johnson and Dorothy Peterson are working on that very large index which will include many maiden and married names of students.

The book will have some special features, such as the 8th Grade Graduation pictures and programs, colored maps of the townships showing the boundaries of the school districts and where the schools were located. Lots of personal interviews with students and teachers are also included, and as many pictures as we could fit in. We have tried to identify all the information but as we had over 2,000 pieces of memorabilia, pictures and stories submitted I’m sure we’ve missed a few contributors names. Our plan is to have the book ready for printing in late November. Printing is expected to take about 3 weeks, so we expect the book to be done in time for Christmas. It will make a wonderful gift for the younger generation to give to grandparents who have contributed information, pictures, etc. Or, for grandparents to give their children and grandchildren as a remembrance.

Be sure and reserve your copies now to get the best price. The book will sell for \$30, but right now members can get it for as low as \$22. I expect this discount to be good at least until November 1. After that we may take the discount off and the price will be \$30, \$27 for members.

Dorothy Peterson, Editor



Marge Henrich September 2014, age 101



Arlington Historical Society Recognizes Thomes Brothers 125 Years

This article was written by Dwight Grabitske for the Mankato Free Press. The photo below are from the event, taken by Judy Loewe

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) recognized the 125th anniversary of the Thomes Brothers Hardware store in Arlington on Friday, September 5, 2014 with the presentation of a plaque. The plaque, with a picture of the original building and listing the five generations of the Thomes family through 125 years in the hardware business in the same building, will be attached to the building to show the historic significance and importance of this family owned business to the people of Arlington and vicinity.

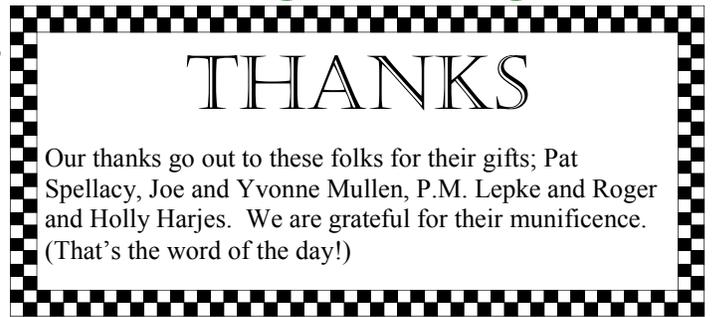


Dick, Joe and Brian Thomes

Nick Thomes opened his hardware store in September 1889, and he conducted the business until his sons, Alexander and Edmund, took over the family enterprise in 1920. They changed the name from "Thomes Hardware" to "Thomes Brothers Hardware,"



Curt Boeder, Brian and Dick Thomes unveiling the plaque



Our thanks go out to these folks for their gifts; Pat Spellacy, Joe and Yvonne Mullen, P.M. Lepke and Roger and Holly Harjes. We are grateful for their munificence. (That's the word of the day!)

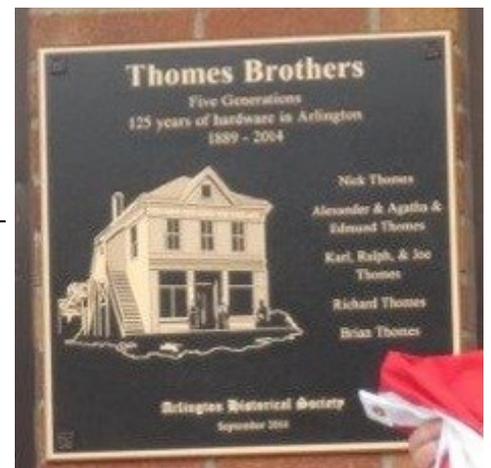
and grew the business over the years. Alexander died in 1943, and his wife, Agatha, took his place. Edmund retired in 1949, and in 1953 the hardware business passed to Nick's grandsons Karl, Joe, and Ralph, the sons of Alexander and Agatha. Each of the sons oversaw a portion of the business as it continued to grow. In 1990, Nick's great grandson, Richard, took over Thomes Brothers Hardware and has continued the family hardware tradition. Richard's son, Brian, is now the fifth generation of the Thomes family in the hardware business.

There was a brief ceremony in front of the Thomes Brothers Hardware Store at 414 West Main Street in Arlington, Minnesota, on Friday, September 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. The presentation had opening comments by the AHS Secretary Grabitske and an address by the Arlington Mayor James Kreft before the plaque was unveiled. The AHS President Boeder and the Thomes family unveiled the plaque. Comments by the Thomes family followed, and com-



Dwight Grabitske, James Kreft, Curt Boeder, Dick and Brian Thomes

ments by honored guests were added to the occasion before the closing remarks from the Arlington Historical Society. The business is one of the oldest businesses in the county. Congratulations to them!!





NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Joe & Yvonne	Mullen	Minneapolis	MN	Public Library	Allen Co	Fort Wayne	IN
Janice & Eugene	Isakson	St. Peter	MN	Rebecca & John	Schlueter*	Arlington	MN
Elden	Egesdal	Gaylord	MN	Esther	Grischkowsky	Rochester	MN
Robert	Fahey	Belle Plaine	MN	Shirley & Charles	Supplee	Bloomington	MN
Roman	Jaus	Fairfax	MN	Clara	Heberle	Hooper	CO
John & Dorothy	Johnson	Gibbon	MN	Harold & Bonita	Pettis	Gibbon	MN
Joan	Keating	Oconomowoc	WI	Marcia & Donovan	Becker*	LeSueur	MN
James	Huelskamp	De Pere	WI	Eunice	Beneke - Rucks	Henderson	MN
Susan	Rego	St. Michael	MN	Rodney & Alicia	Nelson	Gaylord	MN
Wayne	Jarvis	Cedar Falls	IA	Otto	Templin	Hutchinson	MN
Ruben & Eldrene	Ebert	Gaylord	MN	Jeanette & Eugene	Bening	Hutchinson	MN
Harry	Kreger	Ocean View	DE	Leo	Anderly	Henderson	MN
Wayne & Louise	Quast	Arlington	MN	David C.	Chevalier	Henderson	MN
Sam H	Fudenberg	Roseville	MN	Clinton	Crosby*	Apple Valley	MN
Gail & Steven	Herschman	Gibbon	MN	Garfield	Eckberg*	Nicollet	MN
Charlotte	Doudell	San Jose	CA	Steve	Grosam*	Gibbon	MN
Susan	Peters	Palm Bay	FL	Eunice	Lueck*	LeSueur	MN
Fred & Ariella	Hostetter*	Ottawa, Ontario		Vicki	Stock*	Arlington	MN
James M.	Poehler*	Savage	MN	Delano	Quast	LeSueur	MN
				LaVerne	Almquist*	Henderson	MN
				Jeanette	Seemann*	Arlington	MN

Membership Form

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

NAME _____ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS _____ PO Box 206

_____ Arlington MN 55307

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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

I would like to receive my newsletter by email (in color!)

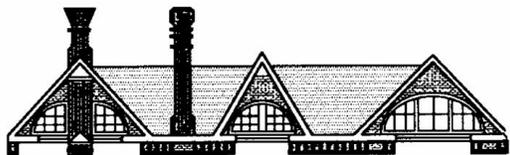
I would like to receive my newsletter by US Mail

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

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

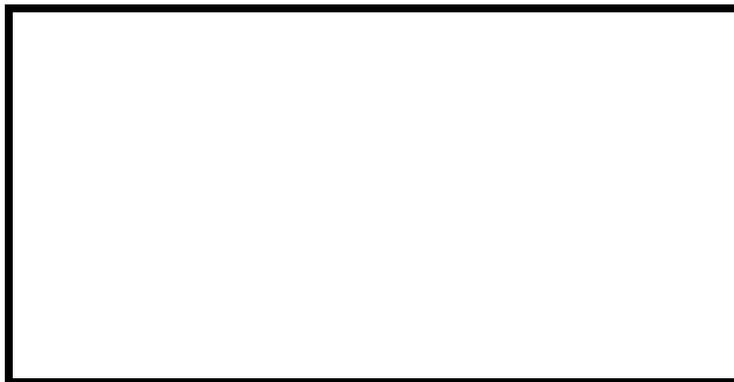
Check your due date on the mailing label.

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

700 Main Street
P.O. Box 407
Henderson, MN 56044
Phone: 507-248-3434
Email: schs1@frontiernet.net



SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD	
Jerome Petersen	President
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

A Veterans Gathering

AN IMPORTANT PART OF SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORY

Lowell Nagel, Arlington

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A memorial has been placed in the Sibley County Courthouse commemorating the efforts of the citizens of this county, our parents and grandparents. During WWII, people were encouraged to buy War Bonds and stamps to finance our government operations to win the war against the Axis Powers, namely Japan and Germany. Because of these outstanding endeavors in our county, a ship was named in our honor; The USS Sibley. There will be a gathering at the Henderson Roadhaus for this commemoration. A short program will be presented.

DATE; Thursday, November 13th, 2014

TIME; 12:00 Noon

MENU: Ham & Turkey Buffet, Baby Red potatoes, Green Beans almandine, Coleslaw, Dinner roll, Small desert, Beverage. Cost \$12.95 Cash bar available

WELCOME TO COME; American Legion & VFW members and spouses, Auxiliary members, Past, Present, and future members, SCHS Members and spouses.

RSVP needed by November 7th to your Legion, Veterans' group or SCHS. Do not send a check with your RSVP, please pay at the door.

The photo shows the new memorial installed across from the auditor's office.

