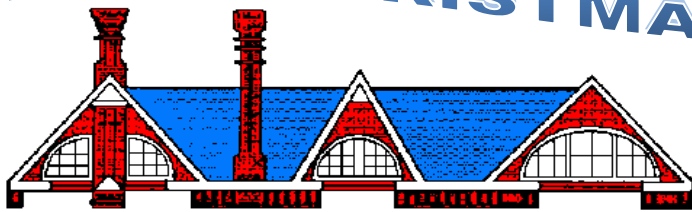


# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



## SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

Henderson, Minnesota 56044 Ph: (507)248-3434

DECEMBER 2013

Volume 18, Issue 4

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### SURVIVOR OF "A DAY OF INFAMY"

By Sharon Shimota

This year will mark the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. On the morning of the attack my cousin, Edward Wentzlaff, was standing on the deck of the U.S.S. Arizona battleship. At the end of the attack, 1,177 crewmen of the Arizona were killed and Ed would be one of the 335 men that survived.

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 was to be Ed's last day of his 4-year naval enlistment. He had enlisted in the Navy on December 8, 1937, at the age of 20. He started basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois & then on to San Diego for ordnance electrical school for 8 months. He was fascinated with torpedoes so upon graduation he put



Edward L. Wentzlaff  
1917 - 2013

in for service on a submarine but instead he was stationed to a battleship, the USS Arizona.

Like most sailors, he started out on the Arizona as a "swabbie", mopping & cleaning the decks and taking care of the garbage for about three months. Since he had a gunner's strike rating, he was assigned next to the gunner's dept. working in the black powder magazine. When there was an opening to work with the 3 observation airplanes, he applied and got the job. In August 1940, he made aviation ordnanceman 3<sup>rd</sup> class (AOM3c). At the time of the bombing in 1941, his rank was AOM2c. His duties were handling and maintaining the bombs, bomb-sights, and machine guns on the aircraft.

It was a beautiful Sunday morning in Hawaii. Ed and a group of guys were up on the forward deck waiting for the 8 A.M. church service to start. Ed watched a plane fly low

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### Calendar of Events

Check our website for 2014 programs.

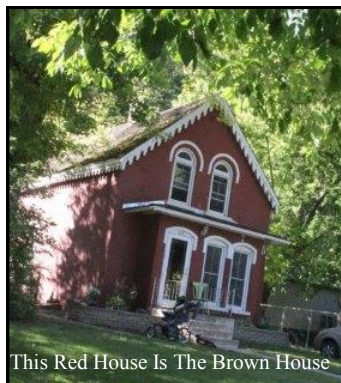
- Check Website for details
- If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events .... Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3345 **Calendar Subject to Change.**



### The Prez Sez by Jerome Petersen

On behalf of our friendly staff and board, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Henderson Heritage Days featured a tour of historic houses and buildings in town. Even people who grew up there learned many interesting facts about their hometown, my wife Mary among them. It was an interesting informative tour of the town. We visited homes dating to the mid-1850s, one owned by Joseph R. Brown. Our museum



This Red House Is The Brown House

was also one of the stops, as was the 1879 Sibley County Courthouse, where the Joe Brown Center is located. Henderson has a great bunch of civic minded volunteers who put on interesting events throughout the year. They have done cemetery tours that are always popular, with people dressing in period clothing portraying important citizens of bygone days standing by their tombstones. On Heritage Days we get many visitors to our museum, and this year was no exception.

We were in Arlington for our September program; The Arlington Brick Factory presented by Dwight Grabitske. He told of the history of the plant and noted many of the buildings made with their bricks are still in existence today. Dwight is our vice president. At our meeting he presented us with a check from Siwek Lumber and Mill-

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over battleship row and made a wide turn. He saw the big red ball on the wing but at first it didn't register with him what was happening until the machine gun fire started and the splintering teak deck wood was flying around. Some of the men that Ed were standing with hollered "get below" and they started down the ladders to the 3<sup>rd</sup> deck which was thought to be bombproof. Ed however did not follow them but instead went to his battle station which was on the quarterdeck at the back of the ship. This decision probably saved his life. He never saw any of his friends again after they went below. Once at his battle station, he and three other guys tried putting out the fires on the ship with the fire hoses only to find that there was no water pressure. Ed was by the water valve near gun turret #3 when a bomb hit near turret #2 towards the front of the ship and the ship blew up causing it to

lift out of the water. After the explosion, crewmen came out of Turret #3 because the decks below were flooding and orders were given to abandon ship. Many of the men jumped overboard into the oil burning on the water. One of the last men from the turret shouted "Let's go Wentzlaff, let's go!" Stunned and not sure he wanted to jump in the water, he and another sailor went to the officer's gangway instead and saw the Admiral's barge which was being pulled down by the sinking ship. Ed told the other sailor to get the engine started and he would get it loose. He had to cut it loose by chopping the rope with the flagstaff from the barge. They motored the barge to the enlisted men's gangway and picked up the wounded and badly burned survivors which they took to the hospital ship, the USS Solace, in the harbor. They then went over to Ford Island where they got into another launch which went around the whole outside area of the burning ships picking up survivors.

The Arizona sank in 9 minutes. Ed said he was fortunate to be in the right place when the Arizona exploded and he only had his hair and eyebrows singed off.

In my family history papers, I found a photocopy of a newspaper article where Ed wrote home to his grandparents in Nicollet County about the loss of the Arizona: "No doubt you have

heard that my old ship Arizona is gone. Mighty good home to lose. I'll cherish those beautiful memories for a long time. It was on her that I started my naval career, and it was also on her that I finished my first enlistment. December 7 was the last day of my cruise, rather ironical wasn't it? You know folks this is going to be a tough fight, tho' I believe that we'll come out on top."



Ed Wentzlaff and Sharon Shimota

He received a letter of recommendation from Frank Knox, the Secretary of Navy under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ed was recognized for his devotion to duty, prompt action and disregard of his personal safety during the attack on December 7, 1941. Later in 1942 he was advanced to AOM1c for his actions and efforts on December 7<sup>th</sup>. When he finally mustered out of the Navy in 1946 his rank was a

Chief Warrant Officer. His 4 year enlistment turned out to be 8 ½ years.



Ed and Reed Byer Wischnack

My Mother, Mabel Wentzlaff Byer, and Ed were 1<sup>st</sup> cousins. Their fathers, August Jr. and Henry, respectively, were brothers, born and raised in Sibley County and were the sons of August Sr. and Rosina Wentzlaff. August Sr. & Rosina lived & farmed in Section 11 of Arlington Township most of their lives.

I never really knew my cousin Ed or what he did at Pearl Harbor because I don't recall my Mom talking about him or the war. In 1995 I was at Pearl Harbor and took the tour of the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial still not realizing that I had a Wentzlaff relative that was a survivor. However it was shortly after that trip that I received an envelope of family history from a 1994 Wentzlaff Reunion and read the photocopies of newspaper articles on Ed. I would follow Ed's visits to Pearl Harbor and his stories online and read articles about him. Finally in May 2012 I con-

tacted Ed's daughter, Mary Flock, to line up a possible visit. When Mary told me Ed was battling cancer and that I shouldn't wait too long, I sent out an email to my family to let them know I was going to Milaca to visit Ed & invited

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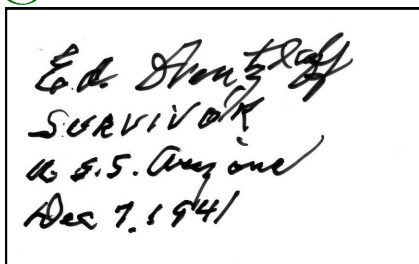
anyone along who wanted to meet him. On May 17<sup>th</sup> there were eleven of us, all descendants of August Wentzlaff Jr. that went to meet our Cousin Ed. None of us had

met him before but by then we all knew what he had done at Pearl Harbor. Ed had been telling his story for over 20 years to many different organizations, groups, and school children. He wanted to make sure people would not forget what happened. I think he was thrilled that my great-nephew, Reed Byer Wischnack, an 11-year old student, came with that day. Reed loves anything about military history and was excused from school to meet Ed and hear his story.

Ed didn't consider himself a hero; he told us that he was just doing his job...but he was a hero in all of our eyes that day!

Ed passed away on September 10, 2013 at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud, MN. after a battle with cancer. On Sep. 14<sup>th</sup>, I drove up to Milaca to attend Ed's funeral along with my three sisters. As we got near St. Mary's Catholic Church, we saw an awesome sight of patriotism as 24 members of the Minnesota Patriot Guard stood with their flags outside lining the sidewalks to the church. I think Ed would have enjoyed that!

On December 7, 2013, Ed will be interred in the USS Arizona. This honor is reserved only for those veterans that were assigned to the battleship on the day of the attack. After 72 years, Ed will be back with his shipmates.



The Memorial

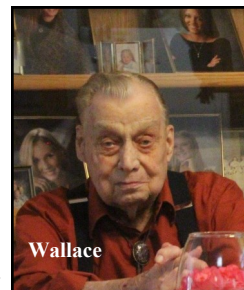
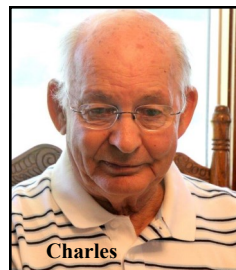
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work from where Dwight recently retired. Judy arranged for an antique road show for October. An expert in antiques assessed items brought by individuals and gave an approximate value. The lady, Sandra Schaitberger has an antique store in rural Plato/Glencoe area called Pine-N-Tiques. (See page 4)



Great things are always happening at SCHS. There have also been some sad events. The most recent is the untimely death of our dear friend, generous benefactor and fellow worker, Harriet Traxler. Most of you know her from her work on *Barns of Sibley County*, and recently her book *A Murder in Faxon*. She took the pictures, printed them, made the hard covers, bound the books and then sold them. ...and gave the money to SCHS. Her complete obituary is posted on our website. <http://sibleycountymuseum.com/Harriet--Collins--Traxler.html> We will sadly miss this wonderful lady. I am also mourning the death of a lifelong dear friend, Charles Lundgren of Gibbon.

He is a long time member of SCHS, along with his wife, sisters, nieces and nephews across the US, from Alaska to New Jersey. Charlie helped with projects at the museum, worked at the County Fair and made a walnut gavel set for me to keep order at our board meetings. The wooden gavel and stand are made from a walnut tree his grandfather planted on the Century Farm in Severance where he grew up, and Charlie and his wife, Jan, still lived and raised their kids. Lundgrens have deep roots in Severance and Sibley County. Last issue we mentioned Wallace Johnson who grew up on a farm along Clear Lake in Severance. He was part of a September interview with former students of District 56 at the Arden and Marilyn DeBoer home. Wallace has written several books and he gave our society copies of them for our library. He has also been a long time SCHS member and a contributor to the *Fort Ridgley Trail Book*. Wallace passed away in September at age 93. Our hearts and prayers go out to these families.



The Sibley County Auditor's office cleaned house and got rid of numerous items. The Minnesota Historical Society was notified and they took what they wanted, and the rest was left to SCHS if we wanted it. It was BOXES of stuff, thousands of items, which we brought to the museum. Arlene Busse is looking through to see what should be saved.

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However, she should have started when she was 40 to have enough time to check each item. She dispensed some to various townships and communities. I took some Severance stuff home to give to my township. That was like giving drugs to an addict! I LOVE this stuff!! I started going through that box, maybe 200 pieces of paper. I ran across a petition by residents of this area to start a new township; Clear Lake. And you didn't even know there was a township in Sibley County by that name. But you might recognize some of the 1870 petition names; John Jacobson, Charlie Sjogren, J.A. Lagerstadt, G. Grosam, Josef Biebl, Franz Biebl and Ole Olsen et al (37 in all). The commissioners approved the new township (and name) on March 10, 1870. Having that document in my hand that day gave me a high! ... and it was cheaper than drugs. But I didn't inhale! No, I did not smoke the paper either.

Saundra Schaitberger appraised many items at our October program. This small box was one of the few items that has not gone down in value over the last few years. It was brought to Kankakee IL from Norway in 1900 by David Main's grandmother, Elsie Eide and arrived in Sibley County in 1990. Marie Main was happy to have it appraised at \$300 on our antique road show, although the sentimental value to the Main family is priceless.



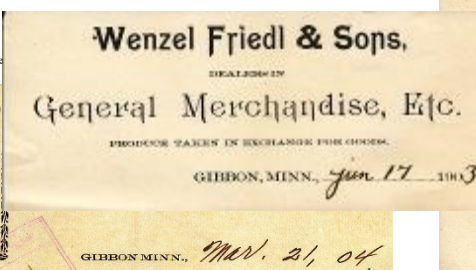
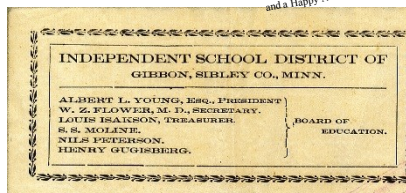
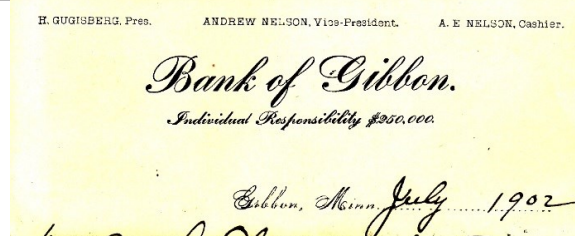
We could all agree, bows were big in 1920

**1st Row;** Andrew Lager, John Schroedl, Harry Jackel, Gertrude Stadtherr **2nd Row;** Minnie Klukas, Stella Hanson, Waldemar Pless, Ethel Holm **3rd Row;** Bernard Muesing, Oradell Demm, Marvel Anderson, Vernon Mayer, Martha Knigge **Standing;** Margaret Anderson, Victoria Johnson, Lloyd Thiem, Anna Lager, Arnold Bakke, Bertha Bengtson, Dorothy Bakke, Elmer Buerkle, Mildred Anderson Laverne Wanstrom, Charlotte Bandow, Clarence Flower, Oliver Bullemer, Lester Isakson, David Demm. Anything unusual? Yes! They are all named. Let that be a lesson to all of us, write the names.

There are many surprises at our museum. Barbara Stegeman sent us a collection of photos that belonged to her father, Earl Walter, who is also a member of SCHS. Among them was this wonderful photo, with a list of Gibbon students from about 1920, all named, and lots of familiar names. We have such generous people in our society! If you haven't read her book, *A Midwestern Life*, I highly recommend it. I think I will recommend it to Oprah. It is stories her father told her about growing up in Gibbon, being in the navy in WWII and living up north.

I am getting squeezed into a corner. Just enough space to with you a Merry Christmas

These are some examples of papers from the auditor's house cleaning. These are all from Gibbon. I am from Gibbon... Aha! Coincidence? Probably not. The Siems item is from 1886, a year older than Gibbon, 127 years ago. I see they had notions. I've had them too. So did the auditor. They had a notion to get rid of all this old stuff.







## Amy Renneke Coury

Amy Renneke Coury a retired Nurse Educator lives in Torrance, California. She has donated a 21 page booklet about her school days at District 53 in Sibley Township. During a recent "thank you" phone call she was asked about her life after country school and graduation from high school in Le Sueur. The early 1940's found her working in Washington DC where she learned about the new wartime Cadet Nurse Corps. She liked the spiffy uniforms with epaulets on the shoulders and the purpose of the program. She signed up and was sent to the famous Bellevue Hospital in



New York City for training. One winter night she went ice skating in Madison Square Garden and met fellow skater George Coury from California who would eventually become her husband. We have permission to use excerpts from her book of memories for this newsletter.

Form 390-B (Revised May 1944)  
FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
DIVISION OF NURSE EDUCATION

Budget Bureau  
No. 68-R145.1  
Approval expires  
8-31-45

SERIAL No 169443

UNITED STATES CADET NURSE CORPS  
MEMBERSHIP CARD B

School of Nursing:  
Bellevue

City New York State New York

*Amy Renneke*  
(Signature of cadet)

Cadet's home address:  
(Number and street, or R. F. D.)  
Le Sueur Minn.  
(City) (County) (State)

Marital status (check one):  
Single ☒ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐

Father, guardian, or husband *Henry Renneke*  
(Name)

His occupation *Farmer*  
Years of college completed (check one):  
☒ 0 ☐ Less than 1 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ More than 4

Usual place of residence during 10 years preceding admission to Corps (designate only one place, that which is most typical for the period):  
*Minn.* *Le Sueur* ☒  
(State) (City or town) (Check here if farm or R. F. D.)

*Lauch E. Edwards*  
(Signature of Director of School of Nursing)

See Additional Questions on Back of Card. Please check card for completeness and accuracy before signing.

Name of Cadet (Last) *Renneke*  
(First) *AMY*

## SCHOOL HOUSE, DISTRICT 53

### SIBLEY COUNTY MINNESOTA

By Amy Coury, 04/20/07

Facing east, the school house stood on a knoll overlooking the school yard which covered two acres and was square in shape. Behind the building two rows of dwarf spruce trees joined to form a grove which protected the school house from the northwesterly wind that lashed out during the cold months of winter. Southeast of the school house was the flagpole. Every school day the older boys would attach the United States flag to clips on a wire and raise it to the top of the pole. On windy days the tinny clang of the



clips hitting against the pole could be heard inside the class room - a reminder to the students that the proud emblem of their country was flying high.

A single cottonwood tree in the center of the school yard stood like a lone sentinel watching over its territory. West of the cottonwood tree was the *Merry Whirl*, the solitary piece of play equipment in the school yard. It was constructed of a heavy tubular pole cemented into the ground which supported a circular frame from which hung eight evenly spaced poles. Attached to the frame were a railing and eight broad wooden benches.

The *Merry Whirl* was a versatile piece of play equipment. After giving it a push in either direction the children could hop on to one of the wooden benches and get a ride. Or standing on one of the

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benches and grasping the frame above they could pump back and forth. The school house, perched above the playground, was deserving of its spacious setting. It was the "crown jewel" and the envy of all the other districts in the county. Other school houses were built of wood siding painted white, with their only distinguishing feature being a school bell mounted above the entrance. In contrast the District 53 school house was constructed of light multicolored blocks, and because of its color it was called the "rainbow school." Its official name, DISTRICT 53, was engraved on the front of the building above its five tall windows.

Inside the school house was an attic that housed the school bell. There also was a large classroom and a full size basement with a furnace. The building was not equipped with running water, a rarity in those days, but there were chemical toilets for both the girls and the boys.

## SCHOOL DAYS -

By Amy Coury, 05/04/ 07

**"School days, school days,  
Good old golden rule days."**

### DAY AT SCHOOL - SECOND GRADE, FALL, 1929

It was good to be back in school after being home all summer. When I got there some of the other kids were already there. We girls sat on the pillars on either side of the steps. The pillars are like giant steps. That's where we waited for the teacher, Miss Budke, to ring the school bell. We knew she was there already because her new Model A Ford was parked in front of the school house. She always came early to unlock the door and fill the drinking fountain with a pail of water she pumped and carried from the well.

Miss Budke was thin and not too tall. She wore dark blue dresses and black shoes with heels and had her hair in a pug at the back of her neck. She was nice and I liked her, but she always looked serious - probably because she had a lot to do, teaching all the grades, and then washing the two black boards and sweeping the floor after school. In the winter she also had to start and fire the furnace every day.

When we heard the bell ring we knew it was 9:00 o'clock, and everybody went in and sat in their seats. I counted 25 kids all together. Some were my cousins, and I knew the rest of them, too. There, were about the same number of boys and girls, and some of the boys still smelled like "cows" because they helped with the chores before they came to school.

I still sat at a desk in the row closest to the windows, but the desk was bigger than the one where I sat the year before. The first thing we did every morning at school was say "The pledge of allegiance." Then we all got around the organ in the corner in the back of the room, as close as we could. Miss Budke sat on the stool and pumped the organ with her feet. She only used one hand to play songs from the Golden Song Book. We kids got to choose the songs, and we sang "My Coun-

ty Tis of Thee," "Swanee River," and "Oh! Susanna," which was my favorite.

After that classes began. Every class sat in seats that faced the teacher in the front of the room. Miss Budke called the first grade up for reading. Next it was our turn. There were four of us in the second grade - Velma O. and my cousin, Pearl P. (my best friends) - and Willis M., and me. I thought I was the smartest one.

Miss Budke asked each one of us to read from our reader and then we went back to our seats, and listened to the rest of the classes. If we had to leave the room to go to the toilet, we held up one finger for number one and two fingers for number two.

When it was time for our fifteen minute morning recess everybody followed Miss Budke's orders which were "Turn, stand, and pass." All of us went outside, and we girls played games in the grass. One was called "Statue." Whoever was "It" would grab your arm and sling you into a crazy position which you were supposed to hold as long as you could. The person who held it the longest, won. Another game was called "Captain, may I?" The person who was "It" gave you a command and if you didn't say "Captain, may I?" before doing it, you were out of the game. Instead of playing games, the boys drowned out gophers by pumping water from the well and pouring it down their holes. That was too awful for us girls to even watch.

After recess we had Arithmetic. Miss Budke had packs of flash cards with combinations of addition and subtraction on them. When she held up a card whoever said the answer first got the card. All of us tried to get the most cards. Miss Budke also wrote problems on the board. We copied and answered them on a sheet of paper from our pencil tablets which had blue lines on it.

Twelve to 1:00 o'clock was lunch hour, and we took our lunch pails outside and ate fast so we would have more time to play. In the afternoon we had other classes, but we still had some time to color. We passed around a box with broken pieces of wax crayons that we used together. A couple of kids had Crayolas. There were eight crayons in an orange cardboard package that had green letters. We also listened to classes for the upper grades, and I learned that the valley of the Tigris and the Euphrates River was

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the "cradle of civilization."

We got out of school at half past three that day because there was Mothers' Club which met once a month. My mother started the club, and most of the mothers with children in school, joined. My mother let me stay and play while they had their meeting. I liked the smell of dill pickles and coffee when they ate sandwiches and cake for lunch, but the smell of the kerosene stove in the basement made me sick.

## A DAY AT SCHOOL - EIGHTH GRADE WINTER, 1936

This year was a lot like all the other years except that my class sat in the row closest to the blackboard where the desks and seats were the biggest, and the subjects were harder than they were the year before. We also got a new teacher, Miss Bernice Briard, who had just finished a year of teachers' training before she was hired at our school. She was tall and had pretty long brown hair and brown eyes, and she liked to play outdoors with us.

The weather was cold so I wore my new green wool snow suit that had a plaid jacket with a zipper. I had to stuff the skirt of my dress inside the pants before I could pull them up. We kids were lucky because we didn't have to go to a toilet outside, and our inside toilets didn't stink like they did on warm days.



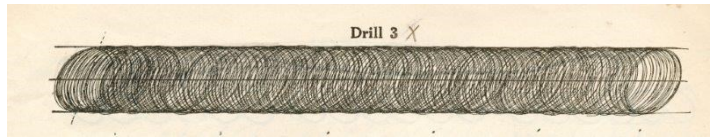
What I liked best about winter was the game "Fox and Goose" which we played at noon in the school yard south of the school house. During 15 minute recess there wasn't time to get dressed and go outside, so we played in the basement. We ran back and forth dodging the heavy poles between floor and ceiling, and the echo of the loud noise we made hollering, bounced off the walls. Our eighth grade classes include History, Geography, Arithmetic, Language, and Spelling which we had every day. We had classes in the other subjects, Civics which was government, Hygiene, and Penmanship, twice a week. For History and Geography Miss Briard pulled down the maps of the different continents and the United States, from the map case on the wall so we would know the location of the places and events we were studying. In arithmetic Miss Briard sent us to the blackboard and we worked on multiplication problems and long division. I liked Language the best. We learned the parts of speech; nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and pronouns and the tenses of verbs; present, past and future. We also wrote sentences to learn correct grammar.

Of all the subjects, penmanship was the hardest. You had to use "ink" paper and a pen to practice handwriting. First you had to look in your desk to find a pen point that was still good and not split at the tip. Then you put the pen point into the holder and dipped it into the inkwell which was in the upper right hand corner of the desk. It was hard to get the right amount of ink on the pen so that you could start writing before the ink splattered all over your desk



or on the paper.

There was a perfect sample of the alphabet with "Capital" and "Small" (Italics?) letters for us to follow, posted on the side wall of the room above the blackboard. The hardest part of writing was using the Palmer Method. You weren't supposed to use your fingers but move your wrist in the "oval"



motion instead. We kept on trying, but none of us ever learned to write that way.

My classmates, Velma and Pearl, were still my best friends since the first grade, and I liked Willis too. He had light blue eyes and was almost as tall as I. He sat in the seat in front of me.

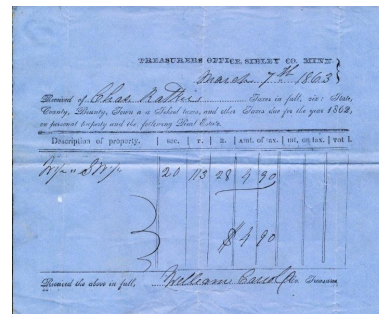
Our class would finish school in June, and then we would go to the County Courthouse in Gaylord for graduation. The graduates of all the school districts in Sibley County would be there – almost one hundred altogether. We would be given our diplomas, and then a group picture of everyone holding theirs would be taken on the Courthouse steps. After spending the summer at home, I would be anxious to start high school in LeSueur, in September.

Thanks to my brother Bob, and Mary Bauer Brandt for contributing to this story.

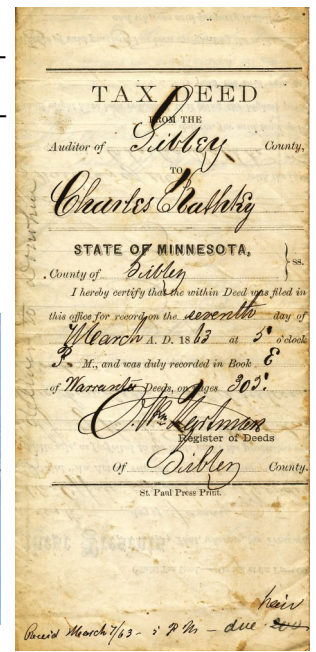
### More About Auditor's Documents...

As of the 1st of December, the oldest document we have found is the payment of back taxes on property in Dryden Township dated March 7, 1863. The land was owned by a Mr. Donlan who was on the 1860 census along with his wife and eight children. Martin Rathke and his wife Bertha lived by Donlans. We suppose Charles Rathke and siblings, that lived nearby, were children of Martin, deducing from the ages of each.

Charles was able to pay those taxes and was granted a deed for the property. Through the next 50 years of censuses, we followed the supposed family tree down from Charles, to Herman, to Aaron, to Orren to David Rathke, who lives in Eden Prairie with his wife Lena (Neyers) and kids. David grew up in Winthrop and Lena in Gibbon.



I am lovin' this stuff!!!! Can you tell?





## Country School Project Update

Dorothy Peterson, Editor

The question I hear most often these days from people that know I am working on the County Schools Book is "Well, how's the book coming". And depending on what kind of a day I have had my answer might be "Oh, just great" or "I wish someone else was the editor of this book". Don't get me wrong, I love this project and think it is a very worthwhile topic, but it is a very large project, much larger than I realized it would be, and it is a huge challenge.

I guess I never gave a thought to all the little details that went into publishing a book: what size print, what font, can we afford color, should the cover be hard or soft, what type of binding will we use and on and on. And then the content of each township is different so how do we use that to create the book everyone is expecting this to be.

Our job became somewhat easier when we found a publisher that we were comfortable with. We have chosen **Corporate Graphics** of Mankato as our publisher. They have given us a fantastic price on the publishing of the book, and yes, we will have some color in the book, and even a hard cover.

We are almost finished with the research part of the book. We still have a few areas that could use some more pictures and information but we are working on that. We hope to finish the research by the end of the year. When your family gets together this Christmas look in Grandma's photo album and see if she had pictures of the school she or her family attended. We are especially interested in pictures of schools. The townships/districts from which we are still looking for **school pictures** are: Dryden 17 & 18, Alfsborg 68, Arlington 15, Bismarck 70 & 77, Grafton 67 & 79, Green Isle 32 & 45, Henderson 3, 4 & 5, Moltke 24 & 75, New Auburn 37 & 47, Sibley 36 & 47, Transit 49, Washington Lake 27, 29, & 71. Some of these districts we have pictures of the students but not of the school itself.

So, if anyone still has pictures or memories they have not contributed but want to, please do it now. In January we will be getting the pages set up using the pictures we have, so if they come in late we may no longer have room for them.. There is also still time for an interview if you have former classmates or friends who went to country school, lets get together and share those memories.

### Here's how to reach us:

- ⇒ **Send pictures** or memories to SCHS, P O Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044.
- ⇒ **Or e-mail** us at [schs1940@hotmail.com](mailto:schs1940@hotmail.com) or [schs1@frontiernet.net](mailto:schs1@frontiernet.net).
- ⇒ **Or you can bring** them to the museum on a Tuesday when we are working there and we will scan and return them to you immediately.

We've been using this picture in our newsletter for some time but just realized we do not know who this teacher is or where she taught.

### THANKS FOR THESE GIFTS...

Thanks for the following donations and memorials; Thrivent, Paula Nelson, Charles and Donna Meyer, Kay M. Diers and Mr. Anonymous.

Thanks to these people who gave memorials for Harriet Traxler; Steve and Becky Briggs, Ray and Gisela Meyer, Marie Main, Sharon Haggemiller, Jerome Petersen and Mary, RuthAnn Buck, Roger and Holly Harjes, Dorothy Peterson, Sharon Shimota, Judy and Glen Lowe, Charles and Donna Meyer, Michael Cook, Virginia Furin, Bonnie and Lowell Nagel. Thanks to Dorothy Peterson for a donation honoring Millie Johnson on her 90th birthday. Thanks to Diane Fredin for a memorial for Wallace Johnson. Thanks to Marie Kramer and others who sent memorials for Charles Lundgren. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.



Can you help us? We'd like to know what township and district this school is and the name of the teacher.

Thanks to all who have contributed. The book would not be possible without your help.





## NEW\* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

|                         |                 |                           |                        |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Richard & Joyce Gardner | St Peter MN     | Colleen Deis              | Gaylord MN             |
| Raymond (Ted) Pinske*   | Gaylord MN      | Carol Reiter              | Henderson MN           |
| Gary & Lois Pichelmann* | Burnsville MN   | Thomas Williamson         | Arlington VA           |
| Rodney Winter*          | Elk River MN    | Joy Cohrs                 | Glencoe MN             |
| Ethel & Orville Beuch   | Henderson MN    | Gene & Ladonna Rodewald   | New Ulm MN             |
| Darren & Erin Peterson  | Moundsview MN   | Dwight Grabitske          | Arlington MN           |
| Denise Peterson         | Gibbon MN       | Karen & Ray Klenk         | Winthrop MN            |
| Paul & Lorraine Doring  | Mankato MN      | G R Durenberger           | Henderson MN           |
| Carolyn Bamdel          | Belle Plaine MN | Lois & Ken Ahnholz        | Ankeny IA              |
| Wayne Pettis            | Hutchinson MN   | Delores Messerli          | Winthrop MN            |
| Davis Biebl             | Gibbon MN       | Susan M Brown             | Sacramento CA          |
| Gail & Steven Herschman | Gibbon MN       | Arlene Moore              | Gaylord MN             |
| Sally Webster           | Winthrop MN     | Lowell & Bonnie Nagel     | Arlington MN           |
| Lois Bode               | Gibbon MN       | Darrell Amberson          | Henderson MN           |
| Harry Kreger            | Ocean View DE   | Elizabeth Kuphal*         | Gaylord MN             |
| Dennis Walter           | Lakeville MN    | Kathleen Ringo*           | New Auburn MN          |
| Art & Rosetta Blomquist | Mankato MN      | Jeff & Amy Franke         | Gaylord MN             |
| Lavonne Sandersfeld*    | Williamsburg IA | David & Barbara Herrly    | International Falls MN |
| Karol Erickson          | Olympia WA      | Kevin Pioske              | LeSueur MN             |
| Paula M Nelson          | Platteville WA  | Richard Trocke            | Arlington MN           |
| Rodney & Alix Nelson    | Gaylord MN      | Trent & Tera Messner      | Gaylord MN             |
| Myra Bushard*           | Gibbon MN       | Ellen Traxler*            | Henderson MN           |
| Sam H Fudenberg         | Roseville MN    | Richard & Sandy Weckwerth | Gaylord MN             |
| Gloria Pudwell          | Winthrop MN     | Dwayne & Lori Cowdin*     | Northfield MN          |
| Lila J Sillerud         | Canby MN        | John Gerald Berger        | Green Isle MN          |
| William J Mickelson     | Columbia SC     | Jim Berger                | Minnetonka 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:**

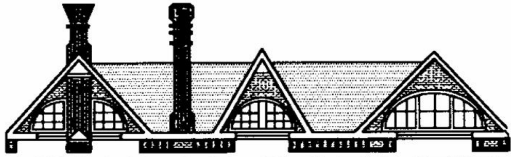
**Check your due date on the mailing label.** Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to anyone who is interested.



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](mailto:schs1@frontiernet.net)





## SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

700 Main Street

P.O. Box 407

Henderson, MN 56044

Phone: 507-248-3434

Email: [schs1@frontiernet.net](mailto: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  |



## RED TAPE

By Al Rostberg

The origin of use of red tape dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and meant something quite different then it does now. It started with red ribbon being used to bind the important papers as far as back the sixteenth century. There is also evidence that King Henry the Eighth used red tape or red ribbon to bind his papers of annulment after he lost interest in Catherine of Aragon, hence the term Red Tape. Documents of lesser importance were bound with ordinary rope.

But the red tape label has totally different meaning to average modern day citizens. Today red tape tends to represent the excessive or over-regulation associated with governments and corporations. The filling out of paperwork, obtaining licenses, duplicate and triplicate copies of contracts are examples of red tape. So the next time you feel the frustration of red tape you can blame King Henry the 8th or The Spanish king Charles the Fifth who started the practice of used red tape to bind important papers of their 16<sup>th</sup> century governments.

Recently the Sibley County Historical Society received some outdated county records, instruments such as auditor papers from as far back as the 1860's. Statements of school district taxes dated September of 1899, examination of county records by the state of Minnesota from 1870's, and other items dated into the 20's and 30's were also found. Some of these papers are hand written and in the broad strokes of decidedly German script. Many of these items were

stored in heavy manila envelopes secured with the familiar red ribbon or tape, and then put in small cardboard boxes and stacked somehow in a file system.

I'm sure much more information will appear later in the SCHS quarterly editions about these early documents, but one member pointed out that many of these papers are



The obligatory red ribbon tied around this 1870's legal document recently brought from the Sibley County court house, is shown above.

tied with a traditional red ribbon and thought that readers would be interested in the significance of this practice.