



Spring 2017 Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 1

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

Thanks Rommie!!!

Rommie Petersen has decided after 15 years of being Editor of the SCHS Newsletter he wants to step down. We appreciate the great job he has done in keeping the newsletter inter-



esting and fresh each quarter. He had many contacts and always had someone willing to suggest a story for him. These are some mighty big shoes to

attempt to fill so, I am going to need some help from YOU to keep the newsletter fresh and interesting.

In our December 2016 Newsletter we began a feature about churches in Sibley County. We will continue the series in this and future newsletters and it is also one focus of our museum exhibits for the coming year. If you would like to suggest a church that we should feature send a note to SCHS Newsletter Editor, Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044.

Another upcoming feature we would like some help with is articles of interest from around the county: what's going on, when and where. Having a correspondent from each of the 7 towns in Sibley County would be great, also news about other county museum's. Again, If you are interested, please let me know. I welcome your requests and suggestions.

Dorothy Peterson, Editor

Sibley County Historical Society

Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Gaylord Courthouse

Doors open @12:00 Noon

Dinner served at 12:30

Menu: Mashed Potatoes & gravy, chicken, glazed ham balls, carrots, roll, beverage

Business Meeting: Election of Officers

Program: Cory Becker, high school junior at GFW, attended the Presidential Inauguration in January and will share his view of that historic event. **More details on page 6 & 7.**

Calendar of Events by Judy Loewe

Unless otherwise noted all meetings are held at the museum in Henderson.

SUNDAY April 2, 12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting Courthouse, Gaylord Speaker: Cory Becker, Gibbon, Presidential Inauguration Attendee Enjoy this youthful report of the excitement of attending this event regardless of political view.

Tuesday, May 23 7 p.m. at Henderson Library "Crazy Quilts" by Sandi Andersen This event will include some hands on experience, plus displays and samples.

Tuesday, June 27, at the museum 7 p.m.
Earl Hebisen will speak about his experiences as a "U.S. Infantry, Veterinary Food Inspector"

Several tours are in the planning stage for later in summer, watch newsletter for details.

Calendar Subject to Change. If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events Contact Judy Loewe: gjloewe@frontiernet.net



Think Spring!

March 2017 VOL 22, ISSUE 1

The churches of Sibley County

By Arlene Bousse Pictures by Judy Loewe

After ratification in 1852 of the 1851 Indian treaties, white settlement of much of Southern Minnesota could begin. In what would become Sibley County, the first few claims were made along the west bank of the Minnesota River in 1852, also the year Henderson was established.

By 1854, a small log school house had been erected near the river. Itinerant preachers conducted services there sporadically, perhaps as their schedules and weather conditions permitted. The first newspaper in the area, *The Henderson Democrat*, was started April 3, 1856 by J. R. Brown, founder of Henderson. Early news paper issues provide history of the spread of settlement from east to west. It seems that the first priority of town site developers was erecting buildings for housing and businesses; for farmers, providing shelter for the family and livestock, clearing some land, planting gardens and crops; in town and country, building a combination school-church-community center came next.

A large number of the early Catholic settlers on farm land north of Henderson were German speaking or were Irish. The Latin Mass was familiar to all and a Catholic church had its beginnings in Jessenland in the early 1850s. Many of the newcomers in the Henderson area were German immigrants with various protestant denominational backgrounds. Some of the business men and their families came from eastern states and spoke only English. Documented church history in Henderson is lacking for the very early 1850s. An 1858 article recalls some hijinks of that period reporting that the west bank ferry boat mooring rope was cut to prevent the Methodist preacher of "hellfire and brimstone" sermons from getting ashore, but he swam to shore anyway and conducted

his service as scheduled. His sermons sometimes were in German, sometimes in English. The rope cutters preferred the "pleasing sermons" regularly scheduled in English by the Rev. Charles Clinton, denomination not mentioned. This newsletter will feature St. Judes' Church in Henderson, the only Episcopal Church ever established in Sibley County. This building, unlike most of the early church structures, is still standing and in use today as the Henderson Public Library.

St Jude's Episcopal Church 1856-1948

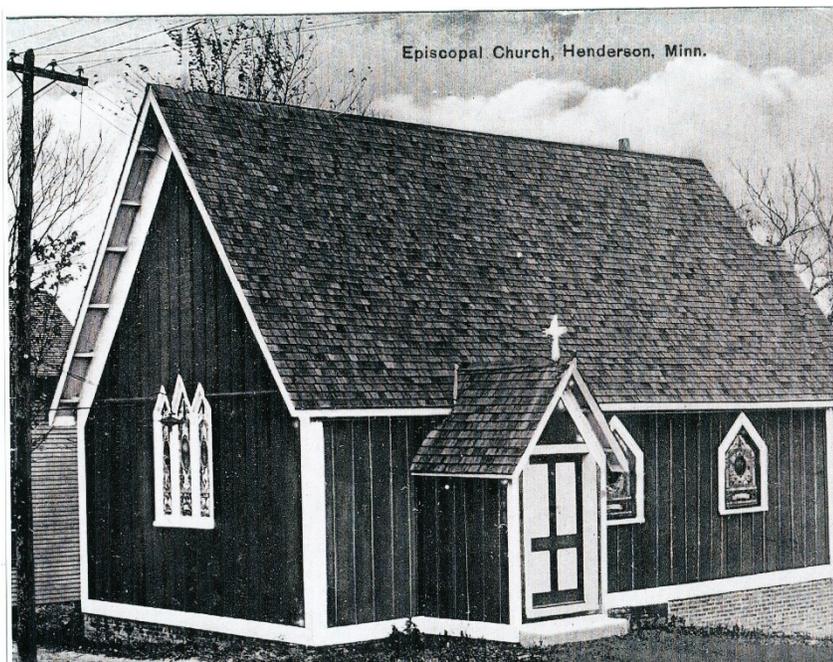
Most of this article has been copied from the community history book, *Henderson Then and Now 1852-1994*. A few minor additions, corrections and omissions have been made. The city of Henderson holds the copyright and this type of use of the book is permitted.

The Rev. Steele Peake of Shakopee conducted the first Episcopal service in Henderson on a weekday in February 1856. This was just four years after the town was founded. The Rev. Peake also served the settlements in Belle Plaine, LeSueur, St. Peter and Traverse [des Sioux]. On Easter Sunday March 23, 1856, the Rev. Peake was in Shakopee. On Easter Tuesday he made another trip up the valley. In returning he spent the following, or Low Sunday, at St. Peter and Traverse. Dr. Tanner in his *Diocese of Minnesota* wrote about Peake's journey of Monday, April 12, 1856, *Monday, the roads being impassable, he came by canoe to Le Sueur, holding a service in the evening at the house of Mr. Peck. The next day he proceeded to Henderson, thence by canoe to Shakopee, having made a journey, altogether, of about 300 miles.*

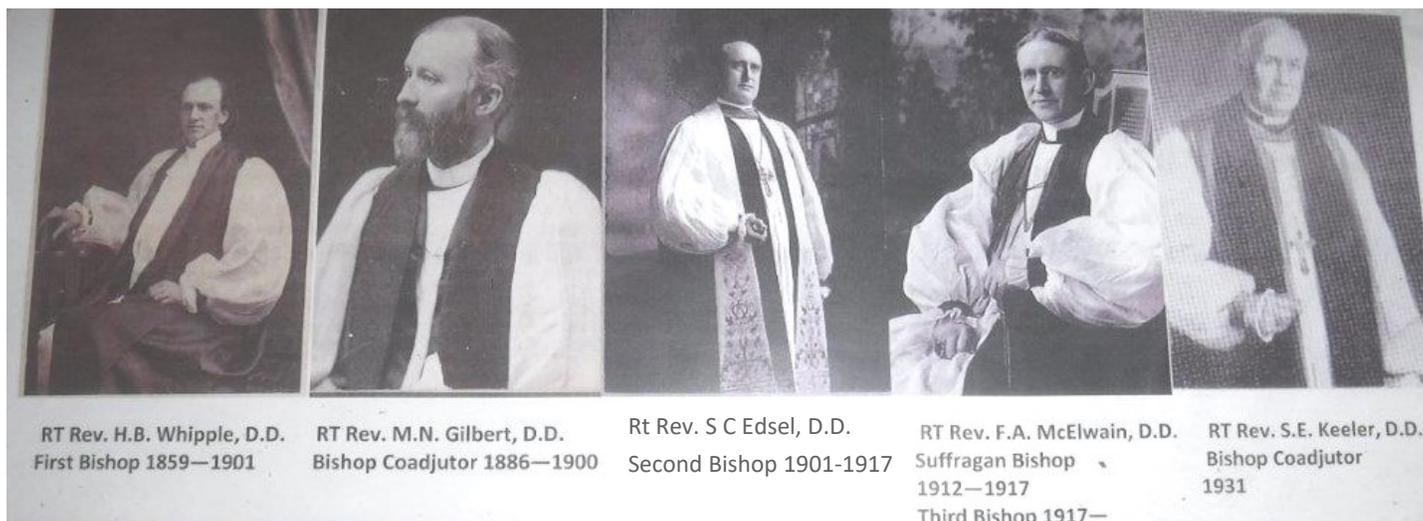
(This quotation is from the 75th Anniversary booklet of St. Jude's Church; reprinted in the September 12, 1965 issue of the *Henderson Independent*.)

In the July 24 issue of the *Henderson Democrat* of 1856 it was stated that the Rev. Peake came again and preached in the new schoolhouse. [This was the second school building, away from the river and near where St. Jude's Church eventually would be built, but after the school was removed.]

In July 1858 the new missionary was the



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Early church leaders of St. Jude's Church

Rev. Ezra Jones of Connecticut, located at St. Peter. He was followed in 1859 by the Rev. Marcus L. Olds, traveling out from Minneapolis. By 1860 he was established at Belle Plaine. A notice in the August 25, 1860 *Democrat* stated, "Rev. M. L. Olds...will visit to consult Episcopalians if they wish to establish a parish Sunday service. Those wishing children christened are to inform Mr. Christ Graham." Evidently the response prompted the September 8, 1860 news that Episcopal Services were continuing at the schoolhouse until the chapel arrangements were completed in a building on the corner of Main and Second Streets, opposite the newspaper office, a location very close to the river. The news office and St. Jude's Chapel were not long at these sites due to flooding events.

The Saturday, December 18, 1860 *Democrat* contained the announcement that *Rev. Mr. Olds will preach in the chapel tomorrow at 7 o'clock p.m. Bishop Whipple of the Protestant Episcopal Church will hold service in the Chapel, in Henderson, on Monday next at eleven o'clock a.m. and seven o'clock p.m. Confirmations will take place at the evening service and the sacraments will be administered in the evening.*

St. Jude, one of the 12 apostles, is often called the Patron Saint of the Impossible; perhaps naming their gathering place, St. Jude's Chapel, reflects the difficulties of the members and their thankfulness in getting a congregation established.

By 1864 the German Methodists owned a building on Main Street [out of the flood plain] and the Rev. T.E. Dickey held Episcopal services there. (From about 1862 to 1872 no Henderson papers have survived.) The church directory in the new *Henderson Times* newspaper of February 3, 1872 contained the information that, "Rev. W.R. Powell will have Episcopal services at the Lutheran Church on alternate Sundays at 2 p.m." Rev. Fachtman of St. Paul's, referred to in

the paper as a Lutheran Church conducted his services on the opposite Sundays. [Fachtman was a missionary in Wisconsin, then served a German Evangelical Church in St. Paul, coming to Henderson in 1868 as St. Paul's first pastor but also held services in other locations making sharing the building erected in 1868 possible.]

In the June 8, 1872 issue of the *Henderson Times* an item said, "The Episcopal Society have purchased two lots directly opposite the German Lutheran Church...will commence erection of a church... we will have to christen that locality 'Church Hill'!" [St. Joseph Catholic Church had been built up the road in 1868.] John Segers, a steamboat captain on the Minnesota and Red Rivers, a sometimes building contractor in the 1870s, built the church at a cost of \$1,500. The "Little Brown Church," as it was commonly known was completed in 1873.

In the *Sibley County Independent*, April 23, 1873 was the report that, *Bishop Whipple is anxious to consecrate the church upon his visitation here, and proposes to donate the sum of Fifty dollars towards paying the small debt still standing against the church, providing the people will take up the balance. The church can not be consecrated until all debts against it are paid.* Evidently the debts were paid as Bishop Whipple dated an entry in his diary July 32, 1873 then wrote, *Consecrated to the worship of God, St. Jude's Church, Henderson, preached, celebrated Holy Communion and confirmed eight persons and delivered address. Present: Rev. G.W. DuBoise, Rev. T. Williams, Rev. W.R. Powell, Rev. C. E. Groser and Rev. F.C. Coolbaugh.*

Between 1870 and 1880 Pastors W.R. Powell, R. Wainwright and S.K. Miller conducted services. then came a period of inactivity. In the November 27, 1885 *Independent* it was reported, "There will be services at the Episcopal Church conducted by the Rev. Beaulieu of Le Sueur...this is the first service held for years." In the

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July 16, 1886 *Independent* there was a report that Bishop Whipple, in making some timely and appropriate remarks relative to the Episcopal church and Parish, expressed his deep sense of gratification for the beautiful and tidy manner in which the church had been fixed up, and that it made his heart glad to witness the renewed interest awakened among the members of the Henderson parish which was to him in many respects extremely dear. And he gladdened their hearts by telling them that if they only would make an effort to support a pastor, he would see to it that a proper man was furnished them... Henderson ought to have at least one prosperous church where English services are held."



St Jude's Bell which now stands near the entry of the Henderson Library

The September 13, 1888 paper stated that, "The bell for St. Jude's was brought over from the depot on Saturday. It is rather small weighing only 600 pounds." It was placed on an outside wooden tower which was rebuilt in the 1920s and duplicated in metal in 1992. Other physical improvements included installation of a furnace in 1891, electric lights in 1898 and memorial windows of stained glass in the early 1900s. In 1929 the building was raised by contractor Nels Carpenter so that a basement could be constructed which was then divided into a service area and a parish room.

The early church had several organizations. The Ladies' Sewing Society began in 1872 and helped to raise funds to furnish the new church. In 1872 they served an oyster supper, sponsored a women's rights lecture, then a dance at Poehler's Hall. In 1898 the group reorganized using the name, St. Jude's Guild. Their activities included a "Sociable and Apron Sale" held at Poehler's Hall in December 1910. During World War I lunches were served in homes in homes at 10 cents and 40 cents a plate. In October 1919 ladies of the church gave a chicken supper at the home of Mrs. Guilbert at 40 cents a plate.

A June 1888 newspaper reported that the young ladies of St. Jude's Church gave a strawberry and ice

cream festival. In August 1889 F.W. Barron, Lay Reader in charge of the parish, invited the young people to a "basket picnic" at Lake Emily. In September there was a report that Barron had organized a Sunday School and was the superintendent.

Henderson had an active Sunday School in the early 1850s. In April 1859 a Minnesota Sunday School Association unit was formed by ministers and superintendents from Sibley, Le Sueur and Scott Counties. To have Union Sunday Schools or denominational schools was always debated at area meetings.

The September 1, 1877 *Sibley County Independent* had an announcement by Superintendent H.A. Seigneuret that, "The Union Sunday School will commence tomorrow at St. Jude's at 10 o'clock a.m. Teachers and scholars are cordially invited to attend." Many fund raising events were held at the church or in the community. In 1885 the enrollment was 92. The history of Union Sunday Schools in Sibley County communities includes references to children attending as an opportunity to learn English while also going to churches where English was seldom used. Staffing and affiliations changed through the years and mentions of any "Union" activity in local papers is gone in the 1920s.

From 1892 to 1894 the Rev. J.H. Griffith served at Henderson, Belle Plaine and churches south of Henderson traveling by horse and buggy. A long list of 36 clergy that served the Henderson church is included in their history including four on the list before the arrival in 1904 of the Rev. C.R. Birnbach, who remained until 1907, their only priest that ever lived in Henderson. In 1919 the priest from St. Peter traveled to Henderson on the afternoon train and returned on the midnight special. Charles Baxter of St. Peter served the church the longest of any of its pastors, from 1927 until his death in November 1940 from a car accident as he and his wife were driving home from an evening service at Henderson.

Celebrations were important in the life of St. Jude's. In 1928 the 55th Anniversary of Consecration was commemorated. The Rt. Rev. McElwin was the guest preacher with C.W. Baxter as the pastor. In 1948 the 75th Anniversary was the special occasion with Bishop Stephen Keller, Minneapolis, giving the sermon. The Rev. Charles B. Trail was the pastor. In 1956 the 100th Anniversary of the first Episcopal services in Henderson was the celebration at which Bishop Keller gave the sermon with the Rev. Allen Whitman as the pastor. Dinner was served following the service across the street in the Social Hall of St. Paul's Church; a much larger facility than the parish room in the basement at St. Jude's.

Always a small congregation, membership had declined until those left made the decision to hold one last service of commemoration and celebration. After

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110 years of presence in the community, on August 1, 1965, a Declaration Secularization Service was held. The Rt. Rev. Philip F. McNairy officiated with the Rev. Robert Hall, St. Peter assisting. Lay Reader was Robert Wettergren, St. Peter. Bishop McNairy presented the key to the "Little Brown Church" to Henderson Mayor, Donald Bender, as the property and building were donated to the city to be used as a public library. Some St Jude's records, and some furnishings, are preserved at the library.



Laufman memorial window: Note the Lily Bouquet. Little Lily Jane died in the 1880's, when St. Paul's and St. Jude's were installing stained glass windows, the parents commissioned a window in both churches in memory of their only child. Her funeral was at St. Paul's.



The stained glass windows still hold a prominent place in the Henderson Public library.

Ballot for Election of Officers at Annual Meeting

President David Tesch, Henderson (remaining 2 years of 3 year term)
 Vice-President Arlene Busse, Henderson (remaining year of 2 year term)
 Director #2 Laura Gilman, Arlington (1 year term) Director #3 Dale Ericson, Gibbon (1 year term)
 Director #4 Joy Cohrs, New Auburn (3 year term) Director #5 Amy Franke, Gaylord (3 year term)

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting

Meet our new: **President,** David Tesch
 Retired from farming 8 years ago, I now enjoy antiquing, traveling in US and abroad.
 I recently started raising sorghum and making maple syrup.
 I wish I would have had a re-paintable barn on my farm; I enjoy driving around the country seeing them.

Meet our new: **Director #2,** Laura Gilman
 Laura Gilman lives in Arlington with her husband Kenny. She enjoys collecting antiques and old maps. She is looking forward to working with SCHS to preserve and promote local history.
 They moved from Minneapolis where she is teaching special education/autism in the Minneapolis Public Schools. She is a former historical archaeologist who received Bachelor of Science degrees in history and Anthropology, as well as a license to teach history from Minnesota University, Mankato. She also holds a Master of Arts Degree from Michigan State University. She spent nearly 20 years as a professional archaeologist, conducting surveys in historical archaeology throughout the Great Lakes and Midwest, particularly in Southern Minnesota and South Dakota.

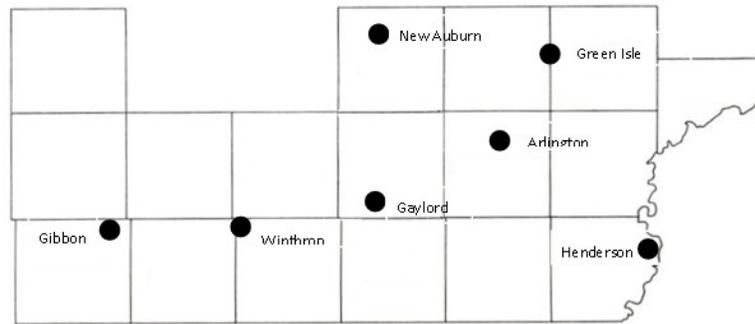
Meet our new: **Vice-President,** Arlene Busse
 I grew up in North Dakota where my first job, after college graduation in 1954, was as a county public health nurse; and have since had similar jobs in McLeod and Sibley County, Minnesota. I also worked part time at the Gaylord Hospital and Lakeview Home.
 I now live in Henderson but have also lived in Gaylord. My husband Robert is deceased.
 I have been an SCHS member and volunteer at the county museum for many years; a guide at times, helping with display arrangements, with society publications and am presently serving on the research committee.

Meet our new: **Director #3,** Dale Ericson
 I am a graduate of Winthrop High School and Mankato State University. I taught English and Journalism at Winthrop and GFW High Schools for 18 years, then returned to Minnesota State University, Mankato as an adjunct instructor in Mass Communications.
 I became interested in interactive television when this form of classroom was introduced in the mid-80's. Sibley County was one of six regions in Minnesota participating in an interactive television project. I taught classes over ITV at Winthrop High School as well as other sites. In 1991 I was appointed Executive Director to build the interactive video fiber optic network connecting state universities and the COMET system until 2004, when I became an independent telecommunications consultant until I retired in 2015.
 I also served 45 years in law enforcement as a full-time and part-time police officer and 22 years in the Army Reserves, including active duty in Vietnam.
 My wife, Pat, and I enjoy traveling, music and theater and church and community events. I enjoy being a member of SCHS and look forward to serving on the Board of Directors.

Meet our new: **Director, #5** Amy Franke
 I have been a member of SCHS for a number of years. I am married and have one adult daughter and have lived in Sibley County the past 20 years.
 I have a Criminal Justice Degree and was employed by the MN Dept. of Corrections as a probation officer.
 When our daughter was young I became a Day-Care Provider and now am enjoying being a new grandma.
 I am best described as an "old soul" being someone who especially loves our pioneer history. My favorite show is still "Little House on the Prairie" and I enjoy antique shopping, farm primitives and pioneer items. I have a true appreciation for the past and understand the importance of sharing our past with future generations through stories and old items. The Sibley County museum, in my opinion is our county's best treasure, preserving and displaying our Sibley County history. I encourage all members to continue your memberships and become involved by visiting our fine museum.

Meet our new: **Director #4,** Joy Cohrs
 I am serving as Sibley County Commissioner from District 4 and am engaged in farming. My hobbies include photography, flower gardening, sewing, collecting "old stuff".
 I am very interested in the museum, love the house and it's history. I have enjoyed helping guide on Sunday's and at the County Fair, and seeing how dedicated the guides are.
 It surprises me how many county residents have never visited the museum. I am trying to encourage more to check it out. I think everyone there does a great job.

**What's
Happening around
Sibley County**



New Auburn

March New **Historical Society Display** commemorating New Auburn Feed Mill at City Hall
Upcoming (date not yet confirmed) Visit to **John Rivers museum** in Maple Lake.

April 1 11th Annual **High Island Lake & Watershed Fundraiser** Backwoods Bar & Grill. Cost \$12.50 per person Also raffle tickets. Money used for lake improvement projects.

Arlington

April 30 Arlington A's **Baseball home opener** 2 p.m. against Jordan

May 20 Annual **Cancer Car Cruise** 5K Fun run/walk, car show and car cruise through eastern Sibley County

June 9 Arlington **Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on the Farm** from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
At the Darlene Weckworth farm

5:30-5:30 every Tuesday and Thursday **Arlington Pool** Muscles in Motion Water Aerobics

Arlington **Library hours**: Monday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 7:30, Tuesday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 5:30,
Wednesday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 6:30 Friday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 2:30 Saturday: 9:00 - 12:00

Closed Thursday and Sunday

Green Isle

May 5 Green Isle Irish **Baseball Home Opener** 7:30 against Belle Plaine

May 7 **Green Isle Fire Department** annual breakfast at G I Fire Hall. Serving from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

May 14 10:00 A.M.—1 P.M. **Green Isle Sportsman's Club** **Pork Chop Dinner**, Sportsman's Park

June 19 Green Isle Lions, **Community Connect Dinner** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Green Isle serving begins at 5:30

Winthrop

Sunday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. Winthrop Game Protective League **Smelt/Fish Fry**

Friday—Sunday March 31, - April 1 **Grackle Days**

Sunday, April 1 Winthrop City Hall (2nd floor), 1 p.m. Speaker: Monte Lang "Early History of Winthrop."
Winthrop Community Museum will be open during Winthrop "**Grackle Days**" on April 1 from 10 am - 4 pm.

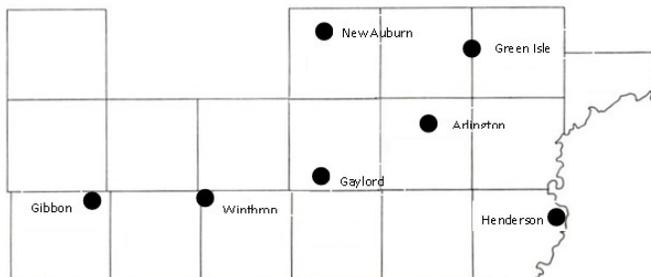
Sunday, May 7 St. Johns Lutheran Historical Society (Bismarck Township) hosts "**The Last Day of School**"
speaker plus BBQ sandwich lunch with homemade pie!

Saturday, May 20 **City Wide Garage Sales**

Thursday, June 8 **7 p.m. Music in the Park**

Winthrop Library Hours Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m.—6 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. 7 p.m. ,
Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

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More What's Happening around Sibley County

Henderson

Saturday, March 11 MN New Country School **Chili & Salsa Cook Off** 5-7 p.m. Adults \$7 Children under 12 \$5.00

March 18 Easter Egg Hunt @ Hilltop School

J R BROWN CENTER Upstairs in Henderson Community Building 600 Main St Open same times as museum

Tuesday, March 21, "Westward Ho" on the Fort Ridgely Road Speakers: Jeff Hayden, Art & Barb Straub

Saturday, April 1, JR Brown Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, Minnesota River Steamboats and the Fur Trade Speakers: Arlene Busse, Art & Barb Straub

Tuesday, May 16, "Hummingbirds, Here They Come, Ready or Not" Speakers: Art & Barb Straub

Tuesdays **Classic Car Roll IN** 5-8 p.m. May 30, to September 26 (weather permitting)

June 24—June 26 **Sauerkraut Festival** Details next newsletter

Henderson Library Monday 9-12 & 2-6; Tuesday & Thursday & Saturday 9-12; Wednesday 2-8;
Friday 9-12 & 3-7

Gaylord

Saturday, March 18, Easter Egg Hunt Children ages 0-10 10 a.m. Gaylord City Park or Oak Terrace

Gaylord baseball starts around May 1 Look for schedule next newsletter

Saturday, May 6, City Wide Garage Sales

Wednesdays, beginning June 7th Music on Main

June 7 Gaylord Aquatic Water Park opens Schedule will be available in June

Wednesdays & Fridays at Senior Citizens center, arthritis exercises

Gaylord Library Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12-7; Wednesday & Friday, 9-6 Saturday 9-1

May 8 7 p.m. Library program: Author Talk, Mary Keithahn, "Embracing the light: reflections on God's Word", "Elfie: adventures on the Midwest Frontier".

May 19 Tiger Book reading and activities. Preschol and up. David LaRoche will read his book "It's a Tiger"

Last Wednesday of each month 10:30 a.m. Fireside Book Club

Gibbon

March 12 Gibbon Fire & Rescue Grilled Chicken Dinner 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (or until gone) Adults \$10, 4-12 \$4.00 3 and under Free

Sunday, April 2, Gibbon "Red's Fest" at Gibbon Sportsman's Club Serving hamburgers, brats, corn dogs, French fries, etc. From 11 a.m.—5 p.m. Also meat raffles and Red's Raffle. **Gibbon Library** Open Monday & Thursday; 10 a.m.—7 p.m Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, Gibbon Reds Baseball Home Opener against Henderson 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 7 Gibbon Reds against Sleepy Eye Indians 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 21 Gibbon Reds against Stark Longhorns 4 p.m.

Monday, May 29 Gibbon Reds against Searles Grizzlies 3 p.m. Memorial Day

Saturday, June 3 Gibbon Reds against Leavenworth 3 p.m.

Sunday, June 4 Gibbon Reds against St James Express 2 p.m. against Springfield 5 p.m.

NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

*Laura	Gilman,	Arlington	MN
Daryl & Marjorie	Amberson	Henderson	MN
Matt & Jody	Boisen	Owatonna	MN
Eileen	Brandt	Henderson	MN
Ruth Ann	Buck	Aarlington	MN
Neil	Dacey	Green Isle	MN
Mildred	Doering	Edina	MN
Jim & Joyce	Evenson	Gibbon	MN
Robert	Fischer	Gibbon	MN
Jeff & Amy	Franke	Gaylord	MN
William	Grimes	Round Rock	TX
Darlene	Hageboom	Belle Plaine	MN
Eric	Hanson	Chesapeake	VA
Alvin & JoAnn	Heinz	Henderson	MN
Karen	Helfert	Rockville	MD

Roger & Lorraine	Just	Henderson	MN
Gordon & Maureen	Krumrey	Glencoe	MN
Marjorie	Johnson	St Peter	MN
Ron & Kay	Klement	Gibbon	MN
Susan	Morrisette	Arlington	MN
Marlene	Moskop	Arlington	MN
David	Tesch	Henderson	MN
Michael	Reinhardt	Henderson	MN
Vernone & Renee	Ruschmeyer	Dassel	MN
Lowell	Nagel	Arlington	MN
Verjean	Schindeldecker	Excelsior	MN
Arden & Carol	Sjogren	Bismarck	ND
Darlene	Weckwerth	Arlington	MN
Janet	Wieman	Gaylord	MN
Shane & Kristine	Zeppelin	Litchfield	MN

Donations:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cinda Kohls | Hazel Sitz |
| Barb Whitaker | The K Foundation |
| Verjean Schindeldecker | Joy Cohrs |
| Barb Mathwig | Henderson Twp. United Fund |

Grants & Memorials:

In Memory of Lowell Hanson, by Carol & Tomas Jackson



Membership Form Individual Renew New
 Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00 Business \$50.00

- I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail (in color)
- I would like to receive my newsletter by U S Mail

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____



The museum is open to the public for tours beginning on Memorial Day and then Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, June thru October and by appointment. Volunteers available to do research or call the museum to set an appointment to do your own at \$5.00 per hour.

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

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated above.

Mail to:
 SCHS Treasurer, P O Box 206
 Arlington, MN 55307

The History of Easter and its Customs

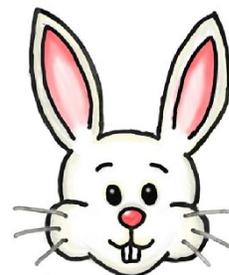


In the Christian faith, Easter is celebrated to commemorate the Resurrection of Christ. Thus it is a sacred holy day. Unknown to most people, it is also the name of an ancient Saxon festival, Eastre. Eastre is the pagan goddess of spring and offspring. How this festival came to be supplanted by a solemn Christian holiday attests to the ingenuity of second century Christian missionaries.

These missionaries traveled among the Teutonic Tribes north of Rome. Whenever possible, they transformed local pagan customs to harmonize with Christian doctrine. On a practical basis, this prevents local converts from being persecuted by the pagan traditionalists. Since the Eastre Festival to celebrate spring coincided with the time of the Christian observance of the resurrection of Christ, this crossover was achieved smoothly. Some doubt remained as to the exact day of the celebration.

That was put to rest by the Emperor Constantine in AD 325. The Emperor convened a council and it was decreed: Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox. Easter, therefore, never falls before March 22 or after April 25.

Now you know why Easter changes around from year to year, but what about the Easter Bunny and those eggs? Well, back to the Saxons for the Easter bunny. They worshipped the goddess Eastre by the early symbol of a rabbit or "hare", as rabbits were known. Eventually the custom of the Easter bunny was brought to America by the Germans.



Chocolate and candy eggs have become popular in this century, but exchanging of eggs in the springtime is an ancient custom. Egyptians buried eggs in their tombs. The Greeks placed eggs on their tombs. A Roman proverb states, "All life comes from an egg". In most cultures, the egg signifies birth and resurrection. So when the church began to celebrate the Resurrection in the second century, the egg was a popular symbol. In those days, wealthy people covered gift eggs in gold leaf, while peasants dyed theirs with flowers and herbs. If you are looking for something different this year, you may want to check out the recipe on page 12 using natural foods as dyes to color your eggs.





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 Email: schs1@frontiernet.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com>

If you want to use natural, homemade dyes this year for coloring eggs, here are some suggestions. Not only are these colors absolutely healthy for human consumption, but the process of making them is a wonderful lesson in creating art materials from scratch and can help children think critically about how to achieve various colors. As you cut the onions and beets ask your child what colors they think they will make. Or ask, "If I want to make blue dye, what might I use to get that color?"

How to Make Vegetable Dyed Easter Eggs

- Hard boiled eggs
- Skin from one onion, two beets, **large** handful of spinach, half head of red cabbage. You might also want to try ground turmeric.
- Vinegar (*the vinegar helps the dye set onto the egg*)
- Water
- Bowls
- Ice cream scooper (to remove eggs)



Set up four pots of dye: Pot #1: Onion Skins Pot #2: Beets Pot #3: Spinach Pot #4: Red Cabbage. You can also use ground turmeric, Add about 3 cups of water and 2 tablespoons of vinegar to each pot. Cook the dyes for about 30 minutes and then strain the colored water into bowls. You will be surprised at the colors you come up with.