

SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter ~ April 2020

700 Main Street * P.O. Box 407 * Henderson, Minnesota 56044

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A Letter from the President:

Dear Friends,

In response to Minnesota State Governor Tim Walz's declaration of a peacetime state of emergency amid an outbreak of COVID-19, and in consideration of the health and welfare of visitors and volunteers, the Sibley County Historical Society / Museum is temporarily closed until further notice. For updates and more information please check our website at www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com.

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Unfortunately our spring and summer programs have been put on hold. But one day a grand reopening will welcome all of our members and visitors to view our important collections reflecting Sibley County. It is our goal to inform and inspire through displays and education and reach out to cities and towns throughout Sibley County and surrounding counties to learn about the history of our amazing collections.

For now, stay home and stay well and know how much your support is appreciated and needed. I am looking forward to seeing you!

Keep thinking the good thoughts,
Jeff DuCharme

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FROM THE FILES: (excerpts from the March 2010 Newsletter)

Highlights from 2009: Thank you to the 29 guides who kept our museum open Sunday afternoons, special celebrations and on location, through the 2009 season. We saw over 1200 visitors during the season, most from Minnesota, but also from other states, including South Dakota, Arizona, Oregon, Missouri, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Vermont, California and Texas.

It was an exciting year planning and overseeing the new museum addition. Over 100 friends and organizations from around the county and around the country donated to our Matching Fund Campaign initiated by the Charles & Donna Meyer donation.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Ruth Ann Buck

In the **Henderson Independent**, December 4, 2019 edition there was an article in the 'From Our Files 140 Years' ago *that piqued my curiosity*.

140 YEARS AGO

DEC. 5, 1879

Our readers will remember the attempted murder last spring of Mrs. Schauer, of Green Isle, by Frederick Goltz, a divorced husband. It will be remembered also that the officers scoured the country and that Goltz was not found. A report now comes from Green Isle that the remains of Goltz have been found in the woods where he took refuge to escape the officers of the law.

It is altogether likely that Goltz, supposing he had killed Mrs. Schauer and that escape was impossible, took his own life.

This was of interest to me because of the name Mrs. Schauer, my late husband's great grandmother was a Schauer, so I wondered if there was a direct connection, there isn't. The date of the attempted murder was kind of vague, so I went to the museum to check it out on **Ancestry**. I looked up Fred Goltz and found an entry on **Find A Grave**, it gave his death as April 1879. I then looked at the microfilm of the **Sibley County Independent**, I looked through the April papers and found the article on the front page of the April 25, 1879 edition.

MURDER

It is not often that we are called upon to report so cruel and unprovoked a murder as that which took place in Green Isle on Friday last. The monster committed the deed is one Frederick Goltz and his victim Mrs Schauer, wife of John Schauer. Mrs. Schauer was once married to Goltz in Germany and by him two children (were born): they also lived together as husband and wife in Wisconsin. Goltz was however of such and ugly and cruel disposition that his wife was finally compelled to abandon him and obtain a divorce. She finally came to Sibley county and married John Schauer with whom she has since lived on a farm in Green Isle (township) and by whom she has one child. Goltz finding the whereabouts of his divorced wife, mad with jealousy and with murder in his heart, followed her to this county and has been prowling about for the past year or two evidently waiting an opportunity to execute his devilish purpose. The simple facts of the tragedy are related in the following affidavit, taken by Justice Kirby at the request of the county attorney.

State of Minnesota, County of Sibley-ss

Matilda Schauer appearing personally before me the undersigned a justice of the peace of the county of Sibley aforesaid, at the dwelling house of John Schauer her husband, in the town of Green Isle in said Sibley county and being by me the first duly sworn, deposes and says, through Ferdinand Tabbert who was first duly sworn as interpreter, as follows: "My name is Matilda Schauer; am 29 years of age; am the wife of John Schauer; I feel and believe that I shall die from the wounds from which I am now suffering; I know Frederick Goltz came here to this house last Friday morning the 18th day of April, 1879, about 8 o'clock in the forenoon; the door was open and he came in the door; I stood in the room near the stair door; he had a revolver in his hand and he raised it up and shot me in the right leg about half way between the knee and the hip; I then ran up to him and pushed him out the door and tried to shut it; he pushed it open and then shot me in the head near the left eye and then shot me again above the left breast near the nipple; the bullet passed through and came out of my back just under the shoulder blade; I then ran past him out of the door and fell down at the end of the house and laid there until my husband came and picked me up and carried me into the house; Daniel Lucht was with him; I had my senses but could not get up myself; I think I shall not live long.

(Signed)

MATILDA SCHAUER

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of April, A D 1879

J P KIRBY

Justice of the Peace

The story continues

On the day of the murder Sheriff Bray was in the western part of the county and the warrant for the arrest of Goltz was placed in the hands of Constable Mergens. The Sheriff returning about 24 hours after the crime was committed, at once started upon the trail, got wind of Goltz at Norwood, again at Wadena, Watertown and Chaska. The next we heard of the Sheriff he was in St Paul where he discovered that Goltz or some man answering his description had been seen on the road

...To collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Sibley County.

between St Paul and Minneapolis. The Sheriff having set his traps, returned home on Thursday to await further developments. Mrs. Schauer is still alive.

Then in December 5, 1879 we find the article that was reprinted in 2019.

There are other versions of the story of what happened in the attempted murder of Mathilda Schauer, if one looks on **Find A Grave** for Fred Goltz and another for Frederick Goeltz, these articles were taken from the **Glencoe Enterprise** and from the **Freeborn County Standard**, Albert Lea, MN.

On www.FindAGrave.com



I found Mathilda W. Schauer; it said she was born 28 April 1850 and died 20 May 1888. She was 38 years of age and it was nine years after her attempted murder. She is buried in the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery along county road 9, just a few miles north of Arlington.

In the 1880 census

I found John Schauer 36, his wife Matilda 31, stepsons Amil Gaults 7, William Gaults 5, son John Schauer 2, and a servant Weary Miller 16.

In the 1900 census

I found John Schauer married to Fredericka recently widowed, they were married in 1888, the same year that Mathilda passed away. And there are two sons listed John, Jr, and Paul and two stepdaughters Bertha and Amanda. Paul was born in 1882, three years after the attempted murder.

At the Arlington library

I looked at microfilm from the **Arlington Enterprise**, I wanted to see if there was an obituary for Mathilda Schauer, but the microfilm started in 1889, so I didn't find one.

No one thought she would live, but she surprised them. One wonders what kind of complications she might have suffered from or what caused her death in 1888. I am not sure where the Schauer's lived when Mathilda was wounded, I only know Green Isle township, but in 1895 John Schauer and his blended family lived in section 25 of New Auburn township and owned 120 acres.

If anyone needs help finding THE REST OF THEIR STORY, please stop by the museum on Thursday or call 507-248-3434 or email schs1@frontiernet.net. We would be happy to help you.

SHOP THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ITEMS FOR SALE:

Joseph R. Brown and His Time	\$7.00
Tales of the Tenth Regiment Arlington, MN 1856-2006	\$7.00
Celebrating 150 Years of Arlington History	\$20.00
Green Isle, MN—A History of St. Brendan's Parish, The Village of Green Isle	\$18.00
The Henderson to Fort Ridgely Trail	\$20.00
Henderson, MN Giant Post Card Of Henderson, MN 6" x 9"	\$1.50
Henderson, MN St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Henderson,, MN	\$15.00
Henderson Then and Now, 1852-1994	\$40.00

Ostrom Photographs via email	\$2.00
Ostrom Photographs Plain Paper Copy	\$2.00
Ostrom Photographs Photo Paper Copy	\$10.00
Sibley County, MN "Bits & Pieces" Celebrating 150 of Sibley County	\$15.00
Sibley County, MN The Boys in Blue (Spanish American War & Philippine Insur)	\$7.00
Sibley County Independent—July 5, 1876	\$.50
Sibley County, MN - Remembering Country Schools of Sibley County, Minnesota	\$33.00

Go to the Sibley County Historical Society website:
www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com/shop
to place your order.

FROM THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Quaker Lace

In Philadelphia, the Bromley Manufacturing Company began production of machine made-lace in 1889. In 1911, the company was renamed the Quaker Lace Company with lace curtains their specialty. Lace Tablecloths were first made in 1932 and quickly became an affordable luxury for many homes, available in stores or catalogs. In 1953 a special pattern was created to fill an order from Mamie Eisenhower for a tablecloth to use in the White House. Popularity for lace products declined in the 1980's, with the company declaring bankruptcy in 1993.



Curtain stretchers were needed to shape the mostly cotton, starched lace curtains. A stretcher set is kept in the museum textile room; no donor information has been found. Some newsletter readers may remember pricked fingers from the rows of stretcher pins!

Perhaps a Sibley County Reader of this newsletter will offer a Quaker Lace tablecloth to the museum. Just as important would be the story of its ownership and use for Sunday dinners or special occasions.



On loan for this photo is a 1960s Quaker Lace Tablecloth used at the Henderson Public Library for a Christmas tree skirt. The Museum also had a vintage Quaker lace cloth, used as a tree skirt, which was grabbed during the 1993 museum robbery. A breakable doll from 1910, donated in 1979 by Martha Frenzel of Arlington, had been sitting under the tree. Dolly ended up face down on the floor but was unharmed.

Miss Martha's doll now poses in a stroller used by Minnie Kiesling of Winthrop, born in 1873. Minnie married Harland Canfield in 1891 and lived in Winthrop. The 1880s style stroller was donated to the museum by the Canfield Estate in 1958.

Celluloid

Celluloid, although a brand name, became generic for items made of cellulose nitrate, camphor and other ingredients. First produced in England in 1856 by Alexander Parks as "Parkesine," regarded today as the first thermoplastic. It became a substitute for items formerly made of animal ivory. In 1870 an American, John Hyatt began production and patented the name "Celluloid" in 1873. These products were unstable, they could be ignited by heat or exposure to flame and were easily damaged by moisture. The museum has objects made later of a more stable celluloid such as dresser sets and men's collars. By the 1920-30s, "Bakelite" patented in 1910, and other polymers were replacing celluloid.

Germany and Japan were the main users of celluloid for dolls and other toys until World War II. Due to combustibility, manufacturing was stopped in the US about 1940. Imports continued after the war into the 1950s mostly coming from Japan. No celluloid toys are in the current museum collection. Such toys are safe when properly stored or displayed.



This school boy in short pants appears to be from the 1920s-30s. He is unmarked but probably is from Japan as is his dog and little brother. Brother has a paper label under his feet and a trade mark on his back. These examples have been borrowed. Will a Sibley County donor offer similar toys with owner and use history?



The red velvet collar box with collars, usually on display upstairs in the "guest bedroom", was used by Abraham Stoner of Henderson. It was donated in 1959 by daughter Arvilla. These collars, with cloth inside, were coated in celluloid and could be scrubbed and reused until fashion dictated obsolescence.



19th Amendment's 100th Anniversary

Research Committee



Judy Loewe, President of the Henderson Ladies Tourist Club has provided a copy of the January 30, 2020 issue of "News and Notes", the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) newsletter. Excerpts follow:

"The groundwork for the suffrage movement was laid in 1848, when women and men led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott met in Seneca Falls. As suffrage grew in popularity, proponents of the movement were not always united and it produced leaders of differing backgrounds and opinions. Although the National Women's Suffrage Association and the American Suffrage Association, both worked toward the same goal, issues of race and tactical approach separated them.

In 1890, the two groups united to capitalize on a new surge in support for suffrage. Although the majority of American

women had previously been apathetic, the popularity of women's volunteer organizations forged new roles for women and helped to legitimize the previous unpopular suffrage movement.

The National Women's Party, led by Alice Pall, began picketing in 1913 and holding marches and mass rallies to gather support. These actions, and the subsequent imprisonment of suffragettes, helped to buoy public empathy and support for the women. The public pressure eventually led to support from President for the women. The public pressure eventually led to support from President Woodrow Wilson. The Amendment was fully supported by Congress in June 1919 and was officially ratified in August 1920."

"Although the 19th Amendment granted 26 million women the right to vote, those protections did not extend to African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, or Native American women among other minority groups. All Americans would not be fully enfranchised until 1965 when the Voting Rights Act was passed – another historic milestone."

Henderson's club became federated in 1898. Winthrop has the only other Federated Women's Club in Sibley County was organized in 1924.

TOWNS TO BE FEATURED AT SIBLEY COUNTY FAIRS:

During the 2018 Sibley County Fair, votes were cast for the towns to be highlighted at future fairs. The voting took place in the New Auburn 1892 Voting Booth which was on display at the Fair.

The towns are invited to promote and create a display of their local history in the following years.

2019	Arlington
2020	Henderson
2021	Gaylord
2022	Gibbon
2023	Green Isle
2024	New Auburn
2025	Winthrop
2026	Rush River and New Rome

COMING EVENTS:

Thursday, May 21, 2020
6:00 p.m., Free
Sibley County Museum, Henderson
Making a World War I Bi-Plane
By Rev. Kent Meyer
Rev. Meyer lives in Henderson and is the minister at Zion United Church of Christ in Le Sueur.

Sorry, Cancelled!

Explore DNA Research
Tuesday, June 16
6:00 p.m., Free
A panel of four will share their studies at
Sibley County Court House
(Lower Level)
Sponsored by Sibley Historical Society
Come, and bring your questions

Continued from our January newsletter—the poem sent to Mrs. Elsie Wigand from Mrs. Antonia Stone:

May 15, 1945

Dear Mrs. Wigand,

Congratulations, Mrs. Wigand, from me
Are on the way,
For I know that you're the
happiest mother in Henderson today.

I often thought of you And hoped that someday soon
You'd hear glad tidings from you loved one
Which would fill your heart with cheer.

He is your boy, he is our buddy;
He fought for you, he fought for me.
He fought for freedom on the land
And air and freedom on the sea.

All those that are and have been mothers
Know and can feel an aching heart
For those who we so fondly loved
And have had to part.

Put on your dress of crimson,
Dry your tears, and shout for joy
For you, dear Mrs. Wigand have found,
Your lost soldier boy.

God is love the world proclaims it,
Let us both pray it won't be long that
Your dear boy will be home again, Safe in his Mother's arms.

May we soon hear bells of freedom
Ring out pure as crystal air,
For we then know "God in Heaven"
Heard a Mothers' daily prayer.



Quip from USS Sibley Widow

Bessie Mae is a coal miner's daughter from the Kentucky-Tennessee border area. She now lives in the St. Charles, MN.

At birth, her aunt was the midwife. Auntie carried her Bible at delivery times and recorded the births in her Bible. The doctors, obviously, were not required to report births to the authorities.

On February 28, 2020, Bessie turned 96 and when at a party she was asked, "How old are you?" In her extremely lovely, Southern drawl she replied, "I am old enough to have my name in the Bible!"

The grand twist is that at some point she needed a legal birth certificate and none was to be found. Fortunately, Auntie was still living. Bessie asked Auntie to take a picture of THE BIBLE page and send it.

Miracles do happen. The state of Kentucky accepted that Biblical record and issued Bessie Mae a legal birth certificate.

Minnesota Gangster History

By Judy Loewe

In the last issue of the Sibley County Historical Society newsletter there was an invitation to attend the program presented by Chad Lewis. Chad is the author of "The Minnesota Road Guide to Gangster Hot Spots", a book about gangsters that were prominent, in one era of time of Minnesota history.

Chad Lewis, who presented the history, has a psychology degree. In the early 2000s he told stories of Wisconsin ghosts. He then focused on the zute suit and flapper era, when gangsters congregated in the St. Paul Community. It was the early 1930s, in the midst of the Great Depression, and many people were losing their homes. As Lewis tells it, St. Paul Police Chief John O'Connor was a very welcoming man. So welcoming, in fact, that he was willing to turn a blind eye to gangsters and their criminal activity, so long as they did not conduct their criminal business within the city limits of St. Paul.

They enjoyed prohibition and the speak easies were everywhere. Mr. Lewis told something about the well-known gangsters and where they hung out.

A few of the notorious gangsters mentioned were Baby Face Nelson, Dapper Dan Hogan, Barker-Karpis Gang, consisting of Alvin "Creepy" Karpis, Arthur "Doc" Barker and Fred Barker, and John Dillinger.

If your community is sponsoring a historical program, please send the information to the Sibley County Museum. This Newsletter represents Sibley County and we can help advertise the event.

PAID MEMBERSHIP JANUARY—APRIL 2020

January 2020

R. Buck	Arlington
G. Solmonson	Pequot Lakes
J. Mayer (2 yr renewal)	Winthrop
D. Swenson	Hasting
V. Frailing	Chesapeake, VA

February 2020

Elizabeth Vandam	Mound
Don & Betty Strobel	Le Sueur
Judy Loewe	Henderson
Birdine Battcher 2 yrs	Arlington
Roseann Schauer	Currie
Beverly Woods	Gibbon
Judith Monkkonen	Culver City, CA
Carol Jackson	Eden Prairie
VerJean Schindeldecker	Excelsior
George Doheny	Prior Lake
Donna & Bill Grunwald	Apple Valley
Karen & Raymond Klenk	Winthrop
Davis Biebl	Gibbon
Ed & Dorothy Kruse	Lakeville
Harland Mehlhop	Mankato
Charles & Karen Erickson	Brooklyn Center
Ron & Kay Klement	Gibbon
Harry Kreger	Ocean View, DE
Cindy Stevens	Lake Elmo
Marlene Moskop	Arlington
Greg & Carolyn Johnson	Winthrop
Art & Rosetta Blomquist	Mankato
Charlotte Doudell	San Jose, CA

Leo Fischer	Gibbon
Carrie L. Johnson	Poolesville, MD
Darlene Weckwerth	Arlington
LaDonna Rodewald	New Ulm
David & Barb Herrly	Int't Falls
Marly Gaucher	Arlington
Richard & Diane Isakson	Gibbon
Marian Pfarr-Saxton	Gaylord
Sharlene Friederichs	Brooklyn Park
Dave & Mary Ann Tesch	Henderson

March 2020

Sharon Haggemiller	Henderson
Jerry Giesen	Belle Plaine
Leo Berger	Henderson
Bernice V. Hanson	Arden Hills
Jeff & Joan Zumhofe	Winthrop
Ruben & Eldrene Ebert	Gaylord
Thomas & Cherry Kurkoski	N. St. Paul
Lynelle Brant	Cumberland, MD
Lorraine Steeber	Palatine, IL
Eric Hanson	Chesapeake, VA
Lois Bode	Gibbon
Roger Kottke	Alexandria

April 2020

Mary E. Weller	Madison, WI
HomeTown Bank	Henderson
Catherine Creech	Henderson
Lynn & Wendy Evenson	Green Isle
Jeff DuCharme	Henderson
Tom & Diane Frauendienst	Henderson

CONTACT BY DRONE

THANK YOU to Victor Frailing Photography in Chesapeake, Virginia. The new SCHS member has contributed our first Drone photo. Mr. Frailing visited the SCHS Research Department for information on his Abraham relatives in Dryden Township. Subsequently, he transmitted to us the Drone photo taken of Lake Titloe. He duplicated the view from an old postcard which was included in his genealogy research. SCHS gained a new member and a unique addition to the museum's collection.

SCSH Membership Form

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50.00

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

I would like to receive my newsletter by U.S. Mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

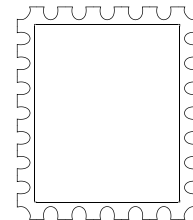
Email: _____

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

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

Mail to:

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 Phone: 507-248-3434
 Email: schs1@frontiernet.net
 Website:



Eventful/Uneventful Spring Days

Holly Harjes

As the Covidavirus 19 consumed our nation, SCHS made many adjustments. The first was the mid-March day when directives were: Put back whatever you're doing and lock the doors till (we don't know when). No one would be in the building until the Governor proclaims the next move.

- * Doors were locked, and volunteers went home to be safe.
- * The museum became lonely and haunted.
- * Tom & Diane's home computers continued to be HOT to keep newsletter and finances up to date
- * Thanks, but sadly Judy Loewe's efforts for education and entertainment events were cancelled. Notice the ads for what we missed.
- * Todd remained one week at work on the Inventory Project. He then took a one-week leave, returning to work on April 20th to resume computerizing Sibley County Museum's inventory.
- * Fortunately, volunteer staff are always preparing interesting articles to publish.
- * Outside spring cleaning and trimming has gotten attend from President Jeff.

When we are able to get back together, the first order of business will be to take care of the outside grounds. A spring house-cleaning will also need to be done and will need extra volunteers! The two 2020 inside displays will then be completed and an early June newsletter is planned. The theme for a Henderson exhibit at the Sibley County Fair (July 29-August 2) will need to be developed.