



Sibley County Historical Society Newsletter

September 2017
Volume 22, Issue 3

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



**Gaylord United Church of Christ
318 4th St**

Gaylord United Church of Christ

This article prepared with the help of Cindy Johnson, Gloria Sinell, Marie Main, and Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County History Book

In the early years, most of the services in the two Lutheran churches were in German. In the late 1890's there were several families who wanted regular worship in English, so they met in various homes for Sunday morning services until they could engage a pastor. References in *The Hub* indicate that in 1893 the Reverend Mr Reid of the Methodist Conference was preaching in Gaylord. In 1895 the Rev M Ruddock, pastor of the Congregational Church at Winthrop, was holding Friday even-

ing services at the Gaylord City Hall. In the spring of 1899, the Congregational Conference of Minnesota sent the Reverend Fellows out to work with these people, and on October 17, 1899, the First Congregational Church of Gaylord was organized.

(Continued on page 2)

New Auburn Historical Society Fundraiser

"Bingo, Burgers & Beer !

September 9 2017

At New Auburn City Hall

**2 sessions of Bingo
2-4 PM and 5-7 PM**

**All proceeds go to the New
Auburn Historical Society.**

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 10, at the museum, 3:00 pm, Final Veteran's program featuring Ed Kruse, "Navy Parachuting, A Fork in the Road that Led to the Sky".

Look for more information in your December newsletter about the Holiday Event being planned for January 7, 2018.

Thanks to Judy Loewe for planning another year of interesting programs and for always being on hand to video tape them.

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Among the first members of the congregation were: Mr. and Mrs. W H Dunwell, Mr. and Mrs. A L Ingalls, Mrs R W Douglas, Mr and Mrs Leon H Kuhlman, Mrs F H Kuhlman, Miss Rena Harris and Miss Marie Harris. Soon after the A W Warnke, Fred and Albert Strobel, Reed, Barry, Spellman and Chambard families united with the church, and a few years later, Jones, MacKenzies, Utendorfers, Comnicks, Mauers, Hoerschegens, Geibs, and others families also joined.

For a few years, regular services were held at the city hall and the Reverend J C Huntington and the Rev M Thomas of Minneapolis, pastors at large, held English services at the public schoolhouse on an irregular basis. From 1900 to 1908, the Reverend Henry Beard of Minneapolis held services every two weeks.

In 1902 the first church structure was erected without a basement on the present site, the southwest corner of Fourth and Jefferson Streets.



In 1918 a foundation and basement were added to the original building, and in 1931 an outside entrance to the basement was built on the northwest side. In 1952, sixteen feet were added to the east end of the sanctuary to enlarge the chancel area.

The Reverend O W Roberts was the first resident pastor. Clergy and their families lived in rented homes until 1922, when a parsonage was built south of the church with funds raised by the women's society. The Reverend William H Hill, a young pastor ordained at the age of 20, was a great organizer and worked with young people in the community. Born and educated in England he taught the local boys how to play soccer. Later he organized the Eureka Literary and Debating Society and the young men of the village, regardless of their religious affiliation, took part in debates and mock trials.

From 1930 to 1934, when the Reverend O R Thome was pastor, the first Vacation Bible School was organized. Winthrop children were brought to Gaylord and teachers from both Congregational

churches conducted the summer school.

When the Reverend Clair A King came in 1952, the Gaylord church parted from a yoked arrangement with the Union Church of Winthrop that dated back to 1927 when the two congregations shared a pastor. During that period, the clergy, by mutual agreement, lived in the Winthrop parsonage.

In 1960 the educational unit was added. In 1977 the parsonage was moved to its present location at 83 High Ave to make room for the new church and parking lot at 328 Fourth Street, which were dedicated on October 8, 1978. In January, 1961, the name was changed from the First Congregational Church of Gaylord Minnesota, to the United Church of Christ. This corresponded with the merger begun in 1957 between the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed churches.

Ministers that have served the Congregational and United Church of Christ were: Reverend J C Huntington, pastor at large, 1892; Reverend M Thomas, pastor at large, 1892; Reverend Henry B Beard, supply, 1900-1908; Reverend O W Roberts, 1906-1908; Reverend John J Farrell, 1908-1909; Reverend Michael F Scully, 1909-1911; Reverend William H Hill, 1912-1915; Reverend Bert L Richardson, 1915-1915-1917; Reverend James Earl, Supply, 1917-1918, 1921-1922; Reverend O R Larson, 1918-1921; Reverend Thomas Barbour, 1922-1926; Reverend T Ecklund 1928-1930; Reverend Otto R Thome, 1930-1933; Reverend Wendell Wheeler, 1934-1939; Reverend Myron Maekel, interim minister, 1939; Reverend Harry Kuhnert, 1940-1943; Reverend Frederic Hile, 1944-1945; Reverend Irving C Campbell, 1945-1952; Reverend A Clair King, 1952-1956; Reverend Donald L Hadfield, 1956-1963; Reverend George Reinmuth, supply, 1963; Reverend Irving C Campbell, supply, 1963; Reverend John Buttrey, 1963-1970; Reverend W R Fegan, 1971-1979; Reverend Dr Richard Olmstead, interim minister, 1979; Reverend Larry Donald Britt, 1980-2002; Reverend John Guttermann, Interim, 3 years; Reverend David Marchem, 2 years; Reverend Lois Vetrick, 1 year; Reverend Keith Purcell, 1 year; Reverend Hank Campbell, 3 years; Reverend Dennis McKee, 2005 to present.

As you walk through the church you will see many special windows and other artifacts. Gloria Sinell, longtime member of this congregation has written several fact sheets about these items, called "Glimpses" "The circular stained glass window on the west wall of the sanctuary depicts a dove.



The dove window was given in 1951 in memory of Ethel Vivian Thompson. In the center of this beautiful window is a descending dove with a halo. It denotes the Holy Spirit coming to us in

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peace. There are three rays radiating from the center of the halo, representing the Trinity.

The ora of blue light around the dove is a symbol of purity. Surrounding the dove are colorful rose petals."

"This colorful "Rose" window was a gift from Mr & Mrs I M Nelson and Mr & Mrs Dayle Troidahl to honor John & Julia Estenson's 50th Wedding Anniversary. As we look at the window we see in the center, the *Latin Cross*— empty in the testimony to the risen Lord Jesus and central as witness to it's importance of the core of our faith.

Next to it is the *Anchor Cross*. This symbol came from the early Christian Church and reminds us that Jesus is the "*sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope.*" Close to the two crosses on one side is a *flame*. One of the meanings of this symbol draws our attention to the Holy Spirit. On the other side is found a *heart*. The heart is thought to be a source of love for us Christians, a symbol of Christian love and service. There are two other symbols, *a circle and a rose*. The *circle* symbolizes eternity, which is the nature of God and of love that is without a beginning or end. The *rose* is a symbol of our Lord completely surrounding all the other symbols. The six symbols woven together are a fitting way to honor a marriage of 50 years."



"The *Flame*, which now graces the wall behind the altar, symbolizes the Holy Spirit and the fire of faith that gives us motivation and strength, and empowers us to live as God calls us to live. It fills our lives with understanding, vitality and healing."

"The Cross on the round altar table has a quatrefoil (four leaf clover)

that surrounds the letters IHS. This is a Greek contraction for the name JESus. There are three brass steps at the base, representing the Trinity. They can also represent faith, hope and charity. The steps beneath them represent Mt Calvary, the two altar candles represent the Old and New Testaments. This brass set was given in memory of Ruth Jewell Campbell, wife of I C Campbell. The

open Bible reminds us that God's Word is open to everyone. The Bible was given in memory of Ray Utendorfer. The Christ Candle, near the Altar Table, gives us assurance that Jesus is the Light of the World.

A restored weather vane from the first church building is also preserved on the east wall of the social hall.

This was originally on the belfry of our old church and when that church was razed the weather vane was rescued and restored by George Anderson.



A men's Bible Study is held regularly for all men of the community.

Another Community event sponsored by UCC is the Community Thanksgiving dinner. This is open to anyone in the community.



(Continued on next page)



Hanging of the Greens

A tradition begun during the pastorate of Don Hadfield (1956-1963). He wrote and directed a program called "Hanging of the Greens". Readings and explanations of the meaning of various greens and Christmas music were then and continue to be included. The program has been adapted for use in the present sanctuary.

The Gaylord United Church (ed. of Christ, GUCC) in 2017 continues to offer a more progressive understanding of the Bible and faith life. They are the first congregation in Sibley County to call an openly gay pastor. The Rev Dr Dennis McKee and his partner The Rev Lee Hallstrom (ELCA Lutheran) moved to Gaylord in October of 2016. Pastor McKee's ministry with the congregation began in January of 2015.

The congregation works diligently in missions to Gaylord and around the world raising funds in support of local charities such as the Sibley County Food Bank, the Red Cross, youth scholarships for continuing education, and denominational projects. It was the leader for bringing the Personal Energy Transportation (PET) project to Gaylord along with the Rotary Club. PET builds self-propelled carts for disabled people in developing nations who have mobility challenges. One of GUCC's tag lines is 'That all may be one!' In striving to live up to this goal, the members participate with other community congregations to offer shared community worship services for Eggstravaganza, the local Gaylord Community celebration, combined worship services in the park to kick off a community Vacation Bible School, and community Thanksgiving and Good Friday services.

The Gaylord United Church of Christ seeks to be a presence of God's love and care in the community offering a radical acceptance of all people. 'No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here'.

Rev. Dennis McKee, current pastor

County Fair 2017



Thanks to Locher Bros. of Green Isle for the new banner for our County Fair building. In the past people have told us they thought it was a Cub Scout building (previous user) so they didn't come in. It must have helped, we had over 850 visitors to the building this year, a new record!
Thanks to Rich Nagel for requesting it.

Our lumberjack greet-ed visitors as they entered the building and invited them to "See our Saws". The exhibit was spearheaded by Hamburg area retired farmer and SCHS volunteer, Fred Lobitz. Pictured at right, Fred is a quiet, unassuming gentleman who always comes up with a good idea when we need one. Thanks Fred!



Once again the "mystery items" were popular. Lowell Nagel, one of our special fair guides, invited guests to take a guess at what the items are: Only a few people guessed them correctly, and if more than one guessed correctly we drew one of the names to come up with the winner for that item.

Winners were: Item #1, Paula Burgfrede of Jackson, MN, a carpet stretcher, Item #2, Gordon Panning, Hamburg, a pump to start a gas lamp; and Item 3, Benita Quast, Glencoe, a check canceling machine, used in banks.

Each winner will receive a one- year membership to SCHS.



Item 1



Item 2



Item 3

Ruth Ann Buck, another of our SCHS members always coming up with good ideas, suggested we invite Tom Mosen from the Carver Creek Bluegrass Band to come to our building after their performance next door in the Heritage Building on Friday evening. Tom agreed and played several of **our** saws, in addition to the one he plays with the Carver Creek Bluegrass Band, which includes other members of his family.

In an e-mail following the fair he told Ruth Ann, "It was fun, I enjoyed it."



Winthrop Historical Society

Since several new Historical Societies have been popping up around the county, (Arlington, New Auburn and Winthrop) in the past few years, we thought it would be appropriate to invite them, one by one, to share a display in our building at the fair.

Since military displays are very popular around the country right now, we asked the Winthrop Historical Society to bring a display from their Military Room. They brought a very well done WW I display depicting the military history of Roy Kuhlman, former Winthrop native, now deceased, along with his uniform, medals and awards. Other items in their display were old newspapers from the Winthrop News and information about their museum. Karen Klenk, Barbara Dietl, Diane Fredin and Rob Gleason helped to greet visitors during the fair. Thank you!

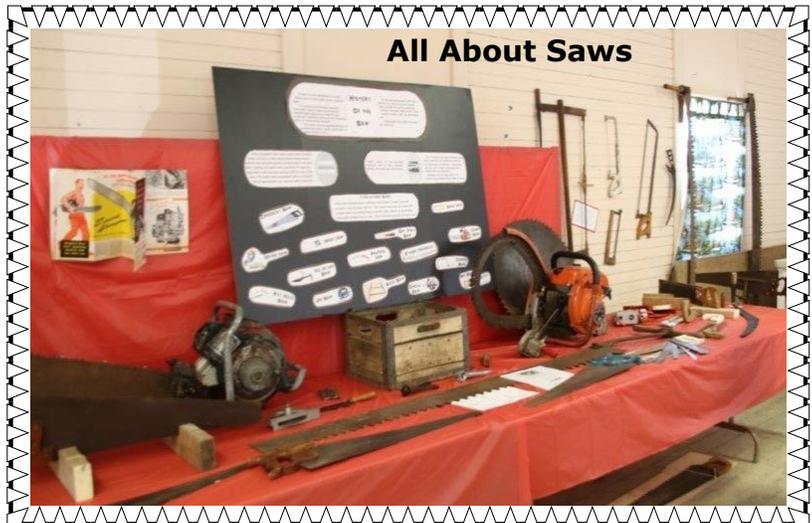
If you haven't already done so, be sure to visit the Winthrop Community Historical Museum, located at 223 N Carver, Winthrop. They're open Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm, or by appointment. They have done a good job of converting the many rooms of what used to be the Winthrop Medical Clinic into a historical museum to be proud of.



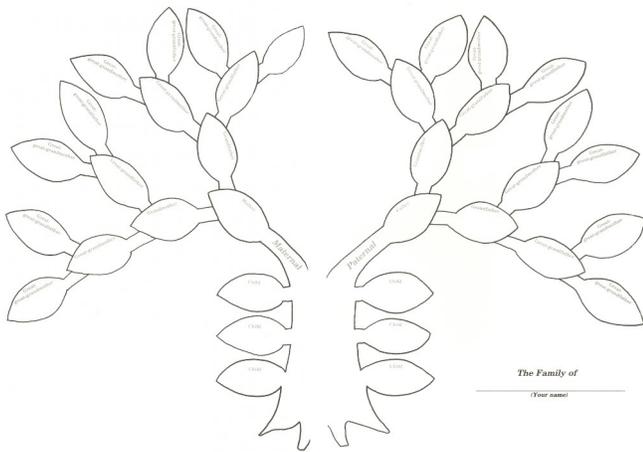
These young lads decided to test their ability to use a coping saw.

"Children" of all ages tried their hand at this popular "hands on" project.

Rob Gleason of the Winthrop Historical Society, demonstrates this toy bucksaw donated to SCHS by Charles Meyer. This was just one of the many saws we displayed.



Genealogy Gems!



Genealogy chart for Kids(?)

This was a popular item at the Sibley County Fair. It was designed to be used with children, but adults found it just as informative.

Eldrene Ebert, Chairman of the Research Department at the museum used the chart found in "My family Tree Workbook, Genealogy for beginners" by Rosemary A Chorzempa, with her grandchildren. The book encouraged them to record everything they knew about themselves and they enjoyed learning about their family history. We thought it would be a good idea to encourage a family tree chart at the fair.

We started out with 100 copies but by the end of the first day the call went out for more copies to be made. We handed out 200 of these during the fair, so many Sibley County residents should soon be busy working on their "Family Tree".

SCHS can help you with this history if you do not have the information at hand. We have many obituaries, newspapers, Ancestry.com, census records, etc. available for research.

Cost for this service is .50 cents per hard or digital copy you request, plus a donation or SCHS membership related to the amount of time spent by the researcher. You can come in and work on it yourself (be sure to call 507 248 3434 to set up an appointment) or request information from our research department. Additional charges may apply.

Check our website:

www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com/research
for more information on available resources.

A FASCINATING SHORT SEA STORY

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result.

The Warrior's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LON 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899.

"Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed.

The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour. At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many: The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900. This ship was therefore not only in: two different days, two different months, two different years, two different seasons, but in two different centuries - all at the same time.

~ GO NAVY

Thanks to Harlan Mehlhop for this gem!



The GFS Elementary gymnasium in Gibbon was transformed into a special event when a newly formed Gibbon Friends Facebook page gathered a huge amount of information and displayed it in the gym during Gibbon Fun Fest in mid-July. There were pictures and memorabilia from the Gibbon School, from town events, and much more. Great Job!

Shown at left are SCHS members that attended the event.





All of our veterans and regular monthly programs are recorded. If you are interested in seeing any of these programs please contact the museum. In an upcoming newsletter we will publish a list of **all** the programs that are available on DVD.



Gibbon Native Harlan Mehlhop drew a large crowd at the museum in Henderson for the first in our series of Veterans Programs.



Harlan led a "round table" type discussion and had wonderful audience participation.

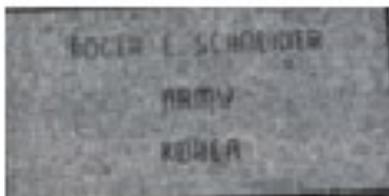


Creating a fishing experience of excitement, fun and laughter for our veterans.
At no cost to the Veteran.

Steve Gillaspie of Arlington who spoke at our recent "Veterans Program" at SCHS says "he never answered so many questions in one day in his life," as he did that day. If you want to know more about this unique program you can contact him at "Steve's Copy Shop" in Arlington or call 651 353 5959.

Or you could borrow our video of the program to hear all those questions . . .and answers.

Walking Path of Honor!



"Blackie" Schwartz shared the history and meaning of the Walking Path of Honor, located in Arlington along Highway 5, in front of the hospital.

Check the back page to see what we have in store for our final Veterans program. It's gonna be great!



Earl Hebeisen, former Sibley County resident spoke at SCHS Museum, June 27th.

We learned all about wartime inspection of food for all branches of the service. Thanks Earl for an interesting presentation.



A potluck supper preceded the music box "concert" at the Lawrence & Phyllis Crawford home for our July program, which was well attended.

Tour of STATE CAPITOL & FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY

By Sharon Shimota, photos by Sharon & Rommie

In cooperation with Gaylord Community Ed, a number of SCHS members were able to tour the Minnesota State Capitol and the Fort Snelling National Cemetery on August 2nd.

Our first stop was at the newly renovated State Capitol in St Paul. The 4-year renovation project to preserve the 1905 Capitol was completed at a cost of \$310 million. For some of us it was our first visit ever to the Capitol and it is truly a beautiful building inside and out! The tour took us inside the Governor’s Reception Room, Supreme Court courtroom and the House of Representatives chamber. After the tour, there was extra time to view more of the Capitol before getting back on the bus. Our 2nd stop was for lunch at the Cherokee Tavern in St. Paul where we enjoyed a BBQ ribs and baked chicken buffet.



Our last stop was a guided drive-through tour at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. The Cemetery was established

in 1939 and consists of over 400 acres. There are over 220,000 interments. Fort Snelling is the home of the first all-volunteer Memorial Rifle Squad which provides military honors for burials. Most of the headstones are upright but we drove past a section where in the 1980’s the stones were laid flat. We drove past a Committal Shelter used for burials, the columbarium’s courtyard and scatter garden for cremated remains, and drove down the avenue where the headstones of Medal of Honor recipients are lettered in gold. Some of the notable burials at Fort Snelling are Charles W. Lindberg, one of the six Marines who raised the 1st flag at Iwo Jima; Tom Burnett Jr., a hero on Flight #93 on 9/11; and Bob Casey, Minnesota Twins baseball announcer for 44 seasons.

Cemetery pictures are from their website since the tourists could not get off the bus at Ft Snelling.



We’re almost there!



Part of group touring the State Capitol.



Looking down from 3rd floor at “Star of the North” in Capitol rotunda.



Categories for Giving

In December of 2015 we received a memorable donation of over \$80,000.00 from Charles and Donna Meyer, former Sibley County residents now living in Houston, Texas. This has prompted SCHS to look at how we can better recognize and acknowledge donations of this magnitude.

In 2009, when we had a very successful New Addition Building Fund Drive, donation "categories for giving" were set up and it was agreed these should be continued. The categories are:

Premier Sponsors \$50,000 and up
Leading Sponsors \$2,000—\$5,000
Supporting Sponsors \$1,000-\$1,999
Associate Sponsors \$500.00 to \$999
Organizational Sponsors \$100—\$299
Contributing Sponsors \$5—\$99

The Sibley County Historical Society gratefully acknowledges all donations.



(Memorials)

Associate Sponsors

Karl Lieske Family
 in memory of Evelyn Lieske

Contributing Sponsor

Margaret Huffman
 In memory of Roger Bruellman

(Donations)

Associate Sponsor

Earl & Clara Hebeisen

Organizational Sponsor

David & Lynn Sefcovic

(Contributing Sponsor)

Mary Ludowese Ottawa Historians
 Joy Cohrs Howard Lieske
 Michael Fahey & Sally Rodbaugh
 Fred Lobitz
 Al & Diane Rostberg Sandra Dammann
 Marta & Charles Kurak

Porch party 2017

Our first porch party of the year was held August 15 with special guests, our new Board of Directors.

An enjoyable time was had getting acquainted. The volunteers appreciated the attendance by board members and hope it helped them to feel more like part of the organization.



Board members Amy Franke, Joy Cohrs, & Laura Gilman visit with Al Rostberg



Above: Pat & Dale Ericson, Mary Petersen, Marlys Gaucher, Marie Main & Amy Franke.
 Below: Eldrene Ebert, Joy Cohrs and David Tesch



NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

*Barb & David Herrly, International Falls, MN
 *Barbara Judd, Owatonna, MN
 *Vic & Patty Schwartz, Green Isle, MN
 *Renaë & Kenn Mueller, Arlington, MN
 *Carl Belz, Henderson, MN
 *Benita Quast, Glencoe, MN
 *Gordon Panning, Hamburg, MN
 *Paula Burgferede, Jackson, MN
 Cory Becker, Gibbon MN
 Harold & Bonita Pettis, Gibbon, MN
 Mary Ludowese, Hutchinson, MN
 Robert Fahey, Belle Plaine, MN
 Barb Boisen, Le Sueur, MN
 David & Lynn Sefcovic, Virginia, MN
 Joe & Yvonne Mullen,
 Gloria Sinell, Gaylord, MN
 Bernice Hanson, Roseville, MN
 Linda Cancio, Sacramento, CA
 Collen Deis, Gaylord, MN
 Wayne Jarvis, Cedar Falls, IA
 Charles & Donna Meyer, Houston, TX
 William Mickelson, Columbia, SC
 James Mayer, Winthrop, MN
 Home Town Bank, Henderson, MN
 Maurice McMahon, Ashland, MA
 Allen Co. Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
 Joan Ewald, Hutchinson, MN
 Arlen & Pete Pinske, Gaylord, MN
 Becky & Steve Briggs, Eagan, MN
 Kenneth Gleisner, New Ulm, MN
 Susan Peters, Palm Bay, FL

David & Diane Laabs, Gaylord, MN
 Liz & Ray Jacobson, St. Peter, MN
 Lawrence Crawford, Gaylord, MN
 Howard & Fran Armstrong, Gaylord, MN
 Denny & Kristin Schultz, Gaylord, MN
 Judith Monkkonen, Culver City, CA
 Don & Betty Strobel, Henderson, MN
 Keith Anderson, Gaylord, MN
 Doug & Iris Parrott, Gaylord, MN
 Steve & Gail Herschman, Gibbon, MN
 Jody & Matt Boisen, Owatonna, MN
 Robert Wieman, St. Paul, MN
 Verne & Donna Schlueter, Arlington, MN
 Harry Kreger, Ocean View, DE
 Louise & Wayne Quast, Arlington, MN
 Richard & Gail Estenson, Gaylord, MN
 Eunice Lueck, Le Sueur, MN
 Carrie Johnson, Poolesville, MD
 Pat Keating, Oconomowoc, WI
 Ed & Dorothy Kruse, Apple Valley, MN
 Eugene & Jeanette Bening, Hutchinson, MN
 Marie Renneke, Minneapolis, MN
 Dale and Patricia Ericson, Gibbon, MN
 Sam Fudenberg, Roseville, MN
 Elaine Nelson, Albert Lea, MN
 LaVerne Almquist, Henderson, MN
 Delano Quast, Le Sueur, MN
 Janet Lundgren, Gibbon, MN
 Richard and Sandy Weckwerth
 Garfield Eckberg, Nicollet, MN
 Vicki Stock, Arlington, MN
 Dwight Grabitzke, Arlington, MN

Membership Form

- Individual \$20.00
 Family \$25.00
 Business \$50.00

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

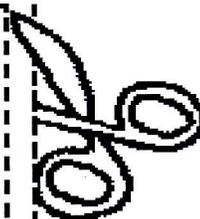
I would like to receive my newsletter by U S Mail

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 e-mail: schs1@frontiernet.net

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





**Final Veteran's Program will be held,
3 P M Sunday, September 10.**

**"Navy Parachuting,
A Fork in the Road that Led to the Sky"**

**Ed Kruse, shown at left, wearing the parachute
he donated to the SCHS museum,
will be our guest speaker.**

**Ed served in the US Navy as a parachutist
and also served on the U S Navy Parachute
Exhibition Team, "The Chuting Stars".**

Come and hear this exciting story.

**Free Admission for all Veterans
and SCHS members!**



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

**www.
sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com**



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