

**SIBLEY COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



NEWSLETTER

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

DECEMBER 2016

Volume 21, Issue 4



Our 2016-1017 museum displays are focused on Churches and Cemeteries in Sibley County. This quarter we begin a series of newsletter articles about some of those older Sibley County churches.

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The Swedish Clear Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church, as it was originally known, was formally organized on October 30, 1871. The Rev. C M Ryden, pastor of New Sweden Lutheran Church (now Bernadotte) Lutheran) presided. At this meeting it was decided that at some future time there would be a church structure erected for the congregation on Section 31, Cornish Twp,



It required 6 years of discussions, negotiations, and yes, often even heated arguments, before a location for the church structure was finally decided upon. On April 1, 1872 the second congregational meeting was held at which the decision to build in Section 31 was reaffirmed by a congregational vote. It was further agreed that Pastor Ryden would visit the congregation on the last Sunday of each almanac month. The records of congregational meetings of March and June 1873 record elections of officers, a financial statement indicating a balance of \$16.35 and a decision to wait with the building of a church until the year 1874. However, 1874 meeting records only record an election of officers.

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**Board Happenings
& other musings**
by Steve Briggs

Last newsletter it was mentioned there was a sinking/eroding area in the museum parking lot. Since then, the city patched the washout. But other problems have become apparent, such as a bowing retaining wall. The city should take care of these items, but will so at a later date.

There has been much investigation and discussion regarding having Microsoft Office 365 downloaded to our computers. We thought we had agreed to a plan, but then more information came in. It seems we are now gravitating toward Microsoft Office 2016 – either the Professional version or the Standard version.

Eldrene from the Research Committee brought up the policy on the fees for research; we agreed to a change. No longer will we ask for a \$20 payment upfront. We will charge \$.50 for hard copies as well as digital copies. We will tell folks how much time was spent on

the search and suggest a donation and/or a membership. There certainly will be less administrative effort in charging/handling fees and we suspect the new process may even increase revenue.

We replaced a furnace last winter and it was brought up by Rommie that such expenses were often paid for by the county. Rich will talk to the County Auditor to see if we could be reimbursed.

Sharon and Ruth Ann volunteered to chair the committee to coordinate all aspects of the 2017 Annual Meeting. I am not certain, but they might like a few helpers!

Our nominating committee has a big job coming up with the replacement of President and four board member openings. The committee consists of Rich Nagel, Lowell Nagel and Sharon Haggemiller.

We're in touch, so you be in touch.

President

Calendar of Events
Check our website for 2016 programs.

Check us out on Facebook

If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3434



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A very definite polarity had set in between members of the congregation on the issue of the location of the church. Numerous locations were suggested, accepted and then dropped for lack of action. The difficulty appeared to be primarily a geographical one; who would have the church in their immediate neighborhood. In fact, there were two existing congregations, an East Congregation and a West Congregation. Pastor Ryden was determined not to have it East of Clear Lake as he felt that was Bernadotte territory. Sections 25, 30 and 31 were all at one time agreed upon and then failed to meet final approval. There is no record as to when the present location in Section 30, was agreed on, but it is assumed this took place in 1876, as in 1877 a small red church, described as closely resembling a barn, was erected on the site of the present structure.

During the first thirteen years of existence the Clear Lake congregation depended on neighboring pastors, traveling evangelists theological students and laymen to serve spiritual needs. Magnus Carlson and Peter Sjogren were named lay leaders. Worship services were held in homes or in school houses. Without permanent leadership it was difficult to maintain a cohesiveness and unity in faith and action. The prayer meetings, in particular seemed to be an indirect source of difficulty in that they opened the way for traveling evangelists to wean away the membership from the congregation. One such incident is related in the historical records as follows. "At the prayer meetings which were held, there were discussions and sermons and readings. Visiting pastors and speakers would often come, and at one of the meetings a Methodist lay preacher was invited to speak. He continued to come and invited another helper. One of these men gave the following invitation at one of the meetings: 'all who wish to reach heaven, come here and reach out your hand to me'. That shaking of hands with the evangelist was evidently the beginning of the Swedish Methodist Church of Clear Lake.

"Clear Lake did not have a resident pastor until 1884 when Pastor John Lundquist accepted a call to serve here. A parsonage was built in 1894. The records indicate that Pastor Lundquist was an extreme moralist and his ministry appeared to be dedicated to the eradication of dancing, card playing and the consumption of alcoholic beverages. His attitudes and judgmental nature created a number of enmities for him and he left after one year's service.

During the ministry of Pastor H O Hemming (1895-1903), the First Lutheran Church of Lafayette and Augustana Lutheran Church of Gibbon were organized, causing a loss of membership to Clear Lake of about 100 members. Although a definite need existed in both of these towns for a Lutheran church to serve those whose native tongue was Swedish, it did leave the Clear Lake Church a relatively small geographical area that could not be conveniently served by either of these two churches. This situation led to an attempt during the tenure of Pastor E F Ternberg (1915-1923) to divided Clear Lake between Lafayette and Gibbon. A resolution to this effect was presented before the Conference, but was promptly defeated.

While Pastor Nels Ohslund's was Pastor, from 1886 to 1893 there was a period during which Clear Lake enjoyed it's most prosperous years. Upon his arrival Pastor Oslund found the situation in a rather sad state of affairs. The physical property was in need of many improvements, the old church looked like a barn and had no organ; all instrumental music was taboo as such music was considered irreligious. Only the song leaders voice (klockaren) might lead the congregation in singing spiritual hymns and psalms. Often this became quite dismal and funereal. Finally a small reed organ was allowed and the music became quite inspiring.

The congregation was growing in numbers, and a decision needed to be made. Either the old church had to be added to or be torn down and a new church built. After much discussion it was decided to build a new church and that the minister should solicit the necessary funds.

He traveled far and wide, riding in his one-horse sulky, and his efforts were met with unexpected success. The large and at that time imposing, present church structure was finally completed and dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1890.

In its' tower placed one of the church bells. Extra silver was added to the composition of the bell to give it an unusually clear tone which could be heard 12 miles away.

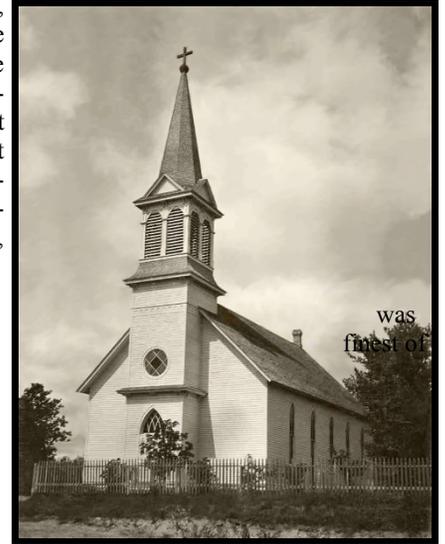


Photo by Arden Sjogren

Inscription on the bell reads:
***"O people, hearken to my voice,
 That forth from my bosom peals,
 Calling, in prayer and song, to
 rejoice,
 And some day your death
 knell seals."***

The bell tower was destroyed by a tornado in the late 1940's resulting in a shorter bell tower.

Under Pastor Oslunds dynamic leadership, the congregation grew to the largest in its history with 220 active members. Many other improvements were also made during his tenure, among them the addition of a second story to the parsonage, the enlarging of the parsonage kitchen and the erection of a large barn to house the pastors horse and cattle. A well and cistern were dug and a strong fence was erected, surrounding the entire property.

The next pastor, H O Hemming, came here from Akron Ohio in June of 1895. During his early years he began preaching occasionally in Gibbon and Lafayette and as noted previously he was instrumental in organizing those churches. In 1901, Augustana petitioned Clear Lake to have Pastor Hemming share in his pastorate with Gibbon. This was agreed on and except for several brief periods in 1904 -1906 and 1911 -1919 this relationship existed until the Clear Lake church closed in 1988.

Rev J E Hedberg served Clear Lake from 1911-1914. It is noted that he had an extremely slow manner of speaking which resulted in long sermons with many pauses for reflection and meditation interspersed in his message. Sunday morning services often lasted until 1:00 p.m. and the Christmas Jul Otta service lasted from 5 a m to 10 a m. Pastor Hedberg also operated a small farm here to give his sons something constructive to do and he was the first pastor to change his mode of transportation from horse and buggy to the automobile.

Dr. Augustus Nelson accepted a call in 1924 to serve this two-point parish. The old parsonage had been destroyed by fire and a new parsonage was erected at a cost of \$8,000. Considerable renovation was done on the church during his ministry, including reshingling and repainting. He was noted for his hymn translations and for his unusual ability to express Scriptural truths in poetic language. He retired from the ministry in 1938.

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At the annual meeting on January 9, 1940, the word "Swedish" was removed from its title and it became Clear Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gibbon.

It was during the ministry of Pastor Paul Melin, 1938-1943, that the 70th Anniversary of the congregation was observed. This anniversary observance was the largest and best attended held at Clear Lake up to that time.

Following Pastor Melin's resignation, a church survey was conducted by the Home Mission Board of the Augustana Synod and the Lutheran Minnesota Conference, resulting in a decision to locate the parsonage in Gibbon.

Pastor Vernor Johnson and family were the first to move into this parsonage. A caretaker family was installed in the Clear Lake parsonage. In 1988 the parsonage was gently moved to a new location on the Mark & Jan Larson farm in section 7 of Cornish Township.



Pastor Johnson concluded his ministry here in 1951 and a call was issued to and accepted by Pastor Adolph Nelson. After several years as pastor his term ended with his untimely death in 1957.

Pastor Kenton Larsson accepted a call (1958-to 1962) and was here when Clear Lake celebrated its 90th year on September 23 and 24th, 1961. *Picture shown below.* This year also marked the final year of association with the Augustana Synod. A merger was formed between the Augustana Synod, the United Lutheran Church, the Suorm Synod and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. This group became known as The Lutheran Church in America (LCA).





Following Pastor Larssons resignation to serve another congregation, Pastor Robert Moland accepted the call to the Gibbon Clear Lake parish, ministering ably from 1963-1966 when he also left to accept a new call.

When Pastor Marcus Cordes accepted the call to serve the parish in 1967 numerous changes were made: a new public address system was installed, and the kitchen was remodeled. However, it was also at this time that parents of the Sunday School children decided to enroll their children in the Augustana Sunday School and transfer their membership to that church.

In preparation for the Church Centennial in 1971 it was decided to erect a commemorative stone on the church property. This stone was to have a bronze plaque with the name of the organizing pastor, and names of charter members inscribed on it. After a lengthy search, a suitable stone was located in the Bernadotte area on the Edgar Peterson farm. Mr. Peterson graciously donated the stone for this purpose, and Webster Brothers Contractors were engaged to move and set the stone at Clear Lake. They also donated their equipment and time to this project. The plaque was completed in July 1971.

In 1988 the second plaque shown above was added to the stone to commemorate the members at the time of church closing. You will note that many names are similar on both lists.



Pastor James Goetz and Pastor Timothy Thoresen were the final two pastors to serve at Clear Lake.

In his final message Pastor Thoresen assured the congregants that:

“God never closes one door unless he opens another”

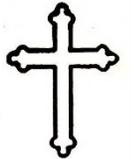
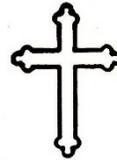
The final worship service was held October 30, 1988 culminating 117 years of service to the Clear Lake area.

Glory be to God!

Founders of Clear Lake Lutheran Church
Organized October 30, 1871

Rev. C M Ryden, Organizing Pastor

- Nils Johnson
- Johan Sander
- Magnus Carlson
- Frank Johnson
- Claus Jonquist
- Sven Nelson
- August Peterson
- Gustof Carlson
- Johanes Carlson
- Gilbert Olson
- Carl Peterson
- Peter Lunderborg
- Bengt Strom
- John P Sjogren
- Johan Anderson

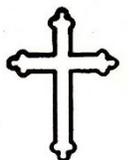


Members at closing of Clear Lake Lutheran Church

October 30, 1988

Dr. Timothy Thoresen, Pastor

- Edla Anderson
- Edwin Carlson
- Hobert Carlson
- Lillian DeBoer
- Ronald & Lillian Flygare
- Marcus Flygare
- Edith Johnson
- Theodore Johnson
- Cecelia Kent
- Sandra Korkemeier
- Marvin & Ellen Lind
- Marilyn Loftness
- Quinton & Margaret Lunderborg
- Frances Lundgren
- Russell Lundgren
- Alden Olson
- Burton & Bernice Olson
- Michael Olson
- Evelyn Olson
- Fridolph Peterson
- Arden Sjogren
- Kermit & Dorothy Sjogren
- Audrey Swenson
- Goldie Thorson





"According to people familiar with Clear Lake Lutheran Church's history, the building was once heated by several stoves necessitating a system of stove pipes.

One Sunday morning, the stove pipes somehow fell down, and the church interior was covered with soot. The church used insurance money to hire a professional cleaning firm to remove the soot and during the process the altar painting was cleaned and one or two more people were discovered on the painting shown here." It was painted by J O Grafstrom in 1902.

Jonas Olaf Grafstrom (1855-1933) was born in Attman, Sweden. He made a name for himself as a landscape painter in the Pacific Northwest during the 1880's. Grafstrom's altar pieces were hung in about 200 Swedish Lutheran churches stretching from Pennsylvania to California. Some of his work is also found in his home country, and a large selection of his work is in the art gallery collection of Augustana College. According to Paul Daniels of the ELCA Region 3 Archives at Luther Seminary, Mr. Grafstrom did a lot of work for Swedish-American Lutheran churches around Minnesota and South Dakota.

In 1893 Grafstrom left the Portland area to take a teaching position at Bethany College in Lindsborg Kansas. Five years later he became the chair of the Art Department at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, a position he held until his death.



Since the church was officially closed, Augustana Lutheran of Gibbon has held a worship service there one Sunday each year during Mid-Summer, generally the third Sunday of June. Many former members and friends of the church join in this popular service.

The Cemetery Association hopes this service can continue to be held each year. If you are interested in knowing when this service will be held in the future, you may contact Augustana Lutheran Church of Gibbon, 507 834 5108.

Contributions to the Cemetery Association for the maintenance of the church and cemetery are always welcomed and appreciated.



The Clear Lake Lutheran Cemetery Association (located in Cornish Township, Sibley County, Minnesota, approximately two miles east of Clear Lake, is looking for contact information for decedents of those interred in the cemetery. If you have one or more relatives buried in the cemetery, please send an email with contact information and the name(s) of your relatives to clearlakecemetery@gmail.com or call Denise at 507-327-6512 or Brad at 507-276.7316.



What is "The Cloud" That I Keep Hearing About?

By Steve Briggs

If you are like me, advancements in computer technology seem to move at lightning speed. Everywhere we turn there are new apps (applications) and processes. These impact SCHS too. This column is going to 1) discuss "The Cloud" and 2) share a recent SCHS "cloud" submission of some very old photos.

The terms "cloud" and "cloud computing" are everywhere. The cloud is just a metaphor for the Internet. Cloud computing refers to storing and accessing data and programs over the Internet. So, cloud computing is not about your hard drive on your computer at home. When you store data on or run programs from your hard drive, that's called local storage and computing.

Back in the day, your data (photos, files, music) used to be stored on a physical piece of hardware, perhaps on a floppy disk or a CD or a hard drive in your computer. But today, you might be looking at a photo that's on Facebook or listening to music on a service like Pandora. You might even watch a movie on Netflix. And if that's the case, well, that photo, music or movie isn't on your computer; it's someplace else. And that place is called the Cloud.

A Common Cloud Example: The lines between local computing and cloud computing sometimes get very blurry. That's because the cloud is part of almost everything on our computers these days. You might have a local piece of software (say, Microsoft Office 365) that utilizes a form of cloud computing for storage (Microsoft OneDrive). That said, Microsoft also offers a set of Web-based apps, Office Online, that are Internet-only versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint accessed via your Web browser without installing anything. That makes them a version of cloud computing (Web-based = cloud).

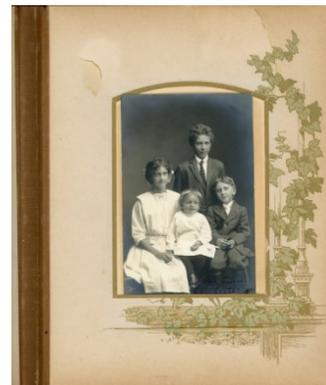
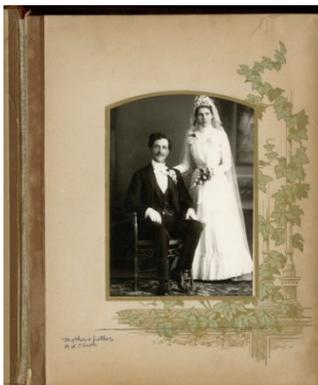
When someone says, "I stored it in the Cloud," they mean they stored it on an Internet service. Your emails are in "the cloud." Emails are stored at places like AOL or Hotmail, not on your computer. All the companies that have cloud computing services -- Google, Facebook, Yahoo, Flickr, Apple, etc. -- have Internet servers or server farms. That's where your media is actually stored. Apple even built a huge server farm in North Carolina for its iCloud service.

What's so great about the Cloud? The first is that your data lives in a place not on your own device, so you can get it on multiple devices. You can check your email on any computer or access your Flickr photos on any computer. Second, with cloud storage services like Google Drive or Dropbox, you can store your files. That also means that those photos, files or songs are being backed up on those various services. So if your hard drive crashed, you'd have a backup of all your files instantaneously; you'd just log in on another computer to one of those services. Also, the games you play on Facebook would take up too much memory from your own computer, so instead, you are using Facebook's computer server to access the games.

Jerry Olson, Denver, CO recently contacted us with some genealogy research questions. One thing lead to another and SCHS shortly received 33 old photos. These photos were of such high quality and memory-intensive, they were not able to be shared via email. That's where cloud computing comes in very handy! Jerry shared the photos via the cloud application of Dropbox.com. Jerry invited me to view the folder "**Olson Family Album - Jerry Olson**" on Dropbox.

Jerry said, *"Steve, My son and I finished scanning the Olson Family Album today. Most of the 33 photographs are of children and grandchildren of John W. Olson who farmed in the county and had connections with the First National Bank of Winthrop. Melville Olson was father to my brother Les and I. August W. Olson our grandfather and John W. Olson, great grandfather. These photos will be incorporated into our on-line genealogy. I scanned the album as Tiff files and reduced their size as Jpegs. If there is anyone who wants a full 60mb file they should contact me directly in Denver. Please add these to your collections at the historic society."*

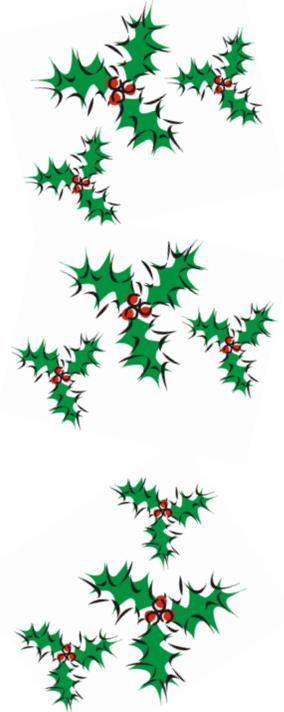
Here are a few of his shared photos.



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(Continued from page 6)



My brother and I are descendants of the John W. Olson family who farmed just east of Winthrop. He along with our grandfather, August W. Olson, and our father, Melville W. Olson are all buried in the Winthrop cemetery with many members of the family. Since my brother, Leslie W. Olson and I are in advance years, we thought it was up to me to research the family. John W. Olson emigrated from Tyngsjö, Kopparberg, Sweden in 1869 and settled in Sibley County. He married Charlotta Kulander in 1874 who bore five children. We understand he was very successful as a farmer and a member of the community serving as a director of the First National Bank and Deacon of the Winthrop Lutheran church. That was the beginning of our Olson ancestors in Sibley County.

My brother Les and I have lived in Colorado since 1957, yet many of our memories and values come from life in Minnesota. Les is very successful in real estate in Denver and I had a full career with the federal government serving as a regional director of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Our aunt Lulu Olson passed on the Olson Family Album which I shared with Steve at the Sibley County Historic Society. Those portraits begin with August W. Olson who married Emelia Peterson in 1900. We are hoping to locate additional portraits taken at the Ostrom studio, especially locate portraits of John W. Olson and his wife Charlotta Kulander.

Through building our tree on Family Tree Maker and Ancestry.com we are opening doors to our past to the 1600's in Sweden. Next spring I plan to visit Sibley County to see what I can uncover in the newspapers and county files. I'll spend several days and hope to have coffee with anyone interested in history and genealogy. In the meantime, if anyone wants to chat, e-mail me at Jerryolson@comcast.net.

Jerry later shared, *"My brother and I are descendants of the John W. Olson family who farmed just east of Winthrop. Since my brother, Leslie W. Olson and I are in advance years, we thought it was time to research the family. My brother Les and I have lived in Colorado since 1957, yet many of our memories and values come from life in Minnesota.*

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Summer Bus Trip Into History

One of the few fine days this summer happened to be the day chosen for the Sibley County Historical Society tour, Thursday, Sept. 29th. A Thielen Bus Lines smaller coach, gathered the 19 tour goers as it traveled along at: Gibbon, Winthrop, Gaylord, and the Arlington & Henderson area, at the Arlington Community Center. Couldn't be any more convenient for our members and guests.

We had a retired semi company owner and driver by-pass the big international golf tournament and arrived at the Minneapolis Pioneer's & Soldier's Memorial cemetery on time. We had a preview of the history of this special cemetery, before heading out to certain areas of the 25 acre cemetery. The lady that came to Henderson at a previous program was the docent that led the tour for us. WOW!

Much research has gone into the buried bodies and there are many interesting stories of people, tombstones, and groups there.

For lunch we traveled to the old Sears Store and Office-Building, now called Sears Building World Market. It is a fascinating reuse of a building. There were about 20 different food offerings from around the world, with mini areas to sit down to eat. And then there was the commercial, clothing, foods, jewelry and artwork.

Once more we boarded the bus and went to see the Minnehaha Falls, which is a huge park. I must admit I saw a picture the other day, showing the falls all frozen and the trees snow covered. It was more beautiful than what I saw this summer. But it was a casual stroll to the lower level and back, with the next stop a couple of blocks over to the John H. Stevens House.

This house is one of the oldest houses in Minneapolis, where a lot of history was established. It has been moved three times, with the last move taking it out of "retirement". The docents were well aware of its history and simple displays made the final touch with a vintage garden. This was on the Minnehaha Park area.

The final tour ended short of "on time" so we went across the road to the Dairy Queen and bought ourselves a refreshing treat, loaded the bus one last time and were dropped off at our loading site, on time, that evening.

Judy Loewe



Top; The World Market in the old Sears Building
Middle; The guide sharing information about the historic Stevens House near Minnehaha Falls
Bottom; The Stevens House with his statue in front
Left; The Falls was spectacular on the day we visited.. They turned the water volume on high for our group.



My Day, Sunday December 7th 1941

“A Date Which Will Live in Infamy.” – F.D.R.

The typical farm day was well under way with the cows having been milked and fed. Back in the house the usual bowl of oatmeal was waiting for us in the kitchen. Mom always had it ready on the cook stove, and sometimes would sprinkle on a little cinnamon. It couldn't get any better. After breakfast Dad would take a brief rest in his favorite chair before saying; "let's go finish the chores." The routine was well established. I'd climb up into the silo and throw down silage for the next feeding of the cows, never without a reminder from Dad to keep the sides clean. Corn was chopped green for silage, freeze to the inside of the concrete silo staves, and large chunks could release and fall on you with devastating results! Dad always took the worst of the jobs, and that was cleaning the gutters. Finances never allowed for a manure carrier; a small tank on a suspended track that when loaded was pushed out of the barn and dumped. It was scoop shovel after scoop shovel, one at a time walked out and thrown onto the manure pile. In spring it would be hand loaded into a horse drawn spreader and taken out to the fields for fertilizer, a system far better for the environment than all the chemicals now being used. Next would be throwing down hay for feeding the horses. Dad always took that task while he sent me to the hen house to feed the chickens. I would have rather climbed up in the haymow, dusty as it was, then walk into the hen house. You're hit with a smell that has no comparison, but simply a by-product which chickens create during the course of their daily activities. Then came feeding the hogs, a messy job but like all others it had to be done. We had a large barrel into which we would put ground oats and mix it with water, the end result was a concoction called "slop." It doesn't sound very appetizing, but the hogs loved it. While the chores were being done we always let the horses out in a fenced yard west of the barn. They just loved it and ran around not caring what the weather might be. Now it was time to get back to the house, a wash up in the kitchen sink, and some rest. There was a wooden tank up in a small building next to the windmill that provided gravity flow water to the animals in the barn, but not to the house. Pressure systems required electricity, and the REA had not yet reached our part of the county. There was the typical pail with a dipper for drinking water, and a reservoir on the side of the cook stove with warm water for washing. In the 30's & 40's farm life was what it was - survival 101. We weren't poor; we just didn't have any money. The radio in the living room wasn't turned on, and it's possible the battery had run down so any news information stayed where it was. As a boy it was of no interest to me.

On a winter Sunday afternoon I would often go hunting with my friends who lived on a nearby farm. We would walk the banks of dredge ditches in search of wild life. That was anything that moved be it rabbit, fox or pheasant. The season for pheasants had closed by then, but that was of little concern to us farm boys. We knew the Game Warden wasn't around, and that he didn't care if a farmer shot a pheasant out of season. It was an easy walk to their farm by road, just three quarters of a mile north and then a mile to the west. However, it would only be about half that distance across the fields with the chance of kicking up a pheasant along a fence row. For my 12th birthday that summer I'd received a single shot 410 gauge shotgun my Mom bought at the hardware store. It had been used, but still looked like new, and for \$10 it also included a box of shells. (It's a Victor Special, and I still have it 75 years later.) I had become pretty good with it, so my hopes were high. It was a cold sunny day, and the ground was frozen solid so walking through the fields wasn't difficult. No luck flushing a pheasant, but a jack rabbit took off like a rocket, and the pellets of my one shot fell far behind it. By the time I'd reloaded the lucky critter had probably passed through the next county, and was half way to South Dakota.

My friend's dad met me at the door. He told me to lean my gun against the outside of the house, take off my overshoes and coat, and go sit in front of the radio. Confusion overcame me, I wanted to go hunting. Then he said; "now you boys stay quiet and listen, you might be part of this someday!" He made us sit right there all afternoon listening to the reports of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. I'd heard of Japan, and had some idea of where it was located, but what's this attack on Pearl Harbor thing? He let me go in time to make the walk home before darkness set in. I had no idea of what was going on, and was disappointed that we didn't go hunting. Each of us three farm boys were too young for military service before World War II ended in 1945, and after high school each went in different directions with none of us becoming farmers. However, over the years that followed each of us did serve in the U. S. Navy. It has often been said that farm boys make good sailors, and I hope I proved that to be true during a very eventful 30 year Navy career.

Anonymous

Grafton Township native and SCHS member





ROMMIE'S CORNER OR SIDE OR...

From the editor's desk; I never thought of my self as *an editor* or *the editor*. I am a volunteer who works on the newsletter. I don't think anyone else thought of me as an editor either even though I have been doing this for about 15 years. Earlier years Hap Anderson worked with me and we had fun concocting weird stuff. Some things were pretty wild, we would change them before it went to print. We would finish the newsletter and take printout to Kinko's to make copies. They told us to bring the digital file and then each copy would be an original. Hmmm. Makes sense. The copies were very good, the original were better. We started with 4 pages and little by little we moved up to 10, the limit to get under the 1 ounce weight at the Post Office. The weight was so close we had to wait for the ink to dry before they weighed in at the post office.

This issue is much bigger because I want to finish Mr. Wieman's piece about WWII flying. He has written other pieces for our newsletter as well as text in the Country School. And he is a Sibley County native.

Over the years (this issue finishes the 21st year) we have had some good stories connected to people and events in our county and written by people throughout the country. Arlene can always come up with a story, which she also does for the articles that are published in the Mankato Free Press, as she did this week. I take the stories and paste them into the Publisher Program. As you might guess, that does not take much talent. Even and old farmer can do it.

Judy had a good summer trip again. She does a wonderful job of planning and timing the stops. Usually we visit places I have never heard of, like the Steven's House and World Market where I saw this mug and this t-shirt. At the Steven's house I saw this building with a moon on the door and assumed it was an observatory of some sort. And for our convenience, she even



THANKS

Thanks to the list of donors below. We are always grateful for your financial help for our society.

Donations:

Joanne Zachow, J. Luskey, P. Lepke, Joe Mullen, Sandi Reinking, Tierney & Welch Families, Sandy Kroells, Robert & Joyce Jamison, Maryland Soyett, Judith Monkkonen

Memorials:

In Memory of Marge Hendrich, by Dorothy Peterson
 In Memory of Karen Tesch, by Ruth Ann Buck
 In Memory of Dayle Troidahl, by Gloria Sinell
 In Memory of Dayle Troidahl, by Margaret Hoffman
 In Memory of Dennis Grack, by Margaret Hoffman
 In Memory of Dayle Troidahl, by Charles Meyer
 In Memory of Elton Vorwerk, by Dorothy Peterson

Thanks also go to the big list of members who renewed since our last newsletter and for the new members. We ain't much without people.

arranged bus transportation. Judy is in charge of the monthly programs as well as the summer trips. Other places we have visited; Owatonna Orphanage, forgotten town of Beaver Falls, St. Peter State Hospital, The Tilt-A-Whirl Factory and Redwood Fall Historical Society among many others. You should come along sometime! Y'all come!



Arlene has some of us to her home for a Christmas luncheon. There was no lutefisk or akvavit. Would that not be a marriage made in heaven! But there were lots of other delicious treats and we are grateful for her hospitality. Hey! We're grateful for all she does!

This is an off year for our Holiday and Christmas program. It takes a lot of time to set up the displays and arrange programs and we don't seem to be getting any replacement volunteers. I have noticed the volunteers that have been coming seem like they keep getting older.

I want to note here that our youngest volunteer, Cory Becker of Gibbon, has gotten 4 tickets to the Trump Inauguration in Washington DC in January. How lucky! He along with a cousin and two others will be making the trip. We wish him well in this historic event. He was just in Washington this summer with his church group. The tickets were drawn in a lottery from Amy Klobachar's Senate office.

The Ballroom Book has been taken a back seat to other things. Maybe that will pick up some momentum this spring.

Merry Christmas to all from the Petersen house.

Rommie Petersen

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Jami	Klehr*	Henderson	MN	Richard & Diane	Isakson	Gibbon	MN
Janice Lee	Lee*	Hillsborough	CA	Elizabeth & Ray	Jacobson	St Peter	MN
Ruth Narr	Narr*	Henderson	MN	Greg & Carolyn	Johnson	Winthrop	MN
Anna	Otto*	Shakopee	MN	Karen & Ray	Klenk	Winthrop	MN
Charleen	Reinke*	Gaylord	MN	Myron	Lindeman	Redwood Falls	MN
Diana	Schansberg*	Otsego	MN	Fred W	Lobitz	Hamburg	MN
Brad	Tews*	Henderson	MN	Judy	Loewe	Henderson	MN
Joanne	Zachow*	Minneapolis	MN	Joe	Luskey	Green Isle	MN
Kathleen	Zuckerman*	St. Louis Park	MN	Tera & Trent	Messner	Henderson	MN
LaVerne	Almquist	Henderson	MN	Ray & Gisela	Meyer	Winthrop	MN
Darrel & Jackie	Alsleben	Arlington	MN	Judy	Monkkonen	Culver City	CA
Dave & Birdine	Battcher	Arlington	MN	Arlene	Moore	Gaylord	MN
Eunice	Beneke-Rucks	Henderson	MN	Joe & Yvonne	Mullen	Minneapolis	MN
Bill & Charlotte	Beseke	Arlington	MN	Rich & Roseann	Nagel	Arlington	MN
Davis	Biebl	Gibbon	MN	Paula	Nelson	Platteville	WI
Rosetta & Art	Blomquist	Mankato	MN	Diane D	Neubarth	Hutchinson	MN
Lois	Bode	Gibbon	MN	Sue	Osten	Scandia	MN
Myra	Bushard	Gibbon	MN	Leslie & Diane	Pettis	Winthrop	MN
Jon & Roxanne	Butler	Minneapolis	MN	Raymond (Ted)	Pinske	Gaylord	MN
Beverly	Christensen	Chanhassen	MN	Kevin	Pioske	Le Sueur	MN
Cathy	Creech	Henderson	MN	Tiffany & Mark	Reinitz/Albeo	Henderson	MN
George	Doheny	Prior Lake	MN	Kathleen	Ringo	New Auburn	MN
Ruben & Eldrene	Ebert	Gaylord	MN	LaDonna & Gene	Rodewald	New Ulm	MN
Garfield	Eckberg	Nicollet	MN	Al & Diane	Rostberg	Henderson	MN
Elden	Egesdal	Gaylord	MN	Lavonne	Sandersfeld	Williamsburg	IA
Karol A	Erickson	Olympia	WA	Roseann	Schauer	Currie	MN
Karen & Charles	Erickson	Brooklyn Center	MN	Larry & Sharon	Sickmann	Arlington	MN
Leo	Fischer	Gibbon	MN	Lila	Sillerud	Canby	MN
Diane & Brian	Fredin	Winthrop	MN	Ellen	Traxler	Remer	MN
Larry & Rita	Friedrichs	Gaylord	MN	Harriet	Troidahl	Gaylord	MN
Sam H	Fudenberg	Roseville	MN	Richard & Sandra	Weckwerth	Gaylord	MN
Victor	Gess	Lafayette	CA	Thomas	Williamson	Arlington	VA
Dwight	Grabitske	Arlington	MN	Beverly	Woods	Gibbon	MN
Richard & Janet	Graupman	Gibbon	MN				
Margaret	Hoffman	Hutchinson	MN				

NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS since our last newsletter

Membership Form RENEW NEW

NAME _____ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS _____ PO Box 206
 _____ Arlington MN 55307

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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

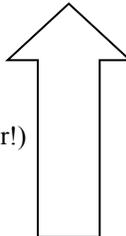
I would like to receive my newsletter by email (in living color!)

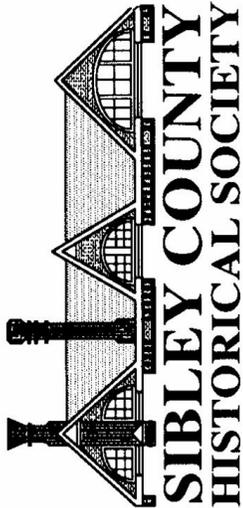
I would like to receive my newsletter by US Mail

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

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Sibley County Tax-Exempt Charities
 By Steve Briggs

One of my subscriptions at home is a 16-page newsletter called "Bottom Line Personal." It arrives in my mailbox 24 times per year. Its purpose is, "To help you gain greater wealth, better health, more wisdom, extra time and increased happiness." They commonly direct me to helpful websites. The December 1, 2016 issue had a short article titled, "Check out a charity's tax-exempt status before donating to it and claiming a deduction." It directed me to IRS.gov.

After clicking through the required links, I came to a SEARCH area where I could search for organizations that are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. In fact, I could limit my search down to a state, or city, or zip code. I could not limit myself at the county level. So, I tried "Minnesota" first. It quickly came back with a list of over 19,000 organizations in the State of Minnesota!

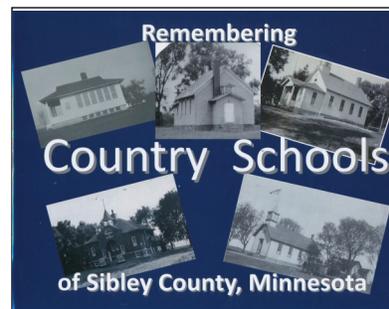
Then I tried "Henderson." There are 16 tax-exempt organizations that are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions in Henderson! One is Sibley County Historical Society. One is the Joseph R Brown Heritage Society. Do you know the other 14?

Then I tried "Gaylord." The list had 8 tax-exempt organizations. Let's try "Winthrop." Ten organizations including the Winthrop Community Historical Society. How about "Arlington?" Thirteen in Arlington including the Arlington Historical Society Inc. Then it was time to go to the grocery store.

There also was some technical, read at your leisure, topics provided; such as notes about Pub. 78 data, Form 990, and Form 990-N (e-Postcard) filers. I'll maybe search for more wisdom when I have extra time.



SCHS is looking for prospective board members and someone to take over our website. I think you are the one. Yes you!



We continue to get requests for the Country Schools Book !

Since we sold out very quickly 2 years ago we are asking anyone that might know of one no longer being needed,

to please contact us so that we might fill these requests.

Thank you, Dorothy Peterson, Editor