

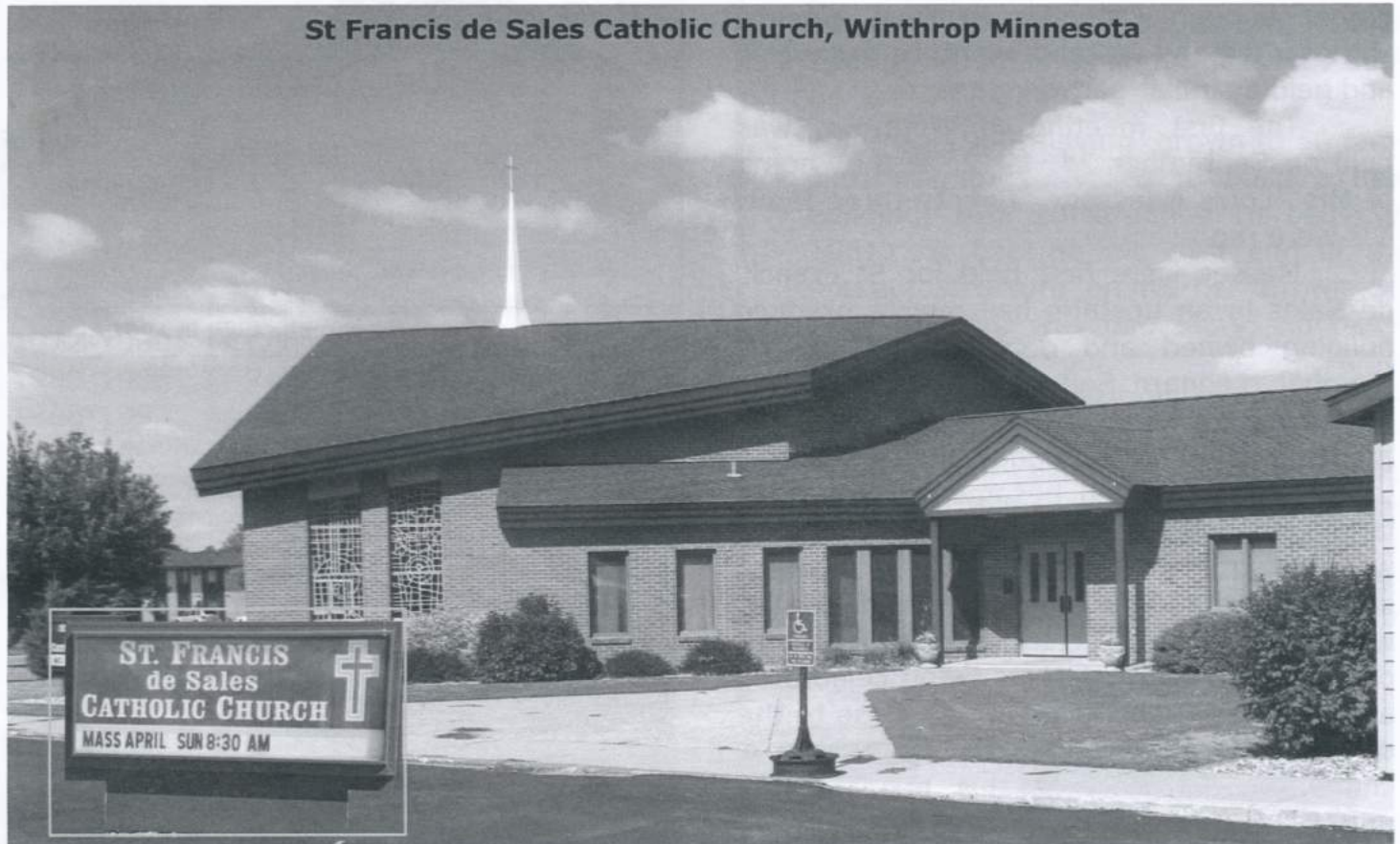
Sibley County Historical Society *Newsletter*

June 2018

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



St Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Winthrop Minnesota



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Upcoming Events

Museum now open Sundays 2 to 5 p m

Museum will also be open the first Tuesday of each month from 3-5 p m during Henderson Car Cruise activities. More dates may be added.

Thursday, July 12, Volunteer Appreciation Day at the museum.

August 1-5 County Fair at Arlington

Our featured church for this newsletter takes us to Winthrop and the St Frances de Sales Catholic Church. Special thanks to Pam Osborne for providing pictures and history of this church.

Although St Francis de Sales is a relatively new church, which began in 1942, the original Articles of Incorporation were signed in 1905 by Minneapolis/St Paul Archbishop, John Ireland. When researching editions of the 1905 **Winthrop News**, articles were found that invited residents of the community, regardless of their faith, to come to a series of "doctrinal lectures" to be held in the City Hall led by the Diocesan Missionary Fathers of the St Paul diocese. It is likely that clergy from Arlington or Gaylord served this church on a very limited basis.

The present day church actually began in 1942 when Father Edward Clemens, resident pastor of St Michaels Catholic Church of Gaylord, was instructed to establish parishes in Winthrop and New Auburn. Unable to gather enough Catholics in New Auburn, Father Clemens instead went to Lafayette and held a similar gathering there.

The first meeting in Winthrop, was held on September 24, 1942, at the home of Mrs Louis Neessen. Twenty-three families were represented.

Masses were first held for St Francis de Sales in an upstairs hall over a produce building owned and donated for use by member, Leonard Settel. Parishioners sat on chairs and knelt on the floor. Mass was at 10:30 every other Sunday.

Soon the need became evident for a larger meeting place and a basement church was constructed. It was a very modest structure, the only type permitted due to war needs, and was completed in December of 1943 with the first Mass being celebrated at Christmas. The location was close to the downtown area, next to the old Methodist church. Total cost of this building was \$6,546.91 and was later sold for \$6,000. Much of the work on the church was done by the members of the church.



Basement church, dedicated in May of 1943.



East end of present church, built in 1961.

Original items from basement church.



Tabernacle



Baptismal Font, collection basket & round back chairs.



Altar of first church, established in 1905.

(Continued on next page, column 2)

Priests Serving St. Francis de Sales, Winthrop MN



1905- ??:	Fr Francis Rant, Arlington,
1942-1943:	Fr Edward Clemens, Gaylord
1943-1944:	Fr Leo Krzmarzick, Gaylord
1944-1947:	Fr Alexander Schwinn, Gaylord
1947-1951:	Fr Harold Hesse, Gaylord
1951-1951:	Fr Edward Holland , Gaylord
1951-1955:	Fr Ambrose Siebenand, Gaylord
1955-1956:	Fr Louis Heitzer, Gaylord
1956-1962:	Fr Francis Hayden, Gaylord
1962-1969,	Fr Raymond Neudecker, New Ulm Dir. Catholic Charities
1969-1970:	Fr Bernard J. Steiner, Lafayette
1970-1971:	Fr Germain Rademacher St George & Fr Lawrence Hansen, St George
1971-1972:	Fr Germain Rademacher, St George
1972-1980:	Fr Cecil Roufs, Gaylord
1980-1988:	Fr Ralph Hayden, Gaylord
1988-1990:	Fr Paul Schumacher, Gaylord
1990-1991:	Fr Philip Shotzko, Gaylord
1991-2002:	Fr Richard Bonin, Gaylord
2002-2003:	Fr John (Gerald) Berger, Gaylord
2003-2010:	Fr Ronald Huberty, Fairfax
2010-Present:	Fr Jeff Horejsi, Fairfax, Gibbon, Franklin, Winthrop: All Saints Area Faith Community

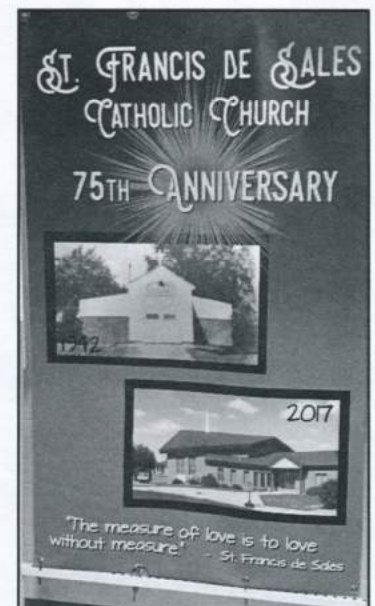
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During the dedication of this building the Most Reverend John G Murray, Archbishop of St Paul, made mention of the fact that a small parish had actually started 40 years earlier with services being held in various places. These parishioners later went to Gibbon or Gaylord.

St Francis has always been a "mission" parish, coupled at various times with Gaylord, Lafayette or St George. It has never had a resident pastor. The parish census in 1969 listed 63 households with 239 souls. In June of 1969 a Saturday evening mass was added to the schedule.

In 1960, having grown to 50 families, members voted to build a new building, with construction to begin in 1961. It became the east end of the present structure on North Brown St. The structure was one story, no basement with a flat roof.

Soon, the spiritual, social and educational desires of this small but dedicated group called for additional space, and in 1978 the present dining hall was added, which was dedicated January 28, 1979, by Bishop Lucker. It is a wonderfully spacious and convenient addition to the church, as shown below.



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On September 4, 1983, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the present addition to the church. This new addition is built diagonally to the existing complex with the main entrance to the south. The addition has seating for 250 and includes new rest rooms and a new office area. Dedication of this building was held November 14, 1984.

The building committee, with assistance of architect Wayne Smith of Winona, and the Conway Universal Studios of Stained Glass of Winona, designed and created fourteen unique colored glass windows. The building committee chose windows made of an epoxy resin because it resembles the older stained glass window but is much more energy efficient and durable. The windows are divided into three groups, with each group having its own significance. The first grouping is the "Life of Christ" windows. Windows 8-12 of this grouping are shown below, depicting "The Last Supper", "Crucifixion", "Resurrection", "Pentecost", and "King of Kings".

In the second grouping are the St Francis windows, setting forth events in the life of St Francis de Sales, the patron saint of the Winthrop parish.

The final grouping is the "Community or Parish Windows". These windows set forth events, dates and symbols significant to our parish community.



Volunteer Spotlight

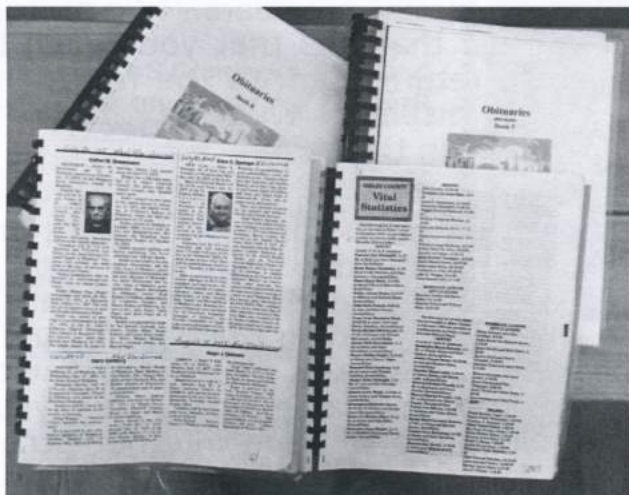
Don & Gail Nuessmeier



Former SCHS members Don & Gail Nuessmeier found a way to be helpful volunteers for nearly 20 years by clipping obituaries from area newspapers and assembling them into books. The Arlington Library and SCHS have especially benefited from their handiwork. These books are important to our research library and much appreciated, but the 2017 book will be their final one.

Don & Gail farmed southeast of Arlington until retiring to Gaylord. They now reside at Oak Terrace Apartments in Gaylord.

We thank you Don & Gail for your many years of service.



A few of the many books that Don & Gail have prepared.



July 12th is Volunteer Appreciation Day

There's a special day for everything else, so surely our volunteers deserve a special day as well. We'd like to say THANKS to all who have helped us in any way; those who are regulars and those who fill in when needed are all special to us.

A special Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held, Thursday, July 12 at the museum, similar to the porch parties we have had in the past.

The potluck party begins at 12:30. Finger Food is the menu, anything we can eat without utensils is encouraged. THINK PICNIC!

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

We will celebrate these special volunteers:

Rommie & Mary Petersen

Marie Main

Sharon Haggemiller

Lowell Nagel

Al & Diane Rostberg

Marlys Gaucher

Ruth Ann Buck

Sharon Shimota

Rich & Roseann Nagel

Fred Lobitz

Eldrene Ebert

Pat Klunder

Judy Loewe

Dwight Grabitzke

Mike Reinitz

Amy Franke

Steve & Becky Briggs

Vicki Stock

Arlene Busse

Joy Cohrs

Sue Morrisette

Dan Hislop

Dale & Patricia Ericson

Dave Tesch

Diane Neubarth

Maureen Krumrey

VirJean Shindeldecker

Cory Becker

Don & Gail Nuessmeier

Diane Fredin

Don & Betty Strobel

LaVerne Almquist

Roger & Holly Harjes

Darlene Weckwerth

Dorothy Peterson

Karen Klenk

Wanted: Ancestry Researchers

Ruth Ann Buck, Eldrene Ebert

Genealogy is one of the largest hobbies in the US, second only to gardening. If you watch TV at all, you have seen the commercials for Ancestry. If you have ever wondered what Ancestry was all about but didn't want to pay big bucks for a membership, we have a suggestion for you.

The Sibley County Historical Society has an Ancestry membership and we would love to share it with you and help you get started researching your family.

Here are some of the things you can find on Ancestry: census records, birth and death records, immigration records, Family Trees that other relatives have entered in Ancestry, and much more. PLUS, we have Ancestry World Explorer to check for family records anywhere in the world.

In our newly renovated Research Room we have a good selection of family history books from former and present Sibley County residents, plat books, and county maps. Our new micro-film scanner



Microfilm Scanner

Important new tool for scanning microfilm and researching ancestry.com

(shown at right) is great for looking up old newspaper articles from early years; surname files and newspapers on micro-film (Henderson and Gibbon), as well as photographs

from our Ostrom & Williams Collections are also available. If you need help searching or entering family records on FindAGrave, we can help with that as well.

We charge \$.50 per page for anything you print or save digitally. A donation is appreciated for our time and use of our equipment. Funds received will be used to benefit our research library. We'd like to get more micro film from area newspapers, etc.

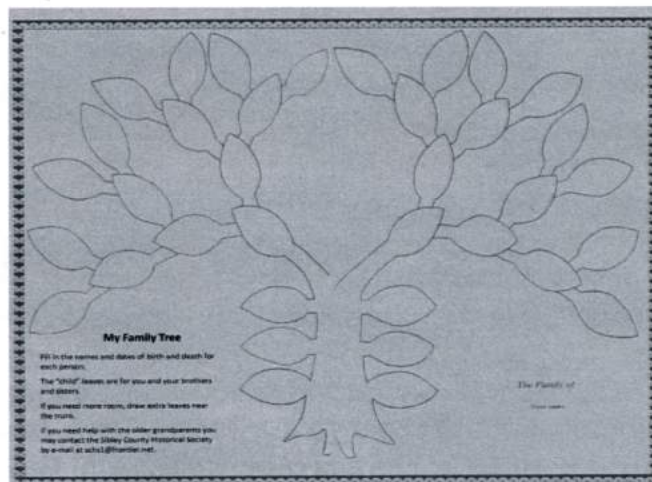
If you are interested, please make an appointment at least 1 week before you plan to come, since some of our vol-

unteers have to travel from other parts of the county. We prefer appointments be made for a Thursday (9-3) or a Sunday afternoon (2-5). If those days do not work, you may suggest another time or day and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Some of us have done a DNA test and you might want to see the kind of results you get from that test.

You may contact us by phone at 507 248 3434, by mail at P O Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or by e-mail.

Another idea is for you to stop and visit with us at the Sibley County Fair in Arlington, August 1-5. We are bringing back last years popular genealogy project (shown below)



Over 100 of these "Pedigree chart" forms were handed out at the fair last year. Visitors were encouraged to fill in names of family members. We're hoping you did that and that you would be willing to return them to the fair for us to put on display. We'd be happy to help you fill in the dash.

We can help you find pictures, stories from other family members and other items found on Ancestry.com or maybe in one of our files at the museum. We call it "adding the dash". And if you didn't get one of those charts, we'll have copies available again this year.

We will also have internet access at the fair so we are hoping to bring a laptop and access Ancestry right from the fair grounds. See you at the Fair!

Meet the "Doughboy"



This little World War I "Doughboy" is part of our display at the museum for the next year or two. He'll start you on your way around the music room, parlor, and on to the military room upstairs to see all the interesting uniforms, artifacts and memorabilia that we have assembled about World War I.

In case you are wondering how the Doughboy got his name, we've explained that in the visitors guide that will give more details about some of the exhibits you will see at the museum.

Arlene Busse, Marie Main, **Jerome** & Mary Petersen, Lowell Nagel, Marlys Gaucher, Sharon Shimota, Vicki Stock, Ruth Ann Buck, Sharon Haggemiller, Eldrene Ebert and Dorothy Peterson are some of the hard working crew that have assembled this information. If you listen real carefully you may even hear some music of that era playing in the background.

WW I Facts and figures

- ♦ The US Congress declared war on Germany on April 7, 1917.
- ♦ More than 70 million military personnel were mobilized.
- ♦ 4.7 million men and women served in regular US forces, national guard units, and draft units.
- ♦ 53,402 killed in action, 63,114 deaths from disease and other causes and about 205,000 wounded.



Gaylord Library display. Library hours are:
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 12 -7 p m,
Wednesday, Friday 9 a m - 6 p m,
Saturday 9 a m-1 p m

Area library displays

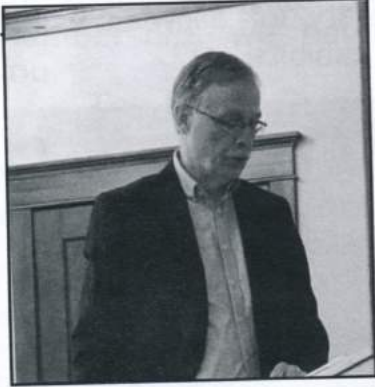
Sibley and surrounding county residents also have two other opportunities to view exhibits about World War I. SCHS has been invited to put up displays in the Gaylord and Gibbon libraries. Please stop in and see the displays and thank the library for allowing us to share these exhibits.



Gibbon Library display.
Library hours are Monday & Thursday 10 a m -7 p m,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a m - 6 p m,
Saturday 9-12 a m

Annual Meeting 2018

After a snow storm canceled our original meeting date we were fortunate to be able to reschedule the Annual Meeting for Saturday, April 28th. A few people had to cancel and a few new ones were able to come on the new date so we had nearly the



same number of people attending.

Our speaker, Doug Bekke, shared some interesting facts about World War I and showed "Then and Now" pictures of the World War I battle-field area. He brought with him

some uniforms and other artifacts related to World War I action. He has visited that historic area a number of times and told us that things do not change very fast in some places and the war area still shows evidence of that. He had examples of items they are still finding from the war that was fought in that area 100 years ago. He said it was not uncommon for farmers to unearth some of these items while plowing their fields, and some have even lost their lives from unexploded devices that have been uncovered. Many hand grenades are found each year and stacked in a pile until the authorities come and take them away to be blown up.

Accompanying Doug was a guest from Minnesota History Center, Linda Cameron, who spoke briefly about her role at the History Center. She is the program manager for MNOPEDIA, the online Minnesota History Encyclopedia. She encouraged us to share information about some of our projects on their website.



We rounded out the program with door prizes: 3 free memberships and 3 free museum replicas were awarded. Winners were: Al Rostberg, Mary Petersen, Leon Stadtherr, Erin Newsom, Arden DeBoer and Dale Ericson.

Pictures from Doug Bekke's Presentation

Cemeteries that are very meticulously cared for by the French. They take a lot of pride in their work and are very helpful in locating graves for visitors.



Here's what's happening!

From the
Board of
Directors

Change in Program Time/Place

At the May 24th Board of Directors meeting, new Vice-President, Vicki Stock and new board member, Mike Reinitz began their duties following their election at our Annual Meeting on April 28th. The Board of Directors made a few changes that you may want to know about.

Programs have been very difficult to schedule in recent years. Members that have long enjoyed the programs Judy Loewe has done such a good job of arranging, are now getting up in age so they don't want to drive at night anymore. Where to have them is another question, as available space is also a problem.

The directors have decided to try having meetings on Sunday afternoons and see if that works. We may also have them in different locations, possibly local libraries, so that they are not always at Henderson. So far Judy has not been able to arrange any meetings for this year, but we will contact members through the newspapers, via posters in area towns, e-mail, or when timing is right through the newsletter, and of course, word of mouth. If you hear about a meeting be sure to tell your friends.

If you have any ideas for programs that you think our members would be interested in, please contact us at historicalsociety@co.sibley.mn.us. We can always use good ideas.

Change in Admission

We have also found in checking area museums, our admission price (#2.00) is the lowest in the area. It has not changed since we began charging for museum tours. We are proud of the displays we have here and feel they are worth more than \$2. This won't affect

members because SCHS members get in free, but it may encourage others to become members. It was decided that the admission price should be: **Children up to age 12 FREE, 12 and up, \$5.00.**

Country Schools Book Reprint

Because we are still getting requests for the *Remembering County Schools of Sibley County* book, and we've been sold out for several years, the Board of Directors decided to reprint the book.

Our plan is to have the book ready for sale at the County Fair this year. This will be a reprint, with a few slight corrections being made but no new material will be added. The price will remain the same but we do need to add sales tax. Members will still get the book for \$25 + \$1.63 tax. Non-members will pay \$30 + \$1.95 tax. Shipping charges are also extra and depend on how far it needs to be sent.

County Fair Display

With County Fair fast approaching a committee was chosen to begin working on our display for this year. Eldrene Ebert, Joy Cohrs and Dorothy Peterson will serve on this committee. Let them know if you are able to help set up and maintain our display.

Check out the Website

Webmaster, Dan Hislop, has made some changes on our website, including a new website address. Be sure to check it out.

Here is the new site address:
www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com

Bat Removal

Stormy weather and delivery of the wrong lift for use in closing up the spaces where the bats were crawling in, has caused a delay in the bat proofing project. They will be attempting to finish the job in early June.



My Navy . . .

**When I was young, many years ago...
I joined the Navy, and why - now I know...
I served my time, with honor and pride...
For this young farm boy, it became quite a ride...
I soared from heights never ventured before...
The good Lord waiting to open the door...
I went to places, I'd never dreamed...
Time went fast, oh so fast it seemed...
I met people, I'll never forget...
Some never lived to become a Vet...
But as I think back on those days gone by...
My shipmates, my teammates, brings a tear to my eye...
I didn't know it then, never gave it a thought...
But my time in the Navy, could not have been bought...
I guess we all feel the same, after we're out...
The pride we feel, that's what it's all about...
Having served our Nation, keeping it free...
Protecting our way of life, and our liberty...
And the friends I made, along the way...
Would I do it again? - - Any day...
And to all my old shipmates. Anchors Aweigh...**

Anonymous

Sibley County native.

NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

*Amy & Mark Newsom, Gaylord
 *Arlen Messerli, Winthrop
 *Jacquelyn Schmidt, Gaylord
 Joanne Zachow, Minneapolis
 Shane & Kris Zeppelin, Litchfield
 Bruce Jack Doepke, Chisago City
 Jeff & Joan Zumhofe, Winthrop
 Lorraine Steeber, Palatine, IL
 Brad & Brenda Tews, Henderson
 Dorothy & John Johnson, Gibbon
 Arlene & Pete Pinske, Gaylord
 Vern & Renee Ruschmeyer, Dassel
 Diane Neubarth, Hutchinson
 Bill & Char Beseke, Arlington
 Diane & Brian Fredin, Winthrop
 Gordon & Maureen Kumrey, Glencoe
 Maurice McMahon, Ashland, MA
 Ray & Liz Jacobson, St. Peter
 Keith Anderson, Gaylord
 Hometown Bank, Henderson
 Roland Pogatchnik, Saint Paul
 Margaret Hoffman, Hutchinson
 Pat & Larry Klunder, Henderson
 Don & Betty Strobel Henderson
 Ken & Lois Ahnholz, Ankeny, IA
 Sharon Haggemiller, Henderson
 Terry & Janet Dempsey, New Ulm
 PRO Landscape Maintenance, Gaylord
 Arden & Marilyn DeBoer, Lafayette
 Dave & Mary Ann Tesch, Henderson

Gloria Sinell, Gaylord
 Neil J. Dacey, Green Isle
 Patricia Judd, Waseca
 Pat Steckman, Henderson
 Harlan Mehlhop, Mankato
 Otto Templin, Hutchinson
 Barb Mathwig, Brownton
 Mary Ludowese, Hutchinson
 Susan Peter, Palm Bay, FL
 Barbara J. Boisen, Le Sueur
 Doug & Iris Parrott, Gaylord
 Leo Berger, Henderson
 Lisa & Tom Pfarr, Arlington
 Leon Stadtherr, Winthrop
 David & Diane Laabs, Gaylord
 Joan Ewald, Hutchinson
 Marlys Gaucher, Arlington
 LaVerne Almquist, Henderson
 Marie & Dave Main, Gaylord
 Jane Rischmiller, Gaylord
 Dorothy Peterson, Gibbon
 Joe Luskey, Green Isle
 Karrie Hanson, Westfield, NJ
 Birdine Battcher, Arlington
 Carol Jackson, Eden Prairie



Memorials

Contributing Sponsor: (\$100 to \$249)

**Harlan Mehlhop in memory of
 Harry & Rosella (Niebuhr) Mehlhop**

Gene & LaDonna Rodewald

In memory of David Kent

In memory of David Battcher

Gloria Sinell

In memory of Carol Mueller

Donations

Contributing Sponsor (\$100 to \$249)

Dorothy Peterson, Video Camera

Organizational Sponsor (up to \$99)

Joanne Zachow

Keith Anderson

Robert & Arlene Busse Fund

**SCHS gratefully acknowledges and appreciates all
 donations and memorials.**



Membership Form

☐ New ☐ Renew

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

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

*How would you like your
 Newsletter delivered?*

By email ☐ Color!

U.S. mail ☐ B&W

Circle
 one

Individual \$20
Family \$25
Business \$50

The museum is open to the public for tours beginning each year on Memorial Day and then Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, June thru October and by appointment. Volunteers are available to help you do research, or call the museum to set an appointment to do your own research: 507 248 3434. Research on Sundays is available by appointment.

**Check due date on the mailing label of
 your newsletter. Membership dues are
 stated at left. Membership dues should
 be mailed to:**

**SCHS Treasurer, P O Box 206
 Arlington, MN 55307**

2018 Sibley County Fair August 1-5

Yep, it's that time again. School's out, and kids and adults will soon be planning their exhibits for the Sibley County Fair in Arlington. This year's event will be held Wednesday, August 1 through Sunday, August 5. www.sibleycountyfair.com will give you all the details you need to plan your fair experience.

We hope you will also stop in and visit the Sibley County Historical exhibit (AKA as the Cub Scout building). We're working on another special display, including: preserving foods, genealogy helps, and more. Of course we'll also have a "mystery" item or two for you to try to identify.

We'll need some extra helpers to be "guides", so if you'd like to help with that, contact the SCHS office at 507 248 3434. It's a fun way to take a "fair" break and sit and visit with old friends and meet new ones. The sooner you let us know you are coming the better choice you have of getting a time that fits your fair schedule.



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Like us on Facebook!

www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

historicalsociety@co.sibley.mn.us

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Phone 507 248 3434

