

SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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DEMPSEY

By Terry Dempsey

The Dempsey name in Henderson is probably more well known as a store name rather than any other. What had been known as the Dempsey store at the corner of Main and Fifth Street is now known as the Wagar's Red Owl and is still part of the Henderson community and a point of interest when Henderson has Heritage days.

So to start let's look at the store history— John F. Dempsey started in the grocery business in 1889 in what was known as the Kipp Building, located at 422 Main Street. In 1892 George Schrupp joined John F. Dempsey and they located their business in the Brahs Building. In 1903 John F. Dempsey purchased the Keller Bilding at Fifth and Main Street, relocating their business to the present location which is now Wagar's Red Owl. In 1915 the

Schrupp/Dempsey partnership was dissolved with John F. Dempsey continuing the business. Mark Dempsey joined his father in the family business in 1913. The business was renamed J.F. and M.V. Dempsey.



Mark Dempsey at St. Thomas, 1913

John F. Dempsey died in 1929 and Dorothy Dempsey, his daughter, joined her brother, Mark, as a partner in the store. About 3 years later the dry goods business was discontinued and there was a remodeling to open a bakery in part of the building

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar of Events

by Judy Loewe

- **JUNE 7** 60th Anniv and Music Box Society (Page 7)
- **JUNE 23** Genealogy Takes You Many Places Joyce Rohloff Gardener
- **JULY 28** Measuring Up to be Minnesota Rickard Gardner
- **AUG 25** Holly Takes it to Them Holly Harjes

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

If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3345 **Calendar Subject to Change.**



The Prez Sez

by Jerome Petersen

We were pleased with the attendance at our annual meeting with about 60 members and guests present. Our thanks to Harriet for showing slides of her barn pictures. As these barns continue to disappear, it is great to have someone photographing them. Thanks to Holly for arranging for us to utilize the GI School for our meeting. Sharon asked some old guy to tell the guests that Holly would give a tour of the school after the meeting but that old guy forgot. So she wrote a history to include in this newsletter. Thanks to Fr. Berger for a history of the town, and for some neat old photos. We added the digital version to our photo collection. Unlike many old pictures, these had the people identified. The Green Isle history and pictures made an interesting annual report, according to me.

The museum is a beehive of activity cleaning and getting ready for spring opening. All

the tables that have been full of artifacts for accessioning are folded for the season and that work is on hold till December. Some of the ladies claim they have found dust in the place. I looked and could not find any. Sharon Shimota can find dust anywhere! Come to the museum for the Anniversary/Music Box part and see if you can find the dust.

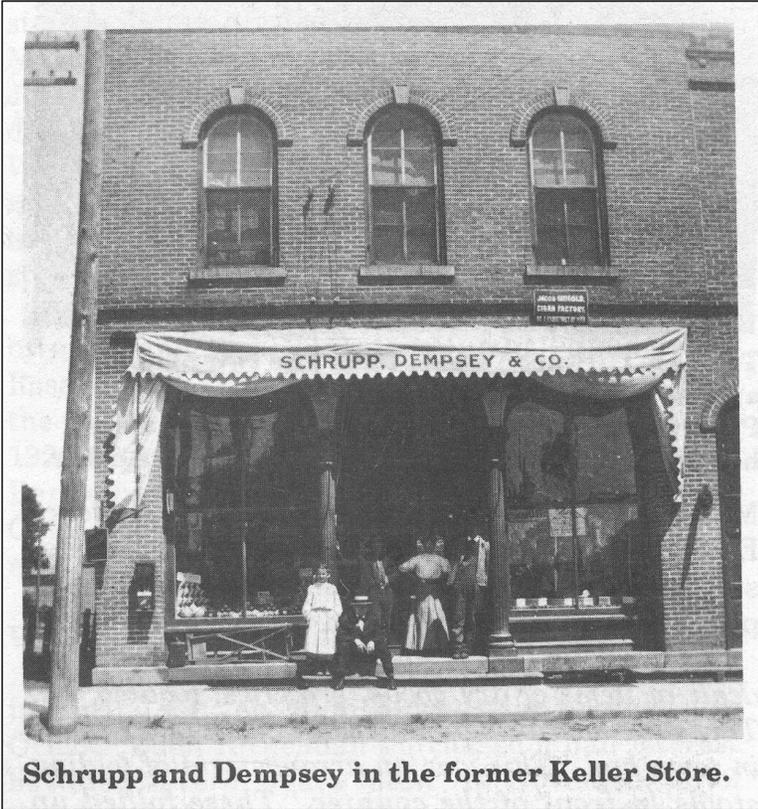
On the back page is an article about Harold Taggatz who died in 1999. The Taggatz family has a long history in Sibley County. Harold's brother, Edgar, has been a vet in Gibbon for half a century. His grandfather, Gotlieb, was a teacher at the parochial school in Gaylord in 1906. Gotlieb's son Immanuel raised his family in Gibbon. Harold's sister Esther as a classmate of mine. Ruth and Elda were his other sisters. What an honor to have a multi-million dollar boat named for him!

I had much more to write about but I am out of paper and out of time. I have to get this to the printer. Many thanks to all who are supporting our efforts. I am very grateful.



(Continued from page 1)

and an expansion of the meat department. The bakery was later converted to a barber shop. In 1946 a locker plant was added to the business and meat processing was expanded. The meat processing depart-



Schrupp and Dempsey in the former Keller Store.

ment was managed by a long-time employee, Bill Grunwald. Mabel Dempsey, wife of Mark, became part of the store staff shortly after WWII. Another big change at the store occurred in 1947—self service shopping was introduced and customers could use shopping carts to select their own groceries.

In 1968 Mark, Mabel, and Dorothy Dempsey retired. The store was sold to Doris and Gordon Gabbert and it became the Henderson Red Owl.

John F. Dempsey was involved in other activities; he served as City Treasurer 1900-1912, in 1911 he was an incorporator of The Farmers and Merchants Bank and also served as its Vice President, he served as Henderson Postmaster when it was a part-time job, in 1893 he was secretary of an association called the Retail Merchants Protective Association which promoted the business community in Henderson.

John F. Dempsey was married to Christie Oberst and they had two children, son Mark and daughter Dorothy. Christie was not active in the store but did have a commitment to the community as a charter member of the Legion Auxiliary and very active in her church, St. Joseph Parish.

Mark Dempsey, a graduate of Henderson High School, went on to attend St. Thomas College, St. Paul 1910-1912, then returning to Henderson to work in the family business. He enlisted in the army in December 1917 and served as an officer in the Medical Corps until 1918 when he returned to Henderson. He was a charter member of both the Henderson American Legion Post and Lions Club which was formed in 1970. A few of the many committees Mark served were the 1925

Reunion celebrating the founding of Henderson, the first sauerkraut day committee in 1930, one of the founders of the (not well known) Photo Play Company started in 1913 which showed silent movies at the Dempsey Hall located above the Dempsey Store. The Ox Club, organized about 1933, provided entertainment and as a member, Mark also served as drama coach and vocal instructor.

Mabel Stehly, married Mark in June 1922 in her home town of Hecla, South Dakota. After completing High School in Hecla, Mabel attended St. Catherine College, St. Paul

transferring to the University of Minnesota to complete her Social Service degree. After her children were grown, Mabel worked full time in the store, but found time to continue community activities. In 1969 she served on the Housing Development Committee which was instrumental in building Sibley Estates. In 1968 when the Henderson United Charity Fund was organized, she served as director.



Mark V. Dempsey enlisted in the Army in December 1917, served in the Medical Corps while stationed at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois in 1918.

Dorothy Dempsey lived with her mother, Christie until she passed away and Dorothy then moved to an apartment on the second floor above the store until her death in 1974. She served as a partner with her brother and as bookkeeper in the store.

Mark and Mabel's eldest child John Nicholas, was named after his grandfathers John F. Dempsey and Nicholas Stehly. Probably the most prominent event of his High School Days was being a player on the 1939 undefeated Tiger Football Team that was chosen Nationally as one of the ten leading football teams in the United States. Upon graduation, he attended the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, until joining the Navy during WWII. He served as an officer and was wounded in combat in the South Pacific for which he received the Purple Heart. After being discharged from the Navy, he returned to

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

complete his degree at St. Thomas, went on to the University of Iowa to

Marian reside in Minnesota and Arizona.

Second eldest child, Janet Anne, after graduating from Henderson High School, attended the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, graduating as a Registered Nurse. After her marriage to George McWilliams, they made their home in Redwood Falls. They had two children, Terry and Colleen. George was self-employed as a CPA and Janet worked part-time at the Redwood Falls Hospital. Janet died in 2006, predeceased by her husband.

The third child, Terence Mark (Terry) graduated from Henderson High School and College of St. Thomas. He served as a Pilot in the USAF for three years and after his discharge, he continued his education and received his law degree from the University of California. In 1963 he joined the Mike McGuire law firm in Montgomery, Minnesota. In 1964 he married Janet Helm and in 1965 they moved to New Ulm



The Old Settlers Reunion of 1925 was also the 73rd Anniversary of Henderson's founding. The event was sponsored by Sibley Post 74, American Legion. L-R: Front row - Judge P. W. Morrison, Major O. J. Quane, Governor Christianson, Win Working, and U. S. Representative J.P. O'Hara. Back row- Gus Buck, John Dempsey, Sr., Judge C. M. Tift, Wm. Leeman, George Schrupp, and L. D. Fackler of the St. Paul Dispatch.

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THE DEMPSEY STORE 1953—MABEL AND MARK DEMPSEY

complete his Doctorate Degree. In June 1948 he married Marian, they had three girls, Barbara, Mary, and Patricia. Since his retirement from the Bemis Company as Vice President of Science and Technology, John and



(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3) where he became a partner in the firm of Somsen, Dempsey and Schade. In 1978, Terry was elected to serve in the Minnesota Legislature serving on several committees and as House Minority Leader until 1992 when he was appointed District Court Judge by Governor Carlson. They have one son, Matthew, and parents to 15 foster children and 6 foreign exchange students. Terry takes great pride in winning the 1959 sauerkraut eating contest, his record two pounds in 8-1/2 seconds



In honor of being named one of the ten leading football teams in the nation, the Horlicks Malted Milk Corp. presented the school with a trophy and \$30 cash to be used for equipment. Members of the undefeated 1939 team were, front row, L-R: Marvin Tolf, Orville Schmidt, Lloyd Morisette, student manager Eugene Winterfeldt, Bob Doheny, Ben Carson, and John Dempsey. Back row: Harris Tiegs, Edwin Schultz, Joseph Krejce, Billy Herrmann, Paul Barge, Randy Boettcher and coach Earl Haight.



Emma, Janet and Terry Dempsey

remains unbeaten.

Jerome Richard (Dick) followed the family tradition: graduated from Henderson High School and St. Thomas College. He served two years in the U.S. Army and upon discharge completed his Masters Degree in education. He served a long successful career as high school teacher and principal. He married Joanne in 1959 and they have four children; Nicholas, Mark, Patrick and Catherine (Katie). After his retirement from the Hastings School District, he was elected to the Minnesota Legislature in 1992. In 1993, Joanne passed away and he continued in the Legislature until 2008 when he retired and continues to live in Hastings.

Mark and Mabel had a fifth child, Colleen. It was a tragic matter that Colleen died in infancy before her first birthday.

This is the history of the Dempsey family. None of the children reside in Henderson but they all know that growing up in Henderson was an experience and are glad when they are often 'home' and see how the city has done and developed as an historic place in the State of Minnesota.



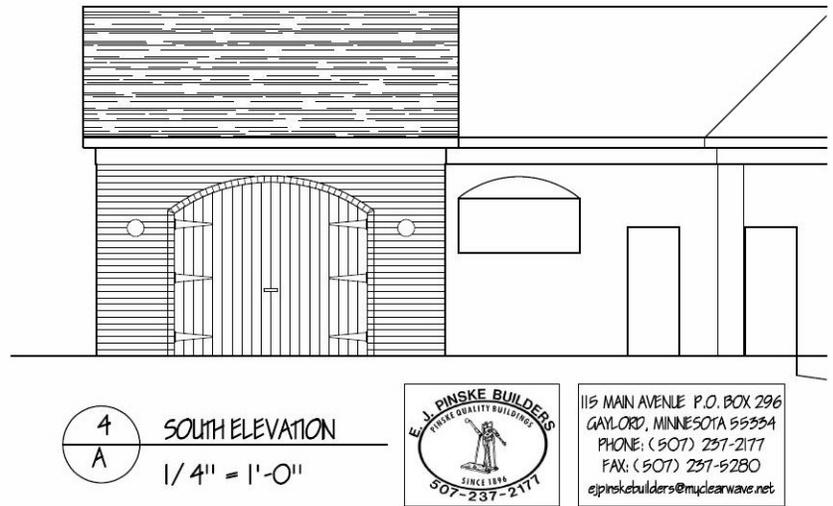
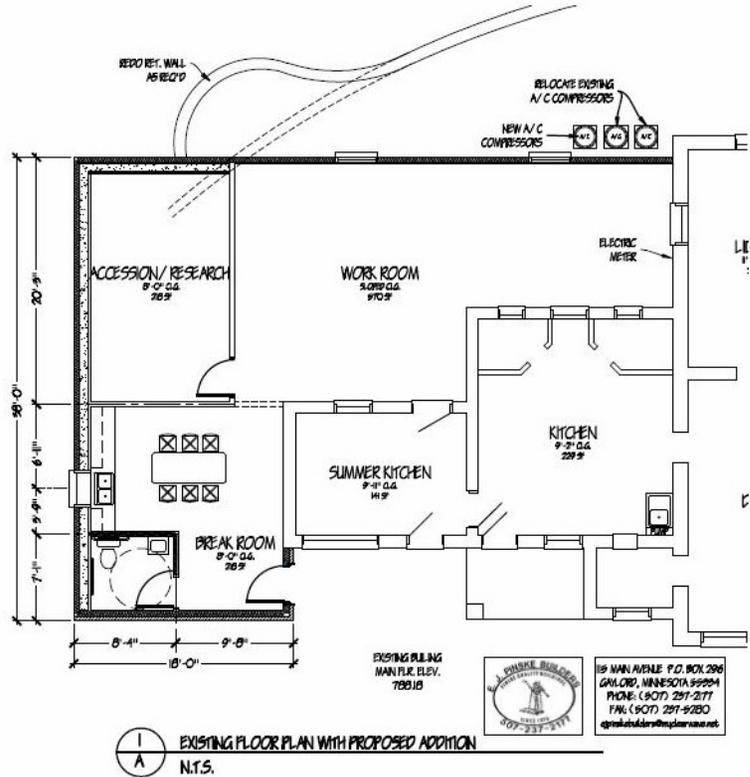
BUILDING PROJECT

We are slowly and cautiously moving forward with our plans. Since we started discussing this addition Pete Pinsky has been advising us on the proper steps to take as our plans are put together. The first step was meeting with the building inspector in March. Shortly after that we had the grounds surveyed. We were made aware that the hill could be a problem we had to contend with, even a bigger problem than ending a sentence with a preposition. We met with an architect to get preliminary drawings of a floor plan that had the rooms we would like. He furnished us with a floor plan with the survey's elevation grids, elevation drawings of each side of the building. It was progressing nicely. From the architect's drawing and surveyor's grid Pete contacted a company with an excavation bid, as well as a bid for the construction. We were on a fast track!

Then our plans took a major hit on May 12 when Ian Sing and Pete brought a cost estimate for our "little" project; \$194,000. Did you ever have someone put a dent in your brand new car? That is how we felt. The site work was \$39,000. For that we get no building, only excavation and a retaining wall. Why oh why didn't August Poehler build that darn house 20 feet further south? For Pete and Ian it was back to the drawing board. Pete came to the museum one day last week and looked at other possibilities. The drawings on the right are what they came up with. We lose a basement. But we gain more square feet and also gain another room that we needed for the stair and hallway in the original plan. Pete's idea is to have it look like a carriage house which would have been appropriate for a home of this era. The floor plan fills in the area behind the kitchen and summer kitchen, and extends out where there is a cement slab now. The curved window and door are not changed from the present summer kitchen. The slate roofline would continue to the addition. The front is matching brick and doors are like stable doors. We are now in the process of digesting these major plan changes.

Here are the goals we have set up for our new addition:

- To return the former music room of the Poehler house to it's original use by moving all office machines to the new addition workroom area.
- To provide proper storage for present and future accessions.
- To update bathroom facilities to include a handicapped assessable bathroom.
- To provide working room for our weekly volunteers so that we do not have to put away our projects each week when we open to the public.



To provide a separate area for genealogy work that allows the use of the microfilm reader and other essential equipment.

A kitchenette/break room for preparing for serving at museum events.

THIS IS A LIST OF DONORS TO OUR BUILDING FUND TO DATE;

David Black, Arden and Marilyn DeBoer, Mildred Doering, Orville and Joyce Doering, Joan Ewald, William Grimes, Pat Keating, Ray and Gisela Meyer, Rich and Roseann Nagel, Marlene Nelson, Herbert Poncin, Paul Schue, Sally Webster,

(Continued on page 6)



**SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL
MUSEUM CELEBRATES
60TH ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH 2009
HENDERSON ON THE MINNESOTA
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS;
SNOWBELT CHAPTER
MUSIC BOX SOCIETY
MUSIC BOXES BAND ORGANS
SOUND AND FURY!!!
PROGRAM OF EVENTS
12:30 POT LUCK DINNER
AT THE J.R. BROWN CENTER
MUSEUM AND GROUNDS 2-5 PM
WITH MUSEUM GUIDES AS HOSTS**

(Continued from page 5)

Beverly Woods, Bill and Charlotte Beseke, Davis Biebl, Steve and Becky Briggs, Ruth Ann Buck, Jon Butler, George Doheny, Karol Ecickson, Ken and Pauline Gerken, Barbara Gustafson, Clara Heberle, Carol and Thomas Jackson, Mildred Johnson, Bert and Arline Karels, Ed and Mary Krska, Paula Nelson, Charlotte Lampe, David and Marie Main, Marjorie Matthiae, Thomas and Pat McCarthy, Nelson and Dorothy Norman, Don and Gail Nuessmeier, Susan Peters, Jerome and Mary Petersen, Ed and Arlene Pinske, Carol Pogatchnik, Vernon and Renee Ruschmeyer, Robert and JoAnn Schwartz, Harold and Lorraine Steeber, Terry and Janet Dempsey, Mary Beth Egesdal, James Huelskamp, Wayne Jarvis, Mary Ludowese, Arlene Moore, Joe and Yvonne Mullen, Richard Trocke, Clifford Zieske, Brian Wells, Karen Helfert, Ruth Trembly, Phillip Delzer, Sibley Surveyors and a couple of anonymous donors.

A million thanks for your generosity.

Green Isle Community School
by Holly Harjes

With encouragement and assistance from Doug Thomas, EdVisions, Green Isle School was conceived in early 2004.

July, 2004 Volunteers of America became the sponsor; September, 2004, the State granted its approval; mid-august 2005, the restoration was complete.

Without even a paperclip in Mid-August, 2005, the community rallied for the cleaning, set up and move in. GICS opened its doors to students September, 2005

On September 12, 2005 at the dedication, Mr. Thomas congratulated Green Isle! The city had completed the million-plus dollar renovation and leased the building to School District #4144 as GICS. The update included an additional classroom, handicapped accessibility and new plumbing and ventilation systems.

On September 12, 1939, the original building was dedicated. Mr. C.J. O'Hagen conducted the event. Mr. M.J. Davitt served as president of the Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools was Lillian Dinsmore.

The 1939 building was built for approximately \$44,000. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works paid 45% of the cost. General Contractor \$ 33,640

Green Isle Hdwe.(G.I. Groetsch Hdwe) \$ 2,256

Green Isle Groetsch Hdwe. (plumbing)\$ 2,997

Hausladen, Lester Prairie (electric) \$ 1,525

- Charter Schools are a District within other districts. Their boundaries are formed as borders of the State.
- Charter Schools are public, non-tuition schools to offer a choice.
- Charters must lease their facilities.

Green Isle Community School offers K-6 classes, extended-day services, pre-school for 4-year olds, hot lunches and busing by Sibley East.

Our major annual event is a community celebration by Troubadour Larry Long: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song., which this year will be held on Thursday, May 21st at 7 p.m.

We are in our 4th year. Average enrollment has been 82 plus 12 pre-school students. Our staff consists of 5 teachers in multi-aged classes; administration 1 1/2, 3 paraprofessionals, 5 special needs services and many volunteers (1 full time).

Visitors are welcome! Stop in our office and ask for a student escort. Our students take pride in



SCHS ANNUAL MEETING AT GREEN ISLE

These are pictures from our annual meeting in Green Isle. Holly wrote some of the history of the GI school and its evolving to a charter school.



Mary Petersen, Jan and Chuck Lundgren, Arden DeBoer



Vernon and Renee Ruschmeyer, Wilma Wolner, Marlene Nelson, unidentified



Roman Jaus and Gail Nuessmeier won door prizes



Ruth Ann Buck in charge of registering



Sharon Shimota—Photographer

Ellsworth and Elaine Tbies, Bert and Arlene Karels



Caterers and new members; Curt and Tracy Hahn



Don Nuessmeier, Steve Briggs, Becky Briggs, Ray Meyer, Gisela Meyer, Gail Nuessmeier. And in the back in the white box is my classmate, Curtis Boeder and his wife Betty



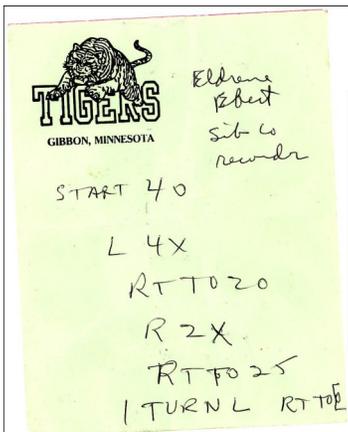
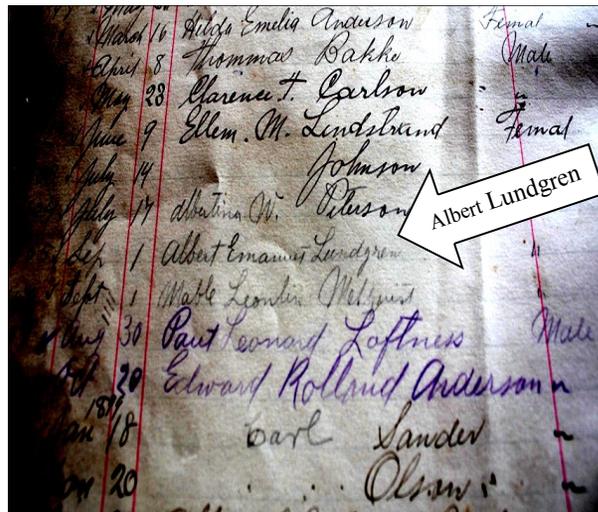
Outstanding photographer, Harriet Traxler presented a program of the barns of Sibley County



Severance

By Rommie

Several years ago Richard Graupman told me he had an old safe in his shop with the early Severance Township records locked inside. Recently I asked about it again, and it was still there. He had the combination, but it was vague at best. I went over and tried to get it open. I twisted. I tapped, used WD-40, pried, jiggled, pounded, but I did not use profanity. No luck. I talked to township board member Tom Lindmeyer and told him these are important old records and should be preserved. He said he had the phone number of a locksmith from New Ulm. He called the number. A lady answered and said the guy had died many years ago, but she also was a locksmith. He had her try to open the safe. She tried for a couple of hours and gave up. She did not use profanity either. Then master bowler and some-time safe cracker Tom Lindmeyer tried ...and tried ...and tried. After a couple of hours—success! He opened the safe!



This is the secret combination for the safe. Do 3 rights make a left???

...and then re-set the

lock with the door ajar. Of course the obvious question is; Did he use profanity? He tried again to open the lock, but couldn't remember which of the many combinations of the combination he tried to get it open. I don't think anyone will



Some mouse debris from the last time the safe was open

ever lock the door again. So what was inside? A treasure of old records!

There are several examples on the page. Wallen Jacobson told me long ago that his relative was the first recorded birth in Severance. And there it was! #1, 1871, Baby Jacobson, female.

Chuck Lundgren was along when I visited Richard and the safe in his shop. Above is a picture of Chuck's father's birth recorded; September 1, 1899. There were lots of Biebls, Loftnesses, Petersons, (the Petersens didn't come along for another 50 years) Grosams and Evensons.

There were records of township assessments, roadwork bills and death records. The records are thorough. The births have each of the parents and where they were born; Norway Europe, Austria Europe, Sweden Europe. They have the fathers occupation; farmer (the first years are all farmers), blacksmith, pastor and in 1881 there is a father whose occupation is "Beggar". In the early death section people died from numerous causes; consumption, diphtheria, sore throat, burned by prairie fire, lung fever, scalded, killed by a cyclone. In this death record section the family of Antone and Christine Hanson lost 6 of their children, ages 1 to 10, to

REGISTER OF BIRTHS, TOWN OF SEVERANCE

No.	DATE OF BIRTH. Month, Day, Year	NAME (If any.)	SEX. (And Condition, as Twin, Illegitimate, &c.)	COLOR.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF CHILD (Town or City)
1.	April 11 1871	Andy Jacobson	Female	White	Town of Severance
2.	July 21 1871	Mary Olson	Female	White	Town of Severance
3.	April 21 1871	Elizabeth Yunden	Female	White	Town of Severance
4.	August 1871	Salomon Anderson	Male	White	Town of Severance
5.	December 1871	John Johnson	Male	White	Town of Severance
6.	July 24 1871	Maria Grosam	Female	White	Town of Severance
7.	1871	Georg Grosam	Male	White	Town of Severance
8.	1871	Edward Olson	Male	White	Town of Severance

60	Apr 31	John J. Larson	Male	Single	9 14
61	Apr 15	None	"	"	Still Born
62	Apr 25	Amanda Olina	Female	"	2 - 2
63	Apr 4	William Evenson	Male	"	8 - 8
64	Feb 10	Joseph Beebl	"	"	9 9
65	Apr 6	Mr. Anna Benson	Female	"	Widowed 88 3

diphtheria from April 16 to April 24 1884. How did these early settlers endure grief like that? And all these hand written records have eloquent penmanship. I think when they interview for census takers, if their penmanship is that good they are automatically disqualified.

If you are on a Sibley County Township Board, please take care of your early records. If you want, we can keep them in the museum where there will be available for viewing to interested parties.



Jane W Williamson
 Shirley Vandersloot
 Victor Gess
 Ethel & Orville Beuch
 Lois Scherer
 Carol & Lowell Pogatchnik
 LaVonne & John Bangsnud
 Claire Dulgar
 Paul & Lorraine Doring
 Dorrie & Jim Fleischer
 Denise & Greg Wickenhauser
 Darren & Erin Peterson
 Daryl & Marilee Peterson
 Dawn Peterson
 Ian and Kim Sing
 David & Marie Main
 Phillip & Connie Delzer
 Nancy Nehl
 FamilySearch Library
 Leo Berger
 Frances Werges
 Vernon & Renee Ruschmeyer
 Wayne Pettis
 Allen & Joleen Bartels
 Eugene C Hackert
 Marl & Barb Mathwig
 Merlon Lagerstedt
 Roland Pogatchnik
 Ron Klement
 Charles & Carol Woehler
 Carrie Johnson
 Edward & Mary Krska
 Gloria Sinell
 Roseann Schauer
 Susan M Peters

Burlington VT
 Billings MT
 Lafayette CA
 Henderson MN
 Elbow Lake MN
 Finlayson MN
 St Cloud MN
 Maple Grove MN
 Mankato MN
 Moundsview MN
 Gibbon MN
 Moundsview MN
 Winthrop MN
 Lino Lakes MN
 Gaylord MN
 Gaylord MN
 Minneapolis MN
 Gillette WY
 Salt Lake City UT
 Henderson MN
 Gaylord MN
 Gibbon MN
 Hutchinson MN
 Winthrop MN
 New Ulm MN
 Brownton MN
 Gibbon MN
 W St Paul MN
 Gibbon MN
 Arlington MN
 Poolesville MD
 Naperville IL
 Gaylord MN
 Isle MN
 Minneapolis MN

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Susan M Peters
 Dick & Diane Isakson
 Harold & Lorraine Steeber
 Bert & Arline Karels
 G.R. Durenberger
 Bonnie J Anderson
 Arthur & Barbara Straub
 James Huelskamp
 Joe & Yvonne Mullen
 William Borchert
 Ed & Arlene Pinske
 Mary Lou Brenke
 Steven Mallen
 Mrs. Ruth Mueller
 Cynthia Stevens
 PD Steckmen
 Margaret Hoffman
 Evon Bachaus
 Gloria Sinell
 Mildred Johnson
 Bert & Arline Karels
 Marlys Gaucher
 Laura Maki
 Don & Gail Nuessmeier
 Tracy & Curt Hahn
 Karen Helfert
 Mary Beth Egesdal
 Ruth Grewe
 Dr Kathryn Kelly
 Carolyn & David Robbins
 Don & Betty Strobel
 Pat Judd
 Alvin & Diane Rostberg
 Betty Schlotthauer
 Paula M Nelson
 Richard & Janet Graupman
 Elizabeth Kuphal

Minneapolis MN
 Gibbon MN
 Palatine IL
 Henderson MN
 Henderson MN
 Shawnee KS
 Le Sueur MN
 De Pere WI
 Minneapolis MN
 Atlanta GA
 Gaylord MN
 Albert Lea MN
 Hermiston OR
 Gaylord MN
 Lake Elmo MN
 Henderson MN
 Hutchinson MN
 Denver CO
 Gaylord MN
 Gaylord MN
 Henderson MN
 Arlington MN
 Arlington MN
 Arlington MN
 Gaylord MN
 Rockville MD
 Gaylord MN
 Fairfax MN
 Olivia MN
 Gaylord MN
 Henderson MN
 Waseca MN
 Henderson MN
 Arden Hills MN
 Platteville WI
 Gibbon MN
 Gaylord MN

Membership Form

I would like to become a member of the Sibley County Historical Society.

NAME _____ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS _____ 49858 316 ST

_____ Winthrop MN 55396-2038

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Individual--\$10, Family-- \$15, Business-- \$25 Send to:



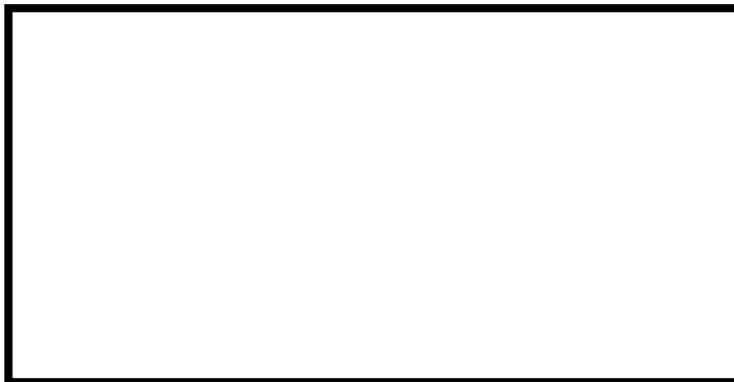
Regular meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March thru November at the museum in Henderson. The public is invited. The museum is open to the public for tours on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. June thru October and by appointment.

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

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to anyone who is interested.



700 Main Street
P.O. Box 407
Henderson, MN 56044
Phone: 507-248-3434
Email: schs1@frontiernet.net



SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD	
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Dwight Grabitske	Marie Main
Millie Johnson	Sharon Shimota
Laura Maki	Ruth Ann Buck

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://history.sibley.mn.us>

\$13 MILLIION DOLLAR BOAT NAME AFTER GIBBON GRADUATE

The U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, christened it's new quarters boat *The Harold E Taggatz* on Friday, May 15, 2009 at Harriet Island. *The Taggatz* was named after former Gibbon resident Harold Taggatz, long time Corps of Engineer employee who died in 1999. During his tenure, he managed each of the various branches. The last 12 years of his service, he was the assistant chief of the construction-operation division.

Taggatz earned many awards during his 36 years in the Corps. Among them was the prestigious Hammer Award. He was named Civil Servant of the Year and was inducted in to the District Hall of Fame in 1998.



Quarters Boat "The Harold E. Taggatz"



Brother, Edgar Taggatz, DVM, of Gibbon spoke at Ceremony

The Harold E. Taggatz joins the dredge boat Goetz and the Motor Vessel General Warren to complete the Corps' three-boat fleet based in Fountain City, WI. The thirteen million dollar Quarters Boat *Taggatz* is 160 feet long and 40 feet wide. It has a two-level house with living quarters for a crew of 60. It will be used to house those working on the dredge crew as they perform their duties on the Upper Mississippi river and its tributaries. This fleet of boats is used to maintain 850 miles of the Upper Mississippi River and its navigable tributaries in the basin, including the Illinois river, and other rivers throughout the Midwest and the nation

Harold Taggatz was a 1955 graduate of Gibbon High School. He joined the Army Corps of Engineers in 62. Taggatz was a people person who brought an extreme amount of common sense and care for employees at all levels. He fought hard to represent the district's field staff and was recognized for his selfless service and high standards of integrity. He was an inspiration to all who knew him.