

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7 Issue 1

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2014

## 2014 Officers

- **President**—Nels Nord
- **V.P.** — Don Duncan
- **Sec.**—Janet Stoll
- **Treasure**—Scott Petersen
- **Publishing**—Michele Kalsem

## 2014 Calendar:

Meetings are generally the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 Pm in Council Chambers.

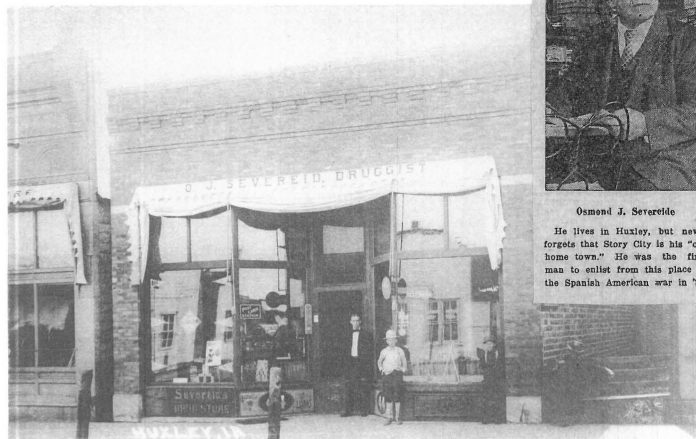
Our home is located at 515 N. Main in the 3C's building call

515-231-9174 to visit.

## O. J. SEVEREID DRUGGIST

O. J. Severeid Drug Store was located on the West side of South Main Street. It was an old building, probably built in the 1880's. As you entered the store, to your left, there was a counter in front of an ice cream display of several different kinds of ice cream – great hand dipped cones done by O. J.'s daughter, Alma.

You could purchase all kinds of items at the drug store. What I mostly remember was the candy counter. Also, to the back of the store, there was a rack of magazines and comic books the width of the store.



Osmond J. Severeid  
He lives in Huxley, but never forgets that Story City is his "old home town." He was the first man to enlist from this place in the Spanish American war in '98.

The one thing I remember about O. J. was that he would smoke cigarettes and he would use a roach clip to get the most out of the cigarette.

When the store closed in the early 1960's, it was converted into a florist shop and then "Bread and Rolls" in the late 1970's – 1980's, and then back to a florist shop, "Blumsters" which is still in business.

Nels Nord

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**MISSION STATEMENT** :To engage the Community of Huxley, Iowa in the preservation, education, and celebration of our heritage and ancestry. To preserve for research and education, the artifacts, information, and verbal histories about the lives of the people of Huxley from its pioneer origins to the present day and into our future.

# Huxley Historical Society's Annual Presentation



April 12, 2014 -

Huxley Safe Room

515 N. Main, Huxley, Iowa



2014 Theme

## ***“HUXLEY HIGH SCHOOL & BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS”***

Doors open at 11:30

Norwegian lunch will be served at Noon

(free-will donation)

Presentation will begin at 1:00 pm

**Please RSVP by March 29<sup>th</sup>  
so we can plan for you!**

Call President Nels Nord at

597-2201 or 515-231-9174

or email Nels at [nn4hawks@hotmail.com](mailto:nn4hawks@hotmail.com)



## From Norway to Huxley –

From a perspective of Norwegian heritage of Huxley, there is no better place to start than the location of the Palestine Church southeast of Huxley.

It was there, more than 159 years ago, that the Norwegians came to the Huxley area.

In the winter of 1854-55, a group of men and women who had immigrated to Lisbon, IL from southeastern Norway and were disappointed with what they found in Lisbon, so they decided to move west into Iowa. They had heard from a Norwegian peddler that in Iowa were thousands of acres of good government land that could be bought for \$1.25 an acre.

The group of Norwegians chose Osmond Sheldahl, Ole Fatland, Osmond Johnson, and Ole Apland to scout out the area the peddler had told them about.



1886 Norwegian family

returned with the news of the land awaiting them in Iowa was like Canaan, “a land flowing with milk and honey.”

The report of the committee of four continued: From Norway’s mountain passes we came, where we had to break stony ground of steep hills between flood and slides, where the pastures lay in ice-bound and shady hills. In Iowa, we can comfortably stretch our limbs in peaceful pursuit following plow and scythe, and the rich soils will abundantly repay us for our work.



Replica of the first meeting place near the current day Palestine Church location.

The four men had planned to go towards Omaha, but as they progressed along a small trail in their horse-drawn spring wagons, they came to a spot where the Palestine Church is now and located to the north they saw rolling prairies, heavily wooded tracts of land with creeks and a river with clear water.

The group decided to head to Des Moines to file homestead for themselves and their friends back in Lisbon for \$1.25 an acre. Thirty days after they left Lisbon they

Cont. from pg 3



Ole Anfinson

Ericksons, Olsons, and many more Norwegian names of present day Huxley citizens who became farmers in the Huxley area.

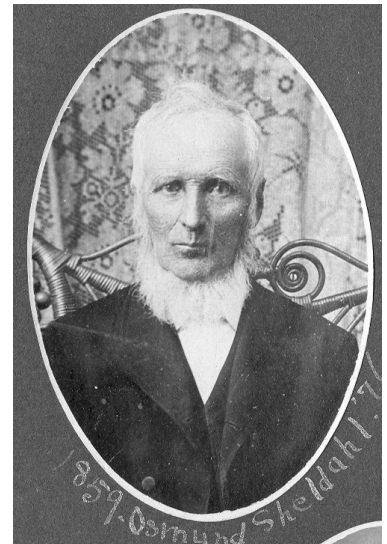
Huxley is no longer predominately of Norwegian heritage as when I was growing up in Huxley in the 1940's – 1950's when the population was around 450 people. The city has grown to 3,600 people, but there are Norwegian names of a lot of people that were ancestors of the brave band of 106 people that emigrated from Norway to the Huxley area in 1855.

Nels A. Nord - President Huxley Historical Society

May 17, 1855, they set the date to depart for Iowa. The group having come from a country that for 400 years had been Lutheran, organized a congregation, selected Ole Anfinson, a layman, as their Pastor, and chose the name Palestine, inspired by the description of the land they were soon to possess.

Twenty-one families and a total of 106 people reached the chosen spot on June 7, 1855, and after a 300 mile journey came to a halt on Osmond Sheldahl's land, just north of the present Palestine Church.

Across from the Palestine Church is the Palestine Cemetery, and on its grave markers are many of the names of that first band of settlers, Sheldahls, Houges, Hauges, Seversons,



Osmond Sheldahl

THE HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS  
LOOKING FOR PICTURES OF OUR  
SERVICE MEMBERS! PAST PRESENT AND  
CURRENT! IN OR NOT IN UNIFORM.  
THEY CAN BE EMAILED, MAILED OR  
DROPPED OFF TO NELS OR THE  
HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROOM  
AT 3 C'S.

# Thank you for being a member. We appreciate it very much.

Please consider joining as a LIFETIME member and never have to worry about renewing again.

A LIFETIME membership is easy (\$500 one time) and it means so much to HHS as we need a safe space to store the heritage we have already acquired AND your input about how best to preserve it. The HHS needs a building and archival quality storage to protect our fabulous treasures much of which are delicate photo's, fabrics, and papers.

Feel free to use the membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Be sure and come to a meeting when you can because even as we need financial assistance we also need help making good plans for our future. NOT to mention the great stories we share!

The following are Lifetime members who agree with our mission.

Boyd Antill & Mary Tomlinson

John Berhow

Omar & Valerie Brendeland

Duane & Barbara Finch

Laverne & Elaine Helland

Darlene & Robert Herman

David & Cheryl Kalsem

Homer & Kay Kalsem

John & Ann Kalsem

Dean & Diane Lande

Elizabeth & Javerna Maland

Nels & Rowena Nord

Dr. Kirk & Liz Peterson

Paul & Florence Sandve

Harriet Sheldahl

Avis Steensland

David & Verda Tesdall

Gary & Janet Thompson

# THE HUXONIAN

Huxley, Iowa, Thursday, March 11, 1930

## SPORTS

### A GOOD ENDING

Yes, the Huxley Boys' Basket ball teams now classed as the champions of the Little Six Conference. Quite an honor, isn't it? Our boys certainly deserve much praise. They have showed a splendid spirit all season, and not one of us has been ashamed to claim any of them as being members of the Huxley high school. They have fought hard every minute of every game and cannot be given too much credit for the many hours of practice and hard knocks which they survived.

We certainly wish that every Huxley fan could have seen the Milford Huxley game. It was simply wonderful! The way the boys worked together was amazing! We think we can safely say that it was the most interesting game we have seen all season. We spectators had nothing to fear, however. The team kept a nice lead during the whole game, and every player was right up on his toes every minute. The score at the half was 12 to 7 and the final score 20 to 12 both in favor of Huxley.

And the trophy, folks! Did you know that the team brought home a wonderful remembrance of its successful season? Well, it did, and if you haven't seen it, do come up to the high school assembly and take a glance at it. We have never before in this school beheld anything quite so beautiful. And it belongs to us, "for keeps." Just think of it! In a few years, we hope to have many more trophies added to our growing collection.

Now the boys have played Gilbert in the Boone tournament. They did

some wonderful work, but lost by two points. We certainly admire their courage and fighting spirit, even if they did lose. A week previous to the game the Gilbert coach, Mr. Morgan, expressed his idea of the ability of the Huxley team. He said he was afraid of our team that it was made up of some very good basket ball players, and if another team wasn't on its toes every minute, it might as well say good bye to the score. You see, other recognize what a splendid team we have in Huxley.

We wish to compliment all our basket ball players, both boys and girls, on their work throughout the season. They have shown a fine spirit and have worked hard in spite of many "dirty digs" from several fans. There isn't any players who isn't "hurt" when he hears that someone has been degrading them and pointing out all his faults to others. But that seems to be something which every player must learn to tolerate. It would be more considerate, though, to refrain from any cutting remarks. The players who hear the things said about them can't be expected to love the one who broadcast them, but it is nearly all forgotten by this time. So good luck, and good bye until next season.

## SCHOOL

### A NEW STUDENT

Gunder Halvorsen, formerly of the Slater High school, enrolled at the beginning of the fifth six weeks period as a member of our sophomore class. We wish to extend to him our heartiest welcome and hope that he will feel at home with all of us.

We now have a total enrollment of eighty-five in high school. Not such a bad record at that, is it?

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### DR. HUNTER

#### DENTIST

Every Wednesday at Severeids Drug Store. Hours 1 to 6 p.m.

### O. J. VILAND FUNERAL DIRECTOR

#### Licensed Embalmer

Phone 19 or 86, Huxley, Iowa

### Standard Service Station ETHYL GAS

Red Crown Gas, Polarine Cylinder Oil, Polarine Flushing Oil

Weir Ritland, proprietor

### DR. O. F. FREED

#### VETERINARIAN

PHONE 74 Huxley

### PEDER SEVERSIKE

General Blacksmith and Repair work. Dealer in Farm Implements  
Wallace Tractors  
Huxley, Iowa

## Spring Goods

Spring Goods are arriving. We invite your inspection and patronage because without same no business can exist. We shall endeavor to make it both convenient and profitable for you to trade with us - supporting your local enterprises is eventually helping yourself. Bring your eggs and bring your orders.

### ALBERT JOHNSON HUXLEY, IOWA

## 2013 HHS Members

**Thank you to all of our members of 2013!**

Don Anderson  
 Larry & Karen Anderson  
 Sandra Deig  
 LeRoy Dobbe  
 Don Duncan  
 Karen Dunne  
 Chuck & Barb Faush  
 Don & Judy Fausch  
 Paul & Rosemary Fjelland  
 Bruce & Sandy Halverson  
 Orville Hauge

Edna Hellekson  
 Steven Kruse  
 Arlene Lande  
 Arnold & Vivian Larson  
 Kenneth & Louise Larson  
 Ikey Lee  
 Ruth Lee  
 Virginial Lee  
 Norm Luiken  
 Barb & Jim Mallon  
 Rich Nelson  
 Bob Nervig  
 Don Nord

Mark & Wanda Nord  
 Rick Nord  
 Louise O'donnell  
 Kirk & Liz Petersen  
 Joan Richardson  
 Delila Roberts  
 Betty Stoll  
 Janet & Gerry Stoll  
 Ronald Twedt  
 Roger & Judie Weyer  
 Terry & Marlys Witt

~We have lost four of our members this year – Elaine  
 Helland, Javerna Maland, John Hendricks, and Betty Stoll ~  
 Farvel vår venn! (Goodbye our friends)

**WE NEED YOUR HELP IN NAMING OUR NEW  
 HISTORICAL ROOM! DUE TO LACK OF SUGGESTIONS,  
 WE WILL NOW HAVE A BALLOT FOR YOU TO CHOOSE  
 YOUR FAVORITE FROM. EMAIL US YOUR BALLOT, MAIL  
 YOUR BALLOT WITH YOUR RENEWAL, OR IF YOU'RE  
 ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING IN APRIL, DROP  
 YOUR SUGGESTION IN THE BALLOT BOX!**

☐ **MEMORY LANE**

☐ **HUXLEY HISTORICAL HUB**

WRITE IN \_\_\_\_\_



## Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle those that apply please.**

Annual 2014 \$20

Lifetime Membership \$500

Gift Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

2nd ed. DVD Purchase \$20

S&amp;H for DVD \$2.50

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

RSVP TO ANNUAL MEETING # ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

***HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124***FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT US AT ONE OF THE  
FOLLOWING:

PHONE: NELS NORD 515-231-9174

EMAIL: HHS@HUXCOMM.NET

WEB SITE:  
WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG**HUXLEY****HISTORICAL****SOCIETY**515 N. Main Ave.  
Huxley Iowa. 50124