

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 4 Issue 2

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2nd half - 2011

## 2011 Officers

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

## 2011 Calendar:

**Annual Meeting April  
28, 2012— New Safe  
Room Huxley Iowa.**

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

## 2011 Calendar:

## *History of the Ballard School Systems.*

With the new 23 million dollar Ballard High School being completed in September 20, 2011; we will take a look at the history of schools in the Ballard School District.



Early settlers were interested in providing a good education for their children so in the summer of 1857; the Norwegian Palestine congregation erected the first school just across from the Palestine church.

The history of Story County shows a seminary building in the 1850's, in the town plat of the village of Palestine which was located west of the Ballard Golf & Country Club but a failure in finances caused it to dissolve.

There was a Palestine school located where the Ballard Golf & Country Club is located before the town of Huxley had a school.

The Fjeldberg School with the 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades was established in about 1865 not far from the current Fjeldberg cemetery south of Huxley. This school even existed when an independent school district was established in the town of Huxley in the 1880's.

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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.*

Most of the students in the early schools came from farming families and the rural schools, which were 2 miles apart. These “country schools” provided education through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade only. Those who wanted more education often went to academia or to colleges where high school studies were available.

When Huxley was incorporated in 1882, the school district line divided the town. Children who lived on the south side of the line had to go one mile south to the Fjeldberg School and those on the north had to go a mile north to the Palestine School.

One of the requirements of the pioneer teachers was “that he or she were able to ride a horse and shoot a gun” because of prowling Indians and wild animals as the teacher traveled back and forth. In 1865, in Palestine township there were only ten male teachers and three female teachers. Their salary at that time was \$10-12 a month.



The 1<sup>st</sup> school in the town of Huxley was located in far southwest corner of Huxley at south 5<sup>th</sup> and Railway. It was a one-room structure and had about 25 students of all ages attending.

In 1908 a two-story brick building was constructed at North Main Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> street which could serve grades one through twelve, but there were no students in the upper grades and no twelfth grade graduation in Huxley until 1922.



Built in 1908

By 1918 the demand for more education was increasing so much that Huxley voted to consolidate the rural district schools with the town school. In order to accomplish this, a new, more modern building was built just south of the 1908 school and was finished in the fall of 1921 at a cost of \$150,000.

The school included a home economics laboratory, a Smith-Hughes agriculture department, a science laboratory, and a new gymnasium which was the best in Story County and was so outstanding the Story County Basketball tournament was held in Huxley.



In 1957, the Huxley school district was reorganized to include the towns of Cambridge, Kelley, Slater and Huxley. The first graduating class wasn't until 1959 and the junior high and senior high were both located in the Huxley High school building. The 1st day of the Ballard community school was Sept. 2, 1958.



A new modern high school was built just north of the old Huxley school building in 1962. The Huxley High school building served as the Jr. High and administration building until 1975 when a new junior high was added to the new high school building. The elementary grades continued in Cambridge, Kelley and Slater.

In November 2011, a new state-of-the-art 23 million dollar school was built just northwest of the football field on a 40-acre tract of land.

Ballard High School has good community support for all of its sports and scholastic events and has helped produce outstanding musicians, medical doctors, college professors, teachers, scientists, business people, engineers, lawyers, and trade professionals. We have every right to be proud of our history of education in the city of Huxley, Iowa and the Ballard School District.

Nels A. Nord – HHS President

## NEW MEMBER DRIVE

Do you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter? Let us know we will send them a complimentary copy! We also accept gift subscriptions—let us know who to send it to.

Call Michele at 515-450-0764 with the information.



**Do you know someone that has Huxley  
Historical memorabilia?**

**How about photo's or a great life story?**

**Let us know! Call Nels 515-231-9174**



## Plat maps from 1902 and 1908 show schools at the following locations in Palestine Township.

- #4 On the south east side of the intersection of what is now hwy 210 and hwy 69
- #6 On the north side of current hwy 210 about 1.75 Miles west of hwy 69.
- #5 On the north west side of the gravel roads 530<sup>th</sup> Ave and 310<sup>th</sup> street
- #9 On the east side of R38 and the north side of 310<sup>th</sup> Street.
- #10 On the east side of R38 and the south side of 290<sup>th</sup> Street (which doesn't continue to R38 any more)
- #2 On the south east side of gravel roads 530<sup>th</sup> Ave and 290<sup>th</sup> St.
- #1 On the south side of gravel road 290<sup>th</sup> St. and about .5 mile east of the current hwy 69.
- (Number not indicated) On the East side of current Hwy 69 just south of Ballard creek in the current Ballard Golf And Country Club area.

*Virginia Lee concurs ONE of the old school buildings sets on her property at Midvale. Does anyone know which one it is?*

## ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 28, 2012

This year we will be meeting in the new Safe Room connected to the police station in Huxley. In the future we will be able to display some of our collection here so come celebrate our new space.

## 2nd edition DVD is ready!

*This DVD includes the 1st edition AND more it can be purchased for \$20 or \$22.50 w/S&H if we need to ship it to you.*

*This awesome DVD contains video stream of Huxley Iowa 1939-1955, Ladies at Ovid Louks Farm, 1955 City streets, 125th Anniversary of Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, Huxley Horse Show, and a 1944 Baseball game in addition to some silliness. Get yours today!*

**The Historical Society would love to have copies of any film you may have or photo's from the past in our community. To purchase a video OR contact us about getting copies from you please contact us at 515-597-3142 or email to [hhs@huxcomm.net](mailto:hhs@huxcomm.net)**

# Thank you for paying your dues. 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 items. Did you know we have a fire truck? And a 4' x 5' painting? Those are just two of the fabulous treasures we store but we have A LOT more 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.

**John Berhow**

**Homer & Kay Kalsem**

**Laverne & Elaine Helland**

**Elizabeth & Javerna Maland**

**Darlene & Robert Hermann**

**Nels & Rowena Nord**

**Dave & Cheryl Kalsem**

**Harriett Sheldahl**

**John & Ann Kalsem**

**Janet & Gary Thompson**

**Dean & Diane Lande**

**David & Verda Tesdall**

**Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle those that apply please.**

Annual 2012	\$20
Family 2012	\$30
Lifetime Membership	\$500
Gift Amount	\$_____
2nd ed. DVD Purchase	\$20
S&H for DVD	\$2.50
Total	\$_____

Mail To:

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