

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Volume 3 Issue 2

WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG/

2nd half - 2010

## 2008 Officers

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

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

## 2010 Calendar:

## 2010 Meetings Schedule:

June 28, 2010

July 26, 2010

August—No Meeting

September 27, 2010

October 25, 2010

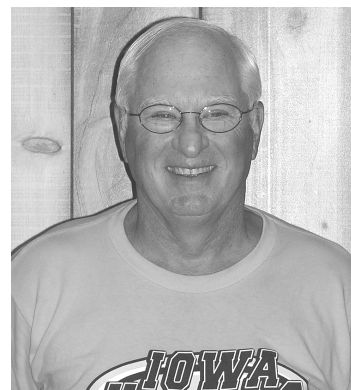
## 2010 Calendar:

## Nords Notes

### a word from our president

Between 1840 and 1850 many Norwegians from Stavanger, Hordaland and Hardanger immigrated to America. The Sheldahl's left Norway May 17, 1846, and landed at Quebec, Canada, July 4, 1846. Also in this group were about 150 Norwegians who sailed to America and came to Lisbon, Illinois. They stayed in Lisbon and worked for relatives before they went on further West.

As more and more immigrants came to Fox River, Illinois, times became harder and the price of land went up higher and higher. Many of the Norwegian immigrants went without work and were very disheartened. They were discouraged that they had come to America until they heard of rich lands farther West on the other side of the Mississippi River which could be bought at a very low price. A lot of the immigrants thought it was too risky to travel 300 miles to the West and that it would be better to go back to Norway.



Again, word came to the immigrants that some prairie land and forest land could be bought for \$1.25 an acre. The group finally agreed they should send four men to investigate the land in central Iowa. The leader of the foursome was Osmond Sheldahl, along with Olie Fatland, Osmond Johnson and Olie Apland. They were to leave on September 24, 1854.

The four men started their westward journey on the California gold rush trail through Davenport, Iowa, to Lincoln, Nebraska. On their way they came as far as Newton, Iowa, and got lost and turned North and came to Story County where they found plenty of all kinds of good

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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.*

Land and hurried to Des Moines to get the papers from the land office where they paid twenty-five cents to \$1.25 an acre for their land and then headed back to Lisbon, Illinois, with the good news.

As spring came, they departed for Iowa. They assembled and organized a congregation with Ole Anfinson as the first minister, Erik Sheldahl as presenter and Knute Bauge as teacher. They headed West May 17, 1855, with 105 people, 25 oxen and horses besides many other animals. They arrived in Story County, Iowa, June 7, 1855, where they met for services the first Sunday on the Osmond Sheldahl farm where there was a fresh water spring.

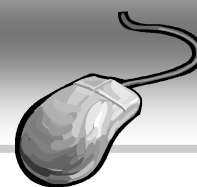
Just north of the settlement lived Indians who were friendly and the immigrants learned to make cornbread and eat tomatoes. In return the Norwegians gave them many knitted articles.

This settlement started in 1855 and was the beginning of the so-called Sondre settlement. The Norwegians' settlement spread out and grew after the civil war to areas of Cambridge, West and North of Kelley, North and West of Slater, and to the Sheldahl area. Huxley was in the center of growth. At one time every child that came to the six school districts was of Norwegian decent.

Even when my parents, Dr. D.H. Nord and Celeste Nord, moved to Huxley from Cambridge with three children in 1940, Huxley was about 98% Norwegian. My father was a full blooded Swede and my mother was of French decent and was a Catholic and was not accepted very well at first because she was Catholic. But as time went on and my dad, being a doctor and my mother a nurse, Huxley was our home where one sister, three brothers and myself grew up and have many very fond memories of our lives in Huxley.

Nels A. Nord

Prefer to get your newsletter on line? Email and  
let us know! [hhs@huxcomm.net](mailto:hhs@huxcomm.net)



### **OUR PUBLISHING SCHEDULE CHANGES**

As many of you noticed your newsletter has been absent. This was a result of many issues. The lack of meetings was one, the lack of time for editing and publishing were others.

With the financial conditions currently we think it would be more fiscally responsible to reduce our mailings and increase our pages so to that end in 2010 we plan to publish only 2 newsletters instead of 4. The rest of the story from Nords Notes will be published in June/July with our 2nd news letter.

Thanks for your understanding and support. HHS

# March Meeting—Annual Meeting

## Huxley Historical Society

### Meeting Minutes

#### 3.29.10 Annual Meeting

Meeting was called to order March 29, 2010, at 6:30 by President Nels Nord.

Attendees were Nels Nord, Michele Kalsem, Scot Petersen, Don Duncan, Laverne Helland, John Hendricks, Darlene Kalsem, Arlene Lande, Ikey Lee, Ruth Lee, Delila Roberts, Janet Stoll, Harriett Sheldahl, Bonnie Erickson and Howard Hammond.

Past minutes were read by Sec Kalsem.

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen

The reports were approved as read.

#### **Discussions and Actions on old Business Old Business**

Don Duncan reported on the Fire Trucks maintenance and the work that had been done by him self and Buds Auto. It was agreed to give Bud an honorary membership in thanks for the work he does. Don also noted the radiator has a leak and it's unclear at this time what might be done to correct that. In addition we need a place where we can park the truck inside some potential places were discussed. President Nord offered to check with the parties that might be about to assist.

#### **New Business**

Some ideas were discussed about displaying some of the items we currently have and it was generally agreed that we need to find a display case - like an old jewelry case would be great. We might be able to set it by the library or on the landing by the elevator if we found such a case.

Secretary Kalsem asked Janette Stoll to assist with the secretary duties and she agreed.

We presented Dean & Diane Lande and Homer & Kay Kalsem lifetime membership certificates.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Howard Hammond spoke to us about general ideas for buildings, displays, and the Slater Historical group.

**Next meeting will be held at the SLATER historical building April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

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# April Meeting

## Huxley Historical Society Meeting Minutes

4.26.10

Meeting was called to order April 26, 2010, at 6:30 by President Nels Nord.

Attendees were Nels Nord, Michele Kalsem, Scot Petersen, Laverne & Elaine Helland, John Hendricks, Arlene Lande, Ikey Lee, Ruth Lee, Delila Roberts, Harriett Sheldahl, Bonnie Erickson.

Past minutes were read by Sec Kalsem.

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen

The reports were approved as read.

### **Discussions and Actions on old Business Old Business**

The only old business we discussed was the information that Ron Krull sent us regarding a display case he has and that it needs refinished.

### **New Business**

- Nels is going to buy the HHS a video recorder.
- We plan to use the fire truck only as our float this year at Prairie fest.
- The Alumni banquet is set for June 12<sup>th</sup> – we should have our summer news letter out buy then to be able to share with the Alumni.

Our next meeting will be June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 Pm there will be no April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Sec. Kalsem

## NEW MEMBER DRIVE

Do you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter? Let us know we will send them a complementary one! 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**

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## ***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.

**EXTRA THANKS TO DAVID & VERDA TESDALL who inadvertently got left out the last TWO newsletters and for that we are very VERY sorry.**

**John Berhow**

**Homer 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**

# Have time and energy?

The Historical Society always has projects we could use assistance with. Simple things like editing to physical things like cleaning of the cemetery.

ANY help is welcome call to volunteer.

Sec Kalsem 515-450-0764

## We have a NEW web address and site.

Our new web address is

**[www.history.huxleyiowa.org](http://www.history.huxleyiowa.org)**

Watch for exciting changes in the history pages AND be sure and sent me family histories to include on the peoples pages.

Thanks Web Master Kalsem

**THANKS! THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!**  
**THANKS!**

To all those who have purchased memberships.

The HHS also wants to thank members for all donations, project specific and general.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle those that apply please.**

Annual 2010 \$20

Family 2010 \$30

Lifetime Membership \$500

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

2nd ed. DVD Purchase \$20

S&amp;H for DVD \$2.50

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

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