

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

Spring 2018

2018 Officers

President

Nels Nord

Vice President

Delila Roberts

Secretary

Janet Stoll

Treasurer

Jolene Lettow

Member-at-Large

Judie Weyer

Newsletter

Janet Stoll

Webpage

~ We Need You ~

2018 Calendar:

*Meetings are the 4th
Monday of the month
at 6:00 pm in the city
Council Chambers*

"The Hub" museum is
located at **515 N. Main** in
the 3C's building.

Summer Hours:

April – October
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 - 10:30 am
or call Nels to set up a visit
515-231-9174

Nords Notes

~ A word from our president ~

There were 23 young men in the original Palestine colony who enlisted in the Civil War between 1861-1865. They were Olie Anfinson, Sorren Olson, Erick Egland, Thor Lande, John O. Johnson, John O. Severeid, Halver Weeks, Wier W. Weeks, Anfin Ersland, Helga Hanson, Severt Tesdall, Andrew Nelson, Elias Ersland, Ivor Twedt, Lars Olson, Henry Egland, Torres Scott, Thor Helland, Thomas Shaw, J.W. Johnson, Andrew Gravdahl, Torres Weeks, Randy Weeks, and Holder Johnson.

Seven of the 23 did not return from the Civil War—Halver Weeks, Elias Ersland, Lars Olson, Torres Scott, Holder Johnson, Hengry Egland, and Thor Helland.

There is only one veteran of the Spanish-American War. That was Osmond "OJ" Severeid who owned the O.J. Severeid Drugstore on Main Street.

A beautiful brick memorial was erected in the Memorial Park, honoring those who gave their lives in four war conflicts. Memorial Park is located on the southeast corner of Main St and 1st St.



World War I:

Carl Hokel

World War II:

Gene Ames

Owen Newgaard

John Boardson

Lester Ritland

Emil Westvold

Kenneth Christiansen

Lloyd Hally

Luther Williams

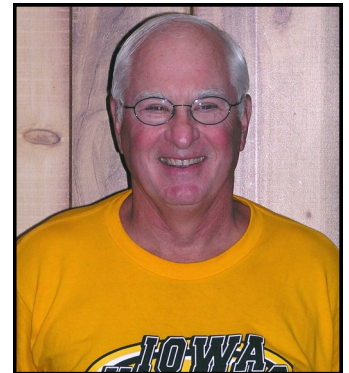
Ole Halverson

Korean War:

Paul Jacobson

Vietnam War:

Michael E Antil



We are dedicating this newsletter to the service men and women from our community, both past and current, who have served our country. For the past several years we have asked for military photos and we have obtained quite a few, but we know there are many more out there. If you don't see a military photo of yourself or your family member, please either email the photo or send it by mail.

~Nels Nord, HHS President~

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.*

The Tri-County Times

Thursday, 1998

Battle of the Bulge survivor looks back at his experiences ..

It took a miracle!

By Ed Rood

The savagery of battle may have ended more than 50 years ago in Western Europe but its memories still live in the soldiers who fought there during World War II.

Such a soldier is Stanley Sydnes, 81, formerly of Huxley, who now lives in Des Moines.

Stanley was drafted into the U.S. Army April 23, 1941. He received his training at Camp Clayborn, Louisiana.

Before his year's training was completed, war broke out and he was placed in the 168th infantry. A short time later, he was transferred to the 634th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

With a smile he recalls the day he became a drill sergeant. "The company commander told us to fall in. 'Corporal Sydnes,' he said, 'I want you to take over as drill sergeant.' 'Yes sir,' I said. 'If you want these men's respect you'll have to speak up like a man with some authority' he said. **'YES SIR!'** I shouted."

The 634th Tank Destroyer Battalion was scheduled to leave for Africa in 1942 but the battalion was split in half with half staying at Camp Clairbourne to train new soldiers while the other half went to Africa.

Sydnes was in the half that remained at Clairbourne until December 1943 when they shipped out to Portsmouth, England, under command of General George S. Patton.

Sydnes' battalion was spared the horror of D-Day and they entered France a few days later at Lelarte.

"Soon the fighting got tough and we suffered a lot of casualties. I was promoted to sergeant and made tank destroyer commander," Sydnes said.

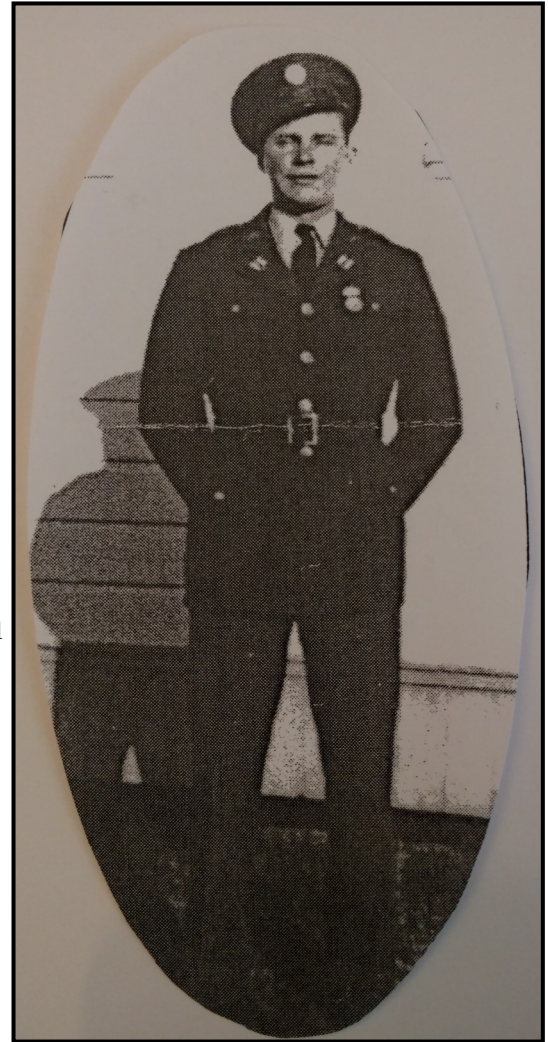
The Allied troops began to race across France toward Germany. Problem was, they were moving too fast for their supply lines to keep up. It also spread out the troops over too large of an area.

"On December 15, 1944, we were coming back from the front line for a month's rest. We had been up there since June," Stanley recalls. "The next day the Germans broke through our line in a thin wooded area and kept coming fast. It was the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge and we had to turn back to help stop the Germans."

It proved to be the war's biggest battle in Western Europe, lasting six weeks and taking a toll of 180,000 German and American casualties.

The battle was the master plan of German Chancellor Adolf Hitler. He reasoned that by combining bitterly cold weather and the treacherous terrain of the Ardennes Front in Belgium and Luxembourg, it would be more than the American and British forces could handle.

In a two hour speech to his commanding generals before the battle, Hitler had this to say: "The battle must be fought with brutality and without pity, for it will determine if we shall live or die."



"It's hard to imagine what it was like," Stanley remembers. "It was very cold with a lot of snow. There were many places where we could not go with our tank destroyers. It was a heavily wooded area, high, and hilly with very little population.

"The infantry did most of the fighting hand-to-hand with artillery firing heavy explosives ahead of them.

"After the infantry finally got them stopped and back out of the heavy wooded area, the tank destroyers were back in it," Syndes recalls.

"One day our destroyer was on top of a hill in some trees. We could see a big German Tiger tank below. Suddenly they spun the big gun around and shot," Stanley said as tears began to fill his eyes, "it blew our driver apart."

While in the wooded areas Stanley said the soldiers couldn't change clothes for weeks. "All we had to eat was concentrated dry food ("K" rations). Any canned foods would freeze out in the field."

"One dark night our tank destroyer was in the lead," Syndes recalls. "I was walking in front of the destroyer holding a light blue light in my hand so the driver could see where to go. I also had to watch for barbed wire, entanglements, craters, and land mines.

"We were going very slow so we wouldn't make much noise, but the enemy must have heard us. Suddenly some artillery shells came in. One hit close to me and the concussion of it knocked me down. It was really a miracle, only one piece of shrapnel hit me on the side of my head, just below my steel helmet. It didn't go into my skull but they gave me a Purple Heart for it."

The end of the Battle of the Bulge didn't mean the end of the fighting in Western Europe. Stanley and his battalion worked their way across Europe on their way to Germany.

"One day an officer radioed for the field kitchen to come up and give us a hot meal, which we hadn't had for a long time. We sat on the ground to eat when some artillery shells started coming in.

"We all dropped our mess kits and ran for cover under the vehicle. One shell hit near our tank destroyer and set the bedding on fire which we had on the outside of the destroyer. I jumped up on the destroyer and got the fire extinguisher and put the fire out. I received the Bronze Star for that," Stanley said.

After the war ended in Europe, Stanley's battalion had to remain until August for what was known as Army Occupation.

In September of 1945 he shipped home aboard a Norwegian freighter ship. The trip wasn't speedy but it did give Stanley a chance to use some broken Norwegian language he had learned at home as a child. "The Norwegians got a kick out of it. But we could understand each other."

On September 17, 1945, Stanley was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army at Ft. Huron, Illinois. Besides his Bronze Star and Purple Heart, he received a Sergeant Good Conduct Medal and a Battle Star.

He returned home to Huxley and married Molly Wheeler of Cambridge on January 1, 1946.

They moved to Des Moines about a year later where he worked as a carpenter and cabinetmaker until retirement.



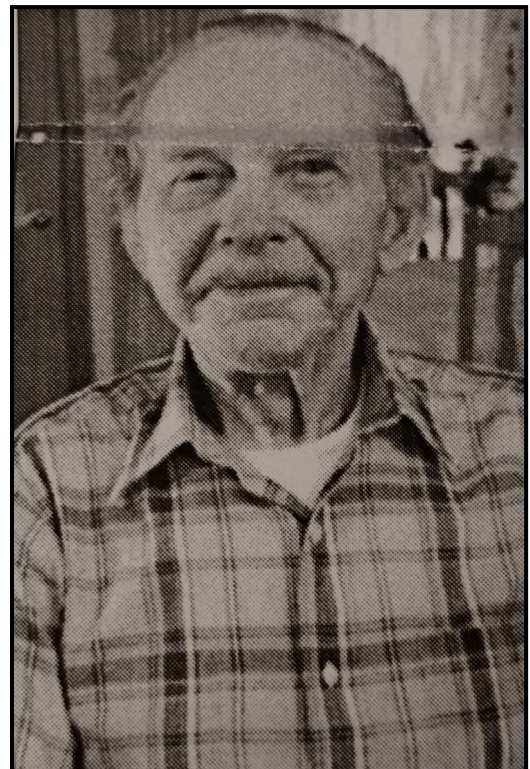
Purple Heart



Bronze Star



Sergeant Good Conduct



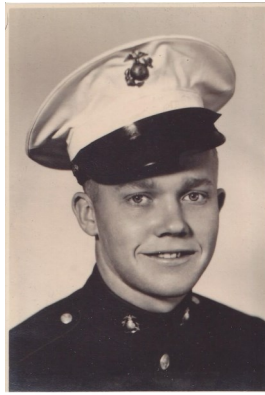
Stanley Syndes



Michael E. Arelli
Pvt. 1st Class
U.S. Army



J. Robert Brackenridge



John Brendeland
U.S. Marine Corps



LeRoy Cronk
U.S. Navy
Korean



Earl C. Dobbe
U.S. Army
Vietnam



Tim Douglas
U.S. Navy
Korean



Don Fausch
U.S. Army
Vietnam



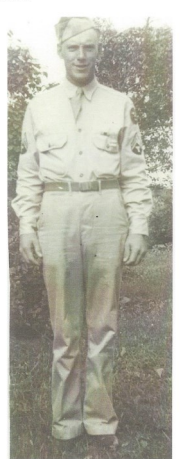
Avernot "Punkin" Fjelland
U.S. Navy
WW II



Ernest Fjelland
U.S. Army
WW II



Harold "Pusta" Fjelland
U.S. Army
WW II



Martin S. "Doc" Fjelland
U.S. Army
WW II



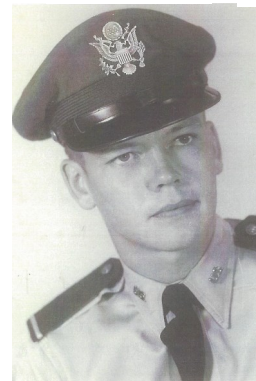
Ronald Fjelland
U.S. Army
WW II



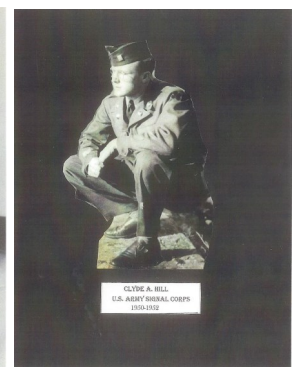
David Freed



Capt. Lloyd G. Hally



Paul Jacobson
U.S. Air Force
Korean - MIA



Clyde Hill
U.S. Army Signal Corps
Korean 1950-1952



Willard Johnson



Homer Kalsem
U.S. Army
Korean



Cpl. Owen J. Kalsem
U.S. Army Korea 1951-1953



Ralph C. Kalsem
U.S. Army
Korean



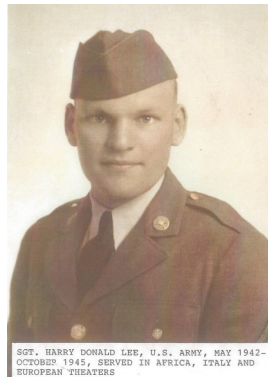
Monte Lantz
U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam



Clifford J. Lee
U.S. Army
Vietnam



Dennis M. Lee
U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam



Harry D. Lee
U.S. Army
WW II



Don Nord
U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam



Nels A. Nord
U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam 1959-1965



Rick Nord
U.S. Coast Guard
Vietnam



George Person



Joe Peterson
WW II



Jen & Mark Pote
U.S. Army



R. A. Ryerson



Dewayne Severson
U.S. Army
Korean 1951-1953



Gerald "Gerry" D. Stoll
U.S. Navy



Jerrold "Jerry" M. Stoll
U.S. Marine Corps
WW II



Arnold B. Sydes, Gunner's Mate 3C
US Navy, served on minesweeper in
Pacific. In service from April 1944
to March 1946



Opal Tesdall
U.S. Army
WAC - Women's Army Corps
WW II



Don Tesdall
Leslie Tesdall Jr.
Don Tesdall & Leslie Tesdall Jr.
U.S. Army
WW II



William "Bill" D. Wilson
U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam

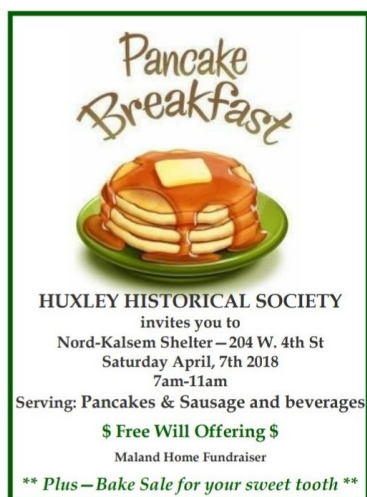
SERVICE MEMBERS



WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS

* denotes Huxley Historical Society has a photo of this service member *



Our annual fundraiser meal this year was breakfast and boy do people love Don Rimathe's pancakes!! We served between 135 to 140 meals. That's around 400 pancakes that Don flipped. Besides the normal round shapes, he also put smiles on several kids' faces by creating Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, train engines, and tractor shaped pancakes. Thanks Don!

We also give many thanks to Huxley Fareway for donating the ingredients for the pancakes and the milk and orange juice.

Many thanks to everyone who came for pancakes and supporting HHS!



Master pancake maker Don Rimathe



Lifetime member Arlo Ledet with his triplet grandsons ...
Erik, Ryan, & Thomas



The syrup and chatter stayed flowing from
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Spring Story County Historical Alliance Meeting was hosted by the Huxley Historical Society on Monday April 16th.



Nine of the twelve Story County museums were represented. Two of the three Story County Board of Supervisors were present as well.

In attendance were: Ames, Cambridge, Colo, Gilbert, Huxley, Kelley, Roland, Slater, and Story City. And Marty Chitty and Lauris Olson with the Board of Supervisors.

At the Spring session we gather to share ideas and plans for the upcoming year. We are grateful we have each other to bounce thoughts off of and we are extremely appreciative of the support from our County leaders!

Our annual meeting was held on Monday April 23rd. We held a brief meeting which included discussion of possible use of the Nord-Kalsem Shelter to use as a larger space for our collections.

Jim & Dolores Douglas were warmly thanked for becoming Huxley Historical Society's newest Lifetime members. Thanks Jim & Dolores!

Rick & Linda Nord are also new Lifetime members of 2018. They were unable to attend the annual meeting, but we are equally grateful to them for supporting HHS. Thanks Rick & Linda!

HHS now has 38 Lifetime members. Thank You All!!

Our meeting concluded with the viewing of the DVD that we offer for sale. It was created by Ira Hendricks and features people and places of Huxley from 1939-1955. There is no sound, but President Nord narrated the contents.



New Lifetime members
Jim & Dolores Douglas

2018 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

2018 Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$ 500.00

HHS donation \$ _____

Maland Home donation \$ _____

The Fjord recipe booklet \$ 5.00

S&H for booklet \$ 2.00

2nd ed. DVD / 1939-1955 events \$ 20.00

S&H for DVD \$ 2.50

Total \$ _____

Check# _____ Date of check# _____

Mail To: **HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124****Office use only:**

email _____ label _____ member list _____ tax letter _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT ONE
OF THE FOLLOWING:

PHONE: NELS NORD 515-231-9174

EMAIL: HHS@HUXCOMM.NET

******* SAVE THE DATE *********June 9th - Huxley High Alumni dinner**
Huxley Safe Room**August 25th - Pie Eating Contest**
following the Prairie Fest Parade
Huxley Amphitheater**Maland Home Open House - 306 N 1st Ave**
3rd Sunday of each month - June thru October
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**Koffee & Kringla on the Porch**
*June thru October - 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.****Men on Monday***
2nd Monday of the month***Women on Wednesday***
3rd Wednesday of the month**HUXLEY****HISTORICAL****SOCIETY**515 N. Main Ave
Huxley Iowa. 50124Name in Blue?
[Take a Moment to Renew!](#)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

284 likes so far!

