

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3

Website: www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org

SUMMER 2020

2020 Officers

President

Nels Nord

Vice President

Delila Roberts

Secretary

Michele Kalsem

Treasurer

Jolene Lettow

Member-at-Large

Richard Sydnies

Newsletter

Janet Stoll

Webpage

Michele Kalsem

2020 Calendar:

*Meetings are the 4th
Monday of the month
at 6:00 pm*

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

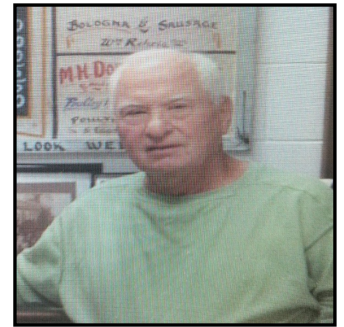
Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 - 10:30 am
or call Nels to set up a
visit 515-231-9174

Nord's Notes

The Way It Was (1916 to 1928)

During the Coronavirus Pandemic the Huxley Public Library was closed. Cathy Van Mannen, Library Director, and her staff cleaned out many files that were in boxes and discovered some items the historical society might be interested in. I went through several boxes of interesting, historical things about Huxley. One was an interesting article written by Everett Ritland, a 1928 graduate of Huxley High School.



Public education facilities that existed in 1910 for the Huxley community was a two-story brick building at North Main Avenue that was built in 1906 and several one room frame school houses built every 2 miles on corner lots. The building in Huxley served grades one to twelve, but there was no graduation until 1922 when a new three story Huxley Consolidated School was built in 1921. The country schools served students from grades one through eighth grades and if you wanted more education you could attend academies.

The demand for more education was growing so much that Huxley, by a referendum, voted into a consolidation of rural districts with the town districts. In order to accomplish this, a new, more modern building was required. In order to handle the influx of rural children, four rural schoolhouses were moved into town and placed in a cluster north of the brick building that was built in 1906. These schoolhouses were to serve only until the new building was completed for the 1921-22 school year. After completion of the new school, the "chicken houses" as students referred to the one room schoolhouses, were removed and sold to people who used them for various reasons.



Everett Ritland
HHS class of 1928

The new building, built under close supervision of school board president, Dr. Oscar Freed, a Huxley veterinarian, was very exciting. It included a gymnasium, which at that time was the best in Story County, a home economics lab, a Smith Hughes agriculture facility, a science laboratory and many other conveniences. Lars Kloster was the coach. The Story County basketball tournament was played in the new gymnasium in 1922. The new school facility brought about great change in school attendance. Dropping out of school was a very common thing, but from this point on, going through Huxley High School was the thing to do. The first graduating class of Huxley High in 1922 were: Fred Berhow, Hannah Houge, Lillian Dobbe, Marie Larson, Reuben Sheldahl, and Ruth Eklund.

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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.*

Cont'd from page 1

During World War I, 1914-1918, the war time administrator was Mrs. Wilson, a fiery patriot. She came into classes regularly to inspire us to do whatever we could do to help in the war effort. Everett Ritland's third grade class adopted a little French boy for whom they brought 12 cents a week to support him. His father had been killed in the early fighting.

In the fall of 1917 and 1918, the class brought walnut and hickory hulls which were dropped into a large barrel entering the school. The hulls were used in making gas masks because of the gas warfare in World War I.

When World War I was over in 1918, Mrs. Wilson organized an all school parade from the school to the downtown area and finally to the opera house which was overflowing with people. Local patriots were called on for speeches and music was played.

Huxley Post in World War I

When the United States entered the war in 1917, young men from Huxley left at intervals for training camp. When 500 men from Story County left Nevada, Iowa, by train on July 26, 1918, there was a big celebration. An immense crowd gathered at the park in Nevada. Late in the afternoon, as the men began to board the train for Camp Pike, there were hundreds of embraces and kisses as friends, relatives, and girlfriends said their goodbyes.

The men were quickly and inadequately trained, but were hurriedly transported to France to join the American Expeditionary Force. The big German offensive of the summer of 1918 had to be checked and the American soldiers earned the highest respect of British and French allies. As the allied approached German soil, Germany wanted peace. On the night of November 10th, armistice terms were agreed upon, but for some strange reason the delegation decided to withhold announcement until the next day. That morning of November 11, the American forces attacked German units in Belleau Wood. Men were killed, others wounded, one of which was from Huxley.

News of the war's end came to Huxley on November 11, 1918. There were five long ring announcements on the telephone and church bells were ringing to celebrate the end of World War I. There were four Huxley men that had paid a price of the war. Carl Hokel was killed in action, Sanford Fjelland was seriously wounded, Martin Ness was gassed and Oscar Ritland lost part of his left arm. Sanford Fjelland lingered on for a few years, but died.

Everett Ritland graduated from Huxley High in 1928 and Luther College in 1932 where he won six letters in football, basketball and baseball. Everett spent 42 years in education including 39 years at Ames High School as a teacher, coach, athletic director, vice principal, and guidance counselor. He received a Navy Commission in April of 1944. He was the 5th son of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Ritland. Two brothers were in the army and two in the navy during World War II. Lloyd, Herb, Charles and Donald Everett had two sisters, Mildred Woods and Vivian Peters. Everett died June 11, 1999.

Nels A. Nord

President, Huxley Historical Society



Everett Ritland
Ames High School faculty photo

Huxley High School has recently lost two classmates

May 31 ~ Max Irving ~ Class of 1955

June 14 ~ LeRoy Dobbe ~ Class of 1947

Farvel vår venn! (Goodbye our friends)

If you have stories and photos you would like to share, please send them to the Huxley Historical Society.

You can either send them by email to hhs@huxcomm.net or by mail to HHS, 515 N Main St, Huxley, IA 50124

Military Hero Spotlight

SERIAL NUMBER 1300	1. NAME (Print) ALFRED Emil Westvold		ORDER NUMBER 76
2. ADDRESS (Print) Monroe Jasper Iowa			
3. TELEPHONE Monroe	4. AGE IN YEARS 24	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Country	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Helen Margret Westvold		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Wife	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON Huxley Story Iowa			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Arthur R. Vander Ploeg			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Monroe Jasper Iowa			
12. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ADDRESS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. Emil Westvold			



Alfred Emil Westvold was born December 31, 1915, in Huxley, Iowa to Syvert Serinius Westvold and Helga Johanna Ostrem. Emil was baptized in the Palestine Lutheran Church on February 13, 1916. Emil had 4 brothers: Selmer, Bernard, Joseph and Marvin, and 3 sisters: Mildred, Helen and Agnus. Emil enlisted in the army on November 6, 1943.

T5 Sargent Emil Westvold was killed in action on April 7, 1945, in Mühlhausen, Unstrut-Hainich-Kreis, Thüringen, Germany while serving with General Patton's third army. He was buried in Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, Margraten, Eijsden-Margraten Municipality, Limburg, Netherlands.

Emil married Helen Margret Wee on October 4, 1938. They had two children, daughter Barbara Westvold and a son, Larry Westvold.

Owen Newgaard was a first cousin of Emil's who was also killed in World War II.



Joseph M. Peterson
U.S. Army



Joseph Westvold
U.S. Air Force

BERHOW PARK SHELTER DEDICATION

Completed: December, 1992 **Project Size:** 1,400 sq. ft.

The City of Huxley utilized a Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant award to fund the construction of this 1,400 square foot educational pavilion.

The pavilion, along with additional trees shrubs and prairie plantings comprised the second phase of development for the city park.

Conceived as a "gateway" structure to the park, the rough-sawn 6x6 Western Red Cedar structural members form a visually open entrance support for the cedar shingled roof which is intended to offer a sense of shelter.

All of the pavilion construction members, from posts to roof deck to painted steel structural plates are exposed to educate on the method of construction and attachment. Prairie and planting identification signage was incorporated into the structure, along with benches for visitor use.

In the early 1980's, Sophes Berhow sold his family farm, all 220 acres. He held 7 acres back and donated that to the city of Huxley. Huxley turned those 7 acres into a park and dedicated it by naming it after the Berhow family.

Four generations of the Berhow family were able to attend the dedication of the park. Son, John Berhow, also recalls they planted a tree on the north side of the park in memory of his late father.

Berhow Family
4 generations



Sophes Berhow family l-r: son John, g-grandson Shawn, wife Beulah, daughter Mary Lou, grandson John Jr



509 E. 5th Street

Summer Rain

As much needed rain,
We can see;
Birds, trees and flowers
Dance with glee.

Patience and thankfulness
Both come together,
As we enjoy
This fresh rainy weather.

A break in the work
For farmers—it is;
Corn, beans and oats
Profit from this.

The sun will return
To make the crops grow:
And haying will resume,
As we all know.

This refreshing drink
For all of the land,
Comes at a time
To make summer grand!

Keep looking, Farmers,
And you will get through
This growing season,
As you always do.

By Mary Lou Berhow
Huxley High class of 1955

Huxley Ia 1st Businesses In early 1900's

<i>86 steps</i>	
Pete Brown's Garage	City Hall
Henry Birkestrand's Jewelry Store	Dr. Freed's Office
Albert Johnson's (3rd) Store 1917	Hotel
	Faltin Kalsem's Clothing Store (Theater Behind)
	Bank
<i>First Street</i>	
A.L. Kloster's General Store/Post Office in one corner	Elliott's Restaurant
Thompson's Grocery Store	Ritland Meat Market (later) Seaboe's Harness Shop
O.J. (Osmond) Severeid's Drug Store	Sabin Sydness Livery Stable
Gunderson's Furniture & Undertaking (later) Charlie Larson's	Dobbe Bros. Implement Store
Lars Fatland Meat Market (later) Barney Hill	Theater
Albert Johnson's 2nd Store - 2 Story Bldg.	Albert Johnson's 1st Store (later) Pool Hall
Ole Eide's Restaurant & Hotel in back	A. E. Nass Hardware
<i>Railroad Street</i>	
Milwaukee R.R. Depot	Later Dobbe Implement

Main Street destroyed by fire - 1919

Mr. & Mrs. T.N. Sydnes, John Sydnes Anna Tesdell, Angelin & Marjorie	Mr. & Mrs. Abe Sheldahl, Mattie, Lydia & Henrietta
Jefferson Highway	Road
Huxley School House School Superintendent Soule E. Clinton Evans Lew Fatland John & Inger Hanson	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Tesdahl, Alice & Oriett Griffiths, 1922-23 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Weiser, Lorene & Donald, 1923-34 Alice & Clarence Hill, Beverly, Marion, Robert & Clyde Mrs. Anna Westvold & Brondela Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Larson, Carrie & Mary
Third Street	Street
Mrs. Anna Fatland Andrew & Pauline Wenos Edna, Ella & Rose Heggen Pjelland Tom Apland	Lars & Anna Kampey, Lillian, Kormit, & Virginia Alfred & Carrie Severeid, Marguerite, Telden, Eleanor & Marilyn Weir & Berthie Sydnes & Erma Mr. & Mrs. O.J. Kalsem, Javerna Dr. & Mrs. Keller Ira & Madelia Melaas City Hall
Second Street	Jefferson Highway
Mrs. Pete Brown's mother Melvin & Opal Sydnes Mr. & Mrs. Pete Brown, Clarence & Orva Pet Browns garage Henry Birkestrand & John Kalsem Jewelry Store Albert Johnson Grocery Store & Postoffice	Hotel & Barber Shop Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Malmanger Faltin Kalsem Clothing Store Bank & Telephone Company
First Street	Jefferson Highway
May Sweet Grocery Store Thompson store, Millinery O.J. Severeid Drug Store Charlie Larson Funeral Home Meat Market Albert Johnson Grocery Store before it moved one block north Dr. Rose lived upstairs Art & Bertha Lewis, Homer & Arlene	Main Street
Railroad Street	Jefferson Highway
Milwaukee Depot	Implement Store

W. 2nd St	N. Main Ave	Private residence
Private residence	Private residence	Private residence
Private residence	Private residence	Private residence
Lilypad on Main (daycare)	Huxley Communications (old City Hall/police dept)	Parking lot
Private Ownership empty lot	Huxley Communications	
Private Ownership		
Private ownership		
W. 1st St	E. 1st St	
Main Avenue Salon	Memorial Park & Huxley Water Tower	
Stallie's Sweets	Killer Jigs (old fire station)	
Fenceline Beer Lab	Private residence	
3 Empty lots (formerly Huxley Cleaners)	Miss Wendy's Preschool	
Private residence		
Private residence (yard only)		
W. Railway St	E. Railway St	
Railway Park & Ampitheater	Railway Park volleyball court	



S Main St - early 1950's - arrows pointing to buildings that were demolished in 2019



Former Huxley Cleaners - 2 buildings down, 1 to go October 2019 - property privately owned

6 July 2020

Dearest Huxley Historical Society Members:

If someone would have told you at the beginning of this year that the world would be turned upside down with a pandemic would you have believed it? Seems a lot has changed in just a few months - and there are more changes coming. I am sure we are all praying for the epidemic to end and some normalcy to return. It is evident that a "new normal" is undoubtedly in our future and am hopeful that those changes - whatever they may be - will in the best interest of everyone.

There are also some changes occurring with the Historical Society this year. The Huxley Historical Society Board recently voted to sell the Maland Home. This was not a quick or easy decision. The home was donated to the Society by Elizabeth and Javerna Maland in February 2015. Both sisters grew up in the house and lived there all their lives. They shared their home and their lives with many friends, family members and guests. Through their kindness and generosity, the two sisters made a lasting impression on several generations. The Historical Society was excited about the donation and was eager to fulfill their mission for history, display the property and tell the community the story behind the Maland Home.

Over the years, the Huxley Historical Society held several events in the Maland Home. The first social function was *Pie on the Porch*. People were eager to see the house that had been donated to the Historical Society. Visitors enjoyed sitting on the porch after being served a fresh piece of pie and touring the home. There were several more porch gatherings. There were Christmas displays, a Ladies Tea and there was even a presentation from a woman who collected buttons!

However, though the Society's volunteer efforts were strong, the upkeep of the home was becoming increasingly harder and harder to maintain. The 100 + year old home needed repairs. The Society put on a new roof at a cost of over \$20,000! There were repairs made to the ceiling on the second floor as well as the porch's foundation and the furnace and air-conditioning were constantly being serviced due to its age. Costs to replace the furnace and air-conditioning have been estimated at over \$15,000. The yard needed to be maintained: there was mowing, weeds to pull, leaves to rake, snow to remove, etc.

Though the Historical Society planned and held events, the home still sat empty over 360 days a year. The participation at events held in the home decreased. The energetic fundraising efforts of several volunteers were robust, yet the costs to insure the home, pay utility and repair bills and maintain the home were higher than the funds raised. For over five years, the Huxley Historical Society worked diligently to accomplish its pilgrimage and tell the story of the Maland sisters and their treasured home. But with a heavy heart, it also became apparent that the house needed some loving care and a nurturing owner.

The Maland Home will go up for sale in mid-July. In an attempt to save money, the Historical Society plans to sell the house without the use of a realtor. If the house does not quickly sell on its own, then a realtor will be employed. No decisions have been made yet on how the proceeds from the sale of the home will be used. Those discussions will be held at future meetings and members will be notified of those meetings.

The Huxley Historical Society is proud to have been a part of the Maland Home and to share in its heritage. However, as one member recently stated: it is time to have new life breathed into the home. The Maland sisters were the first chapter of the story behind the Maland Home. We believe the house has many more chapters yet to unfold. We are excited for the future of the home and the stories that are yet to be made and shared. The Huxley Historical Society will continue to preserve the wishes of Javerna and Elizabeth Maland and keep their heritage alive!

Respectfully,

The Huxley Historical Society Board Members:

Nels Nord, President

Delila Roberts, Vice-President

Michele Kalsem, Secretary

Jolene Lettow, Treasurer

Richard Sydnes, Member-at-Large

Departing Secretary Janet Stoll

Hello HHS Members! After 10 years as your secretary I am turning the reins back over to our first secretary.

Learning about local history and listening to the stories that have come from it is something I have always enjoyed. As a child, my favorite thing to do was sit and listen to my family tell family stories. Where they lived was always integrated not just in their stories, but in their family roots. I instantly loved our small community when I moved here in 1998. In 2000, I married into a Norwegian family. A family that still calls Huxley home. My husband, Gerry, was on the Huxley police department (still is), and I worked at the Story County Sheriff's Office as a 9-1-1 dispatcher (still am). So, Story County and the people who live here became my community. I was already familiar with many of the local family names and knew how to pronounce most of the Norwegian names (which is a feat in itself). Also, Gerry's grandparents, Jerrold and Betty (Johnson) both graduated from Huxley High in 1940. Their children, plus mine, graduated from Ballard High School.

Our president, Nels Nord, would send old pictures of Huxley home with Gerry (Nels was Gerry's boss). Old photos of Gerry's grandparents when they were in high school. Old photos of Main Street. Old photos of old businesses. Change happens to every town, so it was interesting to see the changes Huxley has seen since the early 1900's. So started my interest in Huxley's history.

Our first vice president Don Duncan was also instrumental in me joining HHS. He was always talking to people about Huxley's history. Always asking people to attend a HHS meeting. So, in 2008 I attended my first HHS meeting. And in 2010, the first secretary, Michele Kalsem, decided it was time to take a break to raise her family and asked if I would consider taking over the role of secretary. And the rest, as they say, is history.

When I started, we only had a place to hold our meetings. Since then, we've added our little museum "The Hub" at the 3 C's building and the military / horse display at the Nord-Kalsem Shelter. Both spaces are graciously provided by the City of Huxley. In 2015 we accepted the Maland home from the late Maland sisters, Elizabeth & Javerna. For several years we've held different types of functions in the home. We've also had multiple fundraising events, a couple of pie eating contest during Prairie Fest, and several presentations each year. I hope I have served you well. I have enjoyed every single minute of it!

Historically yours,
Janet Stoll

Returning Secretary Michele Kalsem

I am excited to introduce myself to the few of you that may not know me and update those of you who do. I am Michele, my husband Mike is the grandson of Orville Kalsem, who the Nord-Kalsem Park is named for. We live just west of town on his family farm and have 3 beautiful daughters that are mostly grown now, but they still love hearing stories of our farm and community. Mike's grandpa Orville was a great horse trainer and we are proud to carry on that tradition on our farm in addition to farming both row crops and feeding cattle. I am so blessed by being a part of preserving the information for my family and for our community members.

In the beginning (of Huxley Historical society, not Huxley, or the world) Don Duncan called me and asked me what I thought about someone amassing info on the history of Huxley. I was working on the Huxley City web site at the time and I was really excited by the idea! Little did I know he meant I should do it! Upon my urging Don talked to Nels Nord. Nels' family is the other half of the Nord-Kalsem Park namesake. So Don, Nels and I got together in the spring of 2005. It was NOT a society yet, but a group of mismatched ideas and thoughts about people and places. People like the Ballard Brothers who are buried at Ballard cemetery at the edge of town, the horse show (my favorite) the reason Nord -Kalsem Park was so named, and the Fjord restaurant and, and, and... After our first get together it was apparent we all had MORE ideas. We added a couple more people and not surprisingly, THEY had ideas too! People like Ron Chelsvig, Bob Ryerson, Homer Kalsem and John Kalsem shared a LOT of information and frankly it was a mess of half stories, hilarious antidotes and tattling (mostly on Nels - I learned a lot in the early years!) So we formed a nonprofit and held the first official meeting June 26, 2005. The volunteer positions were filled, with Nels as president, Don as VP, Ron as Treasurer and myself as Secretary, which I served until 2010. I had no idea what I was doing but I knew it was going to be fun and crazy trying to keep up with them.

I still don't have any idea what I am doing but I know it will be fun and crazy! I love the history of the settlers, and the people who made our town, I love to know the reasons why people did what they did and who their families are now. SO please stop me and tell me something you remember or heard about or call me on the phone. I would love to talk.

During my hiatus I tabled some projects I was working on and I am especially excited to continue on one having to do with the original settlers and very excited to help with current projects of HHS. I am proud of our community, our history and our members. We have something, and people to be proud of, and can't wait to see what comes next!

If you have not been to the Shelter house lately, or been into visit our room in the 3C's, make a point to! We have some neat collections to jog your memories. Bring your kids and grandkids, they will want to hear about you and that time when you made history.

Michele Kalsem

HUXLEY

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

515 N. Main Ave
Huxley Iowa. 50124

Name in Blue?
[Take a Moment to Renew!](#)

**SUMMER 2020
HHS NEWSLETTER**

2020 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

2020 Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$ 500.00

HHS 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 _____

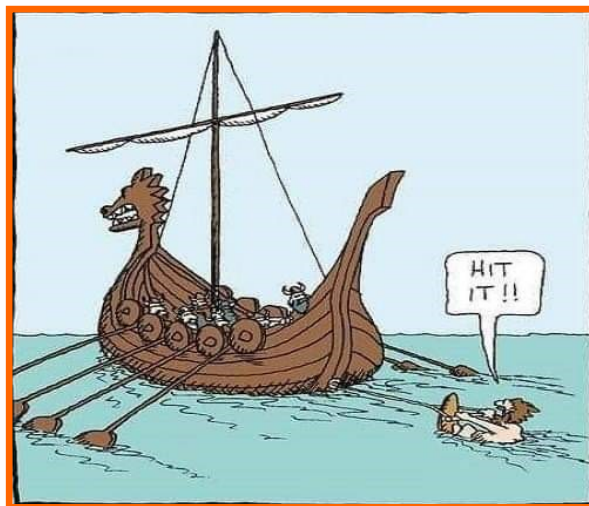
******* SAVE THE DATE *******

Huxley Historical Society - monthly meeting

Monday - July 27 - 6pm

Monday - Sept 21st—6pm

Nord-Kalsem Community Center \ 204 W 5th St



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

467 likes so far!