

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

Website: www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org

WINTER 2020

2020 Officers

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Nels Nord

Vice President

Delila Roberts

Secretary

Janet Stoll

Treasurer

Jolene Lettow

Member-at-Large

Richard Sydnies

Newsletter

Janet Stoll

Webpage

~ We Need You ~

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

History of Walnut Grove

Walnut Grove was a settlement 3 miles north and 1 mile east of Huxley. Unlike some early settlements in central Iowa, Walnut Grove was not inhabited by any particular ethnic group, but was a place pioneers settled in the 1850's.

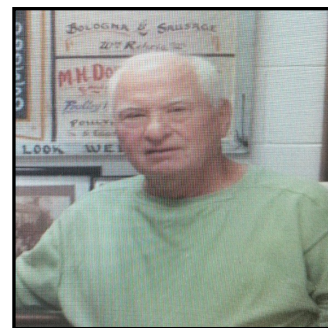
Walnut Grove had a school, church, cemetery and Walnut Creek. Six or seven log cabins were scattered throughout Walnut Grove at the time of the Civil War. The oldest grave at the cemetery dates back to 1854, and eight Civil War veterans are buried at the Walnut Grove Cemetery.

James Wills brought his family to Walnut Grove in 1862. James was born near New Jersey in 1799 and his wife, Ann Hart Wills, was born in 1804 in Pennsylvania. They were married in Ohio in 1825 and moved to Indiana in 1858. When one of his neighbors in Indiana came back from Iowa with a report of good, cheap land, James joined a wagon train of several families and started west in the late summer with his wife and five daughters and two sons.

When the wagon train reached Walnut Grove, James purchased a farm from Zachariah Brown for three dollars an acre. In 1863 James built the first brick house in the area. James later bought 300 acres and the brick house remained in the family until it was torn down to make way for Interstate 35 in 1963. The corn crib with the Lunde name still remains. Four years after James Wills family settled in Walnut Grove, a group of Norwegian immigrants named Severson arrived from Wisconsin.



Tobias and Johanna Severson



Cont'd page 1

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

Tobias and Johanna Rasmussen Severson were married in Norway in 1856. They arrived in Walnut Grove with their four children, Anna Sofia, Samuel, Emma and Anton.

Some of the descendants of Tobias and Johanna and James and Ann Wills were Louise Caroline Jennings, whose father was Samuel Smitt Severson and mother was Mary (Wills). Louise (Carrie) Jennings was the mother of Louise Floden who married Stanley Floden at the Palestine Church and had three girls. Judie (Floden) Weyer was one of the daughters and graduated from the first class of Ballard in 1959.

Other descendants of the Seversons and Wills, that had Huxley connections, were Howard Severson, who was the son of Anton Rasmus Severson, and Esella Jane Wills. Howard and Thelma (Brown) Severson had 7 children, and five of them graduated from Huxley High School. Duane 1947, Arlin 1948, Earl 1949, Maxine 1951, Elaine 1956 and Juanita who went to Huxley until she transferred to Ames when her parents moved to Ames her senior year at Ballard.

Howard's sister was Audrey Hope Jordan, who married Harvey Jordan and had three children who graduated from Huxley High School. Phillip 1954, Rollin 1955, and Twila, who graduated from Ballard High School in 1959.



The 1905 Class at Walnut Grove School

Front row from left: Zeva May, unidentified, Gene Elliott, Lida Severson, Lester Huntington, Mildred Bennington, Orrie May.

Second row from left: Rose Scott, Ole Elliott, Harry Severson, Melvessa Severson, Fred Mills, Murrel Scott.

Third row from left: Howard Severson, Bertha Elliott, Joe Severson, Severt Severson, Carrie Severson, unidentified, unidentified. Severt Severson was the teacher.

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



Michael Evan Antill was born on June 25, 1945, and raised in Huxley by his parents, Hubert "Hap" Antill and Carrie Antill.

Mike was a 1963 graduate of Ballard High School and was attending Iowa State University before entering the Army in 1967 during the Vietnam War.

Mike died on December 28, 1967, in Vietnam of a wound caused by a rifle grenade fragment.

Private Antill was a rifleman in Company C of the 4th battalion, 9th infantry regiment, 25th division. Mike had been in Vietnam less than a month when he was wounded fatally.

MEDAL TO PARENTS

The Purple Heart was presented in an Ames ceremony to Mr. and Mrs. Hubert W. Antill of Huxley.

The presentation was by Army Major Harrison J. Moot, assistant professor of military science at Iowa State University of Ames.

<https://www.mu.iastate.edu/gold-star-hall/vietnam/michael-antill/>



IN MEMORIAM — Names of a dozen men who gave their lives in the nation's twentieth century wars are memorialized on this monument dedicated Sept. 18 in Huxley's Main Street Park.

The monument was the project of the town's Community Club. The marble slab was a donation of Hubert (Hap) Antill, father of Michael Antill.

Antill also gave the flower vases shown being arranged by Mrs. Willard Meeher, the Community Club president's wife, who had a leading part in the dedication ceremonies.

2019 Year of Events Recap

Events for the year 2019:

March - Painting class fundraiser held at the Maland Home

April - Huxley Historical Society Annual meeting

April— Pancake breakfast fundraiser at Nord-Kalsem Park Shelter.

April - Attended the Spring Story County Historical Alliance meeting in Kelley

May— Jan Ruxford did a presentation of vintage buttons

June - High Tea fundraiser held at the Maland Home.

Three open house were held at the Maland Home - June 9th, July 14th, and August 11th.

October - Attended the Fall Story County Historical Alliance meeting in Nevada

November - Holiday Open House at the Maland Home

HHS mailed 4 newsletters to its members

The Huxley Historical Society events would not be possible without it's volunteers. We are very fortunate and grateful to have dedicated people in our community that wish to preserve our history.

Volunteer hours for 2019: **273 hours!**

A very special thanks to HHS member, Don Rimathe. During both of our pancake fundraisers, combined he made and flipped nearly one thousand pancakes.

The Huxley Historical Society is very grateful for all the contributions given this year. Thank You!!

Celeste Allen
John & Cindy Ambrosen
David & Margret Anderson
Richard & Beverly Anderson
Blumster's / Tracy Sheldahl
Bob & Ann Buck
Ken & Barb Busby
Mike & Carolyn Carpenter
Alan & Linda Cron
Donald & Judy Fausch
Bethany Grant
Cynthia Johnson
Rollin Jordan
Darlene Kalsem
Owen John & Ann Kalsem

Mary Lande
Nero & Linda Lantz
Paul & Deana Larson
Mike & Becky Long
Judy McKinney
John & Sue Meeker
Roger & Debra Moore
Ogden Questors Club
Austin & Laura Olson
Dr. Kirk & Liz Peterson
Don & Cathy Rimathe
Jan Roxberg
Katherine Saveraid
Mark & Susan Schaudt
Tom & Sharon Shaeffer
Arlie & Nancy Sheehy

John & Mary Shottes
David & Joan Stensland
Scott & Victoria Stiner
Gerry & Janet Stoll
David & Verda Tesdall
Brian & DeAnn Thompson
Larry & Kay Thompson
Ron & Colleen Twedt
Two Sisters Paint Palette /
DeDee Birdsall
Peggy Wilson

Palestine Township—c/o Ballard Cemetery
Story County Board of Supervisors
The Tri-County Times

Thank You to all HHS members of 2019!

~ Huxley Historical Society Lifetime members ~

William & Susan Allen
Virginia Anderson
John Berhow
LeRoy & Diane Cronk
Jim & Dolores Doug
Orville & Dolores Hauge
Robert & Darlene Herman
Owen "John" & Ann Kalsem
Paul & Deanna Larson
Elizabeth & Javerna Maland
Nels & Rowena Nord
Steve & Anne Quick
Harriet Sheldahl
* Melanie Steensland
Gary & Janet Thompson

Donald & Angela Anderson
Boyd Antill & Mary Tomlinson
Jan Bevilacqua
LeRoy & Ruth Dobbe
Duane & Barbara Finch
Charles Helland
David & Cheryl Kalsem
Dean & Diane Lande
Arlo & Joann Ledet
Margaret Nelson
Rick & Linda Nord
Paul & Jill Renze
Bob & Oriett Snider
Richard & Sandra Sydnes
Arlene Wee

Richard & Beverly Anderson
Marilyn Baldus
Omar & Valerie Brendeland
* Earl & Gerri Dobbe
Bruce & Sandy Halverson
Laverne & Elaine Helland
Homer & Kay Kalsem
* Monte Lantz
Larry Lein
Don & Donna Nord
Dr. Kirk & Liz Peterson
Paul & Florence Sandve
Avis Steensland
David & Verda Tesdall
Marilyn Whetstone

* New **2019** Lifetime Memberships

~ Huxley Historical Society Annual members ~

Celeste Allen
John & Cindy Ambroson
David & Margret Anderson
Mary Lou Berhow
Ken & Barb Busby
Mike & Carolyn Carpenter
Alan & Linda Cron
Barbara DeJong
Larry & Mary Erickson
Mark & Sharyn Erickson
Donald & Judy Fausch
Dr. Kent & Kay Freeland
Mark & Diane Freeland
David & Mary Halverson
Mike & Julie Helland
Cynthia Johnson
Dan & Sonja Johnson
Rollin Jordan
Darlene Kalsem
Mark & Marsha Kenney
Richard & Helen Kepler

Gerry & Eileen Klonglan
Mary Lande
Nero & Linda Lantz
Kenneth & Luise Larson
Mike Larson
Ruth Larson
Virginia Lee
Jolene Lettow
Mike & Becky Long
Judy McKinney
John & Sue Meeker
Dennis & Donna Millang
Roger & Debra Moore
Richard & Chris Nelson
Mark & Wanda Nord
Louise O'Donnell
Raymond & Frances Olson
Joan Richardson
Don & Cathy Rimathe
Cyndi Ringgenberg

Harold Rittgers
Mark Rittgers
Roger Rittgers
Delila Roberts
Steve Rye
David Ryerson
David & Jean Saveraid
Katherine Saveraid
Mark & Susan Schaudt
Beverly Shaeffer
Tom & Sharon Shaeffer
Tom & Linda Sharpnack
Arle & Nancy Sheehy
June Squire
David & Joan Stensland
Gerry & Janet Stoll
Brian & DeAnn Thompson
Larry & Kay Thompson
Clare Tweedt
Ernie & Gloria Wilkening
Peggy Wilson
Carrie Witt

HHS has lost three of our members this year
~ Valerie Brendeland ~ Arlene Wee ~ Earl Dobbe ~

Farvel vår venn! (Goodbye our friends)

Nord-Kalsem building renovations are complete

by Andrew Gogerty

From Tri-County Times .. December 19, 2019

Renovations to the Nord-Kalsem building in Huxley are now complete after a nearly year-long process that began last winter after Nels Nord, president of the Huxley Historical Society, discovered a burst pipe in the bathroom on a dreadful Saturday morning.

The entire building flooded, causing thousands of dollars in damages. Rather than dwell on the negative, the Historical Society, along with the City of Huxley, decided to turn lemons into lemonade by using the unfortunate event as an opportunity to renovate the entire building.

“The city’s insurance paid for part of it, but they decided to redo the entire building,” said Nord. “It’s really turned out beautiful. It’s first class.”

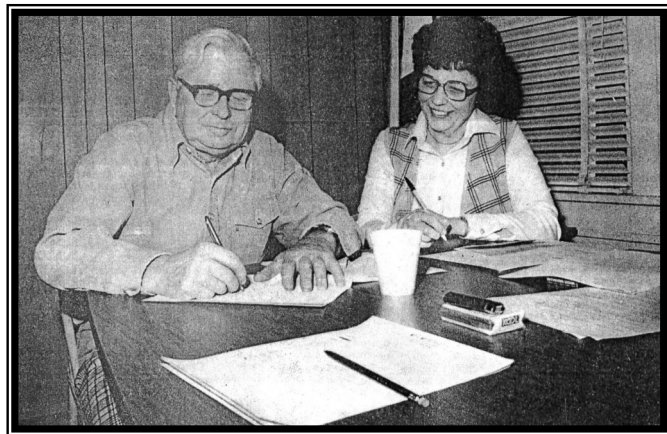
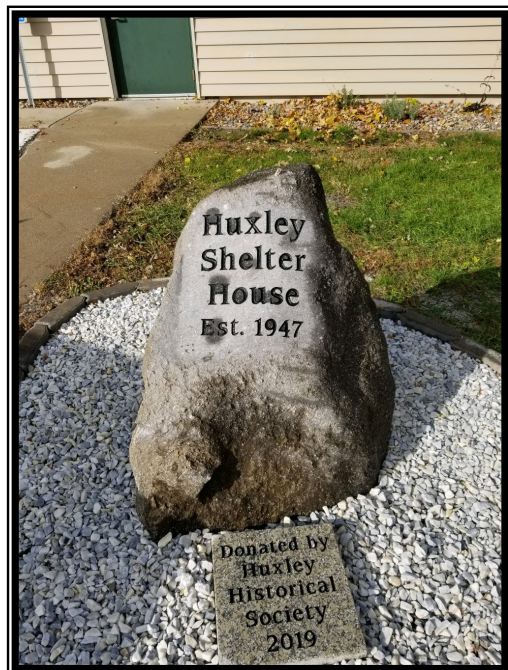
All new flooring and drywall were installed as part of the renovation to the shelter house, which was established in 1947. Originally, the land the building sits on, known as Nord-Kalsem Park, was used for horse shows from 1942 through 1956.

Money that was raised from those horse shows was used to build the original part of the building. An addition was built in 1980, which the City of Huxley allows the Historical Society to use as display for historical artifacts and to honor veterans.

The park and shelter are named after Nels Nord’s father, who was a doctor in the area, and Orville Kalsem.

Nord and Kalsem were horse enthusiasts and the trailblazers of the horse-show scene in Huxley. Nels estimates that an average of 3,000 – 4,000 people were common for the shows on Thursday and Friday nights during the time.

The exterior of the Nord-Kalsem building has been updated as well, with new siding and a new rock that was donated by LeRoy Cronk, who is a Huxley resident and a member of the Huxley Historical Society. The rock was excavated from Cronk’s farm and engraved.



December 13, 1979

City clerk Marilyn Hokel looks on as Harold Stensland signs the copies of the contract between the Central Iowa Regional Association of Local Government (CIRALG) and the Huxley senior citizens center. The contract will help in the construction of an addition to the existing shelter house. Construction is expected to begin sometime in early spring.

The halls were decked....and so much more!

By Susie Schaudt

We had a great time decorating the beautiful Maland Home for our holiday open house which was held on Sunday afternoon, November 17.

Dr. Kirk and Liz Peterson generously donated many beautiful decorations which greatly added to the home's beauty.

Each room had a Christmas tree and candle lights were placed in each window on both levels of the home.

Outside, beautiful fresh greenery and red velvet bows adorned the railing along with the front evergreens covered in colored lights.

Inside the front porch, was a beautifully decorated red tree with a table of tasty Norwegian sweet treats.

This year we asked our guest touring the home to bring a donation of warm weather items for Ballard students. We received many very generous clothing donations and even a gift card for purchases! It was heartwarming to see all the hats, mittens, coats, boots, etc. to help our area students. Delila Roberts, vice president of the Huxley Historical Society, coordinated the donations to the Ballard school through JeriAnn McLaughlin.

We were very pleased with the turnout at the open house. Around 60 plus guests toured the home. Guests ranged in age 2 and up and all enjoyed looking at all of the Christmas trees and more! It was fun to see the little ones exploring the toys upstairs and playing with a vintage dollhouse.

Elizabeth and Javerna loved hosting guests and decorating for the holidays. I'm sure they would have loved seeing all the visitors from 2 years up enjoying their home!

If anyone is interested in seeing the home decorated, please let us know before we start taking down all the Christmas décor.

Also, if you have a small to medium size group and need a fun place to hold your event, please let us know. It's a great home for entertaining. Ideas could be a baby or bridal shower, card group, sewing club, book club, or whatever you can think of.

Thank you so much to all who attended and made donations to help area students stay warm!



Decorating gnomes
Susie Schaudt & Julie Huxford



HUXLEY**HISTORICAL****SOCIETY**515 N. Main Ave
Huxley Iowa. 50124

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

**WINTER 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 \$ _____

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 _____

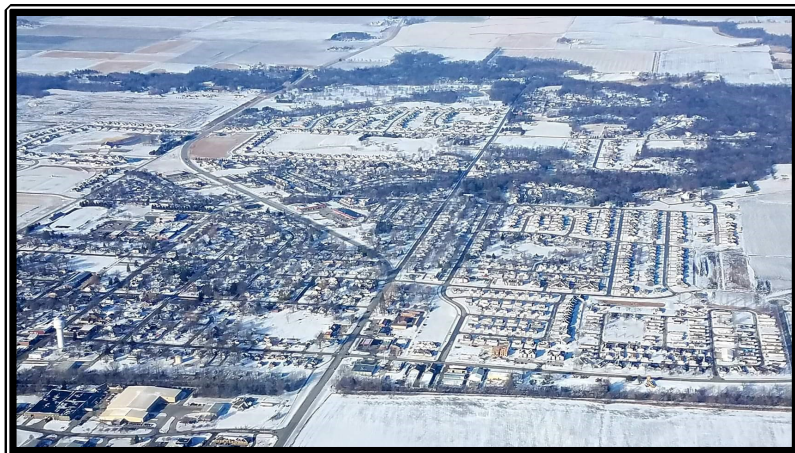
******* SAVE THE DATE *******

Huxley Historical Society - Annual meeting

Huxley City Council Chambers 515 N Main St

Monday - March 23rd - 6pm

Refreshments will be served



Fly over of Huxley
Taken on January 14, 2020



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426 likes so far!