

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3 Issue 1

WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG/

First Quarter - 2010

2008 Officers

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

2010 Calendar:

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

2010 Meetings Schedule:

January 25th Cancelled

February 22nd Cancelled

☀ **March 22nd**
ANNUAL MEETING

April 26th

May 24th

2010 Calendar:

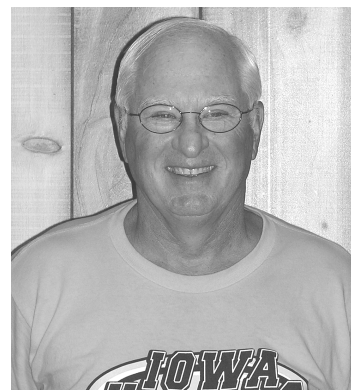
Nords Notes

a word from our president

Enclosed are excerpts from a letter David Johnson, who graduated from Huxley High School in 1949, wrote to Owen John Kalsem & Omar & Valerie (Fjelland) Brendeland about early years in the Huxley area and how his mother was in Norway District No. 1 School which was South of Huxley.

He writes that “my own life was lived as being part of the Evergreen country school neighborhood; the Kelley Lutheran church where my Johnson grandparents, my father’s two brothers and one sisters family belonged and I went to Vacation Bible School; Huxley Consolidated School where I graduated from High School; Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames where I went to Sunday School, was confirmed, and was married; Washington Township where I was involved in 4-H as a child and farmed for seven years after High School”.

He told the story of how his



mother, girl of German background from Grimes, Iowa, met his father in Huxley. Valerie said her mother attended one of the country schools south of Huxley and we wondered if she was a student of my Mother’s.

In my family memorabilia we have the copy of my mother’s teaching contract for the year 1920-1921, signed by O. J. Kalsem, President of the Board of Directors, which I thought you would be interested in. Also her Uniform County Teacher’s Certificate, and a two inch by three inch print of a photo of several children posing in front of Norway Dist. No.1 school. I made copies of these on my little home printer and typed a copy of the contract because the original carbon copy information did not show up very well.

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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.*

April Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2009, Call to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers by President Nord.

Attendees: Michele Kalsem, Nels Nord, Scott Peterson, Don Duncan, Yvonne (Daisy) Fjelland, Ikey Lee, Harriet Sheldahl, Delila Roberts, Arnold and Vivian Larson, and Janet Stoll.

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

Scott Peterson noted the Story Co. Supervisors granted us \$2000.00

We talked about the Ballard Cemetery making note that it probably needs mowed already. Janet Stole said she could get a brush cutter to help around and out if need be.

The membership discussed a video camera and Nels said he would check at Best Buy for cost and external microphone system.

Delila and Nels discussed the up coming alumni banquet with the membership and we talked about printing more news letters to have many to hand out. In addition to having DVD's to sell.

We discussed serving food at the June 19, movie night with the HERO group. We thought we should serve Hot dogs, Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Chips, and bottled water.

Thoughts about a building were discussed and the group agreed we should write some type of request from the community for the building to include in the news letter.

New Business

There was a motion to pay outstanding debt and we agreed to send a note to Fritz Erickson to hurry back.

There was no other new business brought to the board we adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Sec Kalsem

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

May Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2009 - Call to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers by President Nord.

Attendees: Michele Kalsem, Nels Nord, Scott Peterson, Ron Krull, Yvonne (Daisy) Fjelland, Laverne Helland, John Hendricks, John Kalsem, Arlene Lande, Ikey Lee, Delila Roberts, Arnold and Vivian Larson, Leonard Foley and Janet Stoll.

Past minutes were read by Sec Kalsem.

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen

Web Report was given by Sec Kalsem

The reports were approved as read.

Discussions and Actions on old Business Old Business

Ron Krull had indicated he was going to mow Ballard Cemetery but with the rain he had not made it out. Leonard Foley said he would be willing to help with the care and discussed where the path was and how to get a mower of his size out there.

Ron and President Nord reported on the information we gained concerning a video camera and the membership decided to purchase one and try it for a meeting so we could return it in 30 days IF it is not satisfactory. Nels offered to take care of that.

Details of the BBQ we will serve with HERO June 18 is as follows.

Ron Krull was going to check with Huxcomm to get advertising, and check with Josh Larson to assist in table set up and tear down.

President Nord was going to make a trip to Sams club and get table service, hot dogs, buns, beans, chips, and condiments. In addition a white board to write the menu and prices on and find out about power cords for plugging in the food service pans and check with the City Admin to see about advertising on the ticker sign at Main and HWY 69.

Treasurer Peterson will prepare the pulled pork for the sandwiches, Janet offered to prepare beans, Delila also offered to help with the food and all offered to work the service line.

It was agreed that each person served food should get a membership form and Scott Peterson would check and see if we could play our DVD prior to the HERO movie starting. It was also discussed we should be prepared to sell the Fjeldberg church pictures we received from the Kelly Museum only if the weather is lovely. Sec Kalsem will look into frames and selling them in partnership with Fjeldberg Church.

Considering a museum building for HHS the membership agreed we should put a "Building wanted" poster in the next few news letters to see if we could generate more interest from the community.

New Business

The theme for the Huxley Prairie Fest will be Go Green. The membership noted that history it all about recycling and preserving what we have. We talked about our float having a clothes line, a

May Meeting Minutes Cont.

New Business

The theme for the Huxley Prairie Fest will be Go Green. The membership noted that history it all about recycling and preserving what we have. We talked about our float having a clothes line, a wringer washer and/or wash board. We will pursue that further next meeting.

Correspondence needs included three thank you notes, for the Story Co. Supervisors and the City of Huxley for the money they donated to HHS and also the Kelly Museum for the tour, advice and church posters.

There was no other new business brought to the board we adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Sec Kalsem

July 27th, meeting called to order @6:30 p.m. by President Nels Nord.

No June Meeting

July Meeting Minutes

Members present Arlene Lande, Ruth Lee, Harriet Sheldahl, John Hendricks, Delila Roberts, Scott Peterson, & Nels Nord.

New Business

Motion to approve Treasurer report.

The membership approved \$72.28 to Scott Peterson for the fabulous meat he purchased for the fund raiser.

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Sec Kalsem

No August or September Meeting

Prefer to get your newsletter on line? Email
and let us know! hhs@huxcomm.net



RENEW

IT IS TIME TO RENEW!

Check the back page for our current renewal form AND THANKS!



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

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



Happy New Year!

Thanks you for paying your dues we appreciate it very much.

Please consider joining as a LIFETIME members and never have to worry about renewing again.

Joining as a LIFETIME member 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 form on the back page of this news letter.

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 Kalsem

Laverne & Elaine Helland

Elizabeth & Javerna Maland

Darlene & Robert Hermann

Nels & Rowena Nord

Dave & Cheryl Kalsem

Harriett Sheldahl

John & Ann Kalsem

Janet & Gary Thompson

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 515-597-3142

We have a NEW web address and site.

Our new web address is

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.

I don't believe this contract was for my mother's first year because she spoke about teaching at this one room school and later in a one room school that was moved in from the country and set up behind what you and I called the Old Building when we were in school. She and my father were also married December 31, 1921 and she did not teach after the end of the school year 1921-1922.

Based on my assumptions that Norway No. 1 had eight grades, that children began school when they were five years old, went on to High School, and graduated at age 18, one could assume that some of the children listed in our roster or Huxley High School Alumni graduating during the years 1925 through 1933 may have been students of my mothers in 1920.

My mother graduated from High School at Harold, Iowa, the small town that served Camp Dodge during World War 1. She then graduated from a six week summer course at Des Moines University and this qualified her to take the examination and become a grammar school teacher. I think she taught one year at the one room school north of Grimes she had attended and then accepted the position at Norway No. 1. She talked about packing her suitcase, taking the interurban from near the home farm to Des Moines, transferring to the Ft. Dodge, Des Moines and Southern (I believe it was called), getting off at a road crossing south of Huxley, walking to the Iverson farm on the East side of the highway South of Huxley where she roomed and boarded with the Iverson's.

I recall a few of her memories. She spoke English and understood a limited amount of German. The language spoken in the Iverson home was predominately Norwegian. This was also true of the homes her students came from. The Iverson's had a young immigrant Norwegian hired man who stayed in the other upstairs room.

At night he would play the most mournful tunes on his violin and she would sit in her room and cry, she was so homesick and so was he. In the winter she had to get up early, and walk to the school, start the fire in the stove to warm the building, and sat in the building bundled up in her coat waiting for it to warm up. In the fall after the corn was picked several big tall farm boys who could

barely speak English showed up and enrolled in school. They wanted to learn to read and write English.

One evening Mother and her sister were walking down Main Street in Huxley and two young men were driving their Model T up and down the street. They stopped and talked to the two girls. One of the boys was Neil Johnson, my father.

Mother kept track of the Iverson's and their daughter, Margaret, for years. They moved into Huxley and I think they lived near the High School.

One other item of interest has to do with my parent's purchase of their small 50 acre farm. When they were married in 1921, they moved to the farm just west of the highway on the road to Kelley. After a few years my father became ill and they had to give up farming. He was a hemophiliac, had a stiff knee and was troubled with severe health problems all of his life. Randall Thompson, a relative, let them move into a house he had where they just survived for a year or more and then my father got well enough to ride on a horse drawn farm implement and drive horses so he started doing day work for various farmers in the area. One of those, a man by the name of Ole Olson who lived on 40 acres on the West side of the highway North of Johnson Hill, said, "Neil, you are a good farmer. I am a good carpenter. I want you to buy my livestock, machinery, and crops as they stand in the field and move up here. I will move to Ames and become a full time carpenter". Then after a few years they were able to save up enough money deposited in the Huxley Bank to make a down payment on the 50 acre farm we lived on. This is where Huxley comes back into play. Dad and mom took their money out of the Huxley bank and made the down payment. They borrowed the rest of the money from my grandfather, Andrew K. Johnson, who also had his savings in the Huxley bank.

Shortly after they took the money out of the bank, the great depression happened and the bank failed. Both my parents and my grandfather would have lost their savings if they had left it in the bank. Even though my father and

mother paid way too much for the land, they had something. They did struggle along and paid Grandpa Andrew back. Even though my father and mother paid way too much for the land, they had something. They did struggle along and paid Grandpa Andrew back.

The Andrew Johnson family attended the Lutheran Church in Kelley. Several of my first cousins and their children attended school in Huxley and some are still in the community. My father and mother joined the family church in Kelley after they were married. The church conducted their worship in Norwegian. My father begged the Pastor and church council to have at least one service a month in English so my mother could fully participate. The church fathers couldn't make the change so my parents transferred to Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames where they worshipped for the rest of their lives.

One last Huxley related story. My father, who probably left Evergreen school in the fourth grade, was elected to the Washington Township School Board where he served for at least twelve years. They had four one room schools – Evergreen located one-half mile east of Highway 69 and about a mile north of Johnson Hill; Grandview on the west side of Highway 69 just north of the road to the Ames Airport; Oakwood, south of the Campus and Wentworth School north of old Highway 30 west of the campus. During my father's last term on the school board, they went through the process of closing all four schools and dividing up the areas served between Huxley, Ames and Kelley school districts. Needless to say high emotions prevailed in the community over this.—END

November Meeting Minutes

November 23th, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. By President Nels Nord

Attendees were Nels Nord, Michele Kalsem, Scot Peterson, John Hendricks, Darlene Kalsem, Janet Stoll, Harriett Sheldahl, Arlene Lande, Vivian & Arnold Larson, Delila Roberts Dawn Bently and Christy Krisler.

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 society attended to the old business then visited with Dawn Bently and Chris Murray about their photos, families and homes.

New Business

John Kalsem had part of a letter read from David Johnson about Marg Hidman and the Norway School #1. Additionally John presented a calendar and historical account about the Huxley Railroads he had collected recently in his travels.

The Society agreed there would be NO December meeting and set the time and date for the annual meeting of Jan 25th, 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Nels is going to check into who might be willing to do a program for the annual meeting. Some ideas were Howard Hammond from the Slater Historical Society or Florence Wheeler.

HHS sent a thank you to Leonard Foley for mowing the Ballard Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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&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

LOOK



If your address label is highlighted BLUE please contact the Society to pay your membership otherwise sadly, this will be your last newsletter.

Thanks! Sec Kalsem

PH: 515-597-3142 or email
HHS@huxcomm.net

Clip and Mail the membership information to the left.

HUXLEY

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4

