

# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 4

Winter 2020

## 2020 Officers

### President

Nels Nord

### Vice President

Delila Roberts

### Secretary

Michele Kalsem

### Treasurer

Jolene Lettow

### Member-at-Large

Richard Sydnes

### Publishing

Board Members

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

### Hours:

M-F 8:30 -10:30 am  
or call Nels to set up a visit 515-231-9174

**See Us on Facebook Too**

**\*\*\*NEW EMAIL\*\*\***

[4huxleyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:4huxleyhistory@gmail.com)

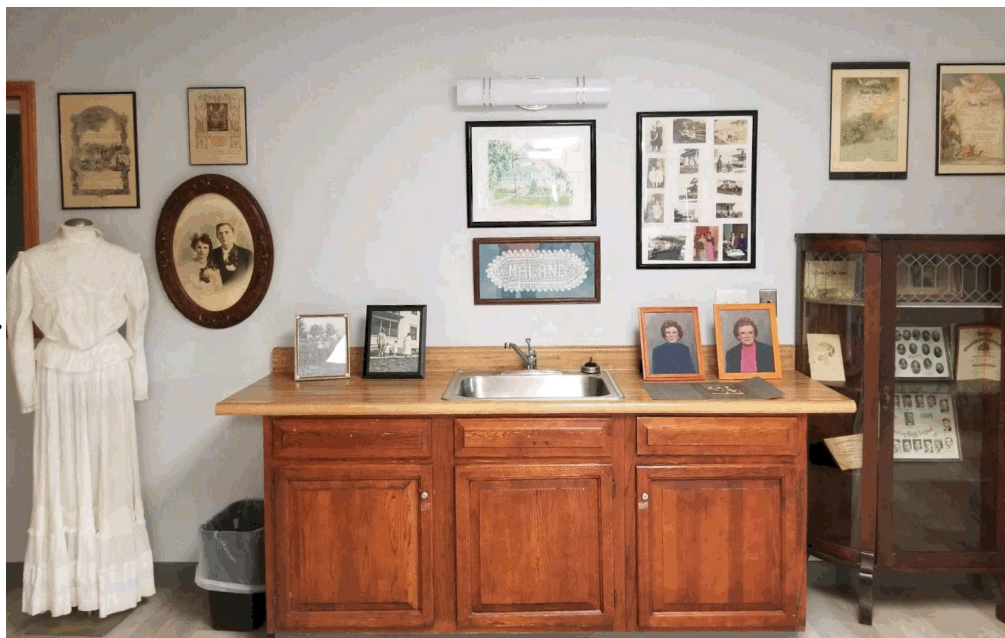
## Did you know?

HHS has a display of really interesting artifacts in the Hub located in the 3C's building. There are also displays at the Nord Kalsem Community Center from the Maland Home as wee as photos of local Veterans.

Nels keeps regular hours on work days at the Hub.

M-F 8:30-10:30 AM

Please let us know if you would like to see any of these collections. We would love to show them off!



This is a portion of the Shelter House display that shows some of the Maland Family memorabilia.

**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.*

## Board Report—Maland Property

This article is a timeline of the Maland House while owned by the Huxley Historical Society (HHS):

The story ends in 2020, when the Huxley Historical Society -its board members current and past, sadly came to an understanding that HHS could not afford to keep and maintain the Maland House. Due to the aging property, expenses were becoming exorbitant while income and interest was declining. Here is the story behind the sale of the property.

In November of 2015, the Maland home became the property of the Huxley Historical Society. HHS and its members were excited about the possibilities of owning the historic home. In the beginning there was much interest in the home and HHS received donations of just over \$8,000. In that first year of ownership, expenses totaled almost \$5,500.

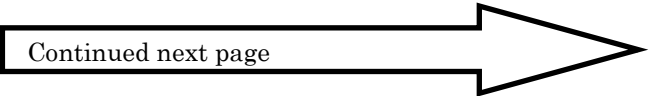
There were many activities held at the Maland home in 2016 and 2017 that were enjoyed by all who attended. Some of the activities at the Maland house were Pie on the Porch, Red Hatters function, Christmas Open Houses, tea parties, and more. Revenue generated for the Maland Home in the year 2017 was \$4,343. Minor expenses for the Maland property included general maintenance like utilities, several boiler service/repairs and mowing. Some major expenses were tree removal, roof replacement, apartment stair repairs and front porch leveling which brought total expenses in 2017 to \$20,357.

2018 was similar in activities producing income from pancake breakfasts, open houses, bake sales meal fundraisers and donations which totaled \$8,357. Expenses included general utilities, insurance, multiple heating and cooling repairs, repairs to the porch, siding, gutters and fence, in addition to tree removal and bathroom repairs. Expenses were \$10,245. At the February 2018 meeting the HHS board discussed repairs needed to the home and the increasing expenses of the property. The Board noted that interest in the home was dwindling as well as revenue. Even though expenses were higher than revenues, the HHS Board decided to go another year, monitor the revenues and expenses, and revisit the conversation in 2019.

Maland house activities continued thru 2019 very similarly to the previous three years. Income was generated from activities like tours, breakfasts, and donations to a total for the year of \$2,896. Expenses were \$5,953. Some of the expenses included insurance of \$2,300 and yard/grounds maintenance that averaged \$1,000 a year.

In 2020, prior to the sale of the home in September, revenue never reached \$1,000 while expenses were over \$4,000. Dismally, the yearly upkeep of the Maland Home was only one of the obstacles the Historical Society had in owning the home. Another major hurdle was the lack of handicapped accessibility. None of the home's street entrance doors were accessible and if the Society continued to hold activities in the home, then it was a State requirement that the house become Code compliant. To become compliant, the bathroom alone would require nearly \$20,000 in renovations. In addition, the sewer line from the house to the street was severely outdated and needed replacement. The west porch needed leveling and repairs, and the north stairs leading to the old upstairs apartment were in very poor condition and an additional liability.

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The heating and cooling system in the home was archaic and going to be expensive to replace. The home could not maintain archival quality without a complete overhaul due to the humidity in the summer and the temperature fluctuations throughout the year. One quote for a new heating and cooling system was \$15,000 and the water heater replacement was going to cost \$1500.

In February of 2020, the HHS Board discussed the future of the Maland home and after much debate, decided it was best to sell the historic home. An appraisal of the house was conducted, and the home was listed privately with the thought that if the house did not sell quickly then a realtor would be utilized.

Within 24 hours of the home being listed an offer was made – for the full asking price! Even better was that the new owners were historic preservationists and were specifically looking for a home they could restore and return to its original valor! (See letter from new owners inside this newsletter!)

After the sale of the home, the HHS Board had the task of determining the best use of the funds received from the sale of the home. At the last July meeting future growth of the Historical Society and what that might look like was discussed. The HHS Board did examine the ideas of building a new place for the Historical Society or possibly converting an existing building. After conducting research, it was decided the Society simply could not afford to maintain its own facility at this time.

Other items the HHS Board has attended to this year included updating the bylaws (which had not been done since the Society's inception in 2006) and plans for the Ballard Cemetery – should there be research done on its unknown inhabitants, the cemetery's parking access, and defining its boundaries.



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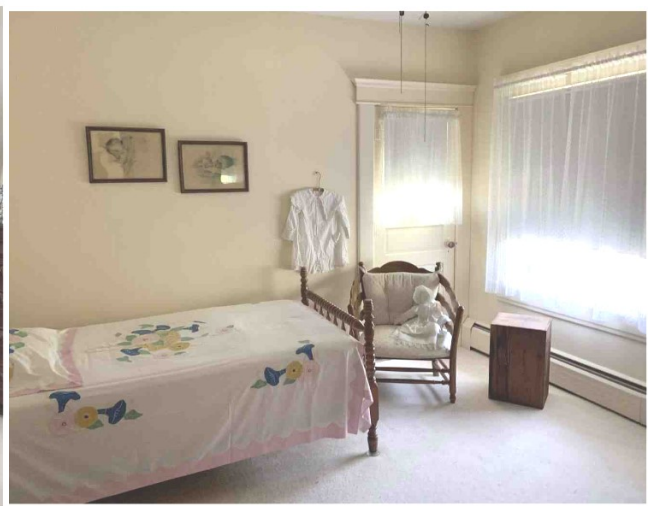


There was Derecho storm damage to the Maland home (during the closing process) which had to be handled. Board members and their families got the yards and trees cleaned up and temporary repairs were made to the house. Thankfully, the new owners were gracious enough to take over with the final repairs.

Most recently, HHS invested \$150,000 with Edward Jones, for the future expansion of the Historical Society. There are no definite plans at this time on what the future expansion will entail. However, in the meantime, the Huxley Historical Society has displays at both the Hub in the 3C's building, and the Nord Kalsem Community Center. Nels maintains regular hours at the Hub. Inside is a wealth of Huxley history that includes pictures of the old Huxley High graduation classes from 1922 thru 1958, photos of Huxley from the early 1900's, artifacts from old Huxley businesses, Norwegian history, books, genealogy information, historic data on the old Huxley High School and much more. At a second location at the Nord Kalsem Community Center on West 5<sup>th</sup> there is a display of military veterans that were from the Huxley area, an exhibit of the Huxley Horse Show with was responsible for raising money and its proceeds going to build the shelter house in 1947. The Huxley Historical Society also recently unveiled a display of many photos from the Maland family: Martin and Anna Marie Maland – the original owners and builders of the Maland Home, their daughters, Elizabeth and Javerna Maland, and the wedding dress that Anna Marie Maland wore when she married into the Maland family. These historic artifacts and exhibits in both locations are available to the public. Nels is available to give tours most weekday mornings and other days on request.

The Huxley Historical Society is proud of their accomplishments to date. It is the Board's wishes that once our lives return back to "normal" the Society will once again host programs and other activities at the Community Center and utilize our members who are anxious to volunteer and help keep the Historical Society active in our community. It is the Huxley Historical Society's mission to engage others in the preservation, education and celebration of Huxley's heritage and ancestry.

Stay tuned for what's coming in the future with Huxley's history!!



## **Seasons Greetings from Hal and Doyle**

### **new owners of the Maland Home.**

As many of you know the Maland home purchase was recently finalized. Thank you to everyone for your well wishes, thank you's, questions and general concerns. We hope that with this introduction we will be able to bring everyone up to date on what has been going on at the Maland home and what some of the plans are here in the near future.

We'd like to start off by saying thank you to Nels Nord for his time and always being available thru the ups and downs of the buying process.

To introduce ourselves, We are Hal Davis and Doyle Tweet. We currently live in Ames, Iowa. Doyle grew up in Austin, Mn. His full time job has taken him from Minnesota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Kansas, and now Iowa. Doyle has restored and preserved several homes on his journey. He has a passion for landscape design, gardening and home preservation. Some of you may know Hal. Hal is originally from Newton, Iowa. Hal is an interior designer with a historical preservation background. Over the course of 30 plus years he has restored over 20 historical homes mainly in the Midwest, many of them being in the historical neighborhood of Sherman Hill in downtown Des Moines. If you follow HGTV you may have seen his work on the show called West End Salvage.

Since closing on the home in September, work has begun on the exterior and interior. Like many old homes there are many things that need to be addressed right away. For starters the Derecho threw everyone a curve ball. We have continued the exterior cleanup and debris removal and have started our initial new plantings before the snow flies. As far as the interior goes, the Maland sisters took great care of the property. Although taking care of the property is one thing, many of the large projects that are needed to maintain the integrity of the house fell to the wayside. Since the purchase we have replaced the sewer line from the basement to the street, installed a new sump pump, new water heater, gas forced heating and air conditioning. All those things that you need to function but add no interesting cosmetic bling to the house. The upstairs kitchen that was added many years ago has been removed, all interior carpet, layers of linoleum and subfloors have been removed to expose the beautiful yellow pine floors that are original to the home. It's been interesting to uncover past renovations from the Maland family as well. We are currently working with a local contractor to help us with the next phase of construction. We have started our initial plans for construction of the new kitchen and bathrooms. Our intent is to update the home with a concerning eye to the original styling and era of the home but making it function for today's needs.

As winter closes in on us all, efforts will be focused on the interior. In spring we will start the exterior renovation. Eventually we will remove the large industrial staircase to the second floor which was used to access the apartment. We will be installing new windows where needed to mimic the original windows which can be seen within the front porch. If you have driven by you would have noticed that we removed the metal windows on the porch to expose the original porch columns. These windows were not original to the house. From historical photos you can see that there were screens on the porch. We hope to have these recreated as well. As we understand from friends and neighbors the Maland sisters liked to entertain on the porch and we hope to do the same. Eventually we'll also be removing all the exterior vinyl and metal siding to expose the original wood lap siding.

We hope this sheds some light on the project. We hope that if you are in the neighborhood and see us around you will please stop by and chat. We look forward to visiting and touring with everyone.

**Hal and Doyle**

## John A. Boardsen By Nels Nord

John A. Boardsen was a 1941 graduate of Huxley High School. John was born in Senja, Norway, on September 24, 1921, to Invard Berg Johan Boardsen and Jessica Jensine. John had one sister, Burkhilda, and 5 brothers, Arnold, Einar, Harry, who were born in Norway and Irving and Danny who were born in Chicago, IL.

The Boardsen's arrived in New York, New York, on May 6, 1929 on the ship Bergensfjold. They lived in Chicago until moving to Huxley in the late 1930's. John's brother, Arnold, graduated from Huxley High School in 1942. John enlisted in the Air Force on October 3, 1942 in Chicago, IL.

Staff Sargent John Boardsen was a Right Waist Gunner with the 756<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 459<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 304<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, based at Giulia Airfield, Italy. The 459<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group flew B-24 Liberator bombers on missions in Italy, France, the Balkins, Austria and Germany,



On July 20, 1944, Staff Sargent Boardsen was the Right Waist Gunner of B-29H Liberator bomber named "Hell's Belle" which was on a bombing mission over Friedrichshafen, Germany. The aircraft was last sighted at 10:58 am hours after the aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire over the bombing target. The aircraft had a crew of 9.

With fire breaking out, the entire crew bailed out of the plane at 15,000 feet and was flying over Lake Constance. Six of the crew members landed either on the German part of Lake Constance itself or on the adjacent shores to Lake Constance in Germany. Staff Sargent John Boardsen and Staff Sargent Torres Tonnessen landed in Lake Constance. Staff Tonnessen was rescued from drowning in Lake Constance by Swiss fishermen. Staff Sargent John A. Boardsen's body was later recovered from Lake Constance by the Swiss and interred in Munsingen, Switzerland. Seven of the nine members of the crew were either drowned or killed.

Staff Sargent John Boardsen was buried in Clinton, Iowa, at the Springdale Cemetery. The Huxley Class of 1941 had a reunion in Brookside Park in Ames in August of 1950 and appointed a committee to purchase a memorial for John Boardsen who was a member of their class of 41, who was killed in World War II. The memorial was placed in the Huxley shelter house by Evelyn Christianson, Dorothy Christopher and Ronald Fjelland.

## Owen John Kalsem Iowa 4H Hall of Fame By Nels Nord

Owen John Kalsem, of Huxley, was selected to be honored and inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame in the summer of 2020.

Owen John has been involved in the 4-H program his entire life. Owen John grew up on the Kalsem farm with his brother, David, northwest of Huxley, which has been part of the Kalsem family for over 125 years. He was the son of Orville and Javerna (Ersland) Kalsem and graduated from Huxley High School in 1948.

Owen John became an active member of the Palestine Peppy Pushers 4-H club in his youth and showed calves and horses at the Story County and Iowa State Fairs.

As an adult Owen John, with his wife Ann, continued involvement in 4-H with their four children, Jeff, Sharon, Karen and Clint. He served on the Story County Fair Board, was president of the Extension Council, and was the Horse and Cattle Superintendents at the Story County Fair various years.



Owen John has a lifelong love of riding and showing horses. A lot of his fond memories were showing horses at the Huxley Horse Show from 1940 – 1956. In addition Owen judged county 4-H horse shows all across Iowa. He also led horse judging clinics at the Story County Fair and served as an official judge at the Iowa State horse judging contest.

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### **\*Sad news \***

**Huxley High Attendees that passed away in 2020:**

**Our condolences to the families of each...**

**Ralph Kalsem 1951, 2/15/20,**

**Gordon Hennick 1934, 3/30/20,**

**Max Irving 1955, 5/31/20,**

**LeRoy Dobbe 1947, 6/14/20,**

**Jean Soderstrum Finch 1960,  
9/16/20,**

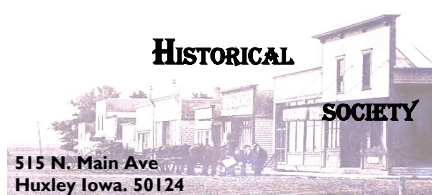
**Ruth Lee Larson 1947, 10/1/20**

**Richard Steensland 1959, 12/10/20**

**Karen Nord Dunne 1955, 12/18/20**

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**HUXLEY****Winter 2020 HHS NEWSLETTER****2021 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail**

Please Renew by Jan 30, 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2021 Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$ 500.00

HHS donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Fjord recipe booklet \$ 5.00

S&amp;H for booklet \$ 2.00

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

S&amp;H for DVD \$ 2.50

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

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of check# \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: **HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124****Office use only:** email \_\_\_\_\_ member list \_\_\_\_\_ label \_\_\_\_\_**\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\***

Effective immediately Membership fees will  
be due in January of each Year.

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  
[4huxleyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:4huxleyhistory@gmail.com) or by mail to  
HHS, 515 N Main St, Huxley, IA 50124

**Website: [www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org)**