



KANDI EXPRESS

Kandiyohi County Historical Society
Newsletter

Historical Society holds Annual Meeting



The Kandiyohi County Historical Society held its 128th annual meeting at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society in Willmar, MN with 42 people in attendance. A meal catered by McKales Catering and program by Jim Roe on the 1980s Farm Crisis in West Central Minnesota were held in conjunction with the annual business meeting.

The board members elected are Peggy Morrison of Willmar, MN (1st term) and Shawn Mueske of Willmar, MN (1st term). A thank you was given to Rollie Boll and Jeff Jagush for their service of six years on the Board. Elected Officers include: Mark Peterson, President; Karen Hernandez, Vice President; Shawn Mueske, Treasurer; and Emilie Mikes, Secretary.



Highlights on 2023

- Received grants from Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Fund
- Created an exhibit highlighting Lake Lillian at 100 years for the Fair
- Installed two new exhibits: Resorts in Kandiyohi County and the Emergency Services exhibit
- Held 1st Annual Kandi-Kane Lane and hosted candlelight tours of the Sperry House
- Hosted school tours for 8 schools
- 894 people attended tours of museum, Sperry House or Endreson Cabin
- 7720 visitors to our facility in 2023
- Created the Mona Nelson Internship Program

IN THIS ISSUE

- Upcoming Programs
- When a Girl...World War II
- Unmarked Graves
- NLLHA update
- Swedish Institute Bus Trip



Thanks to everyone for the help in making our Historical Society a success every year!

KANDIYOHI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

610 Highway 71 NE
Willmar, MN 56201
320-235-1881
kandhist@msn.com
www.kandiyohicountyhistory.com
@kandihistory #kandihistory

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024-2025

President - Mark Peterson
Vice President – Karen Hernandez
Treasurer-Shawn Mueske
Secretary – Emilie Mikes
Michael Fischer
Peggy Morrison
John Erickson
Mary Larson
Tom Schroer

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Executive Director - Jill Wohnoutka
Deputy Director – Robert Larson
Caretaker –Molly Larson
Mona Nelson Intern: Brogan Harguth

KANDI EXPRESS

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Kandiyohi County Historical Society.
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profit postage paid at Willmar, MN.
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Membership in the Kandiyohi
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Express. Stories about local history
can be submitted to :

Newsletter Editor: Jill Wohnoutka
director@kandiyohicountyhistory.com

Newsletter Layout: Mike Norberg

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Archives/Office:

Julie Neubauer, Bonnie Hoogeveen, Donna McLouth, Jan Helin, Mike Norberg, Sheila Bosch, Nancy Gustafson, Rose Nett, Tyler Nett, Cal Miner, Larry Lohn, Diane Macht, John McLouth, Harold Larson, Marvis & Bill Hallberg, Ron Keith, Don Burke, Sam Wohnoutka, Wilfred Wenberg, Doris Cogelow

Thursday Crew:

Dale Johnson, Loren Luschen, Rollie Boll, Gayle Larson, Harley Aalfs, Ron Bay, Larry Scholla, John Davis, Allan Simon, Randy Augustin, Mark Peterson.

Landscaping:

Linda and Gayle Larson, Allan and Elaine Simon

Exhibits:

Dick & Sheila Bosch, Dale Helmke

School Tours:

Cal Miner, Julie Neubauer, Paul Westberg, Karen Hernandez, Emilie Mikes, Bob Larson, Brogan Harguth, Peggy Morrison, Mary Larson, Tom Schroer, Nancy Gustafson.

Tripolis Cemetery Walk

Tripolis Congregation & Cemetery Board, Sheila & Dick Bosch, Doug Erickson, Bethany Rothers, Julie Neubauer, Tom Schroer, Peggy Morrison, Cal Miner, Don Burke, Nancy Gustafson, & Brogan Harguth

Red Cross Blood Drive:

Diane Macht

KCHS Wish List

Office Supplies

- 8" x 14" white copy paper \$10.00 per ream or \$40.00 per box.
- Address Labels 1" x 2 5/8" : \$10.00 per pack
- Shipping Labels, 2"x4": \$15.00 per pack

Research Library

- Top Loading Sheet Protectors, Semi-Clear: \$15.00 per box
- 1/3 cut, letter size file folders: \$10.00 per box

Community Room

- Plastic tablecloths
- Meeting Owl for virtual meetings -\$1000
- 75" smart tv for presentations

Thursday Crew

- Monetary donations to purchase tools and equipment for maintenance of the Historical Society.

Archives

- Full 1" Tab Letter Archival File Folder (100): \$40.00
- Acid Free Tissue Roll (1000'): \$240.00
- Archival Storage Boxes: \$12.00 per box

Monetary donations for the purchase of these items are also appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

FEBRUARY 1, 2024-APRIL 30, 2024

Individual

Vickie Vogt	Andres' Albertsen	Margaret Irwin	Ron & Cathy Moe
Dan Leite	Matthew K. Peterson	Violet Ceske	Bruce & Lois Nelson
Doug Braithwaite	Elizabeth Huebner Nelson	Rev. Douglas Mankell	John & Sharon Davis
Michael Fischer	Dennis McDonald	Timothy Jafek	John & Eileen Hanson
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Nick Ronning	Steve Lee	Ken Ackerman	Donna & John McLouth
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Bill Bentson	Steven Erickson	Harlan & Julie Madsen	Doug & Jan Green
Janice Hanson	Randy Augustin		

Patron

MAY 1, 2023-APRIL 30, 2024

Mike & Linda Mickelson	Sue Morris	Shawn Mueske	Sheila Sjerven
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Peter & Emilie Poss	Karen Hernandez	Linda Swalin	Thomas Schroer
Todd Erickson	Gayle & Linda Larson	Jan & Darrell Forkrud	Jan Beyerl
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Beth Fischer	Dan Ahlquist	Andrew Pakalns	Carol Hable
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Carol Olson	Roland & Judy Boll	Barbara Everson	
	Home State Bank	Dean & Diane Shuck	

DONATIONS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024-APRIL 30, 2024

Memorial

In Memory of Mary Jo Larson
Charles & Martha Hauptert
Fred & Doris Cogelow
Bill & Marvis Hallberg
Paul & Gail Magnuson
Stan & Sallie Green
Rose Simpson

In Memory of Richard Falk
Darlene Bratberg
Richard & Sheryl Engan
Kevin Quinn
Fred & Doris Cogelow
Dean & Myra Quale
Dr. Peggy Johnson
Duaine & Ann Amundson
Dick & Delores Olson
Dean & Diane Shuck

In Memory of Shirley Ringness
Gayle & Linda Larson

In Memory of Bonnie Hanson
Harley & Evelyn Aalfs

In Memory of Gene Fenstra
Gayle & Linda Larson

In Memory of Audrey Thompson
Harley & Evelyn Aalfs

In Memory of Margaret "Peggy" Condon
Harley & Evelyn Aalfs

Building

Douglas & Marie Jensen
Andrew Pakalns
Loren & Smitty Luschen

Engine #2523

Andrew Pakalns

Sperry House

Douglas & Sharon Bakker
Andrew Pakalns
Margaret Irwin
Bea Ourada
Tom Courneya

Endreson Cabin

Andrew Pakalns

Mona Nelson Endowment

Jack Huisinga
Andrew Pakalns
Mark & Lylas Peterson
Sandra Curran
Janelle & Paul Hidgem
Bea Ourada
Ron & Dee Erpelding
Rollie & Judy Boll

General Donation

Neil & Valerie Sussenguth
James Leary
Nancy & Chuck Gustafson

MEMBERSHIP

MAY 1, 2023-APRIL 30, 2024

Bronze

George "Corky" & Ramona Berg
Richard Falk & Maxine Zempel
Marilyn Johnson
Scott Nelson

Silver

Diane & Larry Macht

Advocate Business

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home
Engan Associates



With Sympathy

- **Elizabeth "Betty" Linhoff Peterson**, 93, KCHS lifetime member since 1982, passed away on January 24, 2024. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.
- **Mary Jo Bogg Larson**, 89, KCHS lifetime member since 1969, passed away on February 21, 2024. She is survived by her husband, Harold and one sister.
- **Richard V. Falk**, 87, former board member and KCHS member since 1980, passed away on February 21, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Maxine Zempel, one daughter, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
- **Audrey Knudsen Thompson**, 84, former board member and KCHS member since 2014, passed away on April 3, 2024. She is survived by her husband, Terry, four children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

When A Girl...World War II

Written by Bea Ourada

When a girl—and still, I have always been what used to be called a bookworm. My recreation reading is almost always fiction, often historical fiction. Recently it seems as though there are a lot of new books centered on World War II (WWII), which have reminded me of many WWII adjustments in civilian life. This column came about after late KCHS director Mona Nelson asked me to write an article of my memories of growing up in Willmar during WWII. So I have written about this before. However, recent reading has reminded me of things that I had forgotten.

One of the novels, “The Librarian Spy” by Madeline Martin, is the story of an American woman who is recruited from the Library of Congress to go to Portugal and find information in Resistance periodicals and send back to the State Department. She arrives in Portugal with her wartime wardrobe and is amazed to find that in Europe, there is not the same wartime styles.

During WWII there was genuine rationing—limitations of certain food items and gasoline for instance. But other things were just not available, and for clothing, styles were changed to reduce the amount of fabric needed. For some things, there was a direct connection to the war effort, for others material was needed to make uniforms for military. In all cases, we all knew it was our patriotic duty, and almost everyone “made-do”.

The item I remember that caused the most angst was hosiery. Lovely, sheer nylon stockings were just coming into vogue and rayon stockings were still the common attire. However these were off the market, needed for parachute manufacture. There were many solutions. Stockings were mended, worn with runners, and there was a little gadget to help repair the snag before it turned into a runner. At some point the worn stockings were beyond repair—then what? One solution was a liquid that was “painted” on the legs to look like hosiery. Before long, there was an addition to this cosmetic that could be added to resemble the seam.



*A pair of stockings from 1940
donated by Oma Kauffman*

Women’s dresses were shortened from the mid-calf length to knee-length. Skirts became pencil-slim. Styles were planned to use as little fabric as possible. This really did not affect children’s clothing, except that some were designed so that they could easily be adjusted as the child grew and could be worn longer. Shoes were in short supply, and the shoemaker was called upon to do more repairs. However we were coming off the depression, so we were used to extending the life of all clothing as long as possible.

The men were not overlooked in this, either. Pre-war, men's suits included a vest and frequently two pair of trousers. The vest and the second pair of trousers were eliminated. Suit coats were styled with narrow lapels, replacing the previous wide lapel. The suit jacket was shortened a few inches, sleeves were trimmer. And the trousers no long sported cuffs. These may seem like insignificant adjustments, but both to the consumer and the nation they did add up.

There was not rationing on clothing but availability was its own rationing. This civilian contribution to the war effort seems pretty mild when we remember that at no time was there any fighting on US soil. There were groups of people who were treated poorly, such as the Japanese Americans, but compared to life overseas, life was pretty easy in the USA. We were certainly made aware of what was happening on the front, by way of news

shorts preceding movies, radio reports and newspapers. We were given training, with air raid practices, had dark curtains to block out light from how homes, turned off street lighting, etc., but all this was preparedness, not actual experiences. There were neighborhood volunteers who would walk the neighborhood to be sure that no household was leaking light as a beacon for enemy aircraft.

Through the ages, warfare has changed from hand to hand combat riding horseback and carrying spears, to foxhole fighting with ammunitions that traveled a distance to enemy lines to aircraft dropping bombs to drones and missiles unmanned. Each change brings a new set of fears and defense but none seem to bring good sense and retreat to peace.



VOL. 63

THE ATWATER HERALD

ATWATER, KANDIYOHI COUNTY, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1942

NUMBER 26

Atwater Farm Boy Is Cited For Bravery At Pearl Harbor

Large Group To Leave April 15 For "M" Service

118 men are included in the contingent that will leave Atwater on Wednesday, April 15, to report for military service. They are:

City of Willmar—Kingsley W. Mortenson, Leland J. Skander, Eyd Fauschald, Louis H. Busch, Orlyn A. Skal, Orville L. Wright, Gordon E. Lundquist, Milton R. Dahl, Elliott R. Wahlstrand, Henry J. Ruter, Clarence A. Lash, Lorrin H. Madson, Guy I. Lackey, Charles H. Fallon, Sidney O. Olson, John A. Chickos, John H. Schmitz, Andrew W. Gabbert, Geo. H. Nelson, Eugene L. Ellestad, Selmer C. Nelson, Carlo W. Hinanga, Axel I. Thorson.

Willmar R. F. D.—Carl Svensson, Henry C. Tveite, Alvin A. Bokelmann, William Schultz, Andrew L. Johnson, Gordon L. Berg, M. Stanley Kallevig, Glen E. Linstrom, Harvin G. Noordin.

Kandiyoohi—Rene J. Armstrong, Jacob E. Jakobson.

Atwater—Eugene M. Wheeler.

HERALD CLASSIFIED ADS HAVE LONG REACH

The effectiveness—and long reach of Herald classified ads was demonstrated, again, last week when Stanley Hyden sold a kitchen table and chairs to a Casson party.

Why not let a Herald classified ad reach for you? Now that housecleaning time is here again why not take inventory of the many useable items stored in attic and garage and advertise them—convert them from mere dust catchers into CASH!

And there'll never be a better time to do it than NOW!

A FAST LEARNER



AN ENGLISH AIR MECHANIC bends over Soviet fighter pilot A. V. J. Maximovich to show the Red flier how to handle the controls of a new 12-gun Hurricane fighter plane, one of hundreds of this type which have been shipped to Russia by Britain. Photo was taken during a snow storm, on a Russian airfield miles within the Arctic circle, where R.A.F. men shot down 13 German planes and escorted Russian bombers on raids against the enemy while teaching Soviet pilots how to fly and look after the Hurricanes which were turned over to them. When the R.A.F. men returned to Britain a few days ago, they said of their pupils: "You must certainly hand it to them for fast learning." Big convoys from British ports are taking more of the deadly craft to Russia every month.

Traffic Deaths Show First Drop Since War Start

March was a red letter day on Minnesota's traffic safety calendar! For the first time since America entered the war—and the President and the Governor appealed for fewer accidents to save lives and manpower vital to the nation's defense—Minnesota showed a reduction in its traffic death toll as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

Twenty-eight persons were killed on Minnesota streets and highways during the March just past, as compared to 33 in March of 1941, according to an unofficial report today by the State Highway department. The margin of reduction was still slender, however, as several other March traffic victims lay in hospitals as the month closed, fighting for life.

Last month's reported fatalities included 24 motorists and four pedestrian victims. The 24 motorists were killed in 21 accidents. Eleven died in eight motor vehicle-motor vehicle collisions, and 12 were killed in as many non-collision accidents, such as running off the road or into fixed objects. As an indication of what caused their deaths, the Highway Department cited the following factors:

Excessive speed was involved in nine fatal accidents. Drinking drivers were involved

School Music Dept. in Concert April 14

The music department of Atwater high school will present its pre-concert festival musicale on Tuesday evening, April 14. The program, to be held in the auditorium, will open at 8 o'clock.

Presented will be all events that are entered in the district contest to be held April 18. These events include girls' glee club, mixed chorus, vocal ensembles and solos, and band, instrumental ensembles and solos. In all there will be eighteen entries this

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD

NORWAY LAKE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6338 County Road 40 NW

New London, MN 56273

www.nllha.org

www.facebook.com/nllha.org



Letter from the Norway Lake Lutheran Historical Association (NLLHA)

God dag!

Norway Lake Lutheran Historical Association (the Old Log Church) is celebrating a birthday this year. We're 25!

The official celebration is August 18, 2024. On that day, we will commemorate our first event which happened 25 years ago. The event is the Annual August Anniversary. It will take place at the Old Log Church in a big tent. There will be a catered lunch served at noon, followed by a program that begins at 1:30pm with coffee and snacks served afterward. It is a free will donation event. We appreciate the generosity of our community that allows us to rent tents, tables, and chairs, provide food and refreshments and present programs and music.

Calendar up! Come on out. You are invited to join in the celebration.

Our organization has been shaped by many capable hands over the quarter century of our existence. This year we will commemorate our past board members – those who made the log church restoration possible along with 25 years of programs, food, and fellowship we strive to provide.

On summer Saturday evenings we will continue our tradition of holding Vespers gatherings. Vesper is a Latin word for evening. In medieval Europe it was a common thing to perform a vespers (evening) liturgy. Even after Reformation, Martin Luther recommended, not only holding vespers services, but using Latin to sing the Vespers Psalms.

Don't worry if your Latin is rusty. It's a different kind of gathering at the Log Church. Vespers Psalms are not sung. There is music. The old pump organ accompanies the attendees in song. There's a featured musician to perform a song or two. And usually, a pastor gives a homily. It's a shorter kind of service and pretty interactive with a sing-a-long and requests. Pretty sure they didn't do requests in the original log church, those stoics. After the service we gather for snacks and refreshments under the evening sky.

The rolling fields west of Norway Lake are a pleasant place to spend a Saturday evening. You're more than welcome to join us. Vespers gatherings begin June 15 at 7:15 pm with Midsommar Music Night at the Old Log Church. The others are scheduled for June 22 and June 29. There is no gathering on July 6, but Vespers begin again on July 13 and will be held on July 20 and 27 as well as August 3 and 10. Join us for these evening gatherings.

We are so grateful to our community who continue to join us at our various events and are generous with their financial donations as well as their time. As always, we are grateful to Jill Wohnoutka and KCHS for our partnership and for allowing us to be a part of the KCHS newsletter.

Tusen takk,

John Hanson

President, NLLHA

To find more history of the Norway Lake community find us on Facebook.

Book Club

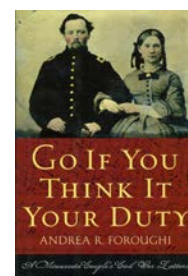


The Kandiyohi County Historical Society will be starting up a book club this fall. We are excited to start this new program. The books will be historically minded. We will meet four times a year at the Historical Society's community room. Below are the next four book choices with the dates and times of each club meeting. There is no cost to attend the book club. Contact Jill if you need help finding a copy of the books.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 AT 6:30PM

Go If You Think It Your Duty- Written by Andrea R. Foroughi

"A fascinating first-hand account of life during the U.S. Civil War as told by a husband and wife through the letters that they shared with one another"



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 AT 6:30PM

Stand Up: The Story of Minnesota's Protest Tradition
Written by Rhoda R. Gilman

"A brief and readable overview of the political protest movements that have shaped Minnesota, a state of extremes."



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 AT 6:30PM

The Things They Carried- Written by Tim O'Brien

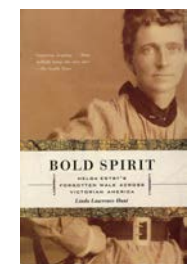
"Depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three."



WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025 AT 6:30PM

Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America- Written by Linda Lawrence Hunt

"The extraordinary story of Helga Estby, a mother of eight who, in 1896, dared to walk unescorted with her daughter across America in order to win a \$10,000 wager and stave off the foreclosure of her family farm."





Trip to AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

Join the KCHS on a bus trip to the
American Swedish Institute

THURSDAY, JULY 18

COST

\$80.00 KCHS Member

\$90.00 Non-Member



Trip includes a bus ride, guided tour
and SMÖRGÅSBORD Buffet.

The bus will depart the KCHS parking lot at
8:15am and return around 4:00pm.

To sign up call 320-235-1881
Deadline to sign up is July 3, 2024



But where are they?

Unmarked Graves in Kandiyohi County

By Julie Neubauer

Having now reached the age of retirement and facing my own mortality, my mind is beginning to contemplate the next phase. My own passing has just not interested me enough to think about it or where my final resting place will be. Well, that is until now!

I claim naiveté on the subject!

One of our volunteers at the historical society, by the name of Sheila, was helping coordinate the Cemetery Walk at Tripolis Church. I was assigned to write the narratives of some of occupants of the cemetery based on research that Sheila had done. During one of our conversations, which are always fascinating, she mentioned coming across some sites in the cemetery that had sunken foot markers or no markers at all. Sheila also shared another interesting tidbit. There is a large family headstone at the cemetery that states that there is a husband and wife buried there side by side with their names engraved on the headstone. Not unusual at all, however, the husband had been married twice but there was no mention of his first wife on the headstone. Records show that wife number one is buried under wife number two, but no mention of her name is made on the headstone. WHAT?? My curiosity was peeked! Do you mean there are people buried in the cemeteries that have no markers?

There are people buried in cemeteries and they don't know who they are or where they are buried? The answer would be an emphatic, yes!

Now that I was intrigued I decided to broaden my research. Low and behold in Kandiyohi County there are many unmarked graves numbering in the hundreds more than likely the thousands. I set out to find out just how common it was and to understand the reason for no headstones or footstones indicating where a person was buried. What I uncovered was just how common unknown burial sites were in our county, some of the reasons for the sites being unmarked, the struggles many of our smaller cemeteries had in maintaining accurate records throughout the decades, and the ongoing care of the sacred grounds.

One such person is Larry Lohn, a historical society volunteer. He contributed his story about Crow River Cemetery for this article and it illustrates the mystery behind finding relatives that were buried and their graves left unmarked. Some years ago while visiting the graves of his paternal great grandfather at Crow River Lutheran Church cemetery near Belgrade, Larry began to wonder about the final resting place of his great grandmother, his great grandfather's first wife.

He knew that his great grandfather was buried in Gausdal Lutheran Cemetery next to his second wife, but there was no gravesite for Larry's great grandmother. Where is she? His great grandmother died when his grandmother was six years old and then his great grandfather remarried, which was extremely common in those days, especially if there were young children to care for in the home. Larry's family history stated that great grandfather August Simonson was a member of the Crow River Church when he first arrived in the United States from his mother country of Norway. August married his first wife, Marthe, Larry's great grandmother short thereafter.



Updated stone for Marthe Simonson made possible by family members

Never having had the opportunity to discuss her with his late grandmother, Larry and his family just assumed that she must be buried in the home cemetery of Crow River. Fortunately Crow River has a directory near the cemetery and there he found his great grandmother's name and a plot number. Sad to say he found the plot but there was no gravestone there to honor her or even an indication of a grave there. After contacting the custodian of the cemetery and his 8 surviving cousins, it was decided that they would buy a headstone for her. Today when Larry or his cousins visit the cemetery, they are able to go directly to the grave of their great grandmother. It has given all of them a great sense of satisfaction that in this small way they have honored her with this memorial. Larry says that they can only speculate as to why there was no stone marker at the site. Could it be that at the time of her death this Norwegian immigrant family was too poor and maybe could not afford it? He never had the chance to discuss it with his grandmother before she died because he had just assumed his great grandmother's gravesite had a marker.



*Crow River Lutheran Church Cemetery
Photo by Gregory Harp in 2015*

When I wrote the article on the Willmar State Hospital, I befriended Russ, who had worked there and supplied me with interesting facts about the Oak Knoll Cemetery. Then I found out that he was on the board of the Salem-Lundby Cemetery Association. Once again Russ was a fountain of information for me as his records indicated, along with the 1905 History book some interesting facts about their cemetery.

Ten years after the establishment of the Crow Lutheran Cemetery, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized and a cemetery plot was completed, which makes it one of the oldest in the county. In 1882 the first burial, which was a child, was recorded in the cemetery. Also in 1882 the church building was erected, the congregation reorganized and the name changed to Lundby. The name Lundby probably signified where most of the congregation came from in Sweden.

Today this cemetery is governed by the Salem-Lundby Cemetery Association and is independent of the Salem Church. The two cemeteries, the Salem and the Lundby are about 2-3 miles apart from each other. At the Lundby location there are about 162 grave markers and monuments marking the graves. It is estimated, according to Russ' records that up to one hundred of the graves are unmarked, which is unusually high for the size of the cemetery. Burials were recorded but not always the location of the grave, which is problematic. The western 24 feet of cemetery is the oldest original area used for graves. There seems to be no records of grave locations except for some markers. The death, themselves, are however recorded. There could be several reasons for this. It usually centers on the lack of funds needed for a marker, or the person responsible did not update the plot map, which sometimes happened when the caretaker forgot or set the assignment aside for someone else to do. Thankfully the Veterans buried in the cemetery are clearly marked and honored each year. Also many of the early burials are children and although burial records identify the last name or parents, the child has no first name so remains just baby and then last name. In addition it seems that around 1903 there were 64 graves in the cemetery and a number of them remain unmarked graves possibly indicating that some of those buried there were not members of the church but were allowed to be buried there.

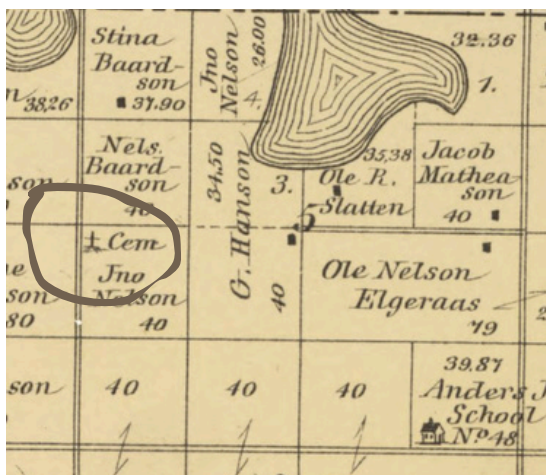
Salem Cemetery shares some of the Lundby history. Although the two burial grounds were both organized at the same time and joined together in 1935, they each maintained their own cemeteries. While the church records begin in 1908, the Heritage Searchers who transcribed the records at this cemetery only found 79 stones in 1988.



*Salem Mission Covenant Church Cemetery
Photo by Gregory Harp in 2016*

There are indications, similar to Lundby, that there were many more unmarked burials. 1905 history book mentions that several of them were nonmembers. The church also did not believe in carrying actual membership lists. It was an old belief that lists were considered the work of the devil. The Veterans that served in war are clearly marked and honored at this cemetery as they are throughout the county.

Another very old interesting cemetery is the St. John's Lutheran East Cemetery, which sits on one acre of land in the SW corner section 5 of Willmar Township. There was never been a church built on or near this site. Officially it was the Danish Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation. This cemetery stopped being used officially when a church building was constructed in St. John's Township. The story behind this cemetery is a sad one of burials of babies, tragedies, greed and loss.



1886 Plat Map of Willmar Township,
Section 5

In 1887 the St. John's Lutheran congregation voted to establish a church and cemetery site at Pennock, making the old St. John's East Cemetery obsolete. Although it is not proven the old cemetery could have still been used due to the fact that there were family plots already established on the site and burials could have taken place just not recorded. The first known burial there was in 1869, when Mrs. Mikai(Abelone) Mikaelson died. She was buried in a field at first but then moved to St. John's East Cemetery. Early records are very vague due to the fact that the church had not officially been established yet.

The only official burials records indicate that this cemetery held several babies, some as young as two days old, some toddlers, some accident burials and Mrs. Mikaelson. The record keeping was not adequate and never updated so information is difficult to verify. The cemetery was always well cared for, usually by the farmer who lived across the road and had family members buried in the cemetery. Today the cemetery looks remarkable different from earlier years. Instead of the three acres that the cemetery sat on originally, it now has only one large marker stating the name of the cemetery with two pine trees dwarfing it marker, one to the right and one to the left. It was tragic that the information that was on the gravestones had not been properly recorded before a farmer, who thought he needed the extra acre of farmland bulldozed and destroyed the graves and markers in 1981. After a court decision was made the deeded land was transferred back to the cemetery, but the irrevocable damage had already been done and the location of the occupants of the cemetery had been lost.

In some of our cemeteries in the county ones social status played a role in burial sites. Those that were prominent in the church community have places of honor in the cemetery and are close to the church building and those that were poor or nonmembers were placed in plots that were unknown, in an un-kept area and not taken care of by family members. Also some denominations did not allow anyone who committed suicide to be buried within the consecrated boundaries of a cemetery. Instead their bodies were buried just outside the cemetery along fence lines or even in fields and their whereabouts were not always recorded.

I was privileged to be able to spend time with Nathan Streed, who is the owner and mortician of the Harvey Anderson Funeral Home in Willmar and oversees the operation of my parish cemetery, St. Mary's. I wanted to know if the unknown burial scenarios that I have noted in older cemetery in our county also are prevalent at the sites he oversees. The answer was a resounding, yes. Hundreds of unknowns are buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery alone. The reasons for that are similar to the other cemeteries. Nathan confirmed and enlightened me about the reasons for unmarked graves at many of the cemeteries in Kandiyohi County. He stated that the system of recordkeeping was often not adequate and when people died the records were not updated to indicate the death or the placement of the remains. In addition lots in the cemeteries were purchased but other than a family name on the monument, individual head or footstones were never placed to indicate the individual buried in the plots. Moreover old markers that were placed on the burial site often decayed, or were removed or run over by lawnmowers and families chose not to replace them or family members could not be located to inform them of the loss. Some families lacked the funds to have proper burials. Also some young parents at the time of their baby's death didn't have the money or the burial plots to bury their young, so their remains were laid to rest in a baby cemetery often without a first name. Some of the baby cemeteries were often the



*Church of St. Mary Cemetery
Photo by Gregory Harp 2016*

poorest land in the cemetery that no one else was willing to buy. The baby cemetery at St. Mary's now dignifies the babies final resting place as the area in the past was not taken care of and became overgrown with trees, shrubs and grass until recently. The baby cemetery under the direction of Father Steve and Nathan has been cleared and cleaned and restructured to give each child the proper

respect and dignity that they deserve. Children now have a marker with their name.

Nathan also stated that there are also several patients from the Willmar State Hospital that are laid to rest in this cemetery because someone identified them as Catholic, others were laid to rest at Oak Knoll, the official cemetery for the state hospital. If an individual that is a ward of the state of Minnesota died today, the funeral home does receive a stipend from the state to cremate the body. However, this barely covers the expense of the cremation and does not cover the expense of burying the urn containing the ashes and if no one collects the ashes, what then happens? The urn sits on a shelf at the funeral home.

At the cemeteries there are sunken gravesites that are not marked, evidence that there is a body buried there, but there have been other cases where new ground was being prepared for a recently deceased individual and low and behold the backhoe brought up more than just dirt. Or as Nathan stated the times when someone just decided to dump ashes on a grave or bury an urn in an empty plot without telling anyone.

And so as I wonder about my own mortality, how will I choose to be remembered? Where will I rest? Where will future generations of my offspring come to visit me? Will it be important to them?

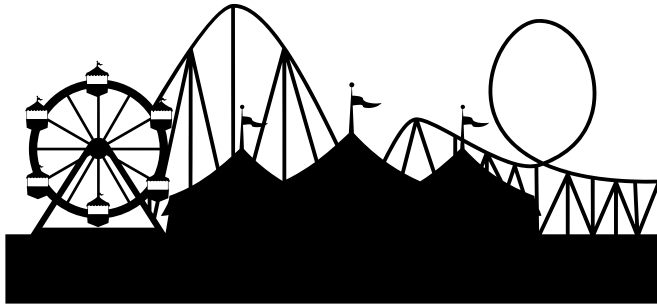
As usual when I research an article for the historical society newsletter, I have many unanswered questions and this article is no exception. Who are they in those unmarked graves? How many of the graves are still not even known because of years of overgrown grasses, shrubs and trees? Why were they not honored? We can only speculate. But it hurts my heart.



Bethesda Cemetery,
Fahlun Township 2018



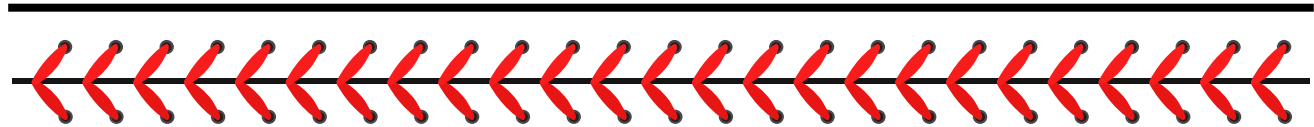
Old Log Church
Photo by Gregory Harp 2015



KANDIYOHI COUNTY FAIR

AUGUST 7-10

Join us this year at the Kandiyohi County Fair in the Old Settler’s Cabin! Our booth will be staffed from 10am-10pm all four days. We will also have train and activity tables for the kids to enjoy! Our historic sites map will be the free give away and our historic sites booklet will be on special for only \$2!!! It is regularly priced at \$7.50. We hope to see you there!



MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT AT THE STINGERS GAME



Come and join us at the Willmar Stingers game on Sunday, June 30!

The Kandiyohi County Historical Society would like to show their appreciation to our members by treating them to a night at the ballpark! The Willmar Stingers will play the Waterloo Bucks and the game starts at 5:05pm. There will be food and drink provided for us with a wristband. It is Human Cannonball Night so be sure to stay after the game to see world record holder and Circus Hall of Famer David “The Bullet” Smith will be preform. We have limited tickets so be sure to sign up right away! The West Central Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2024 will also be honored on that night.

To sign up, please contact Jill at the Historical Society by phone or email.
320-235-1881 or director@kandiyohicountyhistory.com

The tickets are on a first come, first served basis. You will need to be able to pick up your tickets from the Historical Society before the game on Friday, June 28. We hope to see you there!!!



SAVING YOUR STUFF: how to care for art, heirlooms, and personal collections

Presented by Megan Brakob Narvey

Wednesday, June 26 at 6:30pm

KCHS Community Room

610 Highway 71 NE

Willmar, MN 56201



Learn about the "ten agents of deterioration"
and how to preserve and protect the things you
value. There will be a presentation followed by
an open question and answer period.

Recommendations for how to find additional
resources will be provided at the event.

Free to the public

Refreshments will be served

Megan Brakob Narvey is the Outreach Conservator at the Minnesota Historical Society, where she provides guidance to individuals and local historical organizations on caring for collections big and small across the state of Minnesota. Before coming to MNHS, Megan worked as an Objects Conservator at the Western Archaeological Conservation Center in Tucson, Arizona, and as the Objects Conservation Fellow at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa Ontario. Megan received a BA in chemistry from Carleton College, and an MA in Principles of Conservation and MSc in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums from University College London.

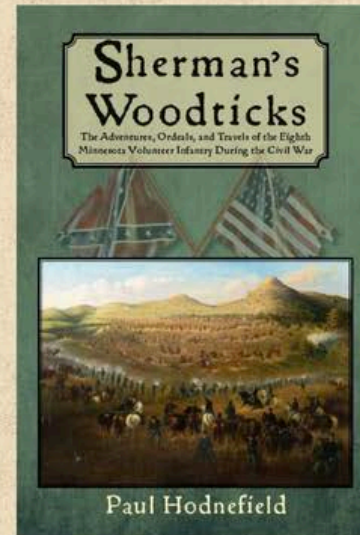
Sherman's Woodticks

The Remarkable Travels of the Eighth
Minnesota Infantry During the Civil War

Wednesday, July 24
6:30pm

**Kandiyohi County Historical Society
Community Room
610 Highway 71 NE
Willmar, MN 56201**

Free to the public



In August, 1862, a number of men from Monticello, greater Wright County and surrounding areas answered the call. The volunteers eventually became Company E of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment and they had an extraordinary experience. These men fought a two-front war, traveling from Minnesota west to the Yellowstone River and then south through Tennessee to North Carolina. Along the way, they endured extreme conditions but still engaged and defeated noted foes, such as Sitting Bull and Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Join us to hear Paul Hodnefield, author of Sherman's Woodticks, describe more about the travels, antics and experiences of the volunteers who served in Company E.

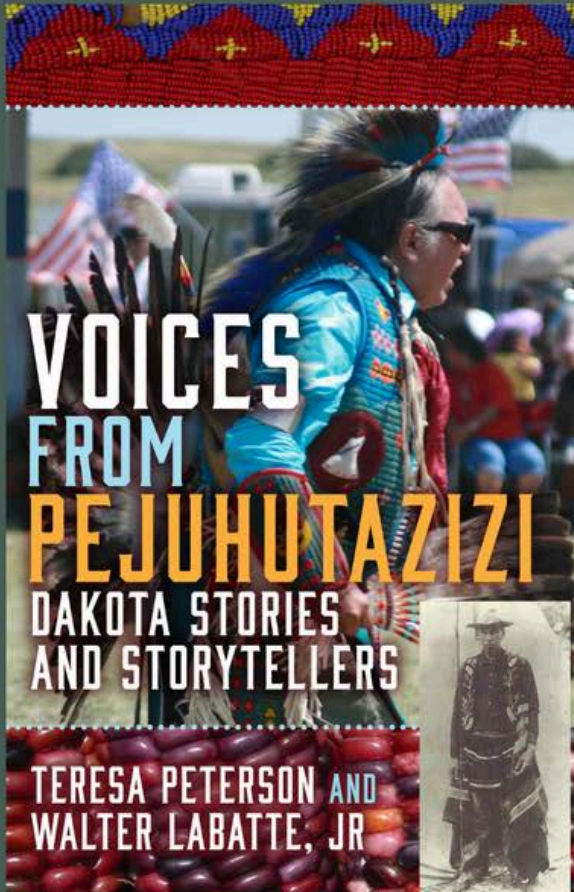


Paul Hodnefield is an attorney and skilled researcher. For as long as he can remember, Paul has had a passion for American history, with particular interest in the Revolutionary, Civil War, and frontier eras. A Minnesota native, Paul lives in the Twin Cities with his wife, Patty.



Voices From Pejuhutazizi

DAKOTA STORIES & STORYTELLERS



**Wednesday, August 21
6:30pm**

**Presentation by
Walter Labatte, Jr. &
Teresa Peterson**

**A rich trove of stories from
Pejuhutazizi K'api,
the place where they dig
the yellow medicine—now also
known as the Upper Sioux Indian
Community in Minnesota.**

**Kandiyohi County Historical Society
Community Room
610 Highway 71 NE
Willmar, MN 56201**

Refreshments will be served.

Free to the public



Teresa Peterson

Walter Labatte, Jr.



Kandiyohi County Historical Society
610 Highway 71 NE
Willmar, MN 56201

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Willmar, MN

KANDIYOHI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phone: 320-235-1881

Email: kandhist@msn.com

HOURS

Monday	9am - 4pm
Tuesday	9am - 4pm
Wednesday	9am - 4pm
Thursday	9am - 4pm
Friday	9am - 4pm
Saturday	10am-2pm
Sunday	Closed

GURI ENDRESON CABIN

Saturday & Sunday 9am-4pm

SPERRY HOUSE

Saturdays 10am-2pm