

# Kandi Express

County News . . .  
With a Historical Train of Thought

Kandiyohi County Historical Society  
Willmar, Minnesota  
Quarterly December 2012



## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

This is an exciting time for the Kandiyohi County Historical Society! The Multi-Purpose room construction has begun. Since September 17th, the museum has been busy with construction activity. We are currently in week 11 of the process. Many things have been accomplished during this short time. This week they are finishing up the interior walls and getting ready to paint! Things have been pretty much on schedule. The nice fall weather we have been having has helped keep this project on time. It has been fun and interesting to learn about the construction process. If everything continues to go as planned, the addition will be completed by the time the March newsletter comes out! It is so exciting for KCHS to be able to do a project like this to benefit the local community! To see weekly updates, check out our website or like us on Facebook!



## Holiday Programs at KCHS

Due to the construction at KCHS, the Festive Forest is not being held this year. It will return next year!

### *Christmas at the Sperry House*

November 25-December 30

Sundays: 2-5 pm.

The Sperry House is decorated for Christmas and the Christmas Tree displays a variety of late 1800s (Victorian) ornaments. Cider and cookies will be available

### *Engine #2523*

Lit each evening until 11pm

The "Thursday Crew," continues the tradition of lighting Engine #2523 and the depot.



# Kandiyohi County Historical Society

610 NE Hwy 71

Willmar, MN 56201

Telephone: 320/235-1881

Fax: 320/235-1881

E-Mail: kandhist@msn.com

Website:

www.kandiyohicountyhistory.com

## Board of Directors

2012-2013

President - Richard Falk

Vice President - Dennis Peterson

Secretary - Marilyn Johnson

Treasurer - Larry Macht

Board of Directors -

Connie Wanner

Shawn Mueske

Louise Thoma

Diane Shuck

Mary Ryks

Carol Rambow

David Danroth

Gregory Harp

Honorary - Richard Larson

## Staff

Executive Director - Jill Wahnoutka

Resident Caretaker - Andrea Maertens

Maintenance - Joel Bruse

Collections Assistant - Robert Larson

## Kandi Express

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Kandiyohi County Historical Society. December 2012, Vol. 49, Issue 4. Non-profit postage paid at Willmar, MN. Reprints with permission, please. Membership in the Kandiyohi County Historical Society carries with it a subscription to the *Kandi Express*. Stories about local history can be submitted to Jill Wahnoutka-editor, KCHS.

*Discovering, Preserving,  
and Sharing the Story of  
Kandiyohi County and Its People.*

## Volunteers

**Archives/Office:** Carolyn Kneisl, Molly Larson, Dorothy Olson, Terry Stein, Marilyn Johnson, Linda Maurer.

**Building/Painting/Thursday Crew:** Elmond Ekblad, Pinky Fostervold, Elroy Gast, Dale Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Don Niece, Loren Luschen, Rollie Boll, Gayle Larson and Loretta Fenske.

## In-Kind Donations

**Kandiyohi Co. Community Service -**  
Grounds Work/Snow Removal

**Engan Associates P.A. -**  
Architectural Services

## Sperry House Tea:

Marilyn Johnson, Wanda Zaske, Nancy Gustafson, Carol Rambow, Mary Ryks, Judy Heath, Joel Bruse

## Dinner at Sperry House:

Marilyn Johnson, Carol Rambow, Louise Thoma, Joel Bruse, Andrea Maertens.

## Holiday Reception:

Marilyn Johnson, Louise Thoma, Karen & Dennis Peterson, Wanda & Allen Zaske, Carol & Allen Rambow.

**Direct Mailing:** Pinky Fostervold, Bob Larson, Mary Larson, Molly Larson, Carolyn Kneisl, Linda Maurer, Marilyn Johnson, Louise Thoma, Connie Wanner, Ruby Johnson, People First crew, Gayle Larson, Loren Luschen, Elmond Ekblad, Elroy Gast, Bernice Grabber-Tintes.



## GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

On November 15, 2012, Kandiyohi County Historical Society received **\$160.00** in donations for Minnesota's Give to the Max Day! Thanks to all who donated to us! Overall, Minnesotans raised over \$16 million dollars for Minnesota's non-profits!

## Professional/Business Members

Atwater State Bank  
Corneil-Elkjer Agency  
Crown Floral & Gifts  
Elmquist Jewelers  
Engan Associates, P. A.  
Home State Bank  
House of Jacobs  
Insurance by Strehlow  
Jennie-O Turkey Store  
Long Lake Antiques  
Nelson International  
Peterson Brothers Funeral Home  
and Cremation Service  
Print Masters of Willmar  
Ridgewater College  
RMS Investments  
United Prairie Bank

## Kandiyohi County Historical Society's Wish List

- 8 1/2" x 11" white office copy paper
- Stamps -regular and post card
- Money towards Christmas Lights for Engine #2523

# Thank you

Your gifts help preserve our heritage for future generations!

## New and Renewal Members:

### Supporter:

Louise Thoma, Willmar, MN  
House of Jacobs, Spicer, MN  
Ron & Betty Schneider, Spicer, MN  
Ardell & Marilyn Johnson, Lake Lillian, MN  
Todd Erickson, Atwater, MN

### Friend:

Richard Halterman, Willmar, MN  
Jennifer Klett, Nashotah, WI  
Dr. Kay & Roger Strand, New London, MN  
Susan Mattson, Willmar, MN  
Paul Mikkelson, Willmar, MN  
Don & Joan Franklin, Pittsburgh, PA  
Earl & Betty Knutson, Willmar, MN  
Carol & Dennis Schriener, Willmar, MN  
Karole & Dennis De Jong, Raymond, MN  
Mark Peterson, Kerkhoven, MN  
Diane & Larry Macht, Raymond, MN  
Beverly Webster, Willmar, MN  
Walter Casson, Jr., New Port Richey, FL  
Dick & Delores Olson, Roseville, MN

### Family:

Bob Sportel, Prinsburg, MN  
Rev. Robert & Irene Friedrich, Willmar, MN  
Robert & Susan Dice, Spicer, MN  
Mary Ann Tait Smith, Atwater, MN  
Kenneth & Joyce Johnson, New London, MN  
Wendell & Marilyn Carlson, Willmar, MN  
Luther & Gerri Ekblad, Yucaipa, CA  
Roger Bruns, Vandais Heights, MN  
Mike & Linda Mickelson, Spicer, MN  
John & Karin Gilbertson, Willmar, MN  
Ron & Mary Ann Peterson, Pennock, MN  
Jerry & Elaine Schliep, Willmar, MN  
Nick & Arlene Curtis, Willmar, MN  
Everett & Phyllis Wallin, Marshall, MN  
Gwen Ruchti, New London, MN  
Dianne Mattson, Rochester, MN  
Patrick & Judith Maiers, Willmar, MN  
Doug & Rachel Loven, Pennock, MN  
Chuck Vomacka, Kandiyohi, MN  
Joe & Dorothy Freese, Willmar, MN

Orial Vern Buer, Willmar, MN  
Duaine & Rose Nelson, New London, MN  
Mary McClure Bibby, Brookings, SD  
Alec & Janice Olson, Spicer, MN  
Cleve & Jackie Powell, Jacksonville, FL  
Dale & Judith Johnson, Willmar, MN  
Merle & Barbara Berkeland, Willmar, MN  
Alan J. Peterson Family, St. Michael, MN  
Deb Borgren, Duluth, MN  
Robert & Mary Larson, Willmar, MN  
Don & Judy Week, New Braunfels, TX

### Individual:

Allen County Library, Fort Wayne, IN  
Linda Schemmel, Willmar, MN  
Craig Nissen, Spicer, MN  
Glenn Arfstrom, Willmar, MN  
Linda Maurer, Willmar, MN  
Carol Brown, Fairfax, MN  
Debra Daniels, East Grand Forks, MN  
Shirl Jensen, Nevada City, CA  
Betty Kyker, Lubbock, TX  
Karen Rosenquist, Plymouth, MN  
Linda Pearl, Napa, CA  
Nona Torbert, Hector, MN  
Don McGrath, Spicer, MN  
Jean Shogren, San Diego, CA  
Rev. Roderic Frohman, Rochester, NY  
Barb Odell Miller, Napa, CA  
Richard Lindahl, Granby, MA  
Richard Black, Sunburg, MN  
Margaret Nokleberg, Sun City West, AZ  
Jan Sietsema, Raymond, MN  
William Oakleaf, Willmar, MN  
Sandy Pierce, Willmar, MN  
Rae Bordua, San Francisco, CA  
Don Handahl, Spicer, MN  
Jim Beadette, Fridley, MN  
Barbara Johnson Jones, Ridgefield, CT  
Dr. Linda Tweto-Johnson, Yachats, OR  
Margie Bomstad, Blomkest  
Alan Moll, Atwater, MN

## Special Donations: Member Contributions:

**For Operating Support**  
Steve Lehman

### Memorials

In Memory Burton Brandt  
Loretta Brandt  
In Memory of Sherlin Cecil Anderson  
Richard & Betty Larson  
In Memory of Vern Carlson  
Wayne Fostervold

## Sperry House

Mike & Linda Mickelson

## Mona Nelson Endowment Fund

Mike & Linda Mickelson



## Our Sympathy To Family and Friends-

- **Marianna Stockvig Peterson, 80**, KCHS member since 1996, passed away on August 21, 2012. She is survived by daughter, Anne.
- **Marlys Wirskye Mattson, 82**, KCHS Lifetime member since 1981, passed away on August 30, 2012. She is survived five children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.
- **Vivian Forsberg Elkjer, 94**, KCHS Lifetime member since 1964, passed away on September 5, 2012. She is survived by son, Doug and two grandchildren.
- **Roger Lehrke, 91**, KCHS member since 2006, passed away on September 26, 2012. He is survived by wife, June, three children, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.
- **Kenneth Nielsen, 83**, KCHS lifetime member since 1973 and long-time volunteer, passed away on October 6, 2012. He is survived by wife, Carol, three children, twelve grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.
- **William "Bill" Gulbrandsen, 83**, KCHS member since 2010, passed away on November 7, 2012. He is survived by wife, Lois, three children, and four grandchildren.

## ***Donations to the Multi-Purpose Room:***

Thanks to all of the donors who have given a donation to the KCHS Building Fund. With your support, we will be able to build a room for the entire community. We are looking to facilitate a place for young and old to gather and share the stories of Kandiyohi County.

### ***Individuals:***

Mike & Missy Aaker  
Ryan Allen  
Anthony & Marilyn Almen  
Adam Anderson  
Harlow & Marlene Anderson  
Janice Anderson  
Russell & Karen Anderson  
David & Patricia Ardoff  
Richard & Mary Lou Arne  
Roland & Shirley Bosch  
Douglas & Sharon Bakker  
Carole Banta  
Jay Bechtle  
Beverly Benson  
Linda Bjornberg  
Jesse Black  
Richard Black  
Errol & Judith Bluhm  
Roland Boll  
Oriol Vern Buer  
Ronald Carlson  
Stanley Carlson  
Rick & Norma Conway  
Sandra Curran  
Nick & Arlene Curtis  
Thomas & Janice Danielson  
– In Memory of Myron & Marilyn Hagen  
David Danroth  
George & Dody Davies  
Harris & Connie Duininck  
Jen Ehresmann  
Elmond & Ione Ekblad  
Luther & Gerri Ekblad  
Barb & Steve Ellingboe  
Donald & Mary Emberland  
Wayne Emberland  
Jennifer & Troy Engebretson  
Rodney Engelkes  
Eugene & Doris Erickson  
Corrine Ferguson  
Roma Fostervold  
Wayne Fostervold  
Kathy Johnson Fuchs  
Ron & Kathy Garner  
Donna Gilman  
Bernice Grabber-Tintes  
Chuck & Nancy Gustafson  
John & Donna Haines  
Kay Hazel

Paul & Janelle Higdem  
Oliver & Sharlene Hagen  
Joel & Cathy Halbritter  
William & Marvis Hallberg  
William & LaDonna Hallberg  
Sook  
Darold Hamann  
Dave & Nancy Hammerschmidt  
George & Mary Lou Hanson  
Margaret Hedin  
Paul & Jane Hedin  
Kay Hempel  
JoAnn Hoeck  
Scott & Wendy Hoepner  
Donald & Jean Holmgren  
Ralph Howell  
Verlenne Huisinga  
Ed & Becky Huseby  
Steve & LeAnn Isaacson  
Philip & Florine Iverslie  
Betty Junkermeier  
Robert & Joyce Jacobson  
Paul Jensen  
Ardell & Marilyn Johnson  
Cheryl Johnson  
Craig & Renee Johnson  
Dale & Judith Johnson  
Dean Johnson  
Gene & Dorothy Johnson  
Lorraine Johnson  
Scott Kaercher  
Donna Kalkbrenner  
John Kaye  
Jerry & Jan Kjergaard  
Nancy Klaassen  
Roger & Mary Ann Klinghagen  
Earl & Betty Knutson  
Larry Konsterlie  
Gleva Krause  
Harold & Mary Jo Larson  
John Lindstrom  
Karin Lang  
Gayle & Linda Larson  
Glen Larson  
Mary Larson  
Maynard & Justine Lawrence  
Kristin Lee  
Bernice Liete  
Richard & Pam Lindahl  
Larry & Judy Lindor  
Jennifer Lindquist  
Ronald & Eletta Linn  
Anne Lockard  
Al Locke  
Kathleen Maertens  
Luther Malmgren  
Wanda Malone  
Marion Manthei  
John Winton Matson  
Linda Maurer  
Ruth McDonnell  
Don McGrath  
Carolyn McLouth  
Lowell Melbye  
Sherwood Mellom  
Rand & Donna Middleton  
Allan Molenaar  
Donavon & Kathleen Monson  
Sue Morris  
Arlene Mrzena  
-In Memory of Edsel Mrzena  
Yvonne Natvig  
Brian & Margit Neal  
Mark & Bonnie Nelson  
Merton Newman  
Jon & Naomi Noeldner  
Lyle & Gerry Nyberg  
Mike & Connie O'Brien  
William Oakleaf  
Karen Olberg  
Dan Olson  
Dick & Delores Olson  
Edward Olson  
Mark Olson  
Ralph Olson  
Beatrice Ourada  
Jon & Sophie Pederson  
Sonya Peterson  
Roger & Roy Potter  
Cleve & Jackie Powell  
David Reed  
Robert & Cheryl Retrum  
Susan Rime  
Robert & Dolores Rosenbrook  
Vance Rossell  
Greg & Carol Roverud  
Ron & Mary Ryks  
James & Sandra Saulsbury  
Jerry & Elaine Schliep  
Gene & Jill Schlueter  
Mary Schnell  
Jan Sietsema

Jeremy Sietsema  
Russell Sietsema  
Allan & Elaine Simon  
Gary & Judy Swenson  
Louise Thoma  
Linda Thurk  
Bob & Karla Tinklenberg  
Verna & Karin Tomervik  
Don Twedt  
Alice Van Ort  
Mary Wittman  
Karna Wahlstrand  
Beverly Lanning Webster  
Beverly Wolfe  
John & Marjorie Yaeger  
– In Memory Fritz & Myrtle Ogren

### ***Businesses/ Organizations:***

Casey's General Store  
Hadeland Lag of America  
Haug Implement Company  
Heritage Bank  
Kallevig Agri Products  
Minne Sunbonnet Dollars  
Perkins Lumber Company  
United FCS  
Whitcomb Brothers Grain Systems  
Willmar Area Senior Club  
Buffalo Fish Properties  
Ed David Business Machines  
Willmar Bus  
Twin Lakes Hunting Club  
Kandiyohi County  
Long Lake Antiques  
Chappell Central  
Kandiyohi Power Charitable Trust  
Insurance by Strehlow

*thank you!*

## Annual Meeting Held October 18th

The Kandiyohi County Historical Society held its annual meeting at the Civic Center in Lake Lillian on Thursday, October 18. A meal catered by The Food Garage and program by the Kingery Singers were held in conjunction with the annual business meeting.

Dennis Peterson from Spicer, Louise Thoma from Willmar, and Diane Shuck from Sunburg were elected to their first term on the KCHS Board of Directors. The re-elected board member is Shawn Mueske from Willmar. Retiring from the board was Curt Engstrom of Norway Lake Township, Jerry Johnson of New London and Bernice Grabber-Tintes of Willmar. Elected Officers include: Richard Falk, President; Dennis Peterson, Vice President; Larry Macht, Treasurer, and Marilyn Johnson, Secretary.

After the business meeting, winners of "Dinner at the Sperry House" were drawn. Winners were Richard Falk of Willmar, Gladys Bjur of Lake Lillian, Carolyn Kneisl of Willmar, and Marlene Brown of Willmar.

A copy of the annual report can be picked up at the Museum or contact us and we can get one to you!

Thanks to all the board members and members of KCHS for making 2012 another great year at KCHS!



**Thank you for another great year!**

### *Served 1890s Style*

The leaves were falling as guests arrived for KCHS annual *Dinner at the Sperry House* on Friday, October 26, 2012. The happy winners included: Richard Falk & Maxine Zempel, Marlene Brown & Betsy, Carolyn Kneisl & Frances, Gladys Bjur & Harlan. The couples were served a delicious dinner of buffalo, courtesy of J & R Ranch, and walleye, catered by the 19th Avenue Grill and Lounge.

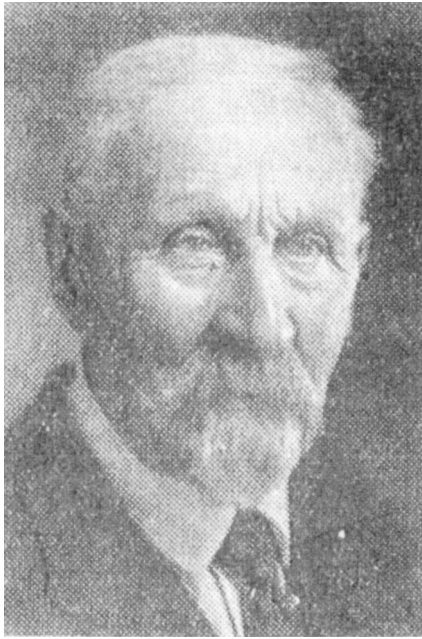
The *Dinner at the Sperry House Raffle* fundraiser brought in approximately \$2,600 to the Sperry House fund. KCHS will use these profits for Sperry House preservation and restoration.



### *Sperry House Tea*



On Friday, October 5, 2012, KCHS hosted their annual Sperry Tea. We served 22 people and raised \$460 for the Sperry House. This year's theme was the Victorian High Tea. The guests were greeted by Mrs. Jennie Sperry, played by Judy Heath. She welcomed and told the history of her house. A special guest attended the tea this year, Jaclyn Theis presented on the history of the High Tea. A special thanks to Wanda Zaske, Mary Ryks, Marilyn Johnson, Judy Heath, Nancy Gustafson, and Carol Rambow for their work on making this year's tea a success! Watch for news of the next Tea at the Sperry House to be held in the spring of 2013!



***MEMOIRS OF  
CHRISTIAN HENNINGS  
G.A.R.  
Continued....***

Some of the army, including the 12th Wisconsin, were camped below Vicksburg after its surrender; we were directed to our company and regiment by a sergeant, and we soon met John Crippen and Servant Wallace Kelsey, and gave them the messages from their families, which were joyfully received.

We soon got acquainted in the company, and accustomed to the drill, which was not hard for me as I had been drilled before; but John McCollum found it hard at first. The regiment was soon ordered down to Natchez, Mississippi. There we camped for some time, and then were sent out on an expedition through Mississippi to Meridian, a town where war materials and ammunition were manufactured. I don't remember how large a force was sent, nor how long it took us, but all the war materials were destroyed,-a hard blow for the rebels. One night when I was on guard the troops started south towards Mobile. In the hurry and excitement the guards were not relieved, but after a while we relieved ourselves, and started after them. We took the railroad track and got ahead of the column. At a great plantation we saw several Negroes, and we asked them where the smoke-house was. "No, massa,-no meat here!" they declared. "Rebels took all themselves,-we have smoke-house but no meat in it." We frightened the old fellow that acted as spokesman

by saying to each other that we'd better shoot him. Then he said, "Big brush-pile. Lots of pork and bacon there." There were quite a few of us, and we uncovered a regular mound of meat, which we carried away on our bayonets. We joined our column and that night we camped in a cotton field. The boys thought that for once they would have a good bed, and carried bales and bales of cotton to make their beds. You should have seen that army the next morning! Cotton stuck all over their blue uniforms,-they looked like ducklings!

We had expected to go to Mobile to attack from the rear; but instead were ordered back to Natchez. Refugees, both black and white, began to follow the army, and before we got to Natchez we had more followers than soldiers. They were carrying their possessions in any way they could, with mules, cows,-there were no horses left, -as beasts of burden, and they camped by the army quarters. The weather during this march was beautiful, and the peach groves and other fruit trees in full bloom,-a lovely sight.

After this we were ordered up to Vicksburg, and then the 12th Wisconsin's three years' enlistment was up, and the question of the day was whether to re-enlist or to disband and go home. They held a big meeting one beautiful bright evening, and the officers made speeches to get the boys to re-enlist. A little fire-water made them all feel good, and they decided they wanted to stay and see the rest of the war. As an inducement the men were promised thirty days' furlough and transportation home to see their families, and it was only a short time later that orders for furlough arrived. We new recruits,-who had been on the ground so short a time,-were for some reason allowed furlough, too, and went back to Wisconsin with the rest. I think we got our pay in Madison. I went Sauk City, Wisconsin, by train from Madison to Mishominie, then by stage,-and there met father for the first time since the war began. This was also the first time I met my second step-mother and her sixteen-year-old daughter. I stayed through my furlough and a little bit over, for when I got back to Madison my regiment had left. But I was not the only one left behind, I found, and a little group of us got transportation to Cairo, arriving just as they were ready to embark on the steamboat going up the Ohio River to the mouth of the Tennessee,-and there began our march to Atlanta.

Our course lay through Tennessee and Alabama, to Kingston, Georgia, where we met Sherman's army, which had come from Chattanooga,-that was a long way from the mouth of the Tennessee. So many of the boys were completely worn out that we had to

send a squad to Chattanooga to recuperate, and I was chosen to escort them and see them established. I stayed there a week with Huffman, an invalid, and we had a good rest; then we returned to our regiment at Meridian, GA, right near the front and there I found that the Second Minnesota was camped nearby. That was my brother John's regiment.

I found Company E of the Second Minnesota, and asked for John Hennings. I was told that he was a corporal, and was guarding some ammunition near a bridge about a mile down. I walked down to the bridge and asked for Corp. Hennings. "Up there on the hill," was the reply. I went up the hill and as he looked around I saluted. "Corporal Hennings?" "Yes." But I had to tell him that I was his brother Chris,-our first meeting in America. He was the most surprised soldier in camp! But we had little time to visit, for I had to return to my company miles away.

Near the front there was skirmishing. I joined my regiment, and from that time on there was fighting day and night until finally Atlanta surrendered. During the summer of '63 Rosecranz was commanding the Army of the Cumberland, through Tennessee, and General Bragg was in charge of the rebel army until after his defeat at Chattanooga . . .

there was a great battle at Missionary Ridge, where my brother John was wounded with a piece of shell, but he never left his command; and at Chickamauga General Thomas met such a great success in saving the day. The Union forces were cooped up in Chattanooga, all supplies and transportation from the north cut off. All this was going on while Grant and Sherman were fighting their way to Vicksburg, to open up the Mississippi . . . Vicksburg finally surrendered on the 4th of July, 1863, with 30,000 men and all the paraphernalia of war. This was a desperate blow to the Confederacy. I can see now the place under a great oak where Grant and Pemberton met to make terms; the surrender was unconditional.

Grant was now called by the war department at

Washington to relieve the situation at Chattanooga, and Lookout Mountain was taken,-the "battle above the clouds." Chattanooga was thus relieved, and became a doorway through which Union troops could pour from the west into Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia itself. The first thing Grant had done was to open up the "Cracker line" from Nashville to Chattanooga, to get provisions to the starving men and animals . . . thousands of mules died because the men stole their corn. After opening up Chattanooga, Grant sent for Sherman, who had been left in command at Vicksburg, to bring his army into Tennessee, and they joined forces at Rome, Georgia. This city was under fire from the rebels for many weeks, for they did not withdraw easily . . . the opposing lines lay close together,

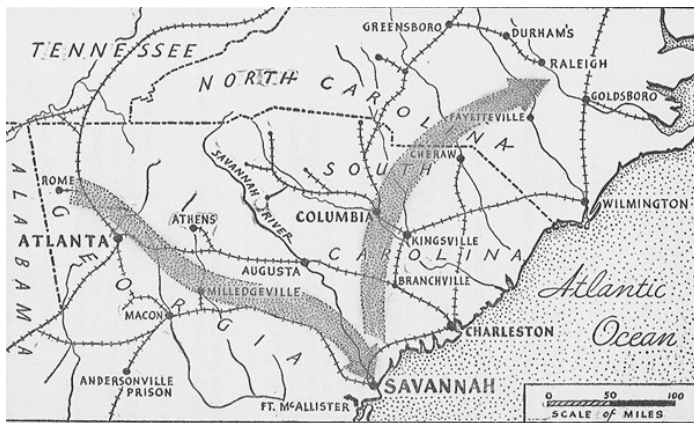
and it was said that the rebels got ammunition through from their girls. Grant was now made Lieutenant-General, in command of all the armies of the United States, and his command in the West was given to Sherman. There has been a great deal said about Grant's habits, I know he never drank to such excess that he lost his head. He was very calm, and always had his mind on his job,-planning his movements and looking out for the welfare of his troops. I have seen him standing in his camp with shells flying all around, sucking his big

*"There has been a great deal said about Grant's habits, I know he never drank to such excess that he lost his head. He was very calm, and always had his mind on his job,-planning his movements and looking out for the welfare of his troops. I have seen him standing in his camp with shells flying all around, sucking his big cigar and calmly planning and giving orders. He was a great general and people might better remember what he did for his country instead of harping on habits that did not interfere with that service."*

cigar and calmly planning and giving orders. He was a great general and people might better remember what he did for his country instead of harping on habits that did not interfere with that service.

As I said before, we had joined Sherman at Kingston, Ga., and later we were stationed at Lovejoy Station, some miles below Atlanta, for some time. The rebels swung west and north, trying to get back of Sherman's army, to cut off the Chattanooga and Atlanta Railroad; but meanwhile, while they were trying to do that, Sherman sent General Thomas with 50,000 men, by that same railroad to Nashville. Sherman saw what the rebels were trying to do, so after he got a force strong enough to stop them at Nashville, he let them go on and do their worst, thinking they had Sher-

man in a trap, and he took his army and started south, destroying the railroad from Atlanta to Savannah, and we marched and marched to the sea.



**Sherman's March to the Sea**

When we were within about twelve miles of Savannah, we came to a rice flat that had been cropped that year, and the rice was stored in some buildings, with a rice mill. But the gates across the stream through the rice field had been closed, so the field was flooded, -a lake half a mile across . . . and right across the flat was a hill, which made an island in the flood, of about fifteen acres; and there the rebels had heavy artillery and shelled across the rice lake into our camp. We were out of provisions, and found little to live on in this country, for the rebels had taken what there was; but the boys pounded out what rice they could; we got a hollow log and made a pestle and got the hulls off and winnowed it in the wind, and cooked it; we lived that way for days and we were getting desperate. Our artillery tried to shoot down the gates so as to let the water out of the field, but did not succeed; then the pontoon brigade went to work right under the enemy's fire and laid a pontoon bridge across that lake right before them. Next morning when we were to cross on the bridge, we expected a hard battle, but not a gun was fired while we crossed. They had left in the night, after spiking their artillery so as to make it useless.

We got to Savannah on Christmas Eve. The rebel army had left the city, and to our great good fortune, an English ship loaded with provisions for the rebels had run the blockade in the Gulf and had reached Savannah with that shipload of food, -and WE GOT IT! That was a great Christmas present for this tired, hungry army. We stayed in Savannah about a month. We used to go swimming in the river in January. By that time some of our transports had come

with provisions, so we were in fine shape.

There were four army corps, ours, the 17th, on the right, and then the 14th, in which was my brother John, then the 20th . . . Sherman's intention was to spread the four corps out like a fan and go through South Carolina. So some were sent North, some faced East into South Carolina, and our Corps, the 17th, was put on transports at Savannah. We steamed down the river to the Gulf and across to Beaufort, South Carolina, where we landed. So you can see how the four corps was spread out; we were to the right, and in that shape we marched through South Carolina. After a day outside Beaufort we marched towards the Savannah and Charleston Railroad, where General Butler had fought to take the heavily entrenched fort for two years.

We kept in the woods a mile or so from the front and formed a battle line, marching out in that formation towards the fort. Everything was quiet until we reached an open corn field. Then the rebels opened up on us with grape, canister and shells until they cut the cord down. We were ordered to lie down. General Chandler was our commander in that battle. He rode on our left, next to my commander, Captain Reynolds, and was shot and killed there. While lying there my comrade Halverson received a wound in the thigh. Captain Reynolds said, "Chris, take Halverson back to the field hospital."

The hospital was a quarter of a mile in the rear. Halverson put an arm over my shoulder, and we marched, carrying our guns, through the thick fire, without being scratched. But we were scared! We reached the field hospital and I delivered Halverson to the surgeons; as it was getting dark by that time, and the battle ceased, I did not return to my company until the boys came back. Their cooking utensils were so shot to pieces that it was hard to get enough dishes to cook our supper.

We expected a tremendous battle the next day when we charged the fort. We marched over the ground that we had covered the day before, towards the woods where rebels had been located, expecting every moment that they would open fire. But to our great relief there was not a gun fired. They had evacuated during the night, and we took possession of that station. After we stacked arms and broke ranks we scattered to investigate the woods and see what we could find in that strong-hold.

There was a small stream about a mile from camp, which was navigable, where small steamboats had been run up to supply this garrison with provisions



and ammunition. One such steamer had just been there and unloaded on the landing a supply of sugar and army stores, and some of us got down there and provided ourselves with such stores as we could use. I had a clean pair of Southern linen pants,-the kind we used to get for under drawers. I tied the legs with string and filled one leg with sugar and other with rice. Pretty soon the rebels began to fire from across the stream. Five of us got behind a big live-oak, but they began a cross-fire, until we skipped away,-three at first, and then when the bark of the tree was shot off, we all got back to camp.

We had a big fight at Bentonville, and drove the rebels back. We were right in the rear of Charleston, on our march NORTH,-we reached Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, one beautiful evening. We camped about two miles from the city, and afterwards we were blamed for burning the city, but we did not do it. The rebels had an immense stretch of cotton, a very valuable property, which they did not want to fall into the hands of the Yankees, so they set it afire. The wind turned and drove the flames right into the city, burning most of it. Out where we were camped it was so light we could read our Bibles. The next day we marched through that burned city, and it was a desolate sight. But war is just what Sherman called it.

We kept on our course into North Carolina. At one place we found heavy fortifications across a river, and a strong garrison opposing us. So some of the troops marched North and our corps marched south a few miles and made a crossing where the water was not too deep. General Sherman on his big chestnut horse rode across just ahead of our Company A. I was almost beside him, walking in the water and holding up my gun. We got across with no casualties although there was some shooting at us. After this there were plain fields, for we got away from the road.

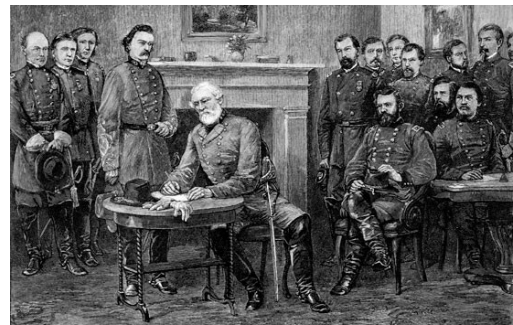
As we approached Orangeville, the column that had gone north approached it from the opposite side, so the rebels hurried out before getting caught between the two columns. The best of this was that every family in the town had cooked a big dinner for their soldiers. They did not have time to eat it,-but the Yankees did! We stacked arms in the court house yard and were given freedom to run around; but before this orders were given to place guards at every private dwelling, to safeguard the citizens, especially the women and children, as well as the Negroes. A man from Ellsworth and I and another man were assigned to one house. The Negro cook made some dandy corn bread and fried pork and made coffee. We furnished

the coffee, and how glad they were to get some! The husband of the lady in this house was an officer in the rebel army near Charleston. We had breakfast there also, the next morning, and they gave us corn-bread for our lunch,-they were good to us; but we had protected them.

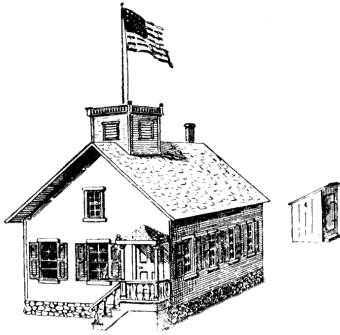
*“Just before we got to Raleigh news reached us that President Lincoln had been assassinated. Most of us had never seen Mr. Lincoln, but the army loved him for his humanity, and he was Commander-in-Chief of all the army. It was a heavy blow and we grieved deeply.”*

From Orangeville to Raleigh (the capital of North Carolina) was a long, weary march, through uninteresting country. Just before we got to Raleigh news reached us that President Lincoln had been assassinated. Most of us had never seen Mr. Lincoln, but the army loved him for his humanity, and he was Commander-in-Chief of all the army. It was a heavy blow and we grieved deeply.

The rebel army in Tennessee was coming east as fast as it could, and Lee had left Richmond and was coming west; the armies were to join and form a barrier between Grant, in Virginia, and Sherman in North Carolina. But just about the time we got to Raleigh, Grant headed off Lee, who was checked at every step, and on April 9, 1865, Lee Surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House. And Sherman kept on north to meet General Johnston, and on April 26, Johnston surrendered to Sherman, and the war was over. Then we had the field clear and we marched the rest of the way through North Carolina, clear across Virginia, over all those four years' battlefields, to Alexandria, Virginia, across the Potomac from Washington.



The conclusion in next newsletter....



# RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF KANDIYOHI COUNTY

---

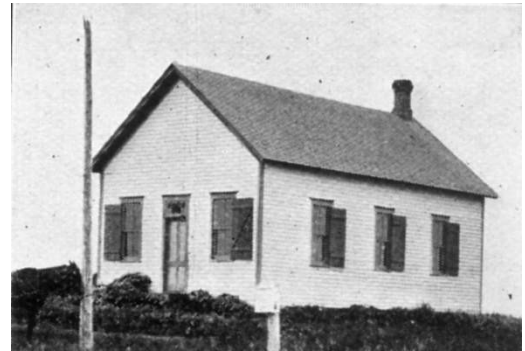
## DOVRE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Written by Carolyn Kneisl

### DISTRICT 36 (776)

The original petition for District 36 was addressed to the Board of County Commissioners of Monongalia County. It was dated January 17, 1870 and was signed by the following: T. O. Hong, Halvor Sondreson, Nils Olson, Severt Olson, Lars Arneson, John Swenson, Johan Nygaard, Johannes Anderson, Tosten Olson, Lars Larson, C. Thompson. This was the last district organized in Monongalia County before the consolidation with Kandiyohi County.

Since that time the following changes in the territory have been made: March 22, 1876, sections 1, 2, and 11, NW 1/4, W 1/2, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 section 12, were set off to form a part of District No. 70. Lots 3 and 6, section 12, property of John Johnson were set off to District 51 in 1875. J. J. Bjork was set off to District 76. Gunder Gunderson was added from District 18 in July 1876. Cornelius Hendrickson was added from District 51 to district No. 36 in 1896.



**District 36**

In 1871 it was reported that there were 59 children of school age in the district—32 boys and 27 girls. For the year ending Sept 30, 1872, no money had been paid for teachers' wages, but \$207 had been received. In the following year \$201.36 were paid for building a new schoolhouse and \$45 for teachers' wages.

Tollef Lunde was the first teacher and taught his term in 1872 in the old log church on the site of the present Eagle Lake church. The schoolhouse was built in that year. Sophie Thorson taught in 1872. Martha Stalland was the teacher in 1874, receiving a salary of \$30 a month. In 1875 Lizzie Conroy taught a term of three months beginning November 8<sup>th</sup>. She also taught there next fall, beginning October 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be noticed that only about one-third of those of school age attended school. This was the general feeling towards the schools in the early days. At that time it took only five days' attendance to draw apportionment money, and most of the districts could have maintained school for twice the number of months they actually did, if the parents had taken interest enough to send the children at least the required five days. In the case of the above district it will be seen that two-thirds of the families represented in the clerk's report as having children of school age are not represented at all in the school report, while almost everyone from the remaining families was enrolled in school.

In the winter of 1877-78 O. N. Grue taught the school for five months. The following winter Magnus Olson taught three months. O. N. Grue again taught the school for three months in the fall of 1879. The following year Hanna Thorson taught two terms. Anna McManus was the teacher for the years of 1883 and 1884.

In 1885 it was decided at the annual meeting to have no school the coming year. This resolution must have met

with opposition in the district for at a special meeting held November 16<sup>th</sup> it was resolved to have four months of school. Jessie Geer was engaged as teacher. Alice H. Stauffer was the teacher the following year. Clara Halverson taught the school in 1887. Bessie Cody in 1888. Emily Nelson in 1889, 1890 and 1891.

In 1891 the old benches, scarred and marked by many a budding genius in the district, were sold for 80 cents, more comfortable seats having been provided.

Emma Embertson taught in the fall of 1892, Christine Sondreson in 1893, Emma Nelson in 1894, Ella Gould in 1895 and 1896, Marthe Moss in 1897, O. J. Rollerson in 1898 and 1899, and Anna E. T. Hedin in 1900. In 1901 and 1902 Christine Erickson was the teacher. Stella Gilger was the teacher in 1903.

Since 1888 the district maintained five months of school each year with the exception of 1896 when they had six months. The terms began in the fall and ran through the winter. The salary of the teachers ranged between \$30 and \$35 per month. The old schoolhouse was rebuilt in 1939 as a WPA project during the depression of that period. A second addition was built in 1957

## DISTRICT 62 (790)



**District 62**

A petition dated at Dovre, Dec. 23, 1871, asked for the formation of a new school district from sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, town of Dovre. The petition was presented to the board of county commissioners on March 6, 1872. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> of the same year the petition was granted and the new district was given the number 62.

The district has undergone several material changes of territory since its organization. In 1874 sections 6, 7 and 18 were set off to form a part of district 14. In 1876 sections 3 and 10 were detached to form part of the new district No. 70. In 1880 sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 were set off to form part of the new district No 76. The district has lost by set-offs a little over eleven sections, and has gained by set-offs about three-fourths

of a section. The first organization was made probably in 1872.

The first teacher was Miss Martha Knutson, now Mrs. T. K. Stalland. The first school was held at the home of L. O. Thorpe, and school was later held at the house of M. O. Thorpe for the north part and Mrs. Kolkin for the south part of the district, which at first comprised practically the west half of the township.

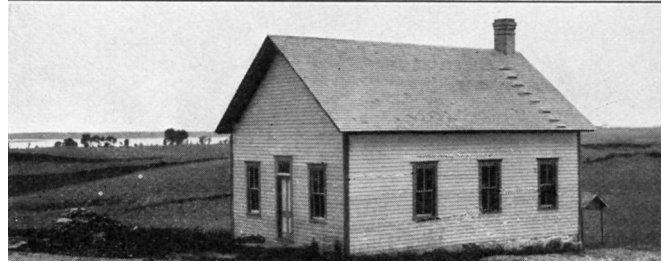
One month of school was held in the summer of 1873 by Miss Knutson, for which she was paid \$27 the following spring. In 1874 three months of school were held. Twenty-one pupils were enrolled. On March 14, 1878, Aslak O. Nasset of Willmar began a three months' term of school in the district. He received \$31 per month. In 1879 J. Walseth taught three and one-half months beginning February 17<sup>th</sup>. He received a salary of \$40 per month.

At a special school meeting held March 30, 1879, it was resolved to build a schoolhouse, 18 x 24 with ten foot posts. The site selected was in the southwest corner of section 9, but at a meeting held April 17<sup>th</sup> of the same year the site was changed to the southeast corner of section 8. The schoolhouse was built that summer and improved the following season. The value of schoolhouse and site in 1881 was placed at \$305. The first teacher in the new schoolhouse was H. J. Ramsett of Sterling, Wis. Who began a three months term on May 7, 1880, at a salary of \$28 per month. He also taught three months in 1881, beginning January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## DISTRICT NO. 70 (DOVRE-LAKE ANDREW)

A petition dated at Willmar, Jan. 5, 1876, asked for the formation of a new school district from territory taken from old districts as follows: Sections 3 and 10, Dovre, from district 62; sections 1, 2, 11, and NW ¼ SW ¼, W ½ NE ¼, NW ¼ SE ¼ section 12 Dovre, from district 36. This petition was granted the following summer. The same year sections 35 and 36, Lake Andrew, were set off from district 9 to the new district.

Louise Midboe taught the first school in the district in 1876 at the house of A. H Gustrud in section 10. As there had been no taxes raised at that time and the district could draw no state aid until it had maintained school one year, the money for the teacher's salary was raised by subscriptions among the patrons of the school. The next two terms were held at Johannes Monson's old house, and the last term before the schoolhouse was built was held at Arne Erickson's house, a structure that is still standing in a fair state of preservation.



**District 70**

The first schoolhouse was built in 1879 at a cost of \$149.27. Twenty years later the old structure was sold at auction for \$30, and a new building erected. The new building is 22 x 32, with 12 foot posts, substantially constructed throughout. It is equipped with modern seats, slate blackboard, charts, free text books, library, maps, globe, etc. The wages paid to teachers have always averaged higher in this district than in the majority of districts in this county.

## DISTRICT NO. 76

A petition was presented to the county board on January 6, 1880 asking for the formation of a new school district out of territory that was then a part of District No. 62. The petition was granted March 16, 1880 and was established as District No. 76.



**District 76**

The district was organized by the election of K. O. Axness as Clerk, E. O. Otterness as director, and Ole R. Sletten as treasurer. A schoolhouse was built at once, at a cost of \$237.55. The district received \$39.05 from district 62 as its share of the property. The clerks' records up to 1889 are missing.

A library was purchased for the school in 1890. In 1897 32 additional volumes for the library were purchased. The free text book system has been adopted

The schoolhouse is beautifully situated in a grove of natural trees.

[www.houseofjacobs.com](http://www.houseofjacobs.com)

VISIT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

*"The World's Best Lefse"*

*FAST, COURTEOUS SERVICE  
TO ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.*

**INSURANCE  
BY  
STREHLOW**



**Providing Personal and Commercial Insurance  
service since 1956**

716 South First Street  
P.O. Box 953  
Willmar, MN 56201

Office: 320-235-1091  
800-735-1939  
Fax: 320-235-2804

[www.insurancebystrehlow.com](http://www.insurancebystrehlow.com)

Kandiyohi County would like to thank these local businesses  
for their continued support of the preservation and sharing of  
Kandiyohi County history!



**North American**  
state bank


— Value and Innovation . . . for you! —

Belgrade Elrosa Willmar

320-254-8271 320-697-5533 320-235-7000

[nasbank.com](http://nasbank.com)

 Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC



"The World's Best Lefse"  
is available in  
**Kandiyohi County**  
at

Cornerstone Coffee —Willmar  
House of Jacobs Bakery —Spicer  
193 North Highway 23



*Bell Tower Antiques*  
118 Lake Ave.  
Spicer, MN 56288  
320-796-5515

*Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5*  
2 blocks north of Dairy Queen on Highway 23



Located in  
Downtown Spicer

Hours:  
Sunday: 6am-1:30pm  
Mon-Tues: 6am-2pm  
Wed-Sat: 6am-8pm

Daily Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Specials

Accounting Income Tax Preparation  
Business, Farm, Individual

**MACHT ACCOUNTING**  
LARRY MACHT, OWNER  
203 So. 5th St. Box 353 Raymond, MN 56282

PH/FAX: 320-967-4439  
E-mail: [macht@mvtwireless.com](mailto:macht@mvtwireless.com)  
[www.machtaccounting.com](http://www.machtaccounting.com)



**Long Lake Antiques**  
8879 Long Lake Road  
Spicer, MN 56288

OPEN DAILY ~ 10AM-5PM  
Closed Mondays **320-235-1322**

~ Largest One Owner Shop in Minnesota ~  
Primitives, Ceramics, Glassware, China, Silver, Books,  
Furniture, Vintage and Collectible Jewelry

**WEST CENTRAL  
SANITATION**

Residential • Commercial • Roll-Off Construction Boxes  
Serving Willmar and all of Kandiyohi County

*Good Neighbors You've Come To Trust!*  
235-7630 • 1-800-246-7630



**CORNEIL-ELKJER**  
INSURANCE

436 Litchfield Ave SW - PO Box 1037 - Willmar, MN 56201  
Phone: 320-235-2212 - Website: [www.corneil-elkjer.com](http://www.corneil-elkjer.com)

**Insurance Since 1942**

**Kandiyohi County Historical Society**  
**610 NE Hwy 71**  
**Willmar, MN 56201**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Willmar, MN  
Permit No. 484

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### KCHS Membership

HEADQUARTERS: 610 NE Hwy 71, Willmar MN 56201

Phone: (320) 235-1881

E-Mail: kandhist@msn.com

Office and Museum Hours: 9-5 Weekdays

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTION FORM - Send to KCHS, 610 NE Hwy 71, Willmar MN 56201

*As a lifetime or long-term member of the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, I appreciate the membership benefits I've (we've) received through the years, and the enclosed donation is an expression of my appreciation.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP FORM - Send to Kandiyohi County Historical Society, 610 NE Hwy 71, Willmar, MN 56201

INDIVIDUAL - \$15

FAMILY - \$25

FRIEND—\$50

SUPPORTER—\$100

PROFESSIONAL/BUSINESS - \$100

PATRON—\$250

BENEFACTOR - \$500

Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for joining our venture, "discovering, preserving, and sharing" the story of Kandiyohi County and Minnesota.*