



**Sibley County
Historical Society
Newsletter**

June 2017 Volume 22, Issue 2

Henderson, Minnesota 56044 Ph: (507)248-3434



Arlington United Methodist Church

By Dorothy Peterson, Editor with much help from Pastor Rod Stemme, who also provided the pictures.

Our featured church this issue is the Arlington United Methodist Church located at 303 West Alden Street in Arlington.

The church was organized and services were held beginning in 1856. The church was incorporated on July 13, 1892, as Zions Church of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It had formerly been called the German Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Church name was changed to the Arlington Methodist Church on February 25, 1965. The name was changed again following the uniting of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Episcopal Church in April 1968 as The United Methodist Church. The change to Arlington United Methodist Church was completed on March 16, 1969.

Pastor Rod Stemme is the current pastor. He is the 44th pastor since 1856. (continued on next page)

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Calendar of Events by Judy Loewe

Tuesday, June 27, at Sibley County Museum Earl Hebeien will speak about "Veterinary Food Inspection, US Infantry"

Tuesday, July 25 at Lawrence & Phyllis Crawford Home. 42215 260th St, Arlington 5:30 p.m. With Potluck dinner at 6:00 and program "Theatre organ & Music Boxes" beginning at 7 p.m.

August 2-6 Come visit us at the Fair!

August 2 State Capitol Tour See details inside.

The history of the United Methodist Church in Sibley County

The Methodist movement began in the 18th century in England under the leadership of John Wesley. Francis Ashbury, a prominent Methodist preacher who remained in America during the Revolutionary War, became the Episcopal leader of the newly formed Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784. The United Brethren Church began in this country in the year 1800. Its early leaders were Phillip Otterbein and Martin Boehm. In 1807 the Evangelical Association, under the leadership of Jacob Albright, came into being.

Locally the effort to bring Methodism into the area started in the St. Peter, Minnesota area in 1854. The chosen preaching points were: Salem, Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Jordan, Henderson, St. Peter and Mankato. The Rev G Zollman was the pastor. Early Evangelical Associations can be traced to the Le Sueur Mission that was organized in 1860.

Beginning with these early missionary efforts we will trace the heritage of these churches through the Methodist preaching points of Emmanuel, Henderson, Ebenezer, Green Isle, New Auburn and Arlington churches, plus their Evangelical contemporaries, the Altnow and Rush River churches.

While the movement began in England, not all the early settlers referred to England as their homeland. The history of the Arlington church actually begins far back in Germany during the 1840's and 50's. A tremendous wave of liberal, democratic sentiment, born of the masses for a republican form of government as the United States had, and France was achieving, met unyielding opposition from the older autocratic monarchs. The liberals of all classes; farmers, soldiers and teachers tried to escape the tyrannous rule of this constitutional government, but failed. Consequently these pioneers turned their efforts toward America for refuge and opportunity. The newly organized Minnesota territory proved to be very attractive to the immigrants from Germany. Here the terrain was similar to their home country, with fertile soil and rolling woodlands, complimented by sparkling brooks and majestic rivers.

During the 1850's, large numbers of people from Germany began arriving in the Minnesota River Valley. Often the welcoming committee would include a preacher on horseback. Thus we learn that even before Minnesota gained statehood, there was a nucleus of German speaking Methodists who were soon joined by United Brethren and Evangelicals.

Emmanuel Church Rekar's Grove 1856-1892

In 1856 the first missionary was sent to the Le Sueur mission by the Rock River Conference. A new congregation was formed at Rekar's Grove (section 32, Jessenland Twp). Records

reveal the following familiar area names: Luhring, Beseke, Sander, Ostermann, Obernolte, Breitskreutz, Hansen and Maeder.

In the beginning the congregation met in homes. Four years later construction of a new church provided a permanent preaching place for a newly appointed pastor. The log building located in Rekar's Grove became known as "Emmanuel's Church". This building was dedicated in 1860. Though far away from the Eastern seaboard, it was nevertheless abreast of the educational times. It had a fine Sunday School with two classes, the beginner's called the "Ah, Bay, Tsey" and the Bible class. Promotion to the Bible class was based on the ability to read fluently a portion of the scriptures.

In the early days, an annual offering of \$3.00 was sent to the Conference with careful instructions on how it was to be apportioned. It was not a pauper church by any means, for in 1876 it paid its preacher \$500 and contributed nearly half that sum (\$210.00) to what we would now call World Service. Few modern churches can match that in benevolent giving.

This church truly belonged to the pioneers. The wilderness was cleared, houses built and many hardships encountered. It was a time when faith by necessity needed to be practiced and so this early house of God welcomed each parishioner and provided a common ground for their faith.

However as time passed, the congregations' border moved further westward and with the building of Ebenezer Methodist Church in Arlington, the usefulness of the little log church came to an end.

A historic link to the past is visible even today, as wood taken from timbers used to build Emmanuel Church was later fashioned into the pulpit furniture of the Arlington Church. The front panel is the old pulpit and the cross that crowns the altar piece above the picture of Christ were made of this wood. Today this furniture is located in several areas of the church.



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Henderson Church 1864-1913

The first services were held in the Henderson schoolhouse, conducted in 1858, by Rev Zollman who had come from St Paul to St Peter.

Services continued to be held in the school until 1864 when the Rev J F Unlund purchased a house and two lots on Main St across the street from the courthouse site. The Henderson congregation was thereby provided with its first permanent place of residence. The first Board of Trustees consisted of G Maeder, F Agers, and Hans Hansen.

Property on Main Street increased in value and proved to be an attractive location, and when an area businessman (Stuke) made the congregation an interesting offer to build them a new church on the hill overlooking the city in exchange for their Main Street property, the offer was accepted. Church member Anton Wittee, donated the bell. Many a romantic tale was told about the beautiful church on the hill and how its bell carried a call to worship across the Minnesota River Valley.

Despite efforts of the clergy, the Henderson town church declined and in the December 8, 1911 issue of the Henderson newspaper, Rev Brinkman of Arlington advertised the Methodist Church property on school hill was for sale. It was purchased by the school district and was used for school purposes.

In the summer of 1920, Rev H Gue of Le Sueur conducted services in the Farmers Store Hall. Evidently there was not enough people attending to again establish a Henderson Methodist congregation. *Henderson Then and Now*

Ebenezer Church 1864-1913

Ebenezer Church was built in Section 27 of Arlington Township in 1875, (four miles south of the present town of Arlington) during the pastorate of Rev William Pagenhart. The new building was 40 x 35 feet and was prominently identified by its steeple. The church was enriched by having a beautiful organ donated by the Breitzkreutz family. The organist was Mr William Hartman of Henderson. The first trustees of this church were: William Breitzkreutz, Fred Feldman, August Obernolte, Fred Dreveskragt, Andrew Beseke, Henry Blume, Henry Schmidt, Christian Obernolte and Fred Maas.

With the closing of the Henderson church, it was decided to build a new parsonage near Ebenezer in 1881.

Rev Frank Wellemeier was the pastor at that time. Total cost of the project was \$900.00. The following year a choir was formed under the leadership of Pastor-musician Carl Stellner; thus began a music ministry that continued through the years and is still evident. A youth group (Jugendbund) was organized during that time as well.

Also during the 1890's, the church in Arlington was gaining momentum and as its influ-



Picture taken around 1893

ence reached southward, the center of the Ebenezer congregation shifted to the east.

In 1899, L F Breitzkreutz and Martin Nagel were hired to move the church building two miles east and one mile south to section 36 of Arlington Township.

The rededication of the church was in 1899 with John Schneider as the new minister. Local ministers were instrumental in maintaining an uninterrupted ministry in the early days of the church. One member, Fred Sander, is credited with 45 years of service and often acted in the absence of a pastor. An interesting fact is noted about the "offering". None was taken! The budget was met by personal contributions made to the stewards.

There came a time however, when the congregation became too small, the building needed repair and modern transportation made it questionable whether it was wise to carry on the Ebenezer work separately. In February of 1937, representatives of the congregation met and voted to close the historic church and merge with Arlington. A formal consolidation was scheduled for Easter week. Ebenezer had been considered one of the strongest churches of the old Northern German Methodist Conference and for many years had been a leader in the social life of the community. It was known as a sponsor of camp meetings in the pioneer days. In March, the building was sold and the two congregations united in a richer relation for both. The church bell, which had been given to Henderson by Anton Wittee and later transferred to Ebenezer, was passed on to the Norwegian Lutheran Church south of Gaylord.

There was reason to celebrate, yet there was also a moment of sadness as this comment from the "Arlington Enterprise of March 18, 1937" indicates: *"The last of the physical remains of the old Ebenezer congregation of Arlington Township disappeared at public auction Wednesday afternoon. The old church building was sold for \$235.00, purchased by Art Sander, while the barn was purchased by Otto Hildebrandt of Gaylord for \$86.00. The sale attracted a large crowd, no doubt many attended purely for sentimental reasons as the old*

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church had a prominent place in the spiritual history of the community."

Green Isle Church 1891-1914

The fourth Methodist Episcopal Church to be found in this area was located in Green Isle Township, section 28. This vibrant congregation served the area north of Arlington from 1881-1914 and although its life was rather short-lived, the congregation made great strides in the area of evangelism. A lot of Christian living can take place in a relatively short time.

According to history the early settlers made their way on foot all the way from Green Isle Township to the little log church in Rekar's Grove, a distance of about 14 miles. Once the Ebenezer church was built in 1875 the distance was reduced. Among the Green Isle group was a Mrs Steffer who was instrumental in organizing the Green Isle church. Under the leadership of Rev Carl Boettcher, a congregation was formed with the first Board of Trustees consisting of D Mueller, William Fahrwald and Carl Rathke. Promotion was at once started for a new church building, the trustees agreed on the location and friends contributed to the fund.

As an example of the generosity of other churches of the circuit, \$235 was given toward the project of the sister congregation. A total of \$1400 was collected and for this sum a neat and adequate church was erected under the leadership of Carl Stellner. Mrs Steffer, of thrifty nature, had already secured the stove from the Emmanuel church, so when this church was dedicated on September 10, 1882, it was quite complete and already almost paid for.

The Green Isle church was referred to as the "spiritual dynamo" of the circuit. Winter revival and summer camp meetings were associated with the life of the congregation. There was no time of the year in which the gospel of Christ was pronounced out of season! People from miles around were invited to attend and many found their way to these special services which richly affected the life of this church. Another trait of this early church was the respect for Sunday as a day set apart to worship God, with a high priority given by members to prayer.

After the new Methodist Episcopal Church was built in Arlington, the community gravitated that way for school and business. In February of 1914, during the ministry of Rev Fritze, the church united with the Arlington congregation and the Green Isle church was sold to William Boettcher for \$315.00, who moved it to his adjoining farm. Some of the timber was sold to Paul Mueller, to be cut into logs and posts, consequently about \$415.00 was received. Upon uniting with Arlington, this money was put into a fund and some uses for it were: maintaining the Green Isle cemetery, and maintaining the buildings and properties of the Arlington and Ebenezer churches.

The Evangelical Association

The year the first Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Sibley County was the same year identified as the beginning of the Evangelical Association in Minnesota. During the middle of the 19th Century many people from the eastern states moved westward where the country was sparsely settled and land was cheap, hoping to find homes of their own. Among these immigrants were some Evangelical families who settled in the territory of Minnesota. It is not known who the first families to this area were, but they brought along their christianity and their loyalty to their church. They continued their family worship, and even held public religious worship at places without a pastor. But they longed for their spiritual shepherds and for the preaching of the Word of God.

Rev August Huelster was referred to as the "pathfinder" of Evangelical work in Minnesota. It is told that in June of 1857 his horse and buggy risked life and limb to swim and make their way across the Crow River. That fall he began to hold camp meetings in the Le Sueur vicinity and it was natural that the early settlers with Evangelical background responded. Such a group lived just 7 miles west, at a place called Rush River.

Rush River Church

Rush River is located in Kelso Twp, Sibley County. This village was an early preaching point for itinerant preachers of the Evangelical Association. These dedicated ministers on horseback were already making regular stops in the 1860's, about the same time Methodist preachers were busy in Henderson. No doubt the representatives of these two denominations greeted each other on the trail as they sought to serve their churches. Early members of this church were: Silcher, Kuske, Schnake, Freeze, Foelzke, Muehlhausen, Martin, Wendelschaefer, Gutzmer and Koenig. Land for this church was donated by Henry Freeze. Like its Methodist counterparts, however, Rush River was the victim of the times and the members of the congregation moved westward, some to the Dakotas. Rev Ezra Budke, one of the young men of the Rush River congregation to go into the ministry, recalls the days of his childhood. "*The church was packed morning and night with standing room only. After the war the Dakota craze set in and half of the families moved elsewhere for financial reasons and to improve themselves.*"

At the Annual Meeting on January 14, 1946, it was voted to discontinue holding services at the Rush River church and to unite with the congregation in Le Sueur. The building was sold and was later torn down, the lumber being hauled away for use in another building. Many people recall the liveliness of the Rush River Church. In the area of evangelism this meant annual revival meetings, with services held every night for two weeks, including Sundays. The church was served as an out-point from

Le Sueur, where the pastor resided. Mrs Helen Sinell recalled: *"Sometimes we had Sunday School in the morning followed by a prayer meeting led by the class leader when the pastor could not come, or if he came for a service in the evening."*

This church was the center of community social life: Sunday School picnics, programs and ice cream socials were events that successfully brought people together. Other churches of the area were also invited and it became a great opportunity for young people of the area to get together. Even though the Rush River church eventually merged with the Evangelical Association Church of Le Sueur, its history testifies to an active cooperation with the Methodist Episcopal churches of the area. Like the church at Green Isle, this congregation is remembered for its evangelical emphasis.

Altnow Church

A neighboring Evangelical Association church to the Rush River Church in eastern Sibley County was the Altnow Church. The center of this congregation was 3 1/2 miles west and 1 mile south of Arlington. (NW/NW section 23 of Dryden Twp.)

Early ministers to this area came from Hutchinson and from towns closely associated with other churches in Sibley County, Le Sueur and St. Peter. In 1876 a New Auburn Mission was formed of the appointments Henske, Altnow, Rosenow and Klemmer, all named after the prom-

inent men in these congregations. They formerly had belonged to the Hutchinson Circuit. Some of the pastors of the New Auburn Mission were: Jul Fandrey, 1 year; F C Schmidt, 3 years; followed by C F Sydow, 2 years and G Britzius, during whose term the name of the church was changed to Arlington Mission.

The Altnow church was described as a wood frame building, covered with six inch lap siding made out of white pine and painted white. The shingles were also made of white pine. There were 6 windows on each side and two in front, one on either side of a large double door. The bell tower was open on all four sides and a cross adorned the steeple. A parsonage was built some years later on the north side of the church.

The church closed the same year the new Methodist Episcopal Church in Arlington was built and many of the members united with that congregation. No doubt similarity of theology between the Methodist Episcopal and the Evangelical Association churches helped make the transition from Altnow to Arlington a more painless process. Since some of the members were already neighbors, the greatest obstacle to overcome was the distance between town and country. Familiar names in the Altnow congregation were: Huchenpoehler, Wiemier, Stude, Altnow, Mucho, Ebert, Paul, Fenske, Bandelin, Feldmann and Wieman.

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Construction on the current parsonage was begun in the fall of 1971 and was ready for occupancy in the summer of 1972. The debt on the education wing, having been retired, and there being no debt on the parsonage, both were dedicated on October 9, 1972.

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In addition to the pastors listed previously, four more pastors served this church: A J Iwan, 3 years; A G Sahr, 3 years; F R Wolter, 2 years and W Lenz, 2 years.

The old church and parsonage pictured here (taken in the mid to late-1960s) were connected by a tunnel and both were on the same lot as the current church sanctuary.

The Education Wing, located in the basement, had a ground breaking in the fall of 1961. This building had five classrooms, a chapel, a fellowship room, dining hall, kitchen, rest rooms, custodial and furnace rooms. It was consecrated on July 14, 1963.



The preliminary plans for the current church were approved in April 1972. Construction took place throughout 1973. The cornerstone was laid on June 18, 1973. This new building included the sanctuary shown below which includes audiovisual capabilities, a spacious lobby, offices and work-space. The new church was consecrated on May 19, 1974. The mortgage was burned and the church was dedicated on October 24, 1982.



Judy Loewe, SCHS Programs Director has scheduled the following:

Upcoming Programs

**Tuesday, June 27 7 p m "U S Infantry—Veterinary Food Inspection
Our speaker will be Earl Hebeisen, Plymouth, MN
At the museum**

**Special Program Sunday, July 9 "Walking in My Ancestors Footsteps"
Harlan Mehlhop A round table discussion
Free admission for Veterans! See details on back page**

**Tuesday July 25 At home of Lawrence & Phyllis Crawford
5:30 p m Potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass)
7:00 p m Program "Theatre Organ & Music Boxes**

**Wednesday—Sunday, August 2-6
Come Visit us at the Sibley County Fair
in Arlington**



Upcoming Tour

**Sibley County Historical Society Tour
Wednesday, August 2, 2017
STATE CAPITOL**

Included in the package provided by Gaylord Community Ed is the cost of a BBQ ribs and baked chicken buffet lunch at **CHEROKEE TAVERN**

Cost \$59.00 per person PREPAID
If it turns out you cannot go you must find your own replacement

We will also have a fully guided drive-through tour of **FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY**

All for the price of \$59 pre-paid per person
Upon registration to

Judy Loewe, 339 Henderson, MN 56044
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

Here are the pick up points and times:
Gaylord 7:30 a m / home 4:15p m
Arlington 7:45 a m / home 4:00p m
Green Isle 8:00 a m / 3:45 p m home

We will drive to Plato to catch a coach bus, so I will need to know where you will catch a ride. Please leave a phone number.
More details on location will be given when you sign up.

Genealogy News & Notes



We received this letter by e-mail and feel it is worth passing on to our members:

Searching for your Swedish Ancestors?

"This is the first trip ever which is a package travel trip with the cause finding the roots in Sweden combined with visiting historical and culture heritage with guide. There is two days in Stockholm as well.

The trip is 7-10 days, August 28—September 10, depending where the travelers are from. The major travel cause is to find information on their forefathers. Trace their footsteps, visit where they lived and meet relatives still there today. The trip is customized for everyone who travel on this exclusive genealogy travel package tour.

When the traveler has decided to go on the trip, a local genealogist and guide in Sweden will help the traveler find her/his roots based on the information the traveler has of the family in Sweden. Information of who the immigrant to US was and where she/he come from is needed. The traveler doesn't need to have any genealogy skills.

All the genealogy work will already be done when the travelers board the airplane with destination Gothenburg Landvetter airport, Sweden.

The trip is limited to 16 people, first come first served. The approximate cost of \$ 4,000 include roundtrip airfare, housing and transportation in Sweden and the cost of a genealogy researcher. The area which the trip goes to is Skaraborg County and the surrounding area. You can find more information about the trip at <http://roots2017.emigrant.se/>.

Contact Linnea Bengtsson International Business Developer for Skaraborg County, Sweden in Rockford IL if interested. E-mail: linnea.bengtsson@lidkopinq.se or Rockford, IL 815 985 3895."

When we Need Help. . .

From time to time we need some "expert" help with our computers and other electronic equipment. We've found a great place to tap into for that kind of help is the **New Country School** in Henderson. We can find someone there that can fix just about anything. And they have been most willing to help with any other jobs we have as well, even carrying things to the attic, 2 stories up.

Our most recent "youngster" was **Brandon Lee Boerner** of Gaylord. Brandon is a junior at New Country School and hopes to go to college to learn more about computer networking. He is shown here reassembling our color copier after a much needed repair.

Thanks to all the great students and staff at New Country School for your help.

The SCHS Volunteers



NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Marian L. Anderson, Gaylord, MN
 *Jack Doepke, Chisago City, MN
 Leo Berger, Henderson, MN
 *Harlan Mehlop, Mankato, MN
 Philip Delzer, Minneapolis, MN
 *Jane Rischmiller, Gaylord, MN
 Terry Dempsey, New Ulm, MN
 *Ruth Soukup, Bemidji, MN
 Sharlene Friedericks, Brooklyn Park, MN
 Marlys Gaucher, Arlington, MN
 Karrie Hanson, Westfield, NJ
 Carol Jackson, Eden Prairie, MN
 Patricia Judd, Waseca, MN
 Albert & Arline Karels, Henderson, MN
 Pat & Larry Klunder, Henderson, MN
 Mary Krska, Naperville, IL
 Barbara Mathwig, Brownton, MN
 Diane Neubarth, Hutchinson, MN

Carol & Lowell Pogatchnik, Finlayson, MN
 Pro Landscape Maintenance, Gaylord, MN
 Earl & Marjorie Renneke, Le Sueur, MN
 Val Rocheleau, Rochester, MN
 Leon & Bev Stadtherr, Winthrop, MN
 Pat Steckman, Henderson, MN
 Lorraine Steeber, Palatine, IL
 Mary Ellen Weller, Madison, WI
 Doris Wigand, Henderson, MN
 Jeff & Jean Zumhofe, Winthrop, MN
 David & Mary Ann Petzel
 Dorothy Peterson, Gibbon
 *Claire Dulgarr, Barnes, WI
 Lois Scherer, Elbow Lake, MN
 *Paul & Lorraine Doring, Mankato
 *Ethel & Orville Beuch, Henderson



Donations:

Marian Anderson, Jack Doepke, Evie McGonigle, Henderson United Charities, Philip Delzer, Lois Bode, Ruth Soukup

Grants and Memorials:

The Busse Fund, Gene & LaDonna Rodewald in memory of Evelyn Lieske

Membership Form

- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$25.00
- Business \$50.00

- I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail (in color)
- I would like to receive my newsletter by U S Mail

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

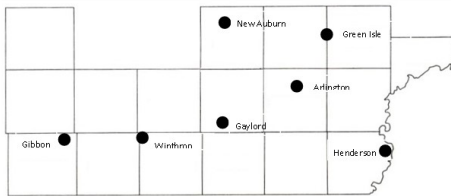


The museum is open to the public for tours beginning on Memorial Day and then Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, June thru October and by appointment. Volunteers available to do research or call the museum to set an appointment to do your own at \$5.00 per hour.

Send articles, announcements, photos and comments to the SCHS Newsletter Editor, P O Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or e-mail: schs1@frontiernet.net

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated above. Mail to:
 SCHS Treasurer, P O Box 206
 Arlington, MN 55307





When you are planning to visit the Sibley County Museum in Henderson this summer, here are some other events in Sibley County you might enjoy!

Henderson

May 28 Le Sueur –Henderson High School Graduation at Le Sueur High School

Sibley County Historical Museum opens Monday, Memorial Day May 29th 2-5 p m

Open Sundays 2-5 p m Admission \$2:00 per person SCHS Members admitted Free
Check our website: www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com

J R Brown River Center located in the upper level of Henderson Community Building, Sundays 2-5 p m through October

June 23–June 25 Sauerkraut Festival Parade Sunday Noon Bender Park

Henderson Library Monday 9-12 & 2-6; Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9-12; Wednesday 2-8; Friday 9-12 & 3-7

Ney Nature Center this Le Sueur County Park is just east of Henderson on Highway 19. Watch for the sign right at the top of the hill. Hours are from sunup until sundown. The education building is open Monday through Friday, 9-5 info@neycenter.org

Kerfoot Canopy Tour 30200 Scenic Byway Rd Henderson, MN 56044 952-873-3901

Arlington

June 4: Sibley East Graduation Arlington High School

Arlington Historical Museum Open 1st & 3rd Saturdays, May through Arli-Dazzle (1st Saturday in December)

June thru September Saturday Nights Arlington Raceway Check their website at:
www.arlingtonraceway.com

June 11 Veterans on the Water Fundraiser 11 a m-2:30 p m @ Sibley County Fairgrounds (see page 12)

June 12 thru September 25 Every Monday Farmer's Market

June 17th: 8:00 a.m. - noon Sibley County Relay for Life at Four Season's Park

Arlington A's Baseball (Home games only)

June 2 7:30 p m Vs. Victoria

June 16-18 Miller High Life Invite at Gaylord

June 25th Arlington A's Alumni Day 3:00 p m Vs New Ulm 6:00 p m

July 14 7:30 p m Vs. Gaylord Islanders

Arlington Library hours: Monday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 7:30, Tuesday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 5:30, Wednesday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 6:30 Friday: 9:00 - 12:00; 12:30 - 2:30 Saturday: 9:00 - 12:00
 Closed Thursday and Sunday

Come and see us at the Fair! August 2-6

Winthrop

June 9 GFW Graduation 7 p m Winthrop High School

Farm City Fun Fest June 7-9

<http://www.winthropminnesota.com/funfest>

WCHS (Winthrop Community Historical Museum) Sundays 11 to 2

Music in the Park June 8, 5-6:30 July 8, 6:30–8 p m July 13,

August 1, TBA August 10 TBA

Winthrop Library Hours Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m.—6 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. 7 p m ,
 Friday 10 a m —5 p m Saturday 9 a m —12:00 p m

Winthrop Golf Club 2 miles south of Winthrop on Highway 15 Open April thru October
 Club House open daily 8 a m - 8 p m Call 507 647 5828 for tee time or more information.
 Senior Men's league (55+) Tuesday mornings Tee times starting at 9 a m



Sibley County Events (Continued)

Gaylord**June 4 Sibley East Graduation Arlington High School****June 7 Gaylord Aquatic Water Park opens** Schedule will be available in June**Wednesdays & Fridays** at Senior Citizens center, arthritis exercises**Gaylord Library** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12-7; Wednesday & Friday, 9-6 Saturday 9-1**Last Wednesday of each month** 10:30 a m Fireside Book Club**Band Concert in the Park June 7, June 14 Wakefield Park June 21 Church of Cash**

Gaylord Eggstravaganza August 11 -13 car show, parade 5k run Saturday 8:30 -noon

Gaylord Islanders Baseball (Home Games only)

June 2	7:30 p m	Vs Young America	July 2	6:00 p m	Vs Jordan Brewers
June 4	6:00 p m	Vs St. Peter	July 16	6:00 p m	Vs Le Sueur Braves
June 16-18	8:45 p m	Miller High Life Invite	July 18	7:30 p m	Vs Belle Plaine Tigers
June 23	7:05 p m	Vs Arlington A's, Hog Roast	July 28	7:30 p m	Vs Henderson Tigers

Gibbon**June 9 GFW Graduation 7 p m Winthrop High School****Memorial Day thru-July 15 7 p m Friday Gibbon Band of Renown concerts in City Park****Gibbon Fun Fest July 14-16****Gibbon Reds Baseball (Home Games only) @ McGowan Field**

June 3	3:00 p m	Vs Leavenworth Orioles
June 4	2:00 p m	Vs St James Express
June 4	5:00 p m	Vs Springfield Tigers
June 18	2:00 p m	Vs New Ulm Brewers
July 2	2:00 p m	Vs Essig Blue Jays
July 9	4:00 p m	Vs Courtland Cubs
July 16	4:00 p m	Vs Lamberton Long Sox
July 23	2:00 p m	Vs Hanska Lakers

Green Isle**June 4 Sibley East Graduation****June 19 Green Isle Lions, Community Connect Dinner** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Green Isle serving begins at 5:30**Green Isle Baseball (Home games only)****July 8th: Green Isle Irish Tournament** and "Diamond Gem Irish Hall of Fame" Induction

June 9	7:30 p m	Vs Waterville	July 5	Vs Watertown
June 11	7:30 p m	Vs Plato	July 9	Vs Hamburg
June 25	2:00 p m	Vs Glencoe	July 11	Vs Henderson
			July 21	Vs Hutchinson

New Auburn

July 1 2nd Annual Swap Meet 9 a m - 6 p m
Vendors needed (large, small, Home, Farm, whatever)
Bingo, (2/4, 6/8) Food, Drinks, Softball Tournament @ the City Park

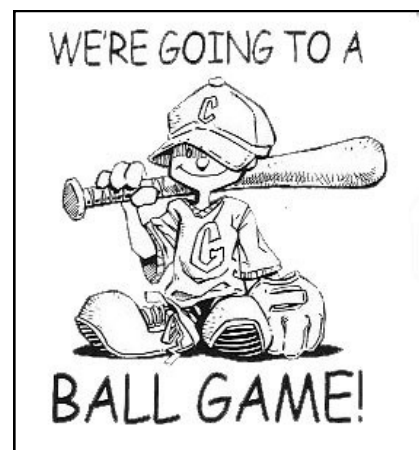
July 2 Swap Meet Continues 9 a m - 6 p m Bingo, (2/4, 6/8) Food, Drinks
1:30 Bring the kids and build a FREE Bird Feeder
Bean Bag Tournament \$10 each **sign in @ noon**, play starts 1 p m

July 3 Fire Dept Pork Chop Dinner \$12 @ Fire Hall 4:30 to 7:30 p m Bingo @ Lake Club 7-9

July 4 Half Chicken or Fish Dinner 11-1 & 4-6 p m Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show, Swap Meet
Camping Encouraged! Hosted by High Island Lake Conservation Club, Inc
Fireworks!!! Thanks to New Auburn Fire Dept & VFW Post 7266

Berndadotte**Wed, June 7** 5:30 - 8 p m Pie & Ice Cream Social Lafayette Band, Bake Sale

Saturday June 24 4-8 p m Swede Fest Midsummer Event Wednesday
New menu :Barbeque riblet & all trimmings Cost Adults \$10, 6-12 \$5 Under 5 FREE
Silent auction, kids activities and more



Veterans on the Water

Excerpts from Sibley County Development Newsletter, May 2017 and Sr. Perspective, May 2017

It all began in 2015 with one pontoon boat, but has mushroomed into a much larger project in just 2 years. Steve Gillaspie, owner of **Steve's Copy Shop and More** in Arlington, started the Veterans on the Water project in 2015. He is a US Army Ranger Vietnam combat vet. He offers free fishing trips to local veterans that may have given up on going fishing because they can't get around like they used to.

Gillaspie bought a pontoon boat in 2015 and took a few veterans fishing. The project has grown from there and in 2016 Gillaspie purchased more boats; many of them older ones that he and his 15-year old assistant, Dakota Reihler, restore from old boats; some of them 30 or 40 years old, boats that nobody wants. They tear them down and completely refurbish them at his farm in rural Arlington, then paint them a patriotic red, white and blue. This fishing season Gillaspie will have 26 boats available to take veterans on the water.

Not only does he have boats, but he also has two 12 and 15-passenger mobility buses to transport veterans to lakes. Last year Veterans on the Water provided a half-dozen trips to various lakes around the state. While most are day trips, exceptions are Gull Lake and Winnibogoshish, where the group stays two nights in cabins. They even took a fishing trip to Alabama last year and caught some big crappies.

This year Veterans on the Water has an ambitious schedule of guided outings for groups going to Lake Minnetonka, Lake Waconia, Lake Washington, High Island Lake, Lake Hanska, Gull Lake, Eagle Lake, Lake Winnibogoshish, Cedar Lake and more still to be determined. There will also be some additional unscheduled trips of one to 3 veterans in a boat.

"Many of our veterans today have special needs and we make sure we accommodate those needs," says Gillaspie.

We have a pontoon with wheelchair access and hope to soon have equipment that will allow quadriplegics to also enjoy fishing.



The project has gotten so large that Gillaspie finds himself in need of volunteers. Volunteers who can: operate the boats, help with the restoration, clean boats and prepare them for the next trip would be very helpful. Making meals for the veterans going on the trips, under the able leadership of Gillaspie's wife, Jean, is another job volunteers could do.



There will be a fundraiser for the Veterans on the Water project on Sunday, June 11 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Sibley County Fair grounds in Arlington. There will be live and silent auction. Food will be served. Contact Steve at 651 353 5050 for more information.

Donations of good fishing equipment:

boats, motors, trolling motors, anchors, tackle, life jackets, fish finders, new seats, lights, wire for trailers, spare tires and gas tanks are just a few of the many items that would be greatly appreciated. Monies for a handicapped bus, boat repairs, bait, boat building, supplies and to pay insurance costs are also needed.



New Board Member in Action!

The Sibley County Historical Society took advantage of the opportunity to have a display at the second annual Sibley County Community and Business Expo, titled **"Live and Work in Sibley County"** which was held recently in Arlington.

Laura Gilman, one of our new SCHS board members (shown below), volunteer Marie Main and board member, Sharon Haggemiller, greeted the many interested attendees, and found it to be a very enjoyable experience.

Door prizes of a miniature SCHS Museum, a 150th Anniversary Commemorative Pitcher and a SCHS T-Shirt were awarded.



Student visitors at the Museum!

By Sharon Haggemiller

Spring is usually the time of year when the museum gets calls from area school teachers wanting to set up museum tours for their students. The usual age group we work with are 3rd graders (Sibley East Gaylord), 3rd graders (Le Sueur-Henderson) and 4th and 5th graders from Henderson Hilltop.

Gaylord 3rd graders celebrate Pioneer Days every year, associating some of the *Little House on the Prairie* books. In past years, Hollie Harjes and I have packed up items, (about 40, in boxes and a few pieces too large for boxes) pertaining to the stories and take them over to the school. The last 2 years, the students have taken a bus ride to the museum. May 17th was the day selected this year to bring over 50 students and chaperones. How do we handle 50 students? We work with the teachers to schedule their allotted time which varies with each tour. In our many years of organizing tours we have learned what works best and have devised the following routine.

The museum has many rooms, and in order to accommodate our visitors, we need to divide large groups into mini groups of 10 or 12 each. Volunteer guides are stationed in rooms throughout the building ready to relate the historical information and show artifacts pertaining to the students studies. The students are in each area for 15 minutes, then after 5 minutes they change areas/rooms, and the guides begin relating the same information again, until all mini groups have gone through the building. Sound confusing? Sometimes it is confusing to us too.

On this day we needed the help of 5 volunteers: Hollie Harjes in the kitchen, Al Rostberg in the basement, Diane Rostberg upstairs and 2 new helpers, Betty Strobel in the library and Don Strobel outside on the porch. The plan was to show the Log Cabin but it was raining so Don stayed on the porch with his group and talked about the cabin from there.



Viewing the log cabin shows students the contrast of the life style of the earliest pioneers living in hand hewn log cabins compared to large brick dwellings such as the Poehler home.

The rain quit just before the group was ready to leave so each student did get to look inside the cabin to verify all that they had heard.

Volunteers said it was a fun morning, they had a great time and answered many questions. All the children that come to visit are well behaved and so eager to learn about how their ancestors lived.

Third graders from the LeSueur-Henderson school district, numbering over 100, came ready to hear the history of Sibley County in general. SCHS and J.R. Brown Center share the allotted time with our visitors when groups are this large. When students arrive, the group is divided in half with one group walking to the J.R. Brown River Center, just down the street from the museum, (upstairs of the Community Building). The other group stays at the museum and is divided again into smaller groups so the tour can be handled as described above. At half time the larger groups switch places between the two buildings and guides will begin over again. Volunteers give their explanations of artifacts at least 8 times per class visit.

Hilltop School students, Stem School from LeSueur-Henderson, grades 4 and 5, numbering 200+, were spread over two days. The tours are handled the same way, sharing the time with J.R. Brown River Center where the students study about the Oregon Trail. Our goal at SCHS is to show and tell about artifacts that could have been used by the pioneers traveling the trail.

We really appreciate all the guides who graciously give their time and talents to share with the children. Without them it would not be possible to conduct these educational programs.

We also appreciate our Sunday guides. By volunteering their time, our guides allow the museum to be open to welcome visitors of all ages. More volunteer guides are needed during our summer hours, so please consider volunteering. Use the e-mail or phone number provided in this newsletter to contact us.



Or you can contact us through our website:

www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com

Opening Day for the 2017 season begins on Monday, May 29th, Memorial Day from 2 to 5. and then Sunday afternoons until October. We hope many of you will join us as visitors or guides.

“Walking in My Ancestors Shoes”

Harlan Mehlhop

Sharing Memories!



Harlan Mehlhop as an army recruit stationed at Ft Leonard Wood, MO.

Join us at the Sibley county Museum, July 9, starting at 3 p.m. for an informal roundtable discussion led by Harlan Mehlhop of Mankato. Harlan served in Germany following his basic training in 1965 at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. Harlan left for the service, via Gibbon MN.

While stationed in Germany, Harlan spent time getting acquainted with the area where his grandfather was born and raised in northern Germany. One of the highlights of his trip was finding the church his grandfather had attended and he was happy to be allowed to take Holy Communion in the church where his grandfather had. The German Mehlhop family saved the church bell during the war and it was buried on Harlan's grandfather's farm; it now has the Mehlhop name punched on the outside of that bell, and is now located on the church property. He also visited the farm on which his grandfather had grown up and became acquainted with Mehlhop relatives that still live there.

Seven years ago, Harlan revisited Germany, and again went to that same farm, where the son of the woman he had visited on his first trip now lived. He found that a small red Mercedes tractor, that had been in the farm yard all those years ago, was still there.

Harlan then traveled to northern Germany (Hoya) and went to Bremerhaven where his grandfather had boarded the ship to come to America. Here he was able to re-enact the immigration of his grandfather, even wearing the type of clothing he would have worn in that period.

Come and share some of YOUR memories with Harlan and other visitors. Bring some veteran friends along. Free admission for **all** veterans July 9th.



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www.
sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com



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