



## Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting	1
Rommie	1
Misc	2
Hit and Misc	5
Annual Meeting info	5
Election Info	5
Website update	7
Archeology Project	8
Thanks	8
New and Renewed	9
Ostrom Update	10

## SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2016

SIBLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX-ELEVATOR AVAILABLE

Doors open at 11:30 Come see our displays and schmooze

DINNER WILL BE AT 12:30PM

MENU; HAM BALLS AND CHICKEN, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY,  
VEGETABLES, DESSERT, BEVERAGE AND OTHER STUFF

COST; \$15.00

PROGRAM;

We will also have a business meeting to update you on things happening at SCHS, upcoming programs, our website and other goings on. As a part of the business meeting, you will have a chance to vote on a new president, vice president and secretary. The nominating committee has provided a slate of candidates on page 5.

**FOR RESERVATION INFORMATION SEE PAGE 5**



Sibley County Historical Society has been buzzing with activities since our last newsletter. First, we (actually *they*) were getting ready for our Holiday Open House; decorating, arranging displays, preparing programs, contact-

ing participants, making treats and gathering objects for the "gift" part of the program. A great deal of work goes into the program, but it is gratifying when we have a good turnout, as we had again this year. We have a Christmas Program every 2 or 3 years and have had many guests, even when it was 15 below zero.

What are all those activities? These are some events and stuff that has happened since December – *by the numbers*:

1. Mike Bluhm of Cleveland MN, who makes precise miniature tools, visited the museum in December. Mike had visited our museum longer ago and wanted to measure some tools in our collection and make miniatures. He wants to make a

(Continued on page 2)

### Calendar of Events

Check our website for 2016 programs.

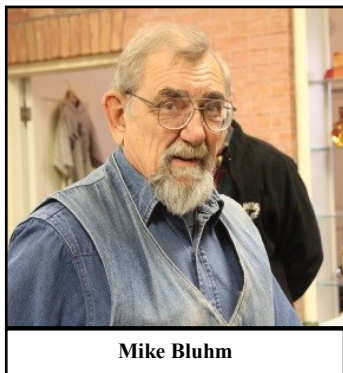
- Annual meeting April 10
- Check us out on Facebook
- Check our website
- If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events .... Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3434







(Continued from page 1)



**Mike Bluhm**



**Eileen Brandt and Erica Traxler holding mukluks from Dr. Dysterheft**



**Some of Mr. Bluhm's miniatures. Compare the dime for sizing. Notice the hammer and tongs by the anvil.**

lathe and jig saw like ours. He showed us some of the things he made. It was like jewelry. An excellent craftsman. We welcome Mike as new member of our society.

2. SCHS Holiday Open house was well attended by over 100 guests. Our program included; Myron Lindeman playing the organ he recently repaired. Eileen Brandt introduced the Sibley County Ambassadors. These young ladies displayed some of our recent gifts. Marie Main showed another precious find, a memento from Paris from WWI. Art and Barb Straub conducted a sing-along of holiday carols of years gone by.



**Myron in front of the organ he had recently repaired, and played for the Holiday Open House**



**Barb and Art**

(Continued on page 3)



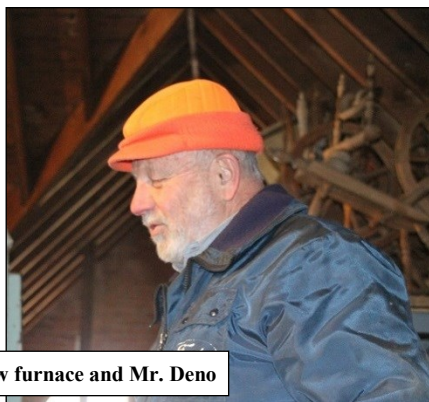
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There were lots of treats.



These dainty silk handkerchiefs and a silk apron were brought to us by the granddaughter of Michael McGuire. They were his souvenir of Paris in WWI when he was stationed there and brought home as a gift for a special lady. They were in a pocket that was a memento of Fort Kearney

3. The attic furnace died. ...and it died on the day of our open house. Why why why then? Bill Deno of Henderson was called the next day for a diagnosis and told us the bad news. It needs to be replaced, or take a chance on expensive, temporary repairs. It is a 26 year old obsolete furnace. We had a board meeting and agreed to replace it. The original installer, Y-Not plumbing of Arlington, could not replace it for a month. Their main service guy was in for surgery. Waiting for a furnace for a month in January in Minnesota was not acceptable. Mr. Deno was hired, and he had the job done in short order. Old one out. New one in. He has done plumbing and electrical work before and we were happy with his services.



Our new furnace and Mr. Deno

4. Keith Anderson's article tells about the MSU crew that is assessing our Native American artifacts. See it on page 8, complete with his photo and more. He is a retired pharmacist from Gaylord.

5. We have military uniforms in our collection from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam up to the Golf Wars. We discussed ways to display them, possibly in a cabinet. Diamond cabinet company is located in the old new Hen-



You might have to take notes. The old school craftsmanship on the left is the stairway from the old school which is now the New Country School, but it is in town. On the right is a cabinet made in the newer old school by Diamond Cabinet Company. It is made for a Twin City museum.

derson High School building. A group of us went to look into some possibilities. We also toured the old school that Mary Petersen attended a few years back.

6. Sondra Foster and her family have moved to rural Henderson. She has been to the museum a couple of times gath-



Fr. Berger holding his publication, and Sondra Foster.

ering information about the 1894 bank building in Green Isle that her family purchased and plan to restore. They are planning a display of historic Green Isle photos. Fosters will use the building for selling restored furniture and other craft items. Arlene helped her gather information and photos of the bank and town from our GI collection. She told Sondra about Fr. Berger's Green Isle/St. Brendan's book and photos; he had let us copy some 100-year-old photos in his collection from Green Isle a few years back. As they were discussing Fr. Berger, who walks in? Fr. Berger!! Serendipity do dah day! Sondra hit the jackpot that day. In the mid twentieth century it was also known as the Mullen Bank when two generations of that family ran the business. The Mullen family had a Gibbon connection years ago. Sondra's website

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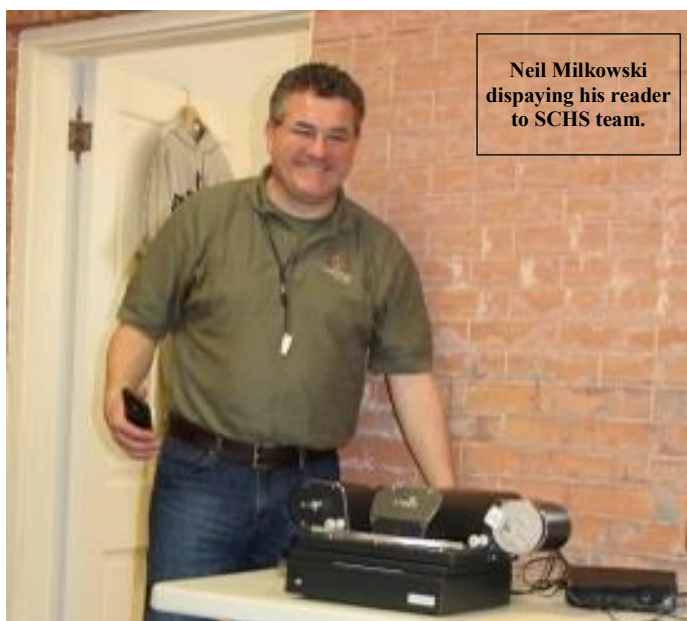


One of my favorite photos from Fr. Berger's collection.

(Continued from page 3)

is; >countrystyleaccents<

7. Our microfilm reader was old when we got it. It's even older now! (I am too) We no longer can get the paper it uses to print. To make copies, we photograph the screen with our



camera, transfer the file to the computer, crop and edit it, and then print it. It is not a good system. We have been looking to replace it for the last several years. The salesman from Clear Image Solutions LLC, Neil Milkowski gave a demo at the museum. Ruth Ann, Arlene, Sharon and Dorothy were on hand.

8. Myron Lindeman picked up the innards of organ #2 after repairing #1. He took it to his shop, repaired the bellows, re-surfaced the accelerator and brake pedals, checked the transistors, brought it back, re-installed it and played us a tune. The guy is a genius! And he's smart too! He knows a lot of organ history. Plus he's a nice guy.

9. While all this was happening, the crew was dismantling the Christmas displays and preparing for the 2016 themes; County Churches Events, Military display changes, "Dental Office", additions in the basement-Lowell Nagel in charge.



Here is Myron playing the 100 year old organ he just repaired, and proving you don't have to be old to play an old organ.

10. Have you checked us out on Facebook? Roseann Nagel is our Facebook person. She adds photos of events and notices of upcoming happenings. She is a techy-wizard, one of her many talents. She is very close to the mayor of Arlington.

11. Check out the website. Steve's graphs are on page 7. He adds information, photos and tidbits regularly. He is THE Webmeister!

12. The ballroom project is the next big thing. We are gathering stories and bits from the newspapers and other sources. I got a great story & photos of the Pockrandt family with the pavilion in the background from the early 1950s from Allan Landgraff of Mankato. His mother was a Pockrandt (Photo left). He has memories of visiting his grandparents and helping clean in the pavilion. Jim Mayer gave us a token, good for one free drink on Polka Days.

He also had a Six Fat Dutchmen flyer. Bruce Herschman has a Gibbon Pavilion Token, good for 5¢ with a bottle return.

Did you ever say to yourself, this newsletter looks like it was done by an amateur?

Disclaimer; This newsletter is done by an amateur.

Looks like the end is near. This newsletter is done...

*Rommie*





## **SCHS ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION**

**FOR RESERVATIONS TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY APRIL 10TH;  
YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION. THE CHARGE IS \$15 PER PERSON. MAKE  
YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, JUST SCHS  
WORKS TOO, AND MAIL IT BY APRIL 2nd TO;**

**Rich Nagel**

**PO Box 206**

**Arlington MN 55307**

**Ask us some questions. Make some suggestions. Register a few complaints. Give us some ideas for the newsletter. Make a recommendation at the annual meeting for a program you'd like to see. Is the annex OK with you for our annual meetings? Volunteer!**

The program will be presented by the University of Minnesota Mankato group that have been assisting Native American Artifacts and other artifacts that people have brought in; Dr. Ron Schirmer, Cory Nowak and Ty Warmak. They have been shown some incredible finds and will share the information with us at our annual meeting.

### **Candidates have been found!!**

As stated in the December 2015 newsletter, a nominating committee was formed following the November 24th SCHS Board of Directors meeting which included Sharon Haggemiller, Henderson, Lowell Nagel, Arlington, and Dale Ericson, Gibbon. The article asked for any member who felt they would like to serve as officers; President, Vice President, and Secretary, to come forward. The nominating committee heard from no one, so our mission continued; we chose people that we thought would best fit the vacated offices. Consideration was made from the entire list of members. After calling prospective candidates, "to ask the question," they were given time to consider the nomination. It has taken a few weeks, but we have a slate of candidates. They are:

#### Steve Briggs for President

Steve has taken a general interest in the organization in recent years. He and his wife Becky took over the Ostrom Negative project from Millie Doering who wanted to spend more time writing her family history. This project is appreciated by the general public when seeing a photo in the area newspapers and they can identify it. Steve then became the coordinator for the fantastic SCHS website. Steve also became a Director in 2015 and is willing to take over from resigned President, Jerome Petersen.

#### Keith Anderson for Vice President.

Keith has been a member and is a new volunteer at SCHS. Keith has taken particular interest in coordinating a research project of Native American artifacts done by U. of M. Mankato students, Cory Nowak and Ty Warmka. Hear more about this interesting and fascinating project when you attend SCHS Annual Meeting. Keith is willing to take the "reins" from resigned Vice President Dwight Grabitske.

#### Ruth Ann Buck for Secretary.

Ruth Ann became a director in 2008. She is a helper with genealogy requests and an avid user of Ancestry.com, volunteers as a museum guide on Sundays and for School Tours. She is eager to help with other jobs included in maintaining the Museum. Ruth Ann was a contributor of research in the production of recent SCHS book "Remembering Sibley County Country Schools." She is willing to take the job of recording meeting minutes from resigning Secretary Dorothy Peterson.

#### Eldrene Ebert for Director

Eldrene is a member who has been helping with various tasks at the museum, including museum guide and setting up displays. Eldrene held the office of Sibley County Recorder for many years; her knowledge is an asset to SCHS. She was also a contributor of research to the book "Remembering Sibley County Country Schools."

Other directors who resigned their position were Mildred Johnson and Sharon Shimota. The official SCHS by-laws state that the government of the organization shall be 4 officers and 5 directors. The remaining directors are: Marie Main, Mary Petersen, Sharon Haggemiller and Judy Loewe; Program Director.

Nominations will also be asked "from the floor" so there is still a chance for any member to be considered for an office of their choice.

Sharon Haggemiller, Chairman of the Nominating Committee





## Naming Sibley County

By Arlene Busse

Sibley County was named in honor of Henry Hastings Sibley. Its boundaries were established at the Minnesota Territorial Legislature on March 5, 1853. At that time, it was much larger; *Beginning at the northwest corner of Hennepin County, thence up the north of Crow River to its second fork, thence in a direct line to the mouth of Rush River, thence down the Minnesota River to the line of Hennepin County, thence along the line of said county, the to the place of beginning.* The boundaries were changed again in 1854, in 1855 and again in 1856.

Henry Sibley came in 1834 to the wilderness which would become the Territory of Minnesota in 1849. His father, a Michigan judge, would have preferred that he read law. Instead he chose an adventurous life in the Northwest Territories working for the American Fur Company. His headquarters were at St. Peter's, later called Mendota. He was well known by the Dakota who supplied furs to the company. They called him Wah-ze-o-man-ee, Walker in the Pines.

Already in the territory since 1820, was Joseph Renshaw Brown another adventurous soul. A runaway printers apprentice, he enlisted in the United States Army at Philadelphia, traveled west with other recruits for the Fifth Regiment. His unit was assigned to the military outpost which would evolve into Fort Snelling. Private Joe Brown was only 15, he was to serve as a musician playing the fife and drum. He grew up in the military then left in 1828 to become a fur trader. He would eventually work for Sibley.

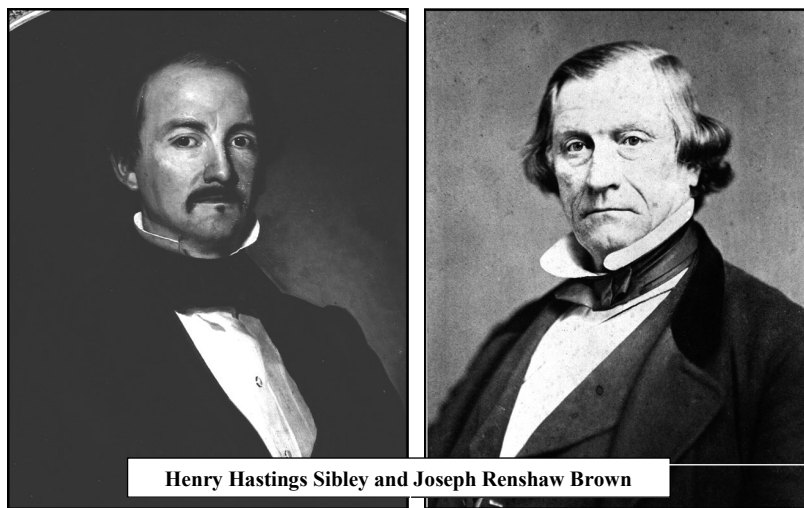
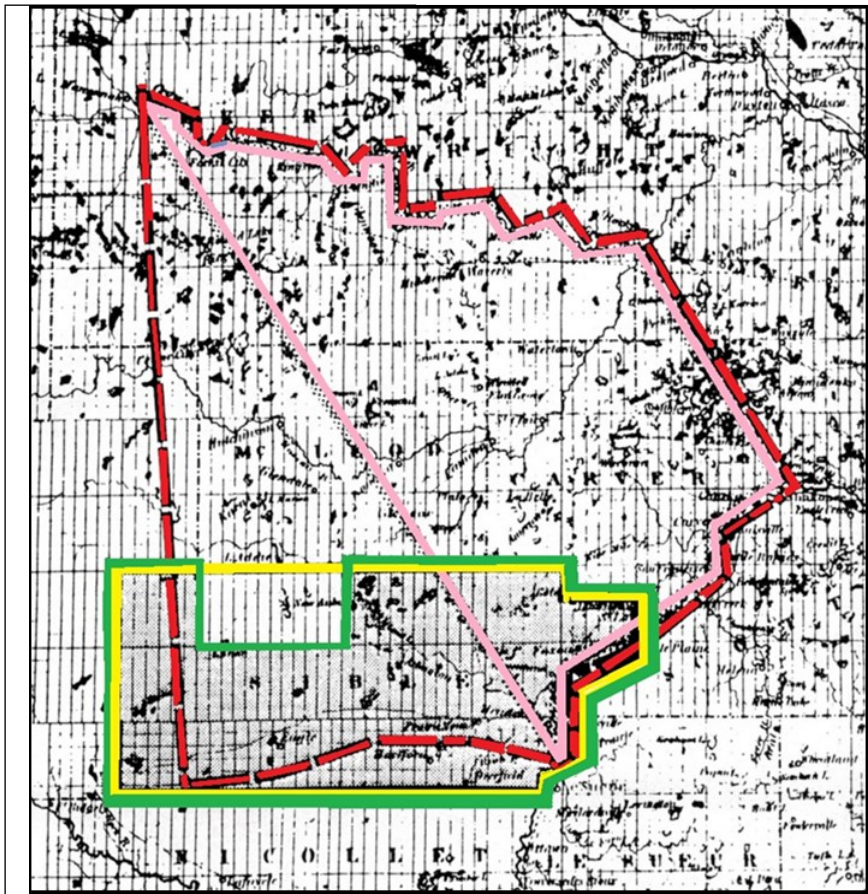
White women were scarce on the frontier. Only fur traders and soldiers could legitimately be in what was then Indian territory. Liaisons with Indian women fostered relationships

with Indian hunters and trappers who supplied furs needed for the dominant fur trade economy. Sibley, Brown and others benefited by these seemingly necessary relationships.

Politicians were working toward statehood for Wisconsin. Minnesota to the north of Fort Snelling and east of the Mississippi was then part of Wisconsin. Joe Brown moved there to Grey Cloud Island about 1837 when the fur post he had been running for Sibley was closed. He served in the Wisconsin legislature, excellent preparation for the role he would play in early Minnesota

ta politics. He and Sibley became political buddies and activists in the emerging Democratic party. Both played a part at the Stillwater Convention in 1849, considered the birthplace of Minnesota. Sibley was elected delegate to congress representing the territory from 1849 to 1853. Brown had been his election campaign manager. Alexander Ramsey was sent by appointment to be the territorial governor. St Paul was to be established as the capital.

Sibley and Brown served in the new Minnesota Territorial Legislature which began to meet



Henry Hastings Sibley and Joseph Renshaw Brown

in 1853. Dividing up the territory into counties resulted in delegates honoring each other by giving their names to counties, thus a Sibley and a Brown County plus many more were named for early businessmen and politicians in the territory. Brown was the one who proposed Sibley to be the name of the county where Brown had already established Henderson in 1852. It was

named by the legislature to be the county seat of Sibley County.

A territorial census in 1857 indicated the population had grown enough to push for statehood which was granted by congress in 1858. Sibley was elected as the first Minnesota state governor.



## SCHS Website Five-Year Anniversary

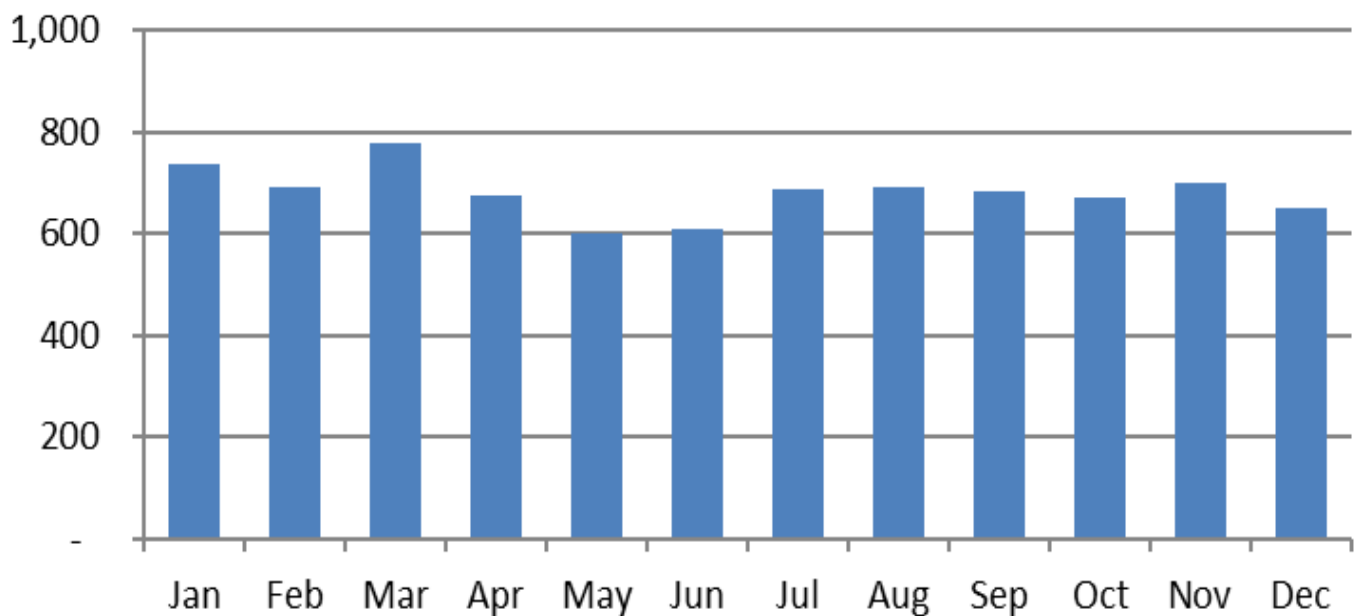
<http://sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com/>

Our site was born November 2011 and soon will turn five years old. In 2013 we saw almost 500 visitors per month. In 2014 the average monthly visitors nearly eclipsed 600. This past year – 2015 - we averaged 680 visitors per month! That's over 20 visitors per day, 7 days a week, sun or rain or snow! And they arrive from all over the world: Japan, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Poland, France, China, Slovak Republic, Canada, Switzerland, Fiji, New Zealand, & elsewhere.

Our **Home** page continues to contain a form for folks to submit to become new members.

We have added an **About Us** page. This style of page is prevalent on other county historical sites, so we thought it time we have our own. It contains things like Our Mission and Purpose. You'll also find Board of Director information here.

### Number of visitors in 2015



A **Contact Us** page was added allowing visitors to send in their inquiries. People simply fill in some information about themselves, ask their question, and click **submit!** An email is immediately generated for us to respond. You'd be surprised to hear the variety of questions!

Do you ever find yourself looking for an old SCHS Newsletter? Our site now has six years of Newsletters, 2009-2014, available for your downloading pleasure. Just visit our **Newsletters** page. Are you looking for a Sibley County souvenir for yourself? For your significant other? Visit our **Store** page for postcards and other collectibles.

Be sure to visit our **2016 Events** page. We have just begun to add event dates and descriptions, but they are still being organized and scheduled, so be sure to re-visit. A **Postcard History of Sibley County** provides old time postcards of Sibley County towns. It seems to have generated much interest by proof of the 300+ visitors!

By Steve Briggs, SCHS Board Member and Webmaster

2015	Month	Visitors
	January	735
	February	690
	March	778
	April	676
	May	600
	June	608
	July	686
	August	692
	September	681
	October	672
	November	699
	December	648
	Total	8,165





## ARCHEALOGY PROJECT

By Keith Anderson

On Jan. 12, 2016 I started volunteering at the SCHS Museum for the first time. Arlene Busse showed me around and indicated a couple of projects that she thought I would like to do.



Keith Anderson

One of which was to clean-up and reorganize the Native American artifacts display. I thought that was fairly straight forward, so I said I would take that on first. Little did I know to what that would lead. After I was started she mentioned to me that she had been at a workshop at which Dr. Ron Schirmer from Minnesota State University Mankato had spoken. He was talking

about building a data base of artifacts available at the various museums and historical societies and maybe it would be worth contacting him.

When I got home, I went online and found an email address for him. I explained what I was doing and some of what we had, and would he be interested. I very soon received a phone call from Dr. Schirmer expressing his delight in being contacted and would most definitely like to see our artifacts. He said he had a couple of grad students who with him would come to Henderson to see them.



Dr. Ron Schirmer

Ty Warmka called me the next Monday and asked if the 3 of them could come the next afternoon. Ron Schirmer, Cory Nowak and Ty came and were very impressed with what we had on display. We discussed what they would like to do. They were trying to develop a data base complete with pictures, weights, measurements and locations of all artifacts and sites of finds.

Cory and Ty have been coming here on Thursdays.



Ty

They are using Sibley County Museum as an internship in their pursuit of Master's Degrees.

So far, in addition to what we have here which is primarily a collection of Gary Sommer's which he found on Big Island in Gaylord's Lake Titlow, we have had several other collections brought in to be cataloged. Ruth Narr brought in her collection from the southwest shore of Silver lake. Joan Heinz had several pieces from her Uncle George (Sanders) from Kelso township. Lynn Kolstad from Norwood brought in a small part of her collection which comes from the Mud Lake area right southeast of Green Isle. She with the 2 students really gave us a lesson in searching for and knowing what you find.

*Editors Note; The Mankato Free Press issue of September 2015, reports that it was Dr. Schirmer's inspiration to attempt to develop this data base. The funding for the project comes from MN Dept. of Transportation for a second year again at \$250,000. MN DOT is involved because they are required by law to preserve and protect Native American sites encountered while excavating for highway construction.*



Cory





Mike	Bluhm*	Cleveland	MN	Marjorie L	Johnson	St Peter	MN
Darwin & Sue	Buerkle*	Gibbon	MN	Roger & Lorraine	Just	Henderson	MN
Randee (& Rick Trocke)	Carroll*	Arlington	MN	Ron & Kay	Klement	Gibbon	MN
Jon & Carol	Forst*	Gibbon	MN	Karen & Ray	Klenk	Winthrop	MN
Sondra	Foster*	Henderson	MN	Roger H	Kottke	Alexandria	MN
Michael	Reinhardt*	Henderson	MN	Karl & Evelyn	Lieske	Pequot Lakes	MN
Mary Ellen	Weller*	Madison	WI	Fred W	Lobitz	Hamburg	MN
LaVerne	Almquist	Henderson	MN	Eunice	Lueck	Le Sueur	MN
Darrell & Marjorie	Amberson	Henderson	MN	Arlene	Marek	Arlington	MN
Leo	Anderly	Henderson	MN	Ray & Gisela	Meyer	Winthrop	MN
Dave & Birdine	Battcher	Arlington	MN	Judith A.	Monkkonen	Culver City	CA
James	Berger	Minnetonka	MN	Arlene	Moore	Gaylord	MN
Rev. Jerry	Berger	Green Isle	MN	Susan M	Morrisette	Arlington	MN
Frank & Margaret	Bina	St Paul Park	MN	Zylpha	Mueller	Winthrop	MN
Rosetta & Art	Blomquist	Mankato	MN	Lowell	Nagel	Arlington	MN
Melvin & Lois L.	Bode	Gibbon	MN	Ruth Ann & James	Nytes	Henderson	MN
Jody & Matt	Boisen	Owatonna	MN	Ken & Janice	Parrow	Minneapolis	MN
Denise & Dave	Bonsack	Gibbon	MN	Jerome & Mary	Petersen	Gibbon	MN
Mary	Brandt	Gaylord	MN	Dorothy	Peterson	Gibbon	MN
Steve & Becky	Briggs	Eagan	MN	Richard K.	Prestor	Milwaukee	WI
Vernetta	Brinkmann	Arlington	MN	Carol	Reiter	Henderson	MN
Ruth Ann	Buck	Arlington	MN	Earl & Marjorie	Renneke	Le Sueur	MN
Jon & Roxanne	Butler	Minneapolis	MN	Kathleen	Ringo	New Auburn	MN
Home Town Bank	c/o Marcia	Henderson	MN	Al & Diane	Rostberg	Henderson	MN
Beverly	Christensen	Chanhassen	MN	Vernon & Renee	Ruschmeyer	Dassel	MN
Neil	Dacey	Green Isle	MN	Roseann	Schauer	Currie	MN
Mildred	Doering	Edina	MN	Verjean	Schindeldecker	Excelsior	MN
Garfield	Eckberg	Nicollet	MN	Rebecca & John	Schlueter	Arlington	MN
Jim & Joyce	Evenson	Gibbon	MN	Denny & Kristin	Schultz	Arlington	MN
Jeff & Amy	Franke	Gaylord	MN	Arden & Carol	Sjogren	Bismarck	ND
Diane & Brian	Fredin	Winthrop	MN	Cindy	Stevens	Lake Elmo	MN
Joyce & Dick	Gardner	St Peter	MN	Vicki	Stock	Arlington	MN
William	Grimes	Round Rock	TX	Harriet & Dayle	Troldahl	Gaylord	MN
Sharon	Haggenmiller	Henderson	MN	Janet	Wieman	Gaylord	MN
Eric	Hanson	Chesapeake	VA	Doris	Wigand	Henderson	MN
Clara M	Heberle	Hooper	CO	Rodney	Winter	Elk River	MN
Jo Ann & Alvin	Heinz	Henderson	MN	Beverly	Woods	Gibbon	MN
Margaret	Hoffman	Hutchinson	MN	Jeff & Joan	Zumhofe	Winthrop	MN
Richard & Diane	Isakson	Gibbon	MN				

Membership Form ☐ RENEW ☐ NEW

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box 206

\_\_\_\_\_ Arlington MN 55307

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Individual--\$20, Family-- \$25, Business-- \$50 Send to:

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter by email (in living color!)

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter by US Mail

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March thru November at the museum in Henderson. The public is invited. The museum is open to the public for tours on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. June thru October and by appointment.

Send articles, announcements, photos and comments to the SCHS Newsletter, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or Email: [schs1@frontiernet.net](mailto:schs1@frontiernet.net)

**Check your due date on the mailing label.**

Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to anyone who is interested.



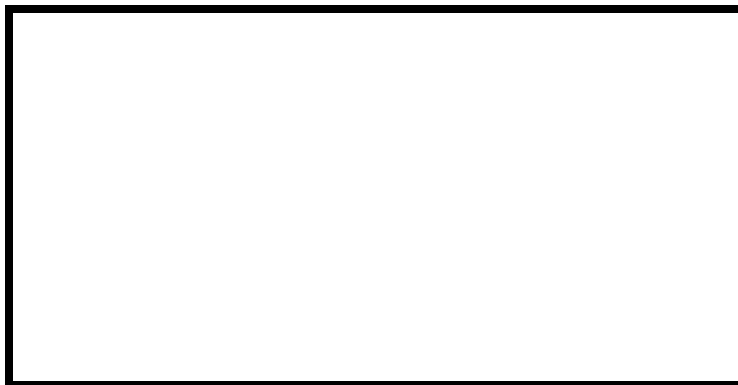
700 Main Street

P.O. Box 407

Henderson, MN 56044

Phone: 507-248-3434

Email: [schs1@frontiernet.net](mailto:schs1@frontiernet.net)



## Ostrom Project Update

by Becky Briggs

From the fall of 2014 through the fall of 2015, some of the oldest unidentified Ostrom photos were published in local newspapers. These had all been in the newspaper previously, beginning in 2006, but it was decided to try one more time to identify them.

Forty-five photos appeared in a one-year period. Only two of these photos were identified. It was decided at that point to resume printing more recent photos. Most photos used now are from the 1950s. We have returned to a much better rate of identification.

As always, thank you to the local newspapers currently participating in the project: Winthrop News, Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger, Gaylord Hub, and Standard-Gazette and Messenger. Thank you to Ruth Klossner, who prepares the photos for insertion into the newspapers, and thanks also to the readers who call, email, or mail in identifications!

Confirmation class of Clear Lake Swedish Lutheran Church, 1934-rear: Franklin Anderson, Virgil Allerson, Raymond Anderson & Wallace Johnson; middle row: Inez Pearson, Beatrice Nelson, Margaret Kent, Mercedes Lunderborg & Edna Kent; front: Elaine Peterson, Joyce Benson, Rev. Augustus Nelson, Genevieve Benson & Margaret Lindstrand



These are two photo from our Ostrom Collection

Wedding party 1947- l-r: Robert Bullemer, Priscilla Miller, Leo Bushard (groom), Myra Piehl (bride), Ellen Bushard, Ralph Piehl

