



Walsh County Tour August 3, 2008



Large rock with a plaque stating that this trail was part of several of the Oxcart Trails used for trade.

The 2008 County Tour started at the Homme Dam, meeting there at 1 p.m. to car pool to Fordville. Thanks to Odell Berg for making his bus available to us as well as doing the driving and Hanson's Auto for providing a van for us to use thanks to Dennis Markusen. After all had gathered at the Fordville Fire Hall we headed to the Jon McMillian family farm to see the Oxcart Trail that literally ran through the farm yard. At the site of the most visible part of the Ridge Trail is a large rock with a plaque stating that this trail was part of several of the Oxcart Trails used for trade between Selkirk, MB and St. Paul, Minn. from 1820-1870. The property is on the National Register of Historical Places by the Department of the Interior as of March 17, 2006. Jon did an excellent presentation of the history of the Ridge Trail as well as the experiences of having the trail on their farm site.

The next stop was across the road to Jon and Jeanine McMillan's home which they opened to us to view Jon's Indian artifacts, a collection that any museum would be proud to own. It shows Jon's hours of dedication and miles of walking



Presentation given by Jon McMillian.



Linda and Luther Meberg and Jon McMillian.

looking for these artifacts and preserving them, an important part of history soon to be lost. After refreshments Jon took us to several Indian burial mounds, we couldn't go on the land but could see them from the road. Jon discussed how UND had several digs in the area before it was illegal to disturb the burial sites and how the railroad built a track through the burial area using the old steam shovels along with the superstitions and myths. An excellent and interesting presentation by Jon, thanks.

After the burial mounds we continued down the road through the woods and down in the valley to the Hutterite Colony where we met with Tony Walden, quite an operation. We first went through the egg and chicken operation; they sell and deliver their eggs throughout the region to the various grocery stores and each year buy new chicks and sell the older hens to their customers or use them in the colony for stewing hens.

Tony then took us to see their massive gardens with the nine foot fence to keep out the deer. Each male person in the colony is assigned a job and taking care of the gardens is one of Tony's duties as well as being the English teacher for the colony. The produce from their gardens after meeting the needs of the colony is taken to Grand Forks and sold at the Farmers Market every week during the summer as long as the produce is available. They also sell right off of the farm to local customers who call and order what they want or just stop in and buy what is available.

The colony also raises ducks mainly for their own use. They will have ducks prepared for just about every Sunday dinner and holidays. We also went through their meat processing area where they process beef, chicken and pork for their own use and to sell their local customers and route sales. We then

Heritage Village - 2008

Jugville history is still on the move in 2008. The board along with assistance of volunteer help continues to bring in memorabilia from Uncle Sig's. We brought in seven of Uncle Sig's buildings this year and have been busy replacing floors, roofs, etc., on them. We are still looking for volunteers to help organize all the items we have at the Village that needs to go into Uncle Sig's buildings. Also, any help in making shelves, etc., would be greatly appreciated.

As usual, we continue to have our fundraisers in order to remain open and take care of the upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Doug and Pam Hove painted the schoolhouse and Mandt Hall this year. This next summer we hope to paint all of the seven buildings that were brought in from Uncle Sig's. Volunteers to help with this project would be greatly appreciated.

We have had a busy year. We started out with a fish fry and pancake breakfast in January. In February, pancake breakfast and fish fry, March a fish fry, April we had a potato bar lunch, a breakfast, a rummage sale and BBQ. June was a breakfast and SummerFest. During SummerFest the class of '58 held their class reunion at the Village. That same weekend the Nelson reunion with their traditional church service at the Lanstad Church. In July there was a Harlow family reunion held at the Village. September was a breakfast and By Gone Days. We held a flea market, BBQ in the cookcar and a dinner. October we had a fish fry. December was a breakfast and a fish fry.

Again, First United Bank in Adams did a wonderful job selling our huge inventory of volume 3 and 4 books. Keep up the good work!

The board plans to continue fundraisers and is looking for new fundraiser ideas. We appreciate the support from everyone. Hopefully, 2009 brings us a good year in spite of the economy.

Heritage Village Board of Directors:

Dr. Harold Blanchard – President

Ken Hoffmann – Vice President

Jean Bodmer – Secretary

Verna Sherek – Treasurer

Directors:

Vance Anderson

Gordon Bracken

Curt Bratlie

Jocelyn Lerol

Todd Lerol

Norman Paulson

Vernon Russum

Carol Spale

Our theatre building is for rent, no alcohol, by appointment for \$100.00 per event. Please contact the Village at 701-352-3280, Verna Sherek at 701-520-1207 or Harold Blanchard at 701-520-1273 for more information.

Heritage Village wants to thank everyone who participated in this year's activities and to all those who gave donations. Continued support from the community and individuals is needed to continue the perseverance of the Village.

Walsh County Tour: Continued from page 1



went through their dining hall where the men sit on one side and the women on the other. After questions, on to their chapel where they worship. We had a question and answer session with Tony which led to a lot of informative discussion and questions from the members. Tony did an excellent job on the tour and answered all of our questions; it was an entertaining and informative tour of the colony thanks to Tony.

Our next stop was back to Homme Dam for a potluck dinner, because we ran out of time and had to skip touring the



Dahlen Eskers.

After everyone returned to Homme Dam we set up the meal to be served that everyone brought, and after a wonderful day what a perfect setting at the dam and what a terrific way to end the day with all of the delicious food and great people to share it with. A hearty thank you to all who helped make this day possible.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Hoffmann

Historic Elmwood 2008

It is very quiet at Elmwood in the winter. After a flurry of parties and activities in November and December, the Christmas decorations were removed to their space in the attic, and the mansion was cleaned. Because of the extensive repair and painting done last January and February, the house is at rest.

In 1945 Luther and Mary Nancy Williamson became the owners and began some remodeling which included removing the wall between the two parlors on the main floor and replacing the double hung window on the east and the large window with stained glass on the south. They were replaced with two oversized thermo-painted windows measuring 69x84" and 65x83" that has since lost their seal and is very drafty. A grant to replace these windows was requested and awarded from Grafton Community Endowment Fund. The windows were ordered from Marvin Windows and the south window was installed in November. The east window is at Simonson's and will be installed in the spring.

Elmwood was built in 1895 by C.A.M. Spencer, a prominent local attorney and early settler who went on to become North Dakota's second attorney general. It is located in a curve of the Park River and the north end of Cooper Avenue and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Williamsons. The public is invited to use and enjoy the

atmosphere and timeless beauty by attending such events as Spencer's Spaghetti Supper on Election Day in November; the Rhubarb Festival, a popular gathering place for those coming to class reunions during SummerFest in June; a spring luncheon in April and the Christmas Tour of Homes held the first Saturday in December. The house is available to rent for parties, meetings, and bridal and baby showers. Caterers are available and the house has a fully equipped kitchen. Information about Elmwood is available from the governing board or Grafton Parks and Recreation. The last event held this year at Elmwood was the lovely small wedding of Dianne Ellingson and Douglas Reynolds. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds now reside in Adams, North Dakota.

Elmwood Board Members

Judy Evens
Eleanor Iverson
Loretta Moe
Bonnie Mohagen
Mary Jo Olson
Ina Raumin
Beth Rose
Gloria Thompson
Michael Walski



Dianne and Douglas Reynolds of Adams held their wedding at Elmwood.

Polish National Alliance Dancers



Back row, from left: Erin Misialek, Amber Gerszewski, Faith Maendel, Cassidy Arroyo, Jaime Czapiewski, Paige Rudnik. Middle row: Lily Robinson, Kaylee Maendel, Kaylin Gudajtes, Megan Osowski, Jaryne Sands, Helen Schuster, Danika Flanders, Emily Plutowski, Sandy Schuster. Front row: Josh Stoltman, Joachim Kazmierczak, Brock Ulland, Lewis Plutowski, Jimmy Plutowski.

The Polish National Alliance Dancers hail from the Warsaw, North Dakota area. These performing ambassadors range in age from three to seventeen and come from a variety of cities and rural communities, including Warsaw, Grafton, Minto, Forest River, Gilby, and Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Strandquist, Oslo and Alvarado, Minnesota. They delight audiences of all ages. All young people are welcome to join the group – Polish heritage is NOT a requirement to be involved.

Being primarily a seasonal dance group, the PNA dancers are featured annually in a variety of festivals, art shows, parades, nursing homes, community events, and fundraisers. Performance highlights in recent years include: By Gone Days, Grafton, ND, Grand Forks "Summerfest," Bismarck's summer Capital A'Fair event on the Capitol lawn, pre-show entertainment at the "Medora Musical," Betty Englestad Arena, Grand Forks at "Fan Fest" for the World Junior Hockey Tournament, the Great Hall at the North Dakota State Capitol in Bismarck for the North Dakota legislators, the Jamestown Ethnic Arts Festival and The Polish Museum of Winoma, Minnesota.

The PNA dancers perform a repertoire of Polish and character dances, including a new suite of dances from the "Kaszuby" region of northeastern Poland, the polka, and suites from the "Lublin" and "Kurpie" region also. They traditionally perform the lively "Krakowiak" and stately "Polonaise" which are two of the five national dances of Poland. Singing of the "Polish National Anthem" opens each performance. Beautiful,

colorful, authentic costumes of various regions of Poland complement the dances performed by these young people.

Audience participation is often included in the show. Summer performances at area parades get the spectators involved and the lively music captivates audiences everywhere.

You can find the dancers, 53 students in three groups, rehearsing twice a week beginning in late May through July at the new Minto Community Center in Minto, North Dakota. On March 28, 2009 each of the PNA dance groups performed at the Minto Community Center. This was the site of the dancers' 4th annual "Polish Food Fest" – a unique fundraiser to help with expenses for the dancers' costumes, road trips and operating costs. Parents and friends of the dancers prepare and serve a variety of traditional Polish foods, including pierogi, cabbage rolls, Polish sausage, dumplings, sauerkraut, potato pancakes and Polish desserts. Live "old time" music by Matt Hodek and the Dakota Dutchmen topped off the event for everyone's dancing enjoyment.

These dancers represent the Polish National Alliance of Chicago – the largest ethnic fraternal organization in the United States. Performances are booked on request. For more information on membership or bookings, contact Sandy Schuster, PNA Dance Director, 360-2144 (cell), Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A., 6055 County Road 4, Minto, ND 58261-9455, phone 701-248-2005, countrypolka@yahoo.com

Walsh County Historical Museum

The Walsh County Historical Museum started out the 2008 season with school tours. It is a pleasure to have the youth of our area see the many exhibits we have to offer. The written scavenger hunt is always fun for the students.

A bicycle tour went through Minto on June 16. Minto was one of the designated stops on their journey. The museum opened its gates and offered tours, food and refreshments for the cyclers.

In late July Minto held its 125th celebration. The museum was open for three days. Many visitors enjoyed touring the museum and spending time on the museum grounds.

The annual Chili Cook-Off was held on November 16. This is one of our major fundraisers. This year our attendance was up because it was held in the newly built Community Center. This enabled us to make it a family event. In addition to the chili entries we had a pie-throwing contest. This went over very well and all had fun.

We look forward to a great 2009 season. Remember, the museum is open every Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and ending on Labor Day weekend. Tours can be set up by appointment as well.

The 2009 officer board members are as follows:

Officer Board Members:

Curator/Manager – Henry Czapiewski and Kathy Langowski

Chairman – Kurt Kelley

Vice Chairman – Les Jallo

Secretary – June Selseth

Treasurer – Ron Ophaug

Board Members:

Wally Ebertowski

Karen Farder

John Gudajtes

Cindy Jamieson

Larry Jamieson

Theofil Kilichowski

Chris Misialek

Tim Nelson

Doug Ulland



On June 16, 2008 Bob Haschenburger, Ashland, NE was the first of over 80 bike riders to be feed by the W.C.H.S. in Minto during their annual RRbit Bike Run. Many praises were given to our small town local museum. Pictured from left, Wally Ebertowski, Erin Misialek, Bob Haschenburger and Gloria Koltes.

Walsh County Historical Society
38-16th East
Grafton, ND 58237

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grafton, ND
Permit No. 12

Walsh County History Books

Walsh County History Books Volumes 3 and 4 are available for purchase at Heritage Village and Walsh County Museum.

Membership Rates

Annual membership dues run from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Annual Regular Dues\$10.00 per person

5 Year Membership.....\$25.00 per person

Life Membership:

75 Years and

Older\$50.00 per person

74 Years and

Younger\$100.00 per person

Walsh County Historical Society gained new members for 2008 in the following categories:

New Regular MembershipsTotal 75

Five Year MembershipsTotal 17

Business Members.....Total 10

New Life MembershipTotal 6

The new Life Memberships are:

Joyce Welsh, Grafton Paul Nilson, Hoople

Leo G. Feltman, Grafton Margaret Phelan, Grafton

Donald and Thelma Skorheim, Grafton

Your support helps sustain our Society.

Ora Marie Stewart

WCHS Membership Chairperson

Walsh County Historical Society

131 Prospect, Grafton, ND 58237

Edited by: Jean Bodmer

2009

Historical Society Officers

President Jean Bodmer

Vice PresidentDennis Markusen

Treasurer Marian Hajicek

Secretary Ken Hoffman

Historical Society Directors

Directors – 1 Year

Dorothy Wilson

Charles Stewart

Gloria Koltes

Directors – 2 Years

De Laine Peoples

Kurt Kelley

Harold Blanchard

Larry Janison

Directors – 3 Years

Leo Feltman

Les Jallo

Doug Weberg

CENTURIANS

Ethel Brekke..... 101 Years of Age

Josephine Pohanka 101 Years of Age

Johanna Green 103 Years of Age

Helmer Haug 103 Years of Age

Lily Clifford 104 Years of Age

Muriel Gjein..... 104 Years of Age

Theodora Dvorak 104 Years of Age

Hazel Pfannsmith..... 106 Years of Age