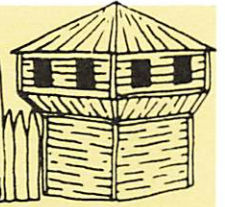


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WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MARCH 2019

WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Walsh County Heritage Village

Another busy year at Heritage Village in 2018. The year started off being closed for the winter and re-opening April 1, 2018. We started off with a couple graduation parties in May, rummage sale, Transystems job fair, SummerFest in June with Valley Cruisers Car Club, Merry Go Round rides for young and old, Tom Henricksen with his Sno Cone machine making sno cones, buildings open for tours, Saloon open serving lunch and Sioux City Sarsaparilla, lunch served in the Main building after the parade, and to end the day was a dance in the Main building by K-Street out of Grand Forks, ND, playing 50's, 60's and 70's music, sponsored by Heritage Village and Grafton Senior Citizens from 6 until 10 pm with a lunch half way thru the evening. Farmers Market was held out there from June 26th thru Sept. 11th. Lunch was served each night. The last night was kid's night with Merry Go Round rides. August 10, 2018, we were saddened by the death of Raynold Bodmer (husband of board member, Jean Bodmer). Our sympathies to Jean and her family members. Ellie Burns held an estate sale at Heritage Village Oct. 6, 2018. Lunch was served by Heritage Village board members. Nash Grain held their annual meeting in November, Thanksgiving Day a family celebration and the year ended with Life Skills and Transition Center having their annual "Shop with Santa" event.



Front view of the Model T pickup that was donated by Amy Jo Paukert.

were replaced along with exit door lights, ceiling lights, etc. Shelving was installed in the Shoultz house upstairs to display a doll collection of Gordy and Barb Bracken.

Last but not least, our terrific grounds keeper, Les Aasand, will be with us again in 2019!

A huge highlight for Heritage Village is going to be the Veteran's Memorial. The plans are to have it on the grounds of Heritage Village from the depot facing south to the highway. This will be an extensive project taking two years or more to complete. A story appears in this newsletter on that.

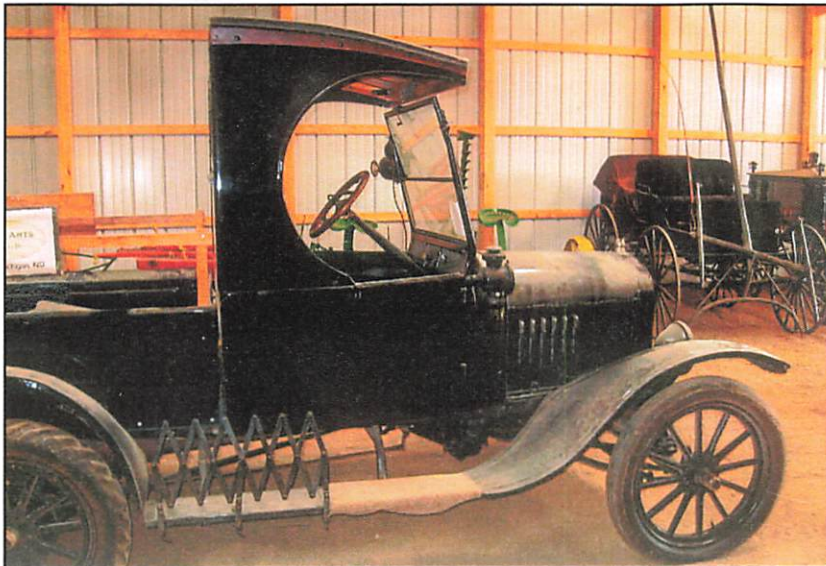
We received grants and several donations in 2018 and are very thankful and grateful for that. We want to thank everyone who donated money or volunteered in any way to help us preserve Heritage Village this past year.

Current board members are: Ken Hoffmann, President, Linda Restemayer, Secretary, Verna Aasand, Office Manager and Board Treasurer. Directors: Daryl Campbell, Julie Campbell, Norman Paulson, Marlene Paulson, Jean Bodmer, Carol Spale, Robert Zidon, Scott Boura, Terry Demester. Members at Large from Life Skills and Transition Center are Darwin Hime and Greg Amb.

The Theatre building is always for rent for rummage sales, showers, graduations, weddings, Thanksgiving, reunions, funeral receptions, meetings or whatever your needs are. Please call Ken at 701-360-0088 or Verna at 701-520-1207 to book your event.

Again, Heritage Village wants to thank everyone who participated in any way this past year to help out with our projects, donations, and grants. We continue to need support from the community, historical members and individuals to continue the preservation of Heritage Village and Jugville. We hope to see you all in 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Verna Aasand



Model T pickup donated by Amy Jo Paukert, daughter of the late Charles Stewart.

Thank you to Amy Jo Paukert (Charles Stewart's daughter) for the donation of a Model T pickup. It is greatly appreciated.

There continues to be a lot of repairs, fixing, remodeling, etc. going at the Village. We poured a new cement slab in front of the Main theatre building, a much needed project completed. A cement slab was poured to the west of the Main building which will be a garage being brought in from Uncle Sig's in the spring of 2019. Floors are being replaced in the Nash Finch building and in the General Store. They were caving in and needed to be replaced. Project to be finished spring of 2019. The north exit door was repaired. New updated fire extinguishers

Walsh County Historical Museum

The year 2018 was a busy year for the Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto, with many improvements made throughout the Museum. We are blessed and thankful to have volunteers who spent many hours cleaning, organizing, and maintaining our displays. We would like to say a huge thank you to our generous donors, whether it was items donated for display or funds to assist with the maintenance of the Museum. Another huge thank you goes out to all of our visitors who came from all over the world to visit our Museum. We truly enjoy presenting our Museum to visitors. If you would like to volunteer at the Walsh County Historical Museum, please contact any of our officers.

The Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto has two exciting events to announce. First, is our annual Chili Cook-Off at the Minto

Community Center on Thursday, March 14, starting at 6 pm. To enter applications can be picked up at the Harvey Avenue Saloon. All proceeds will go to the Walsh County Historical Museum.

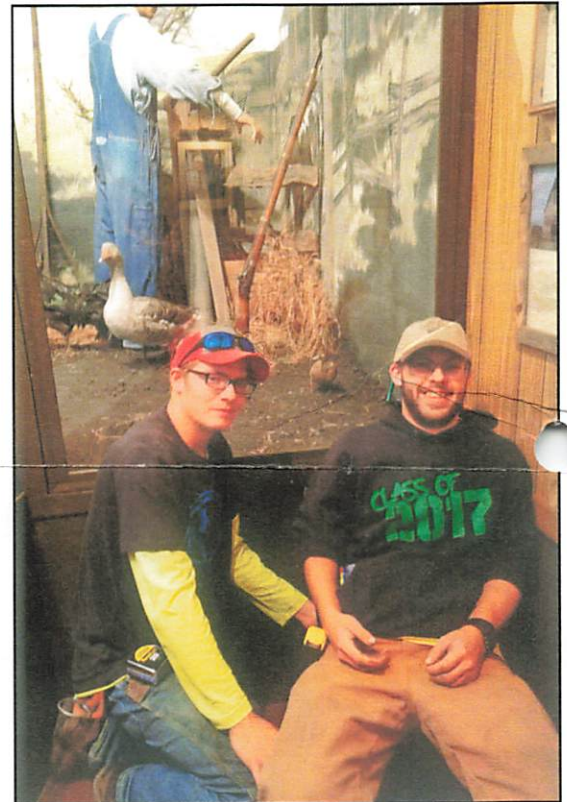
The second event on Sunday, June 30, 2019, is the signature event of the 40th anniversary of Museum Alive! There are many new exhibits in place in the Museum. One of them is a two-man, gas powered chainsaw with a case and tools for maintaining it. We are introducing a new type of exhibit, a display that will change every three years. This year, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of WWI. Museum Alive will also be bringing back some of our favorite activities: petting zoo, live bands, parade, face painting, balloons, horseshoe tournament and many more activities. Please come out and enjoy these special days with us!



Picture at left: Family of Mr. George John Dobmeier donated a Model 1809 Prussian Conversion Musket. Pictured George's great-grandson, John Dobmeier and great great-grandson John Dobmeier. September 15, 2018.

Picture on right: Rick Morgal (right) and Jason Brazil (left) showing off their handiwork in the Pioneer Room. The 1809 Musket is in a case behind them. They built and upgraded several of our exhibits. September 21, 2018.

Bottom picture: Seventh and eighth grade from Manvel Public School, May 22, 2018.



Walsh County Historical Museum



Rick Morgal building display cases for small items to be shown with new display. September 23, 2018.



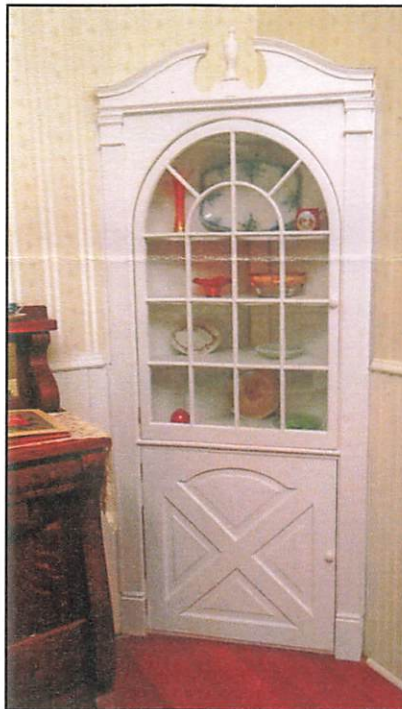
WWI uniform and documentation donated by the family of Richard Schuster. July 22, 2018.



Part of our display dedicated to the men and women from Walsh County who served during WWI. July 15, 2018.



In the General Store: Bronze plaque identifying the Gudajtes store as being placed on the National List of Historic Places (thanks to Harriston Industries for the assistance with the stand for this piece), metallic picture of the store (thanks to Jr. Riski for the donation of the stand for this piece), and a framed certificate from the State of North Dakota recognizing the store for its years of service to the community. Donated by the Gudajtes family. September 2, 2018.



Vintage Corner Curio cabinet that was donated by a Minto family, was installed by Rick and Jason in the Stephanie Przepiora Room. September 2, 2018.

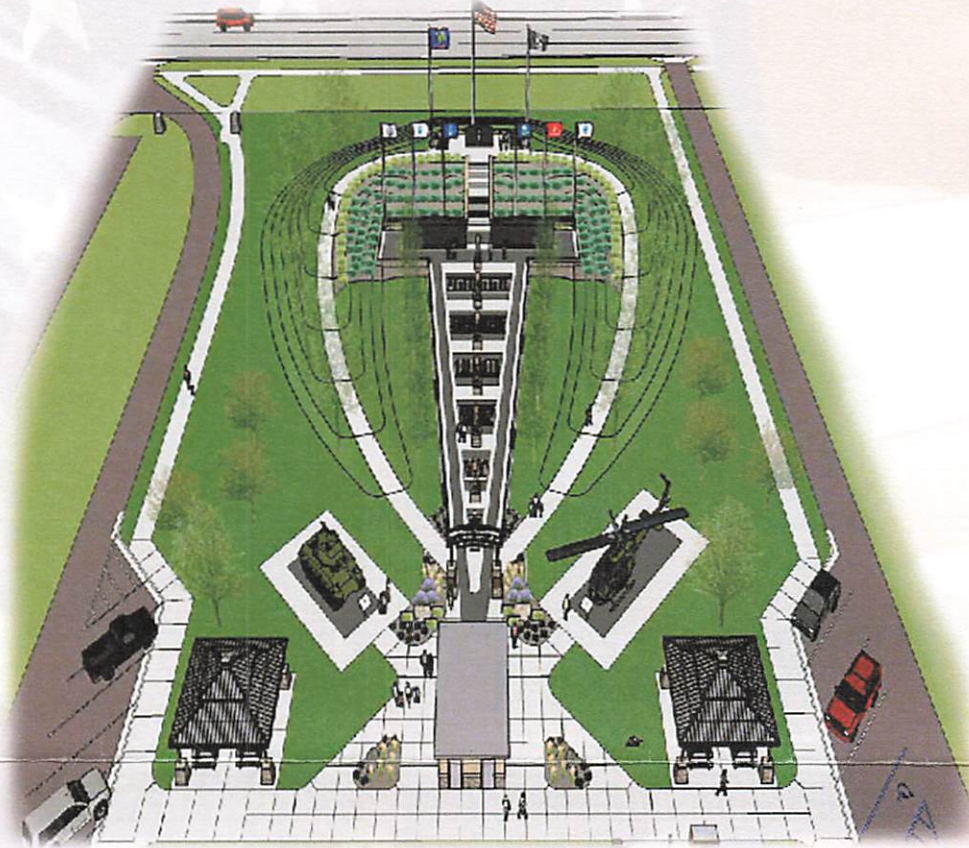


More of our WWI display. July 15, 2018.



Visitors from Tufte Manor, Grand Forks. July 23, 2018.

WALSH COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL



Walsh County Heritage Village, Grafton, ND

REMEMBER, HONOR, FREEDOM, RESPECT

The Walsh County Veterans Memorial (WCVM) is being created to REMEMBER past, present and future hometown heroes. This memorial is shaped to resemble the Purple Heart and is designed to recognize living and deceased Walsh County veterans. The memorial will HONOR all who served and sacrificed for our FREEDOM. It will show RESPECT for our heroes by preserving the legacy and history of the men and women of Walsh County who served in the United States Armed Forces, as well as their families.

Walsh County, ND has more than 2,200 veterans laid to rest in local cemeteries.

**Please consider sending a donation to:
Walsh County Veterans Memorial Foundation
PO Box 344
Grafton, ND 58237**

Walsh County Historical Society offers free guidance for your family research history

Have you ever had the desire to look into your family's history but are unsure where to start? Do you struggle with navigating computer programs and internet sites dedicated to genealogical research? Are you interested in viewing some of Walsh County's most historical documents? We can help you get started on your family research. Walsh County Historical Society (WCHS) is now offering our patrons one-on-one genealogical research help.

The mission of Walsh County Historical Society is to "preserve the history of Walsh County." One member, Mary Kovarik takes that mission seriously, particularly when it comes to preserving vital statistics of our Walsh County Pioneers and making that information available to others through the Genealogical Research Project.

Genealogical Research Project:

During the summer Kovarik volunteers one afternoon a week to assisting any interested patrons with their search of Walsh County's historical documents. This includes instruction on how to use genealogical programs such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, and genealogical databases like Roots Magic or Family Tree.

Patrons from all over the world have viewed our website at "Walshhistory.org" and have sent in requests for help with their genealogy research in reference to Walsh County resources. Mary explained the process. "We receive requests on our website asking us to provide photographs of headstones, or to search local newspapers for birth, marriage, anniversary, and death information. If we receive a request for information from our "Walsh Heritage" volumes, we refer the patron to our website, where they can copy and/or print all or part of the contents of the books, or even download the whole set of books to store on their home computers. Many requests ask us to send any information we may have on their Walsh County pioneer ancestor. These requests can take weeks to months to research, so there is often a request backlog of at least three months."

Unlike larger historical societies, WCHS does not have its own library collection of historical volumes. However, the holdings of the Carnegie Regional Library in Grafton include the "Walsh Heritage" 4-volume biography, "Grafton Illustrated," "Pisek, The First Century," "Park River 100 Years," and a biography of Forest River Community, among some local church histories. It also contains copies of the original county newspapers from about 1880 to 1950. Many hours are spent in the library searching these resources for our patrons.

In 2014 the Society received one of our most valuable genealogical resources from Marty C. Byzewski, of Canada. Marty has spent many years researching his family in the Minto area. He soon expanded his interest to the Walsh Heritage volumes, where he spent years transferring the information into a large genealogical database. He then decided to add to his database all census data available for inhabitants of Walsh County from the 1880 through 1940 census records. This database has been a vital component of the

society's genealogical resources.

Through this research process, it has become clear that gathering the county's valuable historical information into digital format would provide a lasting record with searching capabilities that would significantly streamline the research process. "Newspapers are crumbling and township and cemetery records are disappearing into attics. We need to digitally scan these old documents before they are lost forever," Kovarik stated. To that end, WCHS has implemented a variety of programs dedicated to preserving our historical gems.



Mary Kovarik

The Document Preservation Program:

This program enlists volunteers to scan old books, letters, government documents and cemetery records to be stored in digital format in the permanent records of the society.

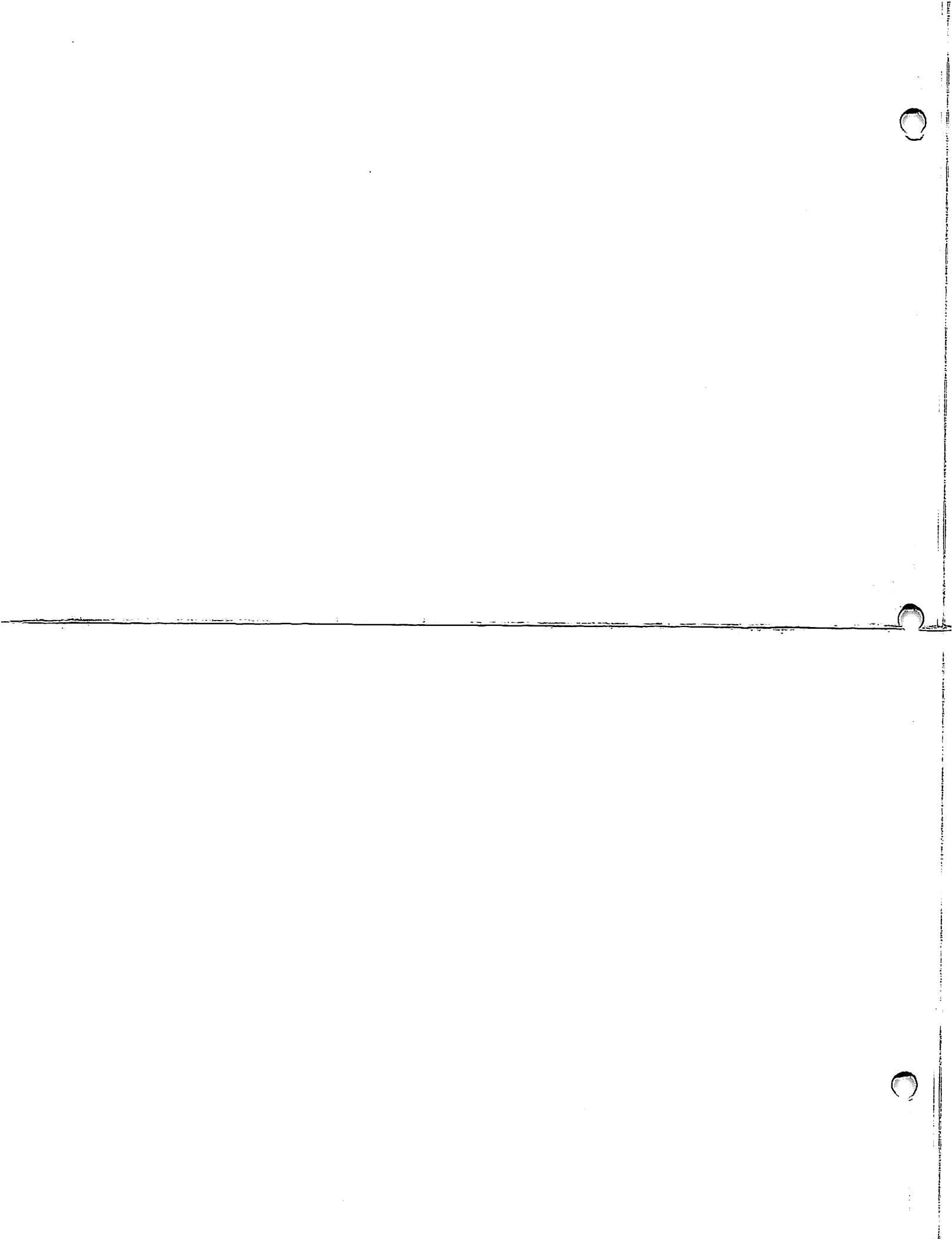
The Newspaper Preservation Project:

The goal of this project is to photograph and digitally store Walsh County's historical newspapers, then prepare a digital index of names and places. This index would be available for use by the society for genealogical research purposes as well as to the newspaper offices themselves to aid in searching for birth, death, marriage, and anniversary announcements.

The Adopt-a-Grave Project:

Our goal is to photograph every headstone in every cemetery in Walsh County and download the photos into "Find-a-Grave," an international website devoted to preserving cemetery records. "Find-a-Grave" is directly connected to Ancestry.com. If one does a search of their ancestor's name in Ancestry.com, it will automatically search the "Find-a-Grave" database.

If you are interested in taking advantage of the help available through the WCHS Genealogical Research Project, or if you have a passion to assist in preserving the history of Walsh County, you can email Mary Kovarik at historian@walshhistory.org.



HONORING OUR HOMETOWN HEROES.

Life can change in a moment's notice. This is even more true for our veterans and soldiers. Duty calls, and without thought, courage arises from within for a greater purpose than self, but for country.

FLAGS HONORING OUR HEROES



Facing Highway 17, the American Flag waves symbolically for the freedoms that the brave men and women of Walsh County have defended, with some giving all to protect our homeland, families and way of life. Proudly displayed is a saluting soldier surrounded by our military flags.

GUARDIAN OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL



At the top of the grand staircase stands the saluting soldier. This soldier is surrounded by the Purple Heart design and walkways that lead to reflection and gratitude for the heroism of the men and women of Walsh County.

STATUES IN THE PURPLE HEART



Passing through the Purple Heart, you will find the Salute to the Fallen Soldier Statue followed by the statues of soldiers representing the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Army, National Guard, and Coast Guard. At the center of the Purple Heart is the wall with the names of Walsh County heroes, reminding us of all who served and the sacrifices made by them and their families.

THE EDUCATIONAL CENTER



The center allows guests to learn more about veterans from Walsh County. By entering names into the kiosk, visitors can view letters from home, pictures, stories, and artifacts. The shelters provide a space where families, friends, and organizations can gather to learn and remember, while overlooking the memorial.

WCVMC MEMBERS

Jack Maus, Denny Schneider, Paul Mohagen, Mike Hanson, Jason Nelson, Daryl Campbell, Karen Anderson, Don Hutson, Dan Stenvold, Tracton Lewis, Victoria Lewis, Julie Campbell, and BJ Brazil.

Site Designs by: KLJ
Granite Designs by:
Riverside Memorial

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: Walsh County Veterans
Memorial Foundation
PO Box 344
Grafton, ND 58237
Email: wcvmf1@gmail.com
Facebook: Walsh County Veterans
Memorial Foundation



The barn, for most settlers, was the priority

BY JULIE AND PETE FLATEN, PARK RIVER, ND

INTRODUCTION:

When my husband's family settled in Dakota Territory in the 1880's, they lived in a sod house until after the barn was built. The barn, for them and most settlers was the priority. Some families lived in the barn until a house could be built. The barn sheltered the animals needed to work the land and to feed the family. Sometimes church services were held in a barn, and sometimes dances. Those of us that grew up on the farm or have a familiar connection see these old barns as a link to our past where we worked hard, played hard, and spent a good deal of our time. It is no wonder that the barn seems like one of the family.

I reminisced about barns in our Christmas letter and received many reminiscences in return. One remembered going to the barn on Christmas Eve with his grandma to milk the cows and to help her with the Norwegian tradition of giving all the animals extra feed so that they shared in the

celebration. Some that didn't grow up on a farm had fond memories of time spent with grandparents or cousins, things like sleeping on new hay in the barn on summer visits. Little children, to be kept out of harms way, were placed in a box or manger or on the broad back of a work horse, and often given a cat to play with. There were some not so pleasant memories of children slipping into the gutter, and scary memories of a little sister who innocently wandered into a pen with a cow and it's new born calf. (The cow decided after an initial charge that the toddler was not a threat, and the child was called out without incident or the necessity of informing the parents.) This was one of my favorites, "I have forgotten many things, but I remember every inch of that barn."

My Aunt, Jean Bodmer, asked me to share an excerpt from our letter. It is as follows:

CHRISTMAS 2018

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM FLATEN FARMS!

The barn that sits directly west of our house is framed by our kitchen window. It greets me as the dawn creeps in each morning. Today the roof has a pristine white wash of snow. Some days snow has blown off the north corner and there are Dairy Queen swirls and drifts on the roof telling me that the wind is up. If snow is coming thick enough that I can't see the barn, I know that I can pour a cup of coffee, grab a book, and go back to the quilts. No one is coming to visit today. In summer's humid weather, the roof takes on a green cast from the moss between the cedar shakes. I count the birds, swallows, mourning doves, pigeons taking their rest. The barn roof tells me of the first frost, and I mark the progress of the sun as the frost steams off around the shadow of the house. Last summer a couple small holes appeared along the eaves, as sure a sign of aging as the grey hairs on my head.

The May issue of Popular Mechanics featured an article titled, "64 things to do before the world ends." Number 41: "Draw a map of every place you used to live, from memory. "It was further suggested that you pencil in notes such as, "I broke my arm on this staircase," or "we used to grow tomatoes on the porch." I'm not sure why this exercise would be one of life's ambitions, except that it is a good mental exercise. I guess if you do get to cross off something on your bucket list, you would want to be able to remember the achievement. Pete was reading the challenges to me as I washed dishes, and maybe because the barn was my landscape, I wondered how many barn floor plans I could revisit.

We have two barns here at Flaten Farms, the one outside

my kitchen window, and Uncle Iver's barn, on what was the homestead of Pete's great-grandfather's brother, just a quarter mile west. The barn at the Lewis Ranch is now gone, along with many of the neighborhood barns. One neighbor had a barn with a fieldstone foundation built into a hillside. Another barn was adjoined to the farm house, which would have made gathering eggs and milking cows much easier in the cold weather months. My great-grandfather built a double barn. When his great-grandchildren gathered on that farm, the old family surrey was still kept in the barn, and was the backdrop for endless pretendint. There were dairy barns too, but they required a higher degree of cleanliness and quiet, so I wasn't often invited in.

A barn burning was an immense tragedy. I remember the days the call came that our cousin's barn was on fire. My dad left immediately to help. I so wanted to go too, but of course it was "no place for children." In the aftermath, we children were still instructed to stay away from the charred remains, but it demanded our attention. We poked around the cadaver looking for things recognizable, some token of remembrance.

The Sobak barn was moved off its foundation by a straight line wind shortly after Bergit and Justin were married, and a couple landmark barns in the neighborhood were also taken by wind a few years ago. Most barns die of old age. Their sagging roofs and bulging, splintering walls a shell of their once central importance to the farm.

The barn that faces our kitchen window has a small door in the center of its east face. It opens to a center aisle



with stanchions on either side. There is also an alley that runs the length of the east side with a small door opening to the pasture on the south end. Continuing west on the central aisle is another small door that leads to the hayroom. Across the hayroom another small door leads to the back barn, which runs the length of the west side. It has a larger door to the south pasture and probably was shelter to sheep at one time. Since I have lived here, it is where the water truck and manure truck are parked, along with storage of other old things. The front barn and back barn have a second floor, a loft that is open to the center hayroom. The hayroom also has a large door to the south. This great room was designed so that it could accommodate a wagon or carriage, and the horses could be hitched on in indoor comfort. In my time the hayroom was tightly stacked with about a million bales. At least it seemed like that many when we were bucking them.

The hayroom was the farm playroom. Our kids used the bales like life size legos, building houses and forts and anything imagination would allow. They were reprimanded when bale strings were broken, but we couldn't be too hard on them because Pete and I grew up playing in the hay having the same construction dreams.

There is a rope that hangs from a carriage that runs on a track suspended from the ridge, the center beam of the roof. That rope reaches to the floor and can be used to swing from the front loft to the back loft with the safety net of the bales below. It was a wonderful aid should a pirate ship need to be boarded or for jungle transportation. One year we grew a crop of oats and peas that defied the baler, so we pulled out of retirement our green crop loader, and filled the hayroom with loose hay. It may have been the most beautiful hay we ever fed, and in addition had very high play value. Instead of building up, the children tunneled in. At other times the hayroom became a giant trampoline. We have an enduring memory of our niece, Terrie Rae, when she was about five years old, all bundled in her snow suit, with graceful abandon, swan diving off the loft into the hay.

At the Lewis Ranch where I grew up, the barn was also the focus of the kitchen window. The south side, facing the house, had a small door at its center. Walking in there was a pen to the west that sometimes held calves or a bull. Ahead and moving east were stalls for the horses. To the far east a small door led to the pasture. An alley ran along the east wall that led first to a wider aisle that ran east and west and gave access to the mangers on both sides. At the intersection there was a ladder to the hay loft. We'll come back to that. Continuing north along the alley led to another larger alley with a large door to the east opening to the pasture. The south side of the alley was lined with stanchions, and it was there that the milk cow enjoyed her supper while she was milked. We raised Angus cattle, but had one milk cow to supply our family's needs. One of my first farm jobs was holding the cows tail while Dad milked. Dad didn't want his face slapped, or worse yet to have that tail land in the milk pail. If you have never held a cows tail this may seem like a whimpy job, but that tail has more muscle than one might

imagine. And yes, the barn cats gathered in hopes of catching a squirt of milk. The length of the north end was a calf pen. Every spring my brother and I forked the manure out of the pen through the north door. That may be why I have the least romantic feeling for that part of the barn.

Back to the hay loft. The rungs of the ladder were designed for adults so it was a respectable challenge for kids to climb up. We usually needed an upside down feed pail for the first bit. The loft covered the whole top floor, and again, was filled with about a million bales. Bales that were climbed and rearranged for many building projects. There were trap doors along the walls in strategic locations to push hay down for use in mangers and pens. We were always warned to pay attention so as not to fall through. That just added to the adventure. A rope was also an important feature of the Lewis barn. Here there was a pulley system from one end of the ridge to the other. The slack rope could then be used as a swing to sit on, or to hang by your knees or perform a variety of circus tricks-then dropping into the hay.

The barn cats called the hay loft home, and it was there that we searched for the latest litter of kittens. Like many things, timing was important. If the kittens were found too soon, the mama cat would move them. But if you waited too long the kittens would be wild-hard, sometimes impossible to catch. When all worked well the kittens played house with us, sometimes privileged to wear doll clothes. Every farm kid knew that the barn was the best place to play. It was where we entertained our company. But it was also a good place to go when you needed some quiet to be alone with your hurts or your plans.

In Astrid Lingren's book, *Christmas in the Stable*, a mother tells her child the Christmas story:

"There was a Christmas long ago and far away," she said, but the child did not know about long ago and far away. She knew only their own farm and a few yesterdays. So as her mother spoke, the child saw everything as if it were happening in their own stable. Perhaps even now.

CONCLUSION:

And so as children our experience informs our vision. I, too, imagined the holy family in our snow covered barn, in a cozy bale house in the hay loft. If there was a barn in your family, you might have done the same. The nativity probably included the animals in your barn. Your horse or pony stomping in the stall, the milk cow's contented lowing. Was there a pen of sheep or pigs, or roosting chickens? Likely a farm dog and barn cats. And a barn owl who-whooping a lullaby. There would be plenty of room for the baby in the clean, sweet, prairie flowered hay.

My husband and I made a wood cut of my family barn when it was torn down. "If these walls could talk" is a sentiment aptly applied to that old barn and those we see as we drive along country roads. If you have an old barn in your family, write down your memories. Give those walls a voice.

Walsh County Historical Society
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 Grafton, ND 58237

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 Vice President Jared Peterka
 Secretary Mary E. Kovarik
 Treasurer Joe Koehmstedt

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 1-Year Term**

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2-Year Term

Harlen Bjerke Wally Ebertowski Dennis Markusen

3-Year Term

John Gudajtes Larry Jamieson Keith Shutt

Committee Members

Newsletter Jean Bodmer/June Selseth
 Membership Verna Aasand/Jean Bodmer
 Genealogist/Historian Mary Kovarik

Membership Rates

For Life Membership:
 74 Years and Younger \$100.00
 75 Years and Older \$50.00
 Annual Regular Dues Per Person \$10.00
 Five-Year Membership Per Person \$25.00

2019 Centurians

Clarabell Demers Age 108 Nursing Home
 Ethel Torgerson Age 103 Nursing Home
 Mary Osowski Age 102 Nursing Home
 Adelaide Dvorak Age 102 Nursing Home
 Pauline (Patsy) Foseide Age 100Edinburg

2019 Walsh County Museum Officers

Curator/Manager Wally Ebertowski, Shannon Brazil

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 Vice Chairman John Gudajtes
 Secretary Cindy Jamieson
 Treasurer Mike Farder

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Member/Director at Large Greg Amb
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**Visit Walsh County
 Historical Society Website:
www.walshhistory.org**