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# WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



APRIL 2016

WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Historical Tour of Grafton Carnegie Library

This is an overview of the program given to the Walsh County Historical Society in March 2015.



Grafton Carnegie Library

In North Dakota, 13 Carnegie libraries were built between 1901 and 1916. Of the eight public libraries only three are still in use as such. Of the three academic libraries, one is gone and the other two currently have other uses (at NDSU and UND).

The Carnegie Foundation had three requirements for receiving funding. The need for a library in that area had to be assessed, a location secured and a commitment of annual funding for library expenses equivalent to the grant had to be approved.

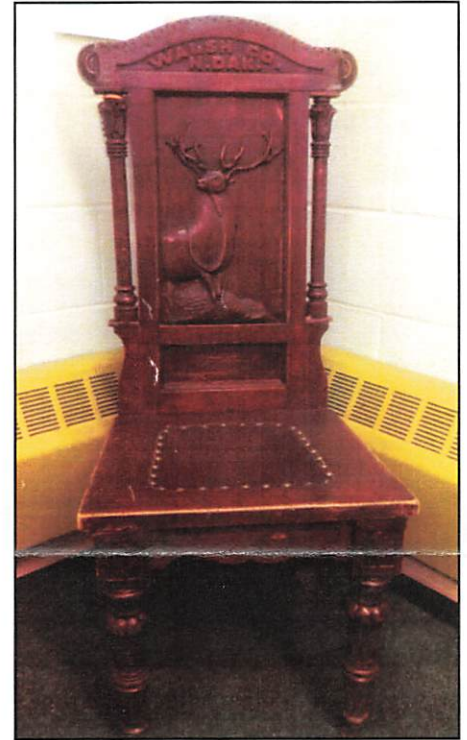
The Grafton library received a \$10,000 grant and was completed in 1905.

Grafton's library was designed by Joseph Bell DeRemer, architect from Grand Forks, who designed many other sites such as the

School for the Blind (Bathgate), a school building in Park River, and a building named for him at Grafton's Developmental Center.

The library has several chairs purchased by the Ladies Columbian Club. They were hand-carved by Walsh County resident Matt Vlasik. Each chair has a special theme, such as a buffalo and a sheaf of wheat. They were on display at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago.

A wooden-case clock from the Waterbury Clock Company was presented to the library by Walter Stockwell. Stockwell was a notable educator, serving as superintendent of Grafton, head of Department of Public Instruction in Bismarck and one of the founders of Northern School Supply.



Hand-carved chair

The library has glass bookcases for frequently used local history resources and early North Dakota history.

Those wishing to do genealogical research may want to use Ancestry.com. A wide number of magazines are available online. These services are both free, just ask at the desk.

Submitted by Doug Weberg

## Museum Alive June 26, 2016

Every three years, the museum in Minto brings you "Museum Alive." This year the event will take place on Sunday, June 26, 2016 starting at 1:00. This is the event where the museum comes alive and relives the past. It is a day of activities from penny candy in the general store, 5 cent near beer in the saloon, nickel ice cream cones in Stewart's Ice Cream Parlor, food stands, ten cent bags of popcorn, petting zoo, kids' games, music, and other activities too numerous to mention.

The Museum Alive event starts at 1:00 with our parade, so get started now preparing your float, boats, tractors, antique cars, trucks, equipment, and golf carts with plenty of candy for the kids. Everyone is welcome. The gates of the museum open at 2:00 and are open until 5:00. Relive the past in our main street designed museum.

P.S. Rumor has it that the vessel used to gain the title in the

Guinness World Book of Records serving the largest batch of Chili Con Carne, 2,420 pounds in 2013, will reappear to make a large batch of secret recipe soup for the crowd to enjoy.

This year we have two very special events added to Museum Alive. Starting around 5:30, come on down to Harvey Avenue in Minto for a street dance featuring Billy Dee and the Crystals, sponsored by the Polish National Alliance for all you have done for the lodge over the years. Bring your lawn chairs. Food stands and beer gardens will be provided.

If that isn't a big enough day for you, we will cap off the evening with a huge fireworks display at the end of Harvey Avenue at dusk.

Put this date on your summertime fun calendar: Sunday, June 26, 2016.



# Walsh County Heritage Village

Heritage Village is closed for the winter and will re-open April 1, 2015, weather permitting.

We started off our year by selling Hugo's coupon books as a fundraiser for the village. This event went very well for us.

Sunday, April 19th was the opening of the season with a pancake and sausage breakfast at Heritage Village.

Life Line Screening was held at Heritage Village, Thursday, June 11, 2015.

Rummage sale was held in the theatre building, June 19, 2015.

SummerFest at the village was June 27, 2015 and a lunch was served after the parade in the theatre building. Valley Cruisers Car Club had their cars on display, craft show, merry-go-round rides and all the buildings were open for everyone's tour pleasure.

The farmers market was setup at the village every Tuesday beginning July 21st and ending the first part of September 2015. Heritage Village served BBQ lunch every Tuesday evening during farmers market. Merry-go-round rides were given a couple nights during the market.

July 25, 2015 there was a family reunion held at Heritage Village.

August 30th was another pancake and sausage breakfast at the Village.

Farmers market held their community sale at the village in September.

Heritage Village theatre building was occupied on Thanksgiving day with a local family having their Thanksgiving dinner there and family fun times making memories.

The Community Helpers group from Life Skills and Transition Center held their 7th annual "Kids Shopping with Santa" event at Heritage Village from December 16th thru the 18th. The first day started out with inclement weather, so they didn't get started until the next day. They had a good turnout.

Grafton Volunteer Fire Department held their Christmas party at Heritage Village, December 12, 2015.

There were a couple major repairs done at Heritage Village this year. The Shoults house was shingled, and the roof on the theatre building was re-done, along with shingling of the north and south entrances. We want to thank everyone who donated funds to make these two projects possible. Donations are very much appreciated.

Charles Thompson has been busy working on refinishing some antique machinery of Uncle Sig's for us. Thank you Charles for taking on this project in your spare time. We appreciate this very much.

Donnie LaBerge is spending some of his spare time this winter getting some old engines from Uncle Sig's collection up and running for us. Thank you Donnie for taking on this project. We appreciate this very much.

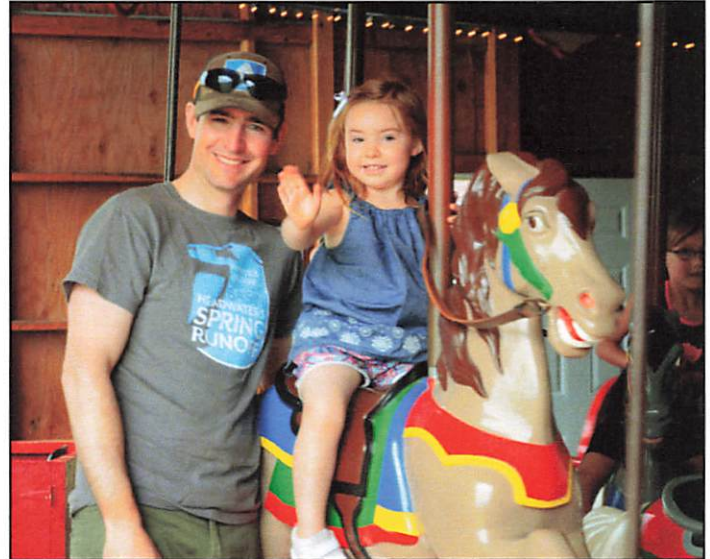
Oh yes, we can't forget about our groundskeeper, Les Aasand. He will be starting his 12th year this spring maintaining our grounds. He has done a wonderful job for us. Thank you Les for your good work and the pride that you take in keeping the place looking good!

Current board members are: Ken Hoffmann, president; Gordon Bracken, vice president; Todd Morgan, secretary; Verna Aasand, office manager and treasurer; Norman Paulson, director; Marlene Paulson, director; Vernon Russum, director; Jean Bodmer, director; Carol Spale, director; Robert Zidon, director; Linda Restemayer, director; and Greg Amb and Darwin Hime, members at large from Life Skills and Transition Center.

Remember, the theatre building is always for rent for anything you would like such as rummage sales, showers, graduations, Thanksgiving, reunions or whatever else you may wish to have. No alcohol allowed. Please call Ken Hoffmann at 701-360-0088 or Verna Aasand at 701-520-1207 to reserve your special date.

Heritage Village wants to thank everyone who participated in any way this past year to help out with our projects and to anyone who gave donations. Continued support from the community, historical members and individuals is needed to continue the perseverance of Heritage Village and Jugville. We hope to see you all in 2016.

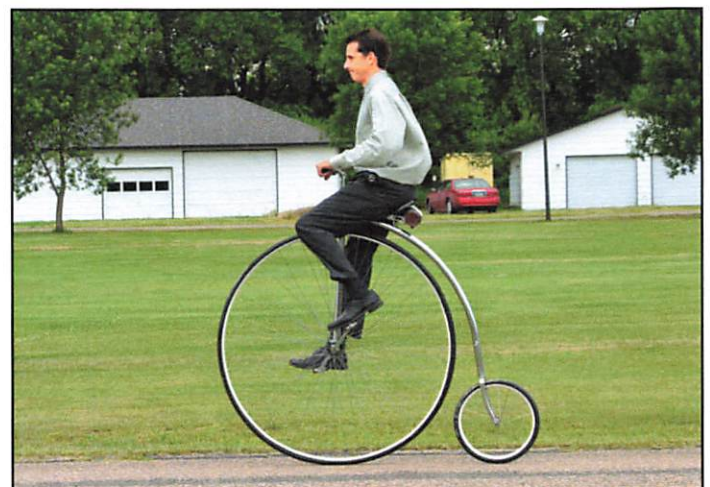
**Jean Bodmer, submitted by Verna Aasand**



Nathen Schultz, left, and his daughter Sage from Grafton take a moment to ride the carousel at Heritage Village during June 27, 2015. (Photo courtesy of The Walsh County Record)



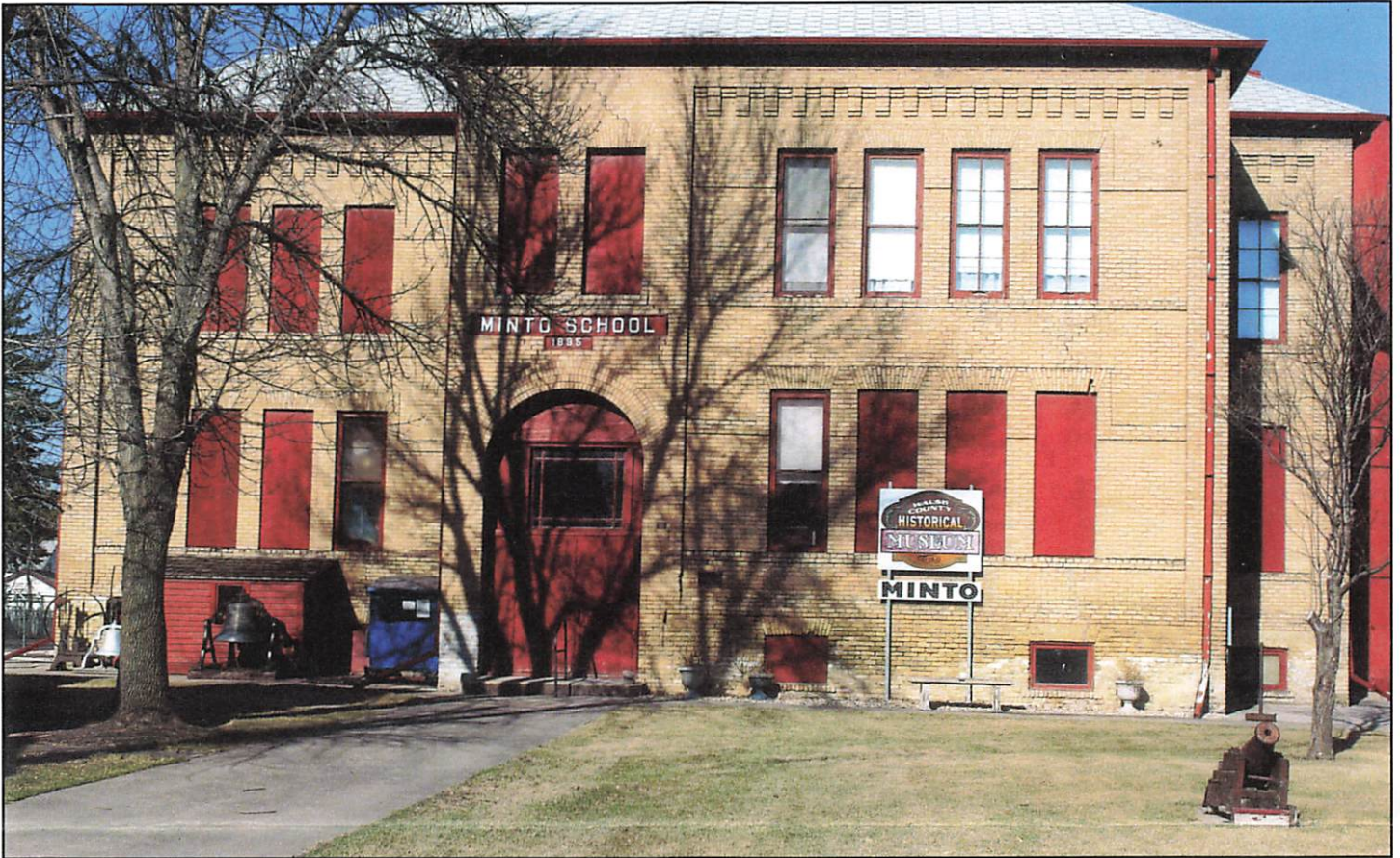
Bucky Peterson wipes the raindrops off his vintage Pontiac during the car show June 27, 2015 at Heritage Village in Grafton. (Photo courtesy of The Walsh County Record)



Chad Lombardi from Langdon was caught taking a vintage bike ride at Heritage Village June 27, 2015. (Photo courtesy of The Walsh County Record)



# Walsh County Historical Museum



Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto

The museum in Minto is gearing up for "Museum Alive" on Sunday, June 26th but first we will be starting with our school tours in May and our annual cleaning bee the last week in May.

Last year we completed a major renovation project in our basement. New flooring, heating, and lighting projects were completed.

Now major work is in motion to replace gutters, downspouts, and a

possible expansion of the museum to prevent rainwater issues and room for more displays. Fundraising efforts are now on the way for these projects.

Several new displays have been added since last Museum Alive. Stop by Sunday, June 26th to check out all the new updates and displays. Enjoy a fun-filled day for the whole family.



From left to right: Lee Gowan, Vern Schreiner, Larry Jamieson, Mike Farder, and Jared Gowan.

More pictures continued on page 6





## History of Grafton Heritage Doll Club

**T**he history of the Grafton Heritage Doll Club on its 20th anniversary on January 16, 2004.

It must have been when admiring dolls that got Ora Marie Stewart and Kim Renslow wondering if there would be any interest in organizing a doll club in Grafton. They decided to hold an open meeting on January 16, 1984 at Ora's home and invited anyone interested to come and bring a doll.

The enthusiasm led to the forming of the doll club named Grafton Heritage Doll Club at that meeting. Two officers were elected; namely Ora as president and Kim as secretary-treasurer. It was decided to meet once a month with members taking turns hosting. The hostess would be responsible for a lesson and each member was to bring a doll for display. Lorraine Kovash suggested that it be called "show and tell."

In May of 1986, Kim resigned because she moved to Grand Forks. Lorraine Kovash was named secretary-treasurer.

Doll collecting has been the number one hobby among women in our country. Our club is very active, the lessons pertain to dolls, doll companies and doll-related items. The study of dolls is really a study in history as dolls follow the trend of peoples' lives, style wise in clothes, hairdos, etc. As a group we have traveled to doll shows and sales held in Minot, Fargo, Moorhead, Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, Winnipeg, Thief River Falls, Park River, Icelandic State Park and Langdon. We have sponsored public doll shows as well as doing community service work by presenting entertainment with dolls at Lutheran Sunset Home and Elmwood house. We have

given dolls and stuffed animals to Lutheran Sunset Home for gifts and game prizes. We have given stuffed toys to the police department and the county sheriff's office.

We have interacted with the North Red River Doll Club of Grand Forks and the Manitoba Doll Club of Winnipeg of which we are honorary members with membership pins. For a number of years we have taken part in the annual toy show in Grafton and annual toy shows in Oslo and Park River.

Grafton Heritage Doll Club can be summed up as a rewarding and educational club, which provides much wholesome and enjoyable entertainment with a group of wonderful gals.

We remember in our hearts our fallen members: Diane Haug, LeAnn Nilson, Emma Lou Minden Desautel, Mary Rose Rodriguez and Jean Dobler.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Lorraine Kovash, December 18, 2015**

- Additional members that have passed: Lorraine Kovash, Marcene Burtt, Ora Marie Stewart, Bobby Knutson, Lola Houdek, Barb Bracken and Gina Quinell.
- Nira Fredrickson moved to South Dakota, Kim Renslow moved to Grand Forks, and Karen Wisner moved to Maine.
- Heritage Doll Club members that attended the first meeting are Lorna Collette, Evelyn Peterson and Jan Ensrude, 32 years ago.
- Heritage Doll Club consists of 10 active members.

**Heritage Doll Club 2016**





## Ora Marie Stewart's



# Love of Dolls

Ora Marie Stewart was the main force in founding the Heritage Doll Club and along with this, she even had her own “doll buggy,” which was in fact an old school bus that had been redone to be used to house her extensive doll collection. She would then take this “doll buggy” to various events and exhibitions, opening her doll collection up for the public to see.

Ora Marie Stewart passed away on April 3, 2010, thus bringing to an end the wonderful times people in the area had seeing her doll collection and taking a trip back in time as they remembered dolls from their childhood. It seems all women can remember dolls of their childhood, even if they are not on display for others to see and appreciate. Even if we are not members of a doll club or do not collect dolls, some of us still have special dolls from our childhood.

After Ora Marie's passing, the Charles Stewart family donated the doll collection and the bus they were housed in to Heritage Village. This doll collection was then on display to folks again for their enjoyment during SummerFest and other occasions.

In the fall of 2015, Heritage Doll Club members removed the dolls from the bus, refurbished them and arranged them in display cases in the theater building at Heritage Village, where they are now on display for more generations of folks to see and enjoy.

Submitted by Pamela R. Johnson





# Walsh County Historical Museum Con't.



Pouring cement in the museum basement.



New floor in the museum basement.

New electrical service.





## 2015 Membership Report

32	.....Annual Memberships
63	.....Five-Year Memberships
82	.....Life Memberships
65	.....Ongoing Memberships

### 2015 New Life

Verna Aasand	Bernice Flanagan
Del and Ernest Hutson	Ben Pinta
Ina Raumin	Shirley Suda
Ann and Charles Thompson	Mitchell Misialek
Garry Stout	Mrs. Gene Estad

### New 5-Year

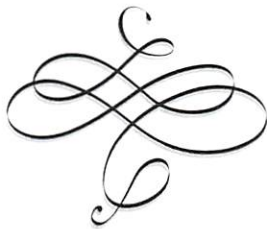
Dave Petersen	Ken and Shelley Popiel
Yon Shutt	Tweten's Photography
Larry Freier	Carol Rinde Lewis
Virginia Brazil	Delores Fort
Vickie Flanders	Ken Hoffman
Larry Jamieson	Cindy Johnson
Bill Cawley	

### 2015 New Annual

John Koehmstedt	Sadie Koehmstedt
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### Donations

Tollefson Funeral Home	\$100.00
Moe's Floral	\$100.00
Lee Kieley	\$5.00



**Visit**  
**Walsh County**  
**Historical Society**  
**Website:**  
**[www.walshhistory.org](http://www.walshhistory.org)**

## 2016 Walsh County Historical Society 5-Year Membership List

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DUE</u>
Elmer and Minnie Agan	2016
Rodney Alme	2016
June Almen	2016
Joel and Sheryl Aslakson	2016
Roseanne Bliss	2020
Diane Bratlie	2016
Virginia Brazil	2020
Shirley Burns	2018
Bill Cawley	2020
Judy Evens	2018
Delores Fast	2020
Rosemary Fisher	2016
Vickie Flanders	2020
Dean Flanders	2020
Al and Linda Freeman	2017
Larry Freier	2020
Robert Glinski	2020
Paul Gourde	2018
Winten Gunderson	2018
Ken Hoffmann	2020
Larry Jamieson	2020
Larry and Cindy Johnson	2020
Pamela Johnson	2019
Tork Kilichowski	2017
Wilfred Knaus	2017
Joe Koehmstedt	2020
Andrew Korezak	2016
Mary and Jeff Kovarik	2016
Margaret Langowski	2016
Mrs. Rich Lapp	2018
Dr. Russell Lefevre	2020
Carol Rinde Lewis	2020
M. Theresa Lutovsky	2020
Bill Lykken	2020
Dennis and Linda Markusen	2016
Leo Misialek	2020
Irene Mozinski	2018
Laura B. Munski	2020
Leroy Nelson	2020
Thelma Nelson	2020
Ron Ophaug	2020
Jared Peterka	2016
Dave Peterson	2020
Ken and Shelley Popiel	2020
Mary Ronkowski	2020
Jim Schanilec	2018
Louise Schanilec	2018
Rod Schanilec	2017
Yon Shutt	2020
Lee and Sharon Sobolik	2018
Patricia Switzer	2016
Bill and Jody Tibert	2020
Tweten's Photography	2020



Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Grafton, ND Permit No. 12
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**2016 Walsh County Historical Society Officers**

Jon McMillan ..... President  
 Jared Peterka ..... Vice President  
 Jon Koehmstedt ..... Secretary  
 Joe Koehmstedt ..... Treasurer

**Board Members**

**1-Year Term**  
 John Gudajtes      Larry Jamieson      Keith Shutt

**2-Year Term**  
 Doug Weberg      Charles Thompson      Chris Misialek

**3-Year Term**  
 Harlen Bjerke      Wally Ebertowski      Dennis Markusen

Jean Bodmer/June Selseth ..... Newsletter  
 Jean Bodmer ..... Membership

**Membership Rates**

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

**CENTURIANS**

**Nursing Home**

Gladys Baier (Apartment) ..... 102  
 Esther King ..... 104  
 Elizabeth Sowokinos ..... 101

**Apartment**

Clarabell Demers ..... 105

**2016 Walsh County Museum Officers**

Curator/Manager ..... Wally Ebertowski

**Officers (1 year term)**

Chairman ..... Jared Peterka  
 Vice Chairman ..... John Gudajtes  
 Secretary ..... June Selseth  
 Treasurer ..... Mike Farder

**Directors (3 year term)**

Chris Misialek      Cindy Jamieson      Doug Ulland  
 Les Jallo      Keith Shutt      Tim Nelson  
 Ron Ophaug      Kathy Langowski

**2016 Heritage Village**

**Board Members**

Ken Hoffmann ..... President  
 Gordy Bracken ..... Vice President  
 Todd Morgan ..... Secretary  
 Verna Aasand ..... Office Manager/Treasurer

**Directors**

Jean Bodmer      Robert Zidon  
 Marlene Paulson      Norman Paulson  
 Vernon Russum      Carol Spale  
 Linda Restemayer  
 Greg Amb ..... Member/Director at Large  
 Darwin Hime ..... Member/Director at Large

**Attention**

The membership renewal forms, which are enclosed in this newsletter, go out to all members. If you are a life member, or 5-year membership, please disregard this invitation to join. Thank you.