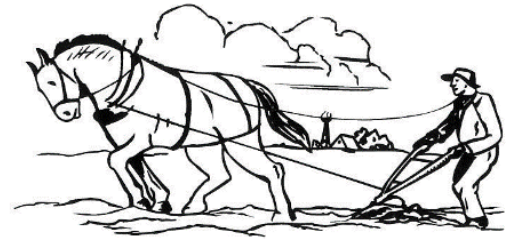


Roseville Historical Society

MEMO



Karin M. Peterson

Roseville Historical Society member Karin Peterson, 78, of Little Canada, passed away September 3, 2015. Karin was a gracious member of her community, and worked diligently for the Pillsbury Company for four decades. Karin, in her passing, provided a bequest of 5% of her estate to the Roseville Historical Society. A fantastic and utterly generous gift.

Karin donated artifacts to the Society and visited the office many times.

Her kindness and gratitude will be forever appreciated by us.

The Return of a Hero

By Tommy Jorgensen



Staff Sergeant Jerry Jacobsen set out on a mission in July 1944 that would take him and his unit behind enemy lines in the city of Saint-Lô, France. The goal was to capture Saint-Lô and allow a breakthrough for American, British, Canadian, and French forces with the objective to liberate France from the clutches of Nazi oppression. During this mission, S/Sgt. Jacobsen's unit came under heavy fire and was routed. When the sun set below the horizon and the day of fighting was completed, Jacobsen and many others involved in the fighting were missing. Shortly thereafter, Jacobsen's

wife Catherine, a Roseville native, was delivered the devastating news. Jerry was missing. Catherine held out hope for Jerry's return. However, a year had passed and the United States military had declared S/Sgt. Jacobsen's death in absentia.

Catherine never gave up hope however. She was determined that someday, she would be reunited with her darling husband again. Decades ticked by, and Jerry was still not found. However, in 2016, information began to surface that Jacobsen's body might be buried in a grave for a (continued page 4)

Officers

Rynetta Renford
President
651-485-6060

Joyce DuFresne
Vice President
651-490-5561

Sharon Pillen
Heritage Director
651-256-2986
Joyce DuFresne Ass't.

LaVerne Dickhudt
Archivist
651-484-4146

Amie Pillen
Secretary
651-631-1446

Beverly Kroschel
Treasurer/Newsletter
651-484-1708

Committee Chairs

Betty Danks
Historian
651-484-9572

Monica Muckala
Cheer
651-261-7980

Ron Linebarger
Membership
651-765-9789

Sharon Pillen
Hospitality
651-256-2986

Mailing Address
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Email: rbsmn1977@yahoo.com
Website: rbsmn.org

Phone: 651-792-7440
Please leave a message

Membership Meetings:



Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Treats will be provided by: Ila Black, Joyce DuFresne, Bob Niederkorn

Monday, Dec. 11, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
Potluck Dinner

Membership meetings are held in the Fireside Room at the Oval.

Door prizes, snacks and fellowship provided at all meetings.

Board Meetings:

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Board meetings are held in the Aspen room at City Hall.

September 18 Program



Roseville Author, Allison Seaborn will be the guest speaker.

“Just Average? A Lady Boomer’s Odyssey” is a semi-fictional memoir with a lot of humor.

Seaborn earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Minnesota and taught speech and communications at the community college level for several years.

From Your Archivist

By LaVerne Dickhudt

How time flies when you’re having fun!

In the last few months we’ve had many inquiries about people buried at Dale/Rice (Rosedale) cemetery – some found, some not.

We’ve taken in donations from Loris Nelson and Al Girard. Loris’ was a very nice album of the 1981 tornado that went through Roseville. The album included photos and newspaper articles. Al donated a tee shirt from 1981 Roseville tornado and a Kellogg cap. Thanks for thinking of us.

Keeping the archives storage area dry has been a challenge. The dehumidifier doesn’t want to work properly. Hopefully, we don’t have to buy a new one this season.

I have been cataloging many more pictures that Beverly has found on the computer that we didn’t have in the file.

Never a dull moment. My next project is to take pictures of the first group of artifacts that we received years earlier that weren’t entered on the computer. We didn’t have a computer or camera at the time.

We had four visitors during the last three months.

Our new headquarters looks more promising.

Cheer

By Monica Muckala

Get well cards sent to:
Betty Wolfangle
Ila Black

Retirement card to Rick Schultz

If you know of a someone who should receive a card, please call Monica at 651-489-7293.



Notes from your Heritage Directors

By Sharon Pillen and Joyce DuFresne

What a great celebration for our 40th Anniversary during Rosefest at Central Park. The great chocolate cake for all to share from Keys Restaurant and the story telling about the past has brought on stories of our own to tell that makes us smile.



Since the beginning of 2017, we have been busy raising money to support our goals. We raised over \$800 this spring with our jams and breads. and it all started with a group of ladies at Curves on Rice Street. Our Jams and breads have been a success to the point that the ladies have asked for a signup sheet each month.

In June, it was decided to add some Rhubarb bread to the 13 Ginger breads ordered by the ladies---now it took only 30 minutes to sell the extra five loaves of Ginger bread and the ten loaves of Rhubarb bread that I dropped off at the club. I am sure glad no one asked the calories in each slice because they were all working out to stay fit and lose weight and I was bringing in product promoting treats to eat.

One of the ladies came back the next day and said the Rhubarb bread was great, but her hubby said it was missing the walnuts. In today's world, we do not put nuts in our baking for sale because of people's allergies. That did not stop the lady's hubby---he purchased the walnuts---gave them to his wife and ordered 5 loaves of Rhubarb bread. Hubby is in seventh heaven with his order of bread and gave us a great review. We were told he does not treat others to his bread order---it all goes into the freezer to enjoy when he takes his coffee breaks. We are a 10 in his book.

A big thank you to all the families that have been so generous with their time helping us with our crafts,

giving us good ideas and the many calls that have generated **jelly jars** for our products. The donations of sugar and flour has been an extra big help---it feels like Christmas year-round when we pick up all the donated items at the office to continue making product. Rhubarb donations have been great and we can always use more as we make product all year long to sell. The donations of rhubarb can be any amount and we will always pick it up as you have some, so keep us in mind this coming year as your gardens grow.

Dick Wenkel has given us an update on the beets he is growing in his garden for us, and yes, we will have beet jam. Samples will be available at our fall meeting. Years ago, we made use of everything from our gardens and our cook books always had recipes to share for the many uses of our garden products.

I am looking for you or your friends to knit us some mittens and hats---I have donations of yarn to share if anyone can knit articles.

We have made several different kinds of rhubarb jam this year along with our fair entries. We should have results from the county and state fair to share later this fall at our meeting. A big hit has been Rhubarb/Raspberry/Peach. We will have Relish, Barbecue sauce, Beet pickles, and Rhubarb jams--seven different fruit flavored jams, breads, (Cranberry, Ginger, Rhubarb and Eggnog), dog biscuits, almond bark candies, lotions and sewing items at our craft fair this year. Please stop by our booth and say hello the first weekend in December at City Hall. Get the word out to your friends and neighbors about our big sale. We also can use help on the days of our sale Saturday and Sunday. If you have a couple of hours or more to help a signup sheet will be available at the September meeting.

Again - a big **THANK YOU** for all your help and donations during the year. Your support makes our sales a great success and our profit line greater. If you need hostess gifts or table favors for your groups or organizations, please keep us in mind---we will always take orders small or large and package them for you. Call the office and they will be happy to take a message for us.

See you at our membership meeting. We will again have items for sale along with door prizes of our breads and jams for you to win.

The Return of a Hero (continued from page 1)

soldier marked as "A Comrade in Arms, Known but to God" in a military cemetery in France. Through the dedicated work of Illinois historian Roberta Russo, the Fox 9 News Investigators, relatives such as Brad Jacobsen and Jerry's sister, as well as through Catherine's steeled determination, the grave was exhumed. The Jacobsen side of the family had not been aware that Catherine was out there. Brad Jacobsen, nephew of Jerry, contacted Catherine during the search for Jerry's remains, and was the one who broke the news to Catherine that her beloved had finally been found.

Due to army identification numbers found in clothing in the grave and using DNA testing from Jerry's siblings, the Defense Department could declare that they had positively found Jerry, and he would be flown home. Catherine described her feelings as pure elation when she learned of his discovery. "It is permanent" she said, speaking of Jacobsen's final resting place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Previously, a grave in the memory of Jacobsen had been erected.

Jacobsen was noted for his deep sincerity and kindness. Nearly every letter he had sent back to his wife contained the word "darling". Catherine said she had never met a man so sweet, and never had again. Jerry made especially sure to write to Catherine every single day he was deployed, and every letter contained x's and o's. The love palpable through the parchment. After her 73-year wait, she was finally reunited with her beloved Jerry again, back home in Minnesota. When the author was interviewing Catherine, she was all smiles, and mentioned that she has felt great, almost never better. The immense weight of Jerry's mystery relieved from her shoulders.

Jerry was laid to rest at Fort Snelling National Cemetery after a service at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Little Canada in July 2017. Jacobsen's funeral was attended by members of the Minnesota National Guard and Air National Guard, as well as family, friends, and those moved by the story. Before being laid to

rest, a group of World War II era aircraft did a fly over, with a missing spot in the formation, symbolizing Jerry.

I wish to extend a special thank you to Catherine for allowing me to interview her and learn more about Jerry Jacobsen beyond the news. Jerry's sacrifice was part of the thousands of Americans and other allied forces who died fighting Nazi Germany in Europe, and his death was not an ending, rather the immortalization of a couple that would be reunited again, no matter the circumstances.

Rosefest Parade

Members of the Roseville Historical Society participated in the Rosefest Parade in June. Three units represented the Society.

Wayne Greisel drove his yellow 2008 Pontiac Solstice Roadster. Riding with Wayne was Society President, Rynetta Renford.

In position #2 was a diesel Ford pickup driven by Mike Halbe pulling a 12-foot trailer with members of the Roseville Historical Society.

Following was a Minneapolis Moline tractor owned and driven by Eric Gunard, who through the years has entertained the crowds along the parade route with his old farm machinery. Ready to ride in the parade.



Ready to ride in parade.

Abraham Bennett

(As told by great-grandson Dan Holliday)

Abraham Bennett was born in Wheeling, Virginia, in 1803. When he was 14 years old, he asked his stepmother for a piece of cord. He was refused so he cut a piece out of the clothes line. He was soundly whipped and ran away from home.

This was while the War of 1812 was in progress. He made his way down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans where he was picked up by Andrew Jackson's soldiers. They took him to General Jackson who hid him in a log pile during the battle where he would be safe.

After that he drifted into the steamboat service on the river where he spent most of his life. He eventually commanded a boat and later built and operated his own boats. During the Mexican-American War, he was paid \$3,000 to take 1,000 kegs of powder across the Red River in Texas. Later, he built boats, sold them, and built bigger ones.

He was married twice. His first wife had three children. Emily, Sarah and John. His second wife was Elizabeth Barney, born in 1812. They had 5 children, Leadora, Miriam (Minnie), Abraham, Edwin and Elizabeth (Lizzie). They were all born in Wheeling.

He gave up his life on the river and settled in Wheeling. His wife longed to be rich, while he only wanted to be "well off." He wanted to build another boat. His wife objected but he went ahead and built an expensive boat at a cost of \$200,000. On the maiden voyage, he took on a cargo of at least 100 horses and their owner. As they approached Wheeling slush ice choked the injector so the boiler did not get any water. Just as they reached the landing, the boiler blew up and the ship and cargo were destroyed.

Part were drowned and the ship burned. The owner of the horses could not swim, but Captain Bennett saved his life. He then sued the Captain for the loss of his horses. Captain Bennett thus ended his years of traveling on the rivers. He built a raft, put his family on it, and moved to St. Paul,

Minnesota. There he bought land on what later became Lake Bennett.

On January 3, 1863, he became Minnesota's first railroad fatality. A wagon driven by Captain Bennett was hit at the Como Road crossing in St. Paul. There had been talk of building a bridge at the site, but, ironically, Bennett himself had opposed it.

His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1967. They are buried in Oakland Cemetery in St. Paul.

Editor's note: More research will be done regarding Lake Bennett.



Treasurer's Report

August 10, 2017

By Beverly Kroschel

Checking	\$ 2,435.80
Savings	3,510.87
Building Fund	8,328.42
CD	<u>6,185.42</u>
Total	\$20,460.51



Roseville Historical Society Membership Form

Send to:
Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Annual Membership
_____ \$10 Individual
_____ \$15 Family

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

St _____

Zip _____

Email Address _____

Dues for calendar year(s) 20 _____ 20 _____

Date _____

Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Next meeting: Monday, September 18, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Roseville Oval Fireside Room