

**Old Trondhjem News
Trondhjem Community Preservation Society
P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046**

Trondhjem Community Preservation Society

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**Maintenance/Repair – Dallas Berg
Museum – Joyce Pflaum
Membership/Nominations – Elvah Fossum
Special Events – Sandy Valek
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OLD TRONDHJEM NEWS

APRIL, 2005

TRONDHJEM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SOCIETY
www.oldtrondhjem.org

P.O. BOX 259

LONSDALE, MINNESOTA 55046

Greetings from



Old Trondhjem!



A Note from the President...

The snow piled up all day long on March 18th while Dallas Berg, Joyce Pflaum and I attended the Minnesota Historical Society Workshop for historical organizations in South St. Paul. By day's end we had accumulated eight inches of snow and some very useful information about how to tell our Trondhjem history story, how to encourage funding for the work and how to make grant applications. Although Dallas got stuck briefly in my snowy driveway before all was said and done, we all agreed that it was a day well spent.

In the last newsletter, I asked all of you to give the board your thoughts on whether and how to proceed with an upgrade to the fellowship hall adjoining the historic church. This part of our building is not historic but it houses the museum exhibit and serves as the reception hall for functions such as weddings, family reunions, and our organization's events on Syttende Mai, Ice Cream Social, and concerts. Since then I heard from some people who were strongly in favor of proceeding with new construction. No one has spoken to me with any feelings opposed to it. All of the former presidents of the board have said they think we should go forward with these plans. That includes Clifford Johnson, Joyce Pflaum, David Saxerud, Don Pavek, and myself.

The board set up a committee to assess our needs and engaged an architect to develop plans. The committee includes David Topp as chair, Dallas Berg, Millie Johnson, Don Pavek and Joyce Pflaum. They have moved forward carefully and thoughtfully because we are dealing with a national historic site. It isn't like building a normal new building or like creating an addition to any other building. All plans must first take into account that the new structure cannot in any way detract or overwhelm our primary focus. The new building should serve the old church by telling the story of Norwegian immigrant history as it was in the Trondhjem community.

By now our architect, Steve Edwins, of SMSQ Architects in Northfield has worked with us through several renditions of plans. He and his firm specialize in historic buildings and have designed the upgrading and restoration of such beautiful historic buildings as Old Main at St. Olaf College, the Goodhue County Historical Society, The Scriver Building in Northfield, and the Thorsten Veblen House at Nerstrand. Don Pavek and his firm, College City Homes have also contributed plans and concepts for the design. The committee also traveled to the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul to meet with the state historical architect, an exhibit designer, and an out-reach person to get their guidance and requirements for working with our national historic site. The design phase is still underway. Steve Edwins has donated many hours of his time plus his staff time at cost because of his belief in our historic site and his generosity.

Now we must develop a plan to raise funds for the construction. If you care about telling the story of Norwegian immigration to America and the story about life in the farming settlement of Trondhjem, Minnesota, this is the time to step forward with a generous donation to help us get started.

Russell Anseth did just that when he came to the Winter Concert at Old Trondhjem in February. When he arrived he gave us a check worth \$25,000 to "get us started" and said he hoped this would inspire everyone in the Trondhjem Preservation Society to give generously. With his energy, enthusiasm and generosity, we are all inspired to work harder and dig deeper to create a building that will be a fine compliment to our national historic site. Russell has given us a big boost. Please let us hear from all of our loyal members with generous contributions to make it happen.

Merle Fossum, President

SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR MAY 15

Our celebration this year will begin at 2:00 PM with entertainment by THE LOST NORWEGIANS. After the program, we will have our annual business meeting and then move to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, goodies, and visiting.

We are very much looking forward to being entertained again by THE LOST NORWEGIANS! They are a local group that enjoys vocalizing and celebrating Scandinavian culture. A couple of Trondhjem's own belong to the group-Joel Quinnell and John Fossum. Don't miss this really fun event!

Our annual business meeting will feature a discussion of a new fellowship hall and the other usual business. In addition, three directors' terms are complete. They are Millie Johnson, Elvah Fossum, and David Topp. Millie and Elvah have agreed to accept renomination. In addition, nominations will be accepted from the floor. We are very grateful for the service of these and other dedicated officers!

Donations of baked goods for the coffee fellowship following the meeting will be most gratefully accepted!

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE Submitted by Joyce Fossum Pflaum

The Village of Trondhjem was a busy and vibrant community in the late 1860's until the early 1900's. When the area was first settled by the Irish, Czechs, and Norwegians, the Native Americans were still camping around Union Lake. Jacob Camp settled by Union Lake about 1857 and his children told stories about playing with the Native American children. The first claim to be taken in the area was secured by Martin Taylor, a native of Ireland, in November, 1855, about 2 miles west and north of Trondhjem, and that same spring S.J. and Chalmer Webster took claims near Union Lake. Settlers arrived in larger numbers after 1956. Webster Township was organized May 11, 1858, and was named in honor of Mr. Ferris Webster, an early settler in Webster Township. In 1856 Mr. Ferris

Webster hauled goods from Hastings by team and, with a limited stock of groceries and provisions, opened a small store in Section 35 of Webster Township. It was operated for a short time and then discontinued, as the country was too sparsely settled as yet to support the enterprise. Other Websters settling in the area included Mr. & Mrs. Salmon Webster and their family.

I recently found the following item in "Union Lakes Times" of the Northfield News, dated January 8, 1898: "M.C. Webster and family will leave for Ohio Tuesday evening. He has been a resident of this place for forty-two years, having come from Ohio here when a small child and was here at the time of the Indian outbreak, often visiting their camp on the north side of the lake (Note: This refers to Union Lake), which was then called Minnemedak, and so the last Webster leaves the place which they helped break into civilization."

One of the first homes in Trondhjem, built in the 1870's, was that of Pete Anderson. Photos of this home indicate it was fairly small. But it was home to Peter, his wife, Anne, and two children, Alf and Elvira; and it was also the community gathering place as it was a post office for 15 years and a store.

According to the "History of Rice County" by Rev. Edward D. Neill, written in 1882, Nels Oleson, in 1874 put a blacksmith shop in the southwestern part of Section 29, Webster Twp., putting in a complete set of tools and being busy "Blowing the Bellows". This would be very near to, or, in the village of Trondhjem. Other early settlers of the area arriving by 1876 were Paul and J. Danielson, Peter Johnson, Haagen Olson, Ole Rygg, Ole Sjoli, Albert and Oluf Straete, Peder and Lars Berg, Amund and Johannes Fossum, O. Anderson, Eskel Quinnell, Ole Matsen, Herman Lyng, Bertinus, Guttorm & Elling Nilsen, H. Grotte, Ole and Ingebrigt Skague, P. and H. Olsen, Jens Nyhus, A. Guttoemsen, and Ole Hansen.

The Webster Cooperative Dairy erected a skimmery in Trondhjem. Local Farmers would bring their milk to the facility where the cream would be skimmed off and taken to the Webster Creamery to be made into butter. The farmers would take the skim milk back home to use in other ways.

Trondhjem had three mercantile stores where food staples were also sold, a hardware store, and a feed mill, in addition to the post office and blacksmith shop.

John and Jan Dalby submitted the following information to include in our newsletter. The information comes from Rice County, Minnesota directories from various years between 1888 and 1953. It is a list of Trondhjem business and owners:

Peter Anderson, Postmaster & General Store 1899
Peter O. Berg, Creamery 1899
John Danielson, General Store 1899
Herman C. Larwick, Blacksmith 1899
P.M. Anderson, 1903
Peter Anderson, General Store, 1903
Peter O. Berg, Creamery 1903
Bros. Danielson, General Store 1903
John Danielson, Danielson Bros. 1903
Paul Danielson, Danielson Bros. 1903
Herman C. Larwick, Blacksmith 1903
Hokan Olson, General Store 1903
Hokan Olson, General Store 1911
Co-operative Creamery, 1911
Trondhjem Co-op Creamery, 1911
L.A. Houge, General Store 1915
Lutheran Church Norwegian, 1915
Norwegian Church Lutheran, 1915
Co-operative Creamery, 1915
Trondhjem Co-operative Creamery, 1915
John Gorder, General Store 1921

I appreciate this information that John and Jan provided for us. Besides working with the posting to computers of Rice County City Directories for all to enjoy, they have done a remarkable job of putting the records of Rice County (and other county) Cemeteries on the computer. This is a great service they provide. They are active in the Christdala Church preservation project. Christdala is an historical Swedish church located, near Millersburg, just a few miles from Trondhjem.

We continue to have groups visit our historic church. If you know of a group that would like to tour the old church, have them contact Ramona Pumper or Sandy Valek, or contact any board member for information on making arrangements.

We would like to receive your stories of the early history of Trondhjem or the surrounding area, or

your family stories of years gone by. We may use them in our newsletter. We would also like to have you join our Museum and Historical Committee. Please contact any board or committee member.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2004 RECEIVED AFTER THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

165. SHERRY GRAY
166. JOSEPH & JOANN ENGLISH
167. ELVAH FOSSUM-In memory of JOE T. MALECHA
168. SHERWIN & ELNA HANSEN-In memory of JOE T. MALECHA
169. ARLEIGH & BARBARA BERG-In memory of MENS & EDNA BERG
170. ALVIN & EUNICE JOHNSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
171. RANDY HALVERSON
172. JANET JANES-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
173. BOB & PRISCILLA JANES-In honor of HELEN & CHARLES HILL and in memory of PERCY JOHNSON
174. KENNETH & JOYCE MADOLE-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
175. DONALD & YVONNE PAVEK-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
176. CHARLES & HELEN HILL-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
177. BYRNHILD ROWBERG-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
178. KAROLYN KAY & RICHARD JOHNSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
179. GRUNDHOEFER, NEUVILLE & LUDESCHER-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
180. ROBERT & BARBARA IMMEL-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
181. JOHN & ARLENE NELSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
182. MERLE & MAVIS FOSSUM-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
183. ELMER & RAMONA PUMPER-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
184. MARIAN JOHNSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
185. ALAN & RANDA VOGEN-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
186. RODNEY & KIMBERLY SMISEK-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON

187. KATHRYN RATHKE-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
188. DAVID & ARDIS ASP-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
189. REV. CLIFFORD & RUTH JOHNSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
190. SHERWIN & ELNA HANSEN-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
191. JOYCE PFLAUM-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
192. REINHOLD & LORRAINE LEMKE-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
193. ELVAH FOSSUM-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
194. SANFORD & KATHRYN HAUGEN-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
195. REV. RICHARD & FAYE YORK-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
196. ALICE KLINE-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
197. JAMES & MELAINEY SCHROT-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
198. GRDON & MAXINE HALVERSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
199. GUDMUND & RUTH JULSETH-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
200. DELORES VALEK-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
201. CAROL JOHNSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
202. DALLAS & MILDRED BERG-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
203. PETER JANES FAMILY-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
204. MARK JANES FAMILY-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
205. CLARENCE & CLIFFORD KAPPEDAHL-In memory of OSCAR & JENNIE KAPPEDAHL
206. JUDY FOSSUM MATHERN-In memory of ALBERT FOSSUM
207. MRS INES M. TREBESCH
208. WENDELL L. HALVERSON-In memory of OLE & ANNA HAUGE FOSSUM
209. CHARLES CANNONS-In memory of MARY CANNONS
210. GLEN & MARLYS SHIRLEY-In memory of VEOLA ELLINGBOE
211. WARREN VELENCHENKO-In memory of JOHN & JOHANNA GORDER and MARIE GORDER PAULSON
212. JEFFREY & MARY JO PFLAUM-In memory of DUANE PFLAUM

213. JEFFERY & MARY JO PFLAUM-In memory of LEIF & MABEL FOSSUM
214. BILL JOHNSON-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
215. ERLING & JOYCE KINDEM-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
216. CURT SAMUELS-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
217. DAVID & NANCY TOPP-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
218. DARRIN & DIANNE PAVEK-In honor of CAROL JOHNSON
219. ALLEN & SHIRLEY LAVANGER
220. JOYCE PFLAUM-In memory of DUANE PFLAUM
221. MARIAN AAKER

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2005

1. HARRY MARTIN-In memory of LEONA WALSTAD MARTIN
2. DONOVAN & JOYCE JOHNSON-In memory of LEONA WALSTAD MARTIN
3. CLIFFORD & RUTH JOHNSON-In memory of LEONA WALSTAD MARTIN
4. CHRIST NELSON
5. THE WILLIAM JOHNSON FAMILY-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
6. JOHN MILLER JR.-In memory of BILL & VERA QUINNELL AND ELMER & AMANDA MILLER
7. MAURICE & CECILE MARCHAND-In memory of MARIUS SAKESRUD & SYNOUVE WESTBY
8. MARILYN HAGEN-In memory of PERCY JOHNSON
9. STEVE & JUDY SWANSON
10. MERLE & MAVIS FOSSUM-In memory of BURTON RUEDY
11. JOYCE PFLAUM-In memory of BURTON RUEDY
12. PAUL FLIGGE-In memory of BURTON RUEDY
13. BRENDA PFLAUM-In memory of BURTON RUEDY
14. AMERICAN EXPRESS FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE GIFT MATCHING PROGRAM-WENDELL HALVERSON (employee)
15. ANN GOLDAPP & ALLISON AND HANNAH GOLDAPP-In honor of HAZEL JOHNSON'S 95th birthday

16. RICHARD & DARLENE MAHOWALD-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
17. DONALD & YVONNE PAVEK-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
18. GREG & PAM LOIDOLT-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
19. CHARLES & HELEN HILL-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
20. MARIAN JOHNSON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
21. GRACE L. PETERSON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
22. DALLAS & MILDRED BERG-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
23. JEAN & DOUGLAS CHURILLA-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
24. JOHN & LUANN ISTA-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
25. BARBARA & ALLEN LENTSCH-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
26. SHERWIN & ELNA HANSEN-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
27. RAMONA PUMPER-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
28. SANDRA VALEK-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
29. ELVAH FOSSUM-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
30. CLIFFORD & RUTH JOHNSON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
31. MR. & MRS. BURTON PETERSON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
32. HAZEL TOPP-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
33. DAVE & NANCY TOPP-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
34. DICK & ROXANNE SIMON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
35. DON & MARGARET PETERSON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
36. PHYLLIS & CLIFFORD ALBERS-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
37. ARLENE & JERRY NYSTUEN-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
38. LUTHER & DORIS BARSNESS-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
39. BEVERLY & DICK HUSSEY-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
40. DELORES HILLE-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
41. MILO & ELOISE QUINNELL-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
42. RON & SHELLEY JOHNSON-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
43. MEL & KATHY LANDWEHR-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
44. LEE & BEV TOPP-In memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
45. STEVE JOHNSON-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
46. MILDRED JOHNSON-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
47. DAVID JOHNSON-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
48. DORIS M. NELSON-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
49. TANYA J.L. MITCHEL-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
50. CAROL JOHNSON-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON
51. ARLISS BOYUM-In Memory of HAZEL JOHNSON

Hope to see you at Syttende Mai
on Sunday, May 15!!

And remember to visit us
on the web at:

www.oldtrondhjem.org

My Contribution to Help Restore Historic Old Trondhjem Church

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please Accept my gift of \$ _____

To be Given
In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

We will gladly send an acknowledgement of your gift to someone you choose, if you would like. Simply write the name and address below, of where you would like an acknowledgement sent.

Return to Trondhjem Community Preservation Society, P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046