

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

**NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LONSDALE, MN
PERMIT NO 39**

Trondhjem Community Preservation Society

Board of Directors

**President - Merle Fossum
Vice President – Ramona Pumper
Secretary – Bonnie Pavek
Treasurer – Deb Simon
Millie Johnson
Dallas Berg
John Fossum
Mildred Johnson
Sandy Valek
Mark Ward**

Committee Chairs

**Maintenance/Repair – Dallas Berg
Museum – Joyce Pflaum
Membership/Nominations – Millie Johnson
Special Events – Sandy Valek
Legal Advisor – Nancy Halvorson Norton
Newsletter Editors – Lee Topp &
Charlene Hamblin**



NOVEMBER, 2008

TRONDHJEM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 259

LONSDALE, MINNESOTA 55046

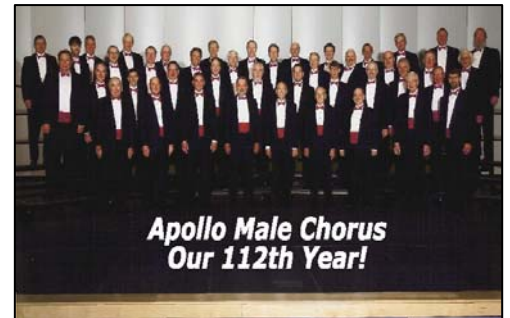
www.trondhjempreservation.org

Greetings from
∪ Old Trondhjem! ∪

Christmas Concert to Feature Apollo Male Chorus, December 14, 2008 at 2:30pm

Trondhjem's Christmas concert will be held on December 14th and will again feature the Apollo Male Chorus of Minneapolis under the direction of Roger Satrang Hoel and accompanied by Nadia Johnson.

The Apollo Male Chorus is one of the oldest continuously performing choruses in the United States and has one of the largest libraries of men's choral music in the world. It is made up of about fifty members. They have performed at Presidential Inaugurations, the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, the World's Fair, Governor Pawlenty's Inauguration, and at the Olympics of Choral Competition- the International Eisteddfodd in Langollen, Wales, in both 1982 and 2000; placing in the top ten on both occasions.



The December 14th concert will be at 2:30 p.m. at the Old Trondhjem Church. Tickets are \$15 and available from Ramona Pumper, at 507-645-8358 and her email address is erlis@charter.net, also Personal Touch Office Office Services 307 Divisin St., Northfield, Minn. Phone 507 645 8811.

Last year all tickets were sold out and people who heard the chorus were really pleased with the performance. The acoustics of the restored church provided an outstanding listening opportunity. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Eve Worship at the Historic Church

Trondhjem Lutheran Church will again celebrate Christmas Eve at the historic church with an 11:00 p.m. worship service. There will be special music, the singing of carols, traditional candle lighting, and Holy Communion. Last year the pump organ was played, and is likely to be played again this year.

It is nice to see our beautifully restored sanctuary used for worship. Trondhjem Lutheran Church invites everyone to share Christmas with them at this special worship on Wednesday, December 24.

IN THIS EDITION OF THE OLD TRONDHJEM NEWSLETTER:

- Christmas Concert, Dec. 14, 2008: The Apollo Male Chorus
- Christmas Eve Worship at Old Trondhjem, Wednesday, December 24, 2008
- News from the President, Merle Fossum
- News & Notes from the Museum & Historical Committee, by Joyce Pflaum
- Recent Contributions to Old Trondhjem

Capital Campaign Update

A Note from the president

Visitors to Old Trondhjem

Quietly, and without announcement, many people visit the old Trondhjem church and cemetery. Most people don't know these things occur so let me tell you about a couple of them. Last summer, while Dallas Berg and I were working on some maintenance at the old church, a man drove up in his rental car. When he got out he introduced himself as a Norwegian writer and researcher. I don't recall his name but he wanted to visit this historic place because he is writing a book to be published in Norway about the emigrants to America from the Trondelag area. He walked through the cemetery and we took him into the church building where he was most fascinated with the photos in the museum. Then in August I received an email from Norway saying that 81 year-old Odd Lyng and his daughter Tove Lisa would be traveling with a tour group across the U.S. They had relatives, Ole and Maren Skauge, who settled in the Trondhjem community in the 1800's and hoped to visit the old church and cemetery. So on Sunday afternoon September 28, my wife Mavis and I drove them down to the church where Joyce Pflaum and Paul Fligge met us. The Lyng's were excited to see the grave markers in the cemetery and photos in the museum of the Skauge family.

In addition, several events such as weddings, family reunions, receptions, and tours were held or will be coming up at the church this year. At burials in the cemetery, the tolling bell in the church adds dignity and beauty to the ceremonies. So even though there is no public announcement of these events, the church gets many uses and is much loved by our visitors.

Finances

With the national economic turmoil this fall, finances are on everyone's minds and that includes Trondhjem Community Preservation Society. When everyone is tightening their belts, many people have less spare money to give to a worthy cause such as ours. Still, we depend on your contributions to pay the bills that keep arriving for heat and lights and insurance, and we hold onto the vision of the capital campaign for a new reception center and museum. We need that for displaying the history of this community and hosting wedding celebrations and family reunions. So, as you consider the gifts you will make this year, please remember that Old Trondhjem Church depends upon your generosity to pay our bills and to grow.

In addition, I want you to know that we, on the board of directors, take the responsibility of managing the treasury as an honor and a trust. The funds that you have contributed toward the capital campaign have always been managed in the most conservative ways. They are earning interest in CD's and money market funds with federally guaranteed insurance and not subject to the rise or fall of the stock market.

New Board Members

Two new members have joined our board of directors since the last newsletter. Mark Ward was elected to the board at the annual meeting in May and John Fossum accepted appointment by action of the board to fill the remaining vacancy. They both bring useful talents and enthusiasm for the work of old Trondhjem and we know their volunteer time and energy will help move our work forward.

Merle Fossum, President

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Submitted by Joyce Fossum Pflaum

The wonderful fall weather has given our committee energy to continue work in creating photo and artifact displays. John Lindell, an exhibit designer with the Minnesota Historical Society, has been very faithful in joining us on a regular basis and guiding us in this project. We are working toward a new historical exhibit for

all to enjoy. We would very much like to have a new member join us – no experience needed as you will get on-the-job training.

I spent some time looking back at events in this community 100 years ago – the year 1908. It was a sad year in Trondhjem and the surrounding area as there were many deaths.

- Miss Emma Valstra (Walstad) died in January of consumption (TB).

- Carl Hanson died in February. He was the sixth of one of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hanson to die of consumption.

- William Magnuson also died in February at 42 years of age. He was survived by his wife and seven children.

- On March 21, Mrs. Gunrus Thornby died. She had an attack of pneumonia which settled into dropsy and caused her death at age 75.

- Mr. Amund Fossum also died on March 21 at age 78. The newspaper states he died after a long illness, but the oral family history adds that in the cold spring weather, he went to water some cattle, slipped into a ditch of cold water and then got pneumonia that was the immediate cause of his death.

- An August newspaper article says: “Sad were the tolls of the church bells that rang here when Hulda, the 13 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.O. Berg was laid to rest. She was ill but a few days with spinal meningitis.”

There were also some enjoyable events.

During the Christmas and New Years holiday many social events were held, many on an annual basis. There was a Christmas tree (Christmas program) at the Stordal school house (known as Dagen’s Temple or a church day school) on Christmas Eve, and another at the Trondhjem church on December 26.

The Trondhjem west Ladies Aid Society served a mission fest at Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Berg’s home, and the east society served one at Stordahl’s school house.

NOTE: Trondhjem Church traditionally held their “Christmas Tree” on December 26, the second day of Christmas. This is a national holiday in Norway. It was such an exciting time. The choir and the children would practice faithfully on December Sunday afternoons. Can you imagine the young children coming to the church that evening all dressed up in their “Sunday best” clothes – usually only one or two outfits hanging in the closet to choose from? Excitement was in the air! I can tell what it was like in the 1940’s. The large, round heater/furnace was stoked with wood to heat the church. All of the pews and added chairs were filled with people who came from miles around. There were chairs set up all around the altar area for the choir members. The children sat in the front rows eagerly and nervously waiting for the program to start as each one would have a “piece” to recite. Finally, it was 8 o’clock, the church bells rang, and the choir and children all stood up in front to begin the program by singing a song

Together, probably “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful”. The program proceeded with songs, recitations, etc., and ended with everyone singing “Silent Night”. Now came the exciting part. All the children in attendance, choir members, and usually the older bachelors would receive a small brown bag of hard candy, chocolate drops, and peanuts (and often it was all stuck together from the hard candy as it had been packaged the Sunday before by the choir members after practice). Everyone in attendance received a nice, Red Delicious apple. The large Christmas tree stood inside the semi-circular altar railing. Many people brought gifts and put them around the tree. In our family, the aunts, uncles, and cousins drew names on Thanksgiving. We brought our gifts to the “Christmas Tree” to be exchanged. The lady choir members handed out the gifts while the men distributed the apples and bags of candy. We always had a gift waiting for us to add to the evening’s excitement. Many families that lived near the church invited guests to their homes for coffee and goodies after the program. What an exciting evening to look forward to each year!

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Capitol Campaign

Naomi Quinnell
Sherwin & Elna Hansen (In Honor of Rev
Torbjorn & Hansena Hansen & Eddie &
Helen Halverson)
Dallas & Millie Berg
Adam Wernick & Thyra Fossum

General Donations

Chris Nelson
Val Kucera
Joe & Lorna Docken
Mr & Mrs Dale Quist
Robert & Berit Anfinson
Evelyn Horwath
Duane Fancher
Arlen Kvidt
Lynn Draheim
David & Ardis Asp

In Memory of Arlene Quinnell Benson

George Gondy
Hazel Flom
Lyla Arneson
Larry Benson
Sedona Miller
Mary & Kevin Anderson
Milo & Eloise Quinnell
Scott & Lisa Flom
Ramona Pumper
Bette Quinnell
Jeff Quinnell
Brett & Bonnie Quinnell
Sherwin & Elna Hansen
Joyce Pflaum
Janice Rappe
Naomi Quinnell
Don Quinnell

In Memory of Delores Berg

Mark & Lynn Berg
Doris Husbyn
David & Sheryl Hill
Ron Berg
Sondra Berg Jensen
T. Barbara Berg

In Honor of Clifford & Ruth Johnson

Keith and Cheryl Huson

In Memory of Delores Berg

Rosylyn & Robert Hjermsstad
Dallas & Millie Berg
Ardis Wilson

In Memory of Palmer Fossum

Bette Quinnell
Don Quinnell
Sherwin & Elna Hansen
Jan & Peter Rappe
Naomi Quinnell

In Memory of Caroline Hagen

Don Quinnell
Arlene & Les Benson
Bette Quinnell
Naomi Quinnell

In Memory of Floyd Johnson

Carol Johnson
Deb & Dale Simon

In Memory of John & Johanna Gorder

Warren Velenchenko

In Memory of Gordon Halverson

Maxine Halveron

In Memory of Duane Pflaum

Steve & Sandy Lee

In Memory of Joan Burrill

Ardis Wilson
Doris Husbyn

In Memory of Lyda Nelson

Stanley Nelson

In Memory of Louis & Olla Fossum

Doug & Pat Fossum

In Memory of Mary Cannons

Charles & Mary Cannons

In Memory of Norman Sevcik

Sherwin & Elna Hansen

In Memory of Wonderful Trondhjem People

Al & Betty Thorpe

In Memory of Mens & Edna Berg

Doris Husbyn

Ardis Wilson

Dallas & Millie Berg

In Memory of Eddie & Helen Halverson

Arvid & Gloria Boyum

In Memory of Loved Ones

Rev Gene & Margaret Hegland

In Memory of Daniel & Emilie Berg

Palmer & Elsie Berg

In Memory of Joyce Bergh, Beulah Bergh Tomkins & Kieth Berg BerghTomkins

Emil Quinnell Family (Cousins)

In Memory of Ralph Arneson

Naomi Quinnell

Jan & Peter Rappe

Kaia Emerson Pelstring

David & Ardis Asp

Joe & Lorna Docken

Ramona Pumper

Rev Gene & Margaret Heglund

Elvah Fossum

Lyla Arneson

Alvin & Eunice Johnson

Beverly McGill

Don Quinnell

David & Nancy Topp

Lori Peterson

Jennifer Vogan

Al & Barb Lentsch

Erling & Joyce Kinden

Arvid & Gloria Boyum

Allan & Randa Vogan

Sedona Miller

Darrell & Arlys Wiese

David & Judy Saxerud

In Honor of Alvin & Eunice Johnson

Phillip Johnson

In Honor of Elvah Fossum

Reinold & Lorraine Lemke

Susan & Ray Schwartz, Ryan, Brook,

Taylor

In Honor of Joyce Rud & Lester Rud Birthdays

Lester & Joyce Rud

Joyce Pflaum & Paul Fligge

In Honor of Sherwin & Elna Hansen

Mr & Mrs James Legros

In Memory of Renay T Olson

Doris Husbyn

In Memory of Carol Johnson

Don & Bonnie Pavek

Chuck Lunder

Alice Kline

Myrtle Hagen & Alice Gardner

Ben & Patricia Rezac

Orville & Edyth Peterson

Dr Timothy & Debra Baldwin

Ruth Johnson, Brian & Jenna Eckholm

**We hope to see you at the
Christmas Concert on
Sunday, December 14!!**

**And remember to visit us
on the web at:**

www.trondhjempreservation.org

My Contribution to Help Restore Historic 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