



North Sidney Messenger

**MAY 2012 NORTH SIDNEY MESSENGER
No. 34**

This is Newsletter No. 34. North Sidney Messenger is sent to you once a year to bring you news since last Memorial Day to present time. If you are a first-time reader of the letter, we say “**WELCOME**”. Thank you to long-time readers for your continued support and interest.

North Sidney Church and Cemetery Historical Association is registered with the State of Michigan as a non-profit organization. Our purpose is to take care of the church and cemetery and to preserve it for future generations. Membership can be either by paying dues yearly of \$2.00 per year after the first fee of \$10.00 is paid or life membership of \$50 per person and is a one-time fee which is much easier. Dues are used for newsletter, postage and other general up-keep expenses. Cemetery up-keep is partially paid from the Perpetual Care Fund. If a lot has no perpetual care fund, a special fee is paid. If your lot is not under perpetual care you might want to consider it, one payment and you are done.

Please check out the North Sidney Church and Cemetery Historical Association website www.northsidney.com. There are links to other sites as well as information on how to purchase books and become a member. The newsletter will also be posted so if you have an email address and would like the information from the website instead of mailing the letter please let us know. If you have ideas on how to improve it or information that could be added, just send Krista a note. Also, if you have any news or information that you would like to share for next year's newsletter just send us a note or email.

If you know of someone that would enjoy the newsletter and currently doesn't receive it, let one of the officers know and we will make it happen. Also, if your address has changed, make sure we get updated information so our postage expenses aren't wasted with returns.

I would like to thank everyone who made donations to the North Sidney Church & Cemetery Historical Association over the last year. The last several years due to the low interest rates, the Perpetual Care interest of \$104 that we receive barely pays for one mowing. This fund used to cover the cost of the mowing and trimming each summer. Keep the donations coming!

Over the last year we have lost the following loved ones: Ruth Campbell; James Perry; Talin Addis; Richard Thomas; Marian Ek; David Rydahl; Howard Petersen; Aleta Mae Martin and Marguerite Thompson. Thank you to everyone who sent donations to North Sidney in memory of your friends and loved ones. Donations were received in memory of Ruth Campbell, Richard Thomas, The Schroder Family and in honor of Lee and NataLou Hansen.

A special thanks goes to the family of Marguerite Thompson. Marguerite was one of our original founding members. She left in her will a generous donation of \$5,000 to the North Sidney Church and Cemetery Association. Part of her donation was used to purchase a new sound system and CD's. Come prior to the Memorial Day service and when the Church is open before Memorial Day and enjoy the music.

COOKIN' CORNER

Ginger Ale Salad (In memory of Marguerite Thompson)

1 pkg. lime Jello	1/4 c. maraschino cherries
1 c. hot water	1/4 c. chunk pineapple
1 c. ginger ale	1/4 c. celery
1/4 c. chopped nuts	1/4 c. chopped apples

Dissolve Jello in hot water and add ginger ale and remaining ingredients. Any other fruit you like may be added. Put in refrigerator until set.

Did you know?

Dannebrog Lutheran Church The Dannebrog Lutheran Church on Muskrat Road in Sidney had its beginnings under Pastor Ole Amble. About 1879 The Little Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Montcalm County was divided into three districts or parishes. They were St. Petri's or Little Settlement, Little Denmark or Big Settlement and Dannebrog. Later Dannebrog divided and the northern part of the parish became St. John's parish or North Sidney. St. John's church was built in 1884. Services at Dannebrog continued to be held in Fuller School until 1888 when a church was built. Trinity met first in the Montcalm Grange in Greenville. In 1950 they purchased a site on Baldwin Street. In 1965 Dannebrog voted not to merge with North Sidney and Immanuel of Sidney. They however ceased having services except for Memorial services. The Church is also known as Amble Memorial Church and is still used for weddings and special events. South Sidney also has a cemetery around the church building. Many of our Danish families are buried there. (This information appears in the North Sidney Area book).

Please plan on attending the Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 28th. Final plans will be made at the Annual Meeting on May 9th. The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Church. The Memorial Day Service will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Luke Dudenhofer has again agreed to deliver this year's message. Luke and his wife Melissa grew up in the Stanton/Sidney area and now live in Chicago. Luke is pastor of the New Life Community Church in the Bridgeport neighborhood and they have three children, Josiah Wesley, Titus Charles and Ethni Aniah Rose.

When you visit the Church please check out the "Heritage Wall". There are many pictures of previous year's services as well as from the past. See how many faces you recognize!

We still have copies of the North Sidney Area 1884-1984 book. There is much information on the Sidney area and families in the area. Contact Jennifer Thomsen or pick one up at the Church on Memorial Day. You can also print order forms from the website.

MEMORIES OF SIDNEY FROM A CITY SLICKER

My name is Jill Haley-Leach and my parents were Dan and Tulle Haley originally from Chicago, Illinois. I spend the first six years of my life in Chicago and when I was 6 we moved to Lombard (a suburb 20 miles west of Chicago). I was blessed with good parents and a loving family and had what I consider a normal childhood. Having been raised in the 1950's, I wasn't faced with as many social pressures as today's youth and for that I'm grateful. Once school let out for the summer I spent time bike riding, playing baseball, roller skating, swimming (during the day☺) and other outdoor activities. I didn't dare say I was bored as my mother soon found something for me to do and it wasn't usually to my liking. I know this routine wasn't the same for children who lived on a working farm, but it was, however, typical for a child growing up in a suburb of a large metropolitan city. OK, I admit it; we were spoiled! Every summer for me was basically the same with the exception of two weeks every July.

These two weeks were spent with Hugh and Rose Ellen Thomsen and sons, Martin, Clare, Wesley and Dan on their Grow Road farm. How did this come about? It's really quite simple if you can follow the genealogical bouncing ball. Rose Ellen (Jensen) Thomsen was born in Chicago and spent many summers as a young girl along with her sister Marguerite and brother, Gordon in Sidney. Rose Ellen fell in love with Hugh Thomsen and she moved to Sidney when they married in 1942. Rose Ellen's sister, Marguerite (Jensen) was married to Jim Klingenberg who was a brother to my mother, Dolores (Tulle) Haley. Even though we're not related, Martin, Clare, Wes, Dan Thomsen and I share an aunt and uncle. Marguerite and Jim lived in Sidney for a short while in the early 1940's while Jim worked at Gibson Refrigerator. My parents, Dan and Dolores (Tulle) Haley visited them while they were in Sidney. My father always loved the soil and raised many vegetable gardens, including one on a small plot in Chicago. He also raised chickens as a small child in a Chicago suburb.

Jim and Marguerite moved back to Chicago. My parents became good friends with Hugh and Rose Ellen and spent my dad's yearly two week vacation on the Thomsen farm for several years. Originally we came as a family of six, my parents and four children; Dorree, Danny, Jack and Jill. Because there was no expressways in the 40's or 50's, we traveled along Lake Michigan and I think the trip took us between 6-8 hours, all without the benefit of power steering, power brakes, automatic transmission, air conditioning, radio, CD Player, I-Pod, or an MP-3 Player. Our chariot was a 1935 Plymouth named Betsy – yes she had a name and we were proud of her while she ran. Dorree, Danny and Jack were several years older than me and eventually flew from the nest. Jack did, however, spend some time alone working with the Thomsen men on the Farm during the summer. I also spent some time alone on the farm as a teen ager, but I don't think I was as much help to Rose Ellen as Jack was to the men. I was probably day dreaming about Elvis, Ricky Nelson and every cute boy I saw.

My dad loved working with the land and with the animals. When we would turn the corner onto Grow Road, my dad and I would sigh at the aroma coming from the barnyard and my mother would say, "Ugh". Now you have to remember, my mother was a city girl through and through. We didn't have pets (other than a parakeet) and my dad went off to work each morning with a lunch box. She wasn't used to fixing three big meals a day along with the numerous

chores of a farm wife. While my dad was excited about farm life and enjoyed the work, my mother was less than thrilled. Now, don't get me wrong; she did enjoy the visits, laughter and fellowship.

I thoroughly enjoyed my vacations in Montcalm County and I was the envy of all my Illinois friends when I bragged about spending two weeks at "the farm"! Sidney and the people from there hold a special place in my heart and always will.

Looking back, we had the best sleeping quarters in the house during those hot summer nights. The windows on the front porch provided night breezes to cool us and the peaceful sound of rustling leaves.

I was a gullible kid and a lot of fun was had at my expense, like the time Hugh convinced me chocolate milk came from brown cows. Made sense to me! Here are a few things this city slicker kid tried along with the Thomsen boys: jumping barefoot from cow pie to cow pie and the fresher (and warmer) they were the better; timing the electric fence to grab it without getting a shock, climbing on the hay bales in the barn, riding shotgun on the fender of the tractor while Martin drove – ok, so there was no gun! I rode horse back for the first time in their yard. Well, actually, I sat on the horse while it was being led around the yard. I also did this at Roy and Evelyn Pritchard's place. They were great folks. As I think back, we kids didn't have much time to get into mischief as the boys were busy most of the day doing chores. I remember teasing to go swimming and Hugh finally said we could. I was so excited and anxiously waited until it was almost time to go to bed. Of course, chores had to be done first, but we did get about half an hour or so at Fish Lake to cool off. See I told you we city kids were spoiled.

I did make some other friends I spent time with and remember spending a day with Phyllis and Wayne Johnson at their farm. They had a pond dug in front of the house where Phyllis and I swam and splashed. They also had a hay mow in their barn into which we jumped from a rafter. It was thrilling and fun. I also spent some time with Jane Clock. Her brother, Ron, took us water skiing one day. It was the only time I was on skis, so it was a good thing I made it to my feet! I also remember spending some time with Linda Thomsen and Kay Petersen.

It was always fun to stop at Grandpa and Grandma (Pete and Tena) Thomsen's home. The coffee pot was brewing and there were drinks for the young-uns and Grandma usually had home baked cookies which were delicious. And how could I ever forget the cook outs at Aunt Harriet and Uncle Clarence Olson's (and son Albern) farm. Clarence's home built outdoor grill made the best burgers ever. Even though it was more work for the women, the side dishes i.e. potato salad, coleslaw, pasta salad, gelatin salad, etc. were far superior to what you can purchase today from the local supermarkets.

My first ice cream social was in Sidney a few miles west of Grow Road at the old parsonage. The ice cream was home churned and yummy. I also went to a Thomsen family reunion. Even though it wasn't my family it was a first reunion for me.

I'm sure many of my Illinois friends never got the experience of the openness of farm land, the sound of the trees swaying in the breeze while in bed or the sound of the birds waking you up in the morning. How many of them could walk about 90 feet and into the barn with cows being milked and young calves being fed. And, what about walking barefoot in a fresh cow pie! Wouldn't want to do it now, but in 1955 it was heaven.

Spending time in Sidney during the summer is partially why I now live in Michigan and started singing. My parents purchased 40 acres on Thompson Road across from Hugh and Rose Ellen and moved there in 1965. I moved up in 1966 with my daughter and started singing in the choir at Faith Lutheran's original church with Carol Pederson as the Choir Director. One week she

looked up and said “would you sing a solo on the second verse of the hymn”. I turned around to see who was sitting behind me and there was no one. I turned back to her and mouthed the word “me” and haven’t been able to keep my mouth shut since. I also got a job at the Greenville Daily News where I met my husband, Hugh Leach. We’ll be married 44 years this August. We’ve lived in Mason for 43 years and Hugh retired 4 years ago from the Lansing State Journal. Everyone I have met in Sidney, Stanton and the surrounding area have shown me so much warmth and love and I thank all of you. I have over 60 years (yikes) of wonderful memories that can never be taken from me!

I want to thank Marilyn Thomsen for giving me this opportunity to express my thoughts about the people and times spent in and around Sidney. Special thanks and love go to Rose Ellen Thomsen, her sons, Martin, Clare, Wes, Dan; their wives and families for all the memories and good times we’ve shared through the years.

If anyone else has memories that you would like to share in the Newsletter please let me know.

The officers and their addresses are listed on the last page of this letter. Please send dues or donations to Jennifer Thomsen, Treasurer. Due to the increase in the cost of stamps receipts will no longer be sent if you pay dues by check. Donations will be recognized.

The cemetery is being taken care of by a professional lawn service. Jon Kooi has done an excellent job the last few years for us. If you have any concerns about your lot care contact Wes Thomsen and he will contact Jon.

Please remember and pray for all of our men and women serving in the military. May they all return soon. Flags are placed on the grave of Veterans each year. A special thanks to Sidney Township for furnishing the flags and John and Lillian Christophersen for placing them on the grave sites.

The week prior to Memorial Day we are looking for volunteers to spend a few hours to keep the church open and greet visitors. Please let Jennifer Thomsen or myself know if you are willing to do this, so we can make sure the church will be unlocked. Thank you to the members that volunteered last spring.

As I close for another year, I want to thank everyone who assists with keeping the Association running smoothly whether it is with donations, volunteering to help during Memorial Day week, bringing cookies to share or helping with clean up. Thanks to all who attend the Memorial Day Service and hope to see you Memorial Day.

Marilyn Thomsen
Secretary

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NORTH SIDNEY CHURCH AND CEMETERY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Memorial Day Service, May 28, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Fall Meeting, September 12, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Spring Meeting, May 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

North Sidney Church & Historical Association
P.O. Box 202
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