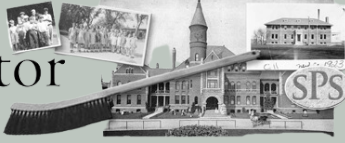


The
Radiator
Brush



ORPHANAGE MUSEUM

CHILDREN'S CEMETERY VISIT INSPIRES STONE CLEANING PROJECT

This summer Tim Shea and Linda Donadei made a trip from the Cities to explore Owatonna. One of their stops was at the Orphanage Museum. When they walked through the Children's Cemetery, they were overcome with the desire to do something for the resting children. Of the 198 children buried there, most were buried with just their case file number. Shortly after the Museum was organized, all 151 of those graves received a marker with the child's name on it.

The original 47 tombstones are showing their age with lichen hiding children's names and dates. Tim wrote to us offering their services to undertake the task, saying they would follow the protocols used at Arlington National Cemetery.



The City of Owatonna, which owns the property, gave its blessing and the project began on September 10.

Tim and Linda join Marie and Mike Miskovich as volunteer caretakers of the Children's Cemetery. Their only connection to the State School is a desire to honor the children. Thank you for helping keep the children's names visible to the public.

FALL CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who came to this year's Fall Celebration. New this year was an oral history booth. SCHS's Archives and Collections Manager, Amy Lowery, captured four oral histories from State Schoolers and their descendants.

Pictured is Amy interviewing former State Public Schooler, Conrad Heusinkveld.



FINDING OSCAR ARTHUR KOSTAMO BY ANNE PETERSON, MUSEUM MANAGER

"He Wanted To See His Mother little State School Boy Starts on Long Trip for Home He Walked to Waseca Where He Was Apprehended" This newspaper headline from 1910 really captured my curiosity. The little runaway was identified as 12-year-old Oscar Kostamo, who recently joined two sisters and a brother at the State School. He had walked the railroad tracks all the way to Waseca (about 13 miles). A kindly depot agent fed him and listened to his story. He also notified the State School of Oscar's whereabouts. The article finished this way: "An officer from the state school came up on the evening train to take him back and as the kid with quivering lips stepped aboard the train, he realized his chances of seeing his mother had gone glimmering."

Was Oscar ever reunited with his mother? I wanted to find out, so I began to search in Ancestry. I did discover that the little brother, Edwin, died at the State School in 1911 and was buried in the Children's Cemetery. Oscar was placed out on a farm near Fridley, where he remained until he turned 18 in 1915.

KOSTIMO - ARTHUR		Number
Admitted	7-22-10	From St. Louis County
Born	12-26-1897	In
Father	John Kostimo	Residence Biwabik
Character		
Mother	Josephine Kostimo	Residence Biwabik
Character		
Brothers	Edwin #4035	
Sisters	Lilly #3981 Lina #4036 Sarimo #4037	
Placed	5-13-11 With E. J. Bremer	At Fridley Ref'd.
	Attained Majority	

The next record I found for Oscar was in 1917 when he registered for the World War I draft. His father was listed as Next of Kin on the form, but I have not been able to find out what happened to his mother or sisters.

Oscar served in the Army and was honorably discharged in March 1921. I hoped the next document I'd uncover would be a marriage record. Unfortunately, I found his name on Find a Grave. There was no death record filed with the county, but a researcher sent me his obituary. He died in a hunting accident in November 1921, when he was just 23 years old. He was buried in Trout Lake Finnish Cemetery in an unmarked grave. That was not the ending I hoped for.

However, there was still one last thing we could try to do for Oscar Kostamo—more than 100 years after his death. We shared Oscar's story with the Itasca County Veterans Service Office and they completed the necessary paperwork to order an official military grave marker. The application was approved and the marker will be in place "by the time the snow flies."

Our thanks go to the Itasca County Historical Society and Itasca County Veterans Service Office for its assistance finding Oscar.

LEGACIES, MEMORIALS, AND DONATIONS

LEGACIES

The Legacy Funds enable members and friends of the Society and the Orphanage Museum to build a heritage of support for the generations to come. Supporting these funds with gifts apart from regular giving is one of the best ways to ensure that our mission and vision thrive for years to come.

SCHS LEGACY FUND

Current Level: \$1,169,127.04

Recent Donors:

- David & Rita Goodnature
- Myra Theimer, Memorial for Jean Zamboni
- Leroy & Judy Svenby

CHILDREN REMEMBERED LEGACY FUND

Current level: \$105,740.35

Recent Donors:

- Janet Mealy
- Joan Claire Graham
- Memorials in honor of Rob Ronglien

DONATIONS

SCHS:

Sheryl Keith in honor of Sharon West's Birthday.

Keith & Carol Holman in honor of Jerry Ganfield.

- SCHS will post a complete list of this year's donations in the Annual Report.

Orphanage Museum:

Phyllis Urch

Skorich Family

Pat Geditz

Sara Loose

Sharon Jones

Kim Dobbs

Marvin Denny- in appreciation of Anne Peterson

Marie & Mike Miskovich- Children's Cemetery Christmas

Michelle Monson- in honor of Tom Bonacci

Dora & Candy Eller

Janet Mohan

Loo Christensen

SCHS AND ORPHANAGE MUSEUM MEMORIALS

SCHS:

- Mark Rasmussen in memory of Luella Abraham, Doris Kriesel, and Marian Rasmussen
- Joan M. Nordquist in memory of Tom Baldwin and Lester Keck
- Bill & Jody Hartle in memory of Elde Kretlow
- Jim & Jo Hartle in memory of Diane Henry, Barb Kerkvliet, and Elaine Rollins
- Darwin & Barb Kasper and Jim & Jo Hartle in memory of Gene Keller
- Darlene Schmidt in memory of Jon Ann Kent
- Ringhofer Insurance in memory of Frank Manderfeld
- Berniece Schroht, Darwin & Barb Kasper in memory of Mike Pierce
- Lloyd & Jackie Kaplan in memory of Victor Stenzel
- David & Jean Krause in memory of Marjorie Zimmerman
- Breanna Wheeler and Jerry Ganfield in memory of Joel Boerner
- Memorials in memory of Don Ringhofer: Barbara Schmidt; Berniece Schroht; Jim & Jo Hartle; Mary & Ron Seykora; Don & Maxine Antl; Dan & Karen Pirkli; LeRoy & Judy Pike; Alan & Linda Rhoades; Ardis Woods; Tom & Jane Kubista; Kay Wagner; Dean & Rhonda Hartle; Chuck & Susan Grubish; Jim & Connie Skalicky; Will & Carol Hilpert; Joel & Andrea Berg; Michelle, Jenny, & Zach Waddell; Mary Vaith; Scott & Brenda Blood; Jeffrey & Juli Wanous; Bill & Jody Hartle; Vilnis & Joanne Giga; Richard Haberman; Bruce & Elaine Barrett; Charles & Sandra Hoglin; John & Lylia Iverson; and Leonard & Shirley Jenó.
- Memorials in memory of Mary Jean Zamboni: Ken & Rosie Henricksen; David & Jean Krause; MaryAnne Higgins; Lloyd & Jackie Kaplan; Curtis & Judith Johnson; Sandra J. Anderson; Lonna Lynse; Gary & Diane Wilson; Laura & Todd Resler; Mary Larson; John & Cheryl Pfeifer; and Gayle Theier.

AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

MEMORIALS CONTINUED:

Orphanage Museum:

- Anne Peterson in memory of Marlene Morsching
- Jyl, David, Maloree & Owen Davis in memory of Oryle Davis
- Darwin & Janet Tietgen in memory of Glen Dalaiden
- The following memorials were given in memory of Rob Ronglien towards the Children Remembered Legacy Fund. Lisa Hoeper, Larry & Shelly Hutchins, Laurie Johnson, Richard & Karen Knutson, Barry Peterson, Richard & Nancy Scheffer, Stephanie Staebell, Tom & Linda Zurn, and Deb Ronglien.

WORD OF DECEASED STATE SCHOOLERS

Glen Dalaiden
Raleigh Obenchain
Lucile Mae Andrus (2021)



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jerry Lewison has been a volunteer at SCHS since 2006. He was born and raised on a farm south of Owatonna and has an interest in sharing rural farm history. Jerry was an Owatonna Volunteer Fire Fighter for 31 years and was a lineman at Steele Waseca Coop for 39 1/2 years. Jerry has held several terms on the SCHS Board of Directors; he has helped with displays in the Fire Hall and the Farm Machinery Building; and been the head of the Campus Building and Grounds Committee. He has helped to install boardwalk planks in the Village of Yesteryear and is currently on the Capital Campaign for the Service Bay. Jerry is always willing to give of his time moving historic cars and helping with the Steele County Fair in the Village of Yesteryear.



MaryAnne, Jerry G., and Jerry Lewison, at the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July Parade.

MEMBERSHIP

The Steele County Historical Society has much to offer its members. Membership forms are available online from the SCHS website or simply mail in or drop off the Membership form. Benefits of a SCHS membership include the following: free or reduced admission to events, programs, lectures and workshops; advanced notification of current programming and events; quarterly newsletter with informative stories about Steele County history; advanced notification through email of current programming and events; and receive benefits and privileges in the national "Time Travelers" Program.

NEW MEMBERS

Gary & Carla Albright
Donna Dube
Joan Kaiser
Laurel Kruckeberg
Jon & Cindy Olsen
William Nespor
Jerome & Kristin Thiele
Andrew & Stephanie Weiss
Wendell & Diane Englestad

GIFT SHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Honor your SPS roots or show your SCHS support with removeable decals. Four styles to choose from. Decals are available at the History Center and Orphanage Museum gift shops for **\$3 each**.

