



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society, Ada, Minnesota

Sharpe School in Shelly Township

Sharpe School, or District #14, was the first school organized in Shelly Township. The school was established in 1879 as a Polk County School before the formation of either Norman County or the Village of Shelly. In 1879, Shelly was eighteen years away from being platted as a village.

Sharpe School was located on Section 19 of Shelly Township. The rural school was initially built on the west side of what would become old

Highway 81, the major roadway between Moorhead and Crookston, before the construction of Highway 75. The original site was about one mile southeast of the future Village of Shelly, near the Marsh River.

The following is a report from *The History of School District #14 until the Organizing of School District #81, Shelly, Minnesota* written by Taylor Efteland, Clerk of Common School District #81, Norman County, MN.

"In 1879, School District #14, later known as Sharpe School, was organized. The school board members were: Lars Mauritson, director; J. T. Redland, clerk; and A. Thompson, treasurer. No school was held during the year, but taxes were collected, probably from licenses and fines. The total tax collection for the year ending September 1 was \$45.40.

In 1880, John S. Anderson was the first teacher.

Continued on page 2

In This Issue:

Sharpe School in Shelly Township – Pages 1 and 2

Unlabeled Photographs – Pages 1 and 3

Students in School District #14 – 1898/1899 – Page 2

Genealogy Research News – Page 3

About Our Organization – Page 4

Unlabeled Photographs

What a tragedy it is to browse family archives and antique shops and discover unlabeled photos.

In my family, there are some pictures that aren't labeled. I often peer at the archives noticing similarities to living relatives.

Time is precious and we all neglect to label pictures, but doing so leaves a legacy, so take the time to do it.

So what do you do with unlabeled pictures? In

frustration, many people end up giving them to antique shops. But before discarding these possible treasures, learn more about them. The clue to identification lies in the style, the size, the subject, and the photographer.

First, digitize and share. Your cousin or even a seeming stranger may be able to help. And share both sides of the photograph, since some identifiers are on the back.

Another reason for sharing has to do with

accidents and natural disasters. We are all aware of Hurricane Katrina's destruction, but many do not realize that one-of-a-kind photographs in the New Orleans archives were lost. Don't make that mistake in your town.

If you find labeled photos in shops, be an angel and post the discovery on a RootsWeb surname board.

Continued on page 3

Students in School District #14 – 1898/1899

SOUVENIR

School District No. 14
Norman County, Minn.
Sept. 5, '98 – Feb. 5, '99

Presented by
R. G. Batlen, Teacher

School Board
J. T. Redland, Director
M. Arneson, Clerk
T. P. Sharpe, Treasurer

PUPILS

Annie Torkelson
Millard Arneson
Stella Redland
Palmer Sharpe
Tubal Torkelson
Marie Oien
Peter Ojen
Henry Arneson
Willie Brurud
Oscar Torkelson

Carrie Dahl
Tora Ojen
Sigrid Ojen
Henry Ojen
Carl Ojen
Tenny Redland
Leonard Arneson
Rubin Redland
Miren Moritson
Richard Arneson
Clarence Arneson

*Motto: "Nothing gained
without work"*

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Sharpe School in Shelly Township

(Continued from Page 1)

His salary was \$49. He taught in the homes of the early pioneers who had school-age children.

September 22, 1881, two hundred dollars of school bonds were sold. Furman Bish was hired as a teacher with a salary of \$78. He was still teaching in the farm homes.

A school building was built in Section 19 on the west side of what would later become State Highway #81. The cost of materials for the school was \$123.67 and Hans Kolbo was paid \$61.50 for construction of the building. B.M. Oien became the treasurer of the school board. The other members remained the same.

In 1882, Ole Skor became the first teacher in the new school building. He received a salary of \$90 for a term of five

months.

In 1883, A. Aanenson was hired to teach for a five-month term for \$100. The \$200 school bonds were paid and also an interest of \$49.15 on the bonds. A. Thompson was now treasurer of the school board.

In 1884, A. Aanenson received a salary of \$140 for a five-month term. P. J. Efteland was treasurer.

In 1886, J. E. Murphy was hired as the teacher but Clara Gordon finished out the term. Their total salary was \$160.

In 1887, J. M. Malnun received \$160 for teaching five months. John Pederson was treasurer of the school board.

In 1888, A. Aanenson's salary was \$160 for teaching five months. Eight hundred dollars in school bonds were sold.

In 1889, A. Aanenson's salary increased to \$200 for a five-month term.

In December, the school building was moved to Section 24 in Little Shelly Township. J. P. Sharpe and C. J. Skavdahl were paid \$48 for moving the building.

A new school building was built in Section 19 on land owned by P. J. Efteland. C. J. Skavdahl built the new school building and was paid \$110 for labor. The cost of the materials was \$625.45.

Both schools operated as School District #14 until July 8, 1895 when District #81, Jefferson School, was organized. At that time, the money and school equipment were divided between the two schools."

Excerpt from: This Is Our Story – Shelly, Minnesota – 1897-1997

"The cost of materials for the school was \$123.67 and Hans Kolbo was paid \$61.50 for construction of the building."

Unlabeled Photographs (Continued from Page 1)

To identify pictures, try the following:

1. Determine the photographer. Some traveled, but most worked in studios that may be labeled on the picture. If a photo was taken out of town, note family events (weddings, funerals, etc.) that may have coincided.

2. Identify the image type or photographic process. Do this by measuring the object and observing the image details and the frame. Each photograph type had its own characteristics.

3. Examine the subject's dress, hair, and demeanor. Note hats, sleeves (e.g., puffy or straight), collars (e.g., thin or wide), hats, scarves, and other items. Even hairstyles are clues. Compare clothing and props to costume encyclopedias to narrow the time frame.

4. Watch for jewelry

trends. Brooches and other items could have been inherited, so are only an indicator of a "not before" time, but fads and trends are useful indicators. For example, horseshoe-shaped brooches came into vogue in 1870-80, and ostrich feathers in hats emerged in photographs around the late 1890s.

5. Look for stamps and other identifying marks. In the U.S., a stamp narrows the time frame to 1 August 1864 to 1 August 1866, when they were required by law.

After determining details, wash your hands, then label the photo with an acid-free pen or pencil, and store it in an archival or Mylar sleeve.

And promise that you will never, ever write on the back of the photo directly behind a person. Normal pens have acid, and over time will bleed. In addition,

the force of the implement will imprint the image.

A better method is to pre-label the outside of a storage container. Insert the picture and never touch it again. Keep it away from heat and light and store it in a cool place. Kodak recommends storage in a dark room at 75 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, with 30 to 50 percent humidity.

Avoid basements, attics, and the garage. Using your coolest interior room with good ventilation and few temperature changes is probably a good choice.

For more information on identifying old photos, check out "Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs," by Karen Frisch-Ripley.

You can purchase it from the RootsWeb Store: <http://www.therootswebstore.com>

"And promise that you will never, ever write on the back of the photo directly behind a person."

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 03 October 2007, Vol. 10, No. 40.

Genealogy Research News

The United Kingdom National Archives (England) holds 5,000 registers for nonconformist (not conforming to the Church of England) congregations. These registers contain birth, marriage, and death information for thousands of individuals from 1567-1840. Records are from Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Protestant Dissenter, Independent, and some Roman Catholic communities. To read more about the new database, visit:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/172.htm>

To search the registers, visit: <http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk>

Now, you can search the "New York Times" for articles from 1851 to the present and view those from 1851-1922 (in the public domain) and from 1981-1987, for free. To visit the "New York Times" Online Archives:

<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 10 October 2007, Vol. 10, No. 41.

Prairie Roots
is published by the
Norman County
Genealogy Society

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Attach Address Label Here

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rootsweb.com/~mnnorman

About Our Organization...

The Norman County Genealogy Society was formed on February 27, 1997 in Ada, MN for the purpose of assisting persons interested in research family histories and sharing information.

Charter members of the society were Roland Carpenter, Iris Duklet, Colleen Goltz, Ardis Horn, Sharon Larson, Roger Niebeling, Gladys Prussia, Ronald Rasmusson, Christine Roesch, Ronald Roesch, DeFloren Rude, Edna Rude and Kathleen Skaurud.

A few resources available include:

- Obituaries taken from area newspapers.
- Cemetery records
- Marriage records
- Death records from 1871 to 1981
- Census records
- Civil War Veterans
- 1883 Pensioners on the Roll
- Churches and Towns

Much of this information is posted on our website.

The Society meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am in the Summerfield Apartments Meeting Room or Norman County Museum (summer months only), Ada, MN.

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for a family membership (local) and \$5.00 for an associate membership (out of area.) Dues should be sent to the Treasurer in January:

Ardis Horn
100 1st Street East
Ada, MN 56510