

HISTORIC HOMES OF YANKTON

Pierson House: A Treasured History

Yankton's Territorial Homes, Revisited — A Sesquicentennial Series

"The sesquicentennial series titled 'Historic Homes of Yankton' prepared by members of Yankton Questers Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794."Pierson House
515 Locust

Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794

Details regarding early ownership of the two story yellow brick house located at 515 Locust are sketchy. In 1868 records disclose the property was originally part of a homestead, but there is no record of who built the house.

In the 1870s Josiah Allen Pierson purchased the house vacated by the Grant Marsh family, because Mrs. Marsh feared an encampment of Indians on a nearby hill. Captain Marsh was master of the Missouri River Steamer "Far West". The Marsh family later purchased the house at 513 Douglas Ave.

Josiah and his wife Francis occupied the house with their four daughters, Jessie F. (Fay), Olive F., Virginia B., and Cora. In the 1880s Mr. Pierson became one of the largest landowners west of Yankton. This area became known as the "Pierson Ranch" which extended westward along the Missouri river bluffs between chalkstone hill and the actual

Gavin's Point, formally known as "Smutty Bear Bottom". On this 3,500 acre tract of land, Pierson developed a large cattle operation. In 1887 he was credited with raising the first alfalfa in the Yankton vicinity, his show animals were exhibited as far away as New Orleans. Pierson died in 1898. The estate was divided and the ranch was reduced to 1,100 acres, which his wife Francis and daughters inherited. Mrs. Pierson kept the operation going, with hired help, until Fay married George Franz Jones in 1914.

George Franz was a young attorney from Canton, who had been a secretary to three U.S. Senators, including Robert Gamble of Yankton. He left his position to assume the management of the Pierson ranch, until his death in 1918, due to the flu epidemic, at the age of 35.

Operation of the ranch fell to Fay Pierson Jones, and with the help of Bill Owens, who was the foreman for 46 years, along with many loyal families, the ranch continued to survive, until the relentless river ate away at the property. 700 acres were lost by 1953 when the US Corp of Engineers acquired the remaining land for the Gavins Point Dam Project.

Fay Pierson Jones passed away March 27,

1968 at the age of 84 and is buried in Block 502, next to her husband in the Yankton Cemetery.

The Pierson house at 515 Locust was home to many families over the years. Fay Pierson Jones sold the house in 1942 to Clarence and Geraldine Weiger and in succeeding years, the Bittermans, Krovoszas and Kostels have lived there. In 1973 the home was purchased by Dr. Jay and Joyce Hubner, and while raising their two sons, Matt and Rollie, renovation on the historic home began. The ceilings are 9 1/2 feet high which gives the rooms an airy gracious feeling. Tall windows are shuttered in the front and back parlors. The back parlor also features an original fireplace and bay window. Kitchen, dining and offices complete the spacious home. A beautiful black walnut stairway leads from the front door to three second floor bedrooms. Joyce Hubner has carried out a Federalist theme throughout the home, which creates a warm and welcome atmosphere. Joyce designed a "Carriage Style" garage which is connected to the house by a delightful open air patio.

Through their efforts the Hubners have preserved a true tribute to historical preservation.

S.D. Farmers
Union Campers
Grow Healthy

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Young people from across Yankton County learned to live healthier lifestyles, make better food choices, and work together to make their communities healthier during the annual Yankton County Farmers Union camp held Wednesday, July 27, in Yankton. Pictured are members of the camp who participated.

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Young people attended this year's camp themed, "Growing Healthy Cooperatively." The kids participated in activities and games that taught them about cooperative business, rural communities, and agriculture in a fun and safe setting. There were also activities based on the Farmers Union "Growing Good Taste" curriculum, where young people learned about where their food comes from and how to make healthy choices.

"The majority of Americans are generations removed from the farm, and childhood obesity rates are alarming," said State Education Director Bonnie Geyer. "These kids learned about what makes up a healthy, balanced diet and ways to be more physically active while gaining knowledge about how their food is grown and where it comes from. South Dakota's fu-

ture will be in their hands, and we want them to have the knowledge they need to make good choices in the future."

Along with activities, games and singing, each child also took part in a "Garden Buddy" activity. They planted grass seeds in soil that was wrapped in light material. Their "Garden Buddy" will grow over the summer and they'll be able to give it haircuts. Each child received a free T-shirt sponsored by Farmers Union Insurance and a free jump rope donated by Sanford Health.

Participants at this year's Yankton County Farmers Union camp were: Justin Cap, Megan Cap, Tori Vellek, and Payton Vellek, all from Yankton, and Re-Anna Kotalik, Brock Kotalik, and Baylee Boese, all from Tabor. Yankton County Farmers Union camp was directed by the Farmers Union Summer Interns Angie Koch and Brittany Gassman.

For more information on South Dakota Farmers Union and how you and your children can get involved in the organization's youth activities, visit the education page at www.sdfu.org or call Bonnie Geyer, 605-352-6761 ext. 125.

SCHOLASTICS

MMC Students Benefit From Man's Generosity

Some students entering Mount Marty College this fall will be awarded a scholarship made possible through the generosity of the Otto Ullrich Trust. The trust was established by lifelong Yankton resident, Otto Ullrich, to benefit a variety of local groups and organizations.

When he died in 2006, Ullrich specified in his will the types of projects he thought the money should benefit. For the third year, Mount Marty has been the recipient of scholarship dollars developed through the Ullrich gift for students who are studying in the fields of nursing and/or healthcare and reside in the greater Yankton area.

"Mr. Ullrich was the kind of individual who had the foresight to help the community with projects that will impact us for years to come," said Chris Tudor, Mount Marty's Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "His gifts will greatly assist students who are pursuing their education in nursing and health care and those stu-

dents will give back on a daily basis through their vocation."

Joseph Benoit, President of Mount Marty College, was equally thankful. "Finances are at the forefront of concerns for college students. Health care is one of Mount Marty's strengths. Through Mr. Ullrich's vision, students will receive a quality education at Mount Marty."

Mount Marty College is able to award financial aid to roughly 99% of the students, partly due to federal assistance but also thanks to the generosity and foresight of philanthropic individuals like Ullrich.

For information on how you can establish a scholarship or endowment with the college, contact Chris Tudor at 605-668-1292.

Miller Graduates From Kaplan University

CHICAGO, Ill. — Sarah Miller of Gayville, has been awarded a Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Sciences from Kaplan University, a leader in higher education innovation. Miller's

accomplishment was celebrated during a graduation ceremony on Aug. 6 at the Arie Crown Theater in Chicago.

The Kaplan University's summer 2011 class included more than 7,200 online graduates who earned associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. More than 1,000 of them traveled from around the country to attend the ceremony, meeting face-to-face for the first time. Others watched from home via a live webcast. Since 2001, Kaplan University has graduated nearly 40,000 students who have used their education to advance professionally and meet personal goals.

Ruppelt Receives Augustana College Scholarship

SIOUX FALLS — Augustana College is pleased to announce that Peter Ruppelt from Springfield, a graduate of Bon Homme High School, is the recipient of a Trustees Scholarship. This award is based on Peter's outstanding academic record and performance in the Distinguished Scholars Competition.

MEETING MINUTES

TOASTMASTER CLUB 1294

Yankton Toastmaster Club 1294 met at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant on Saturday July 30th. The meeting was called to order by John Swenson, Kevin Buhl read a poem to open the meeting and then lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. After a short business meeting, Doug Fickbohm was introduced as the Toastmaster of the day. Speaking were Kathy Hejna on "Knowing Better" and Tara Arens who gave a poetic reading. Mike Arens was the table topics leader. Matt Stone was Master Evaluator and called on Carol Hale and Janice store to evaluate the speakers. John Swenson was the grammarian with the word of the day "emphatic." Woody Sanders was the timer, Joy Winther the ah counter and Vernon Arens counted the votes. Jeremy Skrenes was the joke master. Tara Arens won for best speaker. Harry Voelzke and Doug Fickbohm tied for best Table Topics. Carol Hale was awarded best evaluator.

If your looking to improve on your communication and speaking skills, guests are always welcome. Come see what Toastmasters is all about.

SHANNON TRAIL PROMOTERS

The Shannon Trail Promoters met at Two Rivers Steak House in Niobrara on Wed., Aug. 3, 2011. Attending were Joan Thomsen, Sally Gubbels, Steve and Bonnie Ruzicka, Mary Rose Pinkelman, Chris Kreyck, Gil & Laurie Larsen and Shirley Kehne. A card of condolence was signed for Herb and Susan on the death of his mother.

Because of this the Bengtsons were unable to attend the National Lewis and Clark Foundation Annual Meeting held in Omaha. Shirley was there, so reported on several aspects. There was turmoil at the business meetings as to procedures. A vote will be held this fall.

Highlights were a tour at Joslyn Art Museum viewing Karl Bodmars works on area natives of early 1800's. Speaker Dr. Clay Jenkinson spoke on

his book "Footsteps of Lewis & Clark: Prince Maximilian and Karo Bodmar" to be released in September. Sun. eve. July 31, Dr. Jenkinson & UNL Professor Matt Sittling Bear Brown held a panel discussion on L&Cs 1st meeting at Council Bluff. Peyton "Bud" Clark, great, great, great, grandson of William Clark had a part of his L & C era collection on view in a room at the Embassy Suites where the group stayed.

Our Pvt. Shannon relative-friend from Ohio, Bob Anderson, is to be congratulated. He is President of the Ohio River Chapter and they won the top award for their contributions in 2010 to the trail. Bob was unable to be there but his grandson, Josh Loftis Bennit, visited several times at the Pvt. Shannon booth. He enjoyed the scrap book with the story of his travels by horse along the Shannon Trail.

Numerous speakers gave new tidbits learned of the expedition and a Professor from USD gave a very complete history to date of the Missouri River. The St. Charles Re-enactors set up camp near the river front and educated several hundred youngsters brought from summer camps. Several children attended the "Camp Pomp" and reported the days activities each evening.

Around 180 were in attendance. It was interesting meeting folks from many of the 32 chapters throughout the country. They know the story and speak our language.

Advance tours were to Historic sites in and near Omaha-Council Bluffs and in the Nebraska City area. After tours took a Sioux City, & Elk Point-Spirit Mound route. Aug. 4-5 a group visited Ash Falls Fossil Beds, Old Baldy, Niobrara State Park and had lunch at Winnetoon where several members joined them sharing the Shannon Trail Story.

In business: \$600 was received from the Knox Co. Lodging Tax Grant. The Hwy. 81 sign waits to be put up.

The Archery Tournament is slated for Sunday, Aug. 21 near Hartington. Sally Gubbels and Mary Rose Pinkel-

man will organize our part of it.

The Middle Missouri Lewis & Clark Federation will meet at St. James on Friday, August 26 from 10 to 2. The Promoters are invited to attend. Our next meeting is at the Wausa Rolling Hills Golf Course south of Bloomfield on Wed. eve. Sept. 14.

The motion to adjourn was made by Sally Gubbels and the second by Gil Larsen.

ASHH CLUB 6217

Toastmaster Eric Taylor called the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Toastmasters Club to order August 4 in the Benedictine Center at noon. He asked Fran Koer to lead the invocation.

Taylor introduced the two speakers: Sheryl Schwartz and MJ Rogers. Schwartz's "Who Moved My Cheese?" speech was based on her review of the book with the same name. She related parts of the book to her personal life experiences. Rogers was speaking to inform. His "Make It Count!" told of the value added when using the proper props and body language when publicly speaking.

General Evaluator Stan Sudbeck asked Melissa Bader and Muriel Stach to evaluate Schwartz and Rogers, respectively. Sudbeck was informed by timer Jane Miller that both evaluators failed to speak within the allotted time. Sudbeck asked Taylor O'Bryan to track the unneeded pauses and Gale Vogt to monitor the grammar and to introduce a word of the day. Vogt asked the members to use the word "adept" while speaking.

Table Topics Master Tim Bohn asked impromptu questions dealing with acting, life's woos and/or personal experiences. He asked Miller to describe a life event that mocked Rocky Balboa's title fight. Miller responded with her personal story of fighting an illness while preparing for her wedding.

Taylor awarded trophies to Schwartz for Best Speaker and to Miller for Best Respondent. Taylor turned the meeting over to President Schwartz, who reviewed the clubs

goals and schedule prior to adjourning the meeting.

TOASTMASTER CLUB 1294

Yankton Toastmaster Club 1294 met Saturday, August 6, at 7:30 a.m. at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President John Swenson who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The invocation was given by Harry Voelzke. Toastmaster of the Day was Steve Hamilton who conducted the meeting. Grammarian Kathy Hejna gave the word of the day, "exuberant," which means energetic or lively. Doug Fickbohm gave a speech titled "America's Unknown Orator" with the objective of introducing the audience to a great orator from a historical perspective. Matt Stone gave a speech titled "Talk It Up" from the Public Relations manual with the objective of building goodwill for your organization and favorably influencing the audience by skillful and friendly delivery. Table topics was led by Jeremy Skrenes who had members to participate in a game

of "silent football," which required passing an invisible football using hand claps, fist pounds, elbow points, and recognizing infractions of rules. Carol Hale evaluated the meeting, and called on Kevin Buhl to evaluate Fickbohm's speech, and Angela Mann to evaluate Stone's speech. Presentations were given by grammarian Hejna, ah counter Tara Arens, timer Joy Winther, vote counter Woody Sanders, and joke master Arens. Trophies were presented to Stone for best table topics, Fickbohm for best speaker, and Buhl for best evaluator. The business meeting was led by Swenson. Guests are welcome. For more information call 665-8448.

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met at noon on August 8 at Minerva's. The meeting was called to order by President, Kathy Jacobs, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Patty Schoenfelder of Salon Amore 104 introduced Roger and Marilyn Huntley. Roger is a Master Plaster

by trade. He taught plastering for Job Corps Training Centers in Denison, Iowa and Chadron, Nebraska for 10 years. He then became a Field Coordinator supervising the plastering and cement mason programs in Job Corps for centers throughout the Midwest. Since retiring, he mainly does plaster restoration work and has worked on the Capitol Building in Pierre and the old Lawrence County Courthouse in Deadwood. His hobby is making Native American Pipes which he has researched and tries to make them as authentic as possible. Wild sumac is used for the pipe stems. Research has shown this was a preference of Native Americans because of the soft pith, which was easily removed. Catlinite (Pipestone) is used to make the pipe and ceremonial war clubs and tomahawks. Roger does other carving as well. He shared a number of his pieces.

Next meeting will be at noon on August 15th at Minerva's. Pam Rezac will have Dr. Gregory Baylor and Robin Berke presenting on the 3.0 Tesla MRI.

KYNT
AM 1450
MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS
MONDAY-FRIDAY
Friday, August 12
7:40 a.m. Bernie Hunhoff
(SD Magazine)
8:20 a.m. Doug Hevie (Bullarama)
Yankton's Home Team!

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