



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Please feel free to contact any of our trustees

Gary Anderson
PO Box 38
Nelsonville, WI 54458
715-824-2509

Tor Anderson
PO Box 94
Nelsonville, WI 54458
715-824-2334

Bob Melum
345 S Oak St
Iola, WI 54945

Dolores Melum
1824 Sunset Lake Rd
Amherst Jct., WI 54407
dmelum@wi-net.com

Kathy Theige
10827 Trout Creek Rd
Iola, WI 54945

Marc Wolding
8070 Standing Rocks Rd
Amherst, WI 54406

South New Hope Cemetery Assn.
PO Box 62, Nelsonville, WI 54458

Email: info@southnewhope.org
Website: SouthNewHope.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTES TO EXPAND CEMETERY

Our extension plan to the south of the existing cemetery will have a tentative plot plan developed, including a plan to connect the service drive from County Road T with the temporary construction drive from Trout Creek Rd.

The plan will identify a number of new burial sites in each existing row, along with dimensions and location of the service drive. It is hoped that a final plan can be finished sometime this year so that

the service drive can be established and burial sites identified and platted.

Progress has already begun by cleaning and brushing out the woods that inevitably begins to encroach upon the cemetery grounds. Many volunteer hours have gone into this expansion in 2014-15, with new grass planted to improve the expanded cemetery. New burial sites will be available for purchase in 2016.

“VOLUNTEER” — A GREAT TITLE

We all know that the recent projects and events at SNH have come about by the hard work of many volunteers. The projects are satisfying to see and the events are fun and informative.

But the Board could use an army of additional volunteers with fresh and new ideas and methods to get things accomplished.

If you have a special talent or interest in bringing this old church building back to an integral part of this community, and see a place where you can help, please contact us through our email or by calling one of the Board members. There is a need for:

- More and new ideas for programs
- Hands to improve the cemetery
- Muscles and elbow grease as we attack what is probably our biggest project yet (painting the exterior of the church)
- New ideas for building up our donor list
- Help with writing grants
- Writing articles for the newsletter
- Ideas for more and better publicity
- Researching the history of SNH

The SNH Cemetery Board is so grateful for all its faithful and generous friends. *Thank you one and all.*

Calendar of Activities

All activities at SNH

April 25

Cemetery Work Day, need volunteers. Outside lawn & cemetery repair & cleaning, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

July 4

New Hope “Crackerjack” Parade, ending at the church. 2:00 p.m., parade begins. Church will be open before and after the parade.

July 28

Volunteer Church Restoration Workday, 8:30 a.m.

August 16

Ice Age Trail Presentation, 2:00 p.m.

September 12

Cemetery Workday, 8:00 a.m.

October 3

4th Annual Pie Social, located along the trail of the Hidden Studios Art Tour (www.hiddenstudiosarttour.com/) 12:00 noon until pies are gone

We welcome you to these events and activities! See our website for further details, as there may be programs added as the season unfolds.

South New Hope Cemetery Association

CIVIL WAR BURIALS AT SNH

There are four Civil War veterans buried at SNH. Those four men are: Johan Loberg, Henrik Lysne, Ole Paulson and Torger Wesley. Over the next few newsletters one of those veterans will be highlighted each time. Our first Civil War veteran is: **Johan N. Loberg, 1839-1920**

Johan came from Gjerpen, Norway, and settled for a short time in Dodge Co. It was there in Ashippun that he married Anne Marie Skowen. In 1859, Johan purchased 120 acres in Amherst Twp. Over the years he accumulated more land.

Johan served in Company B, 47th Infantry from Amherst Twp. He enlisted on Feb. 7, 1865, and mustered out on Sept. 27, 1865. Because of his exact marksmanship, he served for a time at Camp Randall, Madison, where he was an instructor at the rifle range. (A Civil War Database from Vesterheim Norw.-Am. Museum states that he then went on to serve at Nashville, Tennessee.)

His marksmanship carried over into his civilian life. In *History of the Norwegian Settlements* by Holand, the author mentions bear hunting. "But a greater nimrod than (H. J.) was Johan Loberg, another old pioneer from Gjerpen. In those early days when deer and herds were plentiful, Loberg killed no end of them. One fall he said he shot 15 bears. Another time he shot five bears in a single cornfield." What followed in the book was a humorous first-person account of that hunt.

Johan was a charter member of SNH and was the chairman of the congregation for its first three formative years. According to *History of Portage County*, being interested in his community, he helped organize and was a director of the Nelsonville Creamery; he was a supervisor in Amherst Twp.; and had interests in the New Hope Butter and Cheese Assn.

Johan and Anne Marie had 10 children, of which 6 survived to adulthood. Five of those six, Nels, Carl, Anna Johnson, Anton, Julius and Emma Anderson are also buried at SNH.



Johan N. Loberg,
Civil War Veteran

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Russ Johnson, Eau Claire, WI

Recently I was reminded of a biblical reference from Mark 12. In responding to a question from a scribe, Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God with all our heart and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves. I find that the last part is very hard to do. I believe my neighbor is someone we know or know about. In a parable I believe Jesus defined neighbor as anyone who needs our help. Loving people that much is very difficult with the ups and downs in our lives including disputes we become part of. The history of Christianity, including many disputes such as the reformation, has sadly shown a absence of love.

I believe that the minutes and history of the South New Hope Church, which have been reviewed, demonstrated many acts of love. This included remaining faithful to the Norwegian Synod, providing a Christian education for their children and caring for their members. The care for the old and newer cemeteries and the care for and now restoration of the church building are all acts of love.

Acts of love can be found in many forms. The recent events at South New Hope Church, the hymn sings, musical and historical presentations, pie socials are all acts of love. Because of the distance and conflicts (poor excuses) my wife, Nancy, and I have not attended as many of those events as we should have. We did attend the pie social during the fall of 2014. We spent time with friends and with people we had never met before. We had a marvelous time and went home with a very warm and pleasant feeling. We had experienced a time of love.

The SNH Cemetery Board should continue to remember as they plan for their future, that there are many ways of loving our neighbors. With that thought In mind, it might bring many good ideas to be implemented. Performing several small acts of love can go a long way in countering the absence of love seen around the world.

LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS

There are several vacancies on the South New Hope Cemetery Board. If you would be interested in serving a three-year term, please use SNH's email. Someone will gladly sit down and visit with you about the duties and responsibilities. It is also possible to visit a board meeting in advance.

SUCCESSFUL WORKDAY

Eleven people gathered with a mission in mind to clean and improve the cemetery grounds. The projects completed: removal of unsightly dead trees and limbs; seeding the future expansion of cemetery to the south; raking and mulching cemetery grounds; painting a new screen door; removal of trees, shrubs, vines, stumps along the chain link fence that borders our property line.



All hands eager and enthusiastic

It is amazing how much work can be accomplished when volunteers come together and are focused. Thanks to the volunteers and to Tor Anderson, who led the charge.



Done for the day!

CALLING ALL DESCENDENTS

Your help is needed. On SNH's website, there is an alphabetical list of all people buried at SNH. In this list there is great potential for genealogists who are looking for family history.

The site is www.SouthNewHope.org. On the homepage click on "people who attended this church" to see the list.

Over the past couple years information has slowly been added to the information on the people on this list. It is incomplete and needs to be proofed and added to in order to make the optimum use of it.

We would so much appreciate, if using our email address, we could receive pictures and details of that person who is your ancestor. Information needed: name of spouse, date of marriage, children, siblings, parents, date and place of birth.

If you see that we don't have an obituary, please send us one. Also, do you have a short story about those ancestors that would help us get to know them better?

Caution: The website is brought up to date only periodically, so if you send history or pictures you may not see the change immediately. But keep checking.

FOLLOWING THROUGH...

After making a request for a display case, SNH has received one. We are excited about getting it ready to display items of interest. Thanks so much for the donation.

SNH has also received a framed print of the Holmenkollen ski jump in Oslo, Norway, about the year 1900. It hangs on the north wall in the Fellowship Hall. It shows a bit of history of the people at that time, such as the type of cutters they drove, the clothing people wore, the interest of the people as seen by size of the crowd, and how they kept their horses warm and fed, while watching a national pastime of ski jumping, or ski flying, as it later became known. Thanks for that neat donation.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

From Minutes Book

When Rev. Ramberg accepted a new call in 1898, he suggested that the pastor's salary be raised "as it was difficult for man with family to manage on \$390 per year."

In 1943, Julius Loberg was paid \$2.00 per time for lawn work in the cemetery.

AVAILABLE FOR ORDERING

COLOR PRINTS

Color pictures of SNH in the autumn, as seen on every newsletter are still available. They are ready for framing. Cost, including postage and handling, is \$35.00 for an 8x10, and \$25.00 for a 5x7. Pictures will also be available at church activities for \$30 and \$20.

MINUTES BOOK

The minutes of SNH church and cemetery board for the years 1888-2007 have been translated, where needed, copied, and printed into book form.

A few copies of those minutes are still available at this time. Only one printing was done, so anyone wishing to order this special copy can include a check for \$25.00 for each book ordered and we will mail it to you.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

\$25.00 per book, 5 left _____, # books \$ _____

8 X 10 color picture, \$35.00, # _____ \$ _____

5 X 7 color picture, \$25.00, # _____ \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

To: **South New Hope Cemetery Board**
PO Box 62,
Nelsonville, WI 54458

South New Hope Cemetery Association

UPDATE ON 2015 RENOVATIONS

Two new improvements will soon be seen in 2015, thanks to the focus of the Board and the continued support of SNH's donors. They are new doors in two areas and repairs to the roof.

Last fall those large double doors to the narthex were removed to have the many layers of paint stripped, split panels in the doors re-glued, rotted wood replaced and the doors squared up to fit back into the jams. An added plus was the clean up and repair of the original door handles, locks and six decorative hinges, all dating back to the original construction in 1889. By the time you read this, the plywood covering the main doorway at the top of the stairs may be gone, and the original doors back—in sparkling condition.

Gary Johnson and Jim Jenson from Scandinavia and Lola both donated numerous hours of their time, lovingly bringing these seven-foot doors and their hardware back to their original condition. They certainly performed over and above what would have been expected of them. Thanks, gentlemen, for a job well done.

The exterior door to Fellowship Hall needed replacing, as the unprotected door just could not weather another season of snow, wind, rain and sun. Nothing comes easy when one begins renovating a building built in the late 1800's, but thanks to another volunteer, Al Dobbe, from Almond, who is meeting the challenge of purchasing and fitting in a replacement that will look like the original. From down-sizing and providing a new threshold and fitting the door into a



Step 1

confined space, the new wood grain fiberglass door will withstand the elements better than a solid wood door in this exposed area.

As the Board moved methodically through its building restoration program as developed in 2012, by taking aim and completing each priority item, priority #6, the repair, cleaning and painting of the steel roofs on the church and steeple has been the most difficult to accomplish. But with the assistance of board members Mark Huglen and Marc Wolding the project has gotten new energy and is now on the way to completion. The Board recently approved a contract to "Roof Restoration LLC" from Amherst, WI, to address all the roofing needs, and soon priority project #6 will be put behind us.

A loud "Hurrah" will go up when these two projects are completed. They both go a long way to make the building more secure.

COMMENTS AND MEMORIES

From time to time the SNH Board receives a note about one's memories of the church, or encouragement to continue its renovation and historical research. It is nice to hear about connections with the church's past and we welcome more notes and history from our readers.

One of those notes is from David Loberg, who lives in Columbia, SC. He writes, "As a child spent many times at Norwegian services w/Grandpa/Grandma Julius Loberg—great grandpa Loberg was a part of SNH... now 83—

Amherst H.S. '49. Many family in SNH cemetery."

Thanks David. It was great hearing from you!

Joan Paulson writes, "This (church) should be registered with the Wis. State Historical Society... My opinion only?" Thanks, Joan. We agree, and maybe some volunteer will take this on as a project.

If YOU have a memory or comment about something associated with SNH, send us a note or an email. We'd love to hear about it!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Once again the Cemetery Board has received memorial gifts. Two more families, after losing their loved ones, have given SNH a memorial gift in the name of the deceased. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Follow Us:



South New Hope Cemetery Assn.
PO Box 62, Nelsonville, WI 54458

Website: SouthNewHope.org

Email address: info@southnewhope.org