

**JUNIOR
PIONEERS**
OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY



Vol. 27 / No. 2

JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

Junior Pioneers Annual Meeting September 26th

Turner Hall, New Ulm

6:00 Social Hour and Business Meeting

7:00 Dinner and Program

“Minnesota River Folklore”

presented by: Elizabeth Johanneck

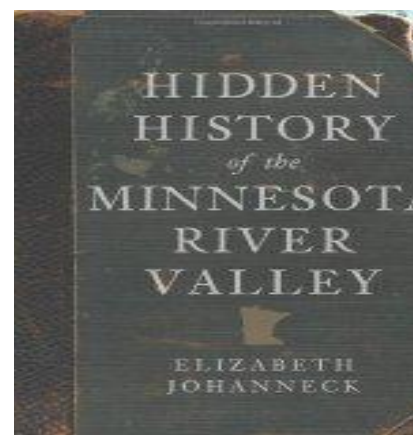
Author of Hidden History of the Minnesota River Valley, Twin Cities Prohibition: Minnesota Blind Pigs and Bootleggers, and Minneapolis Underworld. Johanneck's books include gritty historical details. Her book, Twin Cities Prohibition was selected as one of the three top food books of 2011 by Minnesota Monthly magazine's food editor, Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl, in the category of history.

Johanneck's father was a Minnesota farmer, and her mother was a teacher. She was raised with seven brothers and one sister on a farm near Wabasso, in southwestern Minnesota, and as a child, was inspired by her mother's creativity and her father's gift for storytelling.

She received a bachelor of science degree in business from Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and worked for a tourism office within the central part of the Minnesota River Valley before moving to the Twin Cities.

She published a blog called Minnesota Country Mouse for seven years before dedicating her free time to writing books about local history, but has a work of fiction simmering on the back burner.

Come prepared to hear some exciting stories of our Minnesota River Valley!



Pioneer Spotlight

Ernst Koch

Ernst G. Koch was born on April 19, 1833, at Radegast Anhalt-Dusan, Germany, and came to New Ulm as early as 1860. He anticipated entering the fur trade and for this reason made his way to Lake Shetek, near Tracy, Minnesota. He and his partner, Mr. Voght, spent a year trapping and hunting on the shores of the lake. At the beginning of the Indian Uprising, in 1862, Mr. Voght was killed by the Indians. When Mr. Koch learned of his partner's death he immediately made for Mankato, where he arrived at the time the Mankatoites were organizing a company to come to the relief of New Ulm. Considerable credit is due Mr. Koch for his untiring efforts in getting the Mankato people started for the hard pressed city on the day they did. While in New Ulm he saw his share of active service, being a member of several relief expeditions that were sent out.

After the hostilities were over, Mr. Koch decided to cast his lot with the other settlers of New Ulm and so became a permanent resident of that city. From the very first he took an active part in public affairs. He never sought public offices but when elected he gave the people the best service he was capable of. In 1866 he was elected county auditor, in which capacity he served for ten years. In 1876 he engaged in the real estate and insurance business and served as agent for the Winona and St. Peter Land Company, and as a court commission of Brown County. He was elected as a member of the board of education in 1881 and served as clerk continuously for over ten years. In 1891 he was elected a member for the city council and later served the city as mayor for two terms.

In 1889 Mr. Koch was made cashier of the Brown County Bank; three years later vice-president, and six years later, president. He retired from active business in 1900 and has since been living quietly and comfortably on his farm, which is located in the city limits of New Ulm, enjoying the full fruits of his life of earnest and energetic endeavor. While an officer of the bank, Mr. Koch gave to that substantial old financial institution the benefit of his sound judgment and rare knowledge of local conditions. There were few men in the state who had more accurate knowledge of realty values and conditions in southern Minnesota than he. The impress made upon the city of New Ulm during his administration as mayor is still apparent in the permanent improvements he projected.

In 1864, not long after settling in New Ulm, Ernest G. Koch was united in marriage to Elizabeth Sahli, daughter of Nicholas and Marie Sahli, who had migrated to this country from Switzerland. Mr. Koch's first wife died in 1884. In 1866 he married Caroline Schmidt, who died on April 19, 1898. Ten children were born to this union, eight of whom are still living. They are Emma, William E., a retired banker, and Ida, living at home; Mrs. Robert Heidman, of Arlington; Mrs. Bertha Fenske, of New Ulm; Albert F., in the milling business at Echo, Minnesota; Mrs. Henry N. Somsen, of New Ulm, and George R., a dentist in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Koch is a Lutheran and his children were reared in that faith. He is independent in his political views and not inclined to undivided allegiance to any one of the several political parties, believing that personal fitness of candidates for local office should be the voter's guide, rather than a mere party stamp of approval.



Biographical Information from:

Fritsche, L.A. (M.D.). *History of Brown County Minnesota*. Indianapolis, Indiana: B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc. 1916. Print

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Or, Junior Pioneer Parks Blog: <http://juniorpioneerpark.wordpress.com>

***Deceased Members**

Allan Gebhard

***New Members**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Timothy Cordes	Cordes
Alys Daniels	Baumler
Danielle Fehring	Baumler

*** Memorials**

In memory of Lorraine Oswald:

Robert and Betsy Bradford

Chris Rahn

Richard & Katie Scheurer

Joseph Felleggy

In memory of Jenna Langer VanCura

Dr. Ann Vogel

In memory of Marion Pfaender Downs

Dr. Ann Vogel

In memory of Allan Gebhard:

Tom & Kathleen Berg

Joseph Felleggy

Jeff & Susan Schmucker

Howard & Sharon Zins

David & Gee Kading

Florian & Rose Mary Dittrich

Jerry & Charlene Dannheim

Bob & Mary Ellen Domeier

Bill & Lori Otis

If we have forgotten or miss-credited anyone concerning: Memorials, Donations, Deceased Members or New Members, please notify the President Lori Otis at 507.359.2320 or any Board Member and we will correct it.

***Elections To The Board Will Be Held**

Two board members terms are up this year. They are: Lori Otis and Kathleen Berg. Both have offered to serve another four years pending annual meeting member vote. Nominations will also be called for from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Please remember if you nominate someone from the floor they must be present and a current member of the Junior Pioneers. The business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. following the social hour.



Great Gift Idea!!!!

Looking for a gift idea? How about a Junior Pioneer Membership!!

Junior Pioneers 2015 Annual Meeting Reservation and Dues Payment Form

Name(s): _____

Banquet Tickets(s): _____ Number Attending: _____ \$25.00 each: _____

Reservations are Due by Wednesday, September 23rd

Payments can be made at the door, but reservations are required prior to September 23rd

You can also send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073

Questions? Reservations: Lisa Besemer at 766-1991

2016 Annual Membership fees are due October, 2015

Single Membership	\$20 _____
Joint Dues (<i>Husband & Wife both qualify for membership</i>)	\$30 _____
Surviving Spouse	\$20 _____

Send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073

Questions? Lisa Besemer at 766-1991

Park Report by Lori Otis, JP President/ Park Manager

A special thank you to Larry Mack and Dave Weldy for the completed asphalt project. Also, special thanks to Dave Weldy for the landscaping around the rock! Also--we have a freshly painted gate! At this year's annual meeting we will be discussing our long term goals of a fence and possible picnic shelter. Our 4.5 acre park is a hidden treasure and has been "brought back to life" in the last few years with buckthorn removal and dedication tree/rock events. Thank you to all that had any part of this great project!



Junior Pioneers
P.O. Box 22
New Ulm, MN 56073
(Return Service Requested)

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Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2015

Lori Otis, President

Kathleen Berg, Vice-President

Rose Mary Dittrich, Treasurer

Lisa Besemer, Secretary

Cheryl Beussman

Jim Kretsch

David Kading

Jerry Dannheim

Jerry Weldy

John Fritsche

Larry Mack

Dave Weldy