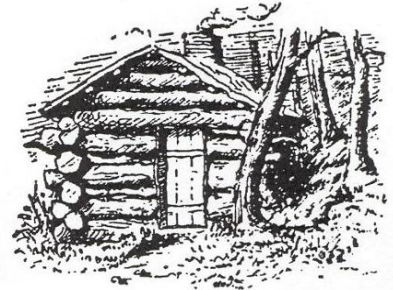


JUNIOR PIONEERS

OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY



The Junior Pioneers purpose is to "keep green the memory of the early pioneers who settled New Ulm and the vicinity; and to preserve as much as possible the usages and customs, language and ideals of the early settlers..."

Vol. 30 / No. 1

JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018



Junior Pioneers Annual Meeting

Green Mill Restaurant, New Ulm

Friday, October 26th

5:30 Social Hour – 6:00 Annual Meeting—

Meal/Program to follow

“A Photo Essay of Early Brown County”

Our guest speaker this year is Gary Wiltscheck! He will share with us a narration describing an eclectic collection of over 100 photos depicting New Ulm and other areas of Brown County (and some outside of the county), covering subjects such as the pre-settlement era, early roads, Dakota War highlights, Dakota War leaders, iconic New Ulm buildings, Polka Days, and local musicians. Gary is a fellow Junior Pioneer with a wealth of local historical knowledge—you will definitely want to be in attendance!

See page 4 for ticket information.

We hope to see you on Friday, October 26th!!

Germanic-American Day Parade!!!

PLEASE JOIN US! The parade will be held on the first weekend of Oktoberfest--October 6th. The parade starts at 11:00 and kicks off the downtown festival. Line-up is at the Glockenspiel at 10:30. It would be wonderful to have you walk with the Junior Pioneers, or walk with your family! All you need to do is make a sign with your family's name and year they came to the New Ulm area. Anyone who is proud of their Germanic heritage is invited to march in the parade! No pre-registration is needed.



Elections To The Board Will Be Held

Three of our board members' terms are up this year. They are: Lisa Besemer, David Weldy, and Jim Kretsch. They have all 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.

Help Junior Pioneers Go Electronic

Receive your newsletter electronically and help us communicate with you quick and easy via email. Send your email address to juniorpioneers@nutelecom.net

Find Us

Find us and LIKE us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/JuniorPioneersofNewUlm
Or, Junior Pioneer Parks Blog: <http://juniorpioneerpark.wordpress.com>



***Deceased Members**

Frederick Steinhauser
Bernard Kluck

Henry Herrian
Tracy Williams

***New Members**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Sadie Tlusty	<i>Glotzbach</i>
Lucy Tlusty	<i>Glotzbach</i>
Ruth (Tauer) Palmer	<i>Tauer/Palmer</i>
Jeff Andersen	<i>Filzen/Emmerich</i>
Garry Andersen	<i>Filzen/Emmerich</i>

*** Memorials and Donations**

Park Donations:

Jerry and Maggie Ubl

Donations:

Theo and Christine Fritsche

Ken Saffert

THANK YOU to Thrivent Financial for their donation on behalf of their members, Lori and Bill Otis, of \$500 to the Park Fund.

THANK YOU to 3M for their donation on behalf of their employees, Larry Mack and David Weldy, of \$500 for their volunteer hours.

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.

Submitted Story

Thank you Harvey Haeberle for his submission of this article. If you would like to submit a historical or family story, please do so by emailing it to Lisa Besemer at lisabesemer@newulmtel.net.

The James-Younger Gang in Minnesota

By Harvey M. Haeberle

As the year 1876 progressed, the United States was still reeling from the effects of the costly civil war that had concluded just 9 years earlier. Postwar poverty, inflation, dislocation and confusion were to be found in both the North and South. Bad feelings and resentment about the war remained. In 1871 the Great Chicago Fire and numerous destructive forest fires in the Upper Midwest had caused significant loss of life, property, livestock and crops in the field. In Minnesota there had been a terrible drought in 1871, bringing some Brown County families to hunger. In the period 1873-77 a plague of "grasshoppers" (Rocky Mountain Locusts) had decimated crops in the western half of the US, including western Minnesota. Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry total defeat at the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25-26, 1876, came as a shock and humiliating surprise to the pride of the nation, at a time when the Centennial International Exhibition was underway in Philadelphia.

Desperate, humiliated and bitter men were abroad in the year 1876, and few as prominent or notorious as the men of the James-Younger Gang. The gang of Confederate veterans was formed in the mid-1860s and led by Jesse James, a well-known legend in both the North and South, The gang's robbery exploits were heralded in newspapers across the nation, as the gang expertly robbed stages, banks, and later railroad car strong boxes filled with gold coin and currency.

Around the 1st of September, 1876, the eight member James-Younger gang under the leadership of Jesse James arrived by rail in St. Paul from Missouri, for the purpose of robbing banks. They quickly purchased fast horses in expectation of the need for a quick getaway. They first carefully scouted out the general area around Mankato. And so it was on or around September 3rd 1876, gang members Cole Younger and Charlie Pitts clad in "dusters," (a linen coat that prevent road dust from contaminating clothing), casually rode incognito into the town of New Ulm and looked over the billiard room in the Merchants' Hotel located at Minnesota St and 1st South. They left but returned the next day and stabled and fed their horses at the McCarthy livery barn. They then made their way again to the Merchants' Hotel to secure a meal. The men used aliases to sign the guest register. The hotel and saloon was operated by proprietor, Charles Brust, Sr., a New Ulm resident. Brust himself served dinner to Younger and Pitts, after which they departed.

Unknown to Brust and others, the eight gang members were actively and methodically assessing the general area to scope out the territory, making or obtaining maps in order to plan escape routes, prior to a robbery. The initial plan was to rob the bank at Mankato; however, the gang heard an unsubstantiated rumor that \$50,000 was on deposit at the First National Bank in Northfield, and so altered their plans. The rumor later turned out to be false.

After extensive planning, on September 7th, around 2 PM, the gang carefully entered Northfield on horseback from different directions, so as to not arouse any notice or suspicious from the townsmen. Two men were posted as guards in the street, and three men positioned themselves for the getaway at a nearby bridge. Three men entered the bank for the actual robbery. Things started to go wrong immediately. The acting cashier refused to open the vault, claiming it had a time lock. Despite death threats, the man refused to comply. The gang prepared to exit the bank with only a few bags of nickels, and out of spite they first murdered the cashier who had refused to open the safe, and also shot another bank employee in the shoulder as he fled out the back door. The two men outside on lookout duty began to fire randomly to scare off the townsmen. However, many of the townsmen were Union veterans, used to gunfire, and instead took cover and returned lethal fire, killing the two lookout men in the street. An area citizen was shot dead as well. The three Younger brothers and Charlie Pitts suffered multiple gunshot wounds, while the James Brothers were not wounded. They all had little choice but to flee helter-skelter southwest seeking the deep cover of the woods. They followed the *Minnesota River* south hoping to get back to the Mankato area, and from there steal some horses, perhaps to exit down into Iowa and eventually get safely back to Missouri. The word was out and the search was on for the six men, with hundreds of area volunteers searching for the gang. However, the gang was extremely careful to remain concealed in wooded areas to avoid detection. Frank and Jesse split off from

the Youngers near Mankato, stole a horse, passed through New Ulm and rode west, evading all checkpoints to about the Dakota Territory border, whereupon they headed south, eventually arriving in Missouri. It was not until September, 21st, that the remaining four outlaws emerged openly from hiding and where two of them got some food at the Soebor family farmhouse, near *Linden Lake*, southeast of Hanska. The four then headed south on foot with the intent of leaving the area. With the permission of his father, young Oscar Soebor, raced the 12 miles to Madelia on horseback to inform the townsmen there about his family's suspicion that the men seen at their home might be the wanted desperados. A posse was quickly formed by Watonwan County Sheriff James Glispin to track down the four gang members at large. They were soon found hiding in the *Hanska Slough* near the *Watonwan River* outside of Madelia; a gunfight erupted in which Pitts was killed. The three Younger brothers surrendered and were taken back to Madelia.

Brust, who was a Brown County deputy sheriff and Ed Casey from New Ulm drove down to Madelia the next day and were permitted to speak to the captured men. The captives at this point were relaxed and unrepentant and resigned to their fate. They were soon moved to the Faribault jail and had a trial in November of that year, with the jury returning guilty verdicts. They all pled guilty at trial to avoid hanging, and spent long prison terms at the Minnesota Territorial Prison at Stillwater. Bob Younger died in prison, Cole Younger had his sentence commuted by the Minnesota governor in 1902 and returned to Missouri without committing further crimes, as did Jim Bob Younger. The two James Brothers had returned to Missouri right after the robbery, assumed new names and continued a life of crime in the region until 1882 when Jesses James was shot dead by a gang member in Missouri. Frank James died of natural causes in 1915.

Postscript: Charles Brust, Sr., recorded his personal recollections of the events and submitted them in a letter to the editor of the New Ulm Daily Journal in 1926. Brust's detailed account was published in Section V of the August 13th, 1954, New Ulm Daily Journal Centennial Edition. The original Brust letter was eventually donated by the paper to the Brown County Historical Society. The cities of Madelia and Northfield hold annual reenactments of the events surrounding the infamous robbery.

Junior Pioneers 2018 Annual Meeting/Program

Name(s): _____

Banquet Tickets(s): _____ Number Attending: _____ \$30.00 each: _____

Reservations are Due by Tuesday, October 23rd

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

You can also send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073 or email juniorpioneers@nutelecom.net

Questions? Reservations: Lisa Besemer at 766-1991 or lisabesemer@newulmtel.net

Time to pay your 2019 Annual Membership fees

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 766-1991 or lisabesemer@newulmtel.net*

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

Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2018

Lori Otis, President

Kathleen Berg, Vice-President

Rose Mary Dittrich, Treasurer

Lisa Besemer, Secretary

Cheryl Beussman

Dave Weldy

Larry Mack

Jim Kretsch

Judy Zahn

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