



JUNIOR PIONEERS

OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY



Vol. 26 / No. 1

JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

Junior Pioneers Annual Winter Social

Turner Hall, New Ulm

Friday, February 28th

6:00 Social Hour – 6:30 Dinner and Program

“The New Ulm Battery”

presented by: Dan Hoisington,



"Today we organized one artillery company," Charles Roos wrote in a letter dated January 19, 1863. Against all odds, that company is still in existence. The New Ulm Battery is a unique organization — established in the wake of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, it has evolved into a community-based group that participates in public celebrations and reenactments. Its story illuminates the aftershocks of the U.S.-Dakota War – and tells us about the men who enlisted in the newly-organized artillery company in 1863. Although it was no longer a military unit after it was reorganized as Burg's Battery in the 1870s, the unit played a central role in Brown County's collective memory of the conflict, through participation in civic events and parades held on key anniversaries. Hoisington will take a look at the reasons for the Battery's continued existence over the years and link it to the city's strong connection to the military.

Daniel J. Hoisington grew up in Wheaton, Illinois. In 1971, he received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Greenville College, Greenville, Illinois, after which he studied religious history and social ethics as a Byington Fellow at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He earned a Master of Arts in American history from the University of Virginia, and completed course work for the Ph.D. degree. His 2004 book, *A German Town: A History of New Ulm, Minnesota*, received an award from the American Association for State and Local History. Most recently, he researched and developed an exhibit for the Brown County Historical Society, *Never Shall I Forget: Brown County and the U. S. Dakota War of 1862*, recognized with 2013 Award of Merit from the AASLH. In recent years Hoisington has given presentations to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Conference (2008), the Society for German-American Studies (2009), the National Trust Main Street Conference, (2010), and the Preserve America Conference (2013).



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**

Mabel Gatzke

Marion Pfaender Downs
Jenna Langer VanCura

Lorraine Oswald

***New Members**

Name

Connie Schmid
Marianne Schmid
John Baasen
James Manderfeld
Thomas Kienlen

Ancestor

Adams/Schmid
Martinka/Kochelmeier
Baasen
Manderfeld
Vetter/Fesenmaier

*** Memorials and Donations**

In memory of Lorraine Oswald

Alan Schmucker, Jeff Schmucker, Dan and Trudy Beranek, Jerry and Charlene Dannheim

Donation: Ruth McCrea Simpson, Tom Hurley

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.

Park Report *by Lori Otis, JP President/ Park Manager*

We have officially named the big oak tree at the park. Das Jager's Eiche. The Hunters Oak. We had many names submitted. Some very clever! All submissions had deep sediment, heartfelt stories and meanings behind each name. I was honored to have had a role in this rediscovery! The board voted on the names, and a majority ruled.

We will dedicate our newly discovered tree with a stone marker at our annual picnic this summer. The picnic will be sometime in June again, as well as a weekday evening. More information to follow, as a date has not been set. Winter has laid a blanket on our park, with promises of spring felt even on this February day.



Family Stories

If you would like to submit a family story, we'd love to include it in the Junior Pioneer Newsletter! Please email to Lisa at lisabesemer@newulmtel.net.

Junior Pioneers 2015 Annual Winter Social

Name(s): _____

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

Reservations are Due by Wednesday, February 25th

TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT NEW ULM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Payments can be made at the door, but reservations are required prior to February 25th

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

If you have not paid your 2015 Annual Membership fees, please do so...

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

From the Vault of History

The New Ulm Daily Journal, August 13, 1854

The first fire department in New Ulm was organized April 30, 1859. In the early pioneer days there was no apparatus with which to fight fires, so the old bucket brigade was depended upon for protection of the village. At that time no fire station was needed.

However, after a disastrous blaze in 1870, the City Council could no longer deny the necessity of supplanting the bucket brigade with more adequate fire-fighting equipment and a hand pump costing \$800 was finally purchased.

According to Fred Pfaender, New Ulm's veteran fireman, this was housed in a building on First North and German Streets, which was later destroyed by the cyclone. In 1881, a small engine house was erected. The city bought a lot on North Broadway for \$300. The engine house was frame, 24x32, built by W. Goede for \$800. The first meeting was held January 8, 1882. An interesting sidelight was the fact that the city clerks, up to 1895 had their offices in their respective homes, Louis Schilling being the last one to do so at his home at 219 North Broadway.

In 1895, the City Council decided to build a City Clerk's office on the lot adjoining the engine house on Broadway. The building was of brick, one story, 24x36, and had a fire-proof vault. Before this, the valuable records of the City were kept in an ordinary safe. The building was completed in November and the Council held its first meeting in the new City Hall. At that time the Clerk's office and Council Room were considered one of the best finished and most comfortable office space in the city. The first City Clerk to participate at the meeting was Louis Schilling.



First Fire Station Built in 1881 . . .

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 47
New Ulm, MN 56073

Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2015

Lori Otis, President

Kathleen Berg, Vice-President

Rose Mary Dittrich, Treasurer

Lisa Besemer, Secretary

Cheryl Beussman

Dave Weldy

David Kading

Jerry Dannheim

Jerry Weldy

John Fritsche

Larry Mack

Jim Kretsch