



# Junior Pioneers

Volume 32 Spring 2021

The Junior Pioneers' purpose is to "keep green the memory of the 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..."



*Cleaning the park for Earth Day and the Annual Picnic. The workers: Larry Mack, Mary Ellen Schanus, Paul Schanus, Gordie Palmer, Rosie Dittrich, Florian Dittrich, Carolyn Marti Smith.*



Larry Mack blows it!

## 1862 Excitement in Milford Township

By Gary Wiltscheck

*Synopsis: The Henry and Esther Thomas family resided in Brown County, along with four surviving daughters: Sarah, Mary, Margaret and Minerva. On August 18, most of the family fled from home on an ox drawn wagon en route to New Ulm, but instead ended the day on the Little Cottonwood River, ultimately reaching safety in New Ulm.*



Henry Thomas



Sarah Parker



Mary Jones



Margaret Henton



Minerva Hills

The Thomas family left New York in 1855, headed eastward, turned around at Sioux City, wandered northward, and wound up on the big Cottonwood River in Milford Twp. In 1856. Looking for lumber in New Ulm, they were turned away at the colony saw mill, so a log home was built instead. Trouble started early for Henry on August 18th. His cows got out. While searching for the strays, he heard gunshots and noticed the hoof prints of unshod ponies (i.e., Dakota). Henry's sons-in-law Alvin Parker and Alfred Coon had left for William Tuttle's place to assist with threshing. It was there when the area received early word of the outbreak. Henry Behnke, married to Tuttle's sister Esther, was with the recruiting party which had just been ambushed near the Henle farm a few miles north. It was this event that afforded New Ulm the early warning of what was to come. While the party's survivors retreated to New Ulm, Behnke instead borrowed a horse and high-tailed it southward to alert his in-laws.

redeemed after they became the major cooks during the siege. The day after the 1<sup>st</sup> battle, Margaret Henton gave birth to a son, whom she named Charles Flandrau Henton. Also noteworthy is the Thomas cabin was the site of where William Duley, after fleeing on foot from Lake Shetek, witnessed the ambush of Elijah Whiton. Each of these men became separated from their families as they sought help. Mr. Duley reached New Ulm safely, even after throwing his shotgun into the ravine at the Thomas place.  
END

[Ed. Note: I am familiar with the location of these sites. If anyone is interested in touring the area, I'd be happy to show you around.]

Source: Wiltscheck, Gary *The Leavenworth Rescue Expedition Revisited*, 2011, New Ulm, MN.

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**Park Donations**

Paul T. Furth - \$20.00

**New Member**

Tom Wyczawski - \$30.00 – *Ancestor* Ben and Helen Green

**Memorials for:**

**George Glotzbach**

Larry Mack - \$200.00

Andy and Ann Biebl - \$30.00

Peggy Tauer - \$50.00

Ruth Simpson - \$50.00

**Floyd Andersen**

Garry Anderson - \$200.00

**Don and Evelyn (Larson) Fehlhaber**

Ed and Vera (Nagel) Larson - \$50.00

**Joan Heymann**

Alyce Henle Konz - \$20.00

**Sketch Sales**

Maggie Schwab \$280 from sketch sales

**Beneficiary**

George Glotzbach - \$5,359.43

**Floyd Alwin Family--For the use of their stump grinder to remove stumps from the park.**