

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"A Window into the Past"

JAN-FEB-MAR 2017 - 1st QTR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Chuck Titkemeier
- Marcy Wahlgren

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Anne Anderson

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

On November 20, 2016 the Board of Directors and Officers of the Gothenburg Pony Express Historical Society dba Gothenburg Historical Museum hosted its annual meeting as set forth in the organization's bylaws. The 2016 Annual Report, which included the financial reports and statistics, was presented and is available upon request. The Task List of our goals for 2017 and the accomplishments of 2016 was also provided by president, Roger Heidebrink. Kathy Nichols gave an interesting overview of her work on collecting and cataloging obituaries for future genealogy research. She has many faithful helpers doing a wonderful job. A big thank you to Carol VanOverbeke and Connie Larson for their wonderful job coordinating over 40 volunteers to staff the museum during the tourist season. June Blauvelt, manager of the Pony Express Station, gave a recap of the Trails West Fest held in September in conjunction with our 10th Anniversary of the museum at its current location. Plans are underway for the 2017 Trails West Fest scheduled for May 20, 2017.

Two new directors were elected to serve on the Board of directors. We want to welcome Connie Bihlmaier and Marcy Wahlgren.

A motion was made to update the bylaws to state that the museum's Annual Meeting would be in November of each calendar year, as opposed to a specific date in November. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

The following are a few of the tasks and goals for 2017. If you are interested in helping with a specific task please call Roger at 529-2196 or Anne at 529-0906.

- **Accessioning:**
Learn how the accession process works at the museum.
Take pictures of the items we have on display in the museum.
- **Obituaries/Genealogy:**
Learn the process that is involved with obituaries at the museum, including how to use the "Find a Grave" tool on the internet.
- **Pictures:**
Scan pictures into the computer.
Search, sort, catalog, file pictures and other paper documentation that the museum has.
- **Update displays in the museum**
- **Filing:**
Minutes, reports (annual, financial, etc.), newsletters, etc.
Statistics, including learning and using Microsoft Excel to prepare and maintain statistical reports.
- **Gothenburg Businesses Project:**
Take pictures of the businesses that are in Gothenburg today
Place the pictures and supporting information in the files that the museum develops for this project.
- **Family History Project:**
Update and collect new family histories

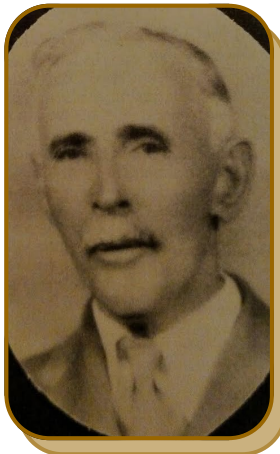
MEDICAL HISTORY

EARLY DOCTORS and HOSPITALS

Information for this article was taken from the Gothenburg Area History Book published in 1992.

This story begins before Gothenburg was even incorporated, with Dr. Vollard Karlson MD, the first town doctor, coming from Sweden in 1882. He worked as a clerk in a Kearney drug store before coming to Gothenburg in the spring of 1883. He opened a Drug Store in the West Hardware Store building and located his office in that same building. Many other doctors came and went in the early days with a few putting down roots that would last a life-time.

One of those doctors was Dr. John Hiram Quinn who came in 1892 with his wife Lula. He had an office in a small building on Winchell Street (renamed Lake Avenue in 1920). In the early days he drove a buggy to make house calls. During the winter he would don a big fur coat and a buffalo robe and set out to visit his patients. In payment of the doctors fees, many times family girls would help in the Quinn home. He retired and died at the age of 92 in 1949. His son Jess would returned from his schooling at the University and become a successful farmer/rancher in the area southwest of Gothenburg. His family continues the family farming legacy. (Janet (Quinn) & Jerry Kranau)



Dr. P. E. Plum MD came in 1898 and built a new house on the corner of 1402 Lake Avenue. This was considered to be one of the finest built at a cost of \$1,800. Dr. Plum owned the first automobile in town, a high-wheeled, chain-driven with a stick steering device.

Dr. Miles S. Moore MD came in 1907 and set up his practice on the second floor of the Potter's Drug Store. He was Captain in Company L, Nebraska National Guards, Gothenburg Unit, when it was called to duty in 1916. He also served overseas during WW I. He returned to Gothenburg and practiced here until 1928.

Dr. H. M. Harvey grew up in the sandhills near Arnold. He and his wife Margaret homesteaded a section of ground near where he had been raised. Wanting to make a better life for himself and his family, they left the sod house



and the farm behind and moved to Kansas City where he received his Doctorate of Medicine and Margaret became a nurse. In 1927 he moved to Gothenburg with his family and purchased a large home at 1320 Lake Avenue. He rented office space above what is now Eustis Plumbing. It soon became evident to Dr. Harvey that a hospital was needed in the town to accommodate the people of the area who were in need of the care that only a hospital could furnish. Their home was remodeled and became the Harvey Hospital. His office was in the basement, on the first floor were the Harvey's living quarters, although the nursery was off the kitchen in a little room. Meals for the patients were cooked in the main kitchen. On the second floor were four big patient rooms, an operating room and labor room. The Third floor was fixed up into nurses's quarters. The waiting room was in the hall as you came in the front door. This hospital was closed after the new Memorial Hospital was built in 1950. Dr. Harvey died at the age of 76 in 1957 with Margaret following two years later.

EARLY MEDICAL HISTORY—Continued

Dr. Bert W. Pyle and his wife Florence came to Gothenburg in 1929. He located his office and six-bed hospital above the Potter Drug Store on the corner of 9th & Lake Avenue (what is now



above Myers Drug Company. D. O. Inslee MD joined the practice in 1959 and remained until 1973. The Ayres Clinic was eventually moved to 512 9th Street (Faith Chapel location) and remained at this location through 1977. City government was one of Dr. Ayres main concerns and interests. He served two terms as mayor first in 1968 and again in 1972.

He also served 12 years on the city council. He remained active in the medical practice until the time of his death in 1977. Robert Ayres MD joined his father's clinic in 1973 and left in 1977 after his fathers death and relocated in Kansas City.

The first Gothenburg Memorial Hospital, located at 20th & Avenue F, was dedicated on June 23, 1950 with a crowd estimated at 2,500. The

known as the Gateway Building) and continued there until 1950 when the first Gothenburg Memorial Hospital was finished. He performed tonsillectomies, appendectomies, minor surgery and delivered over 2,000 babies. Many locals can say they were among those delivered by Dr. Pyle, including yours truly. These were the days of the Great Depression when office calls were \$2.00 and hospital \$4.00 per day. Many patients paid with farm produce. Dr. Pyle was a kind man who kept his patient's welfare foremost. His medical knowledge was keen and his caring for others was often evident. Ailing transients were often treated free of charge and a \$5 bill was slipped to the traveler to help his family. In 1948 Dr. Pyle moved his practice to a former creamery building on the corner of 9th & Avenue D. At that time Dr. Samuel Perry became a partner in the practice and was with him until 1965. Dr. Pyle retired in 1976 and died in 1979.

M. J. Ayres MD came to Gothenburg in 1947 and set up his office at 921 Lake Avenue

dedication was a climax to a year of work which saw cooperation of the entire community in the project. Everyone had a hand in the project, donating money, furnishings, time and effort toward its completion. It was valued at \$150,000 and was



completely paid for. The new hospital had 26 beds and 12 bassinets. The hospital opened officially in August after the dedication. This hospital was used until the "New" Gothenburg Memorial, located at 20th & Avenue I, was built and dedicated in October of 1969.

A new chapter is being written as the existing hospital is going through a \$30 million expansion adding a new patient wing, and renovation creating a "state of the art" facility serving patients located in the hospital district, and surrounding area. Again, we have a community that is united to bring about a project that is done the "Gothenburg Way".

2016 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who joined or renewed their membership and contributed to the museum building fund in 2016.

- Tot & Pauline Holmes***
- Marcy Wahlgren ***
- Gothenburg State Bank***
- Jack & Mary Ostergard***
- Leonard France**
- Gothenburg Feed Products**
- Terry & Cathy Healey**
- Dick & Connie Larson*
- Pam Slack*
- Bev & Chuck Titkemeier*
- Denise Brittenham*
- Gary & Anne Anderson*
- Bob & Mary Theasmeyer*
- Norm & Colleen Geiken*
- Jim & Janice Gonzales
- Robin & Lynnette Stevens
- Dick & Jackie Schwanz*
- Loren & Mary Koch*
- Tom & Rhonda Jobman*
- Verlin & Charolett Janssen*
- Marcia Welch*
- Dennis Kirkpatrick*
- Sue Kirkpatrick*
- Mike & Deb Bacon*
- Gene & Cora Bosch*
- Henry & Patricia Potter*
- Cheryl Alberts Erwin*
- Milan & Barb Franzen*
- David R. Janssen*
- Gene & Velma Schriver*
- Roger Heidebrink*
- Larry & Kathy Nichols
- Cathy Simon
- Romaine & Joan Aden
- Regis & Eddie Fruit
- Charlie & Connie Bihlmaier
- Tim & Cordelia Aden
- Barry McDiarmid
- Lyle & Arlene Franzen
- Dick & Connie Ostergard
- Robert Ronnekamp
- Jane Sheets
- Gary & Donna Glendy
- Rosemary Alberts
- Arlan & Tip Ronnekamp*
- Jan Gill**
- Stone Hearth Estates*
- Doug & Nan Ostendorf*

***Life-Time Member

**Building Fund Benefactor

*Building Fund Contributor

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

- Karla Blasé
- Denise Brittenham
- Jan Gill
- Gothenburg State Bank
- Terry & Cathy Healey
- Ronald Klein
- Dick & Connie Larson
- Donna McConnell
- Ramona Ollendorf
- Blaine & Arlene Peterson
- Jenny Raymond
- Tot & Pauline Holmes
- Marcy Wahlgren
- Jack & Mary Ostergard
- Pam Slack

Time for Membership Renewals

2017 RENEWALS

Thank you to the following who have renewed their membership and contributed to the museum building fund to date.....

- Pam Slack ★
- Leonard France**
- Dick & Connie Larson*
- Robert & Mary Theasmeyer*
- Gary & Anne Anderson*
- Dick & Jackie Schwanz*
- Larry & Kathy Nichols*
- Robin & Lynnette Stevens

★ **Thank You to our newest Life-Time member**

* **Building fund contributor**

** **Building fund benefactor**

HOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION HELPS THE MUSEUM

- Advertising to promote our museum
- Pays our bank loan, plus interest, on the purchase of the building
- Pays for insurance
- Printing, postage and supplies for the newsletter
- Office and Postage Expenses
- Utilities & Telephone
- Repairs & Maintenance on the building, equipment and grounds
- Supplies & Improvements
- Equipment purchases and update of computer hardware
- Cleaning & Maintenance

The *Gothenburg Pony Express Historical Society* was organized February 18, 1980 and incorporated December 28, 1981.

The organization was established as a non-profit corporation formed for charitable, scientific and educational purposes.

The corporation assumed an exempt status to attract support from people in and around the community wishing to make a tax-exempt donation.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Form of Payment

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- ☐ **Check payable to:**
Gothenburg Historical Museum
- ☐ **PO Box 204**
Gothenburg, NE 69138.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

2017 Annual Membership

Life Time Membership

- ☐ 10x Building Fund Contributor \$1,000

Building Fund*

- ☐ Building Fund Benefactor** \$500+

- ☐ Building Fund Contributor* \$100+

*Contribution to the Building Fund includes an annual membership.

Annual Membership

- ☐ Supporting Membership \$50

- ☐ Contributing or Family Membership \$25

- ☐ Base Membership \$15