

Spirit Historical Society Newsletter

Nov. 2022 Vol. 4 No. 3

Previously Liberty School News



Spirit Historical Society Newsletter is published by Spirit Historical Society, Inc. the successor of German Settlement History, Inc.

Winter fun at the Borg home on Jacobson Rd.

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Nov. 1942 John & father Andy Borg, John Skagerberg, Dennie Ahl & Sam Johnson



Andy & son Johnny Raymond & Mom Ethel



Andy Borg getting ready for the '36 & '37 winter.



1933 Gust Skagerberg, Andy H. Borg & John Skagerberg



Andy Borg – ready to go skiing with a sack of hay to protect his backside!

We Need Your Advice

Do you want to continue receiving our newsletter? Yes or No
If yes, we have it available both in hard copy (paper) or we can send it to you electronically (by email) in color. Please let us know your preference. If you change to email, we need to have your email address.

Thank you to all who contacted us previously.

Do you know of anyone else that would like to receive our newsletter?

Contact us at:

spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com

or phone 715-564-3340



Little Andy 'Raymond' Borg Feb. 1934



1947 Raymond & John enjoying winter sports!

We want your memories for future issues. Please take the time to jot down your memories of growing up in Spirit or send us old photos of your family or community events in Spirit.

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization whose mission is to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value for educational purposes. Members are persons who contribute \$25.00 or more at any time during the year. Membership continues through the month of January the following year. As a member of S.H.S.I. you will be contributing to our mission, receive our newsletters and will be eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot at the S.H.S.I. January annual meeting.

Community Events

Our annual **SHSI meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21st at 2:00 pm. There are board seats open. If you would be willing to serve on our board, please contact one of the current board members by the end of November. This meeting will be held on Zoom only. Let us know if you would like to participate (phone President Dawn Meier @ 715-544-0023) and we will send you the Zoom link ahead of time. Everyone is welcome to join us or contact us with your input on issues.

Current Board Members:

Dawn Meier – Pres., JaNelle Nelson – V. Pres., Maryalice McHugh – Sec., Pam Welch (non board member) – Treas., Cheryl Pierson, Johanna Holliday, Anne Marie Fries, Dean Gilge, Mark Nyberg, Karen Baumgartner & Luann Lind.

The 80th annual **Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H Fair** was held Aug. 13 at the Spirit Town Hall. 4-H clubs participating were Happy Hoboes, Hillbillies & Hamburg Hawks.



Reigning Queen is Kajsa Lind Sec/Treas – Colleen Schult

Fair Board Members: Darrel Lind-Pres., Molly Kielsmeier-V.Pres.,
Ed Ulrich, Lynn Peterson & Adam Kielsmeier.

Check out photos from the fair at: www.facebook.com/spirithillogema4hfair

Spirit Town Board meetings are held in the Spirit Town Hall on the 2nd Tues. of each month, starting at 6:00 pm. Town board members are: Darrel Lind, Bill Evans and Gary Siebert.

Clerk – JaNelle Nelson Treas. – Myrna Holmquist

Spirit Legion Post 452 and the American Legion Auxiliary hold their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thurs. of each month at the Spirit Town Hall beginning at 7 pm.

Annual Community Christmas program will be sponsored by Spirit Legion Post 452 and the American Legion Auxiliary. Everyone is welcome to attend and/or participate with readings, musical talent or anything else that would make this program great!

It will take place at the Spirit Town Hall on Saturday Dec. 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Contact Duane Harper @715-657-0304 (leave a message) if you would like to be a part of the program.

SHSI held an Open House on Aug. 13th with tours given of Our Yesterday House. Brats & hot dogs were grilled to help with lunch that day and delicious cheese curds were sold to a hungry Spirit Fair crowd.

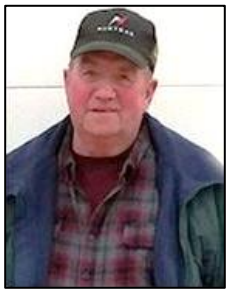


Obituaries



Ronald “RJ” K. Johnson, age 83, of Ogema, WI, passed away on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, under the care of his family and Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. RJ was born in the Town of Spirit, WI, on October 13, 1938, to the late Gustave and Mable (Larson) Johnson. RJ attended the Prentice School District and was a proud veteran in the Army’s 101st Airborne Division as a parachutist. He was married to Susan Jokela in 1962 and together, raised three children. They were later divorced. RJ worked as a tool and dye maker for many years and was also a tavern owner. He enjoyed all sports, especially coaching the Jippos Softball Team where he formed close bonds with everyone on the team. RJ had an outgoing personality, loved social events, and always enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Survivors include his sons, Gregory Johnson, of Gilbert, AZ, and Chris (Tina) Johnson, of Prentice; his daughter, Lynn (Michael) Frank, of Tripoli, WI; his brother, James (Lynn) Johnson, of Spirit, WI; his sister, Nancy Baltz, of Tripoli; his grandchildren, Christine, Bradley, Peyton, Casey, Shawna, Courtney, Kayla, Dakota, Breydon, Je’Ann; and 7 great-grandchildren. He is further survived by his cousin, Lois Johnson, and additional extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gust and Mable; his brothers, Carl (Eileen) Johnson, Curtis (Florence “Toots”) Johnson, and Jack (Linda) Johnson; his sisters, Marilyn Johnson, and Donna (Jack) Norman; and his grandson, Kevin Frank.



Joseph “Joe” P. Johnson, age 75, of the Town of Spirit, WI, passed away on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at his home under the care of his family and Hope Hospice & Palliative Care. Joe was born in Tomahawk, WI, on July 16, 1947, to the late Albert and Wanda “Jane” (Fickel) Johnson. He was married to Dorene Ernst on December 5, 1970, at the United Methodist Church in Tomahawk; she survives.

Joe was a lifelong resident of the Town of Spirit. He attended the Liberty School and was a 1965 graduate of the Rib Lake High School. Joe served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. After the military, he returned to his hometown where he owned and operated the family farm for 30 years. He then proudly helped his sons at Johnson Brothers Forest Products and also worked for Magnuson Brothers Mink Ranch. Joe was a member of the Spirit American Legion Post 452 and was a former supervisor for the Town of Spirit. Farming was truly Joe’s passion and he enjoyed all aspects of it. The greatest joy was when he was taking the grandchildren on tractor rides, something that created smiles and precious memories for all. When not working or farming, Joe was playing cribbage or reading his collection of western books. Survivors include his wife of over 51 years, Dorene Johnson, of Spirit, WI; two sons, Dean (Janalee) Johnson, also of Spirit, and Jason (Jenny) Johnson, of Brantwood, WI; one daughter, Jolene (Craig) Berger, of Ogema, WI; and one sister, Pearl (Ben) Kauer, of Rib Lake, WI. He is further survived by his grandchildren, McKenna, DiLan, Brant, Tristin, Kaelyn, and Karsyn; his nieces and nephews, Jack, Neil, and Marijane; and his dog, Chevy. He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Jane; and his brother, Wayne.



Clarence W. Johnson, age 87, of Brantwood, WI, passed away on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Clarence was born in Wisconsin on February 21, 1935, to the late Samuel and Margaret Johnson. He attended school in Tripoli, WI. After graduation, Clarence proudly served in the military. He returned to the area beginning employment at Owens-Illinois Paper Mill in Tomahawk. Most of his life was spent as a logger. Clarence was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, cutting firewood, and

spending as much time as he could at his cabin. He was extremely close to his nieces and nephews and cherished the time spent with them. Clarence was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Margaret; and his siblings, Paul, Doris, and Ellen. He is survived by his nieces and nephews.

SHSI held a rummage/bake sale on Aug. 4-6.

It was a great success and we thank all those who contributed items for sale, the volunteers that helped set up and clean up and everyone who came to purchase items.



Thanks to these volunteers that helped make the day a success:



Sero Selimovic, Mark Nyberg, Karen Baumgartner, Anne Marie Fries, Gary & Barb Failing, Pam Welch, JaNelle Nelson & Dawn Meier.



Cheryl Pierson, JaNelle Nelson, Anne Marie Fries in back. Pam Welch, Dawn Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Vanessa Reyes in front.

Sent to us and written by Lois (Pierson) Resheske

Lois is a sister to Darrell Pierson's Dad Donald

I always enjoy reading the Spirit Historical newsletter. After encouragement to write something for it, this article will tell the story of a very special little house. In the early years, it was on the Pierson farm on Highway 86 in the Town of Spirit.

It has been affectionately called the "little house", with a bit of history. It was built with wood from the 80-acre farm by my grandfather, Andrew, and my father, Ed, in 1914. It was the first home of my mother, Mae, and my father, Ed, after they were married in 1919. My brother, Donald, sister, Geraldine, and I were born there. It had one room on the first floor, the same on the second floor. It was cozy!

Later, a larger house was built on the same property, now the beautiful home on the farm. The day we moved into that house was quite an experience, so much room down and up, and our own bedrooms! It didn't take long to adjust to that move in 1928.

During the winter of 1933 my father had the 16 x 20 foot little house moved over the snow-custed field to the southeast corner of the farm. It was conveniently located, for the next occupant, across the highway from the Spirit Store.

Shortly thereafter, my mother did extensive painting and decorating to make it a very comfortable home for my father's sister, Hilda. She had retired from a nursing career in Chicago, returned to Spirit, and lived there until her death in 1957.

After that, the little house was not lived in for a period of years. In 1977 my husband and I had it moved to our lake property, its present location. With the expertise of two accomplished carpenters, Ben Swanson and Max Scheller, a new roof, a bathroom, and a deck were built. Since then, we have added additional rooms making it a three-season home.

Over the years it has become a gathering place for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. One of our grandsons chose to be married there in July 2021!

It's always a joy to welcome our nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, and friends when they come to visit. Many of them remember the building when it was on the farm.

It is bittersweet when we close in the fall, but we always look forward to the next season at the "little house".

Lois in front of the house with its additions
and the "Little House" of the past!



Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery

was originally known as Eastern Cemetery, Town of Brannan.

There may have been plans to have a Western Cemetery in Brannan which never happened.

This map was made in August 1909.



Minutes from the Town of Brannan Dec. 1910 when Fred C. Anderson was the town clerk:

Motion was carried that burial lots (8 grave spaces) would be sold to non-residents of the town for the sum of \$5.00.

There was no cemetery association at this time.

The current rate in 2022 is \$150.00 for one grave space.



Andy 'Raymond' Borg today standing proudly by the main gate that he helped his father build.



Memories from Raymond Borg: The main gate entrance to the cemetery was built in 1948 by Andy Borg (Raymond's Dad). Six foot deep footings were dug with a shovel and pick axe. The foundation is probably blocks rather than poured cement. Raymond remembers at age 16, digging most of the east footing on a Saturday. By the following Saturday, when he was not in school, his Dad had already begun the laying of the limestones. The stones came from a quarry near Marshfield. Don McCumber hauled them with his truck. The top parts were poured cement pieces. The entrance was built to honor World War II Veterans.



The older records of burials in our cemetery was stored in the small shed on the west side of the cemetery. We've been told that the roof leaked at some point and destroyed those old records.

Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery Association was formed in 1949. John Skagerberg served on the board from that date until May of 1996 putting in 47 years of service. Charles E. Frossard was born in 1894. We don't know when he started working at the cemetery. He signed papers as Sexton until somewhere in between Feb. & July of 1966. From July moving forward, the papers we found were signed by James Hanson. Charles died in 1972 at the age of 78. He was 72 years old when he retired from the sexton job which involved digging graves by hand. Story has it that Charles would put a bed of hot coals on a grave space in the winter to thaw the frost so he could dig the grave, then repeat when he got down to more frost. He also was known to mark out grave spaces in the fall of folks that he didn't expect would live out the winter, making it easier to find the location when there was snow covering the cement markers.

Tidbits from the minutes 1980 – 2022

- 1980 - Sec./Treas. Salary was \$75, Dan King was caretaker. Motion carried that all burials use cement vaults effective May 8, 1980.
- 1981 - Fee for a grave space was raised to \$25.
- 1982 - New John Deere riding mower was purchased from Marshfield for \$3,442 (delivered).
- 1987 - Three applications for the caretaker position are: Andy & Linda Holmquist, Robert Lovett and William Stamper. Robert Lovett was given the job.
- 1990 - Motion carried that only two cremated remains could be buried on one grave space and no more burials of cremated remains will be allowed on existing graves. Two applications received for the caretaker job were from Paul Anderson from Tripoli, and George Hedstrom from Spirit. George Hedstrom was given the job.
- 1991 - Burial of premature infants will be allowed to be placed on an existing grave.
- 1993 - Wages for caretaker are \$4.50 per hour. Alan Blomberg was digging graves.
- 1995 - Henry Thums was hired to dig graves. State DOT gave permission to build a new road on the east side of the cemetery coming out to Hwy. 86.
- 1997 - There was one applicant for caretaker. Luann Lind was given the job.
- 2001 – Donated money was raised to have a sign made with the name of the cemetery. It was installed by board members in November, see photos.
- 2002 – Lumber was donated and 16 benches were built and placed around the cemetery.
- 2008 –A Memory Garden was set up in Potter's Field where shrubs could be planted in memory of folks.
- 2009 – A new 20' wide road was built on the north side of the cemetery, running east and west across the entire cemetery, connecting all the north/south roads.
- 2012 - Clarence Uhren was hired to tuckpoint the main gate. Board was reduced from 7 to 6 members.
- 2013 - A new Husqvarna riding lawn mower was purchased from Meyer's Marine in Tomahawk \$1519.96.
- 2018 - Dan Nelson was hired to locate corners of grave spaces and take care of digging and covering cremations. Lots were measured and steel markers were placed in the east and north sections of the cemetery.
- 2019 - New Husqvarna riding lawn mower was purchased from Meyers Marine in Tomahawk for \$1679.96.
- 2021-2022 – Fee was raised for casket burials from Nov. 1 – May 1. Cremation burials will not be allowed during this time.

People that have served on the board for Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery Association since 1980

John Skagerberg	Lloyd Nelson	Clarence Nyberg	Roy Meier	Henry Schilling
Harry Evans	Paul Nelson	Bennie Swanson	Raymond Borg	Clarence Johnson
Ronald Meier	Jody Scheller	Terry Johnson	Ilmi Nelson	

Current board members:

William Evans	Darrel Lind	Terri Roberts	Dan Nelson	Andy Holmquist
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With the passing of Clarence Johnson in September, there is a vacancy. Please consider being a part of this important community board. Folks who care, are needed to keep the Spirit Cemetery functioning.

The 1st cemetery clean-up took place in 1949.



This was the beginning of the large spruce tree that stands close to the flag pole today. Note the many cars on Hwy. 86. Lots of folks showed up to help get the cemetery cleaned up. Also note the open field across Hwy. 86 to the south. At this time the Marheine family farmed the entire area and it was all open field. Prior to the formation of the association, each family was responsible for the care of their own lots.

1949 Photos courtesy of Raymond Borg



Looking east. Taken from the back NW corner of the cemetery. The tall evergreens were on the Lovendahl corner lot.



Rib Lake band playing at the cemetery on Memorial Day.

Each year in May, the cemetery association welcomes neighbors and friends to help with cemetery clean-up. On this day each year, monuments are straightened, raised or lowered where needed. Older sunken graves are filled in with topsoil and newer graves are leveled and covered with topsoil, ready to be seeded down. **Please consider helping with this community project in May each year.**



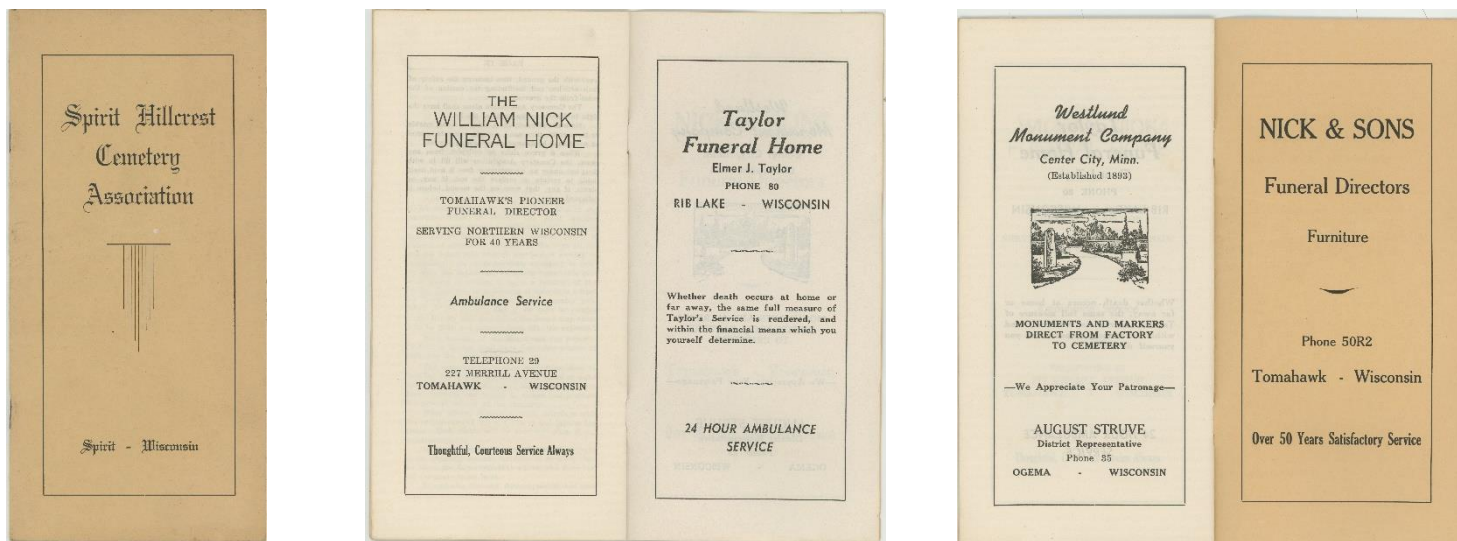
2019 clean up crew: Bill Evans, Dawn Meier, Don Rhody, Darrell Pierson, Courtney Pierson, Luann Lind, Tim Nelson, Andy Holmquist, Darrel Lind



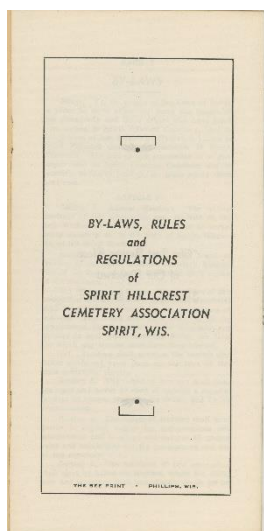
2022 clean up crew: Luann & Darrel Lind, Bill Evans, Don Rhody, Mark Nyberg, Darrell & Courtney Pierson, Dawn Meier, Dan Nelson and Loren Nelson (not shown)



In 1949 the Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery Association was formed. Prior to this each family was responsible for the upkeep of their own family lots. A small pamphlet was printed with the By-Laws and Regulations of the cemetery.



Advertisements in the back of the pamphlet.



Interesting Tidbits from the 1949 pamphlet

The board of trustees shall consist of six members.
 No member shall be eligible for the office of trustee who is not a lot owner.
 Any person owning one or more lots or having deceased relatives buried in Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery is a member of this Association.
 Each lot owner shall pay, as annual dues, the sum of \$2.50 unless arrangements for perpetual care have been made.

Interment Charges:	Summer	Winter
3 ½ feet	\$4.00	\$6.00
3 ½ to 5 feet	\$6.00	\$8.00
Over 5 feet	\$8.00	\$10.00
Vaults	\$10.00	\$12.00

Removal of body from grave \$25.00

On the death of the owner of a lot, the lot goes to the children. If no children, to the widow or widower, if any. If no children, widow or widower, the lot goes to the heirs designated by law. Interment allowed the widow or widower of owner, if not re-married; and if re-married, with the consent of the heirs.
 The sexton or his assistants or workmen under his supervision shall build all vaults and lay all foundations, set all corner posts and markers.
 No vehicle shall exceed a speed of 8 miles per hour nor shall any vehicle under any circumstances leave the avenue. Persons with refreshments or liquors or dogs will not be admitted to the grounds.
 No person will be permitted to use boisterous or profane language, or in any other way to disturb the quiet or good order of the cemetery.



Nov. 7, 2001 installing new sign. Luann & Darrel Lind, Paul Nelson, Terry Johnson, Ron Meier, Raymond Borg.



June 2002 sixteen benches were made for the cemetery from donated lumber.



On September 29th a crew gathered to take down the dying white pine tree at Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery. Board members Bill Evans, Darrel Lind & Andy Holmquist along with Darrell Pierson helped with the clean up. Arborist Ethan Bowen, Appleseed Arbor Co. LLC was kind enough to donate his time to the cemetery in taking down the tree. Thank you Ethan!



One limb at a time, the tree came down. Care had to be taken to preserve the monuments near by. Finally the main trunk was pulled down to the east where there weren't any monuments in the way.



If our count is correct the big pine tree was 103 years old, either planted or started to grow on its own in 1918 or 1919.

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

Membership Application

You are invited to become a member of S.H.S.I.



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email Address _____
 Phone _____
 Amount _____ Membership Year _____

Categories: Please check one

_____ Swamper (Non Member) - \$1.00 to \$24.00 per year

The following categories qualify you as a Member:

_____ Sawyer - \$25.00 to \$49.00 per year

_____ Teamster - \$50.00 to \$99.00 per year

_____ Woods Boss - \$100.00 to \$499.00 per year

_____ Homesteader - \$500.00 to \$999.00 per year

_____ Settlement Builder - \$1000.00 or more per year

Mail checks payable to SHSI and mail to:

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

P.O Box 621

Ogema, WI 54459

Contact us at:

spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com

www.spirithistoricalsociety.org

Find us on Facebook

Books we have for sale written by local authors

Books by Jeanette Gilge	Quantity	Total	Books by Carl Rhody	Quantity	Total
<i>"Pioneer Family Series"</i>			<i>"Saga of Spirit Valley Series"</i>		
A Winter's Promise \$5.00	_____	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley \$7.50	_____	_____
Never Miss a Sunset \$5.00	_____	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley II \$7.50	_____	_____
All Things Heal in Time \$5.00	_____	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley III \$7.50	_____	_____
Best of Intentions \$5.00	_____	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley IV \$7.50	_____	_____
Satin in the Snow \$5.00	_____	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley V \$7.50	_____	_____
As Long As I Have You \$5.00	_____	_____	Set of 5 Saga books \$35.00	_____	_____
Set of 6 Pioneer Series \$20.00	_____	_____			

City-Kid Farmer \$5.00 _____ German Settlement History Pamphlet \$2.00 _____

Written by Roy Meier

Books by James Rhody

Brant's Bear \$10.00 _____

The Pleasure of the Sorrow \$5.00 _____

Shipping – Orders for \$10 and under – add \$3.50 > _____

Orders over \$10 – add \$7.50

Total Order > _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 621

Ogema, WI 54459

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



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