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Fall 2016

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Peoria Stockyards Softball Team Reunion

A few months ago, Don Dahm mentioned to Carrol Bandstra that it would be fun to get the “old” Peoria Stockyards ball players together. They agreed it was a good idea. But then Don took off for his home in Florida, leaving the planning of the event to the Bandstras. Carrol talked with several former players who were all eager to get together. Invitations were sent out to as many players as we could recall, stating *“We are eager to get together with former Peoria Stockyards ball players to reminisce, and share stories & memories about (and probably exaggerate) our abilities from way back when. We may also hear from the long-suffering spouses their version of the events.”*

On July 9, a group of about 40 former players and spouses of former players met at the Peoria Church yard/gym. It was a beautiful evening so tables were set up in the shade east of the church. Participants enjoyed a wiener roast and potluck supper of many delicious side dishes.

Arvin Bandstra, former player and manager, opened with prayer. Carrol reminisced about one memorable triple play. Another memory was when the group of young players arrived at a game, only to be teased, asking if they had brought their grade school team. After the game, there was no more teasing, as the young guys had defeated their opponent by the 10 run rule (leading 10 to nothing after 5 innings.)

The guys always enjoyed playing various teams. One highlight was playing in Pella on the 4th of July. One year the Stockyards team was down 4 to 2 in the last inning. They had two outs and no one on base. Then amazingly they scored 6 runs and held the Pella All Stars in the bottom of the inning, pulling out a win 8 to 4. That was one for the books.

Several players brought their old ball gloves that night, but no one seemed motivated to compete, so the gloves were only used for display. Also, several uniforms were displayed – most of them on hangers. Only Jon



Nibbelink was brave enough to wear his old uniform as he could still fit into it, even if he couldn't tuck his shirt in comfortably. One tradition at games was to pass the hat to cover the cost of lighting the ball field. In keeping with that tradition, we passed Arvin's hat and collected over \$100. Consensus was to donate that amount to the Peoria Christian Grade School.

Former players came from as far away as Florida, Kansas City, and Grand Rapids and enjoyed a great evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

*Article by Doris Nibbelink
Photos from Carrol and Carolyn Bandstra*

Peoria Memorial Day Service: Freedom is not free

About 200 people came together at the cemetery on the hill overlooking Peoria on Memorial Day 2016. Gregg Heartsill, who represents portions of Jasper, Marion, and Lucas Counties in the Iowa Legislature, has a special interest in faith and freedom. In his address he urged the crowd to "never forget the sacrifices of those who gave their lives, and of the survivors. Freedom is not free; there is a hefty price."

Fresh out of the Army, Julia Vander Wal helped the crowd honor the other veterans in attendance. As she sang the Armed Forces medley, members of each branch of the military stood to be recognized while their anthem was sung. Julia closed with a stirring rendition of Stars and Stripes Forever on the flute.

Readers may remember the "Headstone Mystery Makes Headway" article in the [June 2015](#) issue of the *Peoria*

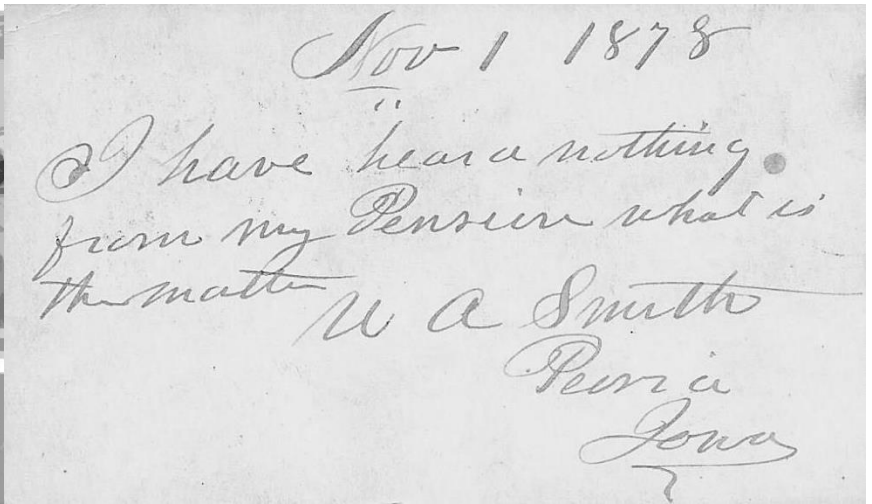


Partyline. As a member of the 15th Regiment of Iowa Voluntary Infantry in the Civil War, the hefty price of freedom cost drum major Nathan Leonard his life. He is buried in the Peoria Cemetery and, thanks to Jon and Doris Nibbelink, now has a military headstone recognizing his service. Iowa's participation in the Civil War was recounted by Danny Krock, commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Iowa. He was accompanied by a color guard dressed in Civil War uniforms complete with muskets, which were used for the military salute honoring Nathan Leonard.

The service of remembrance is an annual event hosted

by Peoria Church. May 30, 2016, was a beautiful morning, and the event drew participants from Peoria, the surrounding area, and beyond. This was the first time that Duane Arkema of Lynnville attended. An Army veteran himself, he came out of respect for other veterans, something he feels the country is losing. If Central College professor Mark Mills has his way, however, their sacrifices will not be forgotten. He brought his two young children to help them learn to honor veterans and to understand that freedom is not free.

*Article by Deb Bruxvoort
Photos from Kathy Franje*



The Long Chase for the Peoria Pension

A chance encounter with a postcard written in Peoria nearly 140 years ago gives some insight into the current events of that time period. The writing was brief and to the point: "I have heard nothing from my Pension--what is the matter?" The postcard was written on November 1, 1878, and clearly has the cancellation mark of the Peoria Post Office and the home address of Peoria for the sender.

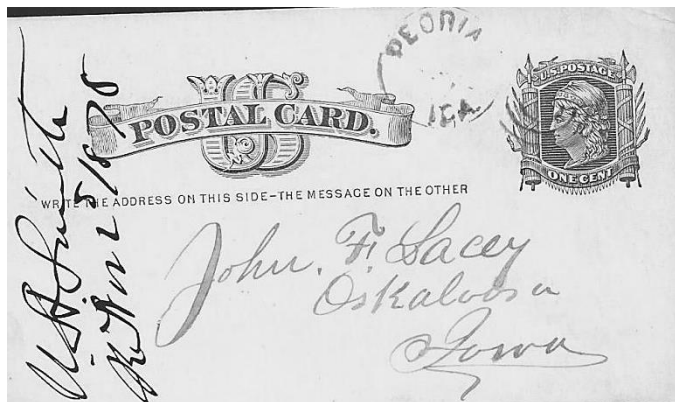
The writer of the postcard was Uriah A. Smith. His early history is not well known--he was born in 1835 in Danville, Illinois. His older brother Edward Smith came to the Peoria area around 1850, and married Lydia Jarard in 1851. Uriah, also known as Rile, followed his

brother here in the mid-1850's and was living with him in Iowa's 1856 census. Shortly thereafter in 1858, he further established himself in Mahaska County by marrying Emily Spain, who was a second cousin to Peoria's founder, Theodrick Spain. In 1860 he and Emily were living with Emily's brother, Joshua Spain, along with Joshua's wife and young child. His occupation was farm laborer, and was likely working as a hired hand for the Spain family.

Near the beginning of the Civil War in October of 1861, Uriah enlisted in the Union forces--whether this was inspired by pure patriotism or a desire to get out of lackluster living and working conditions is anybody's

guess. Uriah was in Company C of the 15th Iowa Infantry, and had a long service in the war as he was not discharged until January of 1865. He participated in some intense combat, particularly in the Battle of Corinth in Mississippi where he was initially reported as missing in action. After he returned to Iowa, he engaged in farming and in 1870 purchased a 15-acre farm north of Peoria, now part of the farm owned by Harry and Sharolyn Vander Hart. It was during this time period that he and Emily adopted their only child, John.

One of the aftermaths of the Civil War was the federal pension program, which was initially established to help widows and dependents of soldiers killed during the war. Pension benefits were expanded to those returning soldiers whose disability was "incurred as a direct consequence of . . . Military duty" or developed after combat "from causes which can be directly traced to injuries received or diseases contracted while in military service." While veterans certainly incurred obvious disabilities from the result of war-time service, as with any government program, abuses often occurred with a pension application. At best, the definitions of these disabilities were subject to interpretation, resulting in political pressure in order to get a pension application approved at the federal level. At worst, corruption and fraud took place at both the pensioner and government official level.



While the reason for Uriah Smith's exact disability has been lost to time, it is noted that the 1890 Veterans' Census reflected that he had suffered a gun-shot wound to the right arm. This may have been the reason that he felt validated enough to apply for pension benefits in 1877, twelve years after he had been discharged. After not getting the desired results following a wait of well



over a year, in his frustration he fired off the short postcard to the second player in this story, John F. Lacey of Oskaloosa.

John Fletcher Lacey would have been a good ally for Uriah, as he too was a Civil War veteran who had returned to his home town of Oskaloosa to practice law. At the time of the postcard, Lacey was a player in the political scene in both Mahaska County and the State of Iowa. He had been admitted to the bar in Mahaska County in 1865, and had served terms as Oskaloosa City

Councilmember, Oskaloosa City Attorney, and as a Representative in the Iowa House. He was also known as an expert in railroad law, and his publication "Lacey's Railroad Digest" became a widely used encyclopedia of railroad cases in law schools throughout the country. This interest in railroads led him to found the railroad towns of Lacey and Lakonta (now called Truax) in Mahaska County. But Lacey's claim to fame largely came several years after the receipt of the postcard from Uriah. Likely the most influential politician to ever hail from Mahaska County, beginning in 1888 he won election to the US House of Representatives on the Republican ticket in 8 out of 9 campaigns. A champion of conservation before it was popular, he secured passage of the Yellowstone Park Protection Act in his first term of office. Later on, he authored the Lacey Act of 1900, which was America's first nation-wide wildlife statute as it created a federal offense to transport wild game or birds killed in violation of state laws. This Act is still in use today, being amended as recently as 2008 to broaden its coverage to regulate the importation of certain endangered plants. And in the more recent past, the new Lacey Recreation Ballpark Complex on the northwest side of Oskaloosa gives a reminder of his influence in this area.

Despite the plea for help from Lacey, Uriah did not obtain the requested pension for his war service. So without these funds, Uriah continued to go about the business of life after his return from the war. After selling his farm, he tried his hand at being a merchant as

in 1880 he was in Galesburg operating a dry goods store with his brother-in-law, Pearson Spain. That venture was short-lived as he was back Mahaska County by 1885, this time closer to Taintor as he purchased the 40 acres at what is known as the Paul Pothoven corner where Jody Pothoven now lives. He and Emily also did a stint out West as in 1890 they were in Red Cloud, Nebraska, following their only son John who first went to Kansas, then Nebraska, and finally Missouri. John eventually came back to Jasper County, and the elder Smiths came home to Iowa as well, purchasing a house in Peoria that is now part of the Frank Franco property. As the Smiths grew older, they spent winters with their son John in Newton, with Emily dying there in 1908 and Uriah in 1912. Both had funerals in Peoria and were laid to rest in the Peoria Cemetery.

But before Uriah's death, the postcard story came full circle. In the early 1900's, probably the result of more and more aging Civil War veterans surviving with limited means, Congress passed a law that stated old age alone was sufficient to receive a pension--proving a war-related disability was no longer necessary. As a result, a short story printed in the June 5, 1910 Des Moines Register & Leader that came from this newspaper's Washington bureau, had this name on the list: Uriah A. Smith, receiving a pension of \$20/month. The postcard demand was finally honored, 32 years after it was written.

Article and postcard photos from Calvin Bandstra



Storm Damage in Peoria



The storm on July 16 knocked down the tree by James and Betty Bandstra in Peoria. Fortunately the only damage done was that the electricity was out for a few hours. The clean-up crew consisted of Peterson Tiling, Arvin Roose, and Sam Santee.

Submitted by Terry Bandstra

Peoria Christian School Annual Fall Bazaar

On Friday November 4, the Peoria Christian School will be having their Annual Fall Bazaar at the school. Please join us for a hearty meal of pork burgers, party potatoes, veggies, salad and ice cream sundaes! Childcare will be available at 7:00 in the school.

Schedule of Events

3:00-6:30: Bake Sale and Browse-n- Buy

3:00-4:30: Coffee Time

5:00-6:30: Supper and Ice Cream-

7:00: Live auction begins in the gym

The items available for auction will be posted on the Peoria Christian School Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool/>). If you have any questions or would like to donate items for the auction, please contact Heidi Van Wyk (641)-780-9755 or Lisa Ver Meer (641)-780-8542.

Submitted by Heidi Van Wyk



Election Day Supper in New Sharon

The New Sharon Ministerial will be hosting a Community Election Day Dinner at the McVay Family Center for all those who vote in New Sharon, such as the residents of Richland Township. By providing supper the New Sharon Ministerial hopes will free up more people to be able to exercise their right to vote. For anyone interested, volunteers are still needed for serving and clean-up. A free-will donation will be available and put towards to the New Sharon Ministerial Alliance.

Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at the McVay Family Center

Serving: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

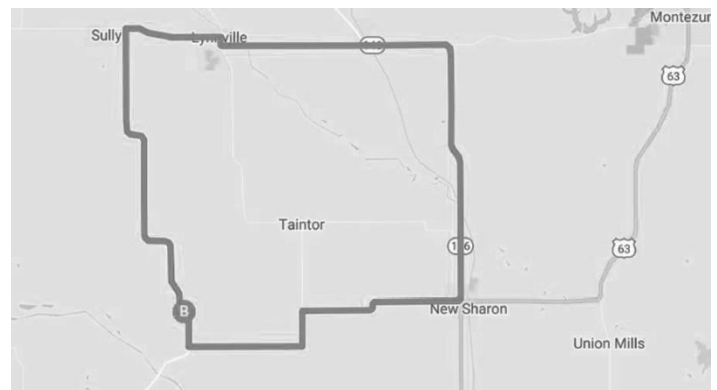
Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes/gravy, dressing, corn or green beans, dinner roll, and pie or bar.

Drinks: Ice tea, water and coffee

2016 Peoria Christian School Tractor Ride

The tractor ride, held on June 11, was a benefit for the Peoria Christian School. After some coffee and doughnuts, the ride started at 9 AM. The school was the starting point, and the ride went through Sully, Lynnville, and New Sharon. Lynnville and Crop Production Services just north of New Sharon, served as spots for breaks.

There were around 28 tractors on the ride and about 80 people came for a lunch of pork burgers. It rained that morning so we weren't sure how it was going to go, but the sun came out as we were about to leave and the weather ended up being perfect.



A big thank you to all who came for both the ride and lunch to support the school!

Details from Ruth De Bruin

Photos from Kathy Franje



In Memoriam

Harry VanDerHart passed away September 8, 2016, at the age of 77. He was born March 5, 1939, near Pella. Harry is survived by his wife Sharolyn, and his children Sandra and Kevin, along with their families. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, September 14, at the Liberty Evangelical Free Church in Pella.

Henry De Jong was born January 28, 1921 near Leighton, Iowa. He passed away on September 15, 2016 at the age of 95. Funeral services were on September 19, at the Second Christian Reformed Church in Pella. Henry married Jeannetta Veenstra at the Peoria Christian Reformed Church in 1946 and the family of four children: Myron, Cathy, Mary, and Junior, lived north of Peoria.

Births

Grace Julianne Roose was born to Jordan and Joy Roose on May 16, 2016. She weighed 6 lbs5 oz. She was welcomed home by her siblings Timothy, Arie, Lydia and Peter.

'Portrait and Biographical Album of Mahaska County, Iowa'

The following is an interesting quote from the 1887 document 'Portrait and Biographical Album of Mahaska County, Iowa' Henry Lunt farmed in the vicinity of the current residence of Mark and Julie Roose.

HENRY W. LUNT, a wealthy and influential farmer and stock-grower, owns and occupies a fine estate on section 24, in Richland Township. He is a native of the Green Mountain State, having been born in Orleans County, Jan. 7, 1839...

He left his native State in 1857 for the West, and came as far as Logan County, Illinois, where he remained a few years, working by the month. In 1861 he was united in marriage with Miss Mattie W...

After marriage Mr. Lunt entered 960 acres of land in Thayer County, Neb., but continued to reside in Logan County, IL., and purchased land there after having disposed of his Nebraska lands, and farmed the same until 1879, when he sold 200 acres of his farm to William Scully for \$9,700; the remainder was disposed of to other parties. Following this sale he came to Iowa, and purchased 300 acres of land. The home farm now consists of 310 acres of the best land in Richland Township, all in a high state of cultivation, with splendid improvements of all kinds. Mr. Lunt devotes his principal attention to the raising of Clydesdale horses...

... since coming to Iowa has been Justice of the Peace, and is at present one of the Trustees of the township. He is Secretary of the Iowa Detective Association, and one of the Directors of the New Sharon District Fair. He was made a Mason at Lincoln, Il, in 1869, but is now a member of Central Lodge at Peoria, Iowa. He is a man of more than usual ability, as his success in life attests. He is a progressive farmer and public-spirited citizen, and takes a genuine interest in the welfare of the country at large.

Neighborhood Notes

Have you moved out of Peoria Community and would like to update the community about what you are up to now? Please send a short note to peoria.ia.news@gmail.com. Any submissions are welcome!

Southern Iowa Fair 2016



Jayden, Andrew and Quinten Veenstra, sons of Jayme and Nicki, with their bucket/bottle calves and return bucket/bottle calves.

Supplementary photos in this edition show the Dakota Access Pipeline construction in the neighborhood.

Peoria Partyline



Peoria Christian Reformed Church
120 Peoria High St
Pella, IA 50219

