

President Roberts & 2020 Board Members:

I want to thank each of you for your successful efforts in leading the Huxley Historical Society through an unprecedented year. Thank you also to all past board members, volunteers, the City of Huxley, & the Business Community of Huxley who have made HHS successful in its first 15 years. Yes, the Community of Huxley has been engaged as stated in the HHS mission statement.

“To engage the Community of Huxley, Iowa in the preservation, education, and celebration of our heritage and ancestry. To preserve for research and education, the artifacts, information, and verbal histories about the lives of the people of Huxley from its pioneer origins to the present day and into our future.”

The interior design of the 2 locations where artifacts & information are displayed seems to be very appealing. And, thanks to technology & a top-quality website, an opportunity for anyone, anywhere to learn about the Huxley Community & its history is available. “Hazel would be proud.”

As I recently read the following in a local MN newspaper –

“Ridership on the Northstar Commuter line is down 96%, so it’s just a massive amount of subsidized money here. It was a really nice experiment; and like all other experiments, when it fails, it’s time to cut your losses & move on.”

I immediately thought of the recent history of the Maland House & the HHS. Not enough generated revenue to support the monthly operating costs of that facility. Because of the pandemic, those operating costs would have continued throughout 2020 & there would have been no allowed usage & no fund raising events to generate income to attempt to cover the operating costs. The successful sale of the property with minimum realty & closing costs was a true blessing. Now there needs to be some thoughtful decisions on how to use the net sales proceeds (less upgrade & maintenance costs) in a manner that honors the Maland family history & their generosity to the community. Transferring these proceeds to a Foundation that is not the responsibility of the HHS board would allow future HHS board members & volunteers to focus on achieving the HHS mission statement definition.

Now it becomes the responsibility of each HHS member to create documented ancestral stories about their own families & share the results with HHS. Get out the old photo albums & spend a couple of hours the next time your extended family is together & share the memories that each person has of those ancestors; and create a detailed document about this discussion. Remember,

“When the Elderly die, a Library is lost and Volumes of Wisdom & Knowledge are gone.”

There are many elderly in the Huxley Community who have a vast knowledge of our history & how things have changed during their lifetime, & all that is needed is a caring friend or family member to capture that historical knowledge for your grandchildren. Hopefully each family can do their part to make the Valuable History of the Huxley Community come alive. Family genealogy data typically only captures the details of birth, marriage, & death. How each individual lived their lives & contributed to their family & community is the truly interesting story.

I encourage each HHS member to make a concerted effort before the end of the year to use their creative skills to share their history with the HHS. Maybe the HSS should adopt a 2021 theme of “Memories of our Ancestors” as families gather more frequently as the restrictions of the 2020 Pandemic year are adjusted.

Lastly, congratulations to each newly elected 2021 HHS Board Member. We look forward to supporting you as you diligently pursue your responsibilities to preserve the Heritage & Ancestral History of the Community of Huxley.