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# The Hilltop

News from the Dodge County Historical Society

Fall 2020

## Update on happenings at historical society

There are a number of adjustments afoot at the historical society.

Don Westfall, who served as executive director of the Dodge County Historical Society since 2017, resigned effective Aug. 1. The board has not decided how to fill the position at this time.

The board held a special meeting on Aug. 1 to accept Westfall's resignation. With the resignation and the onset of winter, the museum is open by appointment only. Call the museum at 507-635-5508 and leave a message to schedule your visit. You may also email [dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

### Clothing exhibit

Dodge County Historical Society vice president and treasurer Linda Jerviss devoted countless hours to sorting the museum's collection of white clothing and has arranged an



exhibit featuring late Victorian and Edwardian feminine clothing. The clothing is elegant, and all originally owned and worn by Dodge County women.

### Mail-in election

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the board voted in July to cancel the annual meeting and have a mail-in election. Incumbents Lois Hancock and Jim Checkel were re-

elected with 46 and 45 votes, respectively. Jean Bartel, who was appointed to fill Tom Monson's term when he resigned in July, was elected to a three-year term with 45 votes.

### Grant update

Before he resigned, Westfall submitted a grant application to finance needed exterior construction work on the Bourdon house on the museum grounds in Mantorville. The board received notification this fall that it received the grant. It is anticipated that construction will begin in spring 2021.

The historical society is working with Dodge County on a grant project for signage at the historical properties in Wasioja. DCHS board president Dave Hanson signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dodge County to advance the grant application to bring more visibility to the historic properties.

## Board Members

David Hanson, President  
Linda Jerviss, Vice President  
Lois Hancock, Secretary  
Linda Jerviss, Treasurer  
James Checkel  
David Chicos  
Scott French  
Janet Kubat-Willette  
Mark Packard

## Contact Information

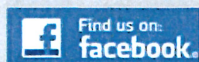
Dodge County Historical Society  
615 North Main Street  
Mantorville, MN 55955  
Phone: 507.635.5508  
Email: [dodgecountyhistorical.society@gmail.com](mailto:dodgecountyhistorical.society@gmail.com)

## Moving?

Please contact the society if your address has changed or if your email has changed.

## Ordering online?

When ordering online through Amazon Smiles, be sure to designate the historical society for your donations.



*The mission of the Dodge County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Dodge County and its relation to the history of the state of Minnesota.*

# Do you remember Peter J. Schwarg or Genevieve Ives Schwarg of Dodge Center?

When researching women's suffrage in Dodge County, a couple names stood out. One was Genevieve Ives Allen Schwarg, also known as Mrs. P.J. Schwarg.

Schwarg served on the state suffrage board and was active in the 1<sup>st</sup> District Republican Party. One of her childhood dresses is in the Minnesota Historical Society Collection.

Genevieve Ives was born on Jan. 4, 1861, but her birthplace is a bit of a mystery. She was born out east, in either Bristol, Hartford County, Connecticut, as reported on Find a Grave, or in Clinton, Oneida County, N.Y., as reported in Who's Who Among Minnesota Women. Her parents were Charles and Catherine (Vickery) Ives.

Genevieve was educated in private school and graduated with honor. She taught in Herkimer, N.Y.

On Jan. 18, 1888, she married Frank Sidney Allen in Wisconsin. He died in 1904 in Winona.

After his death, Genevieve "followed her chosen profession of house mother" for three years.

On April 18, 1908, she married Peter Julius Schwarg in Dodge County and they lived at the corner of Central Avenue and Second Street in Dodge Center, according to a descendant of Peter who shared a photograph and other information. Peter served one



This is where Peter and Gen Schwarg lived in Dodge Center. Do you recognize the woman in the photo? Image courtesy David Harm.

term in the Minnesota Legislature, from 1901 to 1903. He became the Dodge Center postmaster in 1905.

Genevieve taught school in Dodge Center for eight years and helped to start the Dodge Center Public Library. For 10 years, she was chairwoman of the library board. She also served as acting librarian.

Her public service extended beyond the library. Genevieve was president of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs from 1903 to 1905. She was a Sunday School superintendent, charter member of the Fortnightly Club and its first president. Genevieve was a charter member of the Republican Women's Club. She also served as the Dodge County Food Administrator.

Genevieve died in 1947 in Rice County, Minn. According to Find A Grave and Peter's descendant, she is buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery in Oneida County, N.Y.

# History in motion: Farming like in the old days

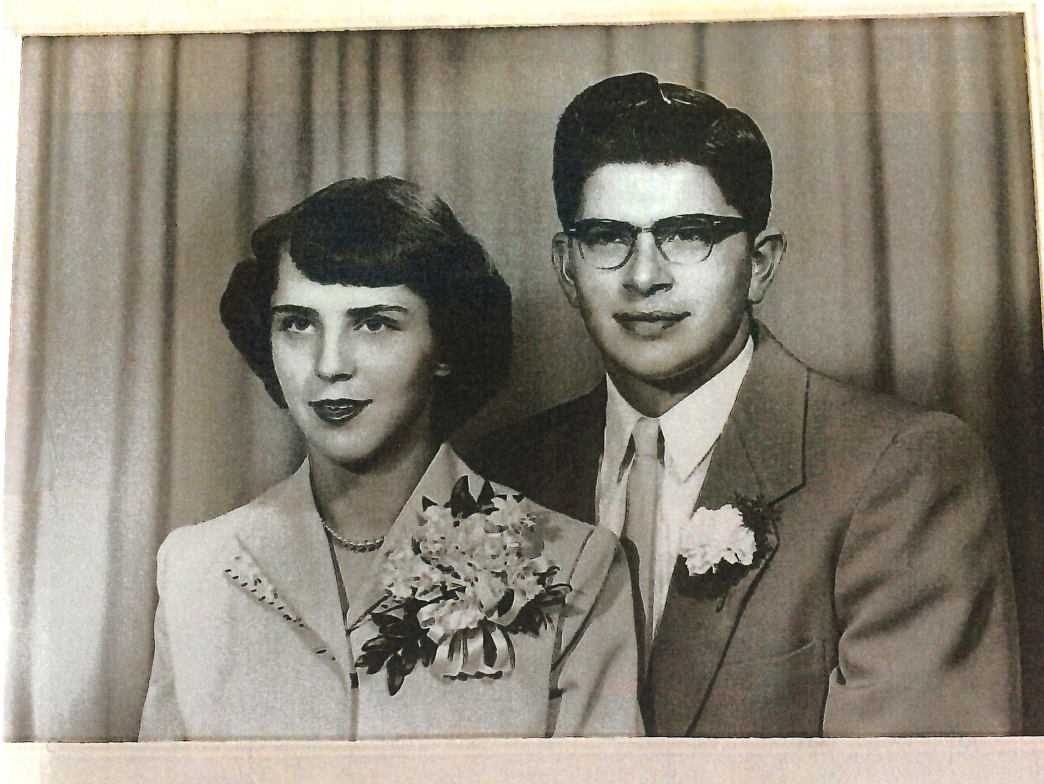


Bob Kidder was one of several old-time tractor aficionados who gathered Sunday, Aug. 2, for a tractor work day south of Claremont. Pictured below, on right, John Bronson from Harmony and on left, an unidentified driver.



## Recent donations

*The Dodge County Historical Society thanks the following supporters for recent donations: Gerald Andrist, Janet Kelling, Janis Ray, Ivan and Mary Jane Kroulik, Dave Hanson, Orlo Toquam, Karen Morris, Dave Eide and Katherine Fleener-Techam.*



## Guess who

We have boxes of photos with individuals that we can't identify at the museum. Can you help us identify this couple? Email your responses to [dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 456  
MANTORVILLE, MN 55955

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