

Midwest Country School Preservation Conference

October 14-15, 2016

Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village
18817 290th Street
Long Grove, Iowa 52756



Hosted by

Friends of Walnut Grove Pioneer Village
Scott County Iowa Conservation

Conference Location

Scott County Park

Whispering Pines Shelter

18850 270th St

Eldridge, IA 52748

A Poetic Tribute to School Preservation

Learning Spaces for Living Well for Forest Grove School #5

I live on well-traveled Forest Grove Road in Scott County, Iowa, Pleasant Valley Township. My early white paint weathered to gray and is white again. Now I stand proud on the high, fertile prairie with my well-rung bell polished and poised inside my bell tower to sound the call from this one-room country school turned educational museum.

After a recess of many decades, it's time to show my new concrete block foundation and poured basement, my new front door, my three new windows on each side and two in front, my new chimney, and my new cedar shake shingles. I am familiar as an old oak tree waving its brightest leaves in the breeze and spreading its strongest roots deep into the Midwestern soil.

My growing health shows in remembered spaces. My round ceiling curves with aesthetics again as does the outside curved cover over the capital letters of my name.

I remember a kerosene fixture provided light, and a big, barrel-shaped, black coal furnace spread heat. In the morning, students set their potatoes on top so they'd be ready by lunch.

Good, solid teaching does things to students and potatoes. No fast dip in temperature or serious drop in content inside these walls. Reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling remain staples, while additions include geography, history, music, grammar, hygiene,

agriculture, civics and industry, all valuable lessons that changed lifelong learning to well-done.

Sledding in winter excited recess as did the Great Stride in the fall and spring when my students became airborne ten feet high on centrifugal force as they grasped chains hanging from a pole and ran faster and faster around it to take wing.



More rehabilitated than original, I am still an old-fashioned American who wants to start school reciting *The Pledge of Allegiance*, singing *The Star-Spangled Banner* and hearing civil tongues throughout the day as my teacher teaches, and my older students help younger ones so everyone here can grow and perform well in this life with a positive report card *far exceeds all requirements*.

-Dick and Helen Stahl

Conference Sponsors: Preservation Iowa, Landmarks Illinois, Scott County Conservation Board,
Silos & Smokestacks

Preserving American Icons

Friday Oct 14, 2016 Agenda

8:30 AM—Registration / Refreshments

9:00 AM—Group *Pledge of Allegiance* followed by *Conference Overview with Bill Sherman*

9:20 AM—*School Research: Making Assumptions and Digging In*, Deborah Leistikow, Walnut Grove Butler # 2

9:40 AM—*Rural vs. Urban: Debating Education Equality*, Allison Coe & Laura Klever

10:00 AM—*The Country School in a Village Setting*, Heritage Canyon, Fulton, IL

10:20 AM Kate Martin, Center for Rural Schools, UNI

10:45 AM—*Lessons Learned: Preserving Country Schools* Gary Johnson, Des Moines County

The Long Road Home for Forest Grove #5, Sharon Andresen, Scott County

11:45 AM—*Preservation Iowa Country School Preservation Grant* Caleb Giesel

12:00 PM—LUNCH

12:45 PM—Promotional Tools for Country Schools

Creating a County-Wide Country School Map, Ruby Ferris

Developing a Blog, Glen Chatfield, North Liberty

Developing an Online Database, Sandra Host, Council Bluffs

Poetic Impressions, Dick Stahl

2:00 PM—*Producing an online country school county history*, Muscatine County/ Iowa Gen Web

Becoming Part of the Silos & Smokestacks Network Laura Elfers, Waterloo

2:45 PM—*Country School Association of America Update*

3:30 PM—Tour Walnut Grove Pioneer Village, 18817 290th St., Long Grove, IA followed by coffee & presenter Q & A at St. Ann Catholic Church, 16550 290th St. Long Grove, IA

6:00 PM—Catered dinner at St. Ann Catholic Church (see address above)

After dinner entertainment:

“Class of Walnut Grove ’21-’22” Skit by Lincoln-Sheridan 4-H Club, and Buffalo Bill Program

Saturday Oct 15, 2016 Agenda

8:30—11:30 Bus Tour of area sites

8:30: Load bus at Buffalo Bill Museum parking lot, 199 North Front Street, LeClaire, IA

8:40: Pleasant Hill School, Territorial Road LeClaire, Iowa

9:30 AM - Davenport #9, Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds



10:45 AM - Forest Grove #5, Pleasant Valley

12:00 PM - Lunch at Bierstube, LeClaire, IA

Bus will deliver us to Buffalo Bill Museum after lunch

1:00 PM - Buffalo Bill Museum, LeClaire, IA

2:00 PM - Enjoy historic LeClaire, IA

Questions? Call Pioneer Village at 563-328-3283 or deborah.leistikow@scottcountyiowa.com or Bill Sherman 515-278-2242, wsherman41@gmail.com

I would like to sign up for:

Friday Meeting \$15.00
Includes Lunch

Friday Dinner and Program \$14.00

Saturday Tour \$21.00
Includes bus ride & lunch.
Separate fee of \$4.00 to tour Buffalo Bill Museum.

Total Fee Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Email confirmation sent upon receipt of registration & check.

Send form and check to:

Friends of Walnut Grove Pioneer Village
18817 290th Street
Long Grove, IA 52756

A block of hotel rooms are reserved for a reduced rate at Holiday Inn Express, LeClaire, IA (563) 289-9978. Mention “One-Room School” when you call to receive \$93.00 river view rooms or \$83.00 for a non-river view room. Rooms are on a first-come basis.