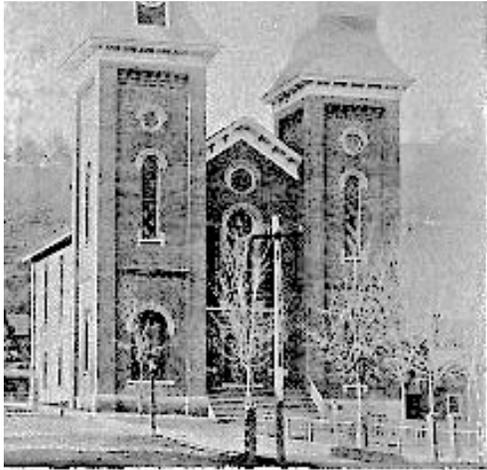


McGREGOR MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

McGregor Historical Society/McGregor Rifles, Ltd.

P.O. Box 426, McGregor, Iowa | 563.873.2221 | mcgregormuseum.org

Summer, 2021



Our local Methodist Church has officially closed as of July 31, 2021. It will be missed in the community by many. Below is a brief history of the church.

In 1852 a man, who was interested in the religious training of the children of the village moved into McGregor landing. This man was John M. Burbridge, a carpenter, who built his shop on the east side of Main Street (where the “Cafe McGregor” now stands today). McGregor was certainly a mission field at this time for very few professed any religion whatever, and it was a typical frontier town. Mr. Burbridge decided to start a Sunday School. So he would clean out his shop on Saturday and turn it into a Meeting House the following day. He lived in the rear of the building at the time. Of course, he was superintendent and teacher and Mrs. Burbridge was the other teacher. Some of the children who

attended this little Sunday School were Will Burbridge, their son, the two MacGregor boys, Gregor and Gardner; the four Jones boys, Thad George Albert and Thomas, older brothers of John Hill who lived on Cemetery Hill. Then there were the Wynne children, whose family came in 1851. Sarah Wynne became Mrs. Gill Church, Sr. and Corrinna married Fayette Church and became the mother of Mrs. John Kramer and Mrs. Frank Sloane.

About two weeks after Mr. Burbridge started his little Sunday school, a Methodist local preacher by the name of Elisha Warner from near Prairie du Chien came to McGregor and preached in this carpenter shop. After that he came every two weeks and held a preaching service. So many began to attend these services that the shop was outgrown and meetings were held in a little brick school which stood on the east side of Ann Street (near the present site of Ann Street Loft 2 1/2

Ann Street). This was the first school in the village and was built by Alexander MacGregor in 1850, three years after he moved over from Prairie du Chien. The Methodist Sunday School and church continued to use the building after it was abandoned as a day school, or until 1857.

In the fall of the first year, 1852, news had eventually reached beyond McGregor that a new Methodist Church was in the process of formation. At that time, there was only one Methodist conference in the state of Iowa..

The first church, a small frame building was erected in 1858. The last sermon was given in the old church in October, 1869.



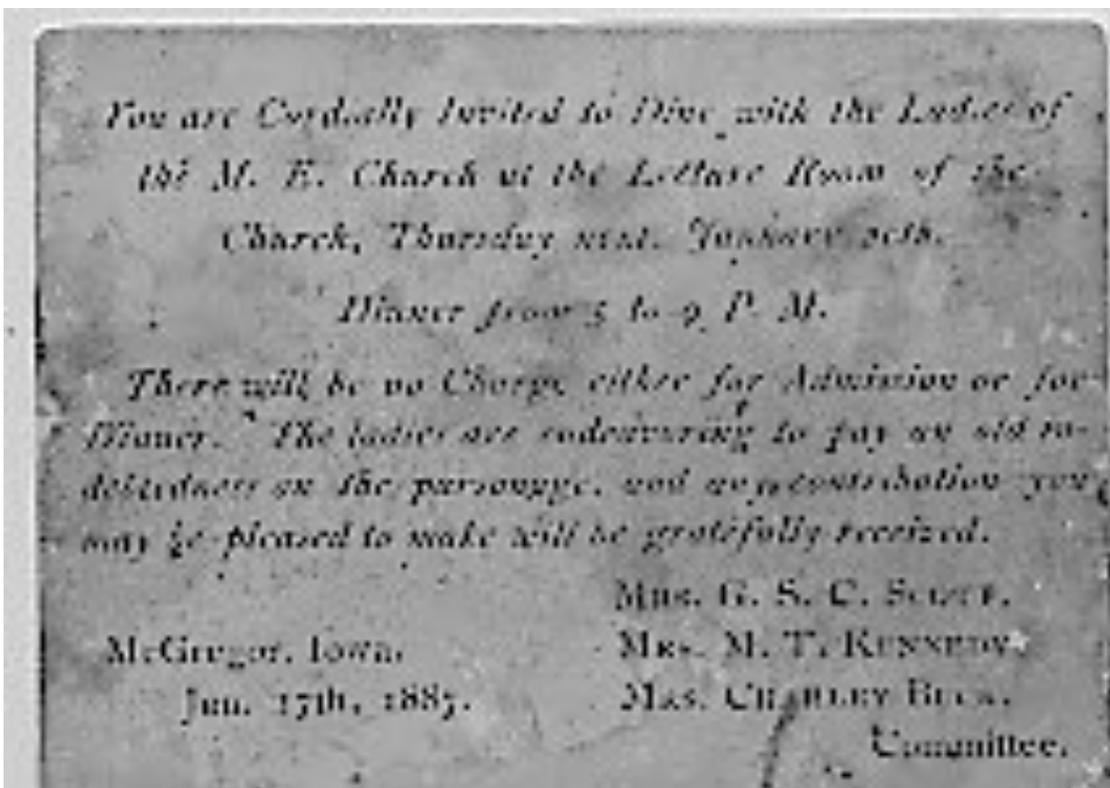
Picture taken in the “Amen” corner of the little white M.E. Church, built in 1857 and used until 1869.

At an official board meeting held August 30, 1867, it was voted to borrow \$1,000 from the Church Extension Society for 10 years with no interest. It was moved that "we build a church" and the motion carried. The dimensions were also decided upon 42 feet wide by not less than 79 or more than 75 feet long. The foundations were laid in 1868 and the walls were erected the following spring. The building was enclosed by the end of 1869. The basement room was open for divine worship on Sunday, December 26, 1869. Due to financing, work seemed at a standstill and for the next four years only the basement was occupied.

Rev. Wm. Fawcett was sent to McGregor and things began to happen. He was very popular and secured many new members. Mr. Steele, well-known architect and builder and who was consulting architect for the Upper Iowa Conference offered to finish the building for \$3000.00. No stone was left unturned by the membership in order to raise money. There were various socials, dinners, lectures and entertainments for this purpose.

The dedication occurred July 27, 1873. Rev. Charles Fowler Evanston University (now Northwestern) of Chicago preached the sermon. He also made an appeal for funds and over \$4,000 was raised. In 1874 Rev. Samuel W. Heald was appointed pastor. He labored very successfully to build up the church in the three years

he was here. He added 50 members to the roll. He held several successful revivals, and held meetings in north McGregor which resulted in forming a class there. He preached there every other Sunday afternoon. He made every effort to liquidate the church debt covering the field thoroughly. The debt now was about \$7,000. A subscription paper was prepared and presented to the conference. The members of the conference gave generously, there being



several \$100 gift and many \$50 ones coming here from preachers' meager salaries. Altogether they pledged \$3,000. Again the membership pledged, though it seemed impossible after all the giving for the past ten years yet their new gifts totaled over \$2,000. The list of McGregor business men included nearly every one and with other friends of the church another \$2,000 was pledged. **So at last the burden was lifted and the church was practically freed from debt.** A \$2,000 building was theirs, a much more pretentious project than the original trustees ever thought of. Rev. John W. Clinton followed him in 1877. He also had hard work ahead of him, the work of collecting these pledge subscriptions, and getting some new ones to take the place of some which failed to come in. In this, he was very successful. He was here for one year. It was during his pastorate that the Ladies' Aid society was organized.

Several pastors were appointed over the next few years. In the fall of 1893 L. L Lockard was appointed to the charge and was paster for three years. The highlight of his ministry was the building of a **new parsonage** an

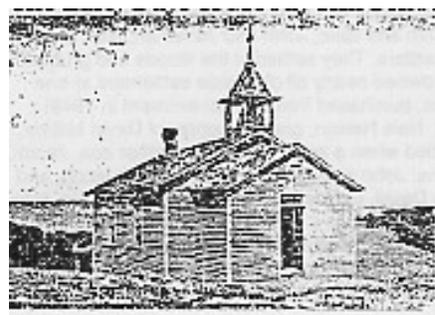
improvement the church had needed for many years. Plans were discussed to repair the old or buy a house or build a new one. Later there came an opportunity to sell that property. Mr. Dan Claudy bought the house and moved it out to the edge of town. The lot was sold for \$250, then the present site was bought from the city for the same amount. The lot was very low, so several farmers gave their services and filled it in. Mr. Ira Moody said he was one who brought in his team and helped with the work. Before Rev. Lockard left he had the privilege of living in this fine new house, very modern for that time with a furnace and electric lights. Rev. J. S. McCord came in 1896 and though he stayed for one year he cleared this debt on the parsonage. In the fall of 1897 Rev. S. R. Ferguson became pastor and remained two years. He was very interested in McGregor scenic advantages and conceived a project to establish a camp meeting or chautauqua grand on the hill as we know as "The Heights." The proposition was presented to the officials of the then Decorah District offering similar inducements. Rev. Ferguson interested some. The District kept up the camp grounds for only four seasons, then for financial reasons had to release it to a group of McGregor citizens. They formed an organization which still has control of the present summer resort.

Many more pastors followed over the years as well as contributing to the community in one way or another. The following were organized by the pastors: Building of the **Pleasant Ridge Church**, Organizing a Boy Scout Troop, Foreign Missionary Society, Managing the Wild Life School for two years, establishing Sunday Schools in various school houses (Beckett, Knapp, **Moody**, Summit Hill), instrumental in building the North McGregor Church.

The present Methodist Church will always hold fond memories to many people in McGregor now and in the past.



Pleasant Ridge Church



Moody School - 1864



Methodist Parsonage

MEMORIES OVER THE YEARS



This little sock we give to you is not for you to wear, please multiply your size by two and place inside with care. Now don't forget the place and date, we'll answer when you knock, and welcome you with open arms, but DON'T forget the sock. Roll Call-A Missionary news item.

McGregor 1849

The first service ever preached in McGregor, that I recollect was by Elisha Warner a Methodist living at Prairie du Chien in the year 1850. It was preached under the open sky, on the banks of Tippecanoe creek, the workbench of Tryford, a carpenter, being used as a pulpit. The hills and forests untouched by the hand of man, were the frescoed walls, the blue dome of the sky, was the ceiling. I remember the occasion well, as Tryford was then working in his carpenter shop, which consisted of a work bench, upon the tread plank for the ferry boat Rob Roy.

I remember in particular one sentence of the good man, it was this: "Children" (he always called his congregation by that term) "I love the Bible as well as children love flap jacks and molasses, molasses that come by steamboat from New Orleans."

John G. Bass

Windows at the Church

The beautiful stained glass windows were secured by many and aided worship very much. Of special interest these symbols carry mention is being made for a few only.



-The window in front of the sanctuary has the Bible, the Lamp and the Fleur-de-Lys. The Bible represents the Word of God, and together with the Lamp probably has its origin in Psalm 119:105 which reads, "The word is a lamp unto my feet and light under my feet, and light under my pathway." The flower symbolizes the Holy Trinity.

-Another window carries the Anchor. This symbol was often found in catacombs. It is based on Hebrew 6:18; "the hope set before us, which we have as an anchor of the soul."

- Several windows carry the symbol of the equilateral triangle, even of the double triangle. It again is a sign of the holy, but used to remind us that the Persons of the Trinity, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, are co-equal.
- One other symbol may be mentioned. It is that in the rear of the sanctuary. It is "The Descending Dove." It refers to our Lord's baptism denoting the Holy Spirit. Matthew records that when Jesus was baptized, He "went up straightway out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him."

The stained windows are the same that were installed when the building was new.



1. Tall spire on south tower was struck by lightning in summer of 1883; so badly damaged it had to be taken down. It was 25 ft. high and the top was 15 ft. from the ground.

2. First church (frame) was built in 1857. It was moved to this lot across the street when work was begun on the new brick church building in 1868.

Miss Carrie Buck, life-long resident says she can well remember the familiar Elisha Warner, one of the first ministers of the Methodist Church as he proudly drove up Main street with his well-known rig and coal black horse. Mr. Warner came every Sunday morning from Prairie du Chien on the ferry boat to preach our weekly sermon in the "old" Methodist Church. "In those days we considered going to Church a privilege, for there were not so many activities to occupy the person as there are nowadays; so going to Sunday School, then Church morning and evening was considered spending the day in a favorable way."

I also remember when I used to return from Madison on the train. When I was in Prairie, I used to look out the window and see on the other side of the river the familiar 25 foot steeple which used to be on the church. I always welcome the sight of it, for I knew I was drawing near to home. The steeple of which I speak has an interesting history in its self. It emerged from the church high into the air, exactly 25 feet. It attracted much attention in its day. One day during a heavy rain storm a bolt of lightning struck the steeple and it crashed to the ground breaking in thousands of pieces. Some of the steeple remained and I can well recall we children standing on the side of the hill, not missing a single performance as Mr. Jacobs, the architect, with the aid of many helpers succeeded in building a scaffold and with heavy ropes slid the remainder of the steeple to the ground.

I remember how we were given a box to gain money to pay down the remaining debt on the church. It was interesting to hear different experiences everyone had to gain his money to hand in his box. I remember how I raised my share by selling eggs from two hens I had and cared for continually. On dedication day itself \$4,600 was raised leaving the remainder of about \$5,000 to be made up in the future.

SUPPER
At
Methodist Church
McGregor, Iowa,
Fri., July 18
Serving Starts at 5:30
Price 40c
MENU
Baked Ham ♦ Salmon Loaf
Potatoes au gratin
Cottage Cheese ♦ Cole Slaw
Rolls ♦ Jelly ♦ Pickles
Cake and Ice Cream

Many, many meals were served over the years

FLOWER SHOWS PROVES POPULAR

The first flower show sponsored by the Methodist Sunday School, June 9, 1938, was a huge success. Over 200 were in attendance, quite a number coming from surrounding towns. There was a wonderful display of flowers, During the afternoon, musical numbers were furnished and some sang a group of appropriate selections, "Amaryllis," "To a Wild Rose" and "Welcome Pretty Primrose." A double trio of High School girls sang "Country Gardens." A choosing of the "Queen of the Flowers." The contestants were introduced and told what church or club each represented, a queen was chosen by three judges. The queen and her attendants, with two tiny flower girls and a diminutive ring bearer, formed a very pretty procession to the stage where they sat during the remainder of the program. Prizes were given for first place and second place received honorable mention.



Refreshments were served at any time during the show and after the evening program. A light supper was served during the hours of 5:00 to 7:00. The affair was successful in every way.

The very popular and successful flower shows continued for many years.

*A Special
Thank
You!*

We thank everyone for the many ways you support the museum. Our museum would not be what it is today without you!

Board Members

Mel Wild, President
Diane Benson, Vice-President
Audrey Posten, Second Vice President
Joe Brooks, Treasurer
Jean Peterson, Secretary
Carole Stripe, Director I
Frank McMillin, Director II

Host & Hostess

Diane Malcom, Curator
Janine DuCharme, Volunteer
John Stencil, Volunteer
Board Members, Volunteers

Approximately a year and a half ago, Jeff Westphal of Philadelphia contacted Mayor, Lyle Troester and select museum board members to meet w/him. At this meeting he expressed his interest in the museum and the potential not only w/the museum but the history McGregor has to offer. He expressed he and his and wife, Jennifer (Collins) Westphal desire to help expand this endeavor.

After the initial visits w/ Mr. Westphal the pandemic occurred which put a hold on many things. A few short months ago the Westphal's bought the Hardware building (next to the museum) and the Alexander Hotel in McGregor. The Westphal's have no commercial interest in the City of McGregor. They are proud of their hometown and appreciate its important, yet under-appreciated, role in American history. The transactions for the purchase of the above buildings are expected to close yet this summer.

(Jeff & Jenifer Westphal is the son-in-law and daughter of Dale (Herb) Collins and Joanne Collins Stewart.)



**Join or Renew
your membership**

Please complete the enclosed membership form to become a new member or renew to help us continue to preserve the history of McGregor. **Thank you!**

MEMORIALS & IN HONOR OF

(August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021)

In Memory of Betty Bachtell Allert

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Dan Ames

Judy A. Good

Candy Lamb

In Memory of Fred & Jessie Bachtell

Bill McGregor

In Memory of John & Ruth Bickel

Edwin & Bonnie James

In Memory of Marsha Bickel

Daniel G. Bickel

Arlys Denning

Edwin & Bonnie James

In Memory of Harold & Dorothy Borcharding

Lyle & Judy Borcharding

In Memory of Pearl Cords - Most helpful teacher - ever

Keith Butterfield

In Memory of Severna Cowell

Family & Friends of Seven Cowell, a long time resident and former Mar-Mac teacher.

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Joe Craig

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Lois Davis

Bernell & June Larson

In Memory of Sofie Davis

Bill & Dorothy Peterson

Bernell & June Larson

In Memory of Donald Davis

Paul Davis

In Memory of Sofie and Raymond Davis

Paul Davis

In Memory of Dennis Denning

Arlys Denning

In Memory of Patricia Dillman

Dillman Family Endowment - Jean Ann and Brian Dillman

Robin & JoAnne Esche

Judith A. Hendren

Richard Hubbard, Jr./ Sherri Koons

Michele Karr

Kurt & Marie Kravchuk

Jeff & Marie Pleggenkule

John & Peggy Silovich

Randy & Sandy Thornton

Lyle & Bonnie Troester

In Memory of Glen DuCharme

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Pauline Gatterdam

Joy A. Burnett & Mark Nast

In Memory of Chris & Audrey Gillissen

Bill & Madeline Windauer

In Memory of Addie Hammel

Linda Witter

In Memory of John Hayek

Patricia Hayek

In Memory of Gertrude Anderson Hendand Anderson Family

Henderson Family

In Memory of Bill & Jolene Bachtell Huckstadt

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Moejo Kautman

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Pete Kautman

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Ray Kleinow

Lowell & Joyce Siegele

In Memory of Jim Klotzbach - Class of 1948

Lowell & Joyce Siegele

In Memory of Dave Kluesner

Nancy Kluesner

In Memory of Linda Knight

Daniel G. Bickel

In Memory of Lorna Kolsrud

Lyle & Judy Borcharding

In Memory of Diane Kohlstedt

Herb Collins

John Kohlstedt

In Memory of Eleanor Koether

Gwen Elliott

In Memory of Marvin & Mary Kricke

Cathy Goldstein

In Memory of Jackie Lamb

Judy A. Good

In Memory of Kenneth & Jackie Lamb

Cindy Kirchner & Chris Armendariz

Candy Lamb

In Memory of Richard Lange

Norman Lange

In Memory of Dorene Larson

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Mark Laufer

Herb Collins

Jason & Kris Eulberg

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Marie Hofer Lloyd

LaVonne Hofer Shedivy

In Memory of Andrea Sporleder McElwaine

Faye Sporleder

In Memory of Jack McSweeny

Kathleen Slamkowski

Memorials & In Honor of (Continued)
(August 1, 2020 through July 31,
2021)

In Memory of Kathleen Milewsky

Stan & Sharlene Milewsky

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Harry Miller

Linda Miller

In Memory of Ira & Irene Moody

Jason & Kris Eulberg

In Memory of Susie Moran

Edwin & Bonnie James

Robert D. Moran

**In Memory of Harriet (Kinsley) Neeff and
her sister Helen (Kinsley) Miller
(Donor's Grandmother & Great Aunt).**

Carol (Dieker) Hubbard

In Memory of Carol K. (Stone) Nelson

Bill Stone

In Memory of Bud & Chris Nordhus

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Coach George Pederson

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Marlys Pfeiffer

Arlys Denning

In Memory of Deva Randall

Larry & Ruth Weigle

In Memory of Regina Scarff

Judy A. Good

Candy Lamb

In Memory of Leo Joseph Schaeffers

Bernell & June Larson

In Memory of Jim Schultz

Richard & Kay Harris

In Memory of Ray Siegele

Herb Collins

Lowell & Joyce Siegele - McGregor Class of 1948

In Memory of Jack Slyfield

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Richard E. Staples

Alice Staples

In Memory of Frances Gunn Stencel

John Stencel

In Memory of Joyce K. Stone

Bill Stone

In Memory of Don & Jo Strutt

Ellen Galleger

Jon & Sharon Miller

In Memory of Jack & Martha Bachtell Stuckey

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Al & Thelma Vick

Bill McGregor

In Memory of Burton & Lorraine Walters

Daniel G. Bickel

In Memory of "Rinx" Walters

Bill McGregor

In Memory Hermie & Mae Witter

Nancy Kluesner

In Memory of Roger Witter

Jason & Kris Eulberg

Nancy Kluesner

In Honor of Class of 1962

Bill Stone

DONATIONS

(August 1, 2020 through July 31 2021)

Alpine Communications

Jim & Patty Arvidson

Jack & Joyce Bachtell

Diane Benson

Dianan Briggs

Joe & Sharon Brooks

Larry & Maria Brummel

Joy Burnett/Mark Nast

Barbara Burton

Tom & Mary Chittick

Steve Claussen

Clayton County Auditor

Robert Cohen/Debby Peikes

Herb Collins

Lois Davis

Janine DuCharme

Jan Olive Full

Patricia Hayek

David Hoyem

Cynthia Johnson

David & Barbara Kalkwarf

John & Joy Kohl

Jerry & Anne Kruse

Bob & Birdie Lange

Darren & Christy Matthews

Steve & Shelly Milligan

Bob & Bonnie Pruett

Phill & Diane Reisweber

Margaret Schultz

David & Carolyn Scott

Kathryn Starkey

Craig & LeAnn Watson

OTHER

- Free Will Donations at the Museum
- Sale of Souvenirs at the Museum
- Research Gratuity
- Festival of Trees 2020 Proceeds

ACCESSIONS

(August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021)

Alice Staples

- History of Clayton County
1916, Volume II

Charlie Mason

-2 Pop Bottles - Geske Bottling Co, McGregor, IA

Ronald Harris

-2021 Giard Calendar

Lynette McManus

-Railway Tickets (4) - Passes w/Milwaukee Railroad Co.

Bonnie (Wildt) Goodwich

-Mailing pamphlet on "Scenes on my trip to McGregor, Iowa" - inside several photos and We're up in McGregor - Envelope Style

Connie Zwettler

-Colored photo of Gertrude (Anderson) Henderson & Obituary

Gary Peterson

-Ledger Account Book of Jack Peterson, McGregor Electrician

Robert Myers/Karla Vogel

-PostcardsJ

Joe Brooks

-Article "Wilder's Lightning Brigade of Mounted Infantry" Dr. Henry H. Clark was in 92nd Infantry (Private in Co.G)

-Newspaper Article on Dr. Clifford Smith - Des Moines Register 12/6/98

Jim & Linda Boeke

-Vintage hand fan - on one side of fan it reads: Fish Dinners, Antlers Cafe "They swam this morning" Phone 74-X McGregor, IA

Von Redemske

-File Cabinet - Tan, 4 drawer w/pendaflex folders
-Colorful sewing basket w/all sewing accessories inside basket

-Small porcelain vases (3)

-Antique Brass American landline telephone & vintage look rotary dial candlestick telephone

-Child's antique "Garfield" wall telephone

-Photos (2) and family histories - Andrew Hultgren and Oley Allen

-Photos of Art Durr, Mail Carrier & 3 Holiday Greeting cards given to patrons

-3 drawer sterlite file/storage cabinet

-Ovsl shaped table for displays

Mel Wild

-Military jacket and hat belonging to Bill Wild, Brother

-Antique Champion hand seed planter

Robert Myers

-Altar Family Bible given by the Myers Family from the Methodist Church, McGregor

Bona Dean Feller

-Various record books, UMC Flower Show, News articles etc. from the Methodist church - McGregor

Mary Wirkler Guritz

-Signed baseball by players. Pitcher, Lee Wirkler pitched a no-hitter to win the district championship game.

-photos (2) of team members & clippings of game.

Central State Bank

-Large display case

Bona Dean Feller

-Medium size display case

Frank McMillin

-Medium size display case

John Kohlstedt

-Book - Man Against the Mississippi

Jim Hendrickson

-McGregor High School Diploma for completing German Course of Study, dated June 12, 1913 to J. Frederick Walter.

Unknown

-1932 Report Card/McGregor Public School (LaVonne Schultz)

Geoffrey Fitzgerald

-Several Photos of the "Fox Farm" owned by Gordy Koch

John "Corky" & Med Bickel

-Reproduction Coca-Cola tray

-Ringling Posters(1950's) and booklet

-Glass Negatives

-Framed cross stitch picture

-Marge Goergen photos (2)

Larry Brummel

-Chalices and Communion Plates (2) of Methodist Church, McGregor

-Altar Family Bible from the Methodist Church, McGregor

Roy Sucholeiki

-Small sand bottle created by Harvey Haltmeyer (mini-size)

-An unfinished sand art bottle created by Harvey Haltmeyer

-12 copies of "The Sandbottles of Andrew Clemens" by Roy Sucholeiki. Complimentary copies to sell.

Carl Ingwalson

On going bios of soldiers

Jim Franklin

-Book (Popcorn Press' Photographic Retrospective - Thirty Years Of Heartland Writing & Publishing)

Jane Foster

-Doll Magazine featuring the "Hoseley Party Dolls".

Joan Burns

-Photo & article - Felix Adler (clown) who performed w/ Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey for 20 years.

Unknown

A Pocket Full of Humor, True Stories - Copyrighted by Mae Lacy

ACCESSIONS (Continued)
(August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021)

John & Diane Malcom

Set of small forks & knives w/ivory handles

Unknown

-Roll of Strand Theater tickets (20 cents per ticket)

Diane Haugen Dennis

-Tested Cooky Recipes - McGregor Tourist Club

Candy Lamb

-Certificate of Baptism - Jacquelyn June Ferguson from the Methodist Church, Marquette, Iowa February 18, 1940

-McGregor High School Diploma - Jacquelyn J. Ferguson, May, 1943

Lowell & Julia Bass

-Original copy of riverboat license (1842) belonging to John Bass, Captain of the City of McGregor ferry boat.

-Family photos

MOTHER'S DOUGHNUTS

Mother's doughnuts are very fine,

It isn't once, but all the time.

First of sugar she takes two cups;

Four tablespoons of butter and mixes them up.

A teaspoon of salt, and of eggs take three,

One cup of buttermilk, rich as can be.

One teaspoon of soda will make them real light,

Then add one of nutmeg, and they are all right.

Enough Occident Flour to make soft a soft dough,

(You may like "Pillsbury's" but Mother says "No!")

A kettle of grease (home rendered is best),

And a piping hot fire; there's no time to rest.

Cut them and fry to a golden brown,

And I'll guarantee there's no better in town.

Mrs. Brennan, Tested Recipes 1914 Cookbook - Ladies/Methodist

