**A Tribute to our Founders**

I wanted to dedicate one of the first articles as a tribute to the founders of the Griggs County Historical Society.

It was organized on October 19, 1960 at the home of F. A. Helland with 21 charter members. The officers were:

F.A. Helland – President  
Walter Bohnsack - Vice President

Irene Pratt – Secretary Treasurer

Five directors, one from each county commissioner district were appointed. They were:

Millard Frigaard

Edgar Krogsgaard

E. B. Ressler

A. L. Peterson

Clarence Bakken

Mrs. Porterville was made an honorary member.

The source for this information is at:

<http://www.griggscountyhistoricalsociety.com/library/books/cooperstown_centennial/community_institutions/griggs_county_historical_society.php>

Griggs County was very fortunate in having this dedicated group of people getting us off to a great start, and since then we have been blessed with dedicated volunteers too numerous to mention, but I will try to have other writers depict some of these volunteers and their accomplishments.

For the rest of this article, I am going to take a wild stab and list some of the major physical achievements of the historical society and from other citizens outside the historical society who spent a lot of their invaluable time in preserving Griggs County History.

I promise that I will correct and amend this list in a future article within the next couple of years. In the meantime, I would really appreciate replies from everyone where we can honor the volunteers who worked to get these markers in place and the approximate time that they were established.

All you have to do is hit the reply button at the bottom of this article to add your thoughts and ideas.

1. There are 2 markers on the north side of Lake Jessie. One mentions the Wathne dugout that is now very nearly filled in with drifting dirt and weeds. The other marker mentions other historical events. I think that both of these are North Dakota State Historical Society markers.
2. There is an even better marker on the south side of Lake Jessie. I think this is a Griggs County Historical Society marker.
3. There is a North Dakota State Historical Marker at Camp Atchiston about three miles south of Binford. It mentions Camp Atchison and the two soldiers that died there.
4. A Sibley Trail marker was erected in 1963 by Dana Wright and a group of local citizens on Highway 1, on Section 10 in Bald Hill Township.
5. A monument (County or State? on Section 23 in Bald Hill in memory of a member of Sully's forces who drowned nearby
6. A monument a little over a mile farther south in memory of Mr. Petterson, a member of Sibley's forces who died here on their return trip from Camp Atchison.
7. A Helge Olson family monument, sponsored by the county historical society, was dedicated in Pilot Mound Township.
8. A marker has been established at the Opheim Cemetery.
9. The Opheim cabin was moved to the lawn of the Griggs County courthouse.
10. A sign was erected near the townsite of Mardell. This sign was made of wood and has since disappeared. It should be replaced sometime in the future.
11. The courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
12. The Masonic Temple was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
13. The Romness Bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
14. Oscar Zero and November 33 were added as North Dakota state historic sites.

I’m sure I’ve missed a lot of items. I’d really like to get input on the Who, What, Where, When and How of all of these items. I know right now the blog readership stands at exactly one, but I am really going to try to keep working on it and hopefully it can be a fun resource for everybody interested in Griggs County History.

I look forward to hearing from anybody and everybody in trying to reply to this article. Please let me know of any problems posting at [RonDahlND@Yahoo.com](mailto:RonDahlND@Yahoo.com) I’m sure there will be start-up problems and promise to try to address them as soon as I can.