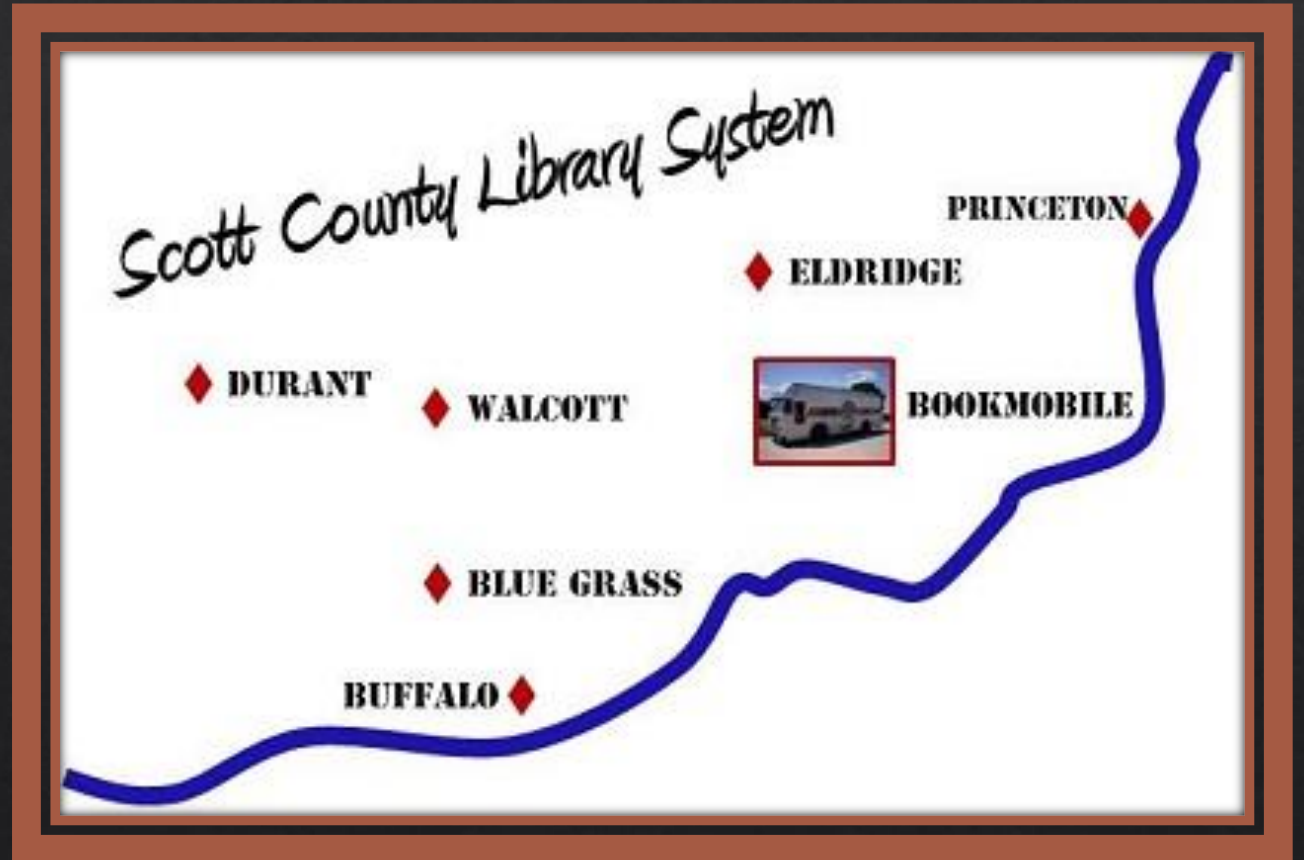


Building Community Together: Doing Community Memory Work

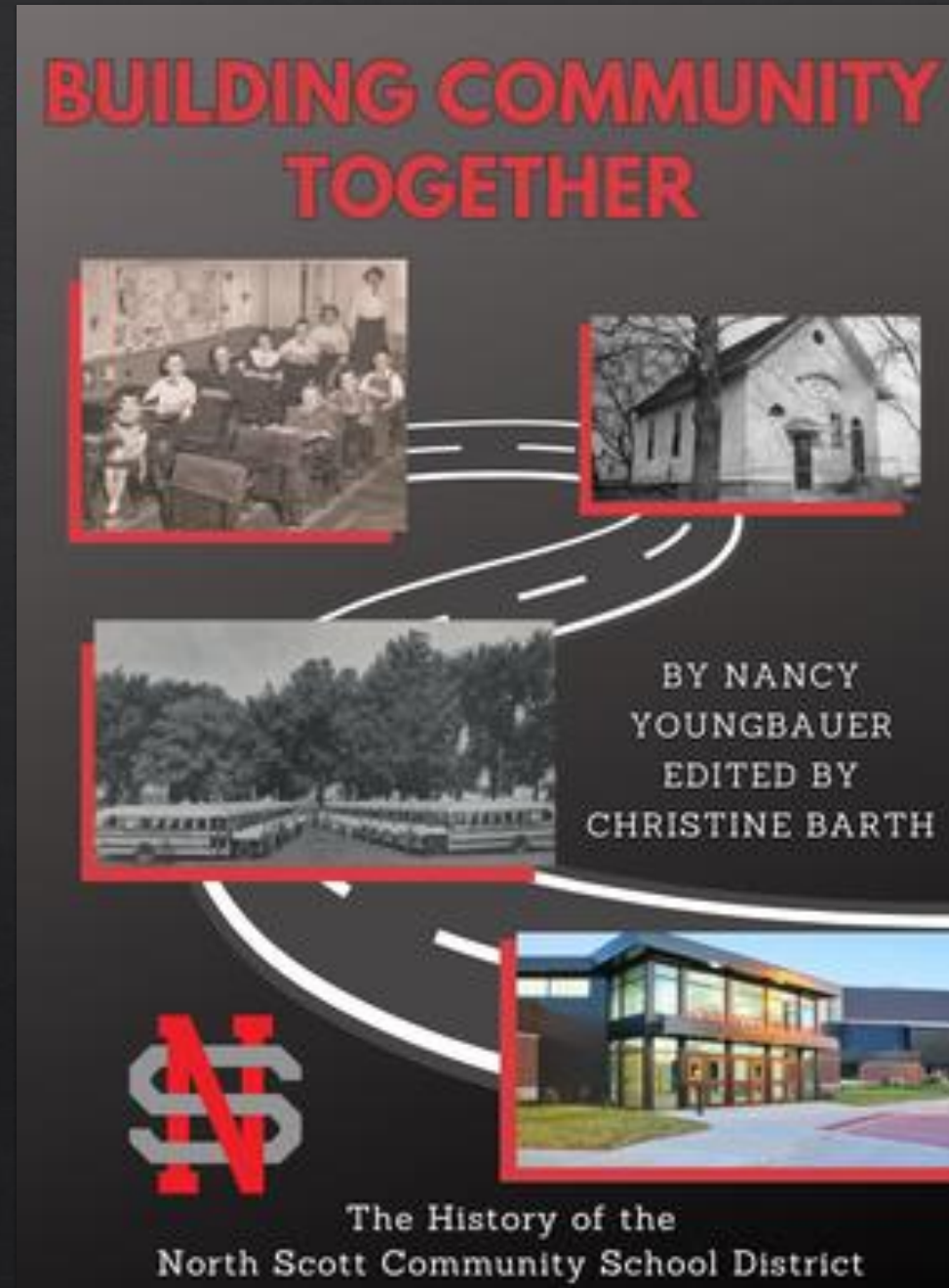
Christine Barth
Information/Tech Services Librarian
Scott County Library System
Eldridge, IA

Introductions



We published a book!

- 136 pages
- 4 appendices
- Covers the history of the North Scott School District from its inception in the 1950s to 2010
- Accessible online at:
bit.ly/nscsdhistory



Let's take a look inside

Building Community Together: The History of the North Scott Community School District

“Considerable work has been done in cleaning the elementary school buildings for the opening of the new term. The district has petitioned the Scott County Board of Supervisors for improvement of about 60 miles of secondary roads traveled by buses serving the district, to provide for the necessary bus service.”
DeWitt Observer
August 1960

Before consolidation, Carol Hamann Albrecht reported that a student bus driver drove her bus while she attended school in Davenport. Later, North Scott also used student bus drivers. *The Shield* yearbooks document that they were definitely used from 1958 through 1965. A picture of the student bus drivers for each of those years is found in the “Staff” section. The number ranged from five to ten students each year. In 1960-61, ten out of a total of 36 bus drivers were students.



Steve Johnson, Colin Litch, and Dennis Grandhagen were just in the back a day driving from New North Scott in 1960-61. The first reported 1,000-mile ride in the 1960s transporting 95 percent of the student body. Photo from the 1961 *Shield* Yearbook. Notice the bus door on the left of the bus - there were later removed due to copyright issues. Available online: <https://archive.org/details/ScottCountyShieldYearbook/1961>

NS Making Connections

Bob Westerhof was a student bus driver for North Scott. When he was a junior he somehow convinced his very protective mother that he should be a bus driver next year. He took the class and was hired. He was paid \$75 a month to drive a 60 passenger bus.

He remembers one student that was throwing things during a bus ride and refused to sit in the front seat as Bob had told him. The student asked to talk with [Principal] Heiler, who supported Bob and told the student either he sat in the front seat or he didn't ride the bus.

As told to Nancy Youngbauer for the Scott County Community Memory Project in 2022.

Building Community Together: The History of the North Scott Community School District

In March 1961, the Citizens Committee recommended that the district proceed with construction of three elementary schools. According to a *DeWitt Observer* interview with James Mohr, head of the four member committee, schools would be constructed so that additions could be added when money became available. He said some of the schools would not be completed until more money was available, but construction would be started on all three schools if voters approved a bond issue.

The bond issue was set for June 12, 1961. It would be for \$400,000, a 2.5 mill increase in the school levy that would increase the district's rate to 54.5 mills. According to Supt. Hahn, \$400,000 would provide for construction of one new elementary school and part of two others. A new unit of about 13 classrooms was needed in the west section of the North Scott district near Donahue, another was required near Long Grove and a third near Princeton. Hahn also said that new elementary buildings were needed to take care of overcrowded conditions in the district.



The exterior of Allen's Grove #2 in 1949 and Mt. Joy's Sheridan No. 7 in the early 1940s. Many of the one-rooms were falling apart by the mid-1960s. Available online: <https://archive.org/details/scottcountycommunitymemory>



On June 12, voters had two separate proposals to consider. The first, if approved, would finance elementary school construction near Donahue, Long Grove and Princeton. The district voters defeated this proposal with 363 votes for, and 612 opposed. The second separate measure would provide a levy for additional construction later. This proposal was defeated with 353 for and 615 against. The new schools would have replaced more than 25 one-room schools that were still being used for elementary students. Meanwhile, enrollment in the fall of 1961 continued to increase.

The defeat of the bond issue election meant that the school board and administration had to consider different plans and better communicate the increasing need for new buildings. One official stated that money was now needed to repair existing buildings due to the proposal's failure. On Sunday, June 10, 1962, the Area 3 PTA organized a tour to help the cause.

“Purpose of tour is to provide opportunity to visit many of these widespread school buildings. Interested persons are invited to make up a carload and meet at the junior-senior high school building...School board members will be present at each school building to conduct tours and show maintenance figures for each unit.”
DeWitt Observer
June 1962

One thousand, eight hundred and eighty students were enrolled in the district for 1962-63 and the school board proposed a referendum vote for February 1963 to build two new elementary schools, one in the west section of the district (possibly near Donahue) and the other in the eastern part (possibly between

Find the Why

Building Community Together: The History of the North Scott Community School District

More education requirements for teachers contributed to the difficulty of finding people to work at rural schools. The 1860s Iowa Code required a teacher to hold a certificate, but it didn't state any specific qualifications. During the early decades of Iowa's statehood, teaching credentials were earned through examination and degrees were optional.

Here is a look at changing requirements through the decades:

- 1876 - The Iowa State Normal School, now University of Northern Iowa, was established in Cedar Falls to train teachers.
- 1912: The Iowa State Normal School established a 12 week program in Iowa high schools for training elementary teachers. Davenport High School had this program.

- 1935: College degrees were required for secondary school teachers.
- 1952: Two year college degrees were required for elementary school teachers.
- 1959: Four year college degrees were required for elementary school teachers.
- Existing teachers were allowed to renew and maintain their licenses without a degree if they held a teaching position before the degree requirement changed.

Local teachers remember being able to get the training they needed. Lucille Blondell Green was the substitute teacher for Lincoln No. 4, located east of Eldridge, during part of the 1955-56 school year. Green attended Lincoln No. 4 herself as a student, along with her future husband, Gene Green. She graduated from Davenport High School in 1947 where she completed the normal training to be a teacher. She then taught full time for two years, before getting married and starting a family.



Lucille Green standing with her Lincoln No. 4 students in 1955-56. Teaching must run in her family because Lucille's daughter, Cheryl Arp, was the longtime 3rd grade teacher at Alan Shepard Elementary in Long Grove, and Lucille's grandson, Tim Green is the principal at Neil Armstrong Elementary in Park View. Available online: https://archive.org/details/rur_1955_002

The Projects



bit.ly/scgrave



bit.ly/NSshield



bit.ly/nsparchive



bit.ly/sccmpdig



bit.ly/SCwebarchive



bit.ly/sclshistory



WE PUBLISHED
TWO HISTORY BOOKS!
CHECK THEM OUT FROM
ANY SCLS BRANCH!



The Process



The Process

- ◇ What do you have that's unique?
- ◇ Why is it important?
- ◇ What do you need?
- ◇ Write the grant.
 - ◇ Make sure it's a good fit.
 - ◇ Answer the questions asked.
 - ◇ Get community support.
- ◇ Be flexible
- ◇ How will you sustain the project?
- ◇ Document the project as it unfolds
- ◇ You will always wish you asked for more. Try to anticipate this.
- ◇ What's next?

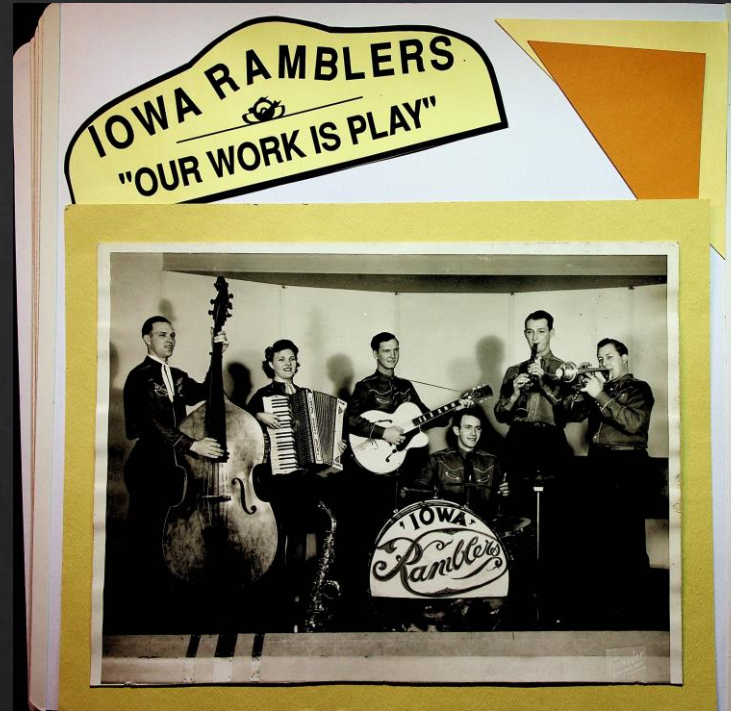


Photo: Iowa Ramblers Band, donated by Jackie Schneckloth. The band played at many locations in Scott County, that are now nearly forgotten.

Lessons Learned

- ◆ Start somewhere
- ◆ Break projects into smaller chunks
- ◆ People matter
- ◆ Community memory is about conversation and storytelling
- ◆ Access matters
- ◆ Anyone can do it
- ◆ Libraries should be involved

Photo: John Sothmann who fought overseas in World War I. Donated by Nancy Shannon.



Contact Information:

Christine Barth, MLIS
Information/Tech Services
Librarian

Scott County Library System
cbarth@scottcountylibrary.org

563-285-4794 ext. 2259

www.scottcountylibrary.org