

Madison County Remembers...

A publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

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Officials concerned about destruction of rural cemeteries

By Dan Gunderson, Minnesota Public Radio

Moorhead, Minn. — The last time anyone was buried in the Boerner family cemetery in Grant County was in 1892. For about 20 years before that, it was where early settlers laid at least 10 family members to rest.

Then for more than 100 years, the western Minnesota pioneer cemetery remain mostly untouched, a small island in the middle of a farm field east of Herman. Until late last year.

That's when a descendant of those pioneers called Grant County Sheriff Dwight Walvatne to report something amiss. A small grove of trees at the cemetery was gone. When investigators got a search warrant, they found evidence of what Minnesota's state archaeologist said is a growing concern, the destruction after years of abandonment of one of the state's thousands of small cemeteries

Investigators found only a few fragments of headstones and notice buried debris.

"So we came in with another search warrant and dug out the hole because we wanted to save evidence, the grave markers and stuff, and we did find several of them in that hole." Walvatne said.

The farmer whose field included the cemetery acknowledged clearing the cemetery, Walvatne said, and is cooperating with the investigation.

Investigators will return to the site in the spring to look carefully for any sign that bones were dug up.

The count attorney said it would be weeks before he decides on charges in the case. Damaging a cemetery can be a felony under Minnesota law—even if it's abandoned. Even though the farmer owns the land, the cemetery

is protected.

State archaeologist Scott Anfinson called the Grant County case the most egregious case of cemetery destruction he has seen but certainly not the first.

"I'd say it's not unusual," Anfinson said. "I have three or four active ones right now, instances where farmers have either started to nibble away at the boundaries of a cemetery or removed the headstones and plowed over the top of it."

Anfinson said in one case a farmer simply piled the headstones in a ditch and plowed up the cemetery. As farm equipment gets larger, farmers have a more difficult time maneuvering around obstacles, he said.

In addition, as small country churches close, more cemeteries are neglected and abandoned, Anfinson said. He recently compiled a list of more than 6,000 cemeteries, about 3,000 of them unrecorded. That means there is no official record of them, but they still are protected.

His list does not include more than 12,000 known American Indian burial sites, which also are protected.

Townships or counties can care for the abandoned cemeteries, but Anfinson said tight local budgets make the extra work a burden.

In the Grant County case, Anfinson was told the farmer thought the cemetery was abandoned.

"Maybe no one had been out there for 10 years, and he finally said, 'No one will notice, and it's really a hassle for me to plow around it.' But it's still against the law."

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President's Message

from Richard Strenge

Greetings to our members,

It is already fall and going into the winter season. Did you accomplished any of your goals you set earlier this year? I did make a couple of mine but more are to be done. A look ahead for the new year brings on many new challenges. If you are able to join our meetings please do so. If you can contribute information by letter or by e-mail just send it to us. We really appreciate hearing from you. Your contribution you may think is small but every bit is a big help in the work we do for others. Our work will continue and we will make a difference in other people's lives by the things we offer them. As always "we look forward to seeing you at our meetings."

Society News & Notes

from Bobette Ferguson, Secretary

A report on our September 21, 2013 meeting was our field trip we took to see the Platte Co. Historical Society museum at 2916 16th St. in Columbus, Nebraska. They have a newer building with an nice auditorium space and a large room with many different items in it. One of them is a display of the schools located in Platte County. They also have displayed in two of the buildings a nice military exhibit. In another building they have displayed a log cabin from one of the original settlers of Columbus. They have lots of things to see in all of their buildings. The third building is one of the old grade school buildings and it has at least 3 floors of displays. One of them is the complete setup of a old barbershop that was located in Columbus. They are opened after Memorial Day until Labor Day. It really is worthwhile to take your time to see them or break it up into several different visits so you can really enjoy all of the items there.

The monthly meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held at 10:00 a.m. on October 19th at Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. There were 11 members and 15 guests present. We had a special speaker for our program. Chad Lenox, presented information about the Stanton and Norfolk (North of Meadow Grove) WW II practice Bombing Ranges. The evidence of the practice bombs can still be found and pieces of the bombs and bullets were in a display case for viewing. Some of the those presented also shared their experience from that time or shared about the land they currently owned that had been the bombing range. Refreshments were served and enjoyed by many of those attending.

After the program we had a short meeting. We need to decide where the annual Christmas Party in January will be held. Bernice has invited us to her new house on December 14th at 10:00 a.m. for a holiday get together.

Discussion was held on the need to keep very old bank statement records. The members voted that old bank records could be destroyed. Anything of society interests and historical value will be saved.

An inventory of the genealogical society material at Bobette's has been created and a check out system has been developed. A flier was handed out about the Genealogists Focus Group Study meeting at the Norfolk Library on October 29th at 6:00 p.m. This is being done by the public library to address possible future growth of the library building and services.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Blackhawk Norfolk Junior College Annual 1958

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Blackhawk continued from page 16

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Norfolk Junior College 1958 Annual

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wise that private property has its social obliga-
tions.

-- that labor has not only its rights but also obli-
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<p>The Sophomores continued from page 17</p> <p>Marcelline Gronau Aubrey Haight Charlotte Harmer Lois Hargens Charles Harlan Wayne Heick Eugene Helm James Hoffman Ralph Hoffman Fred Holmberg Shirley Huebner Floyd E. Hult Kathryn Imus Allan Jensen Clair Jensen Mike Kaasch Ken Kampschnieder Eugene Kelly Tom Kent Robert Krumwiede Johnny Lawler</p>	<p>Richard Ryan Jim Scheurich Robert Schlichting Lonny Schulz August Schuman Evelyn Sedivy Lyle Shallberg Al Shipley Mariann Shonka Ron Sladex Myrtle Sloan Jim Stanley Keith Steffen Wesley Stevens Alfred Stueckrath Robert Taylor John Tooley Melvin Van Dyke Herbert Vlasak Joyce Von Seggern Wallace Walker Wallace Wendt Ethel Wenk Earl Wentling</p>	<p>Karen Bauer Merlin Bauer Loretta Beck Gerald Bendixen Barbara Benson Jacqueline Bentzen Gilbert Bermel Ronald Boelter Jan Brei James Busskohl Gordon Carlson Dorothey Carr Judith Colling John Craig Robert Crane Nancee Dagendorfer</p> <p>Joyce Delozier Beverly Dietz MaryAnne Disterhaupt Dave Drahota</p>	<p>David Hastreiter Mary Healey Galen Helmkamp Ronald Henn Kay Hibbs John Hollatz Rich. Hollendieck Mike Howard Rodrick Hughes Rodney Hult Janet Hupp Darrell Johansen Marilyn Johansen Ruth Johnson Jack Jones Lawrence Jordan Joanne Kayl John Kielian Glen Knust Miriam Kollath James Kouba Larry Kramer Karen Kraus Gary Kruger</p>
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<p>Freshman class continued from page 18</p> <p>Lewis Morton Leo Moschenross Gerald Moseke Eugene Nosal Karen Novotny Darrell Neitzke Mary O'Gorman Lowell Olson Phyllis Pilger Marvin Podliska Ambrose Podraza Joyce Prauner Margaret Prosocki Dan Putnam Jim Putters Lila Radley Darwin Rokowsky Ronnie Reeves John Reiner Cleo Richards Wm. Saltonstall Sharon Schipporeit Don Schmeckpeper Ron Schonebaum Richard Sewell Ronald Sieh Neil Smith John Spence Larry Spreeman Jim Staudenmaier Douglas Stedry Virginia Steele Loren Steffen Del Stracke Thomas Swerczek Ali Taghizadek Ellen Thieman Evelyn Thomas Millard Tichota Tim Tilsworth Eileen Toelle Earl Tooker Joe Tooley Janis Topinka Gary Treinies Betty Turck</p>	<p>Jim Turk Dorothy Vahle Roger Vester Ralph Vincent Joe Vondracek Wayne Wagner Karen Walker Judith Wanser Larry Weber Larry Weich August Weiss Leon Wiese Bill Willers Roberta Williams Byron Willman Jim Woitaszewski Marlene Wood Ray Zabloudil Joey Zavitka Duane Zumbrunn</p> <p>Nebraska Christian College Students</p> <p>Harold Beckenhauer Richard Brown Don Burkum Bob Young Howard Beckenhauer Delmar Burgess Calvin Bolton Duane King Don Beckenhauer Robert Chitwood Keith Cuffel Kermit Owens Norman Armstrong Paul Wickenkamp Jim Caton. Don Gordon Jerry Deffenbaugh Beryl Hicks Neal Hanley Marie Downing Bettie Bears Lorelei Fox Betty Turck Joe Thurstenson</p>	<p>Harold McCracken Alvin Mach Dean McKay Sherry Price Marjorie Olmsted Peggy Zimmerman Lenora Young Bob Boseck Dave Ratzlaff Shirley Mach Marlene Wood Nancy McKay Pat Chitwood Audrey Rankin Sandra Fellows Navonne Knapp Mary Carr Janice Hicks Garnet Parker Helen Colgrove Marie Carr Willa Wells Melva Tally Ruth Ann Chaplin Lila Radley Darlene Thomas Christine Sloan Virginia Steele Don Lewis Dick Sewell Richard Morton, Jim Ferguson Delbert Biehle</p> <p>Counselors and Administrators</p> <p>Dr. Allen P. Burkhardt, President W. E. McDonald, Dean Mrs. Hildreth Barneke, Secretary Mary Jones, Registrar and Mathematics</p> <p>Faculty Members</p> <p>Merton V. Welch, Instrumental Music E. H. Williams, Commercial</p>	<p>Dr. Agnes Elaine Horton, Social Studies</p> <p>Adeline E. Manke, Assistant Librarian</p> <p>John T. Say, Chemistry and Physics</p> <p>Dorothy A. Tewell, Teacher Training and Education</p> <p>Robert L. Larson, Speech, Theatre, Salesmanship</p> <p>William Shaffer, Art</p> <p>Elizabeth Neville, English, Dean of Women</p> <p>Lynn D. Hutton, Law</p> <p>Charlotte Doll, Physical Education</p> <p>Harold J. Thompson, Coach and Physical Education</p> <p>Ellwin G. Fletcher, Industrial Arts</p> <p>James F. Manning, Biological Sciences</p> <p>Frances Tegeler, Commercial</p> <p>Randall G. McEwen, Vocal Music</p> <p>Gerald M. Danskin, Sociology</p> <p>Fred L. Egley, Director of Athletics</p> <p>Robert E. Carmichael, Assistant Coach</p> <p>Roger E. Maxwell, Visual Aids</p> <p>Otto H. Krehne, College Engineer</p>
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Dr. Campbell Lets Contract for New \$100,000 Hospital

**New Building at Twelfth and Prospect to
Accommodate Sixty Beds.**

Will go up this year.

**Three-Story Structure to be set in Parked
Grounds will be Ready for Occupancy Next
February, according to plans.**

Contracts were signed here Thursday evening for the construction of a fire-proof, modern hospital building, to be known as the Campbell hospital and the cost of which will total \$100,000. Thomas Eastergaard of North Bend was the successful bidder among the six participating in the call for the general contract while the B. O. Daubert company of Norfolk was given the plumbing and heating contract. Plans for the building were drawn by E. B. Watson who becomes the architect in charge of the work.

The report that Dr. Campbell would build a new hospital has been in circulation for some time, but it was not definitely announced until Thursday that the building would go up this year. The announcement indicates that the building will be ready for occupancy by Feb. 2, and that work would begin immediately.

When completed this beautiful building will be one of the most modern hospitals in the country. An examination of the plans Thursday indicates that nothing has been omitted to make the building complete, most of the important features being based on Dr. Campbell's twenty-five years of experience as a surgeon.

Grounds to Be Parked

The grounds of Twelfth street and Prospect avenue where the new building is to be erected are being surveyed by parking experts and will be so laid out as to mold harmoniously with the new structure. The building which will be three stories high, will face east, the present temporary building being left where it stands and will be used as at first planned, as a nurses' home.

The plans for the new building call for a beautiful exterior finish of brick and stucco. A roof garden is provided for the plans, showing the

complete utilization of all available space and view.

The building will accommodate sixty beds, no provision being made for wards. There will be rooms for all classes of patients. Oaltje and composition are among the interior finishing materials. One illustration of the many interior features is a glass enamel clothes chute, which will cost almost \$2,000. A double entrance is provided for on the main side of the building with double stairways. An electric elevator and automatic dumb-waiter are other features.

The heating, plumbing and electric lighting plans have been worked out after a careful study of modern systems.

Maternal Department Segregated

Those examining the plans are impressed with the ground floor arrangements which include a segregated maternal department away from most of the activity of the institution. Off the south side of this floor five excellent private rooms are provided for the department. Other features of the floor are the nursery rooms, directly under a sun parlor, diet kitchen, service room, hydro-therapeutic rooms, superintendent's room, a nurses class room, x-ray room and further toward the west end, the laundry connected by underground passageways to and underground cave, sub-basement for double boilers and the steam heating department.

On the second floor is a waiting room, general office, thirteen patients rooms, service room, diet. kitchens four rooms with private baths and spacious closets, and off the south a beautiful sun room.

The third floor is practically the same as the second except that provision has been made for two operating rooms planned and equipped according to the latest ideas of scientific surgery. Double sets of doors and a system of ventilation make the surgery department independent of the rest of the building. Three kinds of light are available

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Dr. Campbell continued from page 20

for the operating rooms which are constructed of marble and white composition. Connected conveniently to this department are the surgeons' dressing room, the surgical dressings department, and other necessary rooms. The usual service rooms, diet kitchen, separate medicine and drug rooms are provided for on this floor.

The building plans call for ample store rooms and linen closets with plumbing equipment and room space for the efficient handling of the work. Covering as it will a half block of single ground, the hospital officials believe that when the building is completed it will have added wonderfully to the needs of Norfolk.

Dr. Campbell came to Norfolk not long ago from Tilden with his associate Dr. M. D. Baker. The prime reason for moving the hospital here was because of the railroad connections patients were able to make in Norfolk. Before Dr. Baker died, the need of a larger hospital was recognized by Dr. Campbell and the plans were held up until recently when all arrangements were completed to go ahead with the work. The work of the hospital has progressed rapidly. Since coming here Dr. Campbell has constructed a beautiful home on West Norfolk avenue. A nurses home is leased on the same avenue and the temporary hospital has been continually overflowing. With the coming of the new building, more nurses will be employed and at least one more physician will be added to the present staff.

The downtown offices will be continued as usual.

On Dr. Campbell's staff at the present time are Dr. A. C. Barry, surgeon and diagnostician, Dr. R. H. Foster, medicine and diagnostician, Dr. F. A. Pollock, X-ray and laboratory expert, Miss Mabel Dimock is the superintendent of nurses and is one of the assistants to Dr. Campbell. About fifteen nurses are now employed. D. T. McKinnon is business manager of the institution. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Fri. June 6, 1919, page 3

Madison County Rural Schools

District 29 — Bell School was organized Feb. 26, 1873. It is located eight miles north and one mile east of Newman Grove. The district was dissolved in 1968 and joined Newman Grove School District 13.

District 44 — East Emerick was organized in 1874. It was located nine miles south and 1 mile east of Meadow Grove. This school never had the modern conveniences of running water and restrooms in the school. They kept the same four rows of desks that were nailed to the floor. There were many blackboards and bulletin boards on all the walls. The district closed its doors in July 1968 when it was consolidated with District 96.

District 45 — This school was located two miles west and four and one half miles north of Newman Grove. The school was closed in the 1960's.

District 49 — The district was formed on July 16, 1913. District 49 is located in Kalamazoo precinct section 30 SE 1/4 in the NE corner of the farm owned by the August and Anna Rudat, Bernard Wiese Sr., Ben J. Wiese and Melvin J. Wiese. The schoolhouse now owned by Jim Wiess was moved to the present site, two and one half miles southeast. The district was dissolved in 1969 and joined District 97.

District 50 — West Emerick was organized Feb. 3, 1879. The school was located nine miles south and one mile west of Meadow Grove. The school was consolidated with District 96 in July 1968.

District 54 — This school was located eight miles north, two miles west and one mile north of Newman Grove. It was organized around 1880. It was finally consolidated with other districts in the area in May 1966.

District 55 — Chloe School was located three miles east, four and a half miles northwest of Newman Grove. {Directions typed as found in the book.} The new school was built on an acre of land donated by Henry Wedekind in 1937.

Rural Schools continued on page 22

Friends Pay Tribute to Pioneer Woman

Big Crowd Gathers at Warnerville to Pay Respects to Grandma Warner

On Friday, June 6 "Grandma" H. Warner celebrated her eightieth birthday. Grandma Warner was honored by a double surprise. The members of the Norfolk W. R. C. went out in the morning to her home near Warnerville for an all day picnic, and in the evening practically all the people of the entire countryside arrived in thirty-two motor cars, bringing with them a bounteous supply of ice cream and good things to eat. About 250 persons were present and a picnic supper was served on the lawn at the old Warner home.

After the feast Grandma Warner was presented a fine leather handbag. Mrs. E. Rowlett made the presentation in behalf of old friends and neighbors. She referred to some of the events and experiences of the thirty-two years of active life here of her in whose honor the gathering was held. Grandma Warner responded feelingly, but in a firm voice, thanking her dear friends for the tribute offered so happily tendered her.

Grandma Warner was born June 6, 1939, on the banks of the Kanawa River in Virginia. When she was 6 years old the family moved by _____ team to central Illinois and settled on the Grand Prairie which was then a wild trackless waste over which deer and antelope roamed. Here she grew to womanhood, experiencing all the hardships of pioneer life. She saw the wild waste transformed into the great state.

In 1862 she married H. Warner who left a few weeks thereafter to serve in the Union army in the Civil War. One of her brothers and three of his brothers all went out together in Co. A. 108th Illinois Volunteers only two of the five returned. Her brother and two of his brothers made the supreme sacrifice. At the close of the war in 1865 H. Warner returned to his young wife and engaged in farming.

In 1886 they moved to Nebraska and settled

at Warnerville, where the husband died in 1912. Two sons were born to them, E. C. Warner, now living at the old home, and H. G. Warner, of University Place, Neb.

Though afflicted from girlhood with weak eyesight, Grandma Warner is of a cheerful, energetic, self reliant disposition, and in spite of her advanced age she made the trip to Illinois and return alone and unattended a few months ago.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Tues. June 10, 1919, page 5

Madison Co. Rural Schools

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It was consolidated with six districts into one in the fall of 1966. The new school was built six miles north of Newman Grove and five and a half miles east, called District 97. The school districts that merged were 55, 40, 28, 36, 85, and 49.

District 58 — The records show the first distribution of State School funds in 1883 when the school was formed by County Supt. T. J. Hunt with land taken from District 13. This district closed in May 1968 and consolidated with District 13 in Newman Grove.

District 62— This was known as the Harbottle School and was organized on Jan. 7, 1898 by John Harbottle. Mr. Harbottle was born in England 7-26-1842 and came with his wife to America in 1871 and moved to a homestead on Shell Creek two and a half miles northwest of Newman Grove. In 1898 a school was built 20' x 16'. In 1919 a bigger and better school was built and the old one was moved to the Schwager farm. In May 1962 District 652 was consolidated with District 13 in Newman Grove.

District 67 — This was called the Schmidt school as the idea to form a district was by William Schmidt. This was started on March 13, 1886. There have been three schoolhouses. The last school was used thru May 1965 when the district was divided between District 95 and District 13. **Rural Schools** continued on page 24

2013—2014 Officers	Our future meetings
President: Richard Streng Vice-President: Phyllis McCain Secretary: Bobette Ferguson Treasurer: Bernice Walters	
<p style="text-align: center;">November 16 December no meeting January 18 February 15 Join us and bring someone along with you.</p>	
<p>Madison County Genealogical Society PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031</p>	

MCGS established in June 1973

Memberships are \$15 per year starting at the time of your membership and it includes our 12 page bi-monthly newsletter. If you would like to join our society please send your payment to our mailing address. Please let us know if you want your newsletter by mail or by e-mail.

Meetings on 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January at 10 a.m. at 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE., Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.

Website at <http://mcgs.nesgs.org> or www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/

Queries, Society contact, Change of address, or Newsletter submissions can reach us by mail at our mailing address or mcgs.nebraska@centurylink.net. We are here to help you in your research for your ancestors in Madison county and in the nearby counties.

Officials concerned continued from page 13

The Boerner family cemetery was a special place for 49-year-old Scott Boerner. He grew up in Grant County and lives in the Twin Cities.

Boerner said he didn't visit often because he needed to ask the landowner for permission to cross a farm field to get to the cemetery.

He described it as a peaceful place with lilac bushes and a towering cottonwood tree.

Boerner said that when he learned the cemetery had been bulldozed, it felt like a death in the family.

"Every time I drove past it before this, I'd look out to see the grove of trees and I'm like, 'Ok, there's our cemetery.'" Boerner said, "That's where Frederick and Christine are buried and their grandchildren. And you felt, 'There it is and everything's fine.'

"It was difficult to drive by after. It was not a good thing to see."

Boerner often puzzled over why the cemetery was in the middle of a farm field, almost a mile from the family homestead.

"Why did they pick that site?" Boerner wonders today. "They had to be something special about it at the time. And I think about

that. It was special at that time, it's still special today. It should be there to be special to future generations."

Anfinson said he isn't sure what the solution is."

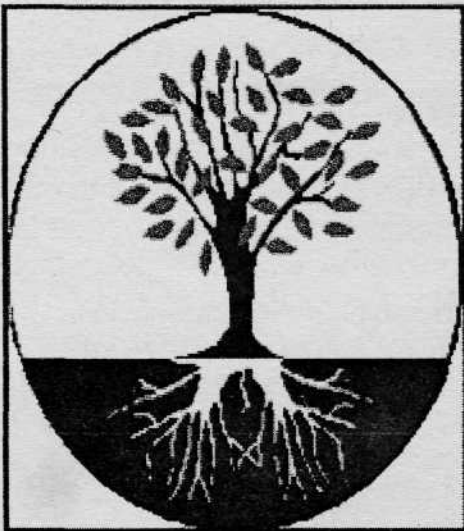
Maybe we should start an adopt-a-cemetery program," he said. "If we can keep our highways clean, maybe we can start helping the cemeteries, which are important. And everybody recognizes not only their historic value but their spiritual value and family value."

Anfinson said he would like to see state law not only protect burial sites but ensure that they are cared for in the future.

Source: www.tristateneighbor.com
 February 8, 2013, article

Editor's note: There are at least 3 locations here in Madison county where a cemetery had existed at one time. Some of the burials may have been moved to another cemetery or the farmer may have just removed the monuments into the ditch and it has been farmed over now for over 60 years. The names of the people and the monuments have been lost.

Madison County Genealogical Society
PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031

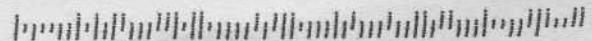


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Madison Co. Rural Schools

continued from page 22

District 68 — The earliest date of record for the school is Jan. 8, 1887. The last year the school operated was 1977-78.

District 95 — Cloverleaf school was located twelve miles south of Tilden and was organized from several smaller school districts on June 5, 1965. The districts going into the new consolidated district were Boone County Districts 69, 38, and part of District 8, and Madison County Districts 69 and 54. The school opened its doors in August, 1965 with 70 students and three teachers.

Source: excerpts from Newman Grove Centennial Our First Hundred Years 1888—1988, pages 106 to 112.

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The MCGS Christmas Party will be held on Jan. 18, 2014. The location will be selected at our Nov. meeting.

So plan on attending our get together. We have great food, fun, and fellowship.

You pay for your own choice from the menu items available.

