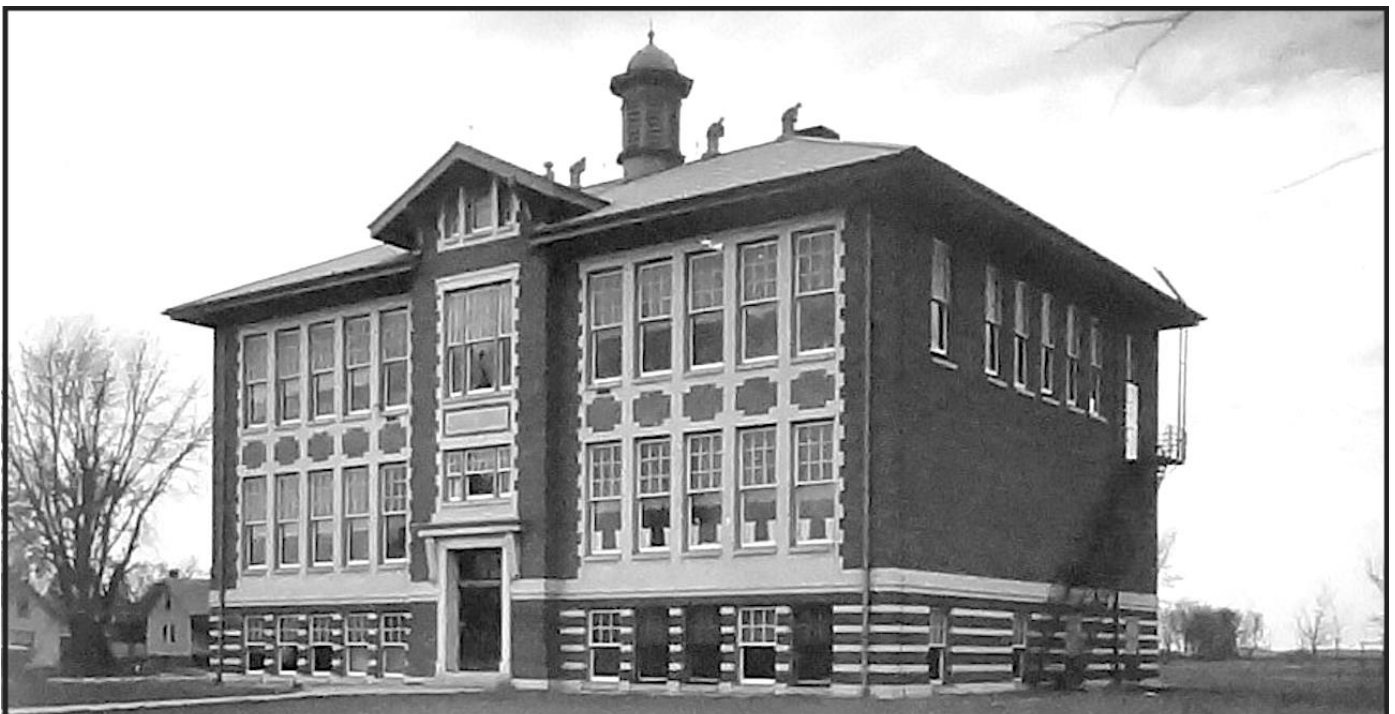


A brief history of The Nichols High School Alumni Association

And

**Its decision at the annual alumni banquet on
June 13, 2015, to do something, while there
were still living alumni from the 1903-1961
graduating classes, that says:**

“WE WERE HERE”



The new schoolhouse that would be home to Nichols High School from the 1st day of class on November 29, 1915, until the last class graduated on May 17, 1961.

High School Alumni Organization Plans Banquet at Nichols

Nichols, Ia., Nov. 10—On Saturday evening, Nov. 1 at the high school an alumni association was organized.

This program was given: Opening, "Iowa Corn Song," audience; duet, Bernie Nash and Marguerite Kirshner; vocal solo, Marie Borgstadt; instrumental solo, Hariett James; reading, Alvina Kirshner; talks by presidents of every class represented.

After the program a business meeting was held, Professor Gerbrecht acting as chairman. These officers were elected: President, Ray Norris, vice president, Verda Metcalf; secretary and treasurer, Elsie Kirshner. After the business meeting the high school pupils entertained with Halloween games. The date for a banquet proposed has not been set.

List of NHS graduates created circa 1925 by Alumni Association

CLASS OF 1903

Bessie Baker

~~Deceased~~
Mrs. Bessie Brand Letts, Iowa

CLASS OF 1904

2. ~~Evan E. Carl~~

~~Dr. & Mrs. Evan Carl Wisconsin Tower Bldg
Milwaukee, Wis.~~

✓ 3. Ray Norris

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Norris Nichols, Iowa

4. Carl F. Lindee

7525 Langley Ave.
Chicago 19, Ill.

5. Ablert Lindee

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Lindee 2510 Beaver Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa

6. Nellie Trautman

Mrs. Ray Norris address above

7. Bertha Shaw

Mrs. Bertha Nash 605 S. New St.
Champaigne, Ill.

8. Lelah M. Rhodes

CLASS OF 1905

9. Mae Hesser

~~Deceased~~
Mrs. Mae Albright 221 Mary Place
Muscatine, Iowa

10. Edna Baker

Mrs. Edna McCosmick 4030 Lyceum Ave,
Venice, California

11. Lena Haney

Deceased

12. Hazel Felton

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Billings Columbus Jct., Ia

13. Henery Gable

Deceased

CLASS OF 1906

14. Mary Doran

Mrs. Mary Anderson 726 Sutters St.
San Francisco, Calif.

15. Fred Shannon

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Shannon 512 Cornwall Ave.
Waterloo, Iowa

16. Earl Haney

17. Lena Trautman

Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Drumm 1017 Orchard Ave.
Muscatine, Iowa

CLASS OR 1907

18. Edgar Nash

Deceased

19. Ethel Trartman

Mrs. Ethel Griffin Meadowbrook Road
Benton Harbor, Mich.

20. Leo Zybarth

Leo Zybarth c/o Railway Express
Office Muscatine, Ia.

21. Louis Barry

Deceased

22. Leonard Hindricks

Mr. & Mrs. L. Hendricks 310 E. 6th St.
West Liberty, Iowa

The twenty-ninth Annual Alumni Banquet of the Nichols High School was held in the gymnasium on the evening of June 6, 1953. About 125 attended the pot luck supper.

The theme of the banquet was the Coronation theme with the Royal Coach and the Queen's Throne as decorations.

The Class of 1953 was welcomed by the President, Leroy Marine. The response was given by Karen Chown, Senior Class President. For their stunt the class gave an imitation of the Bald Spots Quartet.

The program for the evening started with a clarinet solo by Ramona Kaalberg accompanied by Edna Kirchner on the piano. Next the Bald Spots Quartet from West Liberty sang several fine numbers. Ann Jones then entertained the audience with two brilliant tap-dancing numbers, accompanied by Vera Elder on the piano. The evening's entertainment was closed with a vocal solo by Dick Knall accompanied by Vera Elder on the piano.

Leroy Marine opened the Business Meeting. Minutes of the previous year's banquet were read. Roll call was taken and rosettes were presented to Verda Metcalf, Clarence Metcalf, and George Kirchner as the oldest graduates present. Classes of 1911 and 1913. The treasurer's report was then read.

Dorothy Chelf made a motion that the Honor Roll Board for servicemen be brought up to date. Ralph Schmitt moved that each graduating class keep the Service Board up. Jayne Hall seconded this motion. Ernest Kirchner, Mark Smith, and Walt Elder volunteered to bring the Board up to date for this year.

A report of the nominating committee was given by John Soeb, the new president. They were as follows:

2

President - John Soeb
Vice Pres. - Robert Borgstadt
Secretary - Loretta Mac Kenzie
Treasurer - Bernice Schmitt

The new President then announced his committees for the next year:

Executive Committee

Senora Pike
Wilma Mills
Geneva Salemink
Charlene Meacham
Ralph Borgstadt

Nominating Committee

Clarence Metcalf
Robert Elder
William Hollenbeck

Finance Committee

Joyce Albatt
Helen Salemink
Floyd Kirchner

A motion was then brought up by Leroy Marine that we change our method of serving at the banquet. He mentioned serving by caterers but it was not decided upon. A motion by Dorothy Chelf that next years committee take care of this matter was seconded by Ernest Kirchner.

Cleve Hayer was presented a gift by Treasurer Ralph Kirchner in behalf of his services in helping the Alumni

Wilma Mills moved that the new president

Don't go away there's still more → →

appoint a committee to go to the graduating senior class before Senior Week and explain the significance of the Alumni Banquet. Theodora Harder seconded the motion.

Ernest Kerchner made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Dorothy Chelf seconded the motion.

The Queen of the Banquet was then announced. She was Mrs. Verda Metcalf, the oldest graduate present. Mary Steinocher and Dorothy Chelf crowned the Queen who was seated upon a brilliant throne.

The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing to music played by the Prairie Saddlers.

(That's all folks!!!)

Victor F. Mills
Secretary

Nichols Alumni Plan Banquet And Dance.

Nichols — Officers of the Nichols Alumni Association have announced plans for the 1962 Alumni Banquet and Dance. DeWayne Christofferson, president; Gary Smith, vice president; Bonnie Chown, secretary; and Bill Newton, treasurer were elected to their respective offices at last year's banquet.

Saturday, June 30 has been chosen as the date for the annual affair, to be held in the Nichols school gymnasium, with a banquet dinner to be served at 7 p.m. (cst). The dinner will be prepared by Mrs. Loretta Christofferson and Mrs. Golda Pike, and reservations will be \$1.00 per person, with the banquet being limited to alumni and their guests.

Entertainment during the banquet program is being kept a secret, but the committee indicated that it will be very worthwhile seeing.

The dance, scheduled from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., will also be held in the school gymnasium, at a cost of \$1.00 per person. The "Collegiates" from Muscatine, will provide music for dancing. The public is welcome to attend the dance.

Cards have been mailed to alumni, so that they may make their reservations, and are to be mailed back to Gary Smith of Nichols.

Honored guests will be those present from the classes of 1937, and 1952.

It is hoped that many former graduates will attempt to be present, to keep the Alumni Association an active organization, regardless of the fact that high school classes are no longer being held at Nichols.

Old Nichols school will be apartments, factory

By Stacy Swadish
The Press-Citizen

NICHOLS — The City Council Wednesday unanimously approved selling the closed Nichols school to a Lisbon businessman for \$21,000.

Lloyd Steffensmeier, a chiropractor and president of Lloyd Table Co., plans to convert part of the school into apartments. Lloyd Table Co. makes chiropractic equipment.

Steffensmeier also plans to manufacture plastic replicas of human skeletons in the school's newer wing. The skeletons would be sold to medical schools and other health care businesses, he said.

The sale allows the Nichols Community Club to lease the gymnasium and kitchen for \$1 a year.

Steffensmeier said the business

and the apartments would open as soon as he could renovate the building. He said he would hire local workers for the plastic skeleton business.

The Community Club purchased the closed school from the West Liberty School District for \$1 in 1987. That's when West Liberty decided to consolidate its elementary students. Since the purchase, the community club and the

city spent \$10,000 on repairs and upkeep of the 76-year-old building.

The Community Club has 45 days to remove equipment from the school. It had rented out storage space in the unused classrooms.

Rose Newton, a member of the Community Club, said she was happy they were able to keep use of the gymnasium.

Nichols

alumni banquet

NICHOLS — The Nichols Alumni banquet will be Saturday, June 10 at the West Liberty Country Club. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m.; the banquet at 7 p.m.

For reservations, contact Lynn Harmon, 1404 Lincoln Blvd., Muscatine, or call 319-264-0051 by June 8.

Nichols alumni plan school reunion

WEST LIBERTY – The annual **Nichols Alumni** reunion will be held Saturday, June 14, at the West Liberty Country Club. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner being served at 7 p.m.

Any person who attended Nichols High School is wel-

come to attend. Cost is \$10.50 per person.

The classes of 1947 and 1972 will be honored.

Anyone who has not received a reservation form should call **Willard Salemink** at 319-627-4226, or mail reservation and check to 209 W. Sixth St., West Liberty, 52776. Be sure to indicate your choice of an Iowa chop or chicken breast.



The photograph was taken at the Nichols Alumni Banquet at the West Liberty (Iowa) Country Club on June 14, 1997. On the left is Kathleen Hanft Salemink (NHS 1952), wife of Willard Salemink (NHS 1951) who was hosting the event. On the right is Evelyn Smith Gowdy (NHS 1952) of Lakewood, California, sister of Donald Smith (NHS 1950). The photographer was Donald Smith.

NICHOLS ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, June 13, 2015
West Liberty Country Club

The annual Nichols Alumni Banquet will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015 at the West Liberty Country Club, West Liberty, Iowa.

Social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this letter along with a check payable to "Nichols Alumni Association".

Name: DONALD L. SMITH

Spouse Guest KARLEENE SMITH

Address: 2017 DUFF AVE., AMES IA 50010

Email address: agilterv@centurylink.net

Class of 1950

Cost: \$16/person $\times 2 = \$32.00$ CK# 2402 (2015.0421)

Please make check payable to Nichols Alumni Association and return to:

Willard Salemink
1027 North Elm Street
West Liberty, IA 52776

RESERVATIONS NEEDED BY JUNE 6, 2015

Questions, call Lori Salemink Leggins at 319 627 6655 or e-mail lleggins@lcom.net

If you are unable to attend the reunion but wish to remain on the mailing list, please return your name and address or e-mail lori @ lleggins@lcom.net.

ORIGIN OF THE ARCHIVES

The Nichols High School Digital Archives that are posted on the web site of the Musser Public Library in Muscatine, Iowa, in this year of 2024, may very well have never been assembled but for the convergence of the “stars” at the annual banquet of the Nichols High School Alumni Association held on June 13, 2015, at the West Liberty Country Club and hosted by Willard Salemink (Class of 1951).

It was at this annual Nichols alumni banquet that Donald Smith (Class of 1950) made the point that 54 years had passed since closure of Nichols High School upon the graduation of the 1961 class whose members were now past age 70. And if nothing was done now to preserve the presently existing historical record of Nichols High School it would soon disappear into the dust bin of history.

Donald, who had retired from his Ames, Iowa, law firm in 1997, volunteered to digitize the historical record, do the editing, bear all cash expenses and find an organization that would preserve the resulting archives on its web site and provide convenient online access for the public. His only condition was that other alumni assist with the collection effort. It was an offer that could not be refused.

The history that led to the offer, the results of a great photo collection effort, the availability of online historical resources, the editing process and the search for an internet web site to preserve the digital archives are the major elements that led to the creation of the Nichols High School Digital Archives. This topic, **The NHS Alumni Association**, contains the principal details that produced the online history in two years and a finished product in five years that is now updated annually. The 137 alumni living on June 13, 2015, has shrunk to 80 living alumni living as of May 15, 2024.

1932 Ortha Pearl Neff 101 - Iowa City IA.png
 1938 Bernice McMahon Schmitt - Mount Ida AR.png
 1939 Margaret Fox Oostendorp - Nichols IA.png
 1940 Alvin C. Stephens - Sun City CA.png
 1940 Donald L. Heizer - Staunton VA.png
 1941 Alice Elder Grable - Bettendorf IA.png
 1941 Charlene Nichols Hixon - Iowa City IA.png
 1941 Helen Miller Wiese - Davenport IA.png
 1941 Marcella Neff Barnhart - Nichols IA.png
 1941 Marian E. Wilkerson Young - Kingman AZ.png
 1942 Beryl M. Schmitt Battey - Muscatine IA.png
 1942 Carol Ann Coon Kornman - Tampa FL.png
 1942 James Lee Cadogan - Davenport IA.png
 1943 Belva June Mills Burr - West Liberty IA.png
 1943 Loretta Longstreth MacKenzie-Blue Grass IA.png
 1943 Richard J. Salemink - Letts IA.png
 1943 Ruth M. Graham Day - San Diego CA.png
 1944 Alice Woolever Miller - Illinois.png
 1944 Clarice E. Miller Lowe - Letts IA.png
 1944 Floyd L. Park - Muscatine IA.png
 1944 Gloria Barber Oliver - Dana Point CA.png
 1944 Grace M. Hillyer Krolak - Peru IL.png
 1944 Mary Jane Porter Ruess - West Liberty IA.png
 1944 Odetta Carter Pippert - Muscatine IA.png
 1944 Willard D. Elder - Reno NV.png
 1945 Dolores Kaalberg Suchomel-Cedar Rapids IA.png
 1945 Mervin E. Mills - Nichols IA.png
 1946 Evelyn Walkner Carver - Fairfax IA.png
 1946 Jeanne Porter Maher - Marion IA.png
 1946 Louise Polman Ulch - Gladbrook IA.png
 1947 Jack T. Salemink - Nichols IA.png
 1947 Thomas Jefferson Carney - Elizabeth WV.png
 1947 Velma Marine Mills - Lone Tree IA.png
 1948 Keith F. Mills - Lone Tree IA.png
 1949 Everett Willis Grim - Nichols IA.png
 1949 Helene Porter Salemink - Nichols IA.png
 1949 Marjorie Curtis Marine - Fairfield IA.png
 1949 Mary Christofferson Soukup - Oxford IA.png
 1949 Patricia Kaalberg Matthews - Iowa City IA.png
 1949 Wanda Brenneman Campbell - Marion IA.png
 1950 Donald L. Smith - Ames IA.png
 1950 Paul Dean Curtis - Decatur IL.jpg
 1951 Elaine Schmitt Yerington - Muscatine IA.png
 1951 Fred Lewis Chown - Farmington MN.png
 1951 Mary Knoll Wildasin - Muscatine IA.png
 1951 Vera Knoll Elder - Muscatine IA.png

1951 Victor F. Mills - Nichols IA.png
 1951 Willard L. Salemink - West Branch IA.png
 1952 Joy Coon Brumley - North Liberty IA.png
 1952 Kathleen Hanft Salemink - West Branch IA.png
 1952 Shirley Braun Plumb - Davenport IA.png
 1953 Dorothy Wilkerson Vanacker - Muscatine IA.png
 1953 Eugene Walker - Nichols IA.png
 1953 James D. Porter - Spokane Valley WA.png
 1953 Karen Chown Cline - West Liberty IA.png
 1953 Lloyd E. Deahr - West Liberty IA.png
 1953 Marilyn Braun Baxter - De Witt IA.png
 1953 Mary Lou Mills Forbes - Kansas City MO.png
 1953 Twyla Grimm Burch - Muscatine IA.png
 1954 Barbara Hanft Mills - Nichols IA.png
 1954 Darlene Will Thompson - San Anselmo CA.png
 1954 Deane H. Viner - West Liberty IA.png
 1954 Naomi Wieskamp - Iowa City IA.png
 1954 Norma Jane Deahr Bell - Muscatine IA.png
 1954 Phyllis Salemink Elder - West Liberty IA.png
 1954 Wayne L. Westlake - Conesville IA.png
 1955 Beatrice June Deahr Morse - Aledo IL.png
 1955 Dennis John Smith - Cedar Falls IA.png
 1955 Eugene R. Wieskamp - Ocala FL.png
 1955 Ione Jules Walker - Nichols IA.png
 1955 Jacqueline Renshaw Bell - Iowa City IA.png
 1955 Marijane Lee Connell Burns - Carey NC.png
 1955 Ramona Marie Kaalberg - Johnston IA.png
 1955 Robert Bruce Viner - Lone Tree IA.png
 1955 Robert Eugene Fridley - Leesburg FL.png
 1956 Carol Jean Braun Peterson - Plainfield IA.png
 1956 Charlotte Ball Jensen - Muscatine IA.png
 1956 Daryl Eugene Swanson - Maquoketa IA.png
 1956 Duane Irvin Collison - Abilene TX.png
 1956 James R. Jensen - Muscatine IA.png
 1956 Jerry Dean Elder - Iowa City IA.png
 1956 Marlys Madsen Clausen - Marion IA.png
 1956 Paul Ronald Smith - Gay Mills WI.png
 1956 Ronald Russell McLaughlin - Edmond OK.png
 1956 Vernon A. Deahr - Muscatine IA.png
 1956 William D. Newton - West Liberty IA.png
 1957 Carolyn Brei Peters - North Liberty IA.png
 1957 Frank M. Holcomb - Lone Tree IA.png
 1957 Gerald W. Durst - Dunnegan MO.png
 1957 Joann D. Green Durst - Dunnegan MO.png
 1957 Kathryn Jensen Simpson - Des Moines IA.png
 1957 Loretta Brenneman Meyers - Nichols IA.png

1957 Patricia Bixby Stroud - Hiram GA.png
 1957 Ronald Lawrence Wieskamp - Nichols IA.png
 1958 Gary W. Smith - Phoenix AZ.png
 1958 Gayle A. Hollenbeck - Atalissa IA.png
 1958 Gayle F. Kaalberg - West Liberty IA.png
 1958 Helen Johnston Kline | Hills IA.png
 1958 Jack K. Meyers - Nichols IA.png
 1958 Kenneth R. Kirkpatrick - Jesup GA.png
 1958 Marlene Juels Snyder - Muscatine IA.png
 1958 Sally Sutton Steiger - Grandview IA.png
 1958 Virgil D. Oostendorp - Hinsdale IL.png
 1958 Wiladine Chown Burns - Bettendorf IA.png
 1959 Camilla Pike Maguire - Palatine IL.png
 1959 Carla Jensen Dunahoo - West Liberty IA.png
 1959 Carolyn L. Gregg Nichols - Aiken SC.png
 1959 James C. Chown - Crivitz WI.png
 1959 James K. Kirkpatrick - Loudon TN.png
 1959 James Robert Adkins - Quartzsite AZ.png
 1959 Larry R. Green - Muscatine IA.png
 1959 Lavonne Paulsen Green - Muscatine IA.png
 1959 Mary Ann Shaw Bristol - Iowa City IA.png
 1959 Roger A. Wieskamp - Iowa City IA.png
 1959 Sandra Strickfaden Dubois-Forest Lake MN.png
 1960 Sherry Finley Pearson - West Branch IA.png
 1960 Stuart O. Schmitt - Mount Ida AR.png
 1961 Bernice Ann Kasper Gardner - Nichols IA.png
 1961 Carol Finley Morris - Muscatine IA.png
 1961 Cloyd Dean Phelps - Nichols IA.png
 1961 David A. Hillyer - Lewisville TX.png
 1961 Dennis W. Wieskamp - Westerville OH.png
 1961 Donna Strickfaden Whittington - Alamo TX.png
 1961 Joann Hartman Broders - Nichols IA.png
 1961 Judith Mills Bender - Kalona IA.png
 1961 Judy Durst Hollenbeck - Bolivar MO.png
 1961 Marianne Barnhart Phelps - Nichols IA.png
 1961 Nancy E. Longstreth Schultz - Nichols IA.png
 1961 Patti Meyers Stasiek - Saint Charles IL.png
 1961 Robert A. Oostendorp - Iowa City IA.png
 1961 Robert E. Middagh - Muscatine IA.png
 1961 Stephen P. Han - Mesa AZ.png
 1961 Virgil Hollenbeck - Muscatine IA.png
 1961 William F. Kline - Hills IA.png

**134 Living Alumni NHS 2016.0320
 Listed by Year of Graduation**



**The 3 Earliest Nichols High School Graduates in Attendance
 Charlene Nichols Hixon (1941) - Margaret Fox Oostendorp (1939) - Helen Miller Wiese (1941)
 Nichols High School Alumni Banquet, West Liberty Iowa Country Club, June 11, 2016**

NICHOLS HIGH SCHOOL

Town of Nichols, Muscatine County, Iowa
 A Table of all 494 Graduates from 1903 to 1961

— The Master List Grouped by Class Year —

This Copy Appears on the Web Site of the Musser Public Library

Table Originally Created in 2017 by Don Smith (Class of 1950), Editor NHS Digital Archives

CLASS	SURNAME, First Middle Maiden	FINDAGRAVE	DOD	PLACE OF BURIAL	ST

	1903 GRADUATES . . . 001				
1903	Eland, Bessie Baker	067903214	1964.0910	Letts	IA
	1904 GRADUATES . . . 007				
1904	Carl, Evan E.	167011827	1964.0529	(Cremated)	WI
1904	Hardin, Lelah Mae Rhodes	094525180	1974.0108	Cypress	CA
1904	Lindee, Albert Louis	014802532	1965.0315	Nichols	IA
1904	Lindee, Carl F.	167580869	1955.1129	Evergreen Park	IL
1904	Nash, Bertha Emoline Shew	039266593	1973.0702	Nichols	IA
1904	Norris, Nellie May Trautman	040418909	1968.0719	Nichols	IA
1904	Norris, Ray A.	040418837	1972.0625	Nichols	IA
	1905 GRADUATES . . . 005				
1905	Albright, Mae Elizabeth Hesser	096375733	1959.1206	Muscatine	IA
1905	Billings, Hazel B. Felton	071964072	1971.0401	Columbus City	IA
1905	Gabel, Henry (aka Harry)	162842338	1956.0920	Gotha	FL
1905	McCormick, Edna Baker	008193545	1968.0702	Letts	IA
1905	McKeown, Lena Pearl Haney	163862680	1927.0311	(Cremated)	WA
	1906 GRADUATES . . . 004				
1906	Anderson, Mary F. Doran	077879834	1965.1023	Seattle	WA
1906	Drumm, Lena Trautman	069640885	1968.1011	Muscatine Cty	IA
1906	Haney, Frank Earl	167181839	1938.0307	Rushville	MO
1906	Shannon, Frederick Joseph	042641856	1961.0501	Waterloo	IA
	1907 GRADUATES . . . 005				
1907	Barry, Louis Cyril	023542552	1938.0526	Adair	IA
1907	Griffin, Ethel Gertrude Trautman	132435754	1978.0718	Benton Harbor	MI
1907	Hendricks, Leonard	024194666	1975.0323	West Liberty	IA
1907	Nash, Edgar Newton	039266557	1942.0214	Nichols	IA
1907	Zybarth, Leo Mathias	079218101	1958.1229	Muscatine	IA
	1908 GRADUATES . . . 001				
1908	Heath, William Austin	016809447	1961.0802	West Liberty	IA
	1909 GRADUATES . . . 007				
1909	Doran, Marguerite M.	049478595	1968.0620	Nichols	IA
1909	Elder, Charles Wesley	013283283	1967.0730	Nichols	IA
1909	Flanigan, Ruby Dorothy Ripley	166359896	1993.0301	Davenport	IA

*See extended description of table on page 14.

Last Updated 2024.0201 - DLS



Description of A-TABLE

General Description. The A-TABLE contains basic data assembled since June, 2015, on all NHS graduates from the first class in 1903 to the last class in 1961. It is sorted chronologically by class (year of graduation) in column 1 and sorted alphabetically by last names within each class in column 2. For married women, the married name is used followed by first name, middle and maiden.

There are 494 NHS graduates but only 493 NHS alumni. That is because one alumnus graduated in two different classes. Lloyd H. Mills graduated from the 3-year curriculum in 1923 and then returned to earn the new 4-year diploma with the 1926 class. Prior to adoption of the 4-year curriculum in 1925, some NHS graduates would take their fourth year of high school at West Liberty High School or Muscatine High School to earn a 4-year diploma.

82 Living Alumni. The 493 alumni of Nichols High School presently [January 1, 2024] consist of 411 deceased alumni and 82 living alumni. The 493 alumni consist of 257 women and 236 men.

Online Memorial Pages. Every deceased alumnus has a memorial page on the web site known as **findagrave.com**. Every 9-digit number appearing in column 3 (**FINDAGRAVE**) is the identification number for that person's memorial page. The memorial page identification numbers are live links that you need only click on to display on your web browser the memorial page of any and all deceased NHS alumni. For deceased alumni, if there was no cemetery burial, that is indicated in column 5 by (Cremated), (Research) or (Unknown) and in those cases column 6 is the state in which the person died.

Date Format. Column 4 shows the date of death of each deceased alumnus. A computer friendly date format is used of **YEAR.MODA**. For example, December 7, 1941, appears as 1941.1207.

Notation

The two persons listed below were erroneously included as NHS graduates In the 1984 Nichols Iowa Centennial Book.

1941 – Smith, Rollin Deane, Memorial ID:3143766, DOD:1963.1220 – Little Rock AR

1958 – Paulsen, Lloyd M, Memorial ID:84907642, DOD:1984.1226 – Iowa City IA

<>

DONALD L. SMITH

2017 Duff Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

agilterv@icloud.com

515-451-2020

May 1, 2017

TO: All 128 Living Alumni of Nichols High School

RE: **Nichols High School Digital Archives**

My last mass mailing through the US Postal Service went to 130 living alumni on December 16, 2016, and contained 78 printed pages. That package was a progress report as to the collection, digitizing, organizing and annotating of photographs and source documents that constitute the presently remaining historical record on a high school that the State of Iowa closed 56 years ago this month.

There was one crucial question that was not addressed in my December report as I then had no answer for it. The question was: When the Nichols High School Digital Archives has been built how will it be preserved for future generations to find and access? Today I have the best of all possible answers for that question and that is what prompts this letter report. The 41 NHS Alumni and Friends of NHS Alumni who receive my periodic email updates already know the answer so they will have to bear with me for some repetition in this letter.

On March 7th I had an extended afternoon meeting at the Musser Public Library in Muscatine with the Director, Pam Collins, and her Assistant Director, Robert Fiedler. The subject was my proposal that they add Major Elements of the NHS Digital Archives to the local history section of the library's web site. I had previously sent them by email the A-TABLE of graduates with links to memorial pages on findagrave.com for all 367 deceased graduates. I had with me the package of photographs and source documents that I had mailed to all living alumni on December 16th. By the end of the meeting they had agreed to the proposal and were actually enthusiastic about putting the NHS Digital Archives on the library web site.

Bobby Fiedler supervises the library web site. Over the past two months we have traded emails on format and organization questions. The process has moved ahead very smoothly. On March 22, 2017, a newly created HOME PAGE for the Nichols High School Digital Archives went live on the World Wide Web along with the A-TABLE of NHS graduates in a PDF file (14 pages). On April 28th a second PDF file (61 pages) was posted to the Home Page containing class graduation pictures from 1903 to 1961.

The NHS Archives is designed to be viewed on a personal computer, either desktop or laptop, with a screen of 13 inches or larger. It is not something to be viewed on a smartphone. I realize that the personal computer age arrived to late for a large majority of the living NHS alumni. For them my answer is that they should take this letter to a child or grandchild who has a PC with an internet connection and ask them to show you the table of graduates and the collection of class graduation

pictures that can be viewed on the Musser Public Library web site. It is after all, for our descendants that we have assembled and are preserving at Musser Public Library this historical record of Nichols High School and its 495 alumni and the Nichols community that nurtured both school and alumni.

The usual procedure for accessing the NHS Digital Archives would be to first open on your computer the home page of the Musser Public Library by entering in your web browser the following address: www.musserpubliclibrary.org. Then in the black column on the left side of the page move your cursor over the word "Research" which will cause a list to appear to the right of the word. Move your cursor to the right and down the list to the words "Local History & Genealogy" and click on those words. That will open up the "Local History & Genealogy" page and near the top you will see **Nichols High School Digital Archives** in a list of "Popular Links" (we are already popular ☺). Click on the name and there will appear the Home Page of the NHS Digital Archives. You may then click on the PDF file containing the historical information you wish to view.

I have enclosed a screenshot of Home Page of the NHS Digital Archives and the first page of the table of NHS graduates. You may directly access the Home Page of the Nichols High School Digital Archives by entering in your web browser this address: www.musserpubliclibrary.org/nichols-high-school-digital-archives

It has taken two years to reach this major mile marker in the creation and preservation of the NHS Digital Archives. It will take at least another year to create another eight to ten topical PDF files to be added to our Home Page on the Musser Public Library web site. The material yet to be processed includes hundreds of scanned images of source documents and old school and town photographs stored on my iMac computer, hard copies of all 18 published volumes of the Mirror yearbook waiting in boxes beside my desk, and a box of over a hundred issues of the Nicholite that Charlene Nichols Hixon gave me to look through in my spare time. ☺

The assembled collection of source documents, yearbooks, and old school and town photographs has assured the success of this project. Credit for that goes to some 25 alumni and some 15 Friends of NHS Alumni (most of whom are descendants of NHS alumni). Several of these people loaned to me for scanning really large and truly amazing collections. At an appropriate time and place in the completion of the archives all contributors will be recognized for their support.

For the nearly one hundred alumni that I have not heard from, I am still accepting for scanning individual NHS graduation pictures and century old pictures of parents of NHS graduates with identifying information. Please, somebody surprise me.

Your humble digitizer,

Donald L. Smith



**Robert A. Fiedler, Director - 2022
Musser Public Library, Muscatine, Iowa**



— Graduates of Nichols High School at NHS Alumni Dinner West Liberty Country Club June 8, 2019 —
STANDING (L-R): Gayle Kaalberg (Class of 1958) - Dennis Wieskamp (1961) - William Newton (1956) - David Hillyer (1961) - Willard Salemink (1951) - Virgil Oostendorp (1958) - Roger Wieskamp (1959) - Larry Green (1959)
SEATED (L-R): Donald Smith (1950) - Sally Sutton Stieger (1958) - Phyllis Salemink Elder (1954) Naomi Wieskamp (1954) - Jackie Renshaw Bell (1955) - Bonnie Paulsen Green (1959) - Judith Mills Bender (1961)

Nichols alumni banquet



Names: Standing left to right: Randy Elder, John Rife, Gayle Kaalberg, Dennis Wieskamp, Bill Newton, David Hillyer, Willard Salemink, Virgil Oostendorp, Roger Wieskamp, Linda Daly Wieskamp, Larry Green. Sitting left to right: Don Smith, Sally Sutton, Phyllis Salemink Elder, Naomi Wieskamp, Jackie Renshaw Bell, Bonnie Paulsen Green, Judy Mills Bender. Courtesy Photo

The last annual Nichols Alumni Banquet was held on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at the West Liberty Country Club. 29 alumni and guests attended. The banquet has

been held annually since 1925, but this marked the final occasion for the annual banquet.

DONALD L. SMITH

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515-451-2020

November 13, 2020

TO: All 102 Living Alumni (A list of living alumni is enclosed)

RE: NHS Digital Archives – Completion Report

In the comprehensive report I sent to you on May 1, 2020, I described the two remaining topics that I would be working on to complete the project. That work is now done and has been posted to the Home Page of the NHS Digital Archives on the web site of the Musser Public Library. A screenshot print of the Home Page is enclosed. The additional topics now listed are:

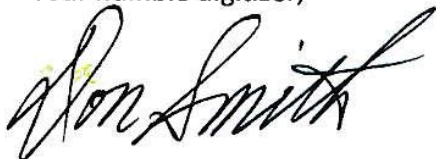
- High School Student Pictures [Exclusive of the yearbooks]
- Nichols Community History 1840-1908
- Nichols Community History 1908-2020
- Archive Contributors List

The two-part Nichols Community History includes (together) a total of 154 pages. Pages 2 and 3 are reference documents to assist the viewer in comprehending the pages that follow. Page 2 is a timeline of historical events with 64 entries from 1838 to 2019. Page 3 is an annotated plat map of the Town of Nichols. Copies of pages 2 and 3 are enclosed.

Building the NHS Digital Archives over the past five and a half years and finding a home for it on the web site of the Musser Public Library has been for me a way to express my appreciation for the four very formative years I was a student at Nichols High School. Credit, however, for making this project possible goes to the Nichols families who collected and preserved old school and town pictures and made them available to me for scanning digital copies that are now viewable by anyone on Planet Earth with an internet connection.

I will continue to update the table of graduates as the number of living alumni diminishes. (A table of the current living alumni as attached.) And if additional contributors surface with more old school and town pictures, I will add annotated digital copies to the Archives. At the same time I will be looking for a much younger person with the necessary computer skills to succeed me as Editor of the NHS Digital Archives. I am assuming the Grim Reaper knows where I live.

Your humble digitizer,



cc: Friends of NHS Alumni



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52761

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Nichols High School Digital Archives

Sources: NHS Alumni Association Members and Friends

Editor: Don Smith (Class of 1950)

Content Posted to Website in PDF Files

- [A Brief History of Nichols High School](#)
- [Table of NHS Graduates 1903-1961](#)
- [Memorial Index of Deceased Alumni](#)
- [Album of NHS Class Graduation Pictures](#)
- [School Facilities and Faculty](#)
- [NHS Mirror Yearbooks 1944-1961](#)
- [High School Student Pictures](#)
- [Grade School Student Pictures](#)
- [Varsity Sports 1917-1961](#)
- [Nichols Community History 1840-1908](#)
- [Nichols Community History 1908-2020](#)
- [Archive Contributors List](#)

For easy access to home page simply do a Google search on these five words: "Nichols High School Digital Archives."

At the top of the search results there will be a link to the home page. Just click on it to access the home page.

Then just click on any item in the home page content list to view that subject.

Nichols High School in the Town of Nichols, Muscatine County, Iowa, was the heart and soul of the Nichols community. It was the one institution that united all who lived there. Then the Iowa State Department of Education decided that the 1961 Senior class would be the last to graduate from Nichols High School and the Nichols Independent School District would be merged with a larger adjacent school district.

The purpose of the Nichols High School Digital Archives is to assemble, digitize, organize and preserve the presently existing historical record of Nichols High School and its 493 alumni. The collection effort that started in June, 2015, has exceeded expectations. And the search for a method of preservation has been answered by Musser Public Library of Muscatine, Iowa. The library has agreed to post major elements of the Archives on the library's web site as part of its local history section.

The living NHS alumni and the thousands of descendants of all alumni and other people with historical roots in the Nichols community will be forever grateful to Musser Public Library for providing this method of preservation and online access. –Don Smith, Editor, April, 2017

<https://musserpubliclibrary.org/local-history-genealogy/nichols-high-school-digital-archives/>



It is Sunday morning, 8 October 2023, in the event hall on the grounds of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Nichols, Iowa. Seated in the picture, top to bottom, are Gayle Kaalberg (NHS 1958), Donald L. Smith (NHS 1950) and Donald's wife, Karleene. Gayle, on behalf of the NHS Alumni Association, is presenting the plaque he holds to Donald for his work over the past eight years in creating the "Nichols High School Digital Archives" on the web site of the Musser Public Library in Muscatine, Iowa.

DONALD L. SMITH

With grateful recognition of your outstanding
documentation and historical preservation
of the 493 graduates of Nichols High School
in *Nichols, Iowa*

*Presented by the
Nichols High School Alumni Association* ★
October 8, 2023