October 1, 2017

To: All Members of the Nebraska Diocesan Community

Re: Facebook posts during our 150th Anniversary Year

As frequently as possible throughout 2018, we will post on the diocesan Facebook page short celebratory narratives about individuals/groups who have played a major role in any of the multiple aspects of Nebraska Diocesan life over the past century-and-a-half. To do this, we need your help; first by suggesting the individuals we need to honor, and second, writing the short narratives. Obviously, the most easily identified individuals who contributed to diocesan life are the clergy. Easy and important examples in this category are Bishop Robert Harper Clarkson, and Rev. Hiram Kano. But there are MANY unsung angels in our midst who contributed their time, their talents, moral support, and funds to diocesan events and parish growth over the years. These individuals are more difficult to identify and include laity, women, and people of color. We want to make certain to include members of this often-overlooked group of Nebraska Episcopalians. So – we are asking for suggestions and narrative contributions from your congregations.

Here are the directions for contributing: The narrative posts need to written by the individual from your congregation who knows most about the person or situation. The narrative should be 50 to 75 words in length. The writer should provide the date on which the post would best appear. For instance, a good date for a bishop would be the date of his consecration; for a valued guild or guild event, use the event date, the guild organization date, or even a birth date of the individual organizer. A suggested backup date would be helpful in case we have multiple contributions for a particular day. If you have photos, you may certainly send them, but we will not use pictures on the Facebook posts during the year. However, the goal will be to create a book of these posts at the end of 2018. We would consider inserting any photos you send at that time. The narratives should be written in Microsoft Word. Attach the document to an e-mail and send it to Jo Behrens at jlbrehrens@unomaha.edu. Send them as soon as possible, preferably by mid-December 2017.

Here are a couple of examples:

June 28: James Mills Woolworth

Lord, we are grateful for the life and legal knowledge of our first diocesan Chancellor, James Mills Woolworth, who came to Nebraska Territory as a lawyer in 1856. Born this day in 1829, he modeled for us organizational skills and personal integrity. His commitment to the high church principles of the Episcopal Church influenced the use of the Cathedral System by the Nebraska Diocese.

November 8: Ordination of Women

We commemorate this day, the ordination to the diaconate of the first four women in Nebraska whose calls to ministry were finally acknowledged by the Church. Tutored by Rev. Michael Tan Creti and supported by Nebraska Bishop Rt. Rev. James D. Warner, the ordinations of Rev. Mary Sue Sturgeon, Rev. Nancy Wood, Rev. Helen Amsden, and Rev. Nancy Huston on November 8, 1985, fully opened the door to women’s ministries in our diocese. Today x ordained women are priests in the diocese, x women serve as deacons.

This is a very worthy activity, and I thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Jo Behrens, Diocesan Archivist and Historian