



# THEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Web site “[thedfordalumni.org](http://thedfordalumni.org)”  
Email address “[thedfordalumni@gmail.com](mailto:thedfordalumni@gmail.com)”



Theme this year is “We left footprints in the sand”

May 5, 2021

Dear Alumni

This year the Thedford Alumni Association honor the alumni who graduated in years that ends in 1. Letters were sent out to the honor members in December asking to provide information about them after high school. Attached is the information and a list of all members of the honor classes and a list of Alumni who we lost since the 2020 banquet.

Connie worked with the High School on getting a metal Trojan mascot made and put up in the old gym. The High School also made a smaller one (about 1’ by 1’) to be raffled off at the banquet (\$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5) The money from the raffle will be added to the 2021 scholarship.



Last year the Association gave a \$250 scholarship to a Thedford High School senior and will give one again this year. With your donation we will be able to continue.

Meriel Romero maintains and updates the website [thedfordalumni.org](http://thedfordalumni.org). She does a good job keeping the website updated, you are encouraged to visit it and comments and suggestions are welcomed.

If you have an email address, send it to [thedfordalumni@gmail.com](mailto:thedfordalumni@gmail.com), email will be used more to save time and postage. It is received by Bill Hardy and checked on a daily base.

Alumni President, Connie Elliott, has been working hard to make the alumni banquet a fun and enjoyable time for all.

This year the theme is “We left footprints in the sand” so bring your stories of remembering when you were in High School to the banquet or provide a written copy to share. The Alumni Officers look forward to a successful banquet. Hope you join us.

The Alumni is working on records of the teachers/faculty of Thedford High School, presently only a few are in the database with Alumni. If you have information like name, dates of years at TCHS, and if deceased with date, please send to Connie Elliott or Bill Hardy.

Your Alumni Officers

President Connie (Edelman) Elliott (1961)  
Vice President Alee (Ewoldt) Tucker (1963)  
Secretary/Treasurer Bill Hardy (1962)

# 2021 THEDFORD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Alumni banquet is planned for the third Saturday of June of each year and held at the Thedford High School. All alumni and teachers are invited with every 10 years honored.

## Finance Report

Treasure Report for 2020 year.

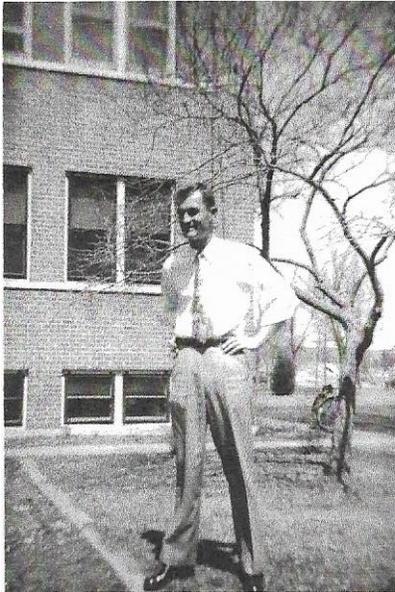
Starting Bank balance	\$2,134.73
Deposits	\$2,865.00
Expenses	\$2,568.48
Ending Balance	\$2,431.25
Ended with income of	\$296.52
The 2020 scholarship to be paid \$250 so \$46.52 to the good	

## FOR HONOR CLASSES IN XXX1 “WE LEFT FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND”

The Thedford Alumni Association has a desktop computer with a database program which holds all the records of the alumni of Thedford High School starting in 1914. This year a list of all the Honor Year alumni and the written information about the alumni who provided it. If you are aware of anything on this list is incorrect, please let me know so it can be corrected. The Association relies on its members to provide updates so please send changes in alumni status to the Secretary. If you provided a “Web Site Information Form” that information will be entered in the database and also will be available on the web site “thedfordalumni.org”. Alumni that provided information that had to be typed, I apologize for any errors.

### We left footprints in the sand

#### Janet Scranton Howell Class of 1949



#### A FUN AFTERNOON!?

On a lovely spring day in April of 1950 seven high school girls got spring fever and wanted to do something fun. We decided to skip classes and take a walk by the railroad tracks. It was a lovely afternoon, and we did consider the consequences, but we had a young, good looking male teacher whom we all had a school girl crush on and we knew he would keep us out of trouble when we got back. Well, we misjudged him! Our punishment was to stay for an hour after school every day for the rest of the school year, or so it seemed. I don't know if we left any footprints, but we all learned a lesson!

**Connie Edelman Elliott Class of 1961** I had older siblings that left Footprints for me to follow, one brother very studious, one brother very full of tricks. I guess I tried to follow both, as was too scared to

do anything 'wrong" in my earlier years. Trading cars so we could ride with our boyfriends when returning from a ballgame thinking the Supt. wouldn't find out. His car stopped to eat and ours didn't. Losing our music letters our senior year...I was following Gary Sherman's Footprints, ...when we ignored our music teacher at the State Music Conference. Trading instruments for our Annual pictures wasn't a Footprint we needed to leave. Had we known that others would be following our Footprints, we may have made other choices, making some straighter and on different paths. It is fun to see the Footprints left by the Alumni of TCHS.

I had a lot of good teachers. Joyce Carr was one of my very favorite and I would not have been able to continue to teach our deaf son, Terry, had she not been the excellent teacher she was. I remain in contact with her and greatly admire her strength and wisdom.

**Gene Weber, Class of 1961**, My footprint in the sand was in the hall ways of TCHS. I'm pretty sure neither shifting sand or dust of my presence out last the first good wind after May 8<sup>th</sup> 1961. Special memories include Classmates, good coaches, Supt John Carr and Staff. I recall riding to school with the Johnston Brothers, & the Clark boys. Boarding in town with the Mercer family, Elliotts, Good times there. Sometimes because of Ronnie and sometimes despite Ronnie. Other than the Trojan yearbook the only other evidence of my four years at Thedford would be an entry-shared with friend and roommate Howard Wright- at the Thomas County Court house. For the last 50 years I have been living my version of the "Good Life" in Greeley Colorado.

**Beth Baxter, Class of 1971**, My "footprint in the sand at THS" was probably my competitive spirit to represent THS the very best that I could in whatever I did. Many times over the years when involved in an "ice breaker" exercise (you know that one where they want the person to tell them something they would never guess about them) I usually tell them that during the very first Nebraska Girls High School Track Meet I was one of a team of 5 girls who won the Class D Championship and still hold the Class D record in the girls 100 yard dash (because they don't run it anymore ☺).

**Kent Magnuson, Class of 1971** I'm not sure I left any "footprints" at THS, but I do know that my experiences and friends at THS influenced the rest of my life, most of all, hooking back up with Beth. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again.

**Mark Barnes, Class of 1981** Footprints that I left at Thedford High School are in the dirt of the tunnel under the school that a few of us guys became familiar with. There was a crawl space that ran under part of the school and some of us boys used to see how fast we could get from under the stage and come out between the science and history rooms.

The greatest impact on me was the time spent with Mr. Linn. Because of his influence on me, I am still doing work related to what he taught me as the Payroll/HR Manager for a group of orthopedic surgeons. Greatest teacher of all time!

## **What has happened after Graduation?**

**Janet Scranton Howell Class of 1949**, I married Tom Howell (class of '49) and in the next five years our family was complete with Cindy, Bill and Vic. We worked on Cherry County ranches for several years, then we purchased an acreage close to Valentine. I worked for the First National Bank for 30 years and Tom drove bus for Arrow Stage Lines for 20 years, then drove the activity bus for Valentine Schools. We have both been retired for 20+ years, have moved into town, and are enjoying the good life!

### **Jody Loudon Phillips Class of 1951**

I married Lynn Phillips in March of our senior year of high school, and we were together 65 years before his death in 2016. We raised 5 kids, have 13 grandkids and 15 great grandkids and several step great grandkids.

I worked in the Mullen post office for 32 years, retiring as Postmaster in 1998. Lynn had been taking care of my folk's place north of Thedford and when I retired I joined him in caring for the place and We spent from early spring to late fall living on the ranch until his death then I spent two more years on the place alone until my younger son retired and I turned the place over to him and I now live in Mullen all year. We enjoyed traveling and visited every state except Maine, Florida and Hawaii. Our most memorable and enjoyed trip was 6 weeks wandering around western Canada and Alaska in a heavy duty 4X4 pickup with a slide in camper.

**Connie (Edelman) Elloitt Class of 1961**, I came to TCHS as a freshman from Seneca Elementary. I enjoyed my 4 years in there, taking part in all activities. Classmates, has it really been 60 years? Bill Elliott, a 1959 graduate, and I married in Nov. of 1961, 60 years of a great marriage. Our daughter Tammy was born in 1963 and son, Terry in 1965. These 2 filled our lives, both graduating from Thedford. Now, they have given us 5 grandchildren and 4 greats. What blessings We moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1968 when our son was found to be deaf. He and I entered an extensive education for him learning to talk and me to learn to teach him. I was able to continue with his training after moving back to Thedford in 1971. We continue to live in our 1920 home, believing the Sandhills remain to be the very best place to live. Bill fences with grandson, Jason and I keep things going at home and our granddaughter, Savannah "forces" me to go shopping and on trips with her. We praise God for a fulfilled and healthy life. Hope to see you all this summer.

**Margy (Ewolddt) Daniels, Class of 1961**, After graduation in 1961 went to LPN school graduation in 1962 – retired from Nursing after 59 years. I have 1 grandchildren and 1 great grand daughter. I'm enjoying my retirement.

**Nancy (Clayton) Ginkens, Class of 1971**, married to Tom Ginkens. We have three daughters, Sarah is at Overton with three children and she is a self employed court reporter, Becky is in Acworth, GA with three children and her husband is recently retired from the Air Force, and Amanda is an RN at Omaha working for Children's hospital. I retired from Overton Public School in July this year and Tom is also retired.

**Beth Baxter, Class of 1971** Life has been good since graduating from THS in 1971. I received bachelor's and master's degrees from Kearney State College/University of NE at Kearney and started my professional career as a teacher working with elementary kids and then on to teaching in the juvenile justice field. I then served in a leadership role with the American Cancer Society before moving to the behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse services) field for the past 32 years. God willing, I'm planning to retire in a couple of years and transition into the next chapter of life. I've lived at Kearney, NE most of my adult life. In 2011 I married Kent Magnuson (THS '71). We live on an acreage with 3 dogs, a couple of barn cats and 6 horses. We enjoy barrel racing and compete year round averaging 80+ events per year.

I'm looking forward to seeing my classmates and friends and catching up on life.

**Kent Magnuson, Class of 1971** After high school I graduated from North Platte Junior College and then went to the U.S. Air Force, trained in communications and was based in the States. I've lived at a lot of locations across the USA and enjoyed each one of them. I've been flying since 1978, first with professional rodeo cowboys and have continued with that periodically over the years. I've been flying corporate and dedicated medical flights from various locations around the USA, Canada, Mexico, South America, Iceland, Greenland, and the Caribbean. I actually was one of the few pilots who flew during the 911 crisis (Sept. 9, 2001) doing medical flights. In 2011 I married Beth Baxter (THS '71) and moved to Kearney, NE continuing corporate flying. We enjoy competing in barrel racing events nationwide all year long.

**Sally Burney, Class of 1971**. Since high school I raised three wonderful daughters and got a college education as a registered respiratory therapist. I worked in every facet respiratory therapy from premature babies to the elderly. I am now retired enjoying watching my children, grandchildren, and Great grandchildren grow. So that is how I left my footprints in the sand.

**Doug Havermann Class of 1971**, After graduation I attended Chadron State College from 71-72. In 1972 drafted into the US Army and honorably discharged in 1974. In 1975 enrolled at Kearney State College and graduated in 1978 with a BS degree in Business Administration. From 1978 –1984 employed by Eaton Corp. in Kearney in the employee relations. In 1984 made a career change and join the investment firm of Edward Jones as a Financial Advisor and retired from the securities business in Jan 2016!! I have been happily married to my Jean for 43 years, we had five(5) children and have (5) grandchildren!! Enjoy being retired and being grandparents!!

**Kelly (Johnston) Neill, Class of 1981**, In 1981, our class published a newsletter with prophecies about our futures. Mine wasn't too far off when it included puzzles. I continued putting puzzles together through the years, selling a few here and there. Once the pandemic began, sales soared and my stockpile provided income for me and stress-relief and enjoyment for my customers. I sell a wide variety of

products on both eBay and Amazon—from foosball men to skeins of yarn and of course puzzles. Lincoln, Nebraska continues to be a great location to ship from. I’ve lived here since I came to UNL to get my bachelor’s degree in Journalism/Advertising. I ran an in-house advertising agency for 14 years, and now am happily self-employed.

**Laurie Smith Wessels Class of 1981 rules,** Since graduation I married and have 4 children. My husband has passed and my last child graduated last year during the pandemic. That was one to remember. We have lived in Edgar Ne for almost 30 years. I am working in Aurora Ne at the same nursing home that my mom lives in so that has really been a blessing this last year. My life is complete with 9 grandbabies to spoil and love, I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

**Joe Sutton Class of 1981,** My God! 40 years... My first 5 years out of school were pretty uneventful, I spent a year in North Platte going to Mid-Plains comm college, then I moved back to Missouri to be a little closer to family. In 1983 I met my wife Ellen and after 5 years of her trying to straighten me out, she gave in ( or up ) and married me in 1988. We have a beautiful daughter Kaycee, who is now 25. She is an athletic trainer for a physical therapy clinic, she works with some of the local high schools in their athletic programs. Our son Lane is 22 and a senior at the University of Missouri in the Engineering program. He has interned with an engineering company for the past 12 months and has already accepted a full-time job with them when he graduates.

I have been in the HVAC industry for most of the past 33 years, as a serviceman, business owner, and now in sales. I work for a Wholesale distributor as a territory manager for the northern half of Missouri. I have about 80 customers that produce over \$4,000,000 in sales annually. When I first took this territory over, sales were about \$1,000,000 annually. I think the work ethic instilled in me by my family and my 5 years in sandhills is what has made me as successful as I am. I was so lucky to have gone to high school at Thedford High, the small school, and hands teaching was priceless.

**Brett Haake Class of 1991,** after graduation I went to Chadron State and then went to work in Brownlee, Nebraska for Matt Miles on the ranch. I married Dawn Streiff, from Tryon, in 1995. We moved to Mobridge, South Dakota in 1998 after she graduated veterinary school. We had two boys, Chase in 2001 and Brady in 2006. Chase is a sophomore in the electrician program at Northeast Community College. Brady is in 8th grade at Thedford Public School. We currently ranch in Brownlee.

**LIST OF ALL HONOR ALUMNI SINCE HIGH SCHOOL STARTED  
HONOR CLASS OF 1921**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
HENRIETTA	FOOTE	HENRIETTA STROHM	X
JOHN	HANKS	JOHN HANKS	X
WILMA	HARRIS	WILMA HARRIS	X
HERLE	LOWE	HERLE LOWE	X
BERNICE	MC GUIRE	BERNICE CRUISE	X

**CLASS OF 1931**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
CAROL	BESLEY	CAROL CARTER	
RUSSELL	BOOTH	RUSSELL BOOTH	X
DON	FIGARD	DON FIGARD	X
FLORENCE	GIBSON	FLORENCE RUSSELL	
MITCHELL	MCMILLAN	MITCHELL MCMILLAN	X
MARGARET	MICHEEL	MARGARET ROBERTSON	
JESSIE	NICHOLSON	JESSIE POPKEN	X
WILSON	PHREHM	WILSON PHREHM	X
THELMA	RICH	THELMA PADZERKA	
JOHN	SHAFFNER	JOHN SHAFFNER	
KENDALL	STONECYPHER	KENDALL STONECYPHER	
GRACE	THOMPSON	GRACE WHITE	
NINA	TREAT	NINA TOGNARELLI	
EVELYN	WIESE	EVELYN THOMPSON	X
HAZEL	WIESE	HAZEL ENGLAND	

**CLASS OF 1941**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
CORNELIA	FLOREA	CORNELIA JEAN SHEARS	X 8/2014
CLARENCE	GILLESPIE	CLARENCE GILLISPIE	
PAULINE	HEMPHILL	PAULINE COOVER	
WILLIAM	HOWELL	WILLIAM HOWELL	
BETTY	LARREAU	BETTY SEARCY	
COYLA	LESHER	COYLA NUTTER	X 8/1/2014
IRVIN	LOSH	IRVIN LOSH	X 11/98
DORIS	LOUDON	DORIS HAMILTON	X 8/06
ILA	MERCER	ILA REISER	X 7/2016
ELDORA	MILES	ELDORA HARDY	X 4/1/2018
NONA	VOTH	NONA PARKER	X

**CLASS OF 1951**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
GERALD	ARNHOLT	GERALD ARNHOLT	X 10/05
MARJORIE	CORDIS	MARJORIE BARENT	
EUNICE	HARRELL	EUNICE GOSDA	X 12/03
DEE	HICKMAN	DEE HICKMAN	
ELSIE	HOWELL	ELSIE HAZEN	X 10/30/2017
DALE	LESHER	DALE LESHER	X
JOELLEN	LOUDON	JOELLEN PHILLIPS	
PAT	PEEDON	PAT FURROW	
DALE	ROBINSON	DALE ROBINSON	X 10/2012
JANET	SCRANTON	JANET HOWELL	

**CLASS OF 1961**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
DUANE	BANKER	DUANE BANKER	X
JANET	BLAUVELT	JANET SHERMAN	
MARVIN	BLAUVELT	MARVIN BLAUVELT	
CONNIE	EDELMAN	CONNIE ELLIOTT	
BETTY ANN	EWOLDT	BETTY ANN JAMESON	
MARGY	EWOLDT	MARGY DANIELS	
RAY	HARMON	RAY HARMON	
GARY	MASON	GARY MASON	
FLORENCE	MILLER	FLORENCE BERRY	
SHANNON	OGLE	SHANNON BUNNER	
GARY	SHERMAN	GARY SHERMAN	X 09/29/2008
PATRICIA	THOMAS	PATRICIA SELLS	
NORMAN	VIAN	NORMAN VIAN	X 10/26/2014
DOROTHY	WARREN	DOROTHY HARMON	
GENE	WEBER	GENE WEBER	

**CLASS OF 1971**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
BETH	BAXTER	BETH BAXTER	
EARLENE	BREWER	EARLENE BREWER	
SALLY	BURNEY	SALLEY BURNEY	
KENNY	CALL	KENNY CALL	
JOHN	CLARK	JOHN CLARK	
NANCY	CLAYTON	NANCY GINKENS	
MAUREEN	DAVID	MAUREEN EASTON	X
LYGIA	DOWSE	LYGIA DOWSE	
RON	EATON	RON EATON	X 9/07
JOHN	FACKLER	JOHN FACKLER	

DEBRA	FIGARD	DEBRA HOLBROOK	
MARY ANN	GARNER	MARY ANN RUDLOFF	
DOUG	HAVERMANN	DOUG HAVERMANN	
TAMMY	HIGGINS	TAMMY HALL	
DENNIS	LICKING	DENNIS LICKING	
MARK	MADRON	MARK MADRON	
KENT	MAGNUSON	KENT MAGNUSON	
HAIN	MANNING	HAIN MANNING	X 2/99
MARIAN	MILES	MARIAN NUTTER	
WANDA	POUND	WANDA PURDUM	
TERRY	PURDUM	TERRY PURDUM	
JERRY	WARREN	JERRY WARREN	
RON	WERNKE	RON WERNKE	

		<b>CLASS OF 1981</b>	
<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
MARK	BARNES	MARK BARNES	
BRETT	BOWDISH	BRETT BOWDISH	
DONALD	CLAYTON	DONALD CLAYTON	X
TAMMY	ELLIOTT	TAMMY MASEBERG	
CHERYL	HOFFMAN	CHERYL LINDNER	
DONNA	JAMESON	DONNA HIGGINS	
ROBERT	JARMIN	ROBERT JARMIN	
KELLY	JOHNSTON	KELLY NEILL	
LORRAINE	MERCER	LORRAINE RASMUSSEN	
HOLLY	MERZ	HOLLY BLAUVELT	
JIM	MOUSEL	JIM MOUSEL	
CHRISTI	MULLIGAN	CHRISTI LEONARD	
JOE	NEIMAN	JOE NEIMAN	X
MARK	OSTGREN	MARK OSTGREN	
LAURIE	SMITH	LAURIE WESSELS	
JOE	SUTTON	JOE SUTTON	

		<b>CLASS OF 1991</b>	
<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
LYNN	BILTOFT	LYNN BILTOFT	
LEIGH	COLLINS	LEIGH INMAN	
BRETT	HAAKE	BRETT HAAKE	
JASON	JOHNSTON	JASON JOHNSTON	
ANDREW	KNOTT	ANDREW KNOTT	
MARIA	MUNOZ	CONNIE MUNOZ	
SHANE	PETTIT	SHANE PETTIT	
JERRY	PURDUM	JERRY PURDUM	
SHAWN	ROY	SHAWN ROY	
MATTHEW	SCHATZ	MATTHEW SCHATZ	
DEON	SHERMAN	DEON SHERMAN	
SONNY	YAGER	SONNY YAGER	

		<b>CLASS OF 2001</b>	
<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
TYRELL	BLAUVELT	TYRELL BLAUVELT	
CLINT	BURNEY	CLINT BURNEY	
R.J.	CLINE	R.J. CLINE	
MILES	EATINGER	MILES EATINGER	
RYAN	GIFT	RYAN GIFT	
KYLE	HAAKE	KYLE HAAKE	
NICHOLAS	HARRIS	NICHOLAS HARRIS	

MELISSA	HODGES	MELISSA HODGES
JESSE	HUDDLE	JESSE HUDDLE
TYREL	LICKING	TYREL LICKING
JAY	MOODY	JAY MOODY
TERRY	OSIENGER	TERRY OSIENGER
KATI	PEARMAN	KATI PEARMAN
KODI	SCHMIDT	KODI SCHMIDT
MICHAEL	SMITH	MICHAEL SMITH
SARAH	WARREN	SARAH WARREN

<b>First name</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>CLASS OF 2011 Present name</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
SHELBY	ANDERSEN	SHELBY ANDERSEN	
AARON	FINNEY	AARON FINNEY	
COURTNEY	JAMESON	COURTNEY JAMESON	
SUTTON	JEPSEN	SUTTON JEPSEN	
VALERIE	MATULKA	VALERIE MATULKA	
JONNIE	STAUB	JONNIE STAUB	

### GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021

<b>Graduate name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
ANTHONY	BENSCOTER	
SHAYDON	ANDERSEN	
GRANT	AHLSTROM	
ARIEL	BRYANT	
RHIANNON	PAINTER	
LAN	WILDE	
TYSON	STENGEL	
COLTON	POLENSKE	

### Deaths Since 2020 Banquet

<b>Class</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Maiden</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Death date</b>
1938	Perry	Pearman	Perry Pearman	December 01, 2020
1944	Betty	Jameson	Betty Neal	April 19, 2021
1956	Norma Jean	Knepper	Norma Jean Stevens	March 01, 2021
1957	Rena	Ayres	Rena Piel	September 21, 2020
1959	John Paul	Morris	John Paul Morris	November 10, 2020
1960	Alberta Ann	Jones	Alberta Ann Kramer	January 04, 2021
1961	Deanna Lynn	Curtis	Deanna Lynn Sweet	March 24, 2021
Freshman 59	George	Jones	George Jones	February 8, 2021
1963	Cheryl	Neiman	Cheryl Neiman	January 23, 2021
2007	Charity Jean	Miles	Charity Jean DeLawyer	February 18, 2021