

# Ransom County News from long ago

## ARMY CHAPLAIN/FORMER LISBON PASTOR VISITS FAMILY IN LISBON

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A single paragraph report in the “Lisbon News” portion of the “Our Neighbors” column in the Oct. 28, 1915 issue of the Sheldon Progress newspaper reads as follows: “Rev. A.J. Brasted, chaplain of the 8th Infantry, U.S.A., lately stationed at Fort Scriven, near Savannah, Ga., arrived a few days ago on a month’s leave of absence, preparatory to moving to Manila, Philippine Islands, where he and his family will remain two years, stationed at Fort McKinley, about seven miles from Manila. Mrs. Brasted with her daughter Mary and infant son Robert Crocker Brasted, have been spending the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Crocker. They will probably remain here until early in November and will leave San Francisco, December 6.”

According to what this researcher was able to find, Rev. A.J. (Alva Jennings) Brasted was born on July 5, 1876 in Findley Lake, New York. He was the youngest of four children born to Civil War Veteran Nathan Russell Brasted and his wife, the former Adeline More. The oldest of the Brasted siblings, Annie, was 15 years old when her youngest sibling, Alva, was born.

When Alva was 10 years old, Annie married Rev. William F. Gray and moved to Carnegie, Oklahoma, where she remained until her death, at age 45. Alva’s oldest brother, Nelson, was 13 years old when Alva was born. Unfortunately, Nelson died at age 16, when Alva was only 3 ½ years old. Alva’s closest sibling, his brother Fred, was eight years old when Alva was born. Fred received his early education in Iowa, and, after graduating from high school, attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. In 1893, Fred married Estella Gleason, who he had met during his time at the university. After his marriage Fred went on to study law at Drake University, in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1903 he and his wife moved to Oklahoma City, OK, where Fred opened a law practice. In 1910 Fred wrote and published a book entitled “The Gang - A Story of the Middle West.” In 1926 Fred and Estella Brasted moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where they remained for the rest of their lives. They had four children, three of whom (Nathan, Helene, and Fred, Jr.) lived to adulthood. Fred and Estella’s first-born child, Jesse, was born prematurely and lived for only three weeks.

I was unable to find much information about Rev. Brasted’s education, but know that he

become a pastor and, during the early years of his ministry, came to Lisbon, ND where he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church from 1905 to 1910. It was while serving as a pastor in Lisbon that he became acquainted with Ada Frances Crocker, who, along with her parents and siblings, were members of his congregation.

Ada, the second of seven children born to William and Sarah Crocker of Lisbon, was born in Wahpeton on Nov. 27, 1886. She grew up in Lisbon and was 19 years old when Rev. Brasted first began serving as a minister there. Rev. Brasted was 29 years of age at the time. Rev. Brasted continued to serve as pastor at the First Baptist Church for six years, at which time he prepared to leave Lisbon in order to answer a call to a church in Montevideo, MN. At that point, on June 15, 1910, he and Ada were united in marriage in Lisbon and Ada went with him to Montevideo. Ada was 23 years old at the time of their marriage, which took place about three weeks before Rev. Brasted’s 33rd birthday.

Rev. Brasted enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1913 and served in the Army Chaplain Corps. By the fall of 1914, World War I was raging in Europe and American troops were training in preparation for the possibility of the United States

getting involved in the conflict. At that point Rev. Brasted was serving as chaplain of the 8th Infantry Regiment, which was stationed at Fort Scriven, in Georgia, and his wife and daughter Mary, who had been born on Oct. 13, 1911, had moved with him.

Fort Scriven was located just to the east of Savannah, Georgia, in an area known as Tybee Island. The fort, which was named for Revolutionary War hero General Joseph Scriven, was established in the late 1890s and served as a coast artillery fort. It was part of the U.S. coastal defense system during the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. Fort Scriven was closed in 1947 and has since housed the Tybee Island Museum, a Georgia tourist attraction.

At the time the Sheldon newspaper report about the Brasted family was published, in October of 1915, Rev. Brasted was on furlough before being transferred from Fort Scriven to the Philippines. The article does not actually state where Rev. Brasted had “arrived,” but, since the report appeared in the “Lisbon News,” one can safely assume he had arrived in Lisbon, where his wife, Ada, and two young children had been staying for the summer with Ada’s parents, William and Sarah

Crocker. According to the newspaper report, Rev. Brasted was to be transferred to “Fort McKinley” following his furlough. My research revealed that there was more than one “Fort McKinley.” I believe the fort referred to in the newspaper report was “Fort William McKinley,” named for the U.S. President by that name. The fort was established in 1901, the year President McKinley was assassinated, which occurred during the Philippine-American War. The fort was located in the Philippines, south of Manila, and had replaced Fort Santiago, which had been located in a walled portion of the city of Manila. Fort William McKinley became the headquarters of the U.S. Philippine Department, which controlled all U.S. Army functions in the Philippines. In 1949, the fort was transferred from the United States to the Republic of the Philippines and today serves as headquarters for the Philippine Army. It is now known as Fort Andres Bonifacio, named for a leader in the Philippine Revolution of 1896 against Spain.

(The second half of this article will continue in the next “Ransom County News from Long Ago” with more information about the Brasted family and their life after their move to the Philippines).

### Ransom County Commission

RANSOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting – January 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Greg Schwab. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Todd Anderson, Neil Olerud, Sye Olson, Kevin Bishop, and Greg Schwab. Along with Auditor Nicole Gentzkow and Lynn Kaspari from Ransom County Gazette. Also joining the meeting via Microsoft teams: Shelly Schwab, Maria Langland, Nickela Runck, Heidi Enquist, Kathy Gallagher, Micheal Briss, Kathie Erickson, Betsy Greenley, and Teresa Haecherl.

Agenda was reviewed. Bishop moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on January 7, 2024 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Commission Audit Lising in the amount of \$148,230.74 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the commission audit listing in the amount of \$148,230.74. All aye. Motion carried.

Randy Gallagher appeared before the board to ask what the plan for Jeff Mangin was. Gallagher let the board know Mangin roughly works 15 – 17 hours per week cleaning the Public Health building and the social service building. Mangin would like to continue cleaning just those two buildings. Gallagher asked if Mangin could check in with Brenna Welton for his time card going forward. The board discussed and decided at this time there would be no changes to Jeff Mangins job description and he could check in with Welton. Gallagher also handed out his job description from when he was hired and an updated one from 2019, including a job description for risk manager. Gallagher explained the LMS and CEG program, which includes the yearly safety inspections.

Luke Muller joined via Teams, and Kirsten Gilbert in person at 9:45 a.m.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager discussed the requirement from the state to update the multi hazard mitigation plan. This is required to be updated every five years so the county, cities, and townships can receive FEMA benefits. Gilbert is required to get three bids; she will reach out and start getting them. The board then will decide who they would like to go with to write the multi hazard mitigation plan. Kirsten Gilbert brought a letter of participation to the board which would give the county a grant which would pay for 75% of the multi hazard mitigation cost, the county would be obligated for 25%. The county could pay the 25% in cash or “in kind” Gilbert explained “in kind” is the more people they get to participate; the county will earn money. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to have Chair Schwab sign the grant application for the multi hazard mitigation. All aye. Motion carried.

NFIP – national flood insurance policy was discussed. A few years back multiple townships got together and discussed if they would want to join the national flood insurance policy through the county, or individually as a township. Only seven townships are in the flood plain and need flood insurance. Townships who attended the meetings like to have local

control and did not want to go through the county. Island Park township did the work and joined on their own. If further discussions are going to be had regarding NFIP Kirsten Gilbert and Fallon Kelly would like to be present.

Mitch Calkins via teams and Rick Mairs in person appeared before the board on behalf of Lake Agassiz along with Todd Kayes, Ryan Hartley, Luke Muller, Amy Arnold, and Kelli Henricks all with First District to discuss animal feeding operations. First District analysis regional livestock development sites within the county to see where the best, better, and good sites are for livestock. First District will provide a copy of the report to the county early to mid-February when the report is complete.

Chelsey Jones from public health appeared before the board to ask if they could hire a high school co-op student and if there was money in the budget to pay the student. Discussion was had. Nickela Runck suggested if she and most all other employees are expected to take on more due to saving money then maybe co-op students should be cut. Jones agreed with Runck and let the board know the student interested in learning from public health is willing to do it without pay. WSI will cover up to twenty volunteers per calendar year, so co – op students are covered. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to allow public health to hire a co-op student and pay her out of public health funds. All aye. Motion carried.

Schwab called for a short recess at 11:20 a.m.

The meeting was back in session at 11:27 a.m.

Scott Smyth and Adam Schultz arrived at the meeting.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to present a change order for the old existing abutment no one knew about under the Anslem Bridge. The total Anslem Bridge cost 2.5 million dollars the county had state funding for the bridge up to 1.25 million. The additional 1.75 million would be county funds. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to accept the change order. All Aye. Motion carried.

Smyth let him know he researched the Hock Bridge; the county had looked into replacing it in the past but due to cost they didn’t take any action on that. The board asked Smyth what KLJ would charge to look into it again. Smyth said he could make some phone calls and it wouldn’t cost much for a little research. Smyth also let the board know the county had looked into having the Martinson Bridge restored through the historical society and it was roughly \$500,000 twenty years ago to rehab it. Smyth can look into it again to see if the historical society can assist.

Sheriff Darren Benneweis and Kevin Bishop made a trip out to Bismarck to visit with the historical society to see what grants are all available and what they all do. A list of grants available was sent to Benneweis and Bishop.

Adam Schultz – Schwab asked Adam Schultz if he had job descriptions for the guys working at the highway department. Schultz will look into that and get back to the individuals at the shop and the board. Performance evaluations were discussed. Schultz would like to see performance reviews given to all employees. Schultz is still working on getting quotes for the county shops for Sheldon and Fort Ransom. Some ARPA funds have been set

aside for replacement of county shops, Gentzkow has the guidelines on ARPA funds.

Gentzkow let the board know she reached out to Fallon Kelly to see how many commissioners can meet or sit on a committee. Gentzkow has not heard back yet.

A local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee was submitted by Anslem Lutheran Church of Sheldon, ND. Bishop moved to approve the local permit, seconded by Anderson. All aye. Motion carried.

Anslem Trinity Lutheran Women (WOW) submitted a local gaming permit, check was mailed on Friday January 17. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the permit pending the arrival of the check. All aye. Motion carried.

Liq’r Pigs submitted a local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee for a raffle being held in February. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Liq’r Pigs submitted a second local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee for a raffle being held in July 2025. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Good Shepherd submitted a local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow was asked to see what kind of classes Tanya Weiler and the Village offers. The county gets two classes per year through the Village with the employee assistance program.

The Barnes County jailing contract was reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to sign the Barnes County jailing contract for 2025 per Sheriff Darren Benneweis request. All aye. Motion carried.

The head maintenance position was discussed. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to advertise for a part time person to replace Gallagher. All aye. Motion carried.

Overtime in the sheriff’s department was discussed. The sheriff’s department is required to work 84 hours every two weeks, in a 28-day work cycle anything over 171 hours is calculated at time and a half. Schwab asked Benneweis how much training the guys are going to and suggested maybe they need to just do the minimum number of hours per year to save on cost. Olerud let Benneweis know that Jorge Gonzalez is welcome to go up to Fargo to train with his son Elliot Olerud and his K9. The board asked Benneweis if he thought another officer was needed. Benneweis asked the board one more year to get overtime figured out.

Performance evaluations were discussed. Along with job descriptions for all positions. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to have all department heads start doing performance evaluations twice a year. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow will look into getting a standard performance evaluation form for all department heads to use.

With nothing further to come before the board Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

Publish: Feb 10, 2025

### Notice to Creditors

Probate No.: 37-2025-PR-00003

Hannah L. Scheidecker (ND #09522)  
Scheidecker Law PLLC  
P.O. Box 55  
Moorhead, MN 56561  
(701) 261-7245  
hannah@scheideckerlaw.com  
Attorney for Personal Representative

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RANSOM COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
In the Matter of the Estate of Donald Joseph Stransky a/k/a Donald J. Stransky, Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Charolette Feist has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this Notice, or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Charlotte Feist, 336 13th Avenue East, West Fargo, North Dakota 58078 or to the attorney for the Personal Representative, Hannah L. Scheidecker, Scheidecker Law PLLC, 1630 1st Avenue North, Suite B, PMB 14, Fargo, North Dakota 58102.  
Dated: January 28, 2025

/s/ Hannah L. Scheidecker  
Hannah L. Scheidecker (ND# 09522)  
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P.O. Box 55  
Moorhead, MN 56561  
701-261-7245  
hannah@scheideckerlaw.com  
Attorney for Personal Representative

Publish: Feb 3, 10 and 17 2025

### Notice to Creditors

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RANSOM COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
In the Matter of the Estate of Donald Albert Patis, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Susan Schwope, personal representative of the estate, at 1980 77th ST. E, Lino Lakes, MN 55038 or filed with the court. Dated this 22 day of January, 2025

Susan Schwope  
personal representative of the estate  
1980 77th ST, E  
Lino Lakes, MN 55038

Publish: Feb 3, 10 and 17 2025

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