

## Annual Meeting

# Featuring Bette Davis and the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940

Many NCHS members still have vivid memories of one of the deadliest blizzards ever to strike Minnesota. Like 2004, the fall of 1940 was a warm one. The war in Europe was front-page news; the Gophers' football team, number one in the nation, dominated the sports pages.

By midday November 11, temps in our area topped 60 degrees. Duck hunters were out in force on a shirtsleeve day. With unprecedented speed, winds rose and temperatures dropped. Giving practically no warning, one of the most tragic chapters in Minnesota weather history unfolded, leaving 49 Minnesotans dead by storm's end and 150 dead nationwide.

4 p.m. in the Gustavus Adolphus College Jackson Campus Center. The program, dinner and business meeting is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.



Bette Davis stars in *Stranded*



Beatrice (Swensen) Enter (left) with cast of *Stranded*.



District #46 was located on the north side of County Road 15 just east of what is today the Doug Schultz farm. At the time of the blizzard 20 children attended the school. Their teacher was 23-year-old Beatrice Swensen who had just started teaching there in September. Photo courtesy of Valerie Landon.

In 1957, a movie made for TV based loosely on the blizzard's impact on a rural school in Nicollet County, starring academy-award winning actress Bette Davis, debuted on CBS. Although it takes liberties with the facts, the tense black and white semi-documentary is a chilling reminder of our area's capricious weather.

The 25-minute movie and several people involved in the actual events will be featured at our NCHS annual meeting Sunday, January 16, 2005, at

The movie is actually a compilation of several school incidents caused by the blizzard, but focuses on the experience of Beatrice Swensen Enter, teacher at School District 46 near New Sweden, and a number of her pupils who were trapped overnight. Mrs. Enter was flown to Hollywood to be a consultant on the movie, "Stranded", one of CBS's *Telephone Time* series.

Mrs. Enter, now 89, accompanied by her daughter, Valerie Landon, both of New Sweden, will be at the meeting. Mrs. Landon will make a presentation based on her mother's memories. In addition, several of the former students who were in the school, including Marilyn Rodning, Oliver Compart and Harold Larson, will form a panel to discuss the experience.

## Don't Get Stranded!

Be sure to get your Annual Meeting reservation in by 11 January 2005:

Please use the form found on page 11 of this newsletter.

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## Memorials

received since the last newsletter:

In memory of  
Ann Lydecker  
Given by  
Larry & Jo Zambino

In memory of  
Barbara Dybvig  
Given by  
Donna Nutter  
Marilyn & Bill Robertz  
Judy Scholl  
Mary S. Schumacher  
C. & Mary Alice Woolley

In memory of  
Pat Hager  
Given by  
Scott & Jennifer Annexstad  
Marilyn & Bill Robertz  
Judy Scholl

In memory of  
Burt Hoffmann  
Given by  
Bonnie & Casey Dowling  
Larry & Jo Zambino

In memory of  
Lois Kendall  
Given by  
Cora Sjostrom

In memory of  
Glen Stangler  
Given by  
Stanley & Marjorie  
Halvorson  
Robert & Leona Isenberg

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Subscription is  
free with a Society  
membership.

Contributors:  
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Jessica Hollerich  
Eunice Holz  
Ben Leonard  
Bob Sandeen

### Executive Board

**President**, Marie Dranttel, St. Peter  
**Vice President**, Garfield Eckberg, Nicollet  
**Treasurer**, Nancy Meyer, St. Peter  
**Secretary**, Judy Schultz, Nicollet  
**Historian**, Brenda DeBlieck, St. Peter

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Richard Beran, Kasota  
James Brandt, St. Peter  
Arlyce Bussman, St. Peter  
LaVonne Craig, North Mankato  
Bruce Davis, St. Peter  
Chuck Eggert, St. Peter  
Evie Swensen, Nicollet  
Jane Swensen, Nicollet  
Ed Wetherill, St. Peter

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**Harkin Store Site Manager**, Ruth Grewe

**Maintenance**, Ron Meyer

### Treaty Site History Center

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
TSHC Phone: (507) 934-2160  
TSHC Fax: (507) 934-0172

Hours: Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Sunday 1–4 p.m.

Archives: Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
General information via e-mail:  
museum@nchsmn.org or  
research@nchsmn.org

Website (under construction)  
www.nchsmn.org

### E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N. Washington Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
Cox House Phone: (507) 934-4309  
Hours: June, July, August  
Thurs.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

### Harkin Store

P.O. Box 112, New Ulm, MN 56082  
Eight miles northwest of New Ulm,  
on County Highway 21  
Harkin Store Phone: (507) 354-8666  
Hours: May and September  
Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
June, July, August  
Tues.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Director's Column



Ben Leonard

If you've been out to the Treaty Site this fall or seen any of our printed materials recently, you may have noticed some changes. Thanks to a sizable grant from the Schmidt Foundation we've undertaken three very important projects.

Dealing with the third first, we are very happy that the Schmidt funds will make it possible for the Cox House to remain open for another summer season. The site manager position paid for through this grant is essential to presenting our popular programs and the house history to the public.

The two other projects funded by the Schmidt grant are easy to see right now. The roof at the Treaty Site History Center, though only ten years old, has been in need of substantial repairs. We are very grateful to Ron Goodrich, Randy Dinsmore, and the rest of the Goodrich Construction crew from North Mankato for their expert roof repair work. They really did a great job and managed to squeeze the project in before winter. Ron has been a supporter of the Society for years and we can't thank him enough for his help.

In addition to Cox House operations and roof repairs, the grant funded a complete technology overhaul for the Society. Stewart and Paul Hanson from *Smarp Inc.* of St. Peter worked with us to provide exactly what we needed. We couldn't be happier with the results.

We now have a modern networked computer system complete with software upgrades including wireless Internet access throughout the building. We've also replaced antiquated and failing equipment and have a new cash register, credit card reader, fax machine, digital camera and scanner. I'm very grateful that the Society was able to make these changes and am excited to be better equipped in serving our members and visitors.

I've mentioned two businesses in particular, but I want to thank all the Nicollet County businesses that work with us. I think it is so important for everyone to patronize local businesses whenever possible. The Society belongs to the people of Nicollet County, and we believe the society's operating expenditures should remain in our communities as much as possible.

In the coming months I will be knocking on doors to further solidify our business relationships. While I hope that many will become business members of the society, there are a lot of other opportunities for partnerships of mutual benefit. Members, please frequent businesses that support the Nicollet County Historical Society. By supporting them, you continue to strengthen the Society.

Sleigh Bells Ring...

# Don't Let the Weather Slow You Down

When boredom threatens in the dark, dull days of February, don't despair. This year, help is on the way. NCHS is one of a number of St. Peter organizations that have joined forces to beat the seasonal blahs.



Winterfest is coming your way February 4–12, the first of what is planned to be an annual affair.

Under the auspices of the St. Peter Chamber of Commerce, Winterfest will include more than 20 events and activities all over the city. Watch for ice sculptures and fireworks and much, much more.

The Historical Society and the St. Peter Parks & Recreation Department are teaming up to offer a blizzard of family fun at Super Snow Sunday, February 7, from 3–8 p.m. Ski or snowshoe down candle-lit groomed prairie trails. Take a sleigh ride through the woods, listen to stories and eat s'mores by a bonfire and then warm up indoors with refreshments while you watch movies.

Sleigh rides will be \$2 each or \$5 maximum per family, but a Winterfest button will get you the sleigh ride and ski rental for just a buck. Call 507/934-2160 or e-mail [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org) with questions.



Henry and Warren Ives, grandchildren of Henry Swift, third Governor of Minnesota and St. Peter resident, enjoy the "look" of a winter romp in the photographer's studio.

The society is also partnering with the Parks & Rec Department to offer skiing and snowshoeing all winter long on the Traverse des Sioux Historic Site trails. If you don't have your own equipment, not a problem—rent ours for just \$5 plus deposit. Call 507/934-2160 or 507/934-0667 for more details and rental availability.



Those of you who prefer a warmer, more sedate indoor celebration are invited to visit the Treaty Site's new exhibit, *Snow Expected*. It's all about Nicollet County's crazy winter weather—from blizzards to floods—and how we've dealt with it all these years. Just how much snow did we get on January 20, 1988? How bad were those North Mankato floods? Which Nicollet teacher did Bette Davis portray? Come in out of the cold to find out.

Looking for another indoor activity? The Cox House will open just for Winterfest, offering tours, treats and hot drinks Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6, and Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Remember, adults wearing Winterfest buttons sold by the St. Peter Lions Club will be admitted to the History Center or Cox House for just one dollar during Winterfest. Of course members are always free. Put Winterfest on your calendar now.

1909 in downtown St. Peter at the corner of Grace and Minnesota following a snow. Unfortunately no snowblowers were available!

# Re-Member!

We want to thank each and every member for your support in 2004. You are true stewards for Nicollet County history. Only because of you can we continue to interpret, collect, and preserve our shared past.

For most members the time has come to renew your annual membership in the Society. We hope you rejoin at last year's level or above. If you have not received renewal information in the mail, or have misplaced it, please call Jessica at 507/934-2160.

# Become a Business Member!

In 2005 we are introducing new membership categories with more great benefits just for businesses. Remember, your business is an important part of the county's history. Your support will also help us chronicle your history along with others.

**\$200 Advocate:** certificate of appreciation to hang in your business, acknowledgment in our newsletter, free half-day meeting room rental at the Treaty Site History Center or fifty percent full-day rental, 50 free passes (passes include ten percent Museum Store discount) good at the TSHC, Cox House and Harkin Store, and two free passes to the annual meeting that include dinner.

**\$500 Benefactor:** certificate of appreciation, acknowledgment in our newsletter, free business card size ad in the first newsletter issue after you join, free full-day meeting room rental

at the Treaty Site History Center or two half-day rentals, 250 free passes (passes include 10% Museum Store discount) good at the TSHC, Cox House, and Harkin Store, and up to four free passes to the annual meeting, including dinner.

Remember, member benefits include free admission to all our sites and programs, ten percent discount on all merchandise, free admission to the NCHS archives and discounts on research services, invitations to special events and programs, and a subscription to this newsletter, *the Crossing*.

**\$1,000 Champion:** certificate of appreciation, brief framed history of your St. Peter business, acknowledgment in our newsletter, free business card size ad in our newsletter for four issues, credit for an NCHS event sponsorship of your choosing, two free full-day meeting room rentals or four half-day rentals or combination, 500 free passes (passes include ten percent store discount) good at the TSHC, Cox House, and Harkin Store, and up to eight free passes to the annual meeting with dinners.

Please consider joining Goodrich Construction, Culligan-Mayer Soft Water, Nelson Printing and others in supporting the society as business members, and take advantage of great member benefits all at the same time.

Thank you for your support!



50032 Old River Bluff Road  
North Mankato, MN 56003  
(507) 388-1004

## New Members

since September 2004

**Individual Membership**  
Carol Church  
Dolores Lueck  
Mary Klinger

**Family Membership**  
Richard & Addie Hulseberg  
Gary & Anita Kopitzke

**\$500 Business Benefactor**  
Goodrich Construction

**\$200 Business Advocate**  
Nelson Printing

## Renewed Memberships

since September 2004

**Individual Membership**  
Gretchen Bray  
Carolyn Brethorst  
Helen L. Christianson  
Emma Franz  
Colleen M. Freitag  
Brad Frentz  
Eileen W. Holz  
Br. Conrad Irrgang  
Marjorie Johnson  
Katherine Frost Kamakahi  
Marolyn Kleinert  
Ruth Larson  
Sylvia Nesheim  
Marlin Peterson  
Janet Prehn  
Sharon Robinson  
Neil Stevermer

**Family Membership**  
James & Verda Beatty  
Mike & Pam Bidelman  
John & Ann Christenson  
John & Carol Dranttel  
Garfield & Marjorie Eckberg  
Wil & Sarah Hass  
Carroll & Elaine Hermanson  
Elder & Renee Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Johnson  
Judy & Bill Leonard  
Earl & Ardis Lund  
John & Sara McKay  
Janet Nordstrom  
Gerald & Joyce Roust  
James & Diane Stenson  
Marty & Carol Sterner  
Larry & Jo Zambino

**Sustaining Membership**  
Roland & Edi Thorstensson

**Patron Membership**  
Larry & Judy Biederman  
Mel & LaVonne Craig  
Marie Dranttel  
Leland & Ruth Jackson  
Taytronics

**Donations**  
given since last *Crossing*

Chuck Eggert  
Beatrice Martinson  
Ron Meyer  
William Prugh  
Marilyn Rodning

## Barbara Dybvig

The Society lost a long time friend when Barbara Nutter Dybvig died October 1. She was the fourth generation of the Nutter family to live in St. Peter and took a great interest in our local history, according to friends.

A graduate of Gustavus, she worked for Nicollet County Social Services from 1952 until her retirement in 1982. She was always deeply involved in community activities. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to her for chairing the committee responsible for restoring the Cox House to its original eminence and distinction shortly after the NCHS acquired the house in the late 1960s. Her attention to detail and insistence on authenticity led to its success as a NCHS site.

## NCHS Reaps Rewards of Talented Quilters

On Wednesdays quilters Bev Wetherill, Janet Hoffmann, Ann Henze, Marolyn Kliener, Leona Isenberg, Marjorie Halvorson, and Dorothy Schultz get together at the Treaty Site to hand make fantastic works of quilting art. They generously donate all profits from sales of their quilts to the Society. This beauty recently fetched \$500 for NCHS. We are very grateful to these women for their generous contributions of time and talent.



Ron Goodrich (right) and Randy Dinsmore of Goodrich Construction during the reconstruction of the roof at the TSHC. Thanks to their good work we are "weatherproof" for the winter.

# Cyber Changes of Note

Although at NCHS we study the past and preserve the past, we don't live in the past. We actually try to be efficiently up-to-date. On that score, we're making several improvements in our online communications.

We've recently changed staff e-mail addresses. We can now be reached via e-mail several different ways. For general questions, write to [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org). Send an e-mail to [research@nchsmn.org](mailto:research@nchsmn.org) if you have research questions. You can contact director Ben Leonard at [ben@nchsmn.org](mailto:ben@nchsmn.org).

We're also adding another way for members and visitors to access us. Our new website, [www.nchsmn.org](http://www.nchsmn.org), is under construction. You will soon be able to find news, events, and other resources online. Please check in periodically to follow our progress.

Members' e-mail addresses are another important communications tool. If you're a member or an aficionado of Nicollet County history who would like to receive updates, invitations, and other matters via e-mail once in awhile, send your address to [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org).

We promise not to inundate you with useless messages, we won't share your address, and you can cancel any time by sending a message to the same e-mail address.

## Kids' Korner ... Winter Crossword

**Members:**  
We are looking for young historians wishing to take the challenge of our **Kids' Korner**. Share the puzzle with your children and grandchildren, then bring them to the Museum to see our new exhibits. Have them drop off their entries for a drawing for a Gift Certificate to be used in the Museum Store.

	1		2			
3						4
5				6		
			7			
8						
	9					
			10			11
12						
	13					

### ACROSS

- 1 Do it through a hole in the lake
- 5 St. Peter was almost Minnesota's \_\_\_\_\_ in February 1857
- 7 A baby's game, \_\_\_ Big!
- 8 Instrument to play carols on
- 9 Where Jesus was born
- 10 St. Peter got 89 inches of this stuff in 1951-52
- 12 A poor substitute for butter in Christmas cookies!
- 13 What you do if you are caught under the mistletoe

### DOWN

- 2 Found in Sweden were 4,500 years old but without poles
- 3 You can't skate without this
- 4 Helped shape Nicollet County 10,000 years ago
- 6 Like a sled, only bigger
- 9 Seal-skin or reindeer-skin boot worn by Eskimos
- 10 Lady pigs
- 11 Before Gore Tex® or Polar Fleece

Answers will appear in the next issue of *the Crossing*.

## The New Year at the Museum Store by Jessica Hollerich

Consider the Museum Store for your gift needs, whether for holidays, birthdays, or special events. We have a variety of items for children, such as coloring books and paper dolls, arrowheads, and pick-up sticks. For adults, we have many historic art prints to choose from as well as postcards and peace medals. We also offer an assortment of maps and posters that any history buff would treasure.

Last but not least, numerous books and other publications are available. Topics range from the Dakota Conflict to Minnesota history in general, as well as biographies of prominent Minnesotans and a variety of fascinating cookbooks.

Two examples:

*The Minnesota*, by Evan Jones, is a fascinating depiction of the lives led along this major American river. Starting at Big Stone Lake on the eastern edge of South Dakota, the Minnesota River cuts through southern Minnesota, breaks into waterfalls at Granite Falls, and joins the mighty Mississippi at Fort Snelling in St. Paul. \$15.95

*The Pocket Guide to Minnesota Place Names*, by Michael Fedo, presents the stories behind more than 1,200 Minnesota place names. \$11.95

The Museum Store still has a sales section as we prepare for new inventory coming in 2005. Here's your chance to shop for bargains.

*Remember, all members of the Society receive a ten percent discount on purchases. If you are not a member, perhaps this would be a good time to consider joining the Society.*



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## Cox House Christmas ~ "Dolls We Cherish"



Left: Sisters Aubrey, Bethany, and Ceri Benson form Aurorali, a musical trio. The group played on the first weekend of the Cox House Christmas Open House.

Right: NCHS volunteer Janet Hoffmann, in 19th century garb, gives a group of second graders from John Ireland School a lesson in etiquette of the past at the Cox House Christmas event. "Dolls We Cherish" was the theme that drew many visitors over two weekends in December. The Cox house was built in 1871 for Judge Eugene St. Julien Cox, St. Peter's first mayor.



Photo credit: Pat Christman and the Mankato Free Press

# Active Archives Assist with Anniversary

by Bob Sandeen

If you think of archives at all, you likely may think of them as musty documents seldom seeing the light of day. Not so at the History Center. Our archives section is an unusually busy place.



**Volunteer Dick Muesing spends more than 20 hours a week entering information on the society's photo collection using our upgraded software, new computers, and new scanner.**

We have been working with the City of Nicollet committee that is preparing a book celebrating the 150th anniversary of the town's founding. We have made digital copies of historic images of the community available from our own collection and we have also scanned additional Nicollet photographs loaned to us. These were added to our permanent photograph collection as stored digital images. They may also be included in the book.

Another reason we're hopping these days is that our museum is among the first of Minnesota's county historical societies to be involved in a statewide image digitization project. Five hundred of our photographs are being scanned and posted on the Internet. They will ultimately be among many thousands of historic Minnesota photographs from all parts of the state that will be available for viewing. Photographs taken prior to 1909 are the first to be compiled.

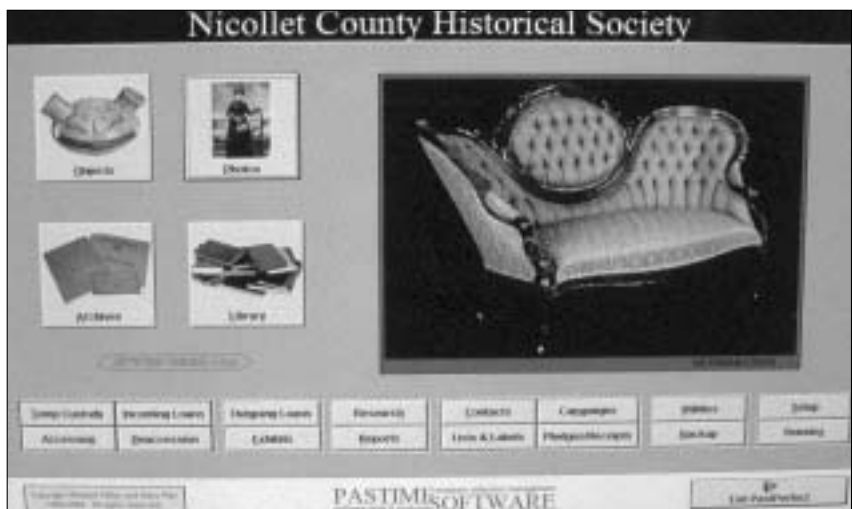
A steady stream of researchers seeks us out for help with genealogies, public records, and background material for articles and books.

We are always seeking photos, family histories, platbooks and maps, township records, country school records, pre-1980 telephone books, and other items to add to our archives. We especially need a nice photograph of the old boulevard that used to be in St. Peter along North Minnesota Avenue. Photos can be scanned and returned to the owner, or can be accepted as a permanent donation.

While we very much appreciate worthwhile St. Peter items, our most urgent needs are for items from the other parts of the county.

Thanks must be given to several volunteers who have done very useful work in the archives during the past year. It is a pleasure to have the assistance of Dick Muesing, Dale Mowbray, Tom Hohenstein, Martin Wigert, and Mike Bidelman.

Several software programs were enabled by the Schmidt Foundation grant include Pasttime (computer screen shot at the right) for museum organization, management, and research and PastPerfect which the Society uses for cataloging its photo collection. In the near future the three-dimensional collection will be catalogued with the same method allowing integration and search capabilities between the two.



# Love Those Programs!

Your Society held a number of successful programs this fall, drawing more than 400 people to six events.

As usual, visitors delighted in the Cox House Christmas décor, musical entertainment and most of all, the wonderful “Dolls We Cherish” Victorian theme. At the November 5th Folk Fair, kids asked lots of questions as they watched artisans at work. Attendees to *Shadows at the Crossing* had fun conversing with historical Nicollet County figures while swatting mosquitoes.

Though these events and the others were well supported by members, it was very encouraging to see so many non-members. As we continue to expand our programs and attract new audiences, we hope that more and more people find value in membership. Encourage your friends to participate.



An attentive Larry Zambino and a young visitor get an explanation of rosemaling from a Folk Fair demonstrator.

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## February Event

# Area's Favorite Artist to Speak

Noted Mankato artist Marian Anderson will give a Sunday afternoon program February 27, at 2 p.m., about the painting she created especially for the Treaty Site ten years ago.

The artwork, titled *The Crossing*, is filled with symbolism relating to the events that have taken place at Traverse des Sioux from historic times right up to the present. Marian will explain the symbolism and discuss her creative process, telling how she puts inspiration into visual interpretation.

Many area residents are familiar with Marian Anderson's artwork. She has created very popular nostalgic pieces for Mankato and North Mankato and other groups. She is also a noted wildlife artist who has won numerous awards and recognitions. Marian's early years living on the banks of Swan Lake have had a lasting influence on her life and work.

Marian has generously donated all proceeds from sales of *The Crossing* to the Society as a fundraiser for the Treaty Site.



Marian Anderson's depiction of *The Crossing*

# North Mankato Memories of an Inundation

During the winter of 1951 southern Nicollet County received 88 inches of snow. A quick spring thaw spelled disaster. Unable to keep up, the Minnesota River rose to 26 feet four inches, spilled over its banks and flooded 40,000 acres. North Mankato, the hardest hit community, suffered \$3 million damage. In today's dollars that would be over \$21.8 million.



Belgrade Avenue near the river.



Business district on Belgrade Avenue.



Old school (now Bell Tower Apartments) on Belgrade Avenue.



Municipal building on Belgrade Avenue.

## Annual Meeting Registration Form

Enclosed is my/our check for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) at \$15 per person (members) or \$20 per person (non-members) for the Annual Meeting for the Nicollet County Historical Society. The event will be held in **Jackson Campus Center, Gustavus Adolphus College, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 16, 2005.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed  Please debit my credit card   
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acct. Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to: **Nicollet County Historical Society**

Return by January 11 to:

**Nicollet County Historical Society, 1851 North Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082**

## NCHS Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed  Please debit my credit card

Acct. Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2005 at the following level (please check one).

- |                          |                    |                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Individual</b>  | <b>\$ 30</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Family</b>      | <b>\$ 45</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Sustaining</b>  | <b>\$ 75</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Patron</b>      | <b>\$ 100</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Supporter</b>   | <b>\$ 200</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Benefactor</b>  | <b>\$ 500</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Life Member</b> | <b>\$ 1,000</b> |

**Business Memberships**

call or  
e-mail  
for info

Please make checks payable to:

**Nicollet County Historical Society**

Membership applications should be mailed to:

**Nicollet County Historical Society  
 1851 North Minnesota Avenue  
 St. Peter, MN 56082**

# Calendar of Events:

now open **Military History of Nicollet County, 1861–1991** TSHC Exhibit Room  
*Nicollet County in War from the construction of Fort Ridgely onward.* \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

now open **Snow Expected** TSHC Exhibit Room  
*An exhibit chronicling winter and how we Minnesotans deal with it.* \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

Sunday, January 16 **Nicollet County Historical Society ANNUAL MEETING** Jackson Campus Center, Gustavus  
*A delicious buffet, a program and panel based on the 1957 movie Stranded, followed by a brief business meeting.* 4 p.m. \$15 per person for members, \$20 per person for non-members. **RESERVE ABOVE.**

Sunday, February 22 **Marian Anderson on *The Crossing*** TSHC & Townsite  
*The artist will explain the symbolism and discuss her creative process.* \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

February 4–12 **WinterFest** Throughout the city  
*Twelve days of more than 20 events and activities to beat the winter blahs.*  
 See story on page 3 for details.



**Nicollet County  
Historical Society**

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue

St. Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 9  
St. Peter, MN

*The staff*

*at your*

*Nicollet*

*County*

*Historical*

*Society*

*wish you*

*all the best*

*in this*

*New Year!*

**New Year Tidbits:**

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

Janus was the Roman God who gave his name to the month of January. This god presided over openings, beginnings and doorways.

Often depicted with two faces, Janus could look backward and forward at the same time—he was originally a household spirit.

Those praying to the gods always mentioned Janus first.



**Confront the cold  
head on!**

*Come skiing on the prairie!*

**NCHS and St. Peter Park and Rec are  
partnering to offer trails at  
Traverse des Sioux Park.**

**Skis and  
Snowshoes  
now available  
for rental in the  
Treaty Site  
Museum Store.**

