

**History Center
 Announces Improved
 Research Library
 Availability and
 Monday Closures**

Beginning July 2, 2001, the Treaty Site History Center will be closed to the public on Mondays (except for pre-scheduled large group tours). The new open hours for the Center will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. As a part of this change in hours, the research library (in the past open only on weekdays) will now also be available for use on Saturdays. Over the years, many researchers and genealogists have wanted use of the library on Saturdays, and we look forward to providing this new service for them.

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To be held on Sunday, July 22
Treaty of Traverse des Sioux
150th Anniversary Commemoration

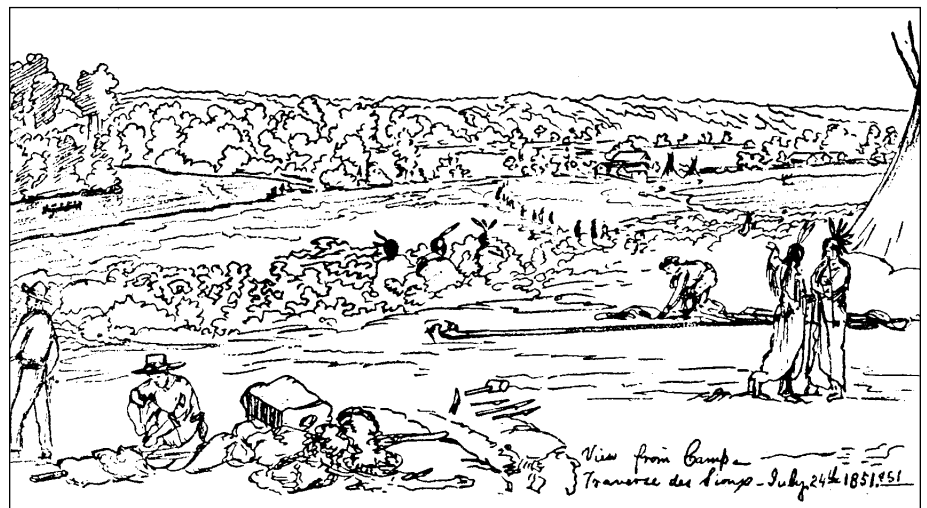


Illustration from Frank B. Mayer's *With Pen and Ink*. Mayer was the historical equivalent of a photo journalist and was on-site during the 1851 signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is pleased to announce its plans for the Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. The Commemoration will take place on Sunday, July 22, from 1-4 p.m. on the grounds of the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Included in the afternoon's activities will be presentations by Dr.

Bob Douglas and David Larson, Native American music and dancing, a performance by the St. Peter Choral Society, and free admission to the Treaty Site History Center. Limited tent seating will be available, and visitors are invited to bring lawn chairs if they wish.

This event is funded in part by grants from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council and the St. Peter Tourism Bureau.

From the Director ... *Mark Morrison*

It has been a busy spring and summer season thus far for the Nicollet County Historical Society. The Treaty Site History Center has enjoyed participation by numerous school groups, and overall visitation has been good in 2001. The staff and volunteers of the library and archives have been busy assisting genealogists and researchers with their needs, and an ever-increasing number of people are using this valuable resource.

The E. St. Julien Cox House and Harkin Store have also been enjoying good visitation this summer. The Harkin Store has been very busy on the weekends with fun and educational programs catering to all ages. Thanks go out to all the volunteers who made this year's Cox House plant sale such a success! We recorded a record number of sales, and over \$800 was raised to benefit the operation of the Cox House.

On June 1, after more than four years on the job, Curator/Archivist Jessica Potter announced that she was leaving her position. She has accepted a similar position with the Blue Earth County Historical Society in Mankato. Jessica made many positive contributions to the Nicollet County Historical Society during her time here, and the board, staff, and volunteers greatly appreciate her efforts, and wish her the best of luck in her new position.

In Jessica's absence, St. Peter native Bob Sandeen has agreed to work in the archives on an interim capacity while the search for a new curator is undertaken. Bob has been kept busy with research requests, and assisting library patrons with finding genealogical and other historical materials. Bob has been doing a great job, and we are lucky to have him on board during our search for a permanent curator.

Finally, plans are set for the July 22nd Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. I would like to thank the committee members who have helped in planning the event and, in particular, would like to thank Herb Poncin, Bob Douglas, David Larson, and Edi Thorstensson for their work. We were fortunate to receive grants from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council and the St. Peter Tourism Bureau to help us pay for the Commemoration, which will feature speakers, Native American dancing and music, and other activities.

I hope to see everybody at the Commemoration on July 22nd, and I encourage you also to visit one of our museums or historical sites this summer.

from the President...by Edi Thorstensson

Not too long ago, geese and mallards had taken over parts of the Old Traverse des Sioux town site and the History Center grounds and were cruising the floodwaters. They had the place to themselves, and they looked right at home. The History Center, on the other hand, looked a little forlorn, with its sandbags and soggy driveway.

Fortunately, the flooding ended without damage to the Museum or its collections. The geese are gone, so are the sandbags. What is left—at least for me—is a lasting memory of days when no one knew how high the River would

rise. Some of us were monitoring the situation daily and doing what we could to protect the Society's home, its History Center. Working together, with local assistance from St. Peter, the County, and Sentenced to Serve—we were a team. That experience alone was worth every effort.

On a similar note, a corps of wonderful, dedicated volunteers has stepped forward to assure that the Cox House doors remain open on weekends this summer and that the home, carriage house, and gardens are cared for. Both loyal, long-standing friends and new

volunteers—some of them becoming involved for the first time—are on hand during regular hours and pre-arranged group visits. Thanks go to all the volunteers, especially to those who have taken on important responsibilities: Adult Volunteer Coordinator Jo Zambino, Youth Volunteer Coordinator Bev Wetherill, Janet Hoffman, Bob Sandeen, Barb Olmanson, and Marilyn Robertz. You are the greatest!

Good things happen when members take pride in our Society and share in its work.

Volunteer Profile *by Ceil Headlee*

The quarterly newsletter will feature VIPs who have a great impact on the daily undertakings of the Treaty Site History Center. Without their dedication and support it would be difficult to function.

The many volunteers who give of their time and talents are greatly appreciated. The newsletter will give you some personal information about who they are.

Our first VIP is Shelley Harrison of LeSueur, who started volunteering October 1998. Her duties involve working in the Archives and the Museum Store. Shelley has been invaluable to curator Jessica Potter in many areas of the Archives. She has been a right hand gift to me in the area of greeting visitors and acting as docent with her knowledge of local history. She has also assisted



in the museum store. Those who have had the pleasure of knowing Shelley will attest to her outgoing personality, pleasant smile and eagerness to be of help.

Shelley earned her B.A. degree in Anthropology and a minor in Archeology and Museum Studies from St. Cloud State University a few years ago. We will be saying farewell to her as she has decided to return to St. Cloud State University seeking her Masters in Public History. The staff and friends wish her well in her studies and hope to hear from her occasionally.

She has travelled extensively in Europe and lists travel as one of her hobbies plus attending theatrical events. A small catering business has kept her busy in between college enrollments.



June 10, 2001 was a simply gorgeous sunny afternoon in Minnesota. That didn't deter a full-house crowd from attending the Going to America talk at the Treaty Site History Center. Lynne Bloomstrand Moratzka from the Gammalgården Museum in Scandia, Minnesota gave an informative presentation on what the typical Swedish family took to their new home in America in the

1800s. The focus was on what they brought in their wooden "carry-on bag," including tools to begin farming and essentials for the pioneer household. For the farmers, metal objects that wouldn't get broken nor take up much space included a hoe, a sugar cutter, an axe, and shears, to not only cut sheep's wool but also to cut the kids' hair. Of great importance was the *Farmer's Almanac*, an aid to planting and harvesting.

Going to America: What to Take? *by Bob Douglas*

For the household, such items as a sausage stuffer, a mangle, and a tea kettle (Swedes need their coffee, you know), were essential commodities. All of these historic artifacts were held up and described by Lynne in detail to the audience. It was obvious from her talk, *Going to America: What to Take?*, the typical Swedish family was practical and determined. Characteristic traditions that still prevail.

Medallion Collection Now Complete

At the first Commemorative Encampment held in 1991, a medallion was issued bearing the likeness of Chief Wabasha. Much excitement was generated with the promise of a different individual significant to the signing of the Treaty to be honored each succeeding year through year 2001. Many committed to purchase these medallions and were assigned a specific number to assure their set would become a "collectible."

We are excited to inform all collectors that the final three medallions have been minted and received. Telephone calls have been made and cards sent to notify all that the medallions are now ready to be claimed, at the original price of \$10 each.

The medallion for year 1999 bears the likeness of Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, a missionary to the Dakota, who established a mission at Lac qui Parle in 1835. He was also instrumental in helping Rev. Stephen R. Riggs translate the Bible into the Dakota language.

Frank B. Mayer, a Baltimore artist, is honored for the year 2000. He was present at the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851. With his pen and ink sketches he was

able to give us a historical account of the happenings at the signing.

The medallion for year 2001, commemorates the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux by showing the Treaty Site History Center building on the obverse side.



Commemorative Medallion issued in 1992 honoring Little Crow. (Shown actual size.)

When you purchased the first medallion in 1991, marking the 140th anniversary of the signing, you were participating in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation with our Dakota friends. Now you have the opportunity to add the final three medallions to your collection, to bring your involvement during the past ten years to completion. They will bear the same issue number as the others in your set.

Be creative and display your collection in a fitting setting to spark moments of conversation with friends who view them. Let the story be told of the importance of marking historical events with "peace medals." These encampment medallions strive to recall historic events and preserve the same concept of friendship and reconciliation.

Your completed set is numbered and recorded with your name. If you have ordered other medallions and have not as yet claimed them, they are also on file. We would appreciate your visit to the museum store soon. Continue to show enthusiasm for past historic moments, especially our own local past. Think of these medallions first and foremost as historical bits of Americana; they definitely belong to St. Peter and are a tribute to the Native Americans who inhabited Traverse des Sioux.

Local Church Sponsors Historic Church Program "A Taste of Scandian Grove"

Where: Scandian Grove
Lutheran Church,
Norseland, Minn.

When: July 29, 1-4 p.m.
1-2 p.m. – desserts and
beverages
2 p.m. – photographer
Doug Ohman presents
history, nostalgia, and
humor while remembering
rural churches.
(free will offering)
3-4 p.m. – more tasting.

Museum Musings by Ceil Headlee

Visitors to the Museum Store have been brisk. We continue to stock your favorite books and offer an updated inventory of new surprises.

A recent addition, *The Last Full Measure*, is the retelling of the life and death of the First Minnesota Volunteers, who gallantly fought in the Civil War from Bull Run on to Antietam then to Fredericksburg and on to the famed suicide charge at Gettysburg. They defended the Union and helped change the course of the war and our country's history. This book is a story of Civil War combat history by Minnesota men whose bravery cannot be denied. Duluth-born author Richard Moe brings the reader close to the human side of war. A paperback edition at \$17.95.



A newly designed jacket has been given to *Through Dakota Eyes*, a narrative account of the Minnesota Indian War of 1862. The Civil War was full blown while back in Minnesota violence

erupted between the Dakota society, government agencies and white settlers in August 1862. The end result was the hanging of 38 Dakota, the imprisonment of over 300 and banishment from the state of Minnesota.

Back in stock is the *Voyageur*. This book brings the reader in contact with a colorful class of men, who manned the great canoes of the fur trade business. Many voyageurs settled around fur-trading posts in areas which later grew into modern cities such as St. Paul. French names can be found throughout Minnesota. Traverse des Sioux was a regular stopping off point for French Canadians employed by the American Fur Co. to trade for furs with the settlers and Indians. Rugged, hard working individuals have left a legacy of songs, customs, speech and romantic tales to remind us of a bygone era responsible for the French influence on many Minnesota river front towns.

You will find more than history books on the shelves of the museum store. A colorful array of hardcover cookbooks which will satisfy any gourmet cook or even a beginner. Hard to resist are the Gooseberry Patch collection of cookbooks.

To begin with, *Family Favorites* presents a collection of recipes sent in by readers which enforces golden moments spent with family members while enjoying treasured traditions in the art of good eating. The 100 year old

recipe for Sweet Dutch Coffee Cake can be found on page 18. Oh, so good!

You may be fascinated with *Backyard Gatherings* which helps one cook up fresh-from-the-garden recipes like patchwork salad, icebox slaw, not to mention brown sugar barbecue chicken.

How about, *A Pinch of This, A Dash of That?* The best granny recipes of days gone by. She never measured carefully but somehow every tasty dish was a winner. Interspersed among the recipes are tidbits of trivia and words of wisdom, sure to bring a smile to your face while baking, cooking or just reminiscing.

Old-Fashioned Country Cookies is another offering which includes peppermint brownies, no-bake date delights and oatmeal lizzies. Sweet memories and ideas for cookie exchanges are given.

All Gooseberry Patch books are hardcover, spiral bound at \$14.95, and are sure to inspire you to create family traditions of your own.

There is still a good supply of the video *Spring Twisters '98* which have been reduced to \$8.00. Now that St. Peter has recovered, it is hard to believe the tragedy actually occurred. A testimony to the endurance of our St. Peter residents.

Summertime is a great time for reading.

NCHS benefit garage sale to be held

The Historical Society will be holding a benefit garage sale on Saturday, August 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donated items suitable for resale are needed from friends and members of the Society. Acceptable items can include books, collectibles, antiques, furniture, garden equipment, infant and early childhood items and clothing, and miscellaneous

knick-knacks. Donated articles may be delivered to the rear (south) door during business hours from Wednesday, July 25 to Wednesday, August 22.

We hope you will join in the fun of participation, and donate to this worthy event. Proceeds will benefit the ongoing educational programming at the Nicollet County Historical Society. For

further information about the August 25 sale, please contact the Nicollet County Historical Society at (507) 934-2160. Many thanks for your continued support, and we hope to see you on August 25!

Memorials have been received for the following...

In memory of Verna Vinquist

Given by

B.C. and Dolores Holteen
John and Marilyn Vinquist

In memory of Lillian Anderson

Given by

B.C. and Dolores Holteen

In memory of Dick Paulson

Given by

Larry and Jo Zambino
The Paulson Family
Marilyn and Bill Robertz

In memory of Les Peterson

Given by

Mark Davis
Larry and Jo Zambino

In memory of Roland Johnson

Given by

B.C. and Dolores Holteen
Leroy and Agnes Stensby
Judith Scholl
David and Arlyce Bussman

NCHS / TSHC Events Calendar

On-Going Exhibits

Early History of Nicollet County, 1851-1900

Open through January 2002

TSHC Exhibit Room

St. Peter, Then and Now,

St. Peter's historic buildings

TSHC Audio-Visual Room

They Came to the Crossing

TSHC Crossing Room

Traveling the Old Fort Road

TSHC Central Exhibit Room

The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux

TSHC Central Exhibit Room

Up-Coming Events

July 1, 2001

Patriotic Celebration

Harkin Store

July 22, 2001

Sesquicentennial of the signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux

TSHC

August 5, 2001

22nd Annual West Newton Day

Harkin Store

August 25, 2001

Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
(Donations accepted 7/25-8/22)

TSHC

September 2, 2001

Back to School

Harkin Store

September 9, 2001

Preparing for Winter

Harkin Store

September 18, 2001

Frank B. Mayer, the artist, 7 p.m.

TSHC

September 30, 2001

Buttonbox Jamboree

Harkin Store

October 28, 2001

Historical Halloween, 5-7 p.m.

TSHC

December 1, 2001

Christmas on the Prairie, 2 p.m.

TSHC

Please clip and post or mark your calendar today and join us for these educational, history-filled, and fun events.

Site Information:

Nicollet County Historical Society and the Treaty Site History Center

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082

(507) 934-2160 • FAX: (507) 934-8715 • www.nchs.st-peter.mn.us

Mark Morrison, Executive Director

mmorrison@mnich.net

TSHC Hours:	Year Around	Tuesday–Saturday Sunday	10 A.M.–4 P.M. 1 P.M.–4 P.M.
Archive Hours:	Year Around	Tuesday–Saturday Sunday	10 A.M.–4 P.M. Closed

Consider the History Center as a unique meeting place for your group or organization. Contact our staff for information and reservations. Tours and programs are also available.

E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N. Washington Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082 • (507) 934-4309

Hours:	May & September June, July & August Closed October–April	Saturday and Sunday Wednesday–Sunday	1 P.M.–4 P.M. 1 P.M.–4 P.M.
Admission (each site):	Center and House on same day	NCHS Members Non-members Non-members Children 12 & under	No Charge \$3.00 \$5.00 Free

Harkin Store

P.O. Box 112, New Ulm, MN 56073 • Phone (507) 354-8666

Hours:	May June, July, August September–October Closed 3rd Weekend in October–April	Saturday and Sunday Tuesday–Sunday Friday–Sunday	10 A.M.–5 P.M. 10 A.M.–5 P.M. 10 A.M.–5 P.M.
Admission:		NCHS Members Non-members	No Charge \$1.00

Clip and drop off or mail to:
Treaty Site History Center

YES, I am interested in volunteering

COX HOUSE:

- Tour Guide Gardening
 Lawn Care
 Other _____

TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER:

- Docent Retail Sales
 Archives Refreshments
 Collections Other _____

NOTE: Training will be provided.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State and Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 E-mail _____

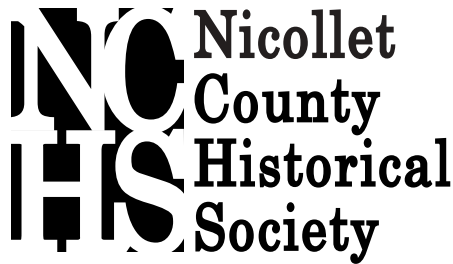
YES, I would like to become a member of the
Nicollet County Historical Society.
[PLEASE PRINT]

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State and Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 E-mail _____

2001 Membership dues may be paid now!

- Please check (X) the membership level you desire:
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$ 10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$ 30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$ 20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ |

Member's benefits include free admission to the Treaty Site History Center, the E. St. Julien Cox House, the Harkin Store, free archival time in the Archives/Research Center, and a free subscription to *the Crossing*, our quarterly news and information letter.



1851 N. Minnesota Avenue
 St. Peter, MN 56082

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