

the **Crossing**  
a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

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## History of St. Peter Schools to Open March 12

On Wednesday, March 12, beginning at 7 p.m., the Nicollet County Historical Society will open its newest exhibit *St. Peter Schools: 150 Years of Teaching*. The exhibit, which will be open until September 5, brings together information, historic photographs, and objects that showcase the first 150 years of schools in St. Peter. Pieces from the collection of the Nicollet County Historical Society and items on loan from various St. Peter Schools and numerous



individuals will be exhibited. The public is invited to attend the opening from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12 at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. There will be no admission charge and refreshments will be served. For additional information please call the Historical Society at (507) 934-2160.



Images are some of the many historical photographs featured in the upcoming: *St. Peter Schools: 150 Years of Teaching* exhibit. Top: St. Peter High School Band, 19??. Middle left: St. Peter High School, 1870. Middle right: Clifford Kurseth instructs a biology class in 19??. Bottom: SPHS 1987 Football.

## From the Director... by Mark Morrison

The staff and volunteers of the Nicollet County Historical Society have been very busy getting ready for a new year of programs and exhibits. After a very successful six month run, the *Pioneer Brewmasters* exhibit was recently taken down in preparation for our newest exhibit titled *St. Peter Schools: 150 Years of Teaching*. This exhibit is being curated by Research Assistant Bob Sandeen and will open on March 12. Included are many items from the NCHS collections, in addition to objects from individuals and schools on loan for the exhibit. Gustavus Intern Stephanie Nelson has been putting in a lot of hours with mounting photographs and putting together labels for the exhibit.

Much progress has been made in both the archival and three-dimensional collections areas in terms of the organization, cataloging, and rehousing of objects. We recently acquired a Schmidt Foundation grant to obtain new steel shelving for the collection storage room—something that has been desperately needed since the construction of the Treaty Site History Center.

We also recently obtained grant money to be used for staffing the Cox House during the summer of 2003. Our goal is to have a more ambitious programming schedule than even before at the Cox House so that more people will become aware of this important St. Peter site. Work is underway to determine the upcoming schedule of open hours and events for the Cox House in 2003.

During January, Gustavus Intern Carl Nelson worked full time for the Nicollet County Historical Society. The two major projects he accomplished included a full inventory of the military collections of the Society, and the creation of a report on the Dakota Conflict of 1862 focussing on Nicollet County individuals and occurrences pertaining to the Conflict. Carl did a great job and we were lucky to have such an ambitious and skilled historian working with us in January.

Finally, I would like to welcome you to drop by the History Center in March or April and check out our new exhibit—those of you with ties to St. Peter schools should find it particularly interesting.

## In the Museum Shop... by Renee Schmidt

While patiently awaiting spring, there is still time to catch up on your reading before outdoor activities command your attention. Our new reading selections have just arrived! You've never had this much from which to choose.

### New Book Titles include:

*American Daughter* a story of growing up in the Midwest.

*The Bones of Plenty* The farm novel of the Great Drought of the 1920s and 1930s and the Great Depression.

*Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians*

*Charles A. Lindbergh Coloring Book*

*Chippewa Child Life* Essential details of a fascinating culture.

*Chippewa Customs* An authoritative source for the tribal history, customs, legends, traditions, art, music, economy, and leisure activities of the Ojibwe people.

*Circles of Traditions: Folk Arts in Minnesota.*

*Dakota-English Dictionary* Along with *An English-Dakota Dictionary*, this remains the most comprehensive and accurate lexicon available.

*Dakota Indians Coloring Book*

*The Dakota War of 1862* Minnesota's other Civil War.

*A Dictionary of Ojibway Language* This dictionary, compiled nearly 150 years ago, remains the most comprehensive and accurate lexicon of the Ojibway language available.

*An English-Dakota Dictionary*

*Food on the Frontier: Minnesota Cooking from 1850 to 1900 with Selected Recipes*

*Gentle Warriors: Clara Ueland and the Minnesota Struggle for Woman Suffrage*

*Books continued on page 4*

April 6, 2003

## Program to Tell Story of Minnesota Swedes' Colonization of Cuba



A Swedish-American family in the Cuban colony, circa 1910.

On Sunday, April 6, at 2:30 p.m. Marilyn McGriff will present a program titled *Minnesota Swedes Raising Cane*.

In the early years of the 20th Century, a Swedish-American doctor, and graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, invested in a large tract of land in eastern Cuba following the Spanish-American War. Using his doctor's office on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis as a headquarters, he promoted the sale of land parcels to his fellow Swedish-Americans. In his promotional pamphlets, written in Swedish, he promised cheap land, a warm healthful climate and the opportunity to harvest crops year round. A number of farm families from the Upper Midwest did journey to Cuba as part of Dr. Lind's colonization

effort. The settlement endured turbulent political and economic times and by 1920 most of the Swedish-American-Cubans had returned to the U.S. Their Cuban experience, as recorded in reminiscences, stories, and photos has been researched by Marilyn McGriff, a local historian living in Cambridge, Minnesota. Her presentation will illustrate the drama, romance, intrigue, and adventure of the "Swedes Raising Cane in Cuba."

The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. There is no admission charge for NCHS members; the non-member admission fee will be \$4. Refreshments will be served. For more information please call the Nicollet County Historical Society at (507) 934-2160.

## Memorials

since the last edition of  
*The Crossing*

*In memory of Edna Skramstad*

*Given by*  
Harold & Lorraine Olson

*In memory of Darline Hale*

*Given by*  
Boyd & Cecilia Headlee  
Arlyce & David Bussman  
G. Dayton Hale

*In memory of Ray Derner*

*Given by*  
Arlyce & David Bussman

*In memory of Elaine Fitch*

*Given by*  
Arlyce & David Bussman  
Judith Scholl

*In memory of Ardella Froehlich*

*Given by*  
Cora Sjostrom

*In memory of Dorothy Johnson*

*Given by*  
Willard A. Johnson/  
Cora Sjostrom

*In memory of Margaret Peters*

*Given by*  
Judith Mans

*In memory of*

**Dr. Sam McHutchison**  
*Given by*  
Mrs. Miles (Eleanor) Thompson

*In memory of E. Clayton Davis*

*Given by*  
Malcolm & Donna MacKenzie

*Books continued from page 2*

***Goodbird the Indian: His Story***

An insightful children's book about a people facing overwhelming change.

***A Great Lakes Fur Trade Coloring Book***

***The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families***

***History of the Ojibway People***

A wealth of information on customs, family life, totemic system, hunting methods, fur trade, and relations with other tribal groups and with whites.

*Irish in Minnesota* Diverse stories of the Irish immigrants

***Joseph N. Nicollet on the Plains and Prairies: The Expeditions of the 1838–39 with Journals, Letters, and Notes on the Dakota Indians***

***The Kelley Farm Activity Book***

***Kitchi-Gami: Life Among the Lake Superior Ojibway***

***The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers***

***Little Crow, Spokesman for the Sioux***

***Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales and Oral Histories***

***Lumberjacks and Logging Coloring Book***

***Making Minnesota Territory 1849–1858*** A lively collection of daguerreotypes, paintings, photographs, and curators' choice artifacts

***The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway***

***The Minnesota Book of Days: An Almanac of State History***

***Minnesota, Real & Imagined: Essays on the State and Its Culture***

***Murder in Minnesota: A Collection of True Cases***

***My First Years in the Fur Trade*** The journals of 1802–1804 of fur trader George Nelson

***The North Country Reader*** Classic Stories by Minnesota Writers

***Norwegians in Minnesota*** Influence in art, culture, politics, and community life

***Ojibway Indians Coloring Book***

***One Woman's War: Letters Home from the Women's Army Corps, 1944–1946*** A spirited account of a young woman's uncommon experiences during World War II

***Prairie Smoke*** An account of the resourcefulness of Native Americans who inhabited this land a century and more ago

***The Prehistoric Peoples of Minnesota*** Illustrations of excavations, a rich record of prehistoric peoples

***Reapers of the Dust: A Prairie Chronicle*** The agricultural heartland during the grim years of the Great Depression

***Sister Nations: Native American Women Writers on Community***

***Southwestern Minnesota Archaeology: 12,000 Years in the Prairie Lake Region***

***The Story of Minnesota's Past*** Embraces the broad sweep of change over this land now called Minnesota from glacial ages to the 1980s.

***They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups***

***Through Dakota Eyes: Narrative Accounts of the Minnesota Indian War of 1862***

***Turning the Feather Around: My Life in Art*** An autobiography of a lifelong journey beginning in a small Ojibway community on Minnesota's North Shore

***The Voyageur*** Nute's best-selling book portrays the indefatigable French-Canadian canoe men, whose labors were vital to the fur trade and whose influence reaches us through the colorful songs, place names, customs, and legends they left behind.

***What This Awl Means: Feminist Archaeology at a Wahpeton Dakota Village***

***Where Two Worlds Meet: The Great Lakes Fur Trade***

***Wild Rice and the Ojibway People*** History of harvesting and processing from the seventeenth-century through the present

Last, but not least, we have the map made by Joseph Nicollet of ***The Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River***—while supplies last. Due to the Minnesota Historical Society closing its warehouse these will no longer be printed again.

Remember, all members of the Nicollet County Historical Society receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases in the Museum Shop. If you are not a member, perhaps this would be a good time to consider joining the Society.

## Membership Opportunities

Basic membership benefits (for all levels)

- Subscription to *The Crossing* Newsletter
- 10% discount in the Museum Shop and on archival services
- Invitations to programs and special events
- Free admission to NCHS museums

Sustaining level and above receive the basic package plus additional listed benefits.

**Individual** **\$30.00**

**Family** **\$45.00**

**Sustaining** **\$75.00**

- Video: *Spring Twisters of 1998*

**Patron** **\$100.00**

- Video: *Spring Twisters of 1998*
- One Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Peace Medal
- One free admission to 2003 Annual Banquet
- Name on Supporting Circle Plaque

**Supporter/Business** **\$200.00**

- Video: *Spring Twisters of 1998*
- One Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Peace Medal
- Two free admissions to 2003 Annual Banquet
- Name on Supporting Circle Plaque
- Limited Edition Marian Anderson Print *The Crossing*

**Benefactor** **\$500.00**

- Video: *Spring Twisters of 1998*
- Five Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Peace Medals (your choice of years)
- Four free admissions to 2003 Annual Banquet
- Name on Supporting Circle Plaque
- Limited Edition Marian Anderson Print *The Crossing*

**Life** **\$1000.00**

- Video: *Spring Twisters of 1998*
- Full Set of Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Peace Medals (1991–2001)
- Six free admissions to 2003 Annual Banquet
- Name on Supporting Circle Plaque
- Artist's Proof Marian Anderson's *The Crossing*

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2003 at the following level (please circle).

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>	<b>Supporter/</b>	
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$ 45.00</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>Life</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

My check is enclosed  Please debit my credit card

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Telephone: (507) 934-2160

# Nicollet County Historical Society

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue  
 St. Peter, MN 56082

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