

Society raises more than \$160,000 in debt relief campaign

The Nicollet County Historical Society is pleased to announce that \$164,000 was raised in our recent campaign for debt reduction. As a reminder, in early 2002 the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation awarded NCHS a challenge grant of up to \$125,000 for any funds we could raise by a June 30 deadline. The ultimate goal of the campaign was to raise the approximate quarter-million dollars required to fully pay off the remaining debt incurred in the early and mid-1990s from the con-

struction of the Treaty Site History Center. Though tight time constraints did not allow us to reach the full \$125,000 goal, we were able to reduce the Institution's debt load to approximately \$90,000. This substantially smaller amount will allow us to refinance the loan at a lower interest rate and should free more than \$20,000 per year for operational expenses that was previously earmarked for debt service. This significant reduction in debt was made possible by the generosity of the

Schmidt Foundation, and many area individuals, businesses, and government entities. We are lucky to have such dedicated friends as these, who realize the serious impact construction debt has had on our ability to bring quality services to the public, and who understand the importance of keeping history alive for the present and future generations of Nicollet County. We would like to thank all those who contributed and acknowledge them below.

Complete Donor List for 2002 debt elimination campaign

Mark and Frani Anderson
Carl and Lois Annexstad
Belgrade Township
Gloria Benson
Richard and Nancy Beran
Larry and Judy Biederman
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St. Peter Lions
Bradford and Jane Thompson
Bernadine Thompson
Edith and Roland Thorstensson
Robert Webster
West Newton Township
Dale Windhorn
Larry and Jo Zambino

Comments from the Director ... *Mark Morrison*

I would like to use my space in this issue of *The Crossing* to again thank those of you who contributed to our debt relief campaign in 2002. In the few months we had to coordinate and carry out our challenge grant campaign we received numerous positive comments on our efforts from many of our members and friends. Aside from the fact that our campaign was successful in getting the debt load below the \$100,000 mark, it was heartening to me to see the level of people's understanding of the seriousness of the debt situation on our ability to carry on basic operations. It is important that people understand the positive directions that

NCHS has taken over the past two years, even in light of some difficult staffing decisions a little more than a year ago. We are currently on schedule to finish our second straight year financially in the black, while having continued with a well-regarded exhibit and program schedule (both more extensive than several Minnesota county historical societies with larger budgets and staff during that time). The dollars that will now be available as a result of our campaign **will not mean** that we will be able to hire all staff positions that we would like—this is far from the truth. Instead, we will be able to operate the Society without the yearly feeling of doom that used

to be inherent in an organization whose funds regularly ran out prior to fiscal year's end. As goal number one for the future, we will be continuing to make strides to raise more funds for further debt elimination and for continued enhancement of programming, collections storage, exhibits, and staff additions. One thing you can be sure of is that expenditures will not be made in any of these areas without the funding first being in place—something I am proud to be able to report. Once again many thanks to our campaign contributors and also to those who gave verbal support to our efforts in the first half of 2002. Your support made all the difference!

as school begins...

a salute to those noble homes of education which have passed



Left top to bottom: Central School, St. Peter; Old High School, St. Peter; Oshawa Twp. School Dist. #52; center: Homer School, Swan Lake; the second Lincoln School, St. Peter; right: Nicollet School; the original Lincoln School, St. Peter; Washington School, St. Peter.



Marolyn Kleinert Retiring



Marolyn at her "post" in the Museum Store ready to warmly greet Treaty Site History Center visitors.

Longtime Visitor Services Coordinator Marolyn Kleinert is retiring at the end of August after seven years of much appreciated hard work at the Treaty Site History Center. Marolyn began volunteering at the History Center in 1995, and in 1997 began working through in the MVAC Federal Senior Employee program. Among Marolyn's many responsibilities has been the management of the Museum Stores, including maintaining inventories of merchandise. She has been the primary greeter of visitors, and has also been the volunteer coordinator for the Historical Society during her tenure. Prior to beginning work with the Historical Society, Marolyn worked for 23 years in the accounting department of the Community Hospital.

Marolyn states that the most enjoyable aspects of her job over the years have been meeting and talking with visitors, learning about the history of the area, and the challenges involved in running the Museum Store. After retiring Marolyn plans to spend time with family, travel, and continue with her numerous volunteer commitments in the community including several volunteer jobs with First Lutheran Church. She says she is committed to regularly volunteer at the Treaty Site History Center as well. We wish Marolyn a good time in her retirement, and look forward to having her visit us often.

Thank you Marolyn for your years of dedicated service to NCHS.

Memorials

The following memorial donations were given to NCHS since the last issue of *The Crossing*

In memory of Mary Ellen Menke

Given by

David and Arlyce Bussman

In memory of Carl Pettis

Given by

Judith Scholl

Bob and Leona Isenberg

Mrs. Miles Thompson

Lois Pettis

In memory of Ben Holteen

Given by

Allen and Jacquelyn Henry

Judith Scholl

In memory of Charles Brinker

Given by

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In memory of Renee Weisgerber

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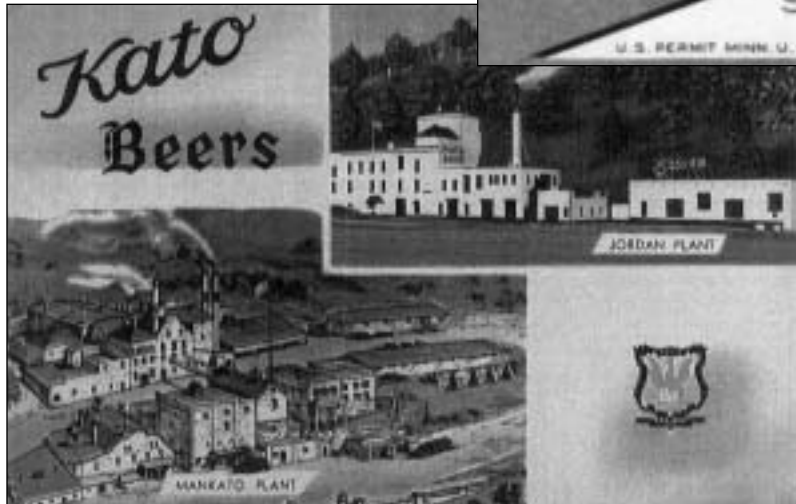
Electronic Notification

Would you like to be notified by e-mail of program dates and topics?

The Program Committee is currently sending last minute reminders of programs to members who have expressed their desire to be on our e-mail list. If you would like to be added to that list, please notify Brenda DeBlicke at bdebliec@mnich.net.

Brewing Exhibit Opens

June 20th saw the opening of the latest NCHS exhibit "Pioneer Brewmasters: Historic Brewing in the Minnesota River Valley." More than 100 people attended the opening which, in addition to the exhibit, featured a beer tasting conducted by New Ulm's August Schell Brewing Company. The exhibit contains numerous photographs and artifacts pertaining to the historic breweries of the



Minnesota River Valley—a region that has been home to nearly 40 breweries over the last 150 years. Co-curated by NCHS Director Mark Morrison (who also gave a July program on the historic brewing industry) and Research Coordinator Bob Sandeen, the exhibit features extensive information about specific breweries and the individuals who founded them. Included are: historical distribution maps showing locations of breweries, brewery history panels organized by city, artifacts from many of the

breweries, a brewing processes section, and an area dedicated to the raw materials used in brewing. The exhibit also includes a section dedicated to the artwork associated with Minnesota River Valley breweries that contains enlargements of many original bottle labels as well as rare, original brewery advertisements. The exhibit will remain open until January 3, 2003.

CALL FOR 

SCAMITT'S

 BELLE PLAINE 

LAGER - BEER

AND YOU WILL BE SATISFIED.

Good judges pronounce it superior to any outside productions. With years of experience and the latest improvements we guarantee our beer to be A 1 article.

Fine Bottled Beer
Put Up Expressly
For Family Use...

Belle Plaine Brewery,
CHRIS. SCHMITT, Prop'r.

Research Library Notes *by Bob Sandeen*

During the last few months several hundred of the museum's photographs have been protected with plastic holders. The holders permit the photos to be easily handled without causing them damage. Eventually, it is hoped that all of the photographs in the collection will be protected in a similar manner.

A large collection of postcard views of St. Peter is in the process of being cataloged in order to make the collection more accessible to those who wish to examine it. Most of the photographic images that appear on the postcards were taken after 1900, but before 1930.

Using old telephone books as a reference source, six listings of businesses in the St. Peter business district covering the years 1919, 1926, 1934, 1939, 1950, and 1955 have been created. The listings show the businesses that occupied, in order of street addresses, sites in the business district during those years. Polk City Directories, which began in 1962 for St. Peter, have included such listings, but no such listing has previously been available for years prior to 1962. Listings for selected other years before 1962 will also be created.

Donations to the Archives have included a number of pho-

tographs, often in the form of postcards. The views include an image of the Creamery in Courtland, views of St. Peter during the 1930s, two 1944 photos and one 1962 photo of some of the employees of the St. Peter Light and Water Dept., a photo of the St. Peter Roller Mills on South Front street, photos of the interiors of the Lindberg Hardware Store in St. Peter and of the Swenson Sweet Shop in St. Peter, and a photo from the 1800s looking to the north along Third street in St. Peter from the intersection of Third and Park Row.

Program committee requests your assistance

We are in need of a few items to use at the History Center when programs are presented there. If you have any of these items in good condition and would like to donate to the Society, your donation would be sincerely appreciated:

- thermal coffee servers
- serving pitchers
- sturdy card table
- round tablecloths—seasonal or generic for 48" table
- serving platters—large or small
- decaffeinated coffee
- napkins and small paper plates

Our thanks go to Lila Faust for the donation of the punch bowl, ladle, and cups after the request in the last newsletter—it has already been put to use.

Shadows at the Crossing

"Shadows at the Crossing: Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux," will be presented by the NCHS on Saturday, October 12, at the new Traverse des Sioux interpretive trail just north of the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter.

Nine local actors will portray pioneer citizens who lived in the town of Traverse des Sioux in the 1850s. Fur trader Louis Provencalle, Dakota bride Nancy McClure, hotel keeper Bernhard Bornemann, frontier artist Frank Blackwell Mayer, Governor Henry Sibley, the storekeeper Myrick brothers, the Rev. Stephen Riggs, and Hoosier writer Edward Eggleston are the spirits of old Traverse des Sioux on the shadowy trail.

People interested in attending the Shadows program are invited to gather at the Treaty Site History Center anytime between 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Costumed guides will lead groups of 6 to 12 persons down the trail to visit with the spirits stationed at trail markers developed by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The spirits will tell humorous and dramatic stories about their lives and experiences living in the old Traverse des Sioux village. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided in the History Center after the guided tours.

The Shadows at the Crossing program is free for members of the Nicollet County Historical Society and \$5.00 for non-members.

NCHS / TSHC Events Calendar

On-Going Exhibits

Pioneer Brewmasters: Historic Brewing in the Minnesota River Valley

Exhibit continues through January 3, 2003

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

September 29, 2002 Buttonbox Jamboree

Harkin Store

Sunday
1-4 p.m.

Buttonbox accordion music was a popular form of entertainment in the 1870s, the era when the Harkin Store was the center of the long-vanished West Newton community. The Midwest Buttonbox Club will have its annual jamboree at the historic site, and visitors are invited to bring their instruments and sit in. \$2 for adults; children and NCHS members admitted free.

October 12, 2002
begins at 6:30 p.m.

Shadows at the Crossing: Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux

**TSHC and
Traverse des Sioux
Townsite**

People interested in attending the Shadows program are invited to gather at the Treaty Site History Center anytime between 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Costumed guides will lead groups of 6 to 12 persons down the trail to visit with the spirits stationed at trail markers developed by the Minnesota Historical Society. (see story on page 5) Entertainment precedes and refreshments will follow the event. \$5, children under age 12 and NCHS members admitted free.

November 17, 2002 Traveling With Jos. Nicollet's Expedition of 1838

TSHC

Sunday
2:00 p.m.

Jos. Nicollet, the county and town's namesake, led an expedition that explored and mapped this region in 1838. Prof. Bob Douglas of Gustavus' Geography Department will retrace the route of this expedition using modern GPS technology. In a slide lecture Bob will note Nicollet's discoveries and test the accuracy of his famous map.

\$4 for adults; children under 12 and NCHS members admitted free.

*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

Mark Morrison, Executive Director

mmorrison@mnich.net

TSHC Hours:	Year Around	Tuesday–Saturday	10 A.M.–4 P.M.
		Sunday	1 P.M.–4 P.M.
Archive Hours:	Year Around	Tuesday–Saturday	10 A.M.–4 P.M.
		Sunday	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 18 & 19	Saturday and Sunday	1 P.M.–4 P.M.
	June, July & August	1st & 3rd weekends	1 P.M.–4 P.M.
Admission (each site):		NCHS Members	No Charge
		Non-members	\$3.00
	Center and House on same day	Non-members	\$5.00
		Children 12 & under	Free

Large group tours arranged by calling TSHC at 934-2160.

Harkin Store

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

Hours:	May and September	Saturday and Sunday	10 A.M.–5 P.M.
	June, July, August	Tuesday–Sunday	10 A.M.–5 P.M.
Admission:		NCHS Members	No Charge
		Non-members	\$2.00

Clip and drop off or mail to Treaty Site History Center

If you would like to donate some of your time in helping us with our important work, please check the areas below that are of interest to you. We will contact you regarding your interest in working with us.

- I am interested in becoming a Treaty Site History Center volunteer. Duties include greeting visitors, staffing the information desk and Museum Store, orienting visitors to exhibits, and conducting tours.
- I am interested in becoming a Cox House volunteer. Duties include greeting visitors, conducting tours of the house, participation in programming and fund raisers, and assistance with upkeep.
- I am interested in becoming a Harkin Store volunteer. Duties include greeting visitors, conducting tours, staffing the gift shop, and assisting with programs and fund raisers.
- I am interested in finding out how I can participate on Museum Committees.
- I am interested in helping the Historical Society in other ways.

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 _____

2003 Membership dues may be paid now!

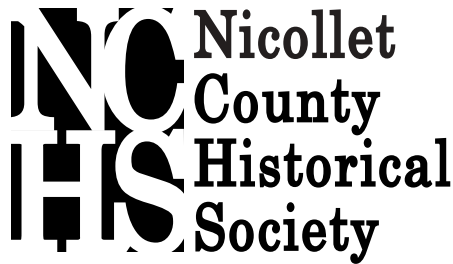
Please check (X) the membership level you desire:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$ 10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business? \$ 200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$ 45.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$ 200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$ 75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$ 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrib \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1,000.00 |

Basic membership benefits (for all levels)

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

See membership brochure for level-specific benefits.



1851 N. Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Gustavus Adolphus College

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Visitor Services

(weekends)

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Harkin Store Guide

Rex Hendley

Harkin Store Guide

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