

Nicollet County and Its Military History

It all began with the construction of Fort Ridgely before the county was a county. People from Nicollet County have been involved in all U.S. conflicts from that time – the 1850s – forward.

Now we have for viewing at the History Center “Nicollet County and Its Military History,” an exhibit that goes back as far as the Civil War and is as up-to-date as Desert Storm. The fascinating displays put together by museum staffer Bob Sandeen and his volunteers include a presentation sword given to future Governor John A. Johnson by the county’s 1880s military group, Company I, along with pictures of the men of Company I when it was formed.

A large plaque memorializing the Battleship Maine, whose sinking at Cuba ignited the Spanish American War, is in the exhibit. The plaque is made of salvaged metal from the battleship. One such plaque was presented to each state of the union. How our Society ended up with Minnesota’s plaque is a happy mystery.

World War II army veteran Lyle Pearson of North Mankato, a B17 pilot shot down and taken prisoner

Military exhibit continued on page 9



Museum Staffer, Bob Sandeen, with two World War I uniforms among the many items on display in the military exhibit now open for viewing at the Treaty Site History Center.

Yanamamo Collection Finds New Homes

The Yanamamo Indians of the Amazon basin along the Brazil-Venezuela border form the largest indigenous nation in the Americas that still retains its traditional way of life. Since the 1980s, anthropologists worldwide have closely studied these people.

One of these anthropologists, the eminent and sometimes controversial Napoleon Chagnon, donated a collection of Yanamamo artifacts, including 200 baskets, hundreds of projectile points, bows and other items, to the Society when he spoke here in 1998. Fully knowing that we have no ties to the Yanamamo, he intended the collection to be a fund raising opportunity.

We enlisted the help of the Anthropology Department of Minnesota State University, Mankato, to locate a buyer which has proven to be more difficult than expected, but we will soon ship a small portion of the artifacts to Harvard University. Several other deals with major institutions are pending. We expect the remaining objects will be sold shortly.

Yanamamo continued on page 6

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Memorials

received since the last newsletter:

In memory of
Burt Hoffmann
Given by
Helen & Howard Lirse

the CROSSING
is a publication of
the Nicollet County
Historical Society.
Subscription is
free with a Society
membership.

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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.

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.

Partners in Time

My first trip to the Treaty Site History Center was ten years ago. Like so many others I traveled down the river valley from St. Paul to immerse myself in the Dakota War. Unlike most people, I approached the trip with little forethought, arrived after Labor Day, and found every state site closed for the season. Still, the brief trip left a lasting impression.

I had no idea ten years ago that fate and an impending career would bring me back. I'm excited to be here. The society has many things going for it: three wonderful sites in three great locations; an impressive collection; dedicated staff, board members, and volunteers; and most of all incredibly supportive host communities, members, and visitors. I'd like to personally thank NCHS members for supporting us through ups and downs, because you realize history is not a limited campaign, but a timeless partnership.

I've been here just a few weeks, but already have encountered wonderful support and goodwill. One of the most common things I've heard has been "well I used to be a member." As current members I look forward to the day I hear you all say, "I was a member when..." There are challenges ahead to be sure, but our society is moving forward. With your continued cooperation and the support of new and returning members, we can grow our programs and accomplish much.

*To me the crossing story
encompasses more than the 1851
Treaty. This place is about
different people coming together.*

We talk a lot about *the crossing* at the Treaty Site. I wouldn't be sitting here without it. Geologic and geographic forces conspired to bring people to this very point: the river, a fordable spot, rich surrounding lands. This has been a good place to be for thousands of years. To me *the crossing* story encompasses more than the 1851 Treaty. This place is about different people coming together. I'm paraphrasing the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis when I say, "What happened here continues to affect your life."

Director continued on page 9



Ben Leonard

And Now, A Sad Farewell What a Bang-up Year at the Harkin Store!

by Opal Dewanz



photo courtesy of John Cross, Mankato Free Press

Hello from the Harkin Store. It is hard to believe that the season is coming to an end. We have been really busy, with 5,723 visitors from May through August coming from 39 states and 14 countries. We've had 14 very successful Sunday afternoon programs this year. Assistant Site Manager Ruth Grewe and Guide Ken Arsers along with 20 volunteers have been invaluable in keeping the site running.

As many of you know, I will be retiring at the end of this year. I have been at the Harkin Store since it opened as a historical site in 1977. I was first a guide and then became site manager in 1979. What a great job (I got paid for talking) with so many wonderful and interesting visitors.

Over the years we have had great exposure. Charles Kuralt did a taping of the store and also wrote about it in his last book, *American Moments*. Jason Davis from KSTP Channel Five in Minneapolis did a live telecast from the site (what a circus). Many other tapings and interviews have been done about the store, all of which have been fun to be involved with. But now I find it is time to do some other things that I enjoy.

First of all will be traveling and spending time with my husband and family. I like to read and cross stitch and hope to have more time for those as well as for a number of volunteer

projects I am involved with. I'm sure I will miss the Harkin Store and the many wonderful people and certainly wish it great success in the future.

Goodbye, Opal, We'll Miss You

On behalf of NCHS I would like to thank Opal for so many wonderful and productive years at the store. I'm new in this job, but it didn't take me long at all to realize what a gem Opal is. I only hope we can build on the success she has created the last 27 years. That's a daunting task considering how extremely well the Harkin Store operates now.

Thank you Opal. We all appreciate you more than I can express. Best of luck!

~ Ben Leonard

What a
great job
(I got
paid for
talking)...

~ Opal

Left:

Opal at her familiar
post as site manager
of the Harkin Store.

excerpt from
American Moments
by Charles Kuralt,
Simon and Schuster, NYC,
1998

"Let's go shopping,
shall we? Shopping
for – another
time."

"We asked Opal
Dewanz what a
trip to the Harkin's
Store might have
set you back in
1870."

DEWANZ "A nickel
at that time, well
that would have
bought an inch of
chewing tobacco,
two pounds of
flour."

"A visit to the
store now will
set you back a
hundred years."

Autumn / Winter Events:

Come Out and Meet the Spirits Who Live On



Chief Red Iron

The ever popular and informative “Shadows at the Crossing: Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux” will be Saturday, October 9, on the Traverse des Sioux Interpretive Trail just north of the History Center. Groups will be led by costumed guides to the ‘spirits’ at stations on the trail beginning every 10 minutes from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Seven local actors will portray personalities who lived in the Traverse des Sioux area 150 years ago. The ‘spirits’ will tell dramatic and humorous stories about their lives and experiences. Refreshments will be provided in the History Center.

This year, visitors will meet Dr. Asa Daniels, St. Peter’s first medical doctor; Charles Flandrau, politician and hero at the battle of New Ulm; Elizabeth Harkin, who grew up at her father’s Harkin Store; popular Minnesota Governor John A. Johnson, a St. Peter native; Red Iron (Mazasha), chief of the Dakota Wahpeton band; and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Williamson and his sister Jane Williamson, missionaries to the Indians.

Each of these people had a lasting influence on Nicollet County and Minnesota as a whole. Their stories are fascinating, sometimes tragic and always inspiring. We of today owe them much.

The annual Shadows at the Crossing event is an opportunity to learn history without pain or effort and is appropriate for children as well as adults. The program is free for members of the Society. For non-members the cost is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children and \$10 for families.

Shaper of Minnesota Sibley: Trader, General, Congressman, Governor



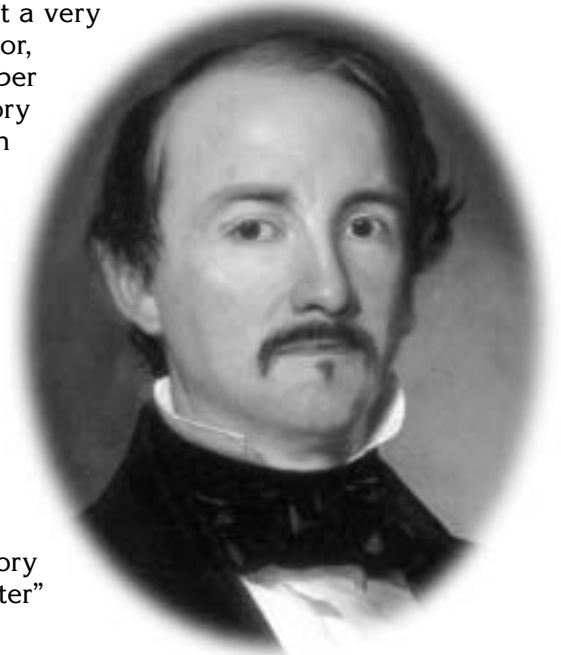
Rhoda R. Gilman, in addition to authoring *Henry Hastings Sibley: Divided Heart*, is the author of *The Story of Minnesota's Past* (MHS Press) and co-author of *The Red River Trails* (MHS Press). She is a founding member of Women Historians of the Midwest and a former candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota on a Green Party ticket.

Author historian Rhoda M. Gilman will present a very special program on Minnesota’s first governor, Henry Hastings Sibley, at 2 p.m., Sunday, October 3. This event, to be held in the Treaty Site History Center, is co-sponsored by the Joseph R. Brown Heritage Center of Henderson.

Gilman’s talk will be based on her latest book, *Henry Hastings Sibley: Divided Heart*, a portrait of this complex man. No person played a longer, more influential or more varied role in the shaping of early Minnesota than Sibley.

As a congressman representing what was then the Territory of Wisconsin, he procured, against much opposition, the passage of an act that organized the Territory of Minnesota on March 3, 1849. It was during this process that Itasca was considered for the name of the territory but Sibley insisted on Minnesota or “Cloudy Water” in the Dakota language.

Sibley continued on page 6



Henry Hastings Sibley, oil on canvas by Thomas Cantwell Healy, ca. 1860. From the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. Used with permission.

Straight Tongue Bishop Henry Whipple Will Be Impersonated and Interpreted

So far as is known, Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple was the only public man who had the courage to face the whirlwind of popular denunciation of all Indians and of the Dakota in particular in the 1860s. In some quarters the bishop came in for denunciation almost as spiteful and unsparing as that directed against the Sioux themselves, but he never budged an inch.

Bruce Dowlin of North Mankato, former president of our Society, will perform his very popular impersonation as Bishop Whipple at the History Center on Sunday, November 14 at 2 p.m. Dowlin has been in demand for this program throughout the upper midwest.

Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple (1822–1901) was the first Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota. When elected he was only 37 years old, but he had already spent ten years in business and politics, and had ten years of experience in the ministry. Minnesota had been a state for only one year.

Whipple did not agree with people who said that Indians were stupid, or evil, or heathen. He was respectful of their traditions and customs. He found ways to connect Native American beliefs to Christian beliefs. His attitudes were very unusual and extraordinarily compassionate for this time in history. Because of his integrity and concern for the Dakota, they called him “Straight Tongue.”

A friend of President Lincoln, Whipple was able to plead the cause of the more than 300 Dakota

condemned to execution in Mankato. Lincoln agreed to commute all but 39 of the death sentences. After an interview with Bishop Henry Whipple, President Abraham Lincoln told a visitor that Whipple “talked with me about the rascality of this Indian business, until I felt it down to my boots.”

Although based in Faribault, a town that was relatively small in a relatively

new state, Whipple traveled widely and was much admired by church and political leaders throughout the world, including Queen Victoria.

He founded the Episcopal cathedral in Faribault, first cathedral of any denomination in the United States, as well as the Shattuck and St. Mary’s schools and Seabury Seminary. He worked for Queen Victoria in Hawaii and among the Seminole Indians in Florida. His parish church at the Lower Sioux reservation is active to this day.



Bishop Henry Whipple
Credit: Russell & Sons, Minnesota Historical Society

Fun for all at Folk Fair November 5

There was a time when we couldn’t run to the store every time we needed something. Lots of things were made at home. To show how this was done, NCHS and the RSVP volunteer program will hold a Folk Fair at the Treaty Site History Center Friday, November 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

See quilters, woodworkers, musicians, and other great crafters making objects right before your eyes. There will be stations all around the muse-

um to learn from. Make your own craft projects, too.

It’s sure to be fun for all ages and everyone is welcome. St. Peter Schools have that day off. If you’re looking for something cool to do, stop in and participate.

Members enjoy free admission.

Remembering the Poor Farm

The Program Committee is continuing to gather information related to the Poor Farm in Nicollet County.

Thank you to those members and friends who have assisted us. As a work-in-progress, any ideas you have will gratefully be considered.

Thank you!

Shadows at the Crossing

Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux will return on Saturday, October 9th! This popular pageant returns for its third annual presentation. Plan to join us for Shadows at the Crossing. Dress warmly, bring your lantern or flashlight. Guides will leave the History Center with small groups at 10 minute intervals from 6 to 7 p.m. As you walk through the old village of Traverse des Sioux, meet spirits of the past—Dr. Asa Daniels, Charles Flandrau, Elizabeth Harkin, Gov. John A. Johnson, Red Iron, Jane Williamson and Rev. Dr. Thomas Williamson. Admission is free for NCHS members. For non-members, the cost is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children or \$10 for families.

Sibley continued from page 4

Sibley was friend to the Indians, settlers, soldiers, and merchants. He learned the Dakota language and was called by the Dakota, "Wah-pe-ton Houska" – "the tall trader."

In 1851 Henry Sibley headed a group of traders that was part of the official party who met with the Dakota at Traverse des Sioux to sign the treaty purchasing most of the land in Minnesota west of the Mississippi River.

It was a decisive victory by Sibley's troops at Wood Lake that put an end to the Dakota conflict, scattering the Indians across the plains to the west.

Rhoda Gilman has spent more than 30 years studying Sibley's life through articles, his unfinished autobiography and scores of family letters. Her acclaimed book, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press and available in our Museum Store, offers a perceptive portrait of this absorbing personality.

Yanamamo Collection
continued from page 1

While the society benefits from this transaction, and it is always wonderful to be associated with such respected institutions, this experience underscores our need to focus directly on Nicollet County history.

Our Treaty Site History Center is a fine building, but storage space is limited. If we accept items without a strong county connection, we take away space from artifacts and archival materials that help us preserve and interpret our own history. As the society enters a new era, we are proceeding carefully and thoughtfully in the way we collect and what we collect to ensure we do the best possible job.



Judy Hanson and her cousin Don Hendrickson pause in the preparations for their program, the Harvest Brigade, recently presented in Lafayette.

Judy checks final details with new NCHS Executive Director Ben Leonard and "retired" Interim Director John Christenson in the Lafayette Community Center.

MASSEY-HARRIS *Self-Propelled* Harvest Brigade



NCHS member/Nicollet County Commissioner Judy Hanson and her cousin Don Hendrickson joined in presenting a fascinating history of the World War II harvest Brigade recently in Lafayette. Sponsored by the NCHS, the illustrated program told of the Massey-Harris combines that harvested wheat from Texas to the Canadian border in order to salvage the crop and save fuel and manpower for the war effort. As a teenager, Don, who now lives in Roseville, participated in the Brigade.

The Museum Store

by Jessica Hollerich

In the few months I have worked here visitors from all over the States and also the world have come through the doors. Just this past month we saw many visitors from Minnesota but we also had visitors from Texas, Wisconsin, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Washington, Malaysia, England, and Belgium, just to name a few. It is interesting to see how many people come through the Treaty Site History Center doors and say they have been driving by for years and finally had the chance to stop.

At the beginning of October, the Museum Store will have a sales table to get ready for new inventory. We will also be rearranging the store to make it easier for shopping and to help promote sales. Come in and see the changes and shop for bargains!

We have stocked four new publications from the Minnesota Historical



Society just in time for fall. *Minnesota In the Mail: A Postcard History*, by Bonnie G. Wilson, is a richly illustrated history of Minnesota postcards, with images

selected from a collection of more than 20,000 cards.

Wilson explores the significance of postcards as cultural artifacts.

Canoeing with the Cree is by Eric Sevareid, the eminent journalist. Sevareid began his book-publishing career in 1935 with this exciting account of the adventurous 2,250-mile canoe trip he and a friend made as teenagers from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay (passing the Treaty site on his way up the Minnesota River).

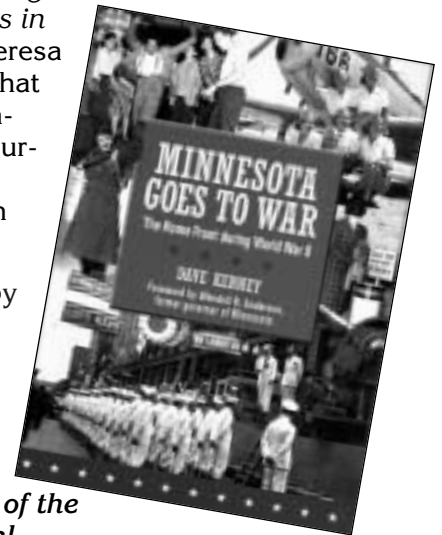
Abundantly Wild: Collecting and Cooking Wild Edibles in the Upper Midwest, by Teresa Marrone, is a cookbook that shows how to take advantage of the edible foods surrounding you and how to make yummy dishes with your harvest.

Minnesota Goes to War, by Dave Kenney, chronicles a time when ordinary sacrifice and extraordinary courage was a part of daily life.

Remember, all members of the Nicollet County Historical Society receive a 10% discount on all purchases from the gift shop. If you are not a member, perhaps this would be a good time to consider joining the Society.



Jessica, Museum Store Manager and the welcoming face at the Treaty Site History Center.



Kids Korner ... find the governor

N	I	B	A	C	L	X	V	A	F	H	N
A	O	Y	P	L	C	W	Z	R	P	O	A
T	T	I	P	E	S	H	L	O	S	N	M
G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R	N	A	I	O
T	H	I	N	K	A	N	H	I	N	E	W
L	O	U	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	R
U	C	B	I	B	J	R	Q	E	A	T	E
A	L	E	X	A	P	O	P	K	D	A	H
P	E	E	N	I	M	O	N	A	R	H	S
T	S	H	E	R	A	L	D	E	I	U	A
S	O	F	D	A	I	U	C	P	H	E	W
J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	T	W	K

All the words below, relating to the life of one of St. Peter's five governors, appear in the puzzle to the left. Circle all of them, plus the hidden name of the governor. Bring your result, with your name and phone number, to the Treaty Site History Center to be entered in a drawing for a \$10 Museum Store Gift Certificate.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Democrat | Journalist |
| Herald | Clerk |
| Governor | Nora |
| Nominee | Honor |
| Cabin | St. Paul |
| Washerwoman | Third |
| Appendix | _____ |
| | (his name) |

Members:
We are looking for young historians wishing to take the challenge of our **Kids Corner**. 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.

Cox House Christmas: *Oh, You Beautiful Doll!*



Cox House Thoughts

We would like to thank Tom Hohenstein and the wonderful Cox House volunteers for an amazing summer. The Cox House is a tremendous asset for the Society, St. Peter, the county, and the state.

As of this writing, we are working hard to put the Cox House on a permanent secure financial footing. I would hate for us not to be able to build on this summer's successes. If you would like to get involved in preserving the Cox House either financially, personally, or both, please call me at (507) 934-2160.

~ Ben Leonard



Barbara Olmanson with some of the many dolls that will be on display for the Cox House Christmas theme, "Dolls We Cherish." On the right is a doll that belonged to Barb's mother. Little boy dolls, like the one on the left, are extremely rare. All three are from around 1900.

Dolls We Cherish will be the theme for the very special annual Cox House Christmas event. The Cox House will be decked out by the Questers Club, and will include displays of dozens of dolls through the ages, antique to modern.

The Christmas Celebration at the Cox House will be Saturday and Sunday, December 4 and 5 and December 11 and 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. on all four days.

In addition to the very special decorations, interesting musical

groups and soloists will fill the Italianate Victorian home with music of the season. Cookies, bars, coffee, and hot cider will be offered to all guests.

As in past years all second graders, public and parochial, will visit the house while it is decorated.

Special Events Highlighted Cox House Summer Tom Hohenstein, Cox House Manager

The 2004 Summer Season at the E. St. Julien Cox House was highlighted by three main programs: the potting shed dedicated to Burt Hoffmann, woodcarving and spinning demonstrations, and a Victorian Kids Day.

Burt Hoffmann, who recently passed away, was not only a long term volunteer for the Nicollet County Historical Society but also designed and built the very special Cox House Potting Shed for Mariah's Garden committee to use. The dedication afternoon consisted of a nice gathering of friends and family recalling their memories of Burt's life.

On July 29 the Cox House hosted Richard Crumb and Joy Gerard. Crumb, from New Richland, set up his wood carving station and exhibited many of his finished pieces while Gerard, from New Ulm, practiced her talent in spinning.

Our final event this summer allowed today's young children to experience child games of the Victorian Era. Games included Chess, Checkers, Lawn Bowling, Croquet, "Old Maid," Parcheesi, and others.

Again this summer the Cox House was blessed with a healthy core of volunteers to help set up and run events as well as maintain grounds and garden. Our volunteers logged in well over 200 hours and were a crucial part of the continued function of the Cox House.

Volunteers included Cathy Britz, Amy Bur, Arlyce Bussman, Marge Halvorson, Janet Hoffmann, Gale Kreykes, Stan Lindquist, Barb Olmanson, Marilyn Robertz, Jane Thompson, Bev Wetherill, Ed Wetherill, Joanne Hohenstein, Mary Long, Nancy Meyer, and Judy Scholl. I apologize to anyone I may have forgotten and thank everyone who helped out this summer.



Tom, Cox House Manager for summer 2004, has now returned to college, but will continue to serve the Society as weekend receptionist through December.

Military Exhibit continued from page 1



by the Germans, has loaned a number of documents, copies of which are on display. The Viet Nam U.S. Army uniform of Lyle Pearson Jr. is also in the exhibit.

The medals and kit of William Carey Brown, known as the second white person born in Nicollet County, are included in the exhibit. Brown graduated from West Point in 1877 and went on to fight in the Indian Wars, the Spanish American War, the Philippine insurrection, Mexican border skirmishes and World War I. He won a silver star in Cuba and was praised by Theodore Roosevelt. His medals, especially from the Indian Wars, are very rare.

Uniforms from different periods of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force are on show, almost as though they are on parade. A case of Civil War items carried by Nicollet County soldiers include canteen, rifle with bayonet, knapsack and other items.

Posters promoting war bonds and patriotism adorn the walls. World War II rationing items are in display cases. A number of weapons are also on exhibit.

Sandeen explains that the show is a work in progress, and will evolve over time. Visitors are welcome to view the artifacts now, and may want to return at a later date to discover other items that will be added.

While the museum has many World War II items, Sandeen encourages county residents to search their attics and basements for articles pertaining to Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and now even Iraq. The historical society would welcome these as donations or loans that will go on honoring the men and women of the county who have been in uniform.

Director continued from page 2

People continue to come together here. You came together in enduring two world wars, floods, and the 1998 tornado, becoming stronger with each adversity.

Every fall a new group of college students comes together to study and learn a lot about life in the process. New residents arrive in increasing numbers from places as close as the Twin Cities and as far away as equatorial Africa and Greece.

NCHS is here to serve everyone who lives and visits Nicollet County, and I am invigorated by these opportunities for new partnerships and friendships.

As one of those new county residents, I am amazed and pleased by all I see. My family frequents our library, I'm trying to get more exercise at the St. Peter Community Center, and we've made repeated trips to the city's hardware stores. (Home projects are not my strong suit.) I've witnessed the wonderful improvements to Highway 14 first-hand at very slow speed, and found the best pork chops to ever touch a grill. In a few days my daughter will be starting pre-school, both my kids will start swimming, and life will resume its busy routine.

As director I care deeply about our society's mission, interpretation, and operation—and I should. But after work I'm no different from anyone else. Just like you, my family has chosen to come together in Nicollet County.

Everyone's daily lives comprise the county's stories. We all share in creating those stories, and we all share in ensuring those stories are preserved for our children, new neighbors, students, and each other. Together we can do that.

Wanted: Artifacts from the Neighbors

This message is for folks in Lafayette, North Mankato, St. George, Nicollet and other points of the county.

We are still trying to acquire more family and historical information from areas outside St. Peter. Our photo collection, while extensive, is weak from the areas west of St. Peter.

We are a county historical society and as such we really want to be inclusive. Please consider donating any photographs or artifacts pertaining to residents of the county. Remember, one person's trash is another's treasure, and you'd be surprised at the things we treasure.

Strolling the streets of Nicollet

The arrival in 1870 of the Winona-St. Peter Railroad moved Nicollet to the present day site. In 1892 the village had four churches; a school; a bank; a doctor; four general stores; furniture, hardware, implement, jewelry, boot, millinery, and drug stores; three saloons; three elevators; three blacksmiths; a creamery; two hotels; butcher, barber, and print shops; and a lumber yard and stock yards.

A plat of "Town of Nicollet" was dated June 30, 1874. This tells of the date village lands were platted by James H. Stewart and Walter L. Brackenridge. Many deeds of the village, which have been examined, also bear out the above historical reference.

Excerpted from:
<http://www.nicollet.org/NicolletOrg/pages/nichistory.html>
where a detailed Nicollet history is available.

Photos from the archives of the Nicollet County Historical Society.



from top down:
Pine Street looking South 18??;
Pine Street looking North 18??;
Third Street looking West 18??.



HELP: Nicollet residents – can you help us accurately date these pictures? Stop in or call the archives at NCHS.

City of Nicollet Sesquicentennial Coming Up

The city of Nicollet will be celebrating its sesquicentennial (150th birthday) in 2006. Planning has begun in earnest and many exciting projects are in the works. One is a book to commemorate and cover the city's 150 years. If you have stories, memories, photographs, or other historical items we can include, the committee would love to hear from you. Please contact Ben at the historical society, tshc@hickorytech.net, (507) 934-2160.

Friendship Days 2006 will be here before you know it. We'll keep you updated as this exciting celebration draws near.

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 2004 at the following level (please check one).

- Individual** \$ 30
- Family** \$ 45
- Sustaining** \$ 75
- Patron** \$ 100
- Supporter** \$ 200
- Benefactor** \$ 500
- Life Member** \$ 1,000

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 Society Favorites TSHC Exhibit Room
Selections of favorites from the collection, chosen by our new NCHS Director, staff, and members of the exhibits committee. \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

Saturday, October 9 Shadows at the Crossing: Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux TSHC & Townsite
This popular annual pageant will be back for the third year, featuring the re-embodiments of frontier folks and settlers at Traverse des Sioux and Nicollet County. Beginning at 6 p.m. with tours commencing every 10 minutes until 7 p.m. \$5 for adults; \$1 children; \$10 families. NCHS members free.

Sunday, October 3 Henry Hastings Sibley: Divided Heart TSHC
Rhoda Gilman, author of Henry Hastings Sibley: Divided Heart. This special program is being co-sponsored by NCHS and the J.R. Brown Heritage Center of Henderson. 2 p.m. \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

Friday, November 5 Folk Fair TSHC
Quilters, woodworkers, musicians, and other great crafters making objects right before your eyes. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. \$3 for adults; \$1 for children 6 and older; NCHS members free.

Sunday, November 14 Straight Tongue: Bishop Henry Whipple TSHC
Bruce Dowlin, re-enacts Bishop Henry Whipple, champion of the Dakota people in the 1860s. 2 p.m. \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

Saturday & Sunday, December 4 & 5 & December 11 & 12 Christmas Celebration at the Cox House E. St. Julien Cox House
Antique dolls, music, house tours and refreshments. 1–4 p.m. all four days. \$3 for adults; \$.50 students 13–18; NCHS members and children 12 and under admitted free.

Sunday, January 16 MARK YOUR CALENDARS Gustavus Banquet Room
NCHS ANNUAL MEETING *You will receive an invitation as soon as details are finalized.*

TBA Welcome Our New Director Reception TBA
Watch for upcoming publicity and join us to meet and greet, Ben Leonard, the new executive director of the Nicollet County Historical Society.



**Nicollet County
Historical Society**

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue

St. Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit
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St. Peter, MN

Society Favorites Featured in Fanciful Exhibit

Over the years the Society has collected some interesting, important, and even indescribable artifacts. They don't always fit into the exhibits we mount, though. We've decided to create a special eclectic display just for them – Society Favorites.

NCHS staff, board members, and volunteers have picked some of their favorite items from the collection. Come see an organ, the actual legislative bill that would have made St. Peter the State Capital, and other finds from the collection.



Two
"what's-its"
from the Society
Favorites exhibit
which recently
opened at NCHS.
Take a guess
as to their function,
then come and
explore the exhibit
to see if you guessed
correctly.

