

the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

December 2006 • Volume 11 / Issue 4

Read All About It! Newsworthy Annual Meeting January 14th

The Society welcomes area reporters and photographers to discuss covering Nicollet County in the press at the 2007 Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 14th. Representatives from the Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger, St. Peter Herald, and Mankato Free Press will share their thoughts and photographs.



The meeting, as in previous years, will be held at Gustavus Adolphus College in the Jackson Campus Center. The food is always excellent and the program promises to be extremely interesting.

Members will vote in three new board members for 2007 during the business meeting. We are extremely pleased with this year's nominations: Arden DeBoer, Lafayette; Julie Gilbert, St. Peter; and Gary Schmidt, North Mankato and Nicollet.

The meal will be served at 1 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 2:15, and the program

at 3 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$5 for those wishing to only attend the program. For tickets please contact Jessica by January 5th at 507-934-2160 or museum@nchsmn.org or complete the reservation form found on page 11 of this newsletter and mail with payment by January 5th.

The office and staff of the St. Peter Herald. H.J. Essler, at left, and future Governor John A. Johnson are shown in the upstairs office of the St. Peter Herald newspaper. The site was in a building located on the southwest corner of the intersection of South Minnesota avenue and Nassau Street in St. Peter.

Big Sale on the Way

With the holidays around the corner, everyone is thinking about unique gifts that they can get family and friends. We carry gifts for all ages, from toys and books for the children, like small and large stuffed animals; and prints and books for the adults, like *The Dakota War of 1862* by Kenneth Carley.

Starting in December, the Treaty Site History Center will be having a sale on everything in the store. The merchandise in the store is the remaining gift shop merchandise from the Society's stores at Harkin, Fort Ridgely, and the Treaty Site History Center. Books, clothing, and

by Jessica Hollerich

gift items will all be priced to move at 25% off. There will be no member discounts during the sale.

Also remember that you can now shop online at www.nchsmn.org and get the items that you need or any items for a gift. Visit us at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter, the Harkin Store, or Fort Ridgely.

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Memorials

received since the last newsletter:

In Memory of
John Bresnahan

Given By
**Donna & Malcolm
Mackenzie**

**Marian Olson Babcock &
Gretchen Gilbert**

Robert & Leona Isenberg

In Memory of
Melvin Brown

Given By
Lorraine & Harold Olson

In Memory of
Frankie Anderson

Given By
John & Carol Dranttel

In Memory of
Merton Kirby

Given By
Bev & Ed Wetherill

**Marian Olson Babcock &
Gretchen Gilbert**

In Memory of
Marvis Mueller

Given By
Harold & Lorraine Olson

In Memory of
**Grace Joan Murnan
Schrantz & Joseph J.
Murnan**

Given By
Rita Kramer Joerg

In Memory of
Dr. Ann Rotrammel

Given By
Carol & Martin Menk, Jr.

In Memory of
Hazel Witty

Given By
**Marian Olson Babcock &
Gretchen Gilbert**

Donations

received since the last newsletter:

**Beth Russell
Schroeder Log Home Supply
Bill & Marilyn Robertz
Arden DeBoer
Beatrice Martinson**

Executive Board

President, Garfield Eckberg, Nicollet
Vice President, LaVonne Craig, North Mankato
Secretary, Evie Swenson, Nicollet
Treasurer, Herb Poncin, Nicollet
Historian, Marie Dranttel, St. Peter

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Arlyce Bussman, St. Peter
Bruce Davis, St. Peter
Brenda DeBlicke, St. Peter
Chuck Eggert, St. Peter
Thorild Nelson, Nicollet
Sujay Rao, St. Peter
Diane Stenson, St. Peter
Jane Swenson, Nicollet
Ed Wetherill, St. Peter

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Harkin Store Site Manager, Ruth Grewe

Harkin Store Asst. Site Mgr., Ross Gersten

TSHC Museum Assistants, Brian McDonald &
Hal Johnson

TSHC Maintenance, Ron Carlberg

Ft. Ridgely Site Manager, Nancy Zempel

Ft. Ridgely Asst. Site Mgr., Randy Kvam

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: www.nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N. Washington Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Cox House Phone: (507) 934-4309

Closed for the season;
reopens weekends in May

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

Closed for the season;
reopens weekends in May

Fort Ridgely

72404 County Road 30

Fairfax, Minn. 55332

Fort Ridgely Phone: (507) 426-7888

Website: ridgely@nchsmn.org

Closed for the season;
reopens weekends in May

Director's Report

I am a product of the 1980s and grew up on sitcoms. Every sitcom had that one show where all the actors, for one reason or another, were busy with other projects, previous commitments, or vacations. So rather than punt and show a rerun they came up with some lame premise—a snowstorm or stomach flu that kept everyone laid up to reminisce about the past. They'd shoot 5 minutes of new footage and recycle 25 minutes of old clips to knit together a new episode.



Ben Leonard

In the midst of this holiday season we find ourselves busy with commitments, working on projects, and looking forward to some vacations. It seems like a great time to look back at what's been a great 2006.

The Nicollet Sesquicentennial exhibit drew 1,700 visitors during Friendship Days and we collected over 1,500 Nicollet area photographs over the past two years. The Society managed Fort Ridgely and Traverse des Sioux State Historic Sites for the first time this past season.

Through the generosity of many individuals and foundations we were able to pay off our remaining debt, upgrade exhibits, add resources, and increase programming. One grant from the Higher Education Consortium on Urban Affairs allowed us to forge relationships with the County's new immigrant communities.

We were extremely grateful for the wealth of media coverage with many prominent features in the *St. Peter Herald*, *Mankato Free Press*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger*, *New Ulm Journal*, *Fairfax Standard*, *KNJ*, and *KEYC TV*.

I was able to represent the Society at the American Association for State and Local History annual meeting in Phoenix and the Inter-City Leadership Visit to Fort Collins, Colorado.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to the staff, Board, members, and friends of the Society. All of you made this a wonderfully rewarding year. Thanks to you all. I can't wait for next year's brand-new episodes.

A stylized handwritten signature of Ben Leonard in black ink.

Ben Leonard, Director

It May Be Time to Re-Member

2007 is right around the corner, and for many of you, that means it's membership renewal time. We thank you for your support in 2006 and look forward to serving you again in 2007. Even if it's not time to renew we'd love to hear from you. Maybe there is a site we should know about, a story that needs to be told or preserved, or a program you would like to see. If you have any questions about membership, comments, or ideas, don't hesitate to check out our website: www.nchsmn.org, email us at museum@nchsmn.org, or call Jessica at 507-934-2160. We also thank all of our business members. They have all made a special commitment to preserving our past and we applaud them for it. Moreover, we should all make an effort to support those businesses that commit to making our communities better.

Log Cabin Update

Falling temperatures haven't totally dampened the spirits of our log cabin volunteers. They have been busy. The cabin is now freshly power-washed and sporting new doors. It's a lot easier to see the cabin from the road after brush and trees have been removed. We would like to thank Schroeder Log Home Supply of Grand Rapids for donating \$1,000 worth of chinking materials. The donation was made even more gracious by the company hand-delivering the van load.

Buon Natale
FELIZ NAVIDAD

PEACE MELE KALIKIMAKA
Seasons Greetings

NOEL JOY
joyeux noel

*to you and yours ~ happy holidays
and wishing you a prosperous
New Year from all of us at the
Nicollet County Historical Society*

Give the Gift of Membership

Searching for a Christmas gift this year that doesn't break, take up more room in the garage, or get left on the stairs? An NCHS membership is a wonderful gift that keeps giving all year-round with free admission to sites and programs, quarterly newsletter, and discounts at three museum stores. We will send a special card that's great through the mail or in a stocking.

A New Face at the Society

The society would like to introduce and welcome a new employee. Hal Johnson has already started as a museum assistant at the Treaty Site History Center and will be greeting visitors and helping run the museum store. Hal moved back to St. Peter after living in Skyline for 35 years. He has a strong interest in history and Native Americans and their culture and he finds that being involved with the Treaty Site History Center is very rewarding. He'll be happy to tell you more about himself at the Treaty Site History Center, Tuesdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Hal Johnson, new museum assistant at NCHS

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

Contributors for this issue:

Ruth Grewe
Janet Hoffmann
Jessica Hollerich
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz
Ben Leonard
Bob Sandeen
Nancy Zempel

Members

received since the last newsletter:

Renewed

BENCO Electric - \$200 Business
Nicollet County Bank - \$200 Business
Richard Beran - Family
Paul & Connie Eckberg - Family
Lona Falencykowski - Individual
Ruth Jackson - Individual
Mary Klinger - Individual
Loren & Betty Lindsay - Family
Gustavus Adolphus College - \$1,000 Business

New

Ruth Brandel - Individual
Rita Kramer Joerg - Individual
Judith Penhiter - Individual

Holiday Treats on Display at the TSHC

Prints and originals of nationally-acclaimed artist Marian Anderson are now on display. Early in her career Marian was known for her portrait painting, for which she won numerous awards in portraiture. Her career has also included a surrealism period which won international recognition after several pieces were exhibited in New York City.

Her work today is very diverse ranging from Wildlife and Western to Landscape and Nostalgia. Each painting reflects countless hours of research and planning before she begins to paint. Marian paints oil on stretched canvas because she likes the “live feeling” under her brush. Her art is exhibited in galleries and private art collections throughout the United States and abroad. The exhibit reflects Marian’s widely ranging talents and includes something for everyone.

John Braun wanted to build something for his granddaughter Madeleine as a Christmas present in the fall of 2000. His unique idea blended history, architecture, and craftsmanship to create an exact doll house replica of his own St. Peter residence.

John and Mimi Braun bought the St. Peter house at 225 College Avenue in 1989 from its

only owners. It was built in 1940 at a cost of \$3,000 for George Anderson, former Gustavus English professor and St. Peter mayor, and his family.

Many Anderson mementos in the house still remain, including a basement darkroom and the Anderson children’s names scrawled on bedroom heat runs. Two items from the yard currently reside at the Cox House. The stone hitching post and carriage step likely first came from the old First Lutheran Church.

John used the home’s original blueprints to meticulously reproduce the model, built to the internationally-known doll house scale of one inch equals one foot. Every detail has been painstakingly copied from the real brick chimney to the kitchen linoleum.

Both Marian Anderson’s artworks and John Braun’s masterful doll house are on display through the holidays at the Treaty Site History Center.



Photo credit: Anders Bjorling

Above: Exterior of the original and the miniaturized copy.

Right: The incredibly detailed interior of the dining room and staircase of John Braun’s beautifully crafted creation.



Winning Recipe for Hot Dish Heaven Program

About fifty people attended NCHS's November 19th program at Trinity Lutheran Church. Former St. Peter resident, retired Star Tribune Taste Section Editor, and author Ann Burckhardt discussed her most recent book, *Hot Dish Heaven*. The book has been selected as a New York Times Christmas selection this year and is available at the Treaty Site museum store. Beatrice Martinson won the Nicollet County Hot Dish Challenge held during the event and has graciously provided the winning recipe. Congratulations Bea and thanks to all who attended!

Baked Fish Salad Casserole

1 - 14 oz. package of artificial crab or lobster
 1-1/2 cup chopped celery
 1/4 cup each of chopped onion, green pepper, and pimento or more

Combine above and add

3/4 cup sour cream
 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire
 1/2 teaspoon salt and dash pepper

Blend and mix into fish mixture. Spoon into baking dish.

Sprinkle over 1 cup soft bread crumbs mixed with 1 tablespoon butter melted.

Bake at 350 degrees 30 minutes. Serves 6.

(Can use no fat or low fat for sour cream and mayonnaise successfully)



Hot dish judge Bev Wetherill gets some advise from Marilyn Robertz in her decision for the winning hot dish recipe.

photo credit: Luke Gronneberg / The Free Press

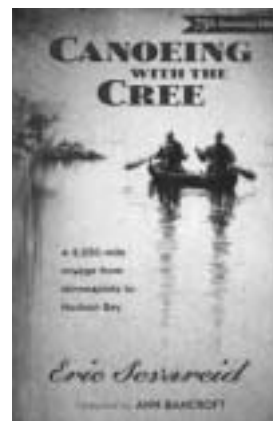
Upcoming Events

During the upcoming year, we have a few events planned that are sure to get you coming back for them. On March 24th, we will be hosting another **Mike Lynch Starwatch** class, location to be determined. He will be teaching about the stars, constellations, planets, star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae with an indoor orientation followed by quality time outside under the heavens.

Todd Foster, in front, and Scott Miller, behind him, traveled to Canada's Hudson Bay, by canoe. The two followed a route made famous in Eric Severeid's book *Canoeing with the Cree*. photo credit: MPR Photo/Tim Post



On May 6th, we will have Scott Miller and Todd Foster who embarked upon a 2250-mile historical canoe expedition from Saint Cloud to Hudson Bay. They will tell about their experiences canoeing to Hudson Bay. So join us for the Hudson Bay Expedition.



On August 26th, we will have the Raptor Center of Minnesota back for another program that will introduce the **Myths and Legends of Raptors in Minnesota**. They will be bringing three or four different raptors, with one being a bald eagle. Hope you all can join us for these and many more programs during the year!!



One of several images from the NCHS collection which will soon be mounted on TSHC lobby windows.

History Center Windows to get Star Treatment

Thanks to a recent grant, the front window façade at the Treaty Site History Center will get a historic makeover soon. Images from our collection will be enlarged, mounted on UV film, and mounted to 24 lobby windows. The 77"x25" images, visible both inside and out, will really make the lobby look stunning, as well as provide interpretive elements and UV protection. Look for those and a few other additions to the lobby by December 21st!

Nicollet County Collects

A new exhibit, Nicollet County Collects, is planned for early 2007. What makes people start collections? What do you collect? Would you be willing to show off any of your collections? Let us know at 507-934-2160 or museum@nchsmn.org.

Can you beat these collections?

- gum ball machines
- nutcrackers
- music boxes
- St. Peter banknotes
- pool toys
- Nicollet County advertising items
- pink purses
- postcards of women with ironing boards
- cow kitchen items
- woodburned handkerchief boxes
- St. Peter cigar boxes
- Nevada casino ashtrays
- vials of sand
- potholders
- lace and tatting
- shot glasses
- Minnesota State Fair memorabilia
- wine corks
- dominoes
- photographs of doorways
- miniature books
- snowglobes
- beanie babies
- Basset Hounds
- hat pins

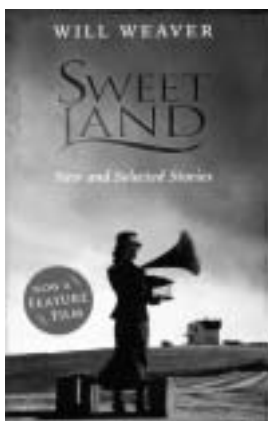


Curl Up With A Good Book and Support the Society This Winter

Gather at the Treaty Site History Center for refreshments and lively discussion of some great regional reads. Join us for one or all five books. Register with St. Peter Community Education at 507-934-3048 or http://www.stpeterschools.org/early_childhood.htm for \$4 per month or \$15 for the series. Everyone is welcome. Books will be available for sale from the Treaty Site History Center museum store at a 20% participant discount or through local libraries.

7–8:30 p.m., January 18th – *A Witness of Combines*

“Kent Meyers reminisces about growing up on a 200-acre farm on the southern Minnesota prairie during the 1960s and 1970s. Meyers is an award-winning author whose storytelling skills will captivate all readers as he recollects farming and rural life in Minnesota.” ~ *Library Journal*



7–8:30 p.m., February 15th – *Sweet Land*

St. Peter Reads will host author Will Weaver in St. Peter February 13th. Weaver, an award-winning Bemidji-based writer, has published two highly-acclaimed collections of short stories including *Sweet Land* as well as *Red Earth White Earth* and several novels for young-adults. *Sweet Land*, now a major motion

picture, is based on one of the book’s short stories. Don’t miss this fantastic author’s visit!

Other titles include:

March 15th – *through Dakota Eyes*, April 19th – *A Plague of Frogs: Unraveling an Environmental Mystery*, and May 17th – *Canoeing with the Cree* by Eric Severeid. In 1930 two novice paddlers—Eric Severeid and Walter C. Port—launched a secondhand 18-foot canvas canoe into the Minnesota River at Fort Snelling for an ambitious 2,250 mile journey to Hudson Bay. Seventy-five years later Scott Miller and Todd Foster traveled from St. Cloud to Hudson Bay along the same route in 2005. Scott and Todd will be at the Treaty Site May 6th to discuss their epic trip.

Genealogy Corner: Researching in State Hospital Records

It’s hard to spend any time in St. Peter and not know there is a State Hospital here. Many are aware that it was actually the first State

Hospital built in 1866 that had as many as 2,000 residents in the early 1900s. Fewer realize that the St. Peter State Hospital and others like it throughout Minnesota offer some of the richest government documents for genealogists. Those tracing ancestors who spent time as patients in St. Peter should turn first to “Statistical Records A and B” located at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. These ledgers cover patients admitted from 1865 through the early 1900s. Entries are chronological so researchers will have to know when patients were admitted. The corresponding probate records, many of which are also located at MHS, will provide an alphabetical way to determine date of admittance. Once located, admission records may contain nativity, county of residence, physical descriptions, mental analysis, family relations, and discharge. Only records less than 75 years old are restricted. Relative not a patient? No need to worry. Those searching for others find a gold mine in payroll records, nursing class lists, and daily logs. Most St. Peter State Hospital Records reside at the Minnesota Historical Society and Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Below: St. Peter Hospital for the Insane from a postcard in the collection of Robert Sandeen.



Ancestors buried on State Hospital grounds?

In the 1990s, the nonprofit group **Remembering With Dignity** began replacing anonymously numbered grave markers over approximately 12,000 plots with the names and dates of those buried in them and presently maintain a database which may allow you to find a long lost relative. Entering its 10th year, the group has placed 2,500 identifying markers over graves. ... Thanks to previous funding, a marker at the treatment center cemetery in St. Peter, for instance, no longer reads simply: No. 606. It now bears the name Charles Goll, as well as his birth year 1858 and death on Dec. 15, 1918. “The work of identifying the people buried—that’s the physical work, but the overall point is really to talk about community living versus institutionalization,” Fasset-Carman said. Supporters of the effort won a court case in Rice County in 1997 that forced the release of the names of those buried in the cemeteries.

Active Archives **Bob Sandeen, Research Coordinator**

The microfilmed newspapers and the microfilm reader/printer donated by the St. Peter Public Library are being put to good use. The new material has made it much easier to do family history research. In addition, basic historical research has become much easier.

We have received a grant which will allow us to purchase a large number of rolls of microfilmed newspapers, including a group of issues of the *Mankato Free Press* that cover the years from 1940 through at least 1964. This will provide coverage of the World War Two years, the Korean War, the 1951 flood, and, possibly, the 1965 flood.

Dick Muesing and I are continuing to add and catalog images for the museum's archives. A number of people have let us scan their photographs or slides, and store the scans as digital images. This permits the owners to keep their originals.

Recently, we have digitized a large number of slides from North Mankato, including a number of views that were taken prior to the construction of the four-lane highway. Several aerial views are included from that time period. Some of the slides show only farm land where upper North Mankato is now located.



We have also digitized slides showing scenes during the 1965 flood in St. Peter. Bob Swedberg, who was the photographer, donated the set of slides to the museum. The images are

in color, and show scenes from several sites in St. Peter. There are also aerial views that show the extent of the flooding.

Bob also donated a group of slides that were intended to be used to make postcard views of St. Peter. The set includes images of buildings, such as churches, that have since disappeared.

We are gathering images from the Norseland area as well.


The churches in the community will both observe their 150th anniversaries in 2008. A celebration is planned, and a book about the history of the Norseland area will be published.

Images from any part of the county are of interest to us. We are always willing to take a look at images that you think may be useful. Remember, they can be from any time period—they do not need to be 100 years old! The original images will be returned to the owner after they are scanned, if the owner does not wish to donate them to the museum.

The people who have already brought images for us to scan have brought us genuine treasures! By generously sharing their images with us, they have significantly helped us gain a better understanding of our county's history.

Marlin Peterson, originally from the New Sweden area, donated a set of seven United States Army uniforms that he acquired during more than 30 years in the armed forces. We also appreciate the detailed information about each uniform that Marlin has provided. Marlin's donation covers a time period from which we previously had no uniforms. His unique gift is greatly appreciated!

Above: Water where is ought not to be! Documentation of the 1965 flood from a recent donation to the NCHS archives collection by local photographer Bob Swedberg.



NCHS especially thanks the St. Peter United Way for 2006 general operating support.

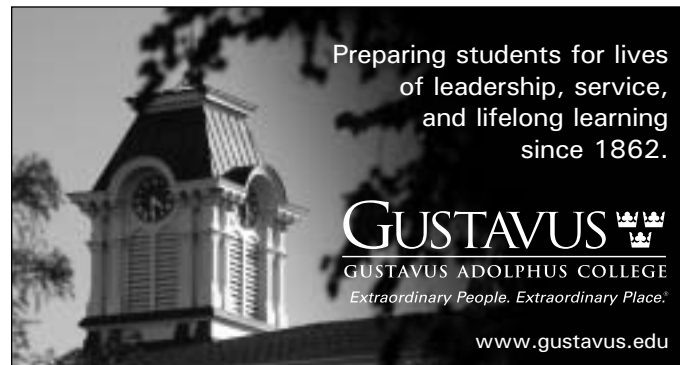
Artifact Donors & Donations since September newsletter:

- Muesing, Dick: "Class of Nicollet High School 2006 Fifty year class reunion"
- Renville County Historical Society: commemorative ribbon for the "Dedication Chippewa Monument at Fort Ridgely, Aug. 20th 1914"
- Hopp, Art: original documents of the Hopp family
- Wright, Gertrude: wooden corn planter, stereoscope and stereophoto views, World War Two United States Army uniform with dress jacket, shirts, black tie, trousers, infantry cap, hats, mittens, and sleeping bag, medical items
- Werth, Melvin G.: color photograph of the Dairy Queen in St. Peter at 953 North Minnesota Avenue, dated 1974
- Hanson, Judy D.: assorted St. Peter High School items, two Nicollet County Centennial Fair buttons from 1971
- Bresnahan, Richard and Rejean: plaque from Nicollet, MN from the Henry Epper Oil Company and from Giefer and Will Trucking: "Giefer and Wills started their business in 1939. They rented half of Epper's office. Henry Epper was in business about 5-6 years prior to 1939."
- Swedberg, Robert: color slides of St. Peter, including the 1965 flood, views of the business district along Minnesota Ave. and of significant buildings in the community; St. Peter High School yearbooks for 1968 and '73
- Scandian Grove Lutheran Church: minutes book of the Scandian Grove Cornet Band from Norseland, Minn. from 1892-95
- Norseland Lutheran Church and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church: CD of images from Norseland Lutheran Church and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church and anniversary photos
- Dey, Gordon I.: Lafayette, Minn. fireman's jacket, cap, and plaque from Lafayette fireman Bill Volinkaty
- Rossow, Jim: postcard of the school at the intersection of Belgrade Avenue and Center Street in North Mankato, Minn.
- Gersten, Ross: Delta Records 33 1/3 rpm record of the St. Peter High School Choir, No. 391-60M
- Johnson, Harold: Kasota High School book: "Memories 1940-47"
- Ziegler, Ken: plow
- Pettis, Dean Milton: 116-page compilation of the "Descendants of Melissa Jane Pettis"
- Peterson, Marlin: seven United States Army fatigue uniforms from 1971-2006, including pants, shirts, caps, and boots: OG107 uniform, OG507 uniform, BDU heavy-weight uniform, BDU light-weight uniform, DCU desert (early pattern), DCU desert (late pattern), three extra pairs of boots from the 1950s and 1960s; two charts of army uniforms; postcard view of "The Old Millstone ... Saint Ansgar's Academy" at Gustavus.
- Bernadotte Lutheran Church: church booklets from 1941 and 1976, photographs from 1941, 1956, 1966, and 1991, assorted documents


Archives Collection Grows By Leaps and Bounds

Last newsletter we reported two thoughtful gifts to the NCHS Archives. An anonymous donor's \$3,700 was the catalyst in transforming our library into a regional research center. That gift coupled with a donation from the St. Peter Public Library of a microfilm reader/printer, storage cabinet, and 100 years of St. Peter Heralds was only the beginning. Thanks to a \$2,500 matching grant from the Minnesota Historical Society's Grants-in-Aid program the total donation equals about \$10,000. We'll soon have all Nicollet County newspapers available on microfilm current to 2005, plus nearly 30 years of the Mankato Free Press. No other place in our area has this many Nicollet county papers under one roof.

List of Microfilm Now or Soon to be Available:
 Mankato *Free Press*, 12/02/1940-5/25/1967
 Saint Peter *Herald*, 1884-2005
 St. Peter *Free Press*, 1896-1925
 St. Peter *Tribune*, 1860-1920
 St. Peter *Courier*, 1855-1858
 St. Peter *Catechist*, 1874
 St. Peter *Journal*, 1896-1903
 St. Peter *Junction*, 1971-1972
 St. Peter *New Times*, 1979-1981
 St. Peter *Times-Herald*, 1981
 St. Peter *Valley*, 1982-83
 Minnesota *Farm Bureau News* (St. Peter) 1922-1946
 Minnesota *Free Press*, 1857-1858
 Minnesota *Statesman*, 1858-1861
 Lafayette *Ledger*, 1942-1943, 1956-1972, 1975-1984
 Lafayette-Nicollet *Ledger*, 1973-2005
 Nicollet *Leader*, 1896-1958
 Nicollet County *Independent*, 1894-1896
 North Mankato *Review*, 1921-1923, 1935-1947



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Ridgely Report

by Nancy Zempel, site manager

The season at Fort Ridgely Historic Site officially ended on Oct. 15, 2006. The hot weather slowed the pace of visitors during the summer but the cooler fall months were busy. Family groups stopped at the site on day trips in the valley to enjoy the fall colors and to purchase books for the upcoming winter months. This is the first year that the site was open after Labor Day.

Plans are in the works for events at the park and historic site for the 2007 season. On June 3, 2007 the band Spiritwood from Ely will perform at the park amphitheater. The Burger King whopper wagon has been booked to serve food before the event. The Friends of Fort Ridgely are also planning events to promote the historic site and park.

The golf course project has begun and hopefully will be completed by the fall of 2007. The horse camp and day riders are active, as has been the camping area.

Fort Ridgely State Park is a great place to visit any month of the year. The historic site commissary is closed but the parade grounds and the trails in the park are available year-round. Consider cross country skiing or snow shoeing in the park, or for the brave of heart, tubing the hill near the park chalet. Slopes near the tubing hill are great for sledding for young children and the not so brave of heart. Great winter activities—if we have snow!

See you at Fort Ridgely!

Harkin Store Report

by Ruth Grewe, site manager

The Harkin Store was the destination for 6919 people from 45 states and 14 countries. We were a busy place. Most people came for our Sunday programs from 1 to 4 p.m., which can be demonstrations of old ways of doing things to different styles of music. Our busiest program was the Independence Day program with 246 visitors, then a new program, Christmas in July, brought 233 visitors.

The Harkin Store and the home of the Alexander Harkin family in West Newton.

We are looking forward to another busy year with new programs such as a snake handler, an artist and a special memorial service commemorating the 100th anniversary of Alexander Harkin's death on September 16th.



We are also having bird watching programs on the first Thursday of the month, which is gaining in popularity.

Our gift shop was a busy place as well. Visitors commented on how nice our shop is and the quality of items. We do carry a good selection of books and other unique items. Our best selling item is a 10¢ stick of candy. We sold 2386 of them this season.

We also enjoy having volunteers help us with admissions or with our programs. We are always looking for new program ideas, so if you would like to show your craft or art or help in some way, please give us a call.

We are looking forward to seeing you next season.

Calendar of Events:

continuing "End of the Line" Train Exhibit

TSHC Exhibit Room

January 14, 2007 Annual Meeting

Gustavus Adolphus College

March 24 Mike Lynch Starwatch Class

TBD

This night with the stars, constellations, planets, star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae starts off with an indoor orientation followed by quality time outside under the heavens. You'll get a great handout and package with user-friendly star maps and constellation charts maps, websites, a telescope-buying guide, and more! 1-4 p.m. NCHS, MHS members, and children under age 12 admitted free, \$2 for adults.

May 6 Hudson Bay Expedition

Treaty Site History Center

In May 2005, Scott Miller and Todd Foster embarked upon a 2250-mile historical canoe expedition from Saint Cloud to Hudson Bay. Todd and Scott were inspired to take the trip after reading Canoeing with the Cree by Eric Sevareid, a book that recounts Sevareid's trip with his friend Walter Port along the same route in 1930. Miller and Foster will tell about their experiences canoeing to Hudson Bay. 1-4 p.m. NCHS, and children under age 12 admitted free, \$4 for adults.

August 26 Myths & Legends of Raptors: Raptor Center of Minnesota

Treaty Site History Center

Learn about birds, conservation, and the environment by meeting live Minnesota raptors in Myths and Legends of Raptors! Don't miss your chance to get up close with a bald eagle! 1-4 p.m. NCHS, and children under age 12 admitted free, \$4 for adults.

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 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, 2006.**

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

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue • St. Peter, MN 56082



photo credits: Ruth Klossner

92-year-old Al Peichal of Ridgely Township guided nearly a dozen people on a warm September day to the location of the Little Rock Trading Post. Ruth Klossner from the Lafayette-Nicollet *Ledger* and several NCHS board members were on hand. The trading post, founded by Joseph LaFramboise in the mid 1830s, operated until the late 1850s on what is now private property along the banks of the Minnesota River in Section 22 of Ridgely Township.

Looking for Little Rock Trading Post

