



# the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

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## Bluegrass Concert to Open New Harmonies Exhibit

The Arts Center of Saint Peter and Historical Society will kick off the New Harmonies exhibit in style! Entering their second decade together, Monroe Crossing will appear in concert at the Arts Center of Saint Peter on April 30 at 7 p.m. Members of the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, reviewers rave about Monroe Crossing's dynamic and entertaining stage show as well as the warmth they share on and off stage.

Monroe Crossing also welcomes Derek Johnson. Formerly of the Rocky Grass-winning bluegrass band The High 48s, Derek replaces guitarist and founding member Art Blackburn, who retired December 31st to assume full-time management of the band.

They are touring in support of their brand new DVD, "Monroe Crossing Live," which features many audience favorites, and original compositions from their latest CD, "Heartache & Stone."



That CD, inspired by Minnesota's deep bluegrass roots, boasts seven originals, and songs from four other

*Monroe continued on page 3*

## Cox House Plant Sale

It's been a long time coming, but spring officially arrives on the calendar March 20th. Along with warmer weather and baseball, comes the annual Cox House Heritage Plant Sale. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

This annual fund raiser for the Cox house and NCHS is a favorite of many local gardeners who come year after year to choose from a wide variety of interesting perennials as well as raspberry canes, rhubarb, small shrubs, and bulbs. As we rely on plants donated by our community, we would be very happy if you could help by potting up some plants in your own gardens for the sale and bringing them to the Cox House Yard on Thursday, May 12 or Friday, May 13 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day. Labeled plants are most appreciated by the volunteers who will be pricing and arranging them for sale. We will have many extra pots available by the Skaro Street gate for anyone who needs them.

Some popular plants in the past have been mums, phlox, primrose, hosta, ferns, bleeding hearts, daisies, iris, lilies, dahlias, lily of the valley, bee balm, sedum, peonies, columbine, and coleus. We count on our NCHS members to spread the word about the sale, donate plants, and volunteer to help with potting and labeling of plants as well as the day of the actual sale. It's a lot of fun, and you don't need to be a plant expert to help out! If you have questions or would like to donate or volunteer, please call: Bev Wetherill 934-4417, Barb Olmanson 934-2828, or Jen Baxa 934-4075.

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## Memorials

received since the last newsletter:

In Memory of  
**Carroll Hermanson**  
Given by  
Lorraine Olson

In Memory of  
**Dwayne Magers**  
Given by  
Gary & Geraldine Schmidt

In Memory of  
**Wayne Pettis**  
Given by  
Carol & Martin Menk

## Monetary Donations

received since the last newsletter:

Barb & Don Olmanson  
Ellis & Janet Jones  
Eric Carlson  
Duane & Brenda DeBlicck  
Kurt & Maren Leonard  
Red Hat Ladies  
Janice & Robert Meyer  
Mel & LaVonne Craig  
Ellery & Carol Peterson  
Sara & John McKay  
Emilie Lokensgard  
Larry & Joan Zambino  
Sally Webster  
Eunice Holz  
William Harvey  
Judy & Doug Schultz  
Neil Stevermer  
Karen Smithers  
Red Men Club  
Roland & Edi Thorstensson  
Anonymus  
Elizabeth Russell  
James & Patricia McPherson  
Eileen Holz  
Carol & Martin Menk

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Contributors for this issue:  
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Eileen Holz  
Ben Leonard

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**Ft. Ridgely Site Manager**, Nancy Zempel

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Melinda Somer, Karen Rogetske,

### Treaty Site History Center

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue

St. Peter, MN 56082

TSHC Phone: (507) 934-2160

TSHC Fax: (507) 934-0172

Hours: Mon.–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

The Cox House is available year-round for a variety of special programs, facility rentals, and tours by appointment. Please contact 507-934-2160 for details.

### 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, Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

June, July, and August

Tues.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sept. Fri.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Oct. 1–23: Sat.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

### Fort Ridgely

72404 County Road 30

Fairfax, MN 55332

Fort Ridgely Phone: (507) 426-7888

Website: ridgely@nchsmn.org

Hours: May, Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Memorial Day–Labor Day

Fri.–Sun.: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

September–October 23

Sat. & Sun.: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Director's Column

Winter, snow, and spring flooding have been on the minds of a lot of us recently. If I could snap my fingers I'd make all three go away right now. Unfortunately we don't have the power to do that. What we can control however, is how we prepare for any potential disaster.

The fall flood was a spectacular example of what the Treaty Site can weather, but also a cautionary tale for the future. Since early 2010 NCHS staff and the board of directors have done a lot of planning behind the scenes. We now have a full-fledged disaster plan and contacts in place should a flood, or something else, occur.

While flooding is less likely at the Cox House, Harkin Store, and Fort Ridgely, some other disaster or damage could happen more easily. We need to be prepared to handle lots of scenarios at all of our locations.

The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums has a great Mutual Assistance Program. Participating organizations pledge to help each other in times of need. Most members are smaller organizations and extra skilled hands during emergencies can make a big difference.

Just a reminder that not all of what we do can be seen in exhibits, programs, or tours. Preserving history means more than just telling stories. We have to make sure that we protect our collections and resources against whatever Mother Nature, or others, send our way.

Thanks!



Ben Leonard, Director



Ben Leonard

## Treaty Site Now Open Mondays

The Treaty Site History Center is open seven days a week for 2011. There may be a delay with some of our printed materials in circulation and signage, but we are here and ready to serve you. The Archives remains closed on Mondays except by appointment.

## *Monroe continued from page 1*

Minnesota songwriters, including pop rocker Prince, who was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame the same year as Monroe Crossing.

In addition to their new DVD release, Monroe Crossing has released 10 CDs in ten years, and has made over 1000 concert appearances through-out the United States, Canada and Europe.

What is the secret to their longevity and success? According to fiddler and lead singer Lisa Fuglie, "It's just plain hard work and dedication. We all share a love for bluegrass music and for performing on stage. We appreciate each audience, large or small, and understand that we're there for them, not the other way around." Adds bassist Mark Anderson, "We have a great variety in what we play, and we have a blast on stage, and that comes through to the audience. Folks always go home after our concerts with a smile on their face, and that's why we've been able to keep doing what we do, because people want us to come back again and again—what could be more gratifying than that?"

In 2010, they were featured in Bluegrass Music Profiles magazine (March/April), and in the July issue of Bluegrass Unlimited magazine. Monroe Crossing also graced the covers of Inside Bluegrass magazine (July) and the Bluegrass Music Association of Central Canada magazine (July/August). Fuglie received the Best Female Vocalist, Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo at the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association's 25th Anniversary Awards Banquet. The band won Bluegrass Album of the Year honors from the Minnesota Music Academy (MMA). Monroe Crossing is the ONLY Bluegrass Band EVER nominated as MMA Artist of the Year.

Called "The Midwest's Premier Bluegrass & Gospel Quintet," Monroe Crossing plays at 125-plus venues each year, and have appeared at The Kennedy Center, Branson's Silver Dollar City, the Bell Buckle Bluegrass Cruise, the CBA's Father's Day Festival at Grass Valley, Bill Monroe's Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, Wintergrass in Tacoma, the Festival of the Bluegrass in Lexington, and the legendary Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas.

The Arts Center of Saint Peter is located at 315 S. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for Arts Center/NCHS members and \$10 for students, and are available at the door. For more information, call the Arts Center at (507) 931-3630.

To learn more about Monroe Crossing, their recordings, schedule, or booking information is available on the band's website: [www.monroecrossing.com](http://www.monroecrossing.com).

### **BAND MEMBER BIOS**

- **Mark Anderson** has been dubbed "the bounciest bass player in bluegrass music," and his enthusiasm captures the hearts of audiences everywhere. A native of Wisconsin, Mark plays upright bass and sings the occasional bass part. With his musical background in punk rock, Mark adds a totally unique, irresistible energy to the band — and his comic interludes occasionally stop the rest of the band in its tracks!
- **Originally from Moorhead, Minnesota, Derek Johnson** moved to Minneapolis in 1993. He played in rock bands for several years before discovering his natural affinity for the "high lonesome" sound of bluegrass. In 2006 he co-founded The High 48s Bluegrass Band and won first place with them in the 2008 Rocky Grass band competition in Lyons, Colorado. Derek is not only a fine singer and guitarist; he is also an excellent songwriter.
- **Benji Flaming on banjo** makes his home in Minneapolis. A multi-instrumentalist, his recent solo releases find him playing banjo, guitar, dobro, and bass. He has been featured at the International Bluegrass Music Association's annual FanFest and has made multiple appearances on their "Masters Workshop" stage. Benji's nuanced banjo allows Monroe Crossing the freedom to explore sounds and styles that most bluegrass bands simply never approach.
- **Fiddle player and lead singer extraordinaire, Lisa Fuglie** adds an international element to the group. The daughter of Minnesota aid program workers, she grew up in Nigeria and first discovered bluegrass music there on an old 78-rpm record. An accomplished multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter, Lisa plays just about anything with strings and brings audiences to their feet with her gorgeous and powerful voice.
- **From Mankato, Minnesota, Matt Thompson** sets the audience at ease with his comfortable, warm style as emcee and wows them with his amazing instrumental virtuosity on the mandolin. He is largely responsible for the band's original song arrangements and sings baritone harmony. A lifelong lover of bluegrass music, Matt brings not only his world-class musical talents to the band, but also his extensive knowledge of bluegrass history and tradition.

"I dare ANYONE to watch Monroe Crossing and not get happy!"

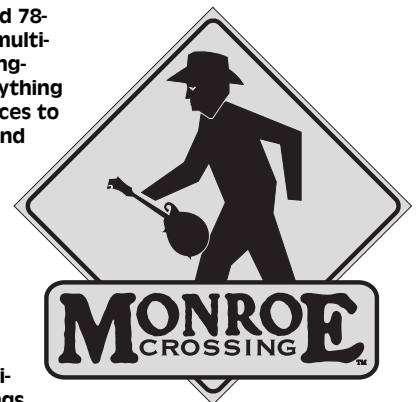
~ D.A. Calloway  
Silver Dollar City

"Everyone in the band is an absolute professional, and I've pointed other groups to you to say 'this is how you do it right in the world of bluegrass.'"

~ Marty Scarbrough  
KSAU FM Program Director

"Everyone who came had the time of their life that evening. Your show was just incredible. ...one of the freshest and original groups I have experienced. ...I was just blown away..."

~ Bill Adams  
Habitat for Humanity,  
Waldorf, Maryland



# The Story of Music, Stories from Home

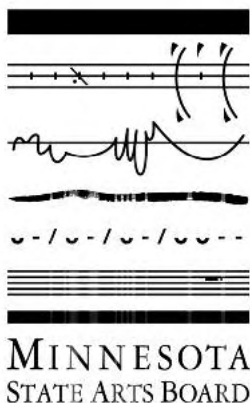


Poet and essayist Gary Holthaus and musician Lauren Pelon will perform at NCHS on May 7th.

The Society and Arts Center of Saint Peter are pleased to announce “The Story of Music, Stories from Home” will take place on **Saturday, May 7, at 4 p.m., at Treaty Site History Center.**

Award winning poet and essayist Gary Holthaus and internationally acclaimed musician Lauren Pelon team up to offer a unique new program called “The Story of Music, Stories from Home.” Pelon plays a variety of ancient and modern instruments ranging from lute, lyre, and concertina, to recorders, gemshorn, electric wind controller and pedalboard. Holthaus reads from his poems and essays. Both the music and the readings offer unique perceptions of the natural world, and celebrate our sense of place, community, and home.

Lauren Pelon is a fiscal year 2011 recipient of an Arts Tour Minnesota grant from the



This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, Pelon has performed throughout the U.S. and in China, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Russia, Kazakhstan, Australia, and New Zealand. She is noted for her versatile use of a diverse array of instruments, but Pelon has also won recognition for her lovely soprano voice, and for her compelling compositions and arrangements of music from many countries and cultures. Lauren has performed with symphony orchestras, The Philadelphia String Quartet, on Garrison Keillor’s “A Prairie Home Companion,” and at the Russian Institute for the History of the Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia. She was the recipient of the 2001 “Artist of the Year” award from the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council, and 2010 Artist Initiative Award from the Minnesota State Arts Board. William Kearns, American Music Research Center, Boulder, Colorado, called Pelon’s concerts “captivating and awesome.” An audience member recently remarked, “Her concerns for the sense of community and her understanding of ‘home’ just shine through the beauty of her music.”

Holthaus has three books of poems, three chapbooks, and three collections of essays, all of them rooted in the earth and the idea of community or home. Holthaus’ poems have been published in the U.S., Egypt,

*Music continued on page 5*

Music continued from page 4

and Iraq (in Arabic). He received a 1990 National Endowment for the Arts Individual Fellowship for Poetry, and his prose was cited in "Notable Essays" in 1994 and 1998. Holthaus recently worked with the Experiment in Rural Cooperation to write *From the Farm to the Table, What All Americans Need To Know about Agriculture*, a book on farming in the upper Midwest. He has worked for Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, with the Island Institute on issues of sustainability in Sitka, Alaska, and with the Pepperfield Project in Decorah, Iowa.

Gary Snyder said of Holthaus' book, *Unexpected Manna*, "In the drum and dance of the present he opens it both ways to the real: secular dryness and the shaman's sacrament. But no promises. The clear cold of reality. And the early morning challenge of getting to work on it."

Audience responses to recent presentations of "The Story of Music, Stories from Home" have been very appreciative: "Exceptionally moving throughout—I was transported. The linkage of music and word came alive." "It was an inspired and inspiring program. Such tasteful, serious handling of 'our life story.'" "What a team!"

"We are so pleased and privileged to have Lauren and Gary present this program in our community. They will both challenge and inspire us," states NCHS Director Ben Leonard.

Tickets are \$10, and may be purchased at the Treaty Site, or by calling 507-934-2160, or at the door. For further information, call the Society or email [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org).

# Smithsonian Exhibit Coming Soon!



We are extremely excited about our partnership with the Arts Center of Saint Peter to bring the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, *New Harmonies*, to St. Peter. The exhibit opens to the public April 30th and will be on display through June 11th. The exhibit will be on display at the Arts Center of Saint Peter and is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at the exhibit and associated programs.



**New Harmonies:** *Celebrating American Roots Music* has been made possible in St. Peter, Minnesota at the Arts Center of Saint Peter and the Nicollet County Historical Society by the Minnesota Humanities Center.

**New Harmonies:** *Celebrating American Roots Music* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, with additional support provided by a Minnesota Historical Society Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Partnership Grant.

Above: Folk musicians in Washington Square Park, New York City, 1960s. Photo by Diana Davies/Smithsonian Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections.

Below: Roy Acuff performs at the Grand Ole Opry, 1939. Grand Old Opry Archives.



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Smithsonian Institution



## New Harmonies Film Series

NCHS and the Arts Center of Saint Peter partner again on this special New Harmonies inspired music documentary film series. Films run each Tuesday *New Harmonies* is in town. The series is free and open to the public. Films are shown at the Treaty Site History Center at 7 p.m.

**It Might Get Loud:**  
"For once a film's tagline strikes the right note. 'It might not affect the way you play guitar, but it will change how you listen.'"

- [www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)

**Townes Van Zandt:**  
*Be Here to Love Me*  
"Townes' songs are thoughtfully used as backdrops for the story of his life."

- [folkmusic.about.com](http://folkmusic.about.com)

**Heavy Metal in Baghdad**  
"More than just the story of one group of guys trying to play music, *Heavy Metal in Baghdad* shows a sliver of the impact the war in Iraq has had on the regular people living there who simply long to have the freedoms we have here."

- [blog.moviefone.com](http://blog.moviefone.com)

**Anvil:**  
*The Story of Anvil*  
"It's a hilarious, and unexpectedly moving, documentary about the greatest metal band you've probably never heard of."

- [www.fandango.com](http://www.fandango.com)

**Tuesday, May 3rd: *It Might Get Loud***

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/itmightgetloud/>

Rarely can a film penetrate the glamorous surface of rock legends. *It Might Get Loud* tells the personal stories, in their own words, of three generations of electric guitar virtuosos—The Edge (U2), Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin), and Jack White (The White Stripes). It reveals how each developed his unique sound and style of playing favorite instruments, guitars both found and invented. Concentrating on the artist's musical rebellion, traveling with him to influential locations, provoking rare discussion as to how and why he writes and plays, this film lets you witness intimate moments and hear new music from each artist. The movie revolves around a day when Jimmy Page, Jack White, and The Edge first met and sat down together to share their stories, teach and play.

**Tuesday, May 10th: *Townes Van Zandt: Be Here to Love Me***

<http://www.townesthemovie.com/>

"While singer, songwriter and quintessential outsider Townes Van Zandt never found lasting mainstream success, his music found a home in the repertoire of diverse artists such as Norah Jones, Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris and The Meat Puppets. Through archival footage and interviews with Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett and more, Texas-based filmmaker Margaret Brown's directorial debut presents a moving portrait of an influential artist."

~ Netflix

**Tuesday, May 17th: *Chops***

"Filmmaker Bruce Broder trains his camera on a crop of talented young jazz musicians as they play their way through the Essentially Ellington high school jazz band competition. Sponsored the Jazz at Lincoln Center program, the prestigious contest gives the kids the chance to rub shoulders with legendary trumpeter Wynton Marsalis—and put their budding improvisational skills to the test."

~ Netflix

**Tuesday, May 24th: *Heavy Metal in Baghdad***

<http://www.heavymetalinbaghdad.com>

*Heavy Metal in Baghdad* is a feature film documentary that follows the Iraqi heavy metal band Acrassicauda from the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003 to the present day. Playing heavy metal in a Muslim country has always been a difficult (if not impossible) proposition but after Saddam's regime was toppled, there was a brief moment for the band in which real freedom seemed possible. That hope was quickly dashed as their country fell into a bloody insurgency. From 2003–2006, Iraq disintegrated around them while Acrassicauda struggled to stay together and stay alive, always refusing to let their heavy metal dreams die. Their story echoes the unspoken hopes of an entire generation of young Iraqis.

**Tuesday, May 31st: *Buena Vista Social Club***

The Buena Vista Social Club was a members club in Havana, Cuba that held dances and musical activities, becoming a popular location for musicians to meet and play during the 1940s. In the 1990s, nearly 50 years after the club was closed, it inspired a recording made by Cuban musician Juan de Marcos González and American guitarist Ry Cooder with traditional Cuban musicians, some of whom were veterans who had performed at the club during the height of its popularity.

The recording became an international success, and the ensemble was encouraged to perform with a full line-up in Amsterdam in 1998. German director Wim Wenders captured the performance on film, followed by a second concert in Carnegie Hall, New York City for a documentary that included interviews with the musicians conducted in Havana. Wenders' film was released to critical acclaim, receiving an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary feature and winning numerous accolades including Best Documentary at the European Film Awards.

**Tuesday, June 7th: *Anvil: The Story of Anvil***

<http://www.anvilthemovie.com/>

At 14, Toronto school friends Steve "Lips" Kudlow and Robb Reiner made a pact to rock together forever. They meant it. Their band, Anvil, went on to become the "demigods of Canadian metal," releasing one of the heaviest albums in metal history, 1982's *Metal on Metal*. The album influenced a musical generation, including Metallica, Slayer, and Anthrax, that went on to sell millions of records. But Anvil's career took a different path—straight to obscurity. Director Sacha Gervasi has concocted a wonderful and often hilarious account of Anvil's last-ditch quest for elusive fame and fortune. Gervasi even finds a softer center to this raucous film, introducing us to band members' ever-supportive, but long-suffering, families. At its core, it is a timeless tale of survival and the unadulterated passion it takes to follow your dream, year after year. Anvil rocks—it has no other choice.

~ Sundance Film Fest 2008 Catalog

### Resurrection Cemetery Program

The Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum have invited Nita Aasen to make a presentation, *Guess Who's Buried in Your Backyard*, on Sat., March 19th. She has been doing research on the First Lutheran Church Resurrection Cemetery. In that quest she has discovered some fascinating characters most of us never knew lived in our seemingly tranquil community. She will be sharing results with the 'Friends' on that morning. Nita has requested that this presentation be made available to NCHS members. Herb Chilstrom, interim director of the Linnaeus Arboretum fully supports the idea. Come to the Melva Lind Interpretive Center for coffee and rolls at 9:30 a.m. before the featured presentation at 10 a.m. There is no charge to attend the event.

### Society to Publish Treaty History

We're pleased to announce plans to soon publish a history of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. The exciting history written by Dr. William Lass provides a thorough context to the treaty process and illuminates new details about the contentious ratification process that followed the signing.

Dr. Lass is Professor Emeritus of History at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he had taught Minnesota History for over 40 years. Dr. Lass was the Director of the Southern Minnesota Historical Center from 1969-1999. Dr. Lass has published over one hundred books, academic journal articles, reviews, and encyclopedia entries. Although he officially retired in 2002, Dr. Lass continues to write on Minnesota history, steamboats, and the trading practices between the American Indians and the settlers. In 2012 Minnesota History will feature Lass's article detailing the various histories related to the events of 1862.

The book will be available soon. Contact Jessica at [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) or 934-2160 for more details.

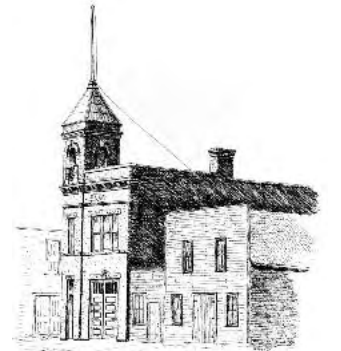
A 2011-12 release for another book, *Nicollet County Destinations* by Kristine Johnson, is also planned.

### Meet Katrina

Hello Nicollet County, my name is Katrina Belton. I am currently a Junior at Gustavus Adolphus College. I am here to tell you of my opportunity to intern with the Treaty Site and History Center of St. Peter this past January term. I had the privilege of working on the museum's art collection. The task was to organize, research, and enter various collections of art work into the computer. In my time there, I was able to exhibit a collection of Leon Raether's drawings of local and historical buildings of St. Peter. When you have the chance, you should all come and see the exhibit, it is a treasure! This will be one of my most cherished projects. It was a blast trying to hang the drawings and making sure that everything was measured out correctly. Since I finished my task a little ahead of schedule, I went to work on entering into the computer manuscript boxes, with the help of Bob Sandeen. The staff at the Treaty Site is great! They are welcoming, friendly and full of knowledge on the history of Nicollet County. This was a great opportunity for me as a college student, to be able to work alongside some of Minnesota's hidden historians. So a very special thanks to Ben Leonard to giving me this opportunity, to Bob Sandeen for putting up with all of my questions and helping me with research, and to the rest of the staff, it was fun getting to know and work with you all.



Engesser House  
Minnesota & Pine  
circa 1890s



Old St. Peter Firehouse  
Third Street  
circa 1900



Church of the  
Immaculate Conception  
Third & Myrtle. Built in 1889,  
demolished in 1992.



Old Anderson House  
Minnesota & Broadway  
circa 1870s  
moved from St. Peter in 2009

Images from *Historic St. Peter 1985*  
published by Arts & Heritage Council  
with 12 St. Peter, Minnesota landmarks  
drawn by Leon Raether.

# Nicollet County Destinations by Kristine Johnson

Excerpts from the forthcoming NCHS book titled *Nicollet County Destinations*, an updated version of Fred Wetherill's *Nicollet County Bicentennial historical markers and other historical places*.

## Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

**Historical Marker Location:** On County Road 25, about three miles east of Courtland.

**Little Known Fact:** The 1881 wood frame church building cost \$8,000 to construct.

In 1859, German emigrants from Illinois settled the farm area east of the present-day town of Courtland. At first, the settlers met in a local home for religious services and organized as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1860, the congregation purchased and moved a worship building to a site about two miles southeast of where Immanuel Lutheran stands today. Rev. J. Rennie became the first resident pastor and he served St. John's Lutheran from 1863 to 1867.

For reasons long forgotten, members of St. John's Lutheran came to serious disagreements by the mid-1860s. In 1867, a newly written constitution divided members into two congregations. Those that accepted the new constitution formed Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran and built a new church about one mile north and west of St. John's. Charter members of Immanuel Lutheran numbered around 70. By 1872, the church roster listed 610 members. As tensions cooled, many St. John's members joined Immanuel Lutheran. Eventually, St. John's ceased to exist. In 1881, Immanuel Lutheran built a wood frame church on the present church property site. In 1894, a mechanical pipe organ was purchased from and installed by Vogelpohl and Spaeth Organ Company of New Ulm. The church building underwent a number of additions and renovations over the years. However, due to structural issues, Immanuel Lutheran members voted in 2004 to build a new worship center. The new church structure housed religious services in 2006 and incorporates elements of the former building such as the organ, pews, and stained-glass windows.

## Red River Ox Cart Trail

**Location:** The trail approximately follows County Road 5 through Nicollet County.

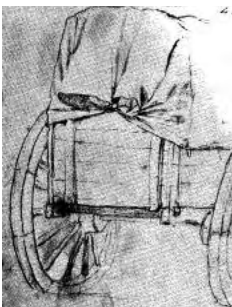
**Little Known Facts:** The deafening sound of ungreased wheels in an oxcart caravan could be heard three miles away. The wheels remained ungreased to avoid an accumulation of dirt that caused axle damage.

In 1812, Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk, began a colony near Winnipeg, Canada. The remote settlement found it difficult to secure supplies from its British patron, Hudson's Bay Company, which

held a Canadian trade monopoly. The colonists quickly realized that provisions could be easily (and illegally) routed through a close by U.S. trade corridor, along an old Red River Valley Native American trail. The Red River colony first took advantage of the trails to obtain supplies and, in time, transported farm surplus. Fur traders also used this path. Sporadic at first, the roads became regularly used by 1835 and developed into three distinct overland routes.

The Columbia Fur Company (later the American Fur Company) founded trading posts in the Minnesota River Valley with one being at Traverse des Sioux. This route became known as the West Plains Trail and was the oldest and longest of the Red River Trails. Traders initially favored this path because of Dakota protection and the ease of following river landmarks in the vast prairie. Ox Cart Design The cart design originated with French Canadians though Red River traders altered it to suit travel conditions and available building supplies. The cart was entirely constructed of animal hides and wood, usually oak. Each cart held up to 1,000 pounds and traveled about twenty miles per day. Caravans could number up to 300 carts and oxen were the preferred source of power. The wheels were five feet in diameter and the carts easily maneuvered in marshes, rivers, hills, and forests.

The trails saw heavy use from the 1840s to the early 1870s, especially along the middle or East Plains Trail in the latter decades. The 1850s steamboat traffic marked the beginning of the end for the Red River Ox Cart Trails. By 1872, railroads crisscrossed the state and ended the need for the cart. A few traces of the Red River trails still exist in earthen depressions or in modern roads that copied their path.



# Ridgely Report

by Nancy Zempel, site manager

The winter seems extra long this season. It is a whiteout at my house as I write this article. As Minnesotans we know that within a short time the weather will be balmy and the bugs will be back.

The 2011 summer at Fort Ridgely Historic Site will be another busy season. There will be new programs and a few repeats of popular programs. The goal is try to cover different types of programs to appeal to the greater amount of visitors. Since the historic site is within the state park—nature programs are popular as are the military and U.S. Dakota War events.



Memorial Weekend Doug Ohman will join us at the commissary to share his photos of Minnesota State Parks. His books of significant buildings in Minnesota are popular and the stories that he shares make the program interesting to visitors of all ages. He will have his books available for sale including his new one, *The Libraries of Minnesota*.

The State Park Open House Day this year is June 11. Ron Bolduan will be at the site to share one of his nature programs.

July 2 Roger Breckenridge will present a program about the History of Fort Ridgely State Park. It will include information about 100 years the park has been part of the Minnesota State Park system.

Dr. William Lass will present the History of Minnesota River Steamboats on July 9.

John Labatte will share his research on the Causes of the U.S. Dakota War on August 22. John will again present his battlefield tour once each month. Those dates will be announced at a later date.

Other programs for the season will be announced later when presenter's dates are confirmed.

The Friends of Fort Ridgely are also planning events to celebrate the park's 100th year. May 19 is School Day. Each year about 400 5th and 6th grades students come for a fun day of learning.

July 29 and 30th *Sleeping Beauty* will be presented at the park amphitheater.

October 1 Mike Lynch will be at the park for his Star Watch program.

More programs sponsored by the Friends will also be announced once they have confirmed dates.


Make plans to join us at the park and historic site as spring and summer will be here before we know it.




Mike Lynch, Minnesota's most popular amateur astronomer, coming to Fort Ridgely in October.



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## Historic Site Season Starts Soon Harkin Happenings

by Ruth Grewe, site manager



The Harkin Store is excited about opening for the season on April 30th and May 1st. We will be having many different themes for our 1pm to 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon programs during the season. It is Alexander's 183rd birthday on Sunday, May 1st. Please join us for "Egg Coffee and Newtons" on his birthday!

Mother's Day program will be a display of aprons, new to old and many styles shown all day long.

May 15th will be about riverboats that were so important to the little town of West Newton.

May 22 we will have a program about the pioneer women who helped settle the west, what did they all have to do?

And our Memorial Day program is on May 29th with the music by Bob Bovee and Gail Heil,

music of the rural American traditional. Grab a lawn chair or blanket or sit on our porch for some great music.

We are excited about the beginning of the season and all the visitors we'll see. Please join us this year. Our programs will be listed in the newsletter as well as the web site and in area newspapers.

The Harkin Store is open weekends in May, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. After Memorial Day weekend the site is open Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Admission Rates for 2011



After a market analysis and much discussion, the Society has raised admission rates for 2011. We want to continue to offer high quality visitor experiences and events. This incremental adjustment will help us do that. As a non-profit it's our mission to provide our programs and services at reasonable rates. Harkin and Ridgely still have the lowest admission among state historic sites. The Cox House and Treaty Site are similarly priced. NCHS continues to offer many free programs and field trips for County schools. Admission is still included in membership—so all NCHS members will not be affected by this change.

### TSHC

\$5 for Adults  
\$4 for Seniors  
\$3 for 6–17 years old  
Free for Children under 5 years of age  
\$7 for combination pass to the Treaty Site History Center and the Cox House

### Cox House

Tours by Appointment  
\$4 for Adults  
\$3 for 6–17 years old

### Harkin Store

\$4 for Adults 18–64 years of age  
\$2 for Seniors 65 years of age or older  
\$2 for Children 6–17 years of age  
Free for Children under 5 years of age

### Fort Ridgely

\$4 for Adults 18–64 years of age  
\$2 for Seniors 65 years of age or older  
\$2 for Children 6–17 years of age  
Free for Children under 5 years of age



# Collection Corner

You're looking at a handwritten list (right) of Civil War volunteers from around the community of Oshawa, located just west of St. Peter. This is just the first page of a multi-page document—names, companies, regiments, and term of service years (tours of duty) are detailed. You'll see some pretty familiar people. E. St. Julien Cox is on the list. So is A.R. McGill, who would go on to serve as Governor of Minnesota.


Many of the men served in Company E of the 2nd Regiment. Companies were comprised of 100 men. Ten companies usually served in each Regiment. Of the 1,751 men mustered into the 2nd Regiment during the war, 57 were killed, 213 wounded, and 171 died from disease. The Regiment fought at Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Sherman's march to the sea.

This roster was donated to the Society by Jim Derner. He found the document in a shed on the farm of his grandfather, Herman Hoehn. History is incredibly resilient, but without folks like Herman and Jim, important pieces of history are lost instead of preserved for future generations. See this, and other important documents in the NCHS archives by contacting Bob Sandeen at bob@nchsmn.org.

*List of Volunteers, credited to the town of Oshawa, since the commencement of the War.*

No.	Name	Comp. of Service	Co.	Age	No.	Name	Comp. of Service	Co.	
1	Andrews, Andrew	3	E	2	30	Johnson, Elias	3	E	2
2	Black, Geo. W.	3	E	2	31	Jacobson, Halder	3	E	2
3	Brann, George	3	E	2	32	Kapplermeier, Christ	3	E	2
4	Branders, Christ	3	H	4	33	Kent, Abel C.	3	E	2
5	Buchanan, Collin	3	H	4	34	Kern, William St.	3	D	9
6	Bull, Charles	3	H	4	35	Kerr, Aaron M.	3	Co	9
7	Co. E. St. Julien	3	E	2	36	Legrande, Joseph A.	3	E	2
8	Canning, Charles	3	E	2	37	Miner, J. P.	3	H	4
9	Cox, James	3	D	9	38	Haybold, John	3	E	2
10	Coffin, W. T. B.	3	D	9	39	Hoyer, George	3	D	9
11	Cook, Francis	3	D	9	40	Heger, Ernest	3	Ind	1
12	Carver, T. G.	3	H	4	41	McCarthy, Thomas	3	E	2
13	Cooney, John	3	H	6	42	Muller, Samuel S.	3	D	9
14	Cobb, James	3	D	9	43	McGill, A. R.	3	D	9
15	Donahoe, J. C.	3	E	2	44	Taylor, George	3	E	2
16	Deibel, Joseph	3	E	2	45	Taylor, Myron	3	D	9
17	Donahoe, David	3	E	2	46	Nelson, Lars Eric	3	D	9
18	Doonan, Daniel	3	E	2	47	Pasco, Edward	3	E	2
19	Daniels, Jared W.	3	H	6	48	Nelson, Ole	3	E	2
20	Hera, James	3	E	2	49	Patch, Gibson S.	3	H	4
21	Stuchs, Henry	3	D	9	50	Pelle, Edwin E.	3	D	9
22	Beldman, Henry	3	D	9	51	Poirier, Alexis	3	E	2
23	Wessenden, Charles	3	D	9	52	Pirichol, Antoine	3	D	9
24	Gardner, Miller W.	3	D	9	53	Powell, James	3	D	9
25	Gehring, Jacob A.	3	B	3	54	Pohon, H.	3	D	9
26	Genung, Charles	3	H	2	55	Roberts, Joseph	3	E	2
27	Hoffsted, J. G.	3	E	2	56	Rupers, Carl	3	E	2
28	Hendrickson, Ole	3	E	2	57	Hogers, Benjamin	3	D	9

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- Culligan Mayer**
- Community Insurance Agency**
- New Sweden Mutual Insurance Company**
- Dave's Place**
- First National Bank**

## Members

Thanks to the following new and renewing members of NCHS since our last newsletter.

### Renewed Business Members:

BENCO Electric - \$200  
First National Bank - \$200  
Goodrich Construction - \$200  
Nelson Printing - \$200  
Nicollet County Bank - \$200  
Schmidt's Meat Market - \$200  
St. Peter *Herald* - \$200

### Renewed Individual Members:

Janet Boese  
Ruth Brandel  
Carolyn Brethorst  
Helen Christianson  
JoAnne Cochran  
Margie Cooney  
Eleanor Depuydt  
Opal Dewanz  
Maria Erling  
Michael Frederick  
Colleen Freitag  
Paula Goblirsch  
Scott Hermanson  
Renee Jackson  
Charles Johnson  
Donley Johnson  
Victoria Johnson  
Marolyn Kleinert  
Donna Kowal  
Lori Lahlum  
Ruth Larson  
Stanley Lindquist  
Loren Lindsay  
Maria Lokensgard  
Mary Long  
Dolores Lueck  
Gayla Mattson  
Evie Nelson  
Judith Penhiter  
Marshall Peterson  
Neil Stevermer  
Bernadine Thompson  
Gertrude Wright

### Renewed Family Members:

Nita & Paul Aasen  
Frani & Mark Anderson  
Richard Beran  
Dan Bock  
Peggy & Gil Carlson  
Richard & Bonnie Compart  
Chris & Jolly Corley  
Duane & Brenda DeBlicek  
Dwight & Geni DeBoer  
Garfield & Marjorie Eckberg  
Paul & Connie Eckberg  
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling  
Alma & Jerome Forst  
Jeremy & Michel Freeman  
Richard & Joyce Gardner  
Don & Beverly Gustafson  
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson  
Lisa Isenberg  
Ellis & Janet Jones  
Ardis & Earl Lund  
John & Sara McKay  
Terry Morrow  
Thorild & Ardith Nelson  
Janet & Byron Nordstrom  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Palmer  
Sue & Lee Schott  
Douglas & Judy Schultz  
Marty & Carol Sterner  
Owen & Evie Swenson  
Bob & Victoria Vogel  
Buster & Nina West  
Larry & Joan Zambino

### Renewed Sustaining Members:

Roland & Edi Thorstensson

### Renewed Patron Members:

Bernard & Pam Bidelman  
Larry & Judy Biederman  
Eric Carlson  
Joy Lutzi  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Palmer  
Riverside Dental Care  
Arlene Sandeen  
Bob Sandeen  
Sally Webster  
Stephen & Barbara  
Wilkinson

### Renewed Supporter Members:

Marlin Peterson  
Loren Sundboom

### New Individual Members:

Joyce Gillen

### New Family Members:

The Arsenault's  
Dick Muesing  
Jean & Lee Gansen

## Highlights of the Economic Analysis of Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

This 2011 study, conducted by University of Minnesota Extension, examined the economic effects of the grants and contracts awarded and managed by the Minnesota Historical Society using dollars from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The analysis found:

- Spending on projects from the Fund was \$22 million and it generated another \$20.3 million in output or sales effects for a total of \$41.6 million in the Minnesota economy.
- Employment in full- and part-time jobs from the initial Fund expenditures was approximately 244 jobs. The responding by the people in those jobs with suppliers for the projects and household consumption using income earned to complete the projects supported another 160 jobs for a total of 404 jobs.
- Value added including employee compensation, proprietor income, property income (rents and leases) and indirect business taxes comprised approximately 57% of the expenditures or \$12.2 million and after its effects were multiplied in the economy another \$12.1 million was received by businesses owners, employees and government for a total of \$24.3 million.
- Spending from the Fund affected 408 of the 418 or 97.6% of the sectors in the Minnesota economy.



Prepared by:

University of Minnesota Extension Center for Community Vitality February 2011.  
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## History Center Events ...

# Film Series Continues

Two films remain in our First Thursday film series. NCHS, St. Peter Community and Family Education, St. Peter Food Co-op, Arts Center of Saint Peter, St. Peter Senior Center, St. Peter Public Library, and St. Peter Recreation Department have teamed up to bring you some great documentary films. Everyone is welcome for this totally free series, though our last two films aren't suitable for kids. Films are shown at the St. Peter Senior Center and begin promptly at 7 p.m.

**Thurs., April 7, 7 p.m.**  
***I.O.U.S.A.***

*I.O.U.S.A.* boldly examines the rapidly growing national debt and its consequences for the United States and its citizens. Burdened with an ever-expanding government and military, increased international competition, overextended entitlement programs, and debts to foreign countries that are becoming impossible to honor, America must mend its spendthrift ways or face an economic disaster of epic proportions. Throughout history, the American government has found it nearly impossible to spend only what has been raised through taxes. The film follows former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker as he crisscrosses the country explaining America's unsustainable fiscal

policies to its citizens. Pointedly topical and consummately nonpartisan, *I.O.U.S.A.* drives home the message that the only time for America's financial future is now. 85 minutes, PG



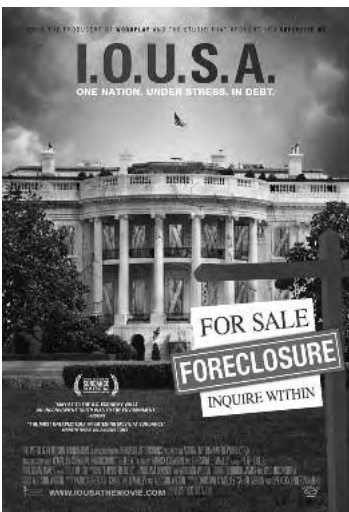
**Thurs, May 5, 7 p.m.**

***Which Way Home***

2010 Oscar Nominee for "Best Documentary Feature."

"*Which Way Home* follows the stories of several children attempting to illegally cross the Mexican border into the United States by way of riding on the tops of trains. ...From the boys and girls riding the trains to the kids who've already been caught and are on their way back home, the film brings us everything we'd expect from a solid, well-made documentary—injecting passion, honesty and heart into a topic that certainly needs more attention drawn to it. *Which Way Home* is a truly captivating documentary that doesn't carry an agenda; it doesn't ask for you to adopt a Mexican teenager or send money to help these kids cross the border. It simply drops itself into the middle of a growing issue in Mexico, documents every square inch of the situation and leaves you to carry on the rest of your day." NR, not suitable for viewers under 17

~ Eric Davis, *Cinematical*



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Tuesday, March 22

# Women Celebrating Women



**You're invited to**  
**Women Celebrating Women**

**Our History is Our Strength:  
 The Fiber of Our Being**

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 • 6 p.m.  
 Jackson Campus Center, Gustavus Adolphus College

6:00 Social time • 6:30 Dinner  
 Keynote Speaker – Kimber Olson, Minnesota Textile Center  
 8:15 Award presentation

Cost: \$20 • Reservations required, call St. Peter Community Education at 934-3048 or visit [www.stpetercommunityedonline.com](http://www.stpetercommunityedonline.com) before March 16, 2010. Sponsored by: St. Peter Herald, St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Peter Community Education and Nicollet County Historical Society.

The Annual St. Peter Area Women Celebrating Women is a celebration of all women as valued members and leaders of our community. Every year we honor a special woman who has achieved notable distinction in her field of interest or profession and who is proven

banquet will be Kimber Olson, from the Minnesota Textile Center.

Olson is part of the Mentor/Protégé program at the Textile Center of Minnesota. Mentors are selected on the basis of their interest in mentoring emerging artists, their record of excellence in personal achievement in the textile arts and for the diversity of skills and background they bring to the program.

Kimber Olson creates art quilts with an emphasis on artist-dyed and printed fabrics. She has a special interest in the affective properties of art and creative process that contribute to self-knowledge, growth and wholeness.

Kimber has exhibited her work as part of several solo, traveling and group exhibitions. She served as a 2008 Artist-in-Residence at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts.

to be a leader and an inspiration to others in the St. Peter Community. The 2011 banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22 at Gustavus Adolphus College. The theme for this year's celebration is *Our History is Our Strength: The Fiber of Our Being*. Keynote speaker for the

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# 2011 Calendar of Events:

## Event/Program information:

- Harkin Store:** Program Time: 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays / Fee: \$4 adults, \$2 seniors (65+) and children 6–17. Free for children age 5 and under, NCHS and MHS members.
- Fort Ridgely:** Time: Please check NCHS and MHS websites for program times / Fee: A State Park Vehicle Permit is required unless otherwise noted below. Fee: \$4 adults, \$2 seniors (65+) and children 6–17. Free for children age 5 and under, NCHS and MHS members.
- TSHC:** See program times below / Fee: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors (65+), \$3 children 6–17, free for children under age 5, and NCHS members. \$7 combo-pass to TSHC & Cox House.
- Cox House:** Tours by appointment only. Event times see below. Fee: \$4 adults, \$3 children 6–17.

Mar. 19	<b>Guess Who's Buried in Your Backyard</b> <i>Nita Aasen presents research on Resurrection Cemetery. 9:30 a.m. Free.</i>	Melva Lind Interpretive Center, Gustavus
Apr. 7	<b>I.O.U.S.A.: Documentary Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 13. 7 p.m.</i>	St. Peter Community Center
Apr. 30–Jun. 11	<b>New Harmonies Exhibit</b> <i>See article on page 5.</i>	Arts Center of Saint Peter
Apr. 30	<b>Monroe Crossing Concert</b> <i>7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets at the door: adults \$15 adults, AC/NCHS members \$13, students \$10</i>	Arts Center of Saint Peter
May 1	<b>Egg Coffee and Newtons</b> <i>Celebrate Alexander Harkins's 183rd birthday.</i>	Harkin Store
May 3	<b>It Might Get Loud: New Harmonies Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 6. 7 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 5	<b>Which Way Home: Documentary Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 13. 7 p.m.</i>	St. Peter Community Center
May 7	<b>Story of Music, Stories from Home</b> <i>See article on page 4. For tickets call 507-934-2160 or at the door: \$10. 4 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 8	<b>Mother's Day with Apron Display</b>	Harkin Store
May 10	<b>Townes Van Zandt: Be Here to Love Me:</b> <b>New Harmonies Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 6. 7 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 14	<b>Cox House Heritage Plant Sale</b> <i>See details on page 1. 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.</i>	E. St. Julien Cox House
May 15	<b>Dr. John Isch, Panoramas of the Dakota War</b> <i>2 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 15	<b>Minnesota Riverboats</b> <i>Riverboats were the fastest way to develop the river valley of West Newton.</i>	Harkin Store
May 17	<b>Chops: New Harmonies Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 6. 7 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 22	<b>A Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman</b> <i>Displays of what the pioneer women did in their everyday life.</i>	Harkin Store
May 24	<b>Heavy Metal in Baghdad: New Harmonies Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 6. 7 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 29	<b>Music by Bob Bovee and Gail Heil</b> <i>Music of the rural American traditional. Grab a lawn chair or blanket or sit on our porch.</i>	Harkin Store
May 29	<b>Doug Ohman's State Parks of Minnesota</b> <i>Doug Ohman will join us at the commissary to share his photos of State Parks. 2 p.m.</i>	Fort Ridgely
May 31	<b>Buena Vista Social Club: New Harmonies Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 6. 7 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
June 7	<b>Anvil: The Story of Anvil: New Harmonies Film Series</b> <i>See article on page 6. 7 p.m.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
June 11	<b>State Park Open House with Ron Bolduan</b>	Fort Ridgely
June 12	<b>Dr. John Isch, Panoramas of the Dakota War</b> <i>2 p.m.</i>	Taylor Library, North Mankato
July 2	<b>History of Fort Ridgely State Park</b> <i>Roger Breckenridge will present the program and it will include information about 100 years the park has been part of the Minnesota State Park system.</i>	Fort Ridgely
July 9	<b>History of Minnesota River Steamboats</b> <i>Dr. William Lass will present the History of Minnesota River Steamboats</i>	Fort Ridgely
Aug. 22	<b>Causes of the U.S. Dakota War</b> <i>John Labatte will share his research on the Causes of the U.S. Dakota War</i>	Fort Ridgely

Fort Ridgely  
Harkin Store  
Traverse des Sioux  
E. St. Julien Cox House



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### Your membership dollars at work...



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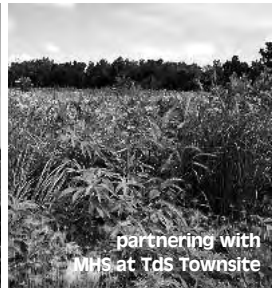
maintenance of Cox House



staffing at Harkin Store



programming at Ft. Ridgely



partnering with  
MHS at TdS Townsite

### NCHS Membership Application

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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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 2011 at the following level (please check one).

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

**Business Memberships**

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for info

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