



the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

December 2010 • Volume 15 / Issue 4

December 4th & 5th, 11th & 12th

Christmas at the Cox House

Mr. and Mrs. Cox cordially invite you to attend the annual Christmas at the Cox House Open House. Richard Tostenson and the Minnehaha Questers Chapter of St. Peter have transformed the house into a Victorian holiday celebration. Costumed interpreters will portray the Cox family. Local musicians will play beautiful Christmas music and sing-a-longs are encouraged! Mulled cider and homemade cookies will be provided in the kitchen each afternoon. Join us on Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th and Saturday and Sunday, December 11th and 12th from 1–4 p.m. each day.



Christmas at the Cox House is truly a St. Peter tradition. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for 13–18 year olds and free for children 12 and under. As always, Nicollet County Historical Society members are free. If you would like more information, or have any questions, please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org.

Our guest musicians for the event include:

Saturday, December 4	Paul and Avis McDaniel and family
Sunday, December 5	“Heart Strings” Diana and Kenneth Stoll
Saturday, December 11	Julie Fedeler and Judy McHarry, flute and piano
Sunday, December 12	Wayne Schmidt, guitar

Historical Society’s Annual Meeting

The Nicollet County Historical Society’s annual meeting will be Sunday, January 16, 2011 at Gustavus Adolphus’ Jackson Student Union banquet hall. Dinner service will begin at 1 p.m., business meeting at 2:15 p.m., and program at 3 p.m.

We are honored and delighted to welcome Dr. William Lass as our keynote speaker. 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.

Dr. Lass has also recently completed a history of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, soon to be published by NCHS. The exciting history provides a thorough context to the treaty process and illuminates new details about the contentious ratification process that followed the signing. Anyone interested in the history of Minnesota won’t want to miss this lecture and the publication.

Cost for dinner and the program is just \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$5 for those wishing to only attend the program. For details and registration call Jessica at 507-934-2160. Reservations (with form on page 16) with payment are due by January 7, 2011.

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Memorials

received since the last newsletter:

In Memory of
Joanie Moses

Given by
Marjorie Halvorson
Judy Scholl

In Memory of
Whilma Smith

Given by
Judy Scholl

Monetary Donations

received since the last newsletter:

Cox House Antique Sale
Thrivent Financial
for Lutherans
Christy Martin

Executive Board

President, Gary Schmidt, North Mankato
Vice President, Jeremy Freeman, St. Peter
Secretary, Tami Skinner, St. Peter
Treasurer, Herb Poncin, Nicollet
Historian, Diane Stenson, St. Peter

Directors

Steve Baxa, St. Peter
Dr. Chris Corley, North Mankato
Alma Forst, St. George
Patti Kelly, Norseland
Dr. Lori Lahlum, North Mankato
Rachel Larson, St. Peter
Emilie Lokensgard, Norseland
Thorild Nelson, Nicollet
Dr. Sujay Rao, St. Peter
Sally Webster, Bernadotte

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Museum Store Manager, Ruth Grewe

Harkin Store Site Manager, Ruth Grewe

Harkin Store Asst. Site Mgr., Ross Gersten

Harkin Store Site Guide, Ann Koch

TSHC Museum Assistants, Jessica Becker,
Allen McBride, Hannah Skinner

TSHC Maintenance, Wayne Passon

Ft. Ridgely Site Manager, Nancy Zempel

Ft. Ridgely Site Guides, Ashley Hamre,
Charlotte Nack, Dorothy Polesky,
Melinda Somer, John Taylor

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
Hours: June, July, August
Fri.–Sun. 1–4 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: June, July, and August
Tues.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
September through October 15
Fri.–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: Memorial Day–Labor Day
Fri.–Sun.: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
September–October 15
Sat. & Sun.: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

the CROSSING
is a publication of the
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free with a Society
membership.

Contributors for this issue:
Jessica Brockberg
Eileen Holz
Ben Leonard

Director's Column

There seems to be a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. For starters I am thankful for the number of shopping days left until Christmas. 65 degree November afternoons didn't do much for my sense of urgency. There's still plenty of time though—and lines at local retailers are preferred to the log jams at the malls. My kids would be horrified if they knew how ill prepared I am.

Shopping seems pretty superfluous to any real reflection of thanks though—and I am thankful for so much. Nicollet County is truly a great place to live. I've called seven other cities home in my life so I feel I can say the previous statement on some authority. I shudder to think about giving up my three-minute commute, along with the great services, schools, and local government we have here. Seriously, it's hard to imagine much better.

I have a wonderful family. They are more tolerant and flexible than anyone has any right to expect. They've endured too many late dinners and evening meetings to even count. Amy and the kids always seem to sally forth without me when they really shouldn't have to. I appreciate them more than words can say.

I'm thankful for my friends. I'm glad they seem to find me far less annoying than I feel. To Michael, Kurt, Anders, Ed, Tim, Chris, Sarah, Drew, Dave, Alex, Kevin, and the whole lot of you—thanks for putting up with me.

The staff at the historical society is amazing. You could draw them up on paper and they wouldn't turn out half as nice as they actually are.

Thanks to the NCHS Board for letting me do a job I love and regularly providing the paycheck I need. In the immortal words of *Say Anything's* Lloyd Dobler, "I don't want to sell anything, buy anything, or process anything as a career. I don't want to sell anything bought or processed, or buy anything sold or processed, or process anything sold, bought, or processed, or repair anything sold, bought, or processed. You know, as a career, I don't want to do that."

I can't imagine doing anything else, and I couldn't wish for a better group of people to work for. I really mean that.

Thanks!



Ben Leonard, Director

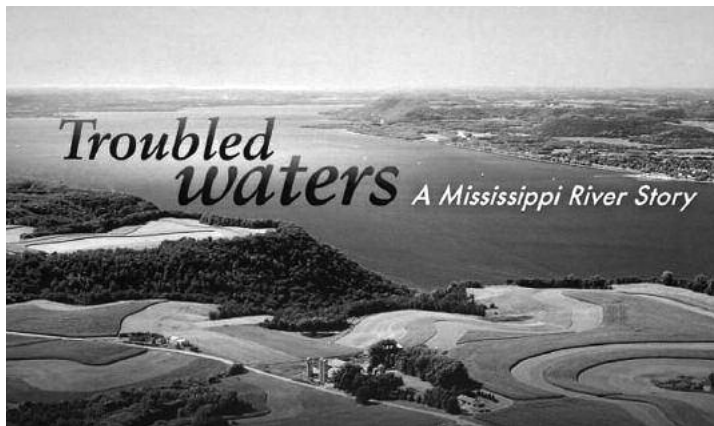


Ben Leonard

Troubled Waters Documentary to be Shown at Treaty Site

The Society is teaming up with Minnesota State University–Mankato’s Water Resource Center to show the University of Minnesota’s documentary film *Troubled Waters*. Please join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7th, at the Treaty Site History Center.

The film details the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, pollution, and the effect those waters have on the Gulf of Mexico. Surrounded in controversy after its initial release was delayed, *Troubled Waters* has generated a lot of debate among University faculty, students, scientists, the agricultural community, and regional media.



Water Resource Center staff, along with experts Carrie Jennings and Mike Davis, will lead audience discussion after the film.

Carrie Jennings is a Glacial Geologist with the Minnesota Geological Survey. Jennings is one of the top experts on glacial geology and great at

giving easy-to-understand answers to all your questions. Recently she has applied her knowledge of the distribution of glacial sediment in Minnesota (as well as the history of landscape and river evolution) to better define sources of sediment to the modern river systems of Minnesota, most notably, the Minnesota River and its tributaries.

Mike Davis has worked for the Minnesota DNR since 1987 and specializes in freshwater mussel ecology, in particular on the Mississippi River. As part of the mussel conservation effort, Mike has played a major role in the plan to revive the endangered Higgins Eye mussel. Davis has conducted numerous mussel surveys across the Minnesota River Basin including setting up a long-term monitoring station on the Chippewa River.

This screening is free and open to everyone. We encourage everyone to take this special opportunity to learn more about our rivers, and ultimately, the communities we call home.

Members

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

New Business Members:

Crystal Valley Cooperative, \$200

New Family Members:

Mike Kluck
Tom Thorkelson

New Individual Members:

Patricia Judd
Joyce Merino
Wade Olson

Renewed Business Members:

Gustavus Adolphus College, 1,000

Renewed Supporter Members:

Kurt & Maren Leonard

Renewed Patron Members:

Grant & Karen Annexstad

Renewed Sustaining Members:

Ranae & Robert Peterson

Renewed Family Members:

Chris & Patty Conlin
Charles & Carol Eggert
Phyllis Maxwell
Myran Schoeb
Tom & Susan Stenson
Traverse des Sioux Genealogical Society
Richard & Janet Wettergren

Renewed Individual Members:

Elaine Hermanson
Robert Lambert
Rochell Nord
John Quist
Donna Resner
John Vogel



The Minnesota River near the Treaty Site History Center.

Films on First Thursdays

Our successful documentary film series continues through spring. The Nicollet County Historical Society, St. Peter Community and Family Education, St. Peter Food Co-op, Arts Center of Saint Peter, St. Peter Senior Center, St. Peter Public Library, River Rock Coffee, and St. Peter Recreation Department have teamed up to bring you five more films. Join us the first Thursday of every month through May at 7 p.m. at the senior Center, inside the St. Peter Community Center. Some films are serious, some are amazing, and a few are just plain weird.



Thurs., January 6, 7 p.m. *Death of the Dream*
Twin Cities Public Television presents *Death of the Dream: Farmhouses in the Heartland*. This film about the rural past was inspired by photographer and essayist William Gabler's beautiful book of classic farmhouses, *Death of the Dream*, published by the Afton Historical Society Press. Part celebration and part bittersweet elegy the film provides a window towards the past, while looking towards the future. The film examines who we are today, reflects on how the family farm has changed, and explores where we are going as we near the end of the millennium. As eminent historian William Cronon says, "So much of who we are as a nation is linked to that rural vision that one can't help feel both a sadness and sense of dilemma of what the role of rural America should be." 60 minutes, Not Rated



Thurs., February 3, 2011, 7 p.m. *Who the @#! is Jackson Pollock?*

When Teri Horton bought a painting in a thrift shop for five dollars, she was stunned when a friend told her that it looked like an original Jackson Pollock and could be worth millions. Working with a leading forensic scientist, Teri learned that a fingerprint on the back of her canvas matched a fingerprint found on a can of paint in Jackson Pollock's studio. More research showed that paint on the floor of Pollock's studio matched the paint on Teri's canvas. Realizing that a Pollock painting the size of hers was worth upwards of \$50 million, Teri thought she had won the lottery. "Not so fast," the art establishment answered, proclaiming her painting worthless.

This documentary captures the 15-year debate between the world's most prestigious art collectors, authenticators and experts and the feisty, 73 year-old grandma who would not give up. 74 minutes, PG 13

Thurs., March 3, 2011, 7 p.m. *King of Kong: Fistful of Quarters*

A middle-school science teacher and a hot sauce mogul vie for the Guinness World Record on the arcade classic, Donkey Kong. Steve and Billy engaged in a cross-country duel to see who could set the high score and become The King of Kong. Along the way, both men learned valuable lessons about what it means to be a father, a husband, and a true champion discovering that you don't always need to win to be a winner. 79 minutes, PG 13

Thurs., April 7, 2011, 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, 2011, 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*

Ted Moline Scholarship

The Society is again offering the \$1,000 Ted Moline Scholarship for post-secondary education to 2011 graduating High School seniors residing in Nicollet County. The scholarship will be awarded to the student who demonstrates the greatest contribution to the discovery, preservation, and/or dissemination of county history.

Ted Moline was born July 21, 1915 in St. Paul and soon after his family moved to Baldwin, Wisconsin. He received his amateur radio operator license in 1934 and was an avid operator

the rest of his life. After moving to St. Peter in 1937, Ted went to work for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad. Ted also served in the United States Army, retiring in 1971 as a Colonel. Ted passed away in August of 2005. He was an extremely generous man who loved local history. This scholarship honors Ted and his commitment to our mission.



Ted Moline

The 2011 Ted Moline Scholarship is made possible by generous donations from retired St. Peter teacher William Harvey and an anonymous donor. We are extremely grateful for their leadership and support.

Students wishing to compete for this year's scholarship must create a significant project that contributes to the preservation and/or understanding of Nicollet County history. This could include an oral history

Moline continued on page 11

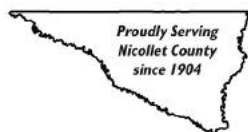
Left: 2009 Ted Moline Scholarship winner Katelyn Goetti from North Mankato with NCHS Director Ben Leonard after the award ceremony. Katelyn's project included researching Lillian Cox Gault, daughter of E. St. Julien Cox and Mariah Cox. Lillian was the first woman mayor in Minnesota, being elected mayor of St. Peter in 1921.



Saving Newspapers Digitally

NCHS has teamed up with the *St. Peter Herald* and *Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger* to start saving newspapers in PDF format. The Minnesota Historical Society closed their microfilm lab last year. They continue to save hard copies of each Minnesota newspaper, but it's difficult to make those accessible to researchers. The short term solution is to do it ourselves. The Society purchased external hard drives, and the newspapers have agreed to start storing issues on them. Every few months we'll collect the drives and save the files on our server at the History Center where they'll be available for researchers. Eventually there will be a long-term preservation option, but for now this is the best local option. We'd

St. Peter Herald



LAFAYETTE NICOLLET
LEDGER

like to thank the *Ledger* and *Herald* for helping us. Their staffs have enough to do to produce the papers we want to save. It's heartening to know they feel a sense of history. Special thanks to Ruth Klossner and Ed Lee for making this happen.

Possible Partnership at Fort Ridgely Discontinued

Many members may be aware of the proposed plan to share the Commissary building with DNR staff. The proposed changes would have meant thousands of dollars for preserving the Commissary building and Fort site, as well as updated and much more efficient heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems. For NCHS operation of Fort Ridgely it would have also meant the opportunity to work with DNR staff to keep the facility open more days per week all year 'round.


There were members of the public who did not feel the benefits above outweighed potential harm to the site and state park operations. This stood in contrast to staff of the Minnesota Historical Society and Department of Natural Resources who felt the project would not damage the historic integrity of the site and instead contribute to the long-term sustainability of both Fort Ridgely State Park Historic Site. This lack of understanding and agreement ultimately led to the project's cancellation. In late September the DNR and MHS issued this joint statement:

"The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Historical Society staff have spent considerable time in recent months working with community members to create a plan and design for improvements to

Fort Ridgely. As our staff have spent more time in discussions, it has become increasingly clear that there is not a solution that will garner widespread community support. This lack of consensus, coupled with the clear legislative mandate that funds from the 2010 capital budget bill are to be spent as soon as possible, in most cases within the current fiscal year, has led us to the conclusion that we will not be able to spend appropriated funds in a timely manner on improvements to the State Park and Historic Site at Fort Ridgely.

Therefore, we are discontinuing the current planning and design work on public service improvements to Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site."

This decision won't mean big changes for Ridgely. NCHS will continue to offer programs, tours, and the Commissary's exhibit experience. We had a great season and are excited for 2011. What this does mean is that we won't be able to greatly expand programs, hours, and options next season. We face record budget deficits and an uncertain future in Minnesota. In this landscape we feel lucky to be able to maintain current program levels.



United Way

NCHS especially thanks the St. Peter United Way for 2011 general operating support.

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507-726-6455

Changing Sites

The visitor season may be over for our historic sites, but the activity continues. The warm fall weather has allowed the Minnesota Historical Society and their contractors to get a lot done.

At Harkin Store, the handicap accessible lift has been installed. The store is now totally ADA accessible for the first time. Work will continue on the Harkin staircase and a few last details around the house exterior.

Fort Ridgely recently received a new cedar shake roof on the Commissary building. The Minnesota Historical Society had planned to replace the roof this year, but hail damage this summer made the work imperative. In addition to the roof the chim-



Above: A new look for the Harkin stairs will decrease its impact on the viewshed and blend better into the landscape.

neys were repaired and tuck-pointed. A new trail reconstructing the parade grounds around the fort's interior is planned for 2011.

Traverse des Sioux State Historic Site has received some TLC as well. Nick Gansen and his volunteer crew (see article), spent many hours rehabilitating the west Treaty Rock park unit, located behind Dranttel's Sales and Service. The St. Peter Fire Department burned most of the prairie to the north of the History Center earlier this fall.

Richard Tostenson has taken the

Cox House to new heights this fall. The interior has been redecorated, additional artifacts from the NCHS collections are now displayed, and lots of new holiday decorations have been purchased. All of this helps take the house back to the Victorian era. Major changes are still ahead to make the Cox House an even better place to enjoy a program, special event, or facility rental.

Left: Sarah Beimers and Tom Ellig from MHS inspect the new cedar shake roof on Ridgely's Commissary building.

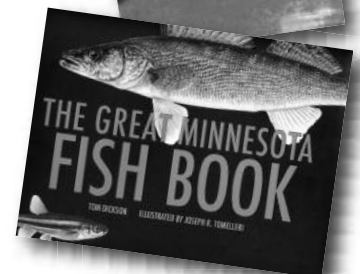


Museum Store Musings: Holiday Shopping

by Ben Leonard

Looking for a book or unique gift item for that special someone this holiday season? Don't forget to include the Treaty Site History Center in your holiday shopping plans. We have a selection of local history books and memoirs. Will Weaver's new book *The Last Hunter* follows his own family hunting traditions—it's the perfect gift for the outdoorsmen in your family. Maybe they'd prefer *The Great Minnesota Fish Book* recently published by the University of Minnesota Press. Stunning artwork and informative entries on every kind of Minnesota fish make it an indispensable guide for any fisher-

man. You'll also find one-of-a-kind sculptures by local artist Arnie Lillo, and special Wood Lake prints by David Geister. Members get a 10 percent discount every day, and all proceeds directly benefit the Society. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sundays 1–4 p.m.



Society Partners with St. Peter's River Rock Coffee



The Society and River Rock Coffee have forged a lasting partnership that goes far beyond light roast and hermits. Early next year NCHS and River Rock are coming together to offer St. Peter something it sorely needs—a book store! River Rock’s remodeling plans include a joint effort to offer customers a chance to expand their minds as well.



“The Society and River Rock really value customer service,” says NCHS Director Ben Leonard. “We feel the same way about books. We won’t compete with Barnes and Noble or the Internet. But, we can hand sell select books that we feel are a great read, and that you might not otherwise find out about.”

Don’t come in looking for the latest John Grisham book—we won’t have it. We will have a great boutique inventory of local fiction, regional history, laugh-out-loud memoirs, and social justice books. Our selection comes complete with personal recommendations just for you from caring staff and community members. Look for us in early 2011!

Fall Floods Create History Island!

A freak fall flood at the end of September turned the Treaty Site History Center into an island. Before the building was constructed fill was added to raise the ground three feet above the 500 year flood level. Those engineers knew what they were doing! Photographs show the water got breathtakingly close, but flood waters could have risen another six to twelve inches before reaching the inside. Director Ben Leonard donned waders, forded water up to his thighs, and checked on the building every few hours.

NCHS does have an emergency and disaster plan. The file server and select archival collections were removed early on Sunday. The river crested on the evening of Monday, September 27th.

The Society received no damage but did pick up a few stories that are fun to tell at parties.



Courtesy of 

Put the Society on Your Christmas List This Year

The Society has many things to be thankful for this season. 2010 was another excellent year for the Society. It's heartening to know that even in tough economic times thousands of visitors still paid admission to our sites, hundreds of you renewed your memberships, and Nicollet County continued its unwavering support.

We feel our mission has never been more important than right now. In times of uncertainty, The Society is here to provide historical perspective, empathy, and understanding. The Society is serving more people over the past few years than we ever have before.

Financially the Society remains vibrant but we have not been unscathed. Before we step foot into 2011, we have already lost \$10,000 in revenue for next year—roughly four percent of our budget. Our utility costs and other fixed expenses continue to rise. Without new revenue we will have to start cutting services—the same services that demand has never been higher for.

We know that many families out there are in a similar position. As a non-profit we try to offer free opportunities to learn about their past. Many of the fees we do charge remain well below our costs and are accessible to as many folks as possible.

If you can help, please consider a tax-deductible donation to NCHS this holiday season. If you have friends or relatives interested in history, encourage them to join. The problems we face are not insurmountable by any means, but they can't be fixed by doing nothing.

Thanks for your friendship and support. We sincerely appreciate it. Have a very happy holidays.



Staff:

President: Gary Schmidt

Ben Leonard

Vice President: Jeremy Freeman

Jessica Brockberg

Treasurer: Herb Poncin

Bob Sandeen

Secretary: Tami Skinner

Wayne Passon

Historian: Diane Stenson

Allen McBride

Jessica Becker

Richard Tostenson (Cox House)

Directors:

Ruth Grewe (Harkin Store)

Steve Baxa

Ann Koch

Dr. Chris Corley

Rose Alsleben

Dr. Lori Lahlum

Nancy Zempel (Ridgely)

Emilie Lokensgard

Karen Rogotzke

Sally Webster

Melinda Sommer

Patti Kelly

Charlotte Nack

Alma Forst

Dorothy Polesky

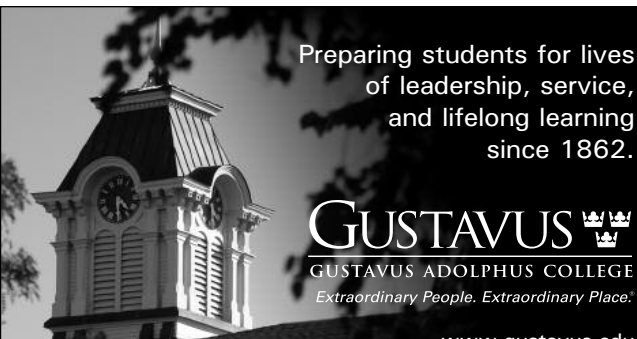
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NCHS Awarded Two Legacy Grants

The Minnesota Historical Society recently awarded two Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants to the Society. NCHS Director Ben Leonard commented, "We're extremely excited and grateful to have the financial opportunity to complete these two much needed projects." Coupled with a successful request earlier in 2010, NCHS received three Cultural Heritage Grants for a total of \$14,611.

A \$7,000 grant will allow the Society to work with Bluestem Heritage Group to develop a formal interpretive and business plan for the Cox House. The award dovetails nicely with previous funding to reinvigorate the House and its programming provided by the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation. Bluestem will provide a market analysis, mediated stakeholder meetings, and research. The resulting plan will provide a blue print for further program development, interpretation, and facility use.

The second project in the NCHS archives will be funded through a \$6,911 award. The Society will now be able to complete the archival storage project begun with a similar grant several years ago. The new funding will purchase a second set of track shelving, additional flat storage, and lots of acid-free storage materials. The result will mean that the bulk of NCHS archival collections are stored according to professional standards, plus there will be more room for future growth, and items will be easier to locate for researchers. "This project desperately needed to be done," stated Director Leonard. "This shelving will still be in use decades from now. This is truly a Legacy project—preserving our collections for future generations. Our archives storage space will go from being a liability to one of our greatest assets."

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are made possible by the Minnesota Legislature from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund created with passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in November 2008. The grants are awarded to support projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state.

"It is wonderful to see so many communities and local organizations benefitting from the Historical

and Cultural Heritage Grants," said Britta Bloomberg, deputy state historic preservation officer. "Minnesotans should be proud of the unprecedented opportunities these grants provide for organizations to preserve and share our history and cultural heritage. The impact of projects supported by Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants will be felt throughout the state for many years to come."

The Society awarded a total of \$6.75 million in Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants to non-profit and educational organizations, government units and tribes during the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years for projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state. Grants are available in three tiers: Small or "Fast Track" grants of \$7,000 or less, Mid-Size grants between \$7,000 and \$50,000, and Large grants of more than \$50,000. For more information, including application deadlines, visit www.mnhs.org/legacygrants.

The Society would like to thank our legislators, Senator Kathy Sheran, and Representatives Terry Morrow and Kathy Brynaert; along with the Minnesota Historic Resources Advisory Committee, Minnesota Historical Society, and the taxpayers of Minnesota for providing this opportunity through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment passed in 2008.

The new shelving unit will match a unit that was previously installed a few years ago. These shelves move on tracks, much like a train can move on a set of railroad tracks. The shelves provide a much better use of the existing storage space.



They permit greatly improved access to any of the stored items, making it possible to store things in logical locations, rather than being forced to place them where they happen to fit.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL
& CULTURAL GRANTS

Collections: recent donations

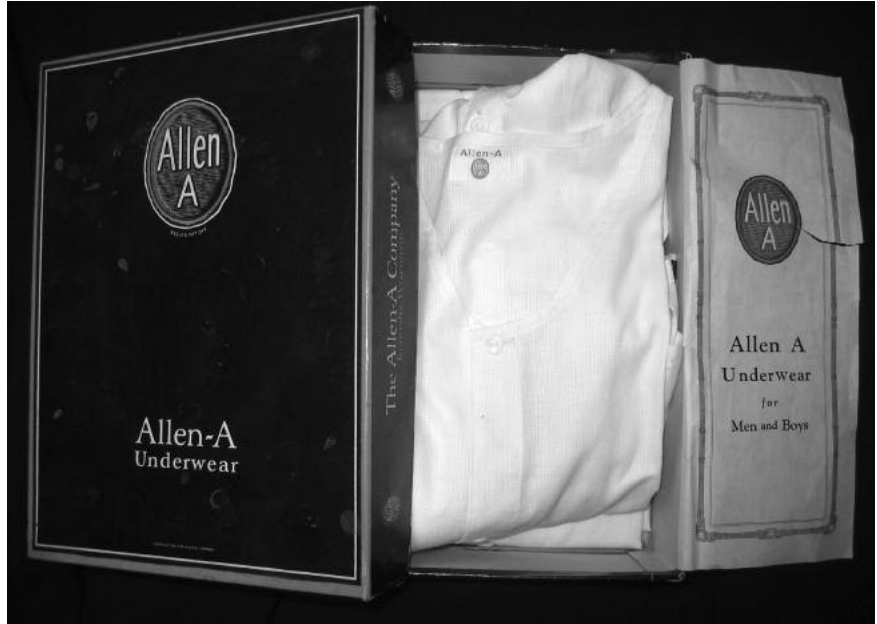


Left: This Dakota beaded bag was donated recently to the NCHS collection by Corrine Heiberg of Northfield. Her mother acquired the bag in the early 1900s while living in the Good Thunder area. Not much is known about the Dakota artisans who crafted the bag and beadwork

The family of Roger Swenson donated this box of Allen A Company men's underwear from the former inventory of the Norseland General Store. The store, located in Norseland, 11 miles northwest of St. Peter on Highway 22, first opened its doors in 1858. It served as general store, grocery, auto and

implement dealership, gas station, and post office until it closed in 2006.

This pair of underwear, probably from the late 1920s or early 1930s, sat on the shelf until it was eventually moved into storage. Perfectly preserved in brand new condition, the item is a great addition to our collection. It also shows us that items can tell many stories—that of a general store, the children who wore such underwear, history of clothing fashions, and not least of all, something about the company that made it.



The Allen A Company was founded in Kenosha Wisconsin in 1830. Originally a tannery, the company grew to be the largest of its kind in the world. At its peak one thousand men and women processed one million hides per year. The company started manufacturing hosiery in 1912. By 1928 2,300 employees manufactured underwear and hosiery for the company in Kenosha, Sheboygan, and Bennington, Vermont. Allen A's workforce comprised about ten percent of Kenosha's factory workers. That same year the company

.....
Moline continued from page 5

project, exhibit, documentary film, research paper, play, or other work. Projects should involve primary source research and add to the historical record. Projects that simply restate historical facts in book report fashion will not be very successful. We would like to see real historical exploration, understanding, and an excitement in conveying that to others. We would encourage students and/or educators to contact the Society before projects begin to avoid confusion.

The deadline to enter projects is May 13, 2011. Projects will be judged by an expert panel at a public reception, held May 21st at the Treaty Site History Center. Students will be asked to attend and present their projects. Final copies of each project will be preserved in the NCHS collections.

For more information please contact Ben Leonard at 507-934-2160 or ben@nchsmn.org.

announced a one million dollar investment in knitting machinery that would further industrialize the manufacturing process, speed up production, and decrease the number of workers. That, along with wage disputes, and growing tension between the union and management, led to one of the most bitter and violent strikes in Wisconsin history.

That's a lot to learn from a pair of underwear.

Source: Applebaum, Leon, 1930- "Turmoil in Kenosha: the Allen-A hosiery dispute of 1928-1929" Wisconsin Magazine Of History. Volume: 70 / Issue: 4 (1986-1987)

We would also like to say **thanks** to these business members:

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

Treaty Rock Eagle Scout Project

by Nick Gansen



Left: the crew gathers for the first work day at the Treaty Rock portion of the Traverse des Sioux State Historic Site.



Center: pathways have received a new coating of gravel for easier walking.



Right: The entire park was mowed.

The Society especially thanks Nick and all his volunteers for the incredible amount of work they put into cleaning up the Treaty Rock portion of the Traverse des Sioux State Historic Site. Because of Nick's effort and initiative the park is once again a great place to take a stroll, see restored native prairie, and learn more about the 1851 Treaty signing. The Treaty Rock unit doesn't get as much attention as the larger site north of the Treaty Site History Center, but thanks to Nick and his friends, it received the attention and TLC it needed. Thanks Nick!

With the help from the Scouts of Troop 58 and their parents, I have been working at the Treaty Rock Site. We have accomplished almost all of the goals I had set for my Eagle project, but now the weather is working against us.

We have worked on three Saturday afternoons for a few hours each. I think what has been done up to this point has really improved the park.

So far we have cut down and cleaned up several dead trees and cleared a lot of brush, debris and garbage. We spread gravel along the walking paths and also in the parking lot. There is actually a cement border around the parking lot

that you can now see. I enlisted the help of my Grandpa, who mowed the entire park for us.

The park bench was taken apart, scraped and painted. It will be put back together to provide a nice spot to sit at the park. The entryway to the park was one of the last items we needed to work on and the snowy weather has hampered our efforts. We will be cleaning and trimming that area also.

In my Eagle project outline I had to list who would benefit from my project and how they would benefit. I said the St. Peter community would benefit from having the park be a more desirable destination. I think we are getting there. Hopefully we will have another weekend to allow us to finish, otherwise we will continue this spring and complete the project.

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New Harmonies

CELEBRATING AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

Last newsletter we told you about an exciting upcoming collaboration. The Society and the Arts Center of Saint Peter, in cooperation with the Minnesota Humanities Center, explore our musical heritage as it hosts the local showing of *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. *New Harmonies* will be on view at the Arts Center of Saint Peter from April 30th to June 11, 2011.

New Harmonies tells the American musical story through photographs, instruments, lyrics and artist profiles. Although "roots music" is a relatively new term that generally applies to forms of folk music, its influences run deep throughout American culture and can be heard in today's commercial country, gospel, pop and hip-hop genres. The exhibition not only describes the work of well-known folk, gospel, country and blues artists like Ma Rainey, B.B. King, Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, Mahalia Jackson, Woody Guthrie, and Joan Baez that have inspired generations of musicians, but also captures the spirit of musical styles that are at the heart of our local heritage – Tejano, zydeco, polka, Cajun, conjunto, and klezmer. *New Harmonies* focuses on how roots music gives Americans a soundtrack and a voice for their stories.

The nationally traveling exhibit is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about *New Harmonies* and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org. *New*



Bashful Brother Oswald. For nearly 60 years, Bashful Brother Oswald (1911–2002) was one of the most influential and talented dobro players in country music. For the majority of his career, he was the dobroist for Roy Acuff's Smoky Mountain Boys. Photo by Jim Herrington/www.jimherrington.com

Harmonies has been made possible in St. Peter, Minn. by the Minnesota State Humanities Council. *New Harmonies* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

New Harmonies 2011 Itinerary:

- Austin Public Library, Austin
March 12–April 23
- Arts Center of Saint Peter, Saint Peter
April 30–June 11
- Evansville Arts Coalition, Evansville
June 18–July 30
- Wilkommen Heritage & Preservation Society, Norwood Young America
Aug. 6–Sept. 17
- Dassel Area Historical Society, Dassel
Sept. 24–Nov. 5
- Roseau County Historical Society, Roseau
Nov. 12–Dec. 24



The National Museum of the American Indian National Powwow, Verizon Center, Washington, D.C., 2005. The chant of a human voice, the pulse of a drum—the first music heard in the Americas was probably sacred song. For Native Americans, music was communication with the Creator. In a number of Indian languages, "to sing" also means "to pray."

Photo by Walter Larrimore/Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

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Christmas in St. Peter



Santa Claus appeared in person at the Methodist Church on Christmas Eve. The cheery old gentleman came through the window well clad in furs, and proceeded to take the presents from the Christmas tree which had been previously prepared, and distribute them among the children. It was a very happy time.

Another Santa Claus attended the distribution at the Christian Church on the following evening, where a beautiful evergreen arch was constructed, from which the presents were suspended. The presents were very numerous and many of them quite valuable. The old as well as the young folks seemed equally happy.

Some who are a little doubtful as to the usual notions of Santa Claus, go so far as to say that Oliver Andrews personated the old gentleman at the Methodist Church, and that Henry Moll was inside of his furs at the Christian Church. We do not know how it was.

At the Episcopal Church early services were held. The church was beautifully decorated and the services impressive. Rev. Mr. Livermore made a distribution of presents to the small children, when they departed full of glee.

Christmas services were also held at the Catholic and Swede churches, which were both tastefully ornamented with Evergreen boughs.

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Annual Meeting Registration Form

Enclosed is my/our check for the amount of

\$ _____ for _____ reservation(s) at \$15/person (members)
 \$ _____ for _____ reservation(s) at \$20/person (non-members)
 \$ _____ for _____ reservation(s) for the William Lass
 program (3 p.m.) at \$5/person

The event will be held in **Jackson Campus Center, Gustavus Adolphus College, with the meal starting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2010.**

Name(s) _____ My check is enclosed Please debit my credit card
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Checks should be made payable to: **Nicollet County Historical Society**

Return by **January 7** to:

Nicollet County Historical Society, 1851 North Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082

2011 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

Harkin Store: Closed for the Season.

Fort Ridgely: Closed for the Season.

TSHC: Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. unless noted below / Fee: \$4 adults, \$2 children 6–18, \$10 family max.
 Free for children age 5 and under, NCHS and MHS members.

Cox House: Time: 1 to 4 p.m. Friday–Sunday. Fee: \$4 adults, \$2 children 6–18, \$10 family max.
 Free for children age 5 and under, NCHS and MHS members.

Now Open	Tales of the Territory Exhibit <i>Be sure to visit this exciting new NCHS exhibit</i>	TSHC North Exhibit Room
Dec. 4 & 5, 11 & 12	Cox House Christmas <i>See story on page 1. 1 to 4 p.m.</i>	E. St. Julien Cox House
Dec. 7	Troubled Waters Documentary <i>Documentary film showing and treated rivers conversation. See story on page 3, 7 p.m., FREE</i>	Treaty Site History Center
Jan. 6, 2011	Death of the Dream Documentary Film Series <i>See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE</i>	St. Peter Community Center
Jan. 16	Nicollet County Historical Society's Annual Meeting <i>Make your reservations today! See story on page 1, 1 p.m. dinner, 2:15 p.m. business meeting, and Dr. William Lass program at 3 p.m. Reservation form above.</i>	Jackson Campus Center Banquet Rooms Gustavus Adolphus College
Feb. 3	Who the @#! is Jackson Pollack? Documentary Film Series <i>See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE</i>	St. Peter Community Center
Mar. 3	King of Kong: Fistful of Quarters Documentary Film Series <i>See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE</i>	St. Peter Community Center
Apr. 7	I.O.U.S.A. Documentary Film Series <i>See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE</i>	St. Peter Community Center
Apr. 20–June 11	New Harmonies Exhibit <i>See story on page 13, FREE</i>	Arts Center of Saint Peter
May 5	Which Way Home Documentary Film Series <i>See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE</i>	St. Peter Community Center

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



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