

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



Nicollet County Historical Society

at the Treaty Site History Center

2012 Annual Report



*Thank you for the
glorious year of events
and advocacy
that NCHS has given to
people in our region
and beyond.*

~ Roland and Edi Thorstensson

Our Mission

The mission of the Nicollet County Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Nicollet County and the State of Minnesota.

152,442* Served in 2012

“
It’s a joy
to watch
[the Society]
in action.”

~ Mike & Pam Bidelman

You don’t have to come to one of our buildings to be served by the Society. That has never been more true than it was in 2012. NCHS collections are available anywhere in the world through the Minnesota Digital Library and our own web site. Over 20,000 people encountered our two traveling exhibits in institutions across Minnesota and beyond. Several thousand folks came to one of our programs.

Attendance at sites and use of our archives was up this year as well. All-in-all it was a very good year for NCHS, and for learning the history of the Minnesota River Valley.

NCHS was a leader in remembering the 1862 U.S.-Dakota War. We worked with journalists and scholars from a variety of institutions, including Twin Cities Public Television, Minnesota Public

Radio, *Star Tribune*, *Rochester Post Bulletin*, *St. Peter Herald*, *Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger*, *Mankato Free Press*, and Independent Public Radio stations. In November we were featured on National Public Radio’s “This American Life.” While this outreach is not reflected in our numbers served, well over 2 million readers, listeners, and television watchers learned about our local history through our interpretation. That’s a pretty big asterisk!

Front cover: Dakota Traveling Exhibit at President Lincoln’s Cottage Historic Site, Washington D.C. in October.

Top left: Central exhibit
Top center: Thinking About Community, Petatlán exhibit’s premiere exhibition at the Treaty Site.

Top right: Cox House bannister at Christmas.

Center: Harkin Store

Bottom: Fort Ridgely panorama



Director's Report

We're fond of saying that people have been coming together here in Nicollet County for thousands of years. It's true from the river crossing at Traverse des Sioux, to the 5,000 year-old campsite unearthed at Fort Ridgely, to diners at Spinners Bar in North Mankato. It's true at the Historical Society too—and 2012 was a great reminder of that.

We're not just about old stuff. The Society is here to bring people together, foster empathy, and provide perspective. We helped tell the story of community in St. Peter's sister city of Petatlán, Mexico. We showed the 1946 documentary *Let There Be Light* and had a modern discussion about returning veterans and PTSD.

Our 1862 exhibit, lecture series, and public programs have reached thousands of people across Minnesota, and beyond, to places like Flandreau, S.D. and Washington D.C.

The past 12 months have proved beyond any doubt that what happened here matters. Our story is a national one, and as much as our history shaped the state and the nation, larger forces continue to influence our lives today.

Our county is growing. It is becoming more diverse (again). There are lots of people, like me, who were born somewhere else. We are all finding our place in a shared history. There are lots more stories to save, and to tell.

We did a good job last year, but we have to make sure we do even better in 2013. Let's make new contacts. Let's make sure our new friendships grow into partnerships. Let our Historical Society reflect our society. There needs to be something for everyone—because everyone belongs here.



NCHS Director
Ben Leonard



Ben Leonard
Director
Nicollet County Historical Society

NCHS 2012 at a glance



- Top left: Remodeling of Museum Bookstore
- Top center: New ADA paths installed at Fort Ridgely site.
- Top right: Dakota War Exhibit as it was presented at the 2012 Building Bridges Conference. Photo: Gustavus News Services
- Center left: Ben in the intro room at the Center. Photo: Caroline Yang, Minnesota Public Radio
- Center : Letter by a soldier describing battle of Birch Coulee, donated by Marshall Peterson.
- Center right: NCHS was represented during a trip to St. Peter's Sister City, Petatlán, Mexico. Photo: Ben Leonard
- Below center: Harkin Store interior



Kristina LeClerc, NCHS office assistant, keeps us on track for the financial books of the Society in addition to maintaining the membership records.



Victoria Steinhaus NCHS research assistant. Victoria is involved in researching the ancestry of many Nicollet County residents.

2012 Board

The Society is truly blessed with a fantastic Board of Directors. Each meeting is full of thoughtful discussion and energy. Not every challenge has been overcome, but the Society is strong, financially viable for the long term, and headed in a clear direction for the future. We will certainly miss the exceptional leadership of outgoing President Gary Schmidt. Gary has done a tremendous job the last six years—four of those as President. We can't thank him enough.

Officers

- Gary Schmidt**, North Mankato
President (2nd term ending 2012)
- Jeremy Freeman**, Saint Peter
Vice President (2nd term ending 2013)
- Marie Dranttel**, Saint Peter
Treasurer (1st term ending 2014)
- Tami Skinner**, Saint Peter
Secretary (2nd term ending 2013)
- Steve Baxa**, Saint Peter
Historian (2nd term ending 2014)

Directors

- Dr. Chris Corley**, North Mankato
(2nd term ending 2013)
- Alma Forst**, West Newton Township
(1st term ending 2012)
- Scott Hermanson**, Saint Peter
(1st term ending 2014)
- Patti Kelly**, Saint Peter
(1st term ending 2012)
- Dr. Lori Lahlum**, North Mankato
(1st term ending 2014)
- Emilie Lokensgard**, Saint Peter
(2nd term ending 2013)
- Pamela Morson**, Lafayette
(1st term ending 2013)
- Anders Ringdahl-Mayland**, Saint Peter
(1st term ending 2014)
- Bob Schabert**, Courtland
(1st term ending 2013)
- Sally Webster**, Bernadotte Township
(2nd term ending 2013)

2012 Staff

We don't know how lucky we are to have the staff that we do. Spread out over 50 miles, and worth their weight in gold, they consistently give so much effort, expertise, and excitement. Through their hard work and some dedicated volunteers NCHS answered thousands of phone calls and e-mails, talked to audiences all over creation, helped genealogists find lost relatives, preserved historical treasures, and cleaned toilets more times than we care to think about. Any thank you is inadequate, but we'll say it anyway.

Rose Alsleben

Harkin Store Guide

Jessica Becker

Museum Assistant

Amber Bentler

Museum Assistant

Victoria Clark

Museum Assistant

Annaliese Endorf

Museum Assistant

Ruth Grewe

Harkin Site Manager, harkin@nchsmn.org

Steve Hogburg

Volunteer Tour Guide

Joan Jordan

Museum Assistant

Kristina LeClerc

Office Assistant, kristina@nchsmn.org

Ben Leonard

Executive Director, ben@nchsmn.org

Allen McBride

Museum Assistant

Dick Muesing

Volunteer Research Assistant

Charlotte Nack

Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Wayne Passon

Maintenance Coordinator

Dorothy Polesky

Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Bob Sandeen

Research Coordinator, bob@nchsmn.org

Victoria Steinhaus

Research Assistant

Glenn Stryker

Cox House Site Guide

Loren Sundboom

Volunteer Museum Assistant

Richard Tostenson

Cox House Site Manager, cox@nchsmn.org

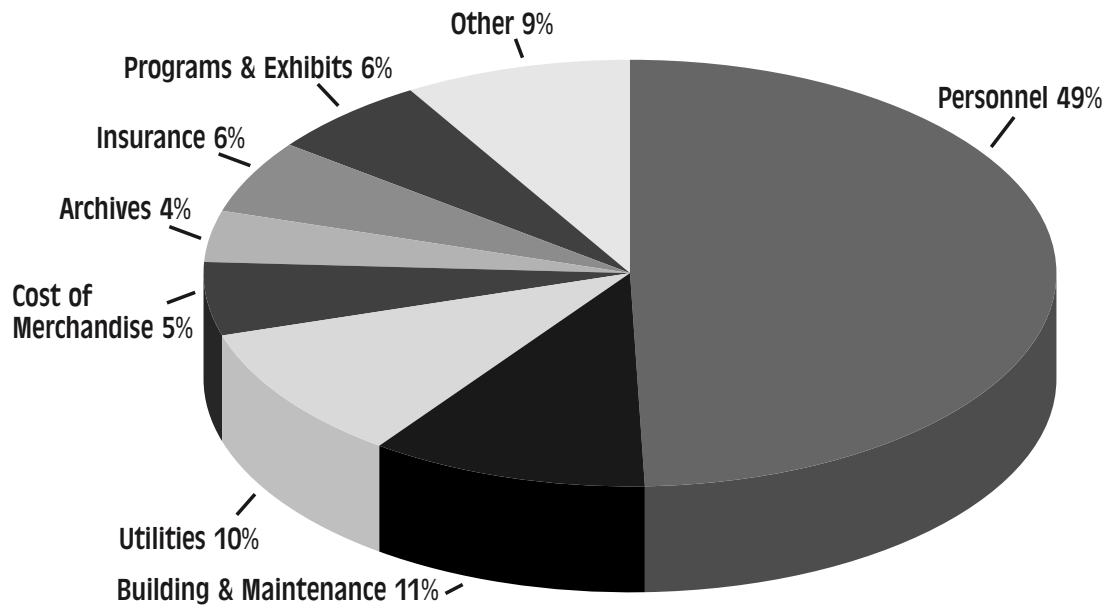
Nancy Zempel

Fort Ridgely Site Manager, ridgely@nchsmn.org

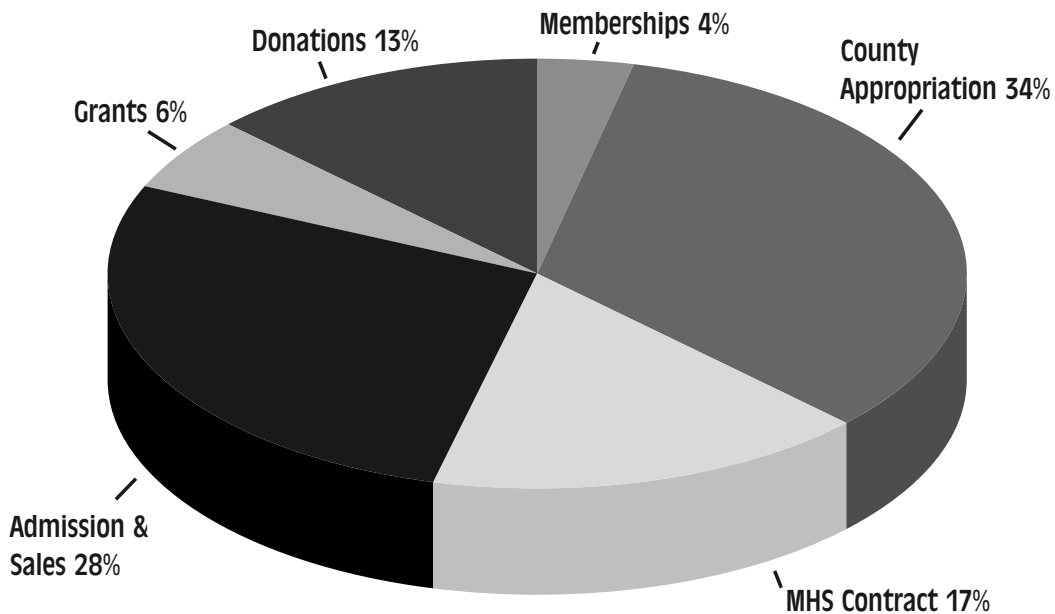
2012 Financials

NCHS would like to thank Nicollet County for its unwavering financial support of our mission. We continue to diversify our funding overall, but the taxpayers of Nicollet County provide an important and stable base. Our relationship with the Minnesota Historical Society and their historic sites is important. We could not operate Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely, and Traverse des Sioux without their commitment. Earned income, in the form of admissions and merchandise sales, were up significantly from 2011. In 2012 the Society took steps to restructure staffing levels to best serve the public, and make our buildings more energy efficient to decrease utility costs. We should begin to reap those benefits in 2013.

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • Expense

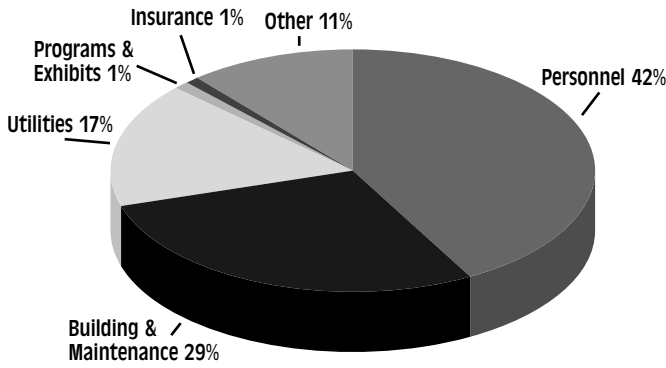


NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • Income

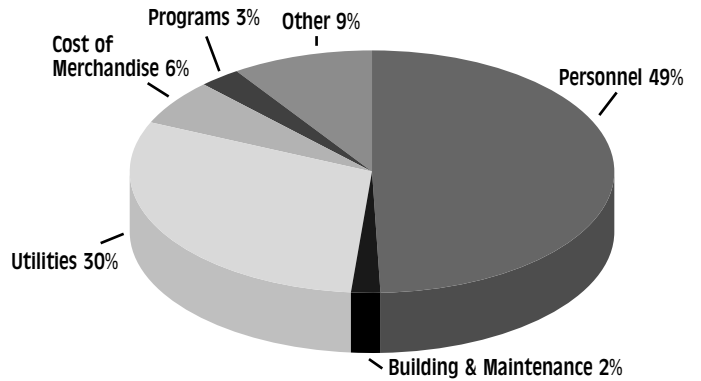


2012 Financials by Site

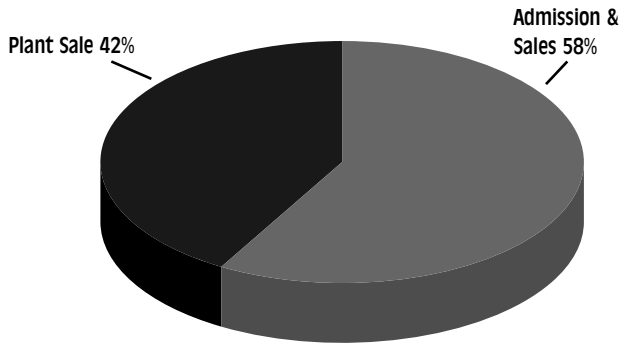
COX HOUSE • Expense



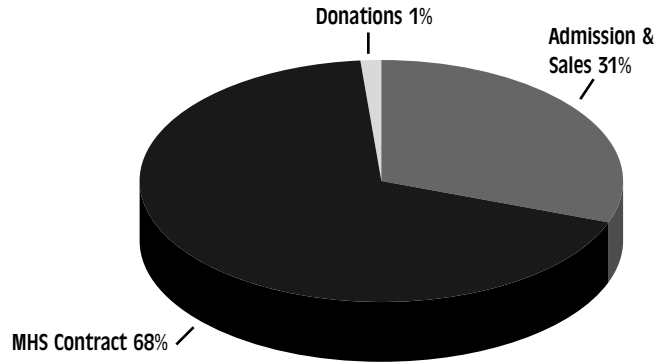
FORT RIDGELY • Expense



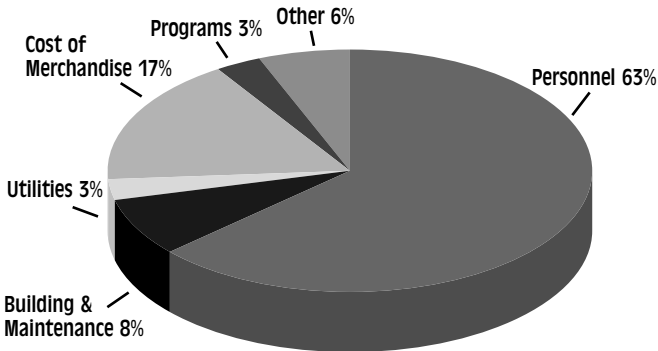
COX HOUSE • Income



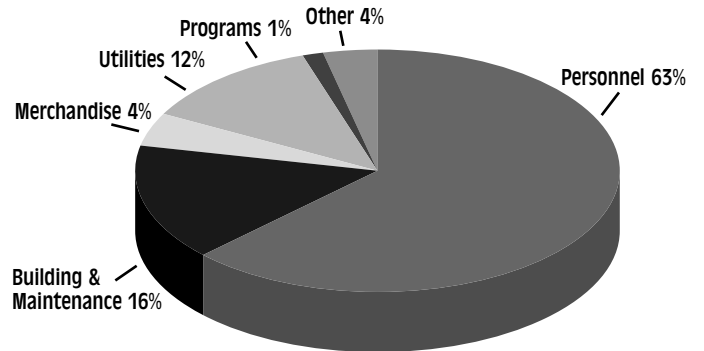
FORT RIDGELY • Income



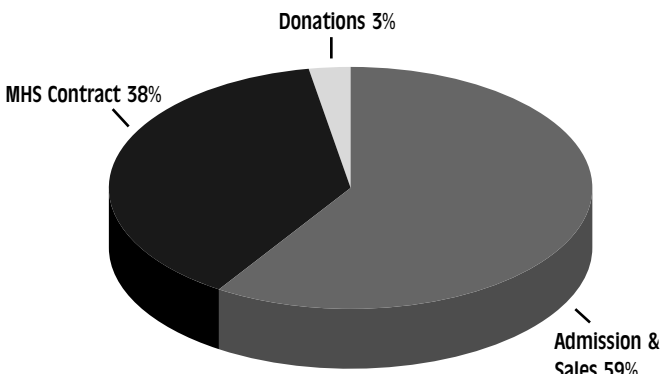
HARKIN STORE • Expense



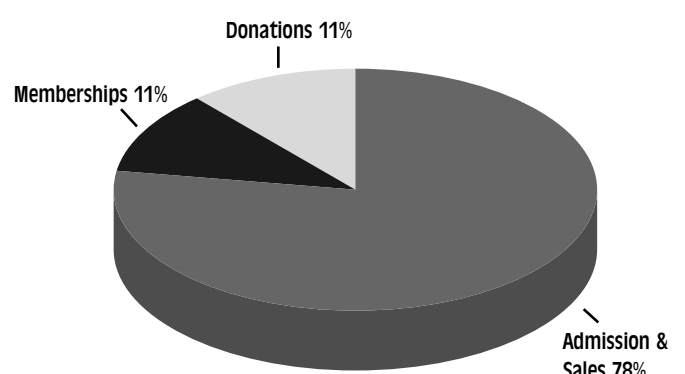
TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER • Expense



HARKIN STORE • Income



TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER • Income



2012 NCHS Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

100 · CHECKING - GENERAL	33,688.97
101 · PETTY CASH - RIDGELY	232.90
102 · CHECKING - HARKIN STORE	1,357.48
103 · PETTY CASH	72.25
105 · CHECKING - RIDGELY	416.35
108 · MONEY MARKET - PROGROWTH BANK	45,359.44
110 · INVESTMENTS	
116 · CASH - INVEST - MAIRS AND POWER	<u>58,707.29</u>
Total 110 · INVESTMENTS	<u>58,707.29</u>

Total Checking/Savings 139,834.68

Accounts Receivable

120 · RECEIVABLE	<u>116.45</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	116.45

Other Current Assets

130 · MERCHANDISE INVENTORY	7,749.17
132 · MERCH INV. - DONATED	2,500.00
134 · MERCHANDISE INV. - HARKIN	2,095.31
136 · MERCHANDISE INV. - RIDGELY	<u>5,315.24</u>

Total Other Current Assets 17,659.72

Total Current Assets 157,610.85

Fixed Assets

200 · BUILDING & IMPROVEMENTS	1,952,792.65
202 · OFFICE EQUIP & FURN.	66,292.46
220 · ACCUM. DEP. - BUILDING	<u>-834,708.54</u>

Total Fixed Assets 1,184,376.57

TOTAL ASSETS 1,341,987.42

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	
300 · ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	<u>5,891.75</u>
Total Accounts Payable	5,891.75
Other Current Liabilities	
305 · PAYROLL TAXES - FWH & FICA	0.00
310 · PAYROLL TAXES - SWH	0.00
315 · OTHER PAYROLL DED. - PERA	0.00
318 · SALES TAX PAYABLE	<u>1,760.82</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,760.82</u>

Total Current Liabilities 7,652.57

Total Liabilities

7,652.57

Equity

390 · UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	1,467,620.78
395 · RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	31,430.00
399 · RETAINED EARNINGS	-185,082.04
Net Income	<u>17,938.77</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,331,907.51</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,339,560.08

2012 Monetary Donors

Support



CARL AND VERNA
SCHMIDT
FOUNDATION



The Society owes a sincere debt to each and every member and supporter. It's an overused expression, but we really couldn't do this without you. We were especially honored and humbled with the outpouring of generosity in 2012. The Treaty Site's central gallery is now named after Al and Cathy Annexstad to reflect their significant financial commitment to the Society. Mark and Mary Davis have been super supportive this year. The estates of Alta Nelson and Clinton Lomis made donations, as well as individuals like Beth Russell, whose gift will go toward operating the Harkin Store. Thanks to each and every donor for your special gifts!

3M

Bruce Aiton
Eunice Amos
Mildred Anderson
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Steven & Becky Briggs
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Memorials

In Memory of
Clinton Lomis

Given by
Judy Scholl
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz

In Memory of
**Robert Olsen, Olive Peterson,
& Eda Swenson John**

Given by
Kathy Ericson

In Memory of
Esther Stolt

Given by
Gary & Geri Schmidt

In Memory of
Agnes Kettner

Given by
Gary & Geri Schmidt

In Memory of
Robert Peterson

Given by
Owen & Evie Swenson

In Memory of
Curt Bochert

Given by
Gary & Geraldine Schmidt

In Memory of
Stanley Halvorson

Given by
Marshall & Janet Anthony
Robert & Leona Isenberg
Douglas & ReVae Nygard

In Memory of
Cliff Mollert

Given by
Marshall & Janet Anthony
Douglas & ReVae Nygard
Judith Scholl

In Memory of
Don Nelman

Given by
Gary & Geraldine Schmidt

In Memory of
Nadine Stewart

Given by
Douglas & ReVae Nygard

In Memory of
Rinehardt "Rhiny" Tretter

Given by
Gary & Geraldine Schmidt

In Memory of
JoAnne Johnson

Given by
Gary and Geraldine Schmidt

In Memory of
Doug Anderson

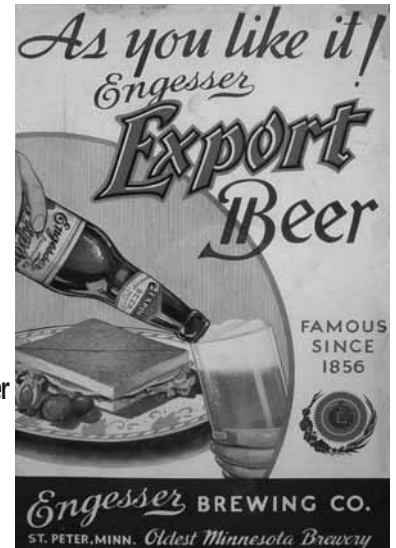
Given by
Martin and Carol Menk

2012 Collection Donors

Janet Albrecht
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A listing of the items
 donated are detailed
 in quarterly issues
 of *The Crossing*, the
 Society's newsletter.

Original Engesser Beer
 Company poster
 donated to the
 collection by
 Cliff Mollert

2012 Programs

This past year showcased NCHS's diverse offerings and unique partnerships. We collaborated with Gustavus Adolphus College, public libraries, St. Peter School District, Prairie Enthusiasts, Minnesota Water Resource Center, St. Peter Food Co-Op, Arts Center of Saint Peter, Minnesota Historical Society, Blues Fest, Women Celebrating Women, St. Peter Reads and others. Audiences saw live music, documentary films, lectures on Dakota culture, demonstrations, battlefield tours, Victorian celebrations and lots of other really great stuff.



Top left: Dakota Lecture series at Gustavus, January 2012.

Top right: Gary Clayton Anderson, lecturing for Dakota Lecture series.
 Photo: John Cross, Mankato Free Press

Center: Santa's Christmas 2012 visit to the Cox House.

Below left: American Indian Education Program students from St. Paul Public Schools visit the Treaty Site in December.

Memberships

\$1000 Crossing Circle

Life Members

Marian Anderson
 Steven & Becky Briggs
 Verlin Carlson
 Mel & Lavonne Craig
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davis
 Marie Dranttel
 Garfield & Marjorie Eckberg
 Julie & Sam Gault
 Lisa Gault
 Delores Holteen
 Emilie Lokensgard
 James McPherson
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schmidt
 David & Linda Witte

\$1000 Champlon Business

Gustavus Adolphus College

\$200 Advocate Business

Arts Center of Saint Peter
 BENCO Electric
 Brighton Township
 First National Bank Minnesota
 Goodrich Construction
 Nelson Printing Company
 New Sweden
 Mutual Insurance Company
 Nicollet County Bank of St. Peter
 Schmidt's Meat Market

Life Members

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 Ken & Janet Albrecht
 Mildred Anderson
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 Marian Babcock
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 Gloria Benson
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 Katha & John Chamberlain
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 Arden & Marilyn DeBoer



Flag raising at
 Fort Ridgely.

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Annaliese Endorf
Jennifer Engler
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling
Lona Falenczykowski
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Jeremy & Michel Freeman
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Glenn Stryker
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Tom Thorkelson
Richard Tostenson
Traverse des Sioux
Genealogy Society
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Buster & Nina West
Richard & Janet Wettergren
Larry & Joan Zambino
Nancy Zempel

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Peg Binder
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Janet Boese
Ruth Brandel
Roger Breckenridge
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Jennifer St. Julien Powers
Victoria Steinhaus
Agnes Stensby
Neil Stevermer
Bernadine Thompson
Beverly Toppin
Wood Lake Battlefield
Preservation Association
Gertrude Wright

“

Your

willingness

to contribute

signifies your

understanding

of the

importance

in protecting,

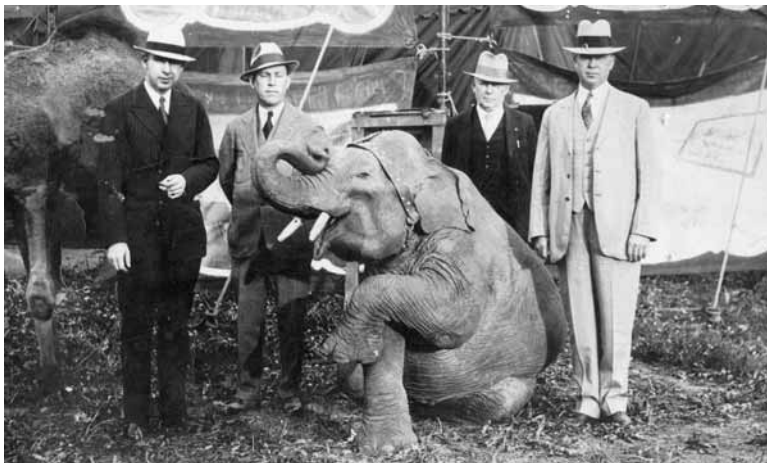
preserving,

and promoting

our shared

past.”

~ Ben Leonard



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



Nicollet County
Historical Society
at the Treaty Site History Center

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

Phone: (507) 934-2160 • 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: museum@nchsmn.org

Archives information: research@nchsmn.org

Website: www.nchsmn.org