Construction Zone

Area contractors have been busy at Fort Ridgely, the Cox House, and Harkin Store. The fort grounds have received a major upgrade with the recently completed walking trail. The new trail recreates the historic parade grounds and covers the interior outline of the original site. The crushed granite ADA accessible trail provides geographical context and access to all of the site’s interpretive signs. “Visitors won’t have to guess where to go now, they’ll be able to follow the trail and see everything,” said NCHS Director Ben Leonard. A mowed path to the breastworks will also be completed in the near future. The breastworks, consisting of two low trenches that came together at a point on the bluff below the fort, were hastily constructed in 1862 to help defend against a possible third attack. “I’ll bet 90 percent of visitors don’t even know they exist, let alone where they are,” said Leonard. “Now a mowed path will take them there.”

Work at the Harkin Store are winding down. The house received new screens and storm windows, gutters, fresh paint, new stairs, and a handicap accessi-

Construction continued on page 13a

Sept. 15–Sept. 17

Cox House Antique and Collectible Sale

The third annual antique and collectible yard sale will take place on the grounds of the Historic E. St. Cox House, 500 N. Washington Avenue, St. Peter, September 15th through September 17th, 2011 (Thursday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.). Several local antique and private dealers plus the Cox House committee will present their wares on the lawn. Proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit the House.

The 2010 event raised over $1,700 for the Cox House. Special gratitude is due to the hardworking Committee members who work long hours setting up, managing sales, and taking down the tables and tents each day. Also a special thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for matching $600 in sales. This event is a great partnership between the Society and local antique businesses.

Persons wanting to contribute items for sale should contact the Society at 934-2160, Ed Wetherill at 934-4417, or Susan Stenson at 931-0912.

Whether you’re shopping or browsing, please stop by the sale.
I hope you all have had a marvelous summer. Though it’s surprising how quickly it passed, I do find myself appreciating the cool nights and staring longingly at my sweater chest. Fall is still a great time to visit the historical society. Fall days can be beautiful, kids are in school, and the bugs have, for the most part, departed too. This newsletter is packed with great events happening throughout the fall.

I’d like to take a moment to express my deep sympathies to the staff and members of the Isanti County Historical Society. Their Society was burned to the ground by an arsonist on July 8th. Though some collections could be saved with the help of volunteers and staff from the Minnesota Historical Society, most were lost.

We’re reminded here at NCHS that really bad things do happen. Our mission is to preserve county history for future generations, and disaster planning is an important part of that. Our buildings are equipped with alarms. The Treaty Site, home to our collections, is protected by a sprinkler system. After last year’s fall floods, we worked hard to create an extensive disaster plan. Hopefully we never need it, but the process really helped us think through the necessary steps if something should happen.

Archivist Bob Sandeen and volunteer Dick Muessing have worked hard the past several years digitizing much of our photograph and document collection. It would be absolutely terrible to lose our collections, but through technology we can insure that high resolution copies would survive.

But enough talk of impending winter and devastation, there are still plenty of beautiful days ahead of us before the snow flies. As always we are here to serve you. If there’s something we’re not doing, something we could do better, or something we should do—please let us know. We appreciate your membership and support more than we can say. Thank you.

Ben Leonard, Director

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**Memorials**

Received since the last newsletter:

In Memory of
Delcie Hyduke
Given by
Judy Scholl

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**Monetary Donations**

Received since the last newsletter:

Herb Poncin
Loreen Sundboom
History Center Events

Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities

The Society welcomes MSU-Mankato history professor and NCHS board member Dr. Lori Lahlum to the Treaty Site History Center Sunday, September 25th at 4 p.m. She’ll discuss her new book, *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities*, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press in May 2011. Find a description on page 9 of this newsletter.

Dr. Lori Lahlum

A View from the West Bank during the Arab Spring

Please join the Society at the Treaty Site History Center for a very special program Sunday, October 2nd, at 7 p.m.

What is it like to live in a contested and often violent land? Through photographs and stories, Dr. Chris Corley will describe his experiences during an educational seminar to the West Bank in May 2011. Corley joined nine other American professors on a ten-day faculty development seminar sponsored by the Palestinian American Research Council. The group travelled to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Hebron, and Jericho, and toured universities, villages, and two refugee camps. They heard the stories of community leaders, intellectuals, and Palestinians of diverse faiths, ages, and social classes.

Dr. Chris Corley is an Associate Professor of History and Director of the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Nicollet County Historical Society.

Dr. Chris Corley

photo by John Cross
**History Center Events ...**

**Films on First Thursdays**

**Documentary Films Return for 3rd Season**

The Society and St. Peter Community and Family Education, along with River Rock Coffee, Arts Center of Saint Peter, and the St. Peter Food Co-Op have teamed up to bring a documentary film series to the Treaty Site History Center. Admission is free. Films are shown at the Treaty Site History Center at 7 p.m. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org, for details.

**Thurs., Dec. 1, 7 p.m.: Reel Injun**

Hollywood has made over 4,000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Travelling through the heartland of America, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of “the Injun” has influenced the world’s understanding – and misunderstanding – of Natives. With candid interviews with directors, writers, actors and activists, including Clint Eastwood, Jim Jarmusch, Robbie Robertson, Sacheen Littlefeather, John Trudell and Russell Means, clips from hundreds of classic and recent films, including *Stagecoach*, *Little Big Man*, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, and *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, *Reel Injun* traces the evolution of cinema’s depiction of Native people from the silent film era to today.

**Thurs., Sept. 8, 7 p.m.: River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River**

The Minnesota River is vitally important to the people of our region. It’s also one of our nation’s most polluted waterways. However, progress has been made, and many are optimistic for the future. Executive Producer John Hickman says, “We undertook this project because we believe that more people need to hear the whole story of the Minnesota River. To be sure, the river faces some serious challenges. At the same time, there are many positive efforts underway that have made the river cleaner than it was even 10 years ago. These success stories need to be told.”

**Thurs., Oct. 6, 7 p.m.: Truck Farm**

Filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis transformed granddad’s ’86 Dodge into a traveling 20-member CSA. They planted between the wheel wells with arugula and tomatoes, parked the truck on a Brooklyn street, and waited for sun and rain to work their charms. When the first sprouts came up, Truck Farm was born. Subscribers received deliveries of produce, arriving via the mobile farm itself. Cheney and Ellis are also the Peabody Award-winning co-creators of *King Corn*, *Big River* and *The Greening of Southie*. *Truck Farm* is the new 40-minute documentary about the urban farms taking root in America’s biggest city.

**Thurs., Nov. 3rd, 7 p.m.: Rain in a Dry Land**

How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today’s “global village”? *Rain in a Dry Land* provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families, transported by relief agencies from years of civil war and refugee life to Springfield, Massachusetts and Atlanta, Georgia. As the newcomers confront racism, poverty and 21st-century culture shock, the film captures their efforts to survive in America and create a safe haven for their war-torn families. Their poetry, humor and amazing resilience show us our own world through new eyes.

**Thurs., Jan. 5, 7 p.m.: Okie Noodling**

For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of “noodling” still has Okie anglers hooked. This documentary by Bradley Beesley features interviews with hardcore handfishing veterans as well as footage of real noodlers in action.

Set against an original musical score by rock band The Flaming Lips, *Okie Noodling* offers an anecdotal look at a most unusual piece of Midwest American culture.

Films continue the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. through May. Upcoming documentaries include *Restrepo* on February 2nd, *Exit Through the Gift Shop* on March 1st, *The Real Dirt on Farmer John* on April 5th, and ending on May 3rd with *Black Gold*. 
History Center Events

Are you a Luxembourger? by MaryAnn Zins

The Nicollet County Historical Society will be presenting information about Luxembourgers immigrating to the Midwest and in particular to Nicollet County, Minnesota. Please join us on November 6th at 2 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center and discover your Luxembourg roots.

Olga Carlson of St. Peter will show a film, Where Luxembourg Immigrants Settled in the Midwest. Olga was born in Luxembourg and now resides in St. Peter, Minnesota.

MaryAnn Zins has been researching Luxembourg born ancestors in Nicollet County for the National Society located in Port Washington, Wisconsin. Based on the 1880 Federal Census for those pioneers who listed as being born in Luxembourg, she had been able to identify 70 surnames to date.

Here is a partial list:

Andring  Keltgen
Bauer   Kneip
Burg    Leonard
Dauffenbach  Mans
Dick    Michels
Gallas  Molitor
Giefer  Peters
Hemes   Picker
Hoefer  Poncin
Juberien  Prom
Jutz    Schons

Newspaper obituaries, courthouse records and other documentation have been gathered to verify these settlers as “Luxies.” But we know there are a lot more of you out there. In 1815, after Napoleon was defeated, French-occupied Luxembourg was divided up and lost much of its territory to the Netherlands, France, Prussia, and Belgium. The remaining Luxembourg became the Grand Duchy. In the 1830s another revolution broke out and much of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg became the predominantly German state, although French cultural influence remain strong.

By the time our ancestors came to America they were born in “Luxembourg, Germany,” which would account for the birthplace on the 1880 census marked as Germany. These are the people we are looking for today.

Members

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

Renewed Business Members:
- Gustavus Adolphus College, $1,000
- Crystal Valley Cooperative, $200

Renewed Patron Members:
- West Newton Township
- Crossing Circle Life
- Marie Dranttel

Renewed Family Members:
- Roger & Lois Cu rrier
- Terry & Sandy Gappa
- Ray & Liz Jacobson

Renewed Individual Members:
- Eunice Amos
- Shirley Bishop
- Eleanor Depuydt
- Jackie Feldman
- Dale Himmelman
- Jan Holte
- Rita Kramer Joerg
- Helen Johnson
- Willie Lindquist
- Edward Mclean
- Phyllis Maxwell
- Craig Nelson
- Bruce Osborn
- Ray Olson
- Donna Resner

New Family Members:
- Mike & Maryetta McCarthy
- Lydell & Joy Struck

New Individual Members:
- Josephine Amiot
- Margaret Bindner
- Herbert Brunner

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

It may seem like a long time from now, but we’d like you to save the date for the NCHS annual meeting. We hope you can join us at Gustavus Adolphus College on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012.

The new year will mark both the sesquicentennial of the College and the Dakota War of 1862. Our speaker, John LaBatte, has spent years researching the conflict. At least nine of John’s ancestors, both white and Dakota, were involved in the war.

The history of the Dakota War is contentious and complex. John will explain why some Dakota chose to fight while others did not, the events of the war, and the consequences for both Dakota and Euro-American people.

Northern Great Plains History Conference comes to Mankato and St. Peter

The 46th annual Northern Great Plains History Conference will be held in Mankato September 21–24th. Several sessions and part of a Dakota War bus tour will also visit the Treaty Site History Center. Fifty-three sessions on a variety of topics—including the Dakota War—will be presented by historians, college faculty, and distinguished students over the four days. The public is encouraged to attend. Registration and conference information can be found online at http://sbs.mnsu.edu/history/ngphc.

Society Joins Time Travelers

The Nicollet County Historical Society has joined the Time Travelers network. That means NCHS members can receive benefits at over 200 institutions in over 40 states.

Time Travelers is a reciprocal membership network for historical sites and museums throughout the United States. The Missouri History Museum created the program in 1998 so that members of historical institutions could receive exclusive benefits and privileges at museums and historical sites nationwide. These benefits may include free or reduced admission, gift shop discounts, free parking, and much more.

Several Minnesota organizations also participate. NCHS members get benefits at the Stearns and Mower County Historical Societies. Members will also get in free to every Minnesota Historical Society Site! For more information visit the Time Travelers website, http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/about, or contact the Society.

E-mail... Save Society Money

With 2012 right around the corner, we would like to make some changes on how you renew your membership. If you have an email address please include it on your next renewal form. We plan to start sending out renewals by email to save money on the envelopes and postage. If you don’t have an email address, we will still send it out by mail. We thank you for your support in 2011 and look forward to serving you again in 2012. Even if it’s not time to renew we’d love to hear from you. Maybe there is a site we should know about, a story that needs to be told or preserved, or a program you would like to see. If you have any questions about membership, comments, or ideas, don’t hesitate to check out our website: www.nchsmn.org, e-mail us at museum@nchsmn.org, or call Jessica at 507-934-2160. We also thank all of our business members. They have all made a special commitment to preserving our past and we applaud them for it. Moreover, we should all make an effort to support those businesses that commit to making our communities better.
Society Publishes History of the Treaty

Dr. William Lass, History Professor Emeritus at Minnesota State University, Mankato has written the definitive history of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. This exciting book provides a thorough context to the treaty process and illuminates new details about the contentious ratification process that followed. Dr. Lass taught Minnesota History for over 40 years and published many books, articles, and book reviews throughout his career.

The Society is excited to make this available to the public. It’s now available at Society shops for $11.95. Don’t forget NCHS members get a 10 percent discount.

Excerpt from The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux:

Part 1: Indian Treaties in the United States

By the time the United States began operating under its constitution in 1789, Euro-Americans had experienced nearly three centuries of contact with the native peoples. The leading colonial powers—Great Britain, France and Spain—all made Indian treaties, which were negotiated during sometimes highly ceremonial meetings. The Europeans assumed that each Indian tribe was a sovereign nation. Hence, treaties were negotiated on the premise that the parties were of equal status. But, in reality, the European powers really believed they controlled all land within their realms by the right of discovery. Therefore, they regarded the Indians as the occupiers of the land rather than its legal owners. Although the terms “sell” and “buy” were used in everyday parlance, the Europeans actually meant they were buying Indian occupation rights.

In the course of treating with the natives, the three major European powers, and to a lesser extent, the Netherlands and Sweden, negotiated three types of treaties—peace and friendship, boundary and cession. Under treaties of peace and friendship the whites and Indians agreed to live harmoniously with each other. The treaties of peace and friendship were the most enduring in areas where the fur trade was perpetuated. Under fur trading, which depended on white-Indian partnerships, the natives stayed on their land. But, in the English-speaking colonies that became the original thirteen states, agriculture was the dominant economic activity. Farming and the fur trade were incompatible. Farmers, who wanted to cultivate their own privately owned land, regarded Indian hunting/trading societies as not only remarkably inefficient with respect to their capability of supporting masses of people, but also as a deterrent to white progress. To complicate matters, whites justified their expansion as a way of carrying out the biblical admonishment to till the earth.

Colonial expansion led to Indian land cessions soon after the beginning of the English colonies. For example, Virginia, which was started at Jamestown in 1607, forced a cession treaty on the local Indians within twenty years. Land cessions caused the establishment of formal boundaries separating white and Indian lands. But sometimes boundary treaties delimiting the claims of specific tribes were made prior to cession treaties.

The United States, which was obviously most affected by British tradition based the major assumptions of its Indian policy on colonial precedents. The federal government insisted that it had inherited the right of discovery from whichever European country was the first claimant to a given region of the United States. Thus, like the Europeans, the Americans, while they ostensibly regarded Indian tribes as sovereign nations, really thought that the natives held only occupation rights. Furthermore, the foundation of United States Indian policy was the treaties negotiated with various tribes. Treaties were used to define the original relationship of the United States and any given tribe and any changes in their status had to become the subject of another treaty. Like its European forebears, the United States used a combination of

Excerpt continued on page 8
Our season is starting to wind down. After Labor Day we will be open on week-ends only, but until then, we’re here every day except Mondays. Our Minnesota valley is a great way to see the leaves of fall. It is really a great drive from Fort Ridgley to New Ulm. Harkin is half-way between them and a good stopping spot.

Our Harkin store has a gift shop that has lots of books, toys, candy, and gift ideas that will be on sale staring Sept. 10th for 20 percent discount! Books about the Minnesota River, the settlers that came to Minnesota, the Dakota War and the Dakota people, and bird books are available. We also have inexpensive books for children.

Excerpt continued from page 7

peace and friendship, boundary and cession treaties. In its dealings with the Dakota Indians the federal government first used peace and friendship treaties, then boundary treaties and lastly cession treaties.

Indian relations in the United States were exclusively within the purview of the federal government. The framers of the constitution, well aware of the pitfalls of the colonial system in which each colony had its own Indian policy, gave the federal government the exclusive right to negotiate treaties. On the basis of a constitutional provision and a precedent established in

President George Washington’s first administration, Indian treaties had to be accepted by a two-thirds vote of members present in the United States Senate. The House of Representatives, while it did not have a voice in approving treaties, was nonetheless involved in any of them requiring appropriations, because the constitution specified that all appropriations bills had to be initiated in the House.

The federal right to deal with Indians meant that Minnesota Territory, like all other territories, could not negotiate with Indians. Therefore, territorial legislatures could do nothing more than request the president and Congress to take a particular action.
Ridgely Report

Summer 2011 is almost over. We waited so long for the warm weather and now we can start thinking about cooler days and the colors of fall.

The season at Fort Ridgely Historic Site has seen changes at the outdoor area. New granite-lined trails are almost complete and work is continuing on the parking lot area. As with any remodel project it is a mess and a bit inconvenient but will look great when completed.

Fort Ridgely will see more improvements in the coming year, which will help to keep the building in good repair for many years to come.

Our programs have had good attendance. Each program has been unique and well received for those who have visited the site.

As we come to the end of the summer season, programs will be presented in September and October. The site will be open after Labor Day on Saturdays and Sundays until Oct. 23.

Check out the list of programs on the calendar page 15 and plan to visit the Fort Ridgely Historic Site. Take a tour along the Minnesota River Valley and enjoy the beauty outside our back door.

New Publications in the Museum Store

The Treaty Site History Center Museum Store has some great new publications to check out.

**Minnesota Duck Decoys** is the definitive book by Author Doug Lodermeier, covering great Minnesota decoy makers of the past and present. Filled with never before published information, this book is a must for any enthusiast or dealer of wildfowl decoys and sporting collectibles.

**Oxley Outdoors** is a great addition to our collection is a beautiful hard bound edition with over 200 vintage photos. Oxley Outdoors is a visual history of life in the outdoors during the first half of the Twentieth Century.

**Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities** is the new book from Society Board Member Dr. Lori Lahlum. The history of Norwegian settlement in the United States has often been told through the eyes of prominent men, while the women are imagined in the form of O.E. Rølvaag’s fictionalized heroine Beret Holm, who made the best of life on the frontier but whose gaze seemed ever fixed on her long-lost home. The true picture is more complex. In an area spanning the Midwest and rural West and urban areas such as Seattle, Chicago, and Brooklyn, Norwegian American women found themselves in varied circumstances, ranging from factory worker to domestic, impoverished to leisured. Noted scholars Betty A. Bergland, Laurann Gilbertson, Karen v. Hansen, Lori Ann Lahlum, Ann M. Legreid, Odd S. Lovoll, Elisabeth Lønnå, David C. Mauk, Ingrid K. Urberg, Elizabeth Jameson, and Dina Tolfpsy comprise a collection that enlightens at the same time that it inspires further investigations into the lives of women in Norwegian America.

Don’t forget members get a 10% discount. Can’t get here? Let us know and we can mail purchases to you directly.
Donations accepted into our collections since the July 2011 Crossing:

Fred and Judy Hanson: pedal-driven sharpening stone, owned by Ralph Minor, framed copy of the 6-H Club Pledge distributed by the St. Peter Feed Mill.

Janet Wettergren: color photographs of the Cox House in St. Peter.


Donna Osgardt: Engesser Brewery wooden beer case.

Olive Peterson: photographs, postcards, newspaper articles, school items, and assorted other items concerning her life in Nicollet County.

Ed and Marsha Eigenbrodt: oval bowl from Germany (CT #22040 or 6), round bowl (Star, RS, tree branches, Prussia), decorative plates (1: “Hand painted Germany;” 2: Prince Regent Bavaria #2; 3: CT ALT WASSER Germany 23104 15; 4: picture of a castle; 5 and 6 have no identifying marks), spinning wheel and niddy-noddy from the Boelter cabin at the time of the Dakota Conflict in 1862, large wash bowl, large pitcher, small pitcher, small vase, certificate (appears to be a birth certificate of Elizabeth Boelter), marriage certificate of John Boelter and Elizabeth Eigenbrodt (with photographs of the two people), baptismal certificate of Harold John Eigenbrodt (born 2 August 1898), photographs of John and Elizabeth Boelter after their marriage, account of the Dakota Conflict as told by Mrs. John Boelter (she later married John Boelter’s brother, Michael Boelter), pictures of Michael and Justine Boelter.

Kenneth Colakovic: Twist of Fate and A Little Bit of Heaven in St. Peter by Bob Wettergren.


Tim Layeu: A Little Bit of Heaven in St. Peter by Bob Wettergren.

Stop's Spotlight

This 1839 needlepoint sampler was recently donated to the Society by Marlene Wilson.

Samplers were embroidered scraps of fabric produced to show the skill or practice of needlework. The oldest examples of samplers go back to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

This particular sampler was created by Martha Connell in 1839, when she was 13 years old. A native of Scotland, she immigrated to America with her mother, Ellen McConnel. On the sampler her name is listed as “Connell,” so it’s likely Martha Americanized her name. Ellen and Martha settled near Birch Coulee with Martha’s brother David after two years in Massachusetts.

Martha married Fred Clausen, a friend of David and had two children, Ellen and Mary. The family became victims of the Dakota War in 1862. Fred was lost and presumed killed. Mother Ellen and David hid and survived, but Martha and her children were captured by non-hostile Dakota and held until the end of the war.

Martha remarried and settled near Hebron, south of present-day Courtland. She was buried in the Hebron Cemetery upon her death in 1914.
Friends of District 6

It has been a busy 2011 for Garfield Eckberg and the Friends of District Six in New Sweden Township. The New Sweden Township Board transferred ownership of the school house back to the original landowner’s family. Present owner Shirley Chrest then donated the building to the Friends.

District 6 was organized in 1863. The current building, the district’s third, was built in 1929. The school was closed in 1958 and the district dissolved in 1962. Until recently the building served as the New Sweden Township Hall.

The Nicollet County Historical Society Board accepted the request to serve as fiscal agent for the Friends of District 6 while they complete the process to become an independent non-profit. While the Society is not affiliated with the group, we feel that their mission of preserving this County landmark is an important one, and meshes well with our own purpose.

The building is in need of significant repairs. The committee is now seeking donations to cover more than $40,000 in foundation and roof work. Anyone interested in contributing to the preservation of this county treasure can do so by sending payment to the Society in care of “The Friends of District 6.” Please remember that a gift to the Friends of District 6, though appreciated, is not a gift to the Historical Society.

Students of District 6, circa 1931. From the collection of Marlin Peterson.

The Friends of District 6 effort has worked with Nicollet County Attorney Mike Riley and have filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State to incorporate as a non-profit corporation and they have filed for non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. They will help them as they solicit funds for preservation of the school house.
Nicollet County Preservation Ordinance

Nicollet County became the first in Minnesota to adopt a county-wide preservation ordinance. A new committee, chaired by former County Commissioner Judy Hanson, will review nominations for historically significant structures and land areas in the county. The ordinance states:

The Nicollet County Historic Preservation Ordinance has been developed to preserve and promote the natural beauty and distinctive historic character of Nicollet County, which are so intimately connected with the history and life of Nicollet County and is adopted for the purpose of:

1. To promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the recognition, enhancement, and perpetuation of sites and areas of historical and cultural significance.
2. To safeguard the county’s historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage by encouraging the preservation of sites of historic and cultural significance.
3. To stabilize and improve property values.
4. To foster pride in the legacy of beauty and achievements of the past.
5. To protect and enhance the county’s attractions to tourists and visitors and the support and stimulus to business thereby provided.
6. To strengthen the economy of the county.
7. To promote the use of sites and areas of historic and cultural significance as places for education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of the county.

The ordinance has no regulating authority and there are no special construction requirements or codes associated with it.

Any person may nominate a specific area, place, building, structure, land, district, or object outside the municipal boundaries for designation. The request shall be submitted to the Nicollet County Environmental Services Director in writing and upon the official application. Upon receipt of the nomination, the director shall call a meeting of the committee and act on the nomination.

Requests must include a description of the area (township(s), range(s), and section(s) and a narrative describing the historic value of the area, place, building, structure, land, district, or object in addition to the application. The Commission will make a recommendation to the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners regarding Requests for Historic Site Designation.

Prior to the Commission recommending to the Board of Commissioners any area, place, building, structure, land, district, or object for designation as a Historic Preservation site, a public hearing shall be held in accordance with law, to seek the recommendations of all concerned citizens. Prior to such hearing, the Commission shall cause to be published once in the official newspaper, notice of the hearing in accordance with state law.

The Commission shall determine whether the proposed Historic Preservation site is eligible for Designation as determined by the criteria specified in 601.3 of This Ordinance, and if the Commission recommends to the Board of Commissioners that the property be designated for historic preservation, the Commission shall forward to the Board of Commissioners with its recommendation all accompanying documentation.

The Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of the Commission may by ordinance designate it as a Historic Preservation site. The designation shall be recorded on the property in the office of the Nicollet County Recorder.

In the event the designation of the area, place, building, structure, land, district, or object no longer meets the criteria listed in section 601.3, the County Board shall have the authority to revoke the designation.

The application materials are currently being developed. Anyone interested in learning more about the ordinance can contact Ben Leonard at the Society, or Mandy Landkammer at Nicollet County.
we had an excellent time at the Nicollet County Fair this year. We really appreciate Nicollet County letting us use their space too. In all we had three stalls and we’re able to have a nice display. Special thanks to those of you who volunteered to sit out there. It’s a great opportunity to talk to old friends and new folks. Next year at the fair we’ll have a traveling exhibit on the Dakota War on display. We’re looking forward to the milk shakes and pork chops already!

The Cox House is busy with restorations of its own. The Society will soon finish several interior projects. A bathroom remodel will make the facilities seem more historic, but will be more modernly functional too. A kitchen sink, refrigerator, and dishwasher will allow the Society to increase programming options as well as make the site better equipped for facility rentals. The house is also getting a new water heater and wiring upgrades.

It’s exciting all of these projects are happening at our sites. The Minnesota Historical Society has invested thousands of state dollars in Harkin and Ridgely the past few years. This year work has been completed by area contractors from Redwood Falls, New Ulm, and Nicollet. Not only is the work happening, but it’s benefitting our regional economy as well.
July 28, 1861—September 21, 1909
A John A. Johnson Memorial
...102 years ago this month

Top right: The hearse carrying the body of Governor John A. Johnson as it moves south along Minnesota Avenue in St. Peter, between Nassau and Grace Streets.

Center: The funeral procession of Governor John A. Johnson along South Minnesota Avenue. Johnson, who lived in St. Peter before he was elected, died in office in 1909. The large clock in the foreground was at the site of Schleuder’s Jewelry store at 308 South Minnesota Avenue. John A. Johnson was governor of Minnesota from January 4, 1905 until his death on September 21, 1909.

Lower left: The John A. Johnson gravesite in Greenhill Cemetery, St. Peter.

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14 the CROSSING
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. Programs and events are sponsored by NCHS, Friends of Fort Ridgely, GFW Community Ed. and MNDNR. Continue to watch area papers and NCHS and DNR websites for more information and events to be added in Sept. and Oct. State Park Contact Station: 507-426-7840; Historic Site: 507-426-7888

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.

Sept. 8 River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River Documentary Film Series
Treaty Site History Center
See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE

Sept. 10 Minnesota River Valley Wildlife and Nature 1:30 p.m.
Fort Ridgely
Presented by Ron Boulduan. Sponsored by NCHS

Sept. 11 Grandparent's Day at the Harkin Store
Harkin Store
Activities to do with Grandparents or (parents). They are easy and fun.

Sept. 15–17 Cox House Annual Yard Sale
See article on page 1 for details.

E. St. Julien Cox House

Sept. 17 Causes of the US/Dakota War of 1862, 1 p.m.
Fort Ridgely
Fort Ridgely Battlefield Tour with Presenter John Labatte,
on the historic site parade grounds, 2:30 p.m.
Sponsored by NCHS

Sept. 18 Snakes, Snakes, and Snakes
Harkin Store
Tom Jessen brings his snakes for the afternoon. He answers any questions also. 1 p.m.

Sept. 24 River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River
Fort Ridgely
Documentary film. Sponsored by NCHS. 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 25 Lizzie and the Prairie Fire
Harkin Store
Gail Ann Wood will be signing her book from 1 to 4 p.m.

Sept. 25 Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, & Identities
Treaty Site History Center
Dr. Lori Laflum, Minnesota State University, Mankato history professor and NCHS board member, 4 p.m.

Oct. 1 Mike Lynch Star Gazer Program in the Amphitheater, 7 p.m.
Fort Ridgely
Sponsored by Friends of Fort Ridgely

Oct. 2 A View from the West Bank during the Arab Spring
Treaty Site History Center
Dr. Chris Corley, Associate Professor of History at Minnesota State University, Mankato and NCHS board member, 7 p.m.

Oct. 2 Preparing for Winter with displays and pictures
Harkin Store

Oct. 6 Truck Farm Documentary Film Series
See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE
Treaty Site History Center

Oct. 8 Causes of the Dakota War of 1862, 1 p.m.
Fort Ridgely

Oct. 8 Fort Ridgely Battlefield Tour with Presenter John Labatte
Fort Ridgely
on the historic site parade grounds, 2:30 p.m.
Sponsored by NCHS

Oct. 9 Sheep – Wool – Quilts
Harkin Store
A display of that industry.

Oct. 15 Michael Eckers as General Henry Sibley, 1:30 p.m.
Fort Ridgely

Oct. 16 Horses & Horseshoes. Transportation, information about them
Harkin Store

Oct. 22 Program To Be Announced
Fort Ridgely

Oct. 23 Lonesome Ron's Round-up. With area musicians invited to have a Music Jamboree
Harkin Store

Nov. 3 Rain in a Dry Land Documentary Film Series
Treaty Site History Center
See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE

Nov. 6 Are you a Luxembourger
Treaty Site History Center
MaryAnn Zins and Olga Carlson, presenters, 2 p.m., see story on page 5, FREE

Dec. 1 Reel Injun Documentary Film Series
See story on page 4, 7 p.m., FREE
Treaty Site History Center

Jan. 22, 2012 Nicollet County Historical Society Annual Meeting
Jackson Campus Center Banquet Rooms
Dakota Conflict researcher, John LaBatte will be the speaker.
Mark your calendars, and watch for reservation form in next newsletter.

the CROSSING 15
Your membership dollars at work...

- New exhibits at TSHC
- Maintenance of Cox House
- Staffing at Harkin Store
- Programming at Ft. Ridgely
- Partnering with MHS at TDS Townsite

NCHS Membership Application

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
________________________________________________
Phone (_______) _________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________

My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Acct. Number ____________________________________________
Expiration Date ____________________________________________
Authorized Signature _________________________________________

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 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 call or e-mail for info

Please make checks payable to:
Nicollet County Historical Society

Membership applications should be mailed to:
Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082