Coming Summer 2014!

We’re excited to help promote the coming of William E. Lass’ new book, *Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota’s Boundaries*. Based on research in many primary sources, this book is the first comprehensive history of the origin, surveying, marking and maintenance of Minnesota’s boundaries with the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba and the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. Since all boundaries have two sides, the book not only covers important aspects of Minnesota’s history, but that of the adjoining states and provinces as well. Among other things, it explains Minnesota’s bizarre Northwest Angle, Iowa’s aspirations to extend northward to the present-day Twin Cities, the attempt to make Minnesota a long, narrow east-west state between Wisconsin and the Missouri River and Minnesota’s U.S. Supreme Court case against Wisconsin over the disputed Duluth harbor boundary.


North Star Press of St. Cloud will release this book in summer of 2014.

Annual Cox House Plant Sale

The Nicollet County Historical Society is working on the plans for the Cox House Heritage Plant Sale fundraiser. We are planning for May and are waiting for mother nature to help us make a decision on the date. This winter has given us lots of snow and a deep frost so we’ll be making decisions soon and will start advertising for the sale as spring arrives.

The plant sale is an important fundraiser for the Society as it supports maintenance and upkeep of the Cox House throughout the year. We rely on donated plants and volunteers to make the sale a success each spring. The sale is a favorite of many local gardeners who come year after year to choose from a wide variety of interesting perennials as well as raspberry canes, rhubarb, small shrubs, and bulbs.

If you’re a gardener and would like to donate flowers, perennials, annuals, vegetables, or any other plants, please contact us. If you’d like to help us collect, pot, prep, and sell the plants, please let us know. Give us a call at 507-934-2160 or e-mail kris@nchsmn.org.
Executive Board
Officers:
Steve Baxa, President, St. Peter
Scott Hermanson, Vice President, St. Peter
Marie Dranttel, Treasurer, St. Peter
Pam Morson, Secretary, Lafayette
Alma Forst, Historian, West Newton Twp.

Renewed Individual Members:
of 2014.
NC HS since the beginning following renewing and new members of
New Individual Member:
the CROSSING

Renewed Patron Members:
Thank you to the Members
Owen & Evie Swenson
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Thorild & Ardith Nelson
Carolyn Meyer
Paul & Connie Eckberg
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling
Maria Erling
Scott Hermanson
Donna Kowal
Edward McLean
Mary Long
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Thorild & Ardith Nelson
Owen & Evie Swenson

Renewed Individual Members:
Bonnie Compert
Maria Erling
Scott Hermanson
Donna Kowal
Mary Long
Edward McLean
Judith Penhiter
Janet Prehn

New Family Members:
Michael Callahan & Dr. Erin Westfall
Karen Rogotzke
Jack Buser II & Susan Buser

New Individual Member: Jim Pitmon

Director's Column

Well, here we are almost a month and a half since my introductory column to our members. In that time I've experienced more kind words to St. Peter and the Nicollet County Historical Society than I can count! multiple snowstorms and frigid temperatures (c'mon spring!); and most importantly, a real sense of pride in what the Society has accomplished and its capacity to accomplish more.

Winter is our slow time but the staff and volunteers here at the Nicollet County Historical Society have been busy! They have taught me the tour and inner workings at the Treaty Site History Center. I've also been working with our MNHS partnership site managers on site programming and working towards developing a strategic plan for many parts of our operation. As we move forward with this year I am aiming to increase programming at the Cox House and scheduling “open for tour” days during the summer. We have scheduled some great programs at the Treaty Site History Center; a “two-part” Prairie and Big Woods trail hike out on our Traverse des Sioux trails, as well as the popular Minnesota River and Swan Lake paddles!

We've shared the Petatlan exhibit with Gustavus and will be sharing the Commemorating Controversy exhibit with Sisseton State Park next month. We’ve also learned that the Commemorating Controversy exhibit has been viewed by almost 25,000 people already in 2014 at the National Museum of the American Indian Heye Center in New York City!

Overall, it's been a busy few weeks. I feel so lucky to be here in St. Peter and to be leading the Nicollet County Historical Society through this exciting year. Thank for your support and stay tuned for what's to come!

Alyssa Auten, Director
Please join us for the remaining two films of the 2013–14 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., at the Treaty Site History Center, through May.

Thurs., Apr. 3, 7 p.m.: *A Good Day to Die*
92 min., not rated. Dennis Banks co-founded the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) in 1968 to call attention to the plight of urban Indians in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The film presents an intimate look at Dennis Banks’ life beginning with his early experience in boarding schools, through his military service in Japan, his transformative experience in Stillwater State Prison and subsequent founding of a movement that, through confrontational actions in Washington D.C., Custer, South Dakota and Wounded Knee, changed the lives of American Indians forever.

Thurs., May 1, 7 p.m.: *Parking Lot Movie*
71 min., not rated. Often described as the documentary version of *Clerks*, *The Parking Lot Movie* follows a select group of parking lot attendants who work at The Corner Parking Lot in Charlottesville, Virginia. The eccentric brotherhood of attendants consists of grad students, overeducated philosophers, surly artists, middle-age slackers and more. In what becomes a discourse on American life, these overeducated parking attendants wax profoundly about car culture and capitalism, seek vengeance against entitled patrons and thieves, and make fun of drunken jerks.

Admission to the film series is free for all. The Treaty Site History Center is located one mile north of downtown Saint Peter at Highways 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic.
New Board Members
The Society gained six new board members after the Annual Meeting in January. We are so thankful to our new members for their time and enthusiasm for the history of Nicollet County!

Nita Aasen moved to St. Peter in 1978; retired in 2009 as Director of Nicollet County Public Health after twenty years; became involved in NCHS because of interest in history and genealogy.

Michael Callahan lives in Oshawa Twp. with wife and two daughters; magician and stand-up comedian; creator and owner of 2nd Story Comedy.

JoAnn Gieseke lives in Brighton, works part-time in New Ulm. My family is my life and just got back from Panama Canal.

Eileen Holz lifetime resident of St. Peter; grad of SPHS & GAC; graphic designer in own business; avid genealogist and researcher.

Maria Lokensgard lives on family farm in Norseland; works as Senior Manager at Scholarship America; on Nicollet County Library Board and Norseland Community Preservation Association to preserve the local traditions and celebrations for that community.

Joe Urban moved to St. Peter about four years ago, but born and raised in Washington State; Navy veteran; married his Olivia, Minn. born wife Erika while stationed in San Diego; Four children; enjoys history.

Minnesota Star Watch Class with WCCO Radio’s Mike Lynch
Treaty Site History Center / Thursday, April 10, 8–10 p.m.

Make the stars old friends as we watch the great celestial show in the skies over St. Peter. We'll use large reflecting telescopes including two giant 20-inch reflectors for close up views of star clusters, nebulae and galaxies. We’ll also use a new astronomical camera-telescope system for extra special views of our more distant universe. You’ll get a great handout package with user-friendly star maps, constellation charts, website, a telescope-buying guide, and more!

This class is offered through Community and Family Education and is best suited for adults and children ages 8 and up (children must be accompanied by an adult.) Bring lawn chairs to make yourself comfy. Class will be held rain or shine.

The registration deadline is April 7th. Please contact Community and Family Education at 934-3048 for more information and to register. Cost is $8/person or $20/family.

Keeping Up-To-Date with NCHS
Do you want to stay up-to-date with the current events and programming at the Nicollet County Historical Society? Our season is quickly filling up with new and exciting programs at all of our sites. We don’t want you to miss out on these programs, or on other local events of interest, so we now offer an e-newsletter that will keep you posted on programs and special events as they are added to the schedule. From time-to-time you may even find a coupon for our gift shop in the e-newsletter.

If you haven’t been receiving the e-newsletter and would like to try it out, just let us know via an email to kris@nchsmn.org. You’ll receive a weekly e-mail during spring and summer and a monthly e-mail in the fall and winter. You can “opt out” of the e-newsletter at any time.

Don’t forget to check out the calendar of programs on pages 10 and 11. If you would like a bit more information on the listed programs, check out our website, www.nchsmn.org/programs_events. The programs are also listed on Facebook, Twitter and the Explore MN website at www.exploremnnesota.com.
Learn to Canoe!
Swan Lake in Nicollet County

Always wanted to get in a canoe but didn’t have the opportunity? Want your kids to learn? Whatever the reason, there’s never been a better time to learn how to canoe than now. Join Scott Kudelka, Area Naturalist for the DNR, at Swan Lake this summer for a free lesson.

Space is very limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact Alyssa or Kris at (507) 934-2160 or museum@nchsmn.org for registration and other information.

Program Dates (choose one):
• June 8th at 1 p.m.
• July 13th at 10 a.m.

Minnesota River Paddle
Seven Mile Creek Park in Nicollet County

Here is a perfect chance to learn about paddling a canoe and some of the history, culture and natural world of the Minnesota River. We’ll be departing from Seven Mile Creek Park at 5:30 p.m. and canoeing to Saint Peter.

Space is very limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact Alyssa or Kris at (507) 934-2160 or museum@nchsmn.org for registration and other information.

Program Dates (choose one):
• June 12th at 5:30 p.m.
• July 17th at 5:30 p.m.
• August 7th at 5:30 p.m.

These opportunities are made possible through the Minnesota DNR and the Legacy Amendment. They’re totally free. All the equipment (canoes, paddles and life jackets) and an experienced guide are provided.
**Cox House Corner ...**

**2014 Season**

**The E. St. Julien Cox House**

As spring is approaching the NCHS is working on the 2014 season at the E. St. Julien Cox House in St. Peter. We’re trying some new things this year, so spread the word! During the months of June, July and August the Cox House will be open the first and third Saturday of each month; with two tours a day—one at 10 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. Cost for a tour will be $6 for adults and $1 for children 6–17. Group tours will be available at other times by appointment, so please call ahead to schedule tours of groups with ten+ people.

We are also hoping to plan a program once a month from May through December, including possibilities of a “Decoration Day” cemetery tour and picnic; a “Wheelman’s tour of historic St. Peter” bicycle tour; and a “Strawberry Moon” party on the lawn of the Cox House. There’s even talk of a Cox House Book Club!

We hope you’re as excited as we are for some new opportunities at one of the Society’s beautiful historic sites!

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**Ridgely Report ...**

**Fort Ridgely Historic Site**

*by Amber Bentler*

It is gearing up to be an exciting year at Fort Ridgely. We have extended our hours this year. We will be opening May 23rd and will be open until October 19th, Fridays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are many exciting programs scheduled at the Fort this season.

We will open our year with none other than author and historian John Labatt. John will be giving his talk on the “Dakota Conflict” at 1 p.m. on May 24th, followed by his “Battlefield Tour” at 2:30 p.m.

On June 7th at 2 p.m. we will welcome Representative Dean Urdahl to talk about his latest historical fiction that takes place in Minnesota during 1863.

Also, if you like to plan ahead, Company B will be having a “Drill Weekend” at the Fort on June 27th, 28th, and 29th. This would be a great time to reserve a camp spot and stay the weekend at the park. There are 200 soldiers expected to be drilling on the grounds, a bugler, recruitment tent, and much more. Leather worker Dan Cochran will also be there to demonstrate leather working and will have hand-made goods for sale.

This is just a sneak peak of things to look forward to this summer. We hope to see you this season.
Harkin Preps for Season by Ruth Grewe

The Harkin Store is excited about preparing for the season by setting up the store and the gift shop; the setting up will be easier when there isn’t so much snow and cold! There are lots of programs being planned and some new ones we’re excited to share with you.

We will be open May 3rd from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with our first program. On Sunday, May 4th join us for the “Egg Coffee and Newtons” program, where egg coffee is made on our store stove. The rest of our programs (see calendar on pages 10 and 11) will occur on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. They will include displays, demonstrations or music. There is an admission to the store which includes the program.

Join us for a fun learning experience!

W.W. Mayo House …

Events Planned by Becky Pollack

The W. W. Mayo House opens in May for the 2014 Visitor Season. This year a great variety of special tours have been planned, incorporating topics related to both the Mayo Family and Cosgrove Family’s times in the Mayo Home. We begin May with a special Mother’s Day tour.

You are cordially invited to The Mothers, a special Mother’s Day tour of the Historic W.W. Mayo House on May 11th, 2014 from Noon to 4 p.m., where all Mothers and Mothers of the Heart receive free admission and a gift with a paid admission.

Tour includes glimpses into what life was like for Louise Mayo, Elizabeth Cosgrove and Louise Cosgrove as they lived and raised families in the home during the early 1860s, 1870s and early 1900s. Enjoy a stroll through Louise Park, adjacent to the Mayo Home, and view “The Mothers” sculpture created by the famous Minnesota Sculptor, Dr. Paul Granlund.

As the snow begins to melt, thinking of the Mayo Home Herb Garden becomes a priority, Dr. Mayo used herbs as medicine during his medical practice in Le Sueur. Herbs were gathered along the river or grown by Dr. Mayo’s wife Louise in the family vegetable garden. Anyone interested in volunteering to help plan, plant and maintain the herb garden would be welcome.

Gardening not your thing? We are also looking for volunteers who are interested in working closely with our tour guides during the open season. These volunteers would greet guests, begin the orientation video and help create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the public. If interested please contact Becky, 665-3250 or mayohouse.bp@gmail.com

During May thru October, guided tours are on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 4 p.m. Groups of six or more are encouraged to call and make reservations. An admission fee is charged to tour the Mayo Home (adults $6, seniors $5, children 6–16 $5). Tours are free for Nicollet County Historical Society Members, Mayo House Interpretive Society Members and Minnesota Historical Society Members.
Newspaper research

This newspaper article was recently brought to our attention and we thought we might share it with our members. It is a good example of what can be found online with the growing number of searchable newspaper websites. Give some of those listed below a try, to help augment your family research or just enjoy finding out what was the important news in past decades.

Free sites:
http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

For subscription, though some have free trial periods:
http://genealogybank.com
http://newspaperarchive.com
http://go.newspapers.com

Finding aide, by state:
http://guides.library.upenn.edu/historicalnewspapersonline

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Two Auto Wrecks Mar Bryan’s Campaign Tour of Minnesota

Commoner Escapes Injury When His Machine Crashes Into Car Carrying Woman Candidate for Congress—Reporters in Second Mishap.

Rochester, Oct. 17.—William Jennings Bryan, campaigning in Minnesota, for Democratic candidates, narrowly escaped injury tonight when the automobile in which he was riding, from Minneapolis to Faribault, crashed into the machine of Mr. William K. Moore of St. Peter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the third district. The accident occurred four miles out of Northfield.

The Gault car was forced into a ditch, but all of the occupants escaped uninjured.

In another accident, the most serious of the two, a car driven by James E. Doran, Democrat candidate for attorney general in which two newspapermen were passengers, struck a thump and was lodged across the highway. The passengers escaped uninjured, however.

In the car in which Mr. Bryan was a passenger, the other occupants were Mr. and Mrs. T. J. McDonnell of St. Paul, Mr. J. Robert Harrison of New York City, and Joseph Wirth, chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Mrs. Gault, with her companion, Mrs. M. W. Paddleford, was campaigning in this territory, totally unaware of the presence of Mr. Bryan. She was driving ahead of the Bryan car, and as Mrs. Gault turned into a lane leading to a farm house, the Bryan car crashed into the Gault machine. Mrs. Gault and her companion were taken to Faribault in the Bryan car.

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Lillian Cox, Mrs. Andrew Kelsey Gault (NOTE: the newspaper article listed the incorrect name of the husband of Lillian Cox) of St. Peter, 1922 Democratic candidate for Congress in the third district.

Cox photo from the collections of the Nicollet County Historical Society.

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St. Peter Reads is delighted to present the third annual St. Peter Reads Book Festival to take place on Saturday, April 5, 2014. The 10:00 a.m. brunch at Gustavus Adolphus College features a keynote by local author, Nicole Helget. Ms. Helget’s recently released novel, *Stillwater*, set in the mid-1800s at the height of the logging boom, is a tale of frontier life in the territory of Minnesota. She is best known for her memoir, *The Summer of Ordinary Ways*, but has also written children’s books, in addition to her previous novel, *The Turtle Catcher*.

The ticketed event also features several other authors in what is termed as a Moveable Feast. They will spend time at the brunch tables, meeting attendees and visiting about their respective books. These chosen authors’ works cover a wide range of topics: from mysteries, to biography, to books for children, even to woodworking. Authors include Jan Dunlap, Becky Fjelland Davis, Connie Claire Szarke, Lori Sturdevant and Spike Carlsen, among others.

All authors will be available following the Brunch to sign their books, which will also be available for purchase. The public is invited to this time of book signing which begins at 12 Noon.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit the St. Peter Community and Family Education website, or call 507-934-3048. The cost of the brunch, catered by Dining Service of Gustavus Adolphus College, is $20. Seating is limited. *Stillwater* is for sale in the Treaty Site History Center Book Store.
NCHS Bits ...

Artifact & Archival Donations
accepted into our collections since the Oct. 2013 Crossing:

Myrtle Bode (via Jan Renne): desktop magnifier.
John LaBatte: Dakota and Dakota War documents.
Collection of St. Peter military documents:
Armory Drill Payrolls of 125th Field Artillery Batt. and Co. D of the 205th Infantry Reg., 1931 Report of National Guard Duties
Performed, a small number of enlistment records, Morning Report Files for the 3rd Batt. of the 125th Artillery, Unit Journal Service Battery for the 125th Field Artillery Batt., etc.
Tuff Miller: St. Peter photographs.
Brown County Historical Society: 1951 North Manxato flood photos.
Mary Kreykes, representing Helen Jeanne Johnson: genealogical material of several Nicollet County families, including Wolfe, Yost, and Pehrson.
Patti Purdy: documents about Louis Provencalle and his family.
Virginia La France: New Sweden General Store photo.
Fred Danner: St. Peter postcards.
Jim Rosow: Compendium of Historical Sources by Ronald A. Bremer.
Craig Ferkenstad: Farewell My Jonathan, a biography of Pastor Thomas Johnsen.
Marilyn Robertz: Anna Schumacher Muller's autograph book; Questers Minnehaha Chapter 111 Yearbook 2012-13; GAC publications; funeral notices and obituaries.
Michael Frederick: Gustavus Adolphus College souvenir mug.
Andy Nelson: family documents, and photographs
Garfield Eckberg, representing the Friends of District 6: ledgers & items from the Dist. 6 School in New Sweden Township
Odie Mielke: photos of Bernadotte Lutheran Church and 125th anniversary photos of Norseland Lutheran Church in 1983.
Owen & Evie Swenson: New Sweden Creamery butter labels.
Gregory Carlson: 6 chairs for Cox House donated in honor of his mother, Myrtle Carlson;
Traverse des Sioux Park button, 16th Annual St. Peter 4th July button from 1986, Saint Peter Saints Booster Club button.
Lois Annexstad: Norseland Baseball Club ledgers, schedule poster of North Star League, photo of members of the Norseland team.
St. Peter High School: St. Peter High School 2013 yearbook.

2014 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

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<td>Flag Day</td>
<td>June 8</td>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Minnesota River Paddle (see page 5)</td>
<td>June 12</td>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Father’s Day: Men’s Crafts</td>
<td>June 15</td>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Tools and House Building - mid 1800s</td>
<td>June 15</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Music: Carver Creek Bluegrass</td>
<td>June 22</td>
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<td>Herb Gardens</td>
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<td>Company B Drill Weekend</td>
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<td>Company B Drill Weekend</td>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Afternoon of Leisure</td>
<td>June 29</td>
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<td>Children’s Games and Craft Day</td>
<td>July 5</td>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Independence Day-New Ulm Battery</td>
<td>July 6</td>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Mayo House Artwork Tour</td>
<td>July 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Music: “Best of the Wurst”</td>
<td>July 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
<td>Learn to Canoe (see page 5)</td>
<td>July 13</td>
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</table>

Swan Lake in Nicollet County
July 13 Prairie Program with Naturalist Scott Kudelka
July 17 Minnesota River Paddle (see page 5)
July 19 Tastes and Sounds of the Civil War
July 20 Christmas in July
July 25 Kids' Tour
July 26 Kids' Tour,
July 27 Shopping With Laura Ingalls
July 27 Kids' Tour
Aug. 1 Giant Days Tour
Aug. 2 Giant Days Tour
Aug. 3 35th West Newton Day
Aug. 3 Giant Days Tour
Aug. 7 Minnesota River Paddle (see page 5)
Aug. 9 William Lass Program
Aug. 10 Old Games Day
Aug. 14 Prairie-Woods Program Part 1 — The Prairie
Aug. 16 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War & Battlefield Tour
Aug. 17 Bees and Honey
Aug. 17 Le Sueur Tigers Tour
Aug. 23 Curtis Dahlin Program
Aug. 24 Old Schools Days
Aug. 30 Children's Games and Craft Day
Aug. 31 Labor Day: The West Arrives in West Newton
Sept. 6 Causes of the U.S. – Dakota War & Battlefield Tour
Sept. 7 Grandparent's Day
Sept. 11 Prairie-Woods Program Part 2 – The Big Woods
Sept. 14 Snakes of the Minnesota River
Sept. 21 Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman
Sept. 21 Tools and House Building - mid-1800s
Sept. 28 Sheep-Wool-Quilts
Oct. 5 Preparing for Winter
Oct. 5 Mayo House Artwork Tour
Oct. 11 River program with Naturalist Scott Kudelka
Oct. 12 Horses-Horseshoes-Leather-Transportation
Oct. 16 Swan Lake program
Oct. 19 Music- Lonesome Ron's Round-up
Nov. 29 Afternoon Christmas Tours
Dec. 6 Afternoon Christmas Tours
Dec. 12 Christmas Candlelight Tours (evening)
Dec. 13 Christmas Candlelight Tours (evening)

Please watch the NCHS website, Facebook & Twitter and MHS website for further events and details for additional programming.
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________________________________________________
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