June 14, Flag Day

Grand Opening of the Patio

Over a year ago the Nicollet County Historical Society received an extremely generous anonymous donation to redesign the front landscaping at the Treaty Site History Center. The sidewalks that were original to the building’s construction in 1992–1994 were starting to crack and heave. It was decided that it was time to do some redesigning and give the entry area new life. NCHS hired Creative Landscape, Inc. and Blue Heron Landscaping to design the new landscaping, including prairie plants, small trees and boulders. With the Highway 169 construction and flood of last June the work was delayed until September and October. The project was completed mid-October and it looks terrific, a nice new welcome to the Treaty Site.

The Nicollet County Historical Society will be holding a “grand opening” party on June 14, which is also Flag Day! When the building was constructed a flag pole was installed but has not been used for years because the strong winds that come through this area kept ruining flags. Fortunately, there are new, extremely durable flags available and during the grand opening we will raise a flag on our flag pole for the first time in a long time! Details are still being sorted so keep an eye out for press about the event. Thank you to the anonymous donor who made this beautiful landscaping happen!

“Commemorating Controversy” in Washington D.C.

In mid-March, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for a conference. While I was there, I visited the National Museum of the American Indian, a component of the Smithsonian Institution that is located on the National Mall. In 2015, NCHS’s exhibit, “Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota-U.S. War of 1862” is on display in this museum. The twelve panels of “Commemorating Controversy” explore the causes, voices, events, and long-lasting consequences of the conflict and were produced by students at the Smithsonian.
Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the first of the year:

Renewed Champion
Business Members:
Gustavus Adolphus College
Renewed Advocate
Business Members:
Brighton Township
Renewed Sustaining Members:
Ellis Jones
Ranae J. Peterson
Renewed
Patron Members:
Bernard & Pam Bidelman
Larry & Judy Biederman
Dale & Beverly Gustafson
Lori Laihlim
Stanley & Sharon Palmer
Sally Webster
Renewed Family Members:
Nita & Paul Aasen
Frani & Mark Anderson
Jo & Ronnie Anderson
Eric Annessad
Rolf & Jean Annexstad
Bette & Bill Auten
Michael Callahan & Erin Westfall
John & Katha Chamberlain
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling
Jerome & Alma Forst
Lisa Isenberg & Mike & Maryetta McCarty
Steve & Pam Morson
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Thorin & Arthid Nelson
Earl & Marjorie Renneke
Harold & Louise Rodning
Kent & Patsy Rossow
Douglas & Judy Schultz
Karen & Jon Smithers
Owen & Eve Swenson
Jeff Wettergren & Melanie Lynch
Richard & Janet Wettergren
Renewed
Individual Members:
Helen Christianson
Ellie Depuydt
Maria Erling
JoAnn Gieseke
Mollie Hoben
Charles L. Johnson
Patricia Judd
Marolyn Kleinert
Bob Lambert
Sally Lambert
Maria Lokensgard
Mary Long
Phyllis Maxwell
Ms. Sylvia M. Nesheim
Ann Pesavento
Bob Schabert
Mary Ann Scharf
New Advocate
Business Member:
Mankato Area Lifelong Learners
New Sustaining Members:
Julie & Chris Gilbert
New Family Members:
Emma Janni
Tom, Leila & Orla Leonardt
Anissa Sandland
New Individual Members:
Sharon Pinney
Jerry Weedy

Executive Board
Officers:
Alma Forst, President
Scott Hermanson, Vice President
Marie Dranttel, Treasurer
Pam Morson, Secretary

Directors:
Nita Aasen, Saint Peter
Steve Baxa, St. Peter
Michael Callahan, Oswaha Township
Abbi Carleton, Nicollet
Rhonda Dass, North Mankato
JoAnn Gieseke, Nicollet County
Julie Gilbert, Saint Peter
Eileen Holz, Saint Peter
Maria Lokensgard, Norseland
Bob Schabert, Courtland
Mark Ulman, North Mankato
Joe Urban, Saint Peter

Contact Information:
Executive Director, Alyssa Auten
alyssa@nchsmn.org
Research Coordinator, Bob Sandeen
bob@nchsmn.org
Office Manager, Leila Leonardth
leila@nchsmn.org

Cox House Manager, Richard Tostenson

TSCH Site Manager, Susie Carlin

TSCH Museum Assistants, Jessica Becker, Jack Buser, Marian Determan, Mitch Lawson, Teresa Saum, Loren Sundboom

TSCH Maintenance, Wayne Passon

Harkin Store Manager, Ruth Grewe
Harkin Store Site Guides, Rose Alslieben, Robin Grewe, Karen Rogotzke, Glenn Stryker

Mt. Rigdey Manager, Amber Bentler
Mt. Rigdey Guides, Dan Cochran, Annaleise Endorf, Rachel Montpetit, Charlotte Nack, Nancy Zempel
Mayo House Manager, Becky Pollack
Mayo House Guide, Sadie Fraudendienst, Amanda Johnson

Treaty Site History Center
1851 N Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160; Fax: 507-934-0172
Hours: Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sun. 1–4 p.m.; Archives: Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
General info via e-mail: museum@nchsmn.org or research@nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House
500 N Washington Ave., St. Peter MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160
Tour of 90+: available by appointment. The Cox House is available year-round for a variety of programs and facility rentals. Please call for more information.

Harkin Store
PO Box 112, New Ulm MN 56073
Eight miles east of New Ulm on Co. Hwy. 21
Phone: 507-354-8666
Hours: May, September, First 3 Weekends in October:
Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Memorial Day–Labor Day:
Tu.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
and Monday holidays 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fort Ridgely
72404 County Road 30, Fairfax MN 55332
Phone: 507-208-2948
Hours: Memorial Day weekend–Labor Day Fr.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sept., first 3 weekends in Oct. Sat.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
& Monday holidays 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

W.W. Mayo House
118 N Main St., Le Sueur MN 56058
Phone: 507-665-3250
Hours: May–Sept. Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Closed July 4th

Spring feels like it’s finally here and we couldn’t be more thrilled here at the Nicollet County Historical Society. Spring means our trails are starting to come back to life. Spring means more wildlife can be seen along the river and near our historic sites. Spring means we’re busy planning a variety of summer programming the whole family can enjoy.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is charged with preserving the past. That includes photographs, stories, buildings and a variety of other items and ideas. As we work hard at preservation, we are seeing a shift in the history and museum industry. What the public wants to experience at a museum is changing, and how we share our history is changing also. Studies show that museum-goers are looking for more hands-on activities and more experiential programming. As we think about our mission and the coming season, these changing trends are in the front of our minds.

The NCHS Board of Directors recently met for a retreat day; a day to talk about priorities and where our energy will be focused this year. The board went through a variety of exercises to highlight both our strengths and our weaknesses. We realized that we have so many ideas that we need to prioritize and feature the strengths of this organization. It was decided that the number one priority for 2015 will be educational programming and events.

At the Nicollet County Historical Society we are working hard to create new programming that focuses on a variety of topics and reaches a variety of demographics. At the Treaty Site History Center we’ll be hosting a three-day program for children about Dakota culture; we’ll be promoting native prairies through a “tour local prairies” day; and we are holding a “Forgotten Settlement” day for children to learn about the lost Traverse des Sioux settlement. Our other historic sites are also planning a multitude of programs each weekend, from battlefield reenactments to herb garden tours, to a day in the life of a pioneer woman.

An historical society is all about the past, but we’re also about making relevant to the present and inspirational for the future. We hope you’ll join us as we start a terrific 2015 season!

Alyssa Auten, Director
New Faces at NCHS...

Join us in welcoming...

Board Members...

Rhonda Dass, North Mankato, is a faculty member of the Anthropology Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato and also serves as the Director of American Indian Studies. Her interest in museums has been a lifelong focus influencing her education and her work. Her educational path combined art history with multicultural studies at the undergraduate level leading to her work in conservation and restoration. Her graduate studies brought her to Museum Studies with a focus on material culture creation that combined well with her work on PhDs in Folklore and American Studies. The new multidisciplinary certificate program in Museum Studies keeps Dass busy these days along with her work as a practicing artist. She is a weaver who also paints and tattoos. She resides in Lower North Mankato with her husband, Michael Wilen, and their two German Shepherds, Sadie and Cain.

Julie Gilbert has lived in St. Peter for almost twenty years, the past nine of which have been in a house that is exactly one hundred years older than she is. Julie is both a reference librarian at Gustavus and a writer whose fiction often draws on history for inspiration. She also likes to spend time investigating local cemeteries. A past board member, Julie is excited to return to a more active role in the Society.

Mark Ulman lives in North Mankato and has been in education since 2001. His undergraduate degree is in Business Management, and Master’s degree is in Educational Excellence. Mark obtained his Social Studies licensure from Spring Arbor University with a minor in Psychology, and has Advanced Placement certification in Economics from the University of Iowa.

Mark has taught a wide range of classes within the social studies field including: Civics, Economics, Advanced Placement Economics, Human Geography, Psychology, Social Problems, Sociology, United States History, and World History.

In addition he has been a coach for the past 18 years in cross country and track and field, and has also coached my childrens’ teams in soccer, hockey, and triathlons.

Office Manager...

Leilia Leonhardt has a Bachelor’s Degree in business management, with a minor in Accounting and has worked for the City of Saint Peter Finance Department since 2008. She thrives on numbers and helping people. Not only does she like to keep busy, she loves to learn. She is excited about the new opportunity to help NCHS and can’t wait for the experiences it will hold. As a bonus for NCHS, Leilia will be volunteering her time to maintain the records of Memberships, Donations, and Memorials. She will be in the office mostly nights and weekends, so don’t hesitate to e-mail her at leilia@nchsmn.org.
Please join us for the 2014–15 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened every month at the Treaty Site History Center, through May. Admission to the film series is free for everyone!

**NOTE DATE CHANGE!**

Thurs., April 9, 7 p.m.:
*Cox House Shorts Film Series*
Not rated. The Cox House Shorts Film Series shines a light on the life in the Victorian Midwest during the late 1800s. Using archival photos and documents from around the region, as well as the “living archive” of the E. St. Julien Cox House museum, these short films share the experiences of local people in the context of pressing issues of the day, including the roles of women, life as a child, disease and death, the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, and really wide streets! The Cox House Shorts are student films created in a collaboration between the Department of Communication Studies at Gustavus Adolphus College and the Nicollet County Historical Society. Several Gusties will speak to their filmmaking experiences after the viewing.

Thurs., May 7, 7 p.m.:
*John Muir: A Glorious Journey*
20 min., not rated. This film tells the story of John Muir, America’s most famous naturalist and conservationist. Muir shared his love of nature through writing and inspired people to protect our country’s wild places, fueling the formation of the National Park Service and the modern conservation movement. This film is shown at the Visitor Center at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California, and was produced by the National Park Service. After the film, Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka will present a program on local conservation. Conservation is an important endeavor by humans to protect, restore, and improve the natural environment. This can be done in a variety of ways, both large and small. Scott will talk about some of the interesting conservation projects that have taken place here in the Minnesota River Basin.
With support from Nicollet County Bank, the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners present “An Evening With Maud Hixson,” singer of soft jazz selections from the flapper, swing, and bebop eras. Hixson will be accompanied by Rick Carlson on piano and Steve Pikal on bass. Doors open at 7 p.m., program begins at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 24, at the Treaty Site History Center, 1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, one mile north of St. Peter on Hwy. 169, on east side. Refreshments will be available before the performance and during intermission. Tickets are $15 at Nicollet County Bank, the Arts Center of Saint Peter, and the Treaty Site History Center, and in Mankato at both Hy-Vee stores and at the Lifelong Learners Office on the MSU-M campus. For more information, contact Mankato Area Lifelong Learners at (507) 389-2011.

Maud Hixson has performed at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and in New York at Lincoln Center’s Rose Hall, the New York Cabaret Convention and the Midtown Jazz Series. A two-time recipient of the Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Hixson has held album release events at the Dakota Jazz Club in Minneapolis and the Café at Broadway in New York. Learn more about Maud Hixson on her website: maudhixson.com.

Maud knows how to sing to you. Her style is so efficient, moving and always true to the meaning of the lyric and the integrity of a great melody. It makes her liberties all the more expressive. It’s refreshing to hear a great singer who knows it’s really all about the song.

– Michael Johnson, singer, songwriter, guitarist

A Treaty Site Romance

Jean (Binger) Drexler and Steven Bradley Walter were friends who graduated from high school together in Fairfax in 1978. After graduation Jean moved to Mankato and Steven joined the Navy; 35 years later they reconnected through Facebook in December of 2013. Jean and Steven had their first date at the Treaty Site History Center a few years ago. During that first date they watched our museum film but spent the whole time talking and reconnecting. Now, two years later they decided to get married in the Treaty Site’s Melva Lind Gallery room, the very same room in which they had that first date! On March 13, 2015 Jean and Steven tied the knot. The Nicollet County Historical Society congratulates them on their new life together!

Keep the Nicollet County Historical Society in mind as a place for receptions, ceremonies, weddings, reunions, birthday parties, or conferences. Check out rental possibilities at http://www.nchsmn.org/facility_rental.html.
TSHC Programs & Classes

Interesting & Informative Programming

History on Tap: Beer Sampling with Barley’s Angels and the Mankato Brewery
Friday, May 8, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center
Mankato Brewery started producing beer in 2012 and contributes to the rich history of brewing in southern Minnesota. Barley’s Angels of Southern Minnesota provides women with a comfortable environment to explore and learn about craft beer. Join these two organizations to explore the modern history of beer making in Minnesota and taste samples from Mankato Brewery. $15 per person. Must be 21 to participate. Deadline to register (register through the St. Peter Community Education office): May 5.

Geology of the Minnesota River
Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center, Regular site admission
How was the Minnesota River Valley formed? This interesting story features glaciers, the formation of a glacial lake and a wall of water pushing across what is now southern Minnesota. To get a better view of what happened here thousands of years ago we will take a hike around the Traverse des Sioux trail system and see the Minnesota River up close.

The Forgotten Settlement
Tuesday, June 23, 9 a.m.–noon, Treaty Site History Center
Follow the trails to explore a piece of St. Peter history that is long gone—see the locations of old homes and buildings. Who lived there and what happened to the settlement? What was life like in a log cabin? This program is designed for children who will be entering 1st through 5th grades. A light snack will be provided. $15 per child. Deadline to register (register through the St. Peter Community Education office): June 18.

Prairie Field Day
Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Join us as we visit local prairies in Nicollet County. Genevieve Brand from Seed to Site will be on hand to talk to us about the ecology of native prairies, how to identify some common prairie plants, and how to establish native plants on your own land. We’ll also learn how native prairie plants were used by indigenous people in the area.

We will contact participants with specific locations and details as the date nears. Plan to dress for the weather conditions. The program will begin and end at the Traverse des Sioux Prairie, adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center. Participants will drive from site to site during this tour; please consider carpooling! If you wish, you can pack a picnic lunch and we’ll end with an informal lunch at the Traverse des Sioux Prairie. $10 per person. Deadline to register (register through the St. Peter Community Education office): July 6.

Note the present day Minnesota River is comparatively tiny, shown meandering through the large valley carved by mighty Glacial River Warren.

© Minnesota River Basin Data Center
http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/minnesota-river-valley-formation
The Long Arm of History  by Marlin Peterson

While attending the NCHS annual meeting at GAC, my attention was immediately captured by a recently acquired photo on the backside of the annual report, of the old Railroad Hotel on the corner of Fifth and Pine in St. Peter. I am well acquainted with the building as it was one block east of my uncle David Henning’s house on the corner of South Washington and Pine and several blocks west of my grandma Peterson’s house in the two hundred block of Pine St. The hotel was owned for a while by my grandmother’s uncle Swante, and run by her maiden aunts Mary and Anna Randahl, who were siblings of my great-grandfather Reverend Johannes Randahl, pastor of Scandian Grove Lutheran Church at Norseland from 1891 to 1905.

In 1879 my great-grandfather Johannes Randahl graduated from Lutheran Seminary, was married several weeks later, and moved to the Dakota Territory, where he lived in Sioux Falls and pastored at least three churches over the next dozen years. During that time his younger brother Swante and two sisters Mary and Anna also moved to Sioux Falls where Swante purchased a bakery on Phillips Ave. which was run by his two sisters who lived upstairs over the bakery. During this time my grandmother Hannah was born in 1882. In 1891 Reverend Randahl and family moved to Norseland where he pastored Scandian Grove Lutheran church for the next fourteen years and about that same time his three siblings moved to Moorhead, Minn. where Swante obtained a position with Hope Academy and his two sisters ran a boarding house for college students. In 1893 the three siblings moved to St. Peter where Swante acquired a position with the boarding department at Gustavus Adolphus College and at some point also purchased the Railroad Hotel across from the Northwestern Depot. In the photo the “S. H. Rand(ahl)” sign above the hotel sign was immediately recognized by me. The hotel was run by his sisters Mary and Anna, who upon close examination by myself appear to be the two women standing out front in the photo. In August 1901 at age 39, Swante was married and to the couple was born a daughter Ruth in July 1902. Around that same time or shortly after Swante sold the hotel, perhaps to his sisters, and acquired the grocery store and stock of A. H. Freeman in St. Peter. The following year Swante developed a severe stomach ailment, recovered briefly and then was afflicted with ‘brain fever’ and died on October 21, 1903. As a prominent business man and well known around St. Peter his funeral was said to be one of the largest within the memory of many persons. He is buried on the eastern side of Resurrection Cemetery.

Initially I did not recognize the name of the photo donor Pam Seaser from Owatonna, Minn. (which was part of a box of photos donated to NCHS) however after a bit of

Old Railroad Hotel continued on page 10
Greetings from Fort Ridgely Historic Site! The 2015 season is upon us and I have been busy planning programs and ordering new things for the gift shop. Opening day is Friday, May 22nd, and we are opening the season with John Labatte on Saturday, May 23rd! John will be giving his Causes of the Dakota War program at 1 p.m. followed by his Battlefield Tour at 2:30 p.m. Saturday is also Family Picnic Day, come on out with a picnic lunch and enjoy the prairie. There will be baseball, hoops and sticks, and other old fashioned games to play. If you have kites bring them along as well, the parade grounds are a great place to fly kites. If you don’t have a kite we do sell some in our gift shop.

The next big event will be June 6th and 7th. It is our annual Company B Reenactment Weekend. Company B soldiers along with the 2nd Minnesota, New Ulm Battery, Am Kind, and many other re-enactors will be here to show what a day in the life of a soldier would be like during the 1860s. The soldiers will be running musket drills and the Battery will be shooting the cannon! Bring the whole family and reserve a campsite in the park so you don’t miss a thing.

The gift shop will be featuring new t-shirts and sweatshirts as well as locally made, all natural goat’s milk soap, lotion, and lip balms along with many other items that make Fort Ridgely stand out as a wonderful place to shop. Please remember us when you need a unique gift for someone special.

This season is shaping up to be a fabulous year! If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to help out with any events give me a call at 507-508-2848.

We are excited that this is the 145th year of the Harkin Store. We are opening on May 2nd at 10 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The store will be having many various programs on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Check out the list in the calendar of events.

Admission to the programs is included with the admission to the store.

Our gift shop is open the same hours as the store with many books, toys, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy.

If you haven’t been to the 1870’s general store with 40% original on the shelves come enjoy the costumed guides explaining the store and village of West Newton, as well as the terrific view from the porch. See you this exciting year.
W. W. Mayo House ...

Saturday, February 14th, twenty local 3rd to 5th graders had Afternoon Tea at the Mayo House in honor of Valentine’s Day. The afternoon included an authentic mid-1800’s Afternoon Tea menu with peach tea and lemonade, tips about proper tea etiquette, historic facts about Afternoon Tea and Valentine’s Day, and a tour of the Mayo Home. With the help of great volunteers the menu included four courses: salad course of fresh blueberries served in Phillo pastry and cucumber on cracker with cream cheese and hint of dill; bread course of scrumptious scone with lemon curd and marvelous mini corn muffin; entée course of open face turkey sandwich with cranberry dollop, petite stacked sandwiches and delicious deviled egg; dessert course of Valentines frosted heart cookie, homemade heart treats and a chocolate shell filled with mousse. While participants practiced their etiquette by not putting their pinky up, they learned that Valentine’s Day was first declared a holiday in 1537 but Hallmark didn’t produce its first Valentine’s Day card until 1913. The afternoon ended with each participant receiving a box of conversation hearts, which were invented in 1866. Thank you to the volunteers and participants that made this event a great success!

by Becky Pollack

NCHS Site Information

Cox House Corner...

Only three words can explain our off season. Repair. Restore. Clean. As many of you know last year spring Mother Nature brought her many wonders raining down on our house, both indoors and out. The high winds damaged the cedar and metal roof, and rain ran down our walls and ceilings. Over the years our storm windows, on inspection, had rotted and our fence had blown over, as well.

We took advantage of our off season with completing the repairs. Replacing and painting 16 of our large storm windows. The house, roof and garden shed roof were completely replaced with new cedar and zinc strips. Two of our garden fence sections were repaired with five to go. Inside we needed to replace the damaged carpet from the water damage, the main and second floor carpet was replaced in January and February. When the carpet was pulled there was damage to the underlayment from the water and some damage to the stairs as well. Needless to say we are awash in saw dust and dirt.

As I submit this report we are in the process of cleaning and putting the house in order.

We would like to take a moment to thank all of you, for your kind and generous support this past year. You made it possible for us to keep this historic home in repair. A very heartfelt thank you to the Schmidt Foundation for your constant and unwavering support.

by Richard E. Tostenson, Site Manager

the CROSSING 9
deep recollection I recognized her to be the grand-daughter of my aunt, Eva (Mrs. Jay) Seibert who died in 1993, at which time the photos would have changed hands. After twenty years the photos traveled from 219 West Jefferson St. in St. Peter, to Owatonna and now back to NCHS this past summer, which then allowed NCHS to acquire copies of my large collection of Randahl family photos. A note of irony, Mary and Anna Randahl also buried in Resurrection Cemetery, are in the plot adjacent to the father of Bob Sandeen, archivist at NCHS.

Gustavus Adolphus College in conjunction with the Nicollet County Historical Society. The National Museum of the American Indian typical hosts over a million visitors each year, and we’re proud that the Nicollet County Historical Society can lend this exhibit and raise international awareness of this important piece of our local and national history.

Elizabeth Sandell, for the Evangelical Covenant Ch. No. Manifesto, large collection of photos & documents, including church ministers & confirmation classes

Robert Meyer: Sept. 10, 1956 map of proposed site of St. Peter High School, Old Traverse des Sioux by Thomas Hughes

James Herkelrath: Herkelrath family history booklet

Oren L. Thronson; photos of Mrs. Lucy Lehmann, Courtland public school teacher

St. Peter Chamber of Commerce: 2014 Oktoberfest buttons

City of St. Peter: 1944 National Pedestrian Protection Contest plaque


Diane Hansen; congregation photo outside of the Scandinavian Grove Lutheran Church at Norseland (ca. 1920s?), photo of house in the Norseland area, photo album, Borgeson family history documents

Pam Seaser: photo collection, including Railroad Hotel, Pine & Fifth Sts. in St. Peter & John A. Johnson

Ruth Klossner: Dist. 7 School items, Nicollet & Brown County Plat Books

Molly Regan: Aug. 1912 wedding dress, veil, & shoes of Cecelia Engesser, Mrs. Raymond Fay, St. Peter

Crossview Covenant Ch., No. Manicots: A piece communion set, Covenant Mission Church previously on 215 Belgrade Ave.; two registers of members, 2 commemorative plates

Marlin Peterson: New York Tribune newspapers from Nov. 16, 1853 and Dec. 29, 1853; Gov. John A. Johnson button (black border); Valentine postcard with 1909 Traverse, MN cancel; delegate metal of H.W. Johnson of New London for the 1949-1954 Annual State Firemen’s Convention in St. Peter; 4 Lafayette Fun Fair buttons (1960, 71, 72, & 75); 2 St. Peter Capitol Days buttons (1960 & 91); St. Peter vs. New Ulm 1948 football button; 1902 Lucerne, Switzerland souvenir to Emma Zalengi of Traverse, MN

Stan Muellerleile: Bill Krisastis’s popcorn trays used in grandstand of Nicollet Co. Fair

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Above: TSHC Site Manager at the Smithsonian’s exhibit of “Commemorating Controversy”. Below: Smithsonian’s webpage announcing the exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Artifact & Archival Donations accepted into our collections since the Oct. 2014 Crossing:

Robert Meyer: Sept. 10, 1956 map of proposed site of St. Peter High School, Old Traverse des Sioux by Thomas Hughes

James Herkelrath: Herkelrath family history booklet

Oren L. Thronson; photos of Mrs. Lucy Lehmann, Courtland public school teacher

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Stan Muellerleile: Bill Krisastis’s popcorn trays used in grandstand of Nicollet Co. Fair

Jane Smith Estate: St. Peter Women’s Literary Club & St. Peter Music Club documents

Marian Zine: books & reference materials

Roger Scheib: assorted items for archives

Hazel Bach: photo album of members of the Lundeen, Turner, Johnson, & Sandeen families in Owatonna, Nicollet Co. & other relatives & neighbors


Larry Tillemans’ story, one which played out often on the prairies of Minnesota’s small towns during World War II, needs to be told. Many were heroes, but neither Tillemans’ place in history nor his message should never be forgotten.

That’s why Tillemans, now 88, travels the state, the featured performer in “The Typist,” an award-winning documentary about this simple man’s life and remarkable work documenting the testimony from the Nuremberg trials. Tillemans is believed to be the last living typist from those horrific trials of 23 of the most important military and political leaders of Hitler’s Nazi Germany.

Tillemans doesn’t want us to forget. Tillemans hasn’t. As “The Typist,” this Minnesotan native documented the testimony of both victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust.

It took him a long time to hit the road. Tillemans, like many young Americans of his day, joined the military. As a sergeant in the United States 3rd Army – and one of few men with adequate typing skills–Tillemans stepped into the most horrific scenes of that war. The Nuremberg trials, a series of military tribunals held by the Allied forces after World War II, ran from Nov. 20, 1945 to Oct. 1, 1946.

From 1941 to 1945, 6 million of Jewish faith were targeted, then methodically murdered. This genocide took place throughout Nazi Germany and Hitler’s other German-occupied territories. Another 5 million non-Jews were estimated to have been slaughtered by the Third Reich. Looking deeper into those numbers, consider that of the nearly 8.87 million Jews residing in Europe at the time, Hitler’s regime killed more than 5.93 million. Approximately 1 million were children. In Poland alone, 3 million Jews were murdered, as only 300,000 remained. Hitler’s troops also targeted other Poles, gypsies, homosexuals, Soviet prisoners of war and the mentally and physically disabled. The Nazis set up a network of 42,500 facilities to concentrate, confine, and kill Jews and other victims.

It was Tillemans’ job as clerk at both the Nuremberg and Dachau war crime trials to listen to each story, the horrific details. So he listened, typed and relived each bit of testimony.

“The Typist” follow the life and work of Larry Tillemans, believed to be the last living clerk-typist from the Nuremberg Trials. As a sergeant in the U.S. 3rd Army, it was Tillm ans’ duty to document the testimony of victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust—information that deeply affected the young Minnesotan. After years of carrying this emotional burden, Tillemans decided to share his experiences with as many people as possible, a tireless effort that brought the value of first-person testimony to a world struggling to remember the lessons of Nuremberg.

To view “The Typist” on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4TzZm99EAv

Typist continued on page 12

Larry Tillemans speaks at NCHS after viewing of the “The Typist.”
– photo by Dana Melius, St. Peter Herald, used with permission

Typist continued on page 12
A packed house listens to Larry Tillemans’ presentations after the viewing of the Emmy award-winning documentary of his experiences during the Nuremberg trials.

— photo by Dana Mellus, St. Peter Herald, used with permission

Typist continued from page 11

about the war that saved the soul. Tillemans began to talk about the Holocaust and his role in documenting that genocide. He had never forgotten those horrors; now, he wanted to make sure others wouldn’t.

For over nearly 25 years, Tillemans has traveled the country as “The Typist.” This Emmy award-winning documentary was spearheaded by Eric Olson of KSMQ-TV, an Austin, Minn., public television station. Olson, KSMQ president and CEO, joined Tillemans and about 80 local residents at a Thursday showing at the Treaty Site History Center.

The 57-minute film was sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society and St. Peter Community and Family Education.

“These are the types of projects that public television is so well positioned to do,” Olson told the local crowd.

Larry Tillemans told his story so we won’t forget.

St. Peter Reads Annual Spring Author Brunch

St. Peter Reads is pleased to present its Annual Spring Author Brunch on Saturday, May 16, 2015, in the Banquet Rooms, Jackson Campus Center of Gustavus Adolphus College. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and will feature humorist and author, Michael Perry and his fictional debut, The Jesus Cow, which officially releases three days after the St. Peter appearance. Michael is no stranger to this area as he was a featured speaker in March 2006 when he delighted the audience with his memoir, Population: 485 - Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time, and again in October of that same year, when he talked about his book, Truck: A Love Story. An open to the public time, beginning at 12 noon, will allow time of book sales and signings.

The ticketed event also features several other authors as they rotate among the tables, in what is referred to as a Moveable Feast. Authors include local and emerging writers such as Roger McKnight, Jan Holte, Dale Redlin, and Dr. Curt Stolee.

New this year will be three SneakPeekSaturdays when one participating author will be appearing at the Saint Peter Public Library. These events start at 11 a.m. and are free and open to the public. April 25 is Mankato author Allen Eskens, with his debut mystery, The Life We Bury; May 2 brings Geoff Herbach, with his most recent, Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders; and May 9 features Rachael Hanel, with her memoir, We’ll Be the Last Ones to Let You Down.

St. Peter Reads Annual Spring Author Brunch

Author Brunch
Saturday, May 16 / 9:30 a.m.-noon / $22
Jackson Campus Center, Gustavus Adolphus College
Keynote: Michael Perry, humorist and author, new fiction debut, The Jesus Cow
Reservations required / Seating limited: stpetercommunityedonline.com / 507-934-3048

ALSO: SneakPeekSaturdays
Saint Peter Public Library / 11 a.m. / free
April 25 Allen Eskens, The Life We Bury
May 2 Geoff Herbach, Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders
May 9 Rachael Hanel, We’ll Be the Last Ones to Let You Down

St. Peter Reads is an event of the Saint Peter Community Education office, funded in part by a grant from the Traverse des Sioux Library System through a grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Reservations can be made at stpetercommunityedonline.com or by calling the Saint Peter Community Education office, 507-934-3048. The cost of the Brunch, catered by the Dining Service of Gustavus Adolphus College, is $22. Seating is limited.
Cox House Event...

Murder Mystery at the Cox House

On Friday, March 13, guests gathered together for the first-ever murder mystery hosted at the Cox House. The setting was the S.S. Libertania, sailing from New York to Southampton, England, on the eve of World War I. Poor Captain Bayard (portrayed by Joel Carlin) had a short-lived role for the evening, as he was murdered within the first half hour. The rest of the event was spent uncovering secrets, sorting out clues, and trying to discover just who murdered the captain. There were English barons, American arms dealers, double agents, a smuggling ring, a gun duel, a marriage proposal, and plenty of double-crossing! In the end, everyone had a wonderful time. *(Well, except for poor Captain Bayard.)*

It’s August 14, 1914 and you are aboard the S.S. Libertania, sailing for Southampton. Captain Bayard has gathered all the passengers and crew members of his ship to hear the tragic news…

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    - Benefactor: $500
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    - $45
  - sustaining
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  - patron
    - $100
  - supporter
    - $200
  - benefactor
    - $500
  - life
    - $1000

**Contact Alyssa at 934-2160 for more information**

1851 N. Minnesota Ave. · St. Peter, MN 56082
alyssa@nchsmn.org · www.nchsmn.org

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It's a beautiful day at the Vasa House, with the sun shining brightly. The Vasa House is a historic site located in St. Peter, Minnesota. It was built in 1870 and is now a museum dedicated to the history of the Finnish-American community.

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  - benefactor
    - $500
  - life
    - $1000

**Contact Alyssa at 934-2160 for more information**

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Fort Ridgely  
Harlan Stone  
Traverse des Sioux  
E. St. Julien Cox House  
Mayo House  

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preserve our past · solidify our future

**Nicollet County Historical Society**  
at the *Treaty Site History Center*
2015 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely, Mayo House: $6 adults (18–64), $5 seniors (65+) and college students, $4 children (ages 6–17). Free for age 5 and under, MNHS and NCHS members.

Treaty Site History Center: $5 adults (18–64), $3 seniors (65+) and children (ages 6–17). Free for age 5 and under, MNHS and NCHS members.

April 9  NOTE DATE CHANGE! Documentary Film Series:

* Cox House Short Film Series*, 7 p.m. (see description on page 4)

April 24 An Evening with Maud Hixson, doors open at 7 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. (details on page 5)

May 2 Harkin Store opens for the season, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

May 2 W. W. Mayo House opens for the season, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

May 3 "Egg Coffee and Newtons", 1 p.m.

May 7 Documentary Film Series:

* John Muir: A Glorious Journey*, 7 p.m. (see description on page 4)

May 8 History on Tap: Beer Sampling with Barley’s Angels and the Mankato Brewery

May 10 Mother’s Day—Aprons, 1 p.m.

May 17 Minnesota River and Riverboats, 1 p.m.

May 16 St. Peter Reads Author Brunch, 9:30 a.m. (see story on page 12)

May 21 Geology of the Minnesota River, 9 a.m. (see description on page 4)

May 22 Fort Ridgely opens for the season, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

May 23 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 program & battlefield tour, 1 p.m.

May 24 Memorial Day—Music by Bob Bovee, 1 p.m.

May 31 145 Years Old Celebration, 1 p.m.

June 6 & 7 Company B Drill Weekend

June 6 Women During the Civil War

June 6 Dairy Day, 1 p.m.

June 13 The Telegraph with Daryl Hrdlicka, 1–4 p.m.

June 14 Flag Day and Grand Opening of TSHC Patio, (see story on page 1, watch for details)

June 14 Flag Day, 1 p.m.

June 20 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 program & battlefield tour, 1 p.m.

June 21 Father’s Day—Men’s Crafts, 1 p.m.

June 23 The Forgotten Settlement 9 a.m.–noon (see description on page 4)

June 24 Fort Ridgely opens for the season, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

June 25 Children’s Games and Craft Day, 1 p.m.

June 27 Children’s Day, 12–4 p.m.

June 27 Archery in the Park (Upper Picnic Shelter), 1 p.m.

June 27 Water Cycle Program (Upper Picnic Shelter), 4 p.m.

June 27 Civilian Conservation Corp Tour, 6 p.m.

June 27 Wild About Wildlife (Upper Picnic Shelter), 7 p.m.

June 28 Music—Carver Creek Bluegrass, 1 p.m.

July 4 America’s Flags, 1 p.m.

July 5 Independence Day—New Ulm Battery, 1 p.m.

July 11 Prairie Field Day 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (see description on page 6) Registration required

July 12 Christmas in July, 1 p.m.

July 18 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 program & battlefield tour, 1 p.m.

July 19 Shopping With Laura Ingalls, 1 p.m.

July 25 Children’s Day, 12–4 p.m.

July 25 Archery in the Park (Upper Picnic Shelter), 6 p.m.

July 26 Old Games Day, 1 p.m.

July 31 145 Years Old Celebration, 1 p.m.

Please watch the NCHS website, Facebook & Twitter and MNHS website for further events and details for additional programming.
Your membership dollars at work...

NCHS Membership Application

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