December 2011 • Volume 16 / Issue4

Director’s Column

On behalf of the staff and board of the Society, I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and holiday season. I may not always love the temperatures, but I do love taking the time during the holidays to give thanks, and to recognize those that mean so much to us. We couldn’t make the Society work without you. In economic times like these, we rely more on you. We appreciate your support so very much. Thank you—not just for being members, but for being our friends, neighbors, teammates, merchants, and contractors too. We hope that you and your families are all healthy and happy. As I think about the last year it’s less about what I did and more about who I did it with.

Cheers,

Ben Leonard, Director

Collection Spotlight

This Christmas card was sent by friend Ted Lepon to Lafayette resident Russell Malmberg during his service in WWII. Russell joined the U.S. Air Force on January 21, 1942 as an engineer gunner on a B-25 bomber. He was stationed in Corsica, Italy, and flew 64 combat missions as a member of the 57th Bomb Wing. Russell Malmberg passed away in 1998 and buried with full military rights at the Bernadotte Lutheran Church cemetery.

Dakota History Lecture Series

Join the Society and Gustavus Adolphus College as we welcome reknowned scholars to discuss Dakota culture, history, and the War of 1862. This series is made possible by the generous support of Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota Humanities Center, the Society, and funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

All lectures will be held at the Linnaeus Arboretum on the Gustavus Adolphus College campus from 4–5:30 p.m. All are free and open to the public.

Wed., Jan. 4: Dr. John Peacock War of Words: Writings by Dakota People In Their Own Language and Later in English During and After the United States-Dakota War of 1862 Dr. John Peacock is Rinehart Professor of Language, Literature, and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art. A member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation, his writing has been published in American Indian Quarterly and American Indian Literatures.

Thurs., Jan. 5: Glenn Wasicuna A Dakota Way of Life Glenn Wasicuna is the Director of Dakota Studies, Tiospa Zina Tribal School. He was the Editor/Publisher of The Dakota Times, a Canadian newspaper, for more than a dozen years. He will discuss every-day Dakota culture, customs, and world view.

Lecture Series continued on reverse

Art Credit: Medicine Dance of the Sioux or Dakotah Indians on the St. Peters River near Fort Snelling, 1847, Seth Eastman (1808–75), from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.
Historian John LaBatte will examine causes of the U.S.-Dakota War. A resident of New Ulm, John has researched the Dakota War while others opposed it. LaBatte has both Dakota and Minnesota background. This entry will focus on the lives of modern Dakota and their special place in American culture.

**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 hard-core handfishing veterans as well as footage of real noodlers in action. Set against an original musical score by rock band The Flam ing Lips, Okie Noodling offers an anecdotal look at a most unusual piece of Midwest American culture.

**Thurs., Feb. 2, 7 p.m.: Restrepo**

Restrepo is a feature-length documentary that chronicles the deployment of a platoon of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley. The movie follows a remote 15-man outpost, “Restrepo,” named after a plankton medic who was killed in action. It was considered one of the most dangerous postings in the U.S. military. This is an entirely experiential film: the cameras never leave the valley; there are no interviews with generals or diplomats. The only goal is to make viewers feel as if they have just been through a 90-minute deployment. This is war, full stop. The conclusions are up to you.

**Thurs., Mar. 1, 7 p.m.: Exit Through The Gift Shop**

This is the inside story of Street Art—a brutal and revealing account of what happens when fame, money and vandalism collide. Thurs., Apr. 5, 7 p.m.: The Real Dirt on Farmer John

The epic tale of a maverick Midwestern farmer.

**Thurs., May 3, 7 p.m.: Black Gold**

While we continue to pay for our lattes and cappuccinos, the price paid to coffee farmers remains so low that many have been forced to abandon their coffee fields.

**Feature Books:**

- Recently published by NCHS, it thoroughly covers the 1851 Treaty while illuminating new details about the treaty’s place in the political argument over free and slave states. A must have for anyone living in this area or interested in the history of Minnesota.

**The Last Hunter: An American Family Album**

**by Will Weaver**

Minneapolis’s Will Weaver has been a hunter since he was a young boy, following in the footsteps of his father, a dedicated and seasoned outdoorsman. As he writes, “in the fall, when Canada geese came through and when partridge season opened, [we] heard the far-off thudding report of shotguns—and in November the heavier poom-poom! of deer rifles.” Hunting frames Weaver’s childhood memories, his relationship with his father, and his own definition of self. And although one side of his family lineage includes men who would not hunt, or go to war, or carry a rifle, Weaver is caught off guard when his son and daughter show no interest in upholding the tradition of the hunt.

**Holiday Shopping**

The Treaty Site Museum Store is a great place to find unique books and gifts. The normal 10% member discount has been doubled for the rest of 2011. Don’t want to visit? We can mail your purchases for you. Don’t have what you need? We may be able to order it.

No room for books? What about a gift membership to the historical society? The lucky recipient gets a whole year of free admission and programs to all of our sites, plus free admission to the Minnesota Historical Society through the Time Travelers program.

**Feature Books:**

- The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, by William E. Lass

**The Treaty Site Museum Store**

The store is open Mon-Sat from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun from 12 to 4 p.m. The Last Hunter: An American Family Album, by Will Weaver

Minnesota’s Will Weaver has been a hunter since he was a young boy, following in the footsteps of his father, a dedicated and seasoned outdoorsman. As he writes, “in the fall, when Canada geese came through and when partridge season opened, [we] heard the far-off thudding report of shotguns—and in November the heavier poom-poom! of deer rifles.” Hunting frames Weaver’s childhood memories, his relationship with his father, and his own definition of self. And although one side of his family lineage includes men who would not hunt, or go to war, or carry a rifle, Weaver is caught off guard when his son and daughter show no interest in upholding the tradition of the hunt.

**Annual Meeting Registration Form**

Enclosed is my/our check for the amount of:

- $____ for _____ reservation(s) at $15/person (members)
- $____ for _____ reservation(s) at $20/person (non-members)
- $____ for _____ reservation(s) for the John LaBatte program ($3 p.m.) at $5/person

Name(s)________________________ Address________________________

Acct. Number __________ Expiration Date ________

Phone (______)-______

E-mail________________________

Authorized Signature________________________

Checks should be made payable to: Nicollent County Historical Society

Return by January 13 to: Nicollent County Historical Society, 1851 North Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082