Renovations Complete at Treaty Site

The Treaty Site History Center received a facelift thanks to a grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation, a gift from Al Annexstad, and a grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program. The retail area moved into the lobby, creating a new conference room. The kitchenette also moved into an adjacent storage area to open up more space in the research library. A new digital microfilm reader/printer makes it possible to clip, edit, and save microfilm copies right to your flash drive. If you haven’t been to the Treaty Site recently, come back and see the changes!

May 5, 2012

Cox House Annual Heritage Plant Sale

It seems like Spring is here! That means it’s time to think about gardening. Saturday, May 5th from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the date for the annual Cox House Heritage Plant Sale. This annual fund raiser for the Cox house and NCHS 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. As we rely on plants donated by our community, we would be very happy if you could help by potting up some plants in your own gardens for the sale and bringing them to the Cox House Yard on Thursday, May 3 or Friday, May 4 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day. Labeled plants are most appreciated by the volunteers who will be pricing and arranging them for sale. We will have many extra pots available by the Skaro Street gate for anyone who needs them. Some popular plants in the past have been mums, phlox, primrose, hosta, ferns, bleeding hearts, daisies, iris, lilies, dahlias, lily of the valley, bee balm, sedum, peonies, columbine, and coleus. We count on our NCHS members to spread the word about the sale, donate plants, and volunteer to help with potting and labeling of plants, as well as the day of the actual sale. It’s a lot of fun, and you don’t need to be a plant expert to help out! If you have questions or would like to donate or volunteer, please call Bev Wetherill at 934-4417 or Barb Olmanson at 934-2828.
Memorials
received since the last newsletter:
In Memory of
Clinton Lomis
Given by
Judy Scholl
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz

Monetary
Donations
received since the last newsletter:
Herb Poncin
Loreen Sundboom

Director's Column

Yes, I’m one of those people.
Every year, about this time, my friends and I get together and pick real baseball players to be on our fictional teams. We think about it for months. We make spreadsheets. We run through draft scenarios in our heads.

Feel free to judge me. I don’t care. I look forward to draft day as much as Christmas. In some ways, it’s like Christmas. I get together with people who mean a lot to me. Some of them I only see once, or twice if I’m lucky, each year.

As I get ready to travel to our sister city Petatlán—I’ve been thinking a lot about the definition of “community.” I’m probably not going to meet a lot of fantasy baseball fans in Mexico, but I bet I do meet a lot of people who value friendship, fellowship, and belonging to a group. As I work with the students on our exhibit, I hope the finished product will tell people more about that part of the world, and our partnership. But I really hope we’ll be able to illustrate what “community” means to all of us. We might have different traditions, and not all of them involve Adrian Gonzalez or Jason Kipnis, but we really do share the same values. Except for the poor guy who drafted Joe Mauer in the second round last year—what was he thinking?

Ben Leonard, Director
Disaster Exhibit
Coming to Treaty Site

Extraordinary footage and unforgettable stories of strength and survival are part of “Minnesota Disasters,” a new exhibit at the Treaty Site History Center March 31 – May 28, 2012.

Minnesotans are no strangers to man-made or natural disasters. They have faced devastating swarms of grasshoppers, tornadoes, fires and floods. Using photos, text and film, “Minnesota Disasters” explores the preparation, reaction and aftermath to catastrophe in our state. Intertwined with details of those calamities are the incredible stories of human vulnerability and resilience.

This exhibit is on temporary loan from the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul and will be traveling to venues throughout Minnesota.

The Minnesota Historical Society Traveling Exhibits Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008.

NCHS to Visit Sister City

Society Director, Ben Leonard, will travel with Gustavus students, faculty, and another City of St. Peter representative to Petatlán, Mexico at the end of March. Leonard will work with students to create a traveling exhibit on St. Peter’s sister city, and how the core concepts of “community” cross international boundaries. The exhibit is planned to open in early summer.
Join the Saint Peter Public Library and Nicollet County Historical Society in welcoming very special guest Diane Wilson to the Library on Thursday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m.


Her second book, *Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life*, (Borealis Books), was released in September 2011. *Beloved Child*—a collection of personal stories on transforming historical trauma—has received awards from the Jerome Travel & Study program, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Ragdale Artist Residency, and the Hedgebrook Residency for Women Writers.

Her work has been published in *Fiction on a Stick: American Tensions: Literature of Identity and the Search for Social Justice; Homelands: Women’s Journeys Across Race, Place, and Time; The American Indian Quarterly, The View from the Loft, Minnesota Women’s Press, Pioneer Press* and many other local publications.

Diane is the Executive Director of Dream of Wild Health, a Native-owned 10-acre farm in Hugo, Minnesota. She lives with her artist husband, Jim Denomie, Emma the love bully, and two stray cats. A master gardener, Diane maintains a large butterfly garden filled with native plants. She is a member of the Dakota Kiciya and helps organize the Dakota Commemorative Marches on the Lower Sioux reservation.

The Saint Peter Public Library is located at 601 S. Washington Avenue in St. Peter. Call the library at (507) 934-7420 for more information. This program is supported by the Minnesota Book Awards through grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in conjunction with State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Library Foundation.

**What it Really Feels Like to be Occupied**

We are honored to welcome JosMarie Vanderspek to the Treaty Site on Saturday, April 14th at 2 p.m. Born and raised in the Netherlands, Ms. Vanderspek will speak about her experiences during the Nazi occupation during WWII. Please join us for a first-hand account of the terror of occupation and the heroics of Dutch resistance and U.S.-Allied troops.
Multinational coffee companies now rule our shopping malls and supermarkets and dominate the industry worth over $80 billion, making coffee the most valuable trading commodity in the world after oil. But 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. Nowhere is this paradox more evident than in Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee. Tadesse Meskela is one man on a mission to save his 74,000 struggling coffee farmers from bankruptcy. As his farmers strive to harvest some of the highest quality coffee beans on the international market, Tadesse travels the world in an attempt to find buyers willing to pay a fair price.

Join us at the Treaty Site on Sunday, May 6th at 3 p.m. to see *The Boys From Wasioja*, a documentary film created by students from the Hennepin Technical College under the direction of Rich Oxley. The follows the boys and men of Wasioja from recruitment, to muster at Fort Snelling, to the Grand Parade in Washington D.C. at war’s end. Only two died in battle, but most never returned home. The boys were part of the 2nd Minnesota Company C and fought at Chickamauga and Sherman’s March to Atlanta, the March to the sea and the routing of South Carolina.
Commemorating Controversy

Dakota History Lecture Series a Success

NCHS partnered with Gustavus Adolphus College in January for six lectures on Dakota history. Over 1,600 people watched the lectures in person or live on the web. “It was a truly amazing response,” said NCHS Director Ben Leonard.

The series included Dr. John Peacock from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Glenn Wasicuna from the Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Dr. Gary Clayton Anderson from the University of Oklahoma, author Thomas Maltman, independent historian and publisher Corinne Monjeau-Marz, and Dr. Gwen Westerman from Minnesota State, Mankato.

The series culminated 18 months of planning by Gustavus’s Dr. Elizabeth Baer and Ben Leonard. It was made possible with funds from Gustavus Adolphus College, the Minnesota Humanities Center, and the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Lectures are available online through 2012 at http://client.stretchinternet.com/client/gacadmin.portal#. Just click the “on demand” tab and scroll through the chronological list of events.

Traveling Exhibit Opens at Gustavus

A traveling exhibit created by students in the college January term class, “Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota-U.S. War of 1862” opened March 10th at Gustavus’s “Building Bridges” conference. The exhibit will travel across the state through the end of 2013. In April it travels to the McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center, Carver County Historical Society in May, and elsewhere until it returns to St. Peter for a brief stop in August.

The recent Building Bridges Conference at Gustavus afforded an excellent venue to premiere the Commemorating Controversy traveling exhibit, which received excellent reviews.
The crossing
New Books from MHS Press

Dakota Women’s Work: Creativity, Culture, and Exile
by Colette A. Hyman

"Hyman traces the changes in the lives of Dakota women, starting before the arrival of whites and covering the fur trade, the years of treaties and shrinking lands, the brutal time of removal, starvation, and shattered families after 1862—and then the transition to reservation life, when missionaries and government agents worked to turn the Dakota into Christian farmers. The decorative work of Dakota women reflected all of this: native organic dyes and quillwork gave way to beading and needlework, items traditionally decorated for family gifts were produced to sell to tourists and white collectors, work on cradleboards and animal skin bags shifted to the ornamenting of hymnals and the creation of star quilts. Through it all, the work of Dakota women proclaims and retains Dakota identity: it is a testament to the endurance of Dakota traditions, to the survival of the Dakota in exile, and—most vividly—to the role of women in that survival."

~ MHS Press Catalog

Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But Were Afraid to Ask
by Anton Treuer

“What have you always wanted to know about Indians? Do you think you should already know the answers—or suspect that your questions may be offensive? In matter-of-fact responses to over 120 questions, both thoughtful and outrageous, modern and historical, Ojibwe scholar and cultural preservationist Anton Treuer gives a frank, funny, and sometimes personal tour of what’s up with Indians, anyway.”

~ MHS Press Catalog
Harkin Happenings  by Ruth Grewe, site manager

The Harkin Store is getting ready for the season. Merchandise will soon arrive and priced and taken to Harkin for setup. Cleaning is the next priority and that takes at least several days, putting out the old 1870’s merchandise is next.

Site programs are shaping up. They are on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4pm. Our opening day is Saturday, May 5th. Sunday, May 6th we will have “Egg Coffee and Newtons.” Mother’s Day, May 13, will be displays of lady’s handicrafts. Pioneer women did lots of different types of handicrafts from quilts to knitting, crochet, and embroidery work also other types will be on display. On Sunday, May 20th we will have information about the Minnesota River and the riverboats that were used on this river. Memorial Day Sunday, May 27th, will have music by Bill Cagley. He performs “music for all ages” from 1 to 4 pm.

Hope to see you this summer, we will have lots of different programs throughout the season. Check us out online at www.nchsmn.org and http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/hs/.

Site Hours This Summer

The Fort Ridgely Historic Site hours of operation have changed for the 2012 season. The site will be open 10–5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The site will open on May 25 and will be open Memorial Day Monday. The site will close on Labor Day Monday—September 3. Reservations will be accepted for tours during the months of September and October.

Harkin Store hours haven’t changed. The site opens May 5 and is open Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. in May. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day you can visit Harkin from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. every day but Monday. After Labor Day the site is open weekends through October 14th.

The Treaty Site is open 7 days a week the whole year: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. daily except 1–4 p.m. Sundays. Closed on major holidays.

The E. St. Julien Cox House will only be open for special programs, events, and facility rentals in 2012.

All sites are open for group tours. If you have any questions, comments, or scheduling needs, please call 507-934-2160.
**Ridgely Readies For Big Season**

*by Nancy Zempel, site manager*

The year 2012 is the 150th anniversary of the Dakota War of 1862. The programs at the Fort Ridgely site for the season will focus on the causes and aftermath of one of the major events in Minnesota history.

Each Saturday during the season, presenters will share their research about the war. Military and Civil War programs will be included as part of the summer schedule. Continue to check local newspapers and the NCHS website calendar for times and dates for events at the historic site.

If you haven’t visited in a while, the Fort has changed. A new ADA walking path and benches make it much easier to stroll around the grounds and experience the Fort. What happened there is incredibly important to all Minnesotans, and this is a great year to learn more about the important events that continue to shape our lives today.

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**Members**

Thanks to the following new and renewing members of NCHS since our last newsletter and through March 12.

**Renewed Business Members:**
- Nicollet County Bank
- First National Bank
- Nelson Printing
- BENDO

**Renewed Patron Members:**
- Riverside Dental Care
- Eric Carlson
- Sally Webster
- Roland & Edith Thorstenson
- Grant & Karen Annexstad
- Chris & Jolly Cortey

**Renewed Family Members:**
- Gill & Peggy Carlson
- Dwight & Geni DeBoer
- Jerome & Alma Forst
- Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
- John & Sharon Iverson
- Patti & Kris Kelly
- Earl & Marjorie Renneke
- Tami & Jeff Skinner
- Tom Thorkelson
- Richard & Janet Wetternren
- Larry & Jo Zambino

**Renewed Individual Members:**
- Verda Beatty
- Janet Boese
- Carolyn Brethorst
- Opal Dewanz
- Michael Haesser
- William Harvey
- Scott Hermanson
- Renee Jackson
- Victoria Johnson
- Robert Lambert
- Ruth Larson
- Loren Lindsay
- Evelynth Nelson
- Ronald Roselli
- Bob Schabert
- Gertrude Wright

**New Sustaining Members:**
- David Johnson

We would also like to say thanks to these business members:

- Culligan Mayer
- Community Insurance Agency
- New Sweden Mutual Insurance Company
- Dave’s Place
- First National Bank

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**New ADA walking path at the Fort Ridgely Monument site.**
TPT recently spent some time filming for an upcoming show on Minnesota museums. The program will air on public television stations across the state after its debut at the American Association of Museums national conference at the end of April.

Jessica Brockberg Says Goodbye

If you haven’t already noticed by now, I have left the Society for different opportunities. I am taking some time off to work on some family things before I jump back into working full time. I have loved working for the Society the 8 years I have been here and will miss coming into work every day but I need to do what is right for my family at this time. I will stop in occasionally to see how things are going so I will not be a stranger to the Society! Hope everyone has a great year ahead! Thanks for everything!

Jessica

NCHS Summer Intern

The Society will be hiring several new site interpreters this year. We’re excited that Victoria (Tory) Clark will be working with us this summer. Tory will be doing lots of things this summer. She’ll be working at the Treaty Site, Harkin Store, and Fort Ridgely—as well as doing some research and writing for us.

Clark is a sophomore English major at Gustavus Adolphus College. She serves as the Editor-in-Chief at the college’s student-run newspaper The Gustavian Weekly and also does research, reporting and basic graphic design for the publication. Victoria became interested in the work of the Nicollet County Historical Society this past January during her participation in the course U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 taught by Director of NCHS, Ben Leonard and Professor Elizabeth Baer. She grew up just down the road in St. James, Minn. and has grown up with an interest in Minnesota history her whole life. In her spare time, Victoria enjoys playing her violin and singing jazz. She is also an enthusiastic gardener and poet.

Traveling this Summer?

NCHS members remember to take advantage of your Time Traveler benefits. Your passport to a variety of membership benefits at historic sites across the U.S.

2012 Calendar of Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Program information:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harkin Store:</strong> Program Time: 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays / $5 adults (18–64), $3 seniors (65+) and children 6–17. Free for children age 5 and under, NCHS and MHS members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fort Ridgely:</strong> Time: Please check NCHS and MHS websites for program times / Fee: A valid State Park Vehicle Permit is required unless otherwise noted below. Fee: $5 adults (18–64), $3 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TSHC:</strong> 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 &amp; Cox House.</td>
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**March 31–**
- **Mar. 28** *Minnesota Disasters: Stories of strength and survival* Treaty Site History Center
  - Minnesota exhibit at TSHC through May 28.
- **Apr. 5** *The Real Dirt on Farmer John Documentary Film Series* Treaty Site History Center
  - See story on page 5, 7 p.m., FREE
- **Apr. 12** *Diane Wilson* St. Peter Public Library
  - See story on page 6, 6:30 p.m., FREE
- **Apr. 14** *JosMarie Vanderspek* Treaty Site History Center
- **Apr. 29** *Cox House Concert* Treaty Site History Center
  - E. St. Julien Cox House
- **May 3** *Black Gold Documentary Film Series* Treaty Site History Center
  - See story on page 5, 7 p.m., FREE
- **May 5** *Cox House Annual Heritage Plant Sale* Treaty Site History Center
  - See article on page 1 for details.
- **May 5** *Harkin Store opens for the season* Harkin Store
- **May 6** *The Boys From Wasiota* Treaty Site History Center
  - Documentary film by students from Hennepin Technical College
  - See story on page 5, 3 p.m., FREE
- **May 6** *Egg Coffee and Newtons* Harkin Store
- **May 13** *Mother's Day handicrafts* Harkin Store
- **May 20** *River Boats on the Minnesota* Harkin Store
- **May 24** *Building Fort Ridgely Military Post* Fort Ridgely
  - Historian Roger Breckenridge will discuss the very beginning of the new federal post along the Minnesota River 2 p.m.
- **May 24** *Fort Ridgely Opens for the season* Fort Ridgely
- **May 27** *Memorial Day Music by Bill Cagley* Harkin Store
- **June 2** *Causes of the Dakota War of 1862 and Battlefield Tour* Fort Ridgely
  - Independent historian John Labatte covers the causes of war in 1862 (1 p.m.) and conducts a tour of the Fort Ridgely battlefield (2:30 p.m.)
- **June 9** *State Park Open House Day* Fort Ridgely
  - Join us for a free day at Fort Ridgely with traditional Dakota dancing by Lower Sioux Community’s Lucio Family (2 p.m.), as well as military demonstrations by the 1st Minnesota Infantry and the New Ulm Battery (noon–4:30 p.m).
  - No park permit is required on this day.
- **June 23** *Minnesota River Steamboats* Fort Ridgely
  - Minnesota State University-Mankato professor emeritus Dr. William Lass will share photographs and stories of the early travel by steamboat on the river from St. Paul to the Lower Sioux Agency. 2 p.m.
- **June 30** *Inkpaduta and Spirit Lake* Fort Ridgely
  - Independent historian and publisher Mary Bakeman recounts the 1857 attack near Spirit Lake, and how those events contributed to the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. 2 p.m.

Please watch the NCHS website and MSH website for further events and details for additional programming.
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 2012 at the following level (please check one).

- Individual $30
- Family $45
- Sustaining $75
- Supporter $100
- Benefactor $200
- Life Member $500
- Business Memberships $1,000

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

Partnering with MHS at TDS Townsite

new exhibits at TSHC
maintenance of Cox House
staffing at Harkin Store
programming at Ft. Ridgely

Your membership dollars at work…