NCHS and Gustavus Presente d With National Award

In September the American Association for State and Local History presented NCHS an Award of Merit from the AASLH Leadership in History Awards at the national conference in Birmingham, Alabama. We received the award for our partnership with Gustavus Adolphus College that produced a J-term course, lecture series, and the Commemorating Controversy exhibit. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, in its 68th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. This year, AASLH conferred eighty-eight national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards.

AASLH Award continued on page 8

St. Peter’s Sister City Needs Our Help

Hurricane Manuel left a wide swath of destruction along Mexico’s west coast beginning September 17th and 18th. The storm killed over 80 people in Petatlán’s Mexican state of Guerrero. Flood waters affected over a million residents along the coast.

Gustavus graduate and current Petatlán resident Chaz Brown recently described the aftermath of the storm. “The most devastating part of Hurricane Manuel was the amount of rain that we received in Petatlán. It is typically a very dry place and we received between 30–50 cm [11.8 inches–19.7 inches] of rain in a matter of 3 days. The river in town completely flooded and hundreds of homes were affected. The river flooded all the way into

Petatlán continued on page 5
Members

Thanks to the following new and renewing members of NCHS since our July newsletter and through September 2013.

Renewed Life Member:  
Roberta Bartholdi
Renewed Business Members:  
Goodrich Construction
New Sweden Mutual
Insurance Company

Renewed Sustaining Members:  
Milton & Elaine Brostrom

Renewed Family Members:  
Marilyn & Bill Bessler  
Roger & Lois Currier  
Carol Forbes  
Eileen Holz  
Marjorie Johnson  
Phyllis Maxwell  
Sylvia Nesheim  
Wade Olsen  
Donna Resner  
Bruce Osborn  
Dorothy Schultz

New Family Members:  
Jo & Ronnie Anderson  
Tom & Char Ellig  
John Hall  
Corrie & Brian Olland  
The Pollack Family  
Molly & Joe Reinemann  
Dave & Helen Schauer  
Steve & Maureen Scholl  
Jeff Wettergren & Melanie Lynam

New Individual Members:  
Donald Lavold

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Vice President, Jeremy Freeman, St. Peter  
Secretary, Steve Baxa, St. Peter  
Treasurer, Marie Dranttel, St. Peter  
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Patti Kelly, Norseland  
Dr. Lori Lahlum, North Mankato  
Emile Lokensgard, Norseland  
Pat Morson, Lafayette  
Scott Hermanson, St. Peter  
Bob Schabert, Courtland  
Sally Webster, Bernadotte

Contact Information

Executive Director, Ben Leonard  
benednchmn.org / cell: 507-340-7485

Collections Manager, Bob Sandeen  
Office Assistant, Kristina LeClerc  
Museum Store Manager, Ruth Grewe  
Cox House Manager, Richard Tostenson  
TSHC Museum Assistants, Jessica Becker,  
Katelyn Junie, Maia Haggart, Mitch Lawson,  
Loren Sundboom  
TSHC Maintenance, Wayne Passon

Harkin Store Site Manager, Ruth Grewe  
Harkin Store Site Guides, Rose Alsleben,  
Robin Grewe, Glenn Stryker

TSHC Site Manager, Amber Bentler

TSHC Site Guides, Annaliese Endorf,  
Charlotte Nack, Dorothy Polesky

Mayo House Manager, Becky Pollack

Mayo House Guides, Don Lavold, Ian Karrels

Treaty Site History Center  
1851 N. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082  
Phone: (507) 934-2160  
Fax: (507) 934-0172

Hours: Mo.–Sa. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Sunday 1–4 p.m.

Archives: Tu.–Sa. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Website: www.nchms.org

E. St. Julien Cox House  
500 N. Washington Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082  
Phone: (507) 934-4509

The Cox House is available year-round  
for a variety of special programs,  
facilities rentals, and tours by appointment.

Please contact 507-934-2160 for details.

Harkin Store  
P.O. Box 112, New Ulm, MN 56082  
Eight miles northwest of New Ulm,  
on County Highway 21

Harkin Store Phone: (507) 354-8666  
Hours: May 28–Sep. 3 Tu.–Su. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fort Ridgely  
72404 County Road 30, Fairfax, MN 55332

Phone: (507) 934-2160

Website: http://sites.mnhs.org/  
historic-sites/Fort-ridgely

Hours: May 25–Sep. 3  
Th. & Su.: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

W.W. Mayo House  
118 N Main St., Le Sueur, MN 56058

Phone: (507) 665-2820 or (507) 934-2160

Website: mayohouse@nchmsn.org

Fri.–Su.: noon–4 p.m.

Director’s Column

There’s always lots of activity here at the Society. Each day is exciting. You never know who will come through the door—might be a film crew from France,  
National Geographic photographer, family historian, or friend from down the road.

Would you like to get involved?

We have some truly great volunteers. Some, like Loren Sundboom, Dick Muesing, and Nita Aasen are here helping all the time. Herb Poncin and  
Robert Weber attend to the Treaty Site’s outside maintenance. Ray Jacobsson built some beautiful tables to use with facility rentals and pro-
grams. College student Alexa Giebink is helping in the archives. Of course there are lots of others that I am leaving out here.

You don’t have to commit big chunks of your life to volunteer. We’ve got projects to match any-
one’s availability and interest. If you are interest-
ed please contact Ben, Kris, or Bob. We literally could not do it without our volunteers. We’d love to have you.

Ben Leonard, Director
**FILMS ON FIRST THURSDAYS**

**Upcoming Films**

Our film series partnership with St. Peter Family and Community Education continues through May. Join us at the Treaty Site History Center the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. for great films.

**Thurs., Nov. 7, 7 p.m.: Kind Hearted Woman, Part 1**

**Thurs., Nov. 14, 7 p.m.: Kind Hearted Woman, Part 2**

In a special two-part series, acclaimed filmmaker David Sutherland creates an unforgettable portrait of Robin Charboneau, a 32-year-old divorced single mother and Oglala Sioux woman living on North Dakota's Spirit Lake Reservation. Sutherland follows Robin over three years as she struggles to raise her two children, further her education, and heal herself from the wounds of sexual abuse she suffered as a child. “As in my other films profiling rural poverty,” says Sutherland, “I was trying to reach out to another forgotten corner of the American landscape, this time to put a face on a Native family so that we could see them close-up with all the detail that illuminates the rich reality of their lives.”

**Thurs., Dec. 5, 7 p.m.: Strongman**

*Strongman* is a cinema verité documentary about Stanless Steel, The Strongest Man in the World at Bending Steel and Metal. Told with the kind of intimacy that can only be achieved with years of filming, *Strongman* follows the dreams and heartbreaking humanity of Stanless Steel—the only man alive who can bend a penny with his fingers—as he struggles to gain control of a world that seems constantly out of his grasp. *Strongman* is a film about faith, about believing in yourself and a film about never giving up. It is a film about weakness and a film about strength.

**Thurs., Jan. 9, 2014, 7 p.m.: Short Films Collection:**

- Sunshine, Aquadettes, Record Breaker, and Mr. Happy Man

**Thurs., Feb. 6, 2014, 7 p.m.: Jiro Dreams of Sushi**

*Jiro Dreams of Sushi* is the story of 85-year-old Jiro Ono, considered by many to be the world’s greatest sushi chef. He is the proprietor of Sukiyabashi Jiro, a 10-seat, sushi-only restaurant inauspiciously located in a Tokyo subway station. Despite its humble appearances, it is the first restaurant of its kind to be awarded a prestigious three-star Michelin Guide rating, and sushi lovers from around the globe make repeated pilgrimage, calling months in advance and shelling out top dollar for a coveted seat at Jiro’s sushi bar.

**Thurs., Mar. 6, 2014, 7 p.m.: Queen of the Sun**

**Thurs., Apr. 3, 2014, 7 p.m.: A Good Day to Die**

**Thurs., May 1, 2014, 7 p.m.: Parking Lot Movie**

A new film each month through May 1st!

See our website for more details.
**History Center Events...**

**Northern Slaves: How the U.S. Army Brought Slavery to Minnesota**

Treaty Site History Center  
Saturday, October 19, 3 p.m.  
Free and open to the public

Walt Bachman, historian, retired trial lawyer and author of *Northern Slave, Black Dakota: The Life and Times of Joseph Godfrey* (Pond Dakota Press, 2013) will share his ground-breaking research documenting how the U.S. Army pay system rewarded military officers for using enslaved people as servants in “free” states and territories. These policies and practices brought slavery to Minnesota and shaped Joseph Godfrey’s extraordinary life story. Godfrey grew up in bondage serving Minnesota’s fur-trade elite and, as a fugitive from Minnesota slavery, was conscripted to join warriors in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

**Film Screening Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World**

Treaty Site History Center  
Thursday, October 24, 7 p.m.  
90 min, Not Rated

This film takes the viewer on an epic journey across nine countries and more than 1,400 years of history. It explores the richness of Islamic art in objects big and small, from great ornamented palaces and the play of light in monumental mosques to the exquisite beauty of ceramics, carved boxes, paintings, and metal work.

Admission to the film series is free for all. This screening is sponsored by the St. Peter Human Rights Commission, Nicollet County Historical Society and Community and Family Education.

**History of Minnesota’s State Hospitals**

Treaty Site History Center  
Sunday, November 3, 2 p.m.  
Free and open to the public

Author, former Rochester State Hospital employee, and teacher Michael Resman will discuss the history of state hospitals in Minnesota as well two of his books. The St. Peter State Hospital, opened in 1866, was the state’s first. Other Hospitals were soon built in Rochester and Fergus Falls. The system grew quickly to care for thousands of patients across Minnesota. At its peak the St. Peter State Hospital housed over 2,000 patients.

Mike Resman retired from the Rochester School District in 2007, after working as an Occupational Therapist for 25 years. He has not been idle in his retirement. He is a prolific author and is also a lay minister in his church. He is a graduate of the Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Minnesota and first worked at the Rochester State Hospital until it closed in 1981. He then went to New York University, where he received his Master’s degree, after which he returned to Rochester to work in the public schools.

Copies of Resman’s books will be available for purchase: *Asylums, Treatment Centers, and Genetic Jails: A History of State Hospitals, Early Psychiatric Treatment, and Mental Health in Minnesota; The Mailmen of Elmwood*. He will sign books after the event.
History Center Events...

Where the Blues Led: Lyrical Expression in Rap Music

Treaty Site History Center
November 9th, 7 p.m.
Free and open to the public

Please join us for a special event at the Treaty Site November 9th at 7 p.m. Dr. Joel Carlin will present a music-filled discussion on the history of hiphop’s music. You’ll be surprised at how far back the genre’s roots go, and entertained by Joel’s witty and engaging style. This event is free and open to all.

Every generation likes to think that their music is different, their music is revolutionary. And so it can be, but ‘new’ styles have deeper roots. We will examine how blues, jazz, social changes and technology inspired city youths to create rap, a not-so-new form of musical expression. Together we shall critically examine the historical context, the lyrics and the musicianship in modern American rap music (without blaring speakers or thumping bass!). Get away from your pre-conceived notions of what rap is, and think hard about how we decide which music is worth a listen!

Originally from Indiana, Dr. Joel Carlin is an associate professor at Gustavus Adolphus College. He teaches a variety of environmental science classes, as well as continuing education talks on rap music, the biology of human beauty, and the politics of seafood. Dr. Carlin also conducts research in the fish genetics and leads trips to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. He and his wife Susie Carlin (city council member in Saint Peter) have one child, Simon, born in late October 2012.

Petatlán continued from page 1

the town plaza. The town plaza actually became part of the river with a strong current and everything. The next day when the water had receded a little bit the homes that were affected had anywhere from a couple of inches to a couple of meters of mud that had to be removed. Some houses on the river bank were completely washed away and a lot of people lost the little that they had to begin with. Also, the town water system was washed away in the flood and everyone was without water for about two weeks. The water just came back to our house but there are still neighborhoods that don’t have running water. Right now money and efforts are being focused on providing clean water and food for the affected families.”

NCHS, along with the St. Peter Sister City Committee and Gustavus Spanish Department is organizing relief efforts here in St. Peter. We’ve raised about $350 so far, but the storm caused millions of dollars in damage. Because of the distance and logistics involved, we are only sending money. If you are interested in contributing, drop a check made out to NCHS or cash at the Treaty Site, use Paypal to make a donation via credit card to petatlan@nchsmn.org, or stop in to the Treaty Site and make a credit card donation.

Please know that while NCHS is accepting donations, those funds are going directly to Petatlán, and not benefiting the Society in any way.
Former NCHS Board Member Passes

Judy Diane (Miner) Hanson, 70, of Norseland, passed to her Heavenly Home on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at Benedictine Community Living Center, St. Peter with husband Fred at her bedside following two strokes in the past five months.

Judy was born July 3, 1943 at St. Peter Community Hospital the daughter of Ralph G. and D Benita (Marquette) Miner. She was baptized, confirmed and married at Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Peter.

Judy was active in Oshawa 4-H as a youth as well as a volunteer when her four children were members of Norseland 4-H. In high school she was on the yearbook committee.

A graduate of St Peter High School and Mankato State College where she had worked as a secretary in the Home Economics Department, Judy taught Home Ec at Nicollet High School and P.E. at John Ireland Elementary. Judy wrote articles for the St. Peter Herald from an Ag Viewpoint. She was a columnist for The Land Magazine and freelance writer for the Mankato Free Press and Rochester Agri News.

September 14, 1963, Judy was married to Fred C. Hanson, Jr of Norseland with their 50th anniversary coming up on Saturday, September 14, 2013. They continued to farm in Norseland area all these years. Judy and Fred remained active in Scandian Grove Lutheran Church where Judy served six years on the Church Council as well as numerous other committees. She was also an active member of Farm Bureau and was Ag Communicator of the year for Minnesota Farm Bureau as well as involved with the Nicollet County and Minnesota Pork Producers Association and the Porkettes and Pork Council Women. Judy also served on the Nicollet County Historical Society board.

Judy was elected to the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners from 1995 through 2010 when she chose to retire. During her sixteen years on the board, she served on various committees including: Planning and Zoning, Sioux Trails Mental Health, Traverse des Sioux Library System and Minnesota River Valley. For the majority of those 16 years, Judy was the only female on the board. She was also chosen among the 20 people from Minnesota to be part of Mi-LEAD leadership group.

Survived by husband Fred, sons Chris (Jill) Hanson of Olivia and Jay Hanson of Norseland; daughters Lena (Tate) Burckhardt of Lake Benton and Grace Hanson (Michael Metchenburg) of St. Paul. Grandchildren Jack, Olivia, Will Hanson, Hans Lee Burckhardt, brother Ralph “Milt” (Carolyn) Miner of Calif., sister Janet (Fred) Netz of South Dakota as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held at Scandian Grove Lutheran Church in Norseland, on Monday, September 16, 2013 with The Rev Joyce Capp officiating.

Memorials may be directed to: Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Memorial Fund; National Stroke Association, 9707 E. Easter Lane, Suite B, Centennial, CO 80112, 1-800-STROKES http://www.stroke.org/; Farm Bureau Foundation, Nicollet County Farm Bureau Lokensgaard Scholarship Committee or Nicollet County Historical Society.

The family wishes to thank the many friends and family who were so supportive and visited Judy faithfully during the past five months, especially Pastor Joyce Capp. Also the ER and other doctors and staff at Rivers Edge Hospital in St. Peter, ISJ Hospital and staff in Mankato, Mayo Doctors and staff at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, staff at Benedictine Living Center St. Peter and also Mayo Hospice Mankato.

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“I can’t think of anyone who advocated and supported the preservation of Nicollet County history more than Judy. She has done so much for so many people. We will never forget what a tremendous person she was, and we will miss her always.”

~ Ben Leonard
Card Artistry at the Cox House

E. St. Julien Cox House
October 25th and November 15th at 8:30 p.m.
Tickets $10 at the door

There is a magic show in St. Peter. At the Cox House, once a month, Michael Callahan creates his own little Magic Castle. Join Michael in the parlor for a session of close up marvels.

So much of life in Saint Peter has changed since the Cox House was built. But in an art form that capitalizes upon the blind spots in the human brain, not much has changed at all. Join Michael at the historic Cox House for an evening of Victorian atmosphere, charm and magic. Together we will explore the ways that our brains are susceptible to illusions and the way magicians have been exploiting these blind spots for over a century.

Fort Ridgley

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Amber Bentler. I am the new Site Manager at Fort Ridgley Historic Site. I have been working at the Harkin Store for the last two seasons and have enjoyed my time there. I live in New Ulm with my husband Dan and our four children. I am very excited to be a part of Nicollet County Historical Society.

The busy season at Fort Ridgely is coming to an end. The Commissary Building has undergone an entire update. We now have new insulation, electrical, windows, and tuck pointing around the granite stones. We will be more efficient with our two new furnaces and air conditioning units. It has been a long and dirty job but, well worth it. Everything looks great.

In looking forward to next season already, there will be quite a few programs for our visitors. There is a drill weekend planned for the weekend of June 28th and 29th; John Labatt and his wonderful talks on the Dakota Conflict, as well as his very informative Battlefield Tours are scheduled; as well as the New Ulm Battery, to name a few.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Fort Ridgley next year.

Harkin Happenings

Enjoy Harkin Store’s last program of the season! October 20th from 1–4 p.m. This annual musical event is so popular with people of all ages. The gathering of folk, country and bluegrass musicians to bid “happy trails” to the season and the colors on the Minnesota and the harvesting of the crops, is on October 20 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Regular site admission, free to MHS and NCHS. All area musicians are invited to just come and participate. Come enjoy the season’s last program and a heckuva sale in the gift shop. While the Harkin Store originally closed its door in 1901, we will be back as usual next season in May. Come learn more about the riverboats, railroads and grasshoppers that contributed to the store’s demise over hundred years ago.
AASLH Award continued from page 1

of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also brings public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards go to www.aaslh.org.

Right top: Distinguished as “A Place of Revolution and Reconciliation,” historic Kelly Ingram Park serves as a threshold to the Civil Rights District. During the Civil Rights Movement, this public park became the focal point of a grassroots resistance to the inhumanities of racism and discrimination by law and by custom. Events which took place in Kelly Ingram Park vividly portrayed the realities of police dogs and fire hoses turned on marchers who gathered for civil rights demonstrations in the 1960s.

http://alabama.travel/places-to-go/kelly-ingram-park

Right bottom: The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed on Sunday, September 15, 1963 as an act of racially motivated terrorism. The explosion at the African-American church, which killed four girls, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Denise McNair, marked a turning point in the United States 1960s Civil Rights Movement and contributed to support for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16th_Street_Baptist_Church_bombing

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Collections Corner

Frani and Mark Anderson recently donated this button from the 1958 Dairy Days celebration at the Nicollet County Fair Grounds. Looking back at the June 5, 1958 St. Peter Herald gave us lots of information on the centennial event. The three-day affair was highlighted by the selection of Joan Johnson as Miss St. Peter, and a huge parade. Over 10,000 bystanders gathered to watch a thousand participants and 120 units travel a similar route to current July 4th celebrations. Among the dignitaries was Minnesota Governor Orville Freeman.

Many of you saw “The Biggest Little Fair in Minnesota” exhibit at this year’s county fair, or at the Nicollet County Government Center in September. If you missed it, don’t worry, it will appear at new locations soon.

Artifact & Archival Donations

accepted into our collections since the July 2012 crossing:

Judge Allison Krehbiel: booklets, various years between 1906 & 1933, titled Calendar of Causes or Actions for May & October General Terms of the Dist. Court in & for Nic. Co.; re-election campaign card of Sam Abrahamson, Judge of Probate.
roberta B. Hintz: album of photos of St. Peter residents
Webster: 2 atlases non-Nic. Co.
Lynda Hall: 1949 SPHS yearbook.
Postage stamp collection: did not accession. To be sold.
Le Sueur Co. Historical Society: paper items re St. Peter, postcards, booklets, newspapers, & reports; photos of Nicollet County residents.
Gretchen Koehler: 2 St. Peter H.S. band uniforms.
Gordon Fredrickson: A Farm Country Harvest, 2013
Mark & Frani Anderson: Fair button, centennial fair tile, theater advertisement
Owen & Evie Swenson: Hol-Amerika, on Norwegian immigration

Township Hall Photos Wanted

Township Halls are an important part of our local government and community gatherings. Many first had lives as rural school buildings. Unfortunately our Society collections contain very few photographs, records, or artifacts that capture their stories. We’re reminded of this each time a township hall is damaged or lost. Changes in demographics and voting practices have made some halls too expensive to maintain. Others, like Oshawa’s, have been destroyed by storms. Please help us preserve their memories—past and present. Please contact research manager Bob Sandeen if you can help.

Ridgely Town Hall was recently burned. This photo was taken several years ago by Brown/Nicollet Environmental Health staff.
Treaty Site HVAC Replaced

This past summer the Treaty Site’s rooftop AC unit failed. That sent staff and board members scrambling to cover the very expensive solution. The Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation provided emergency support that generously paid for 70% of replacement costs. Thanks to them we again have a controlled environment inside the exhibit galleries, collections storage, and offices. The new unit should be easier to adjust and more efficient, and it also controls humidity. We’re hoping that, along with recent upgrades to LED lighting, mean lower utility bills.

We want to thank everyone who loaned us fans and dehumidifiers, and put up with 10 weeks of hot inside temps, and periodic closures. We don’t want to do it again, but the upside is we have a system that will serve the building and its occupants for the next 20 years—and hopefully beyond.

Treaty Site Landscape Project Moves Forward

In the last newsletter we told you about a plan to renovate the Treaty Site History Center’s exterior. Through design work with Paulsen Architects we had a vision. We even had some thoughtful donations towards the project. But we were still a long way from making it a reality. That has changed.

We are very happy to report that an anonymous donation has made it possible to move forward right away. We are in the bidding process and look forward to doing the work first thing this spring. We couldn’t be happier or more excited. Thank you to all who made it possible.

Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Nicollet County Historical Society’s annual meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2014 at Gustavus Adolphus’ Jackson Student Union banquet hall. The dinner service will begin at 1 p.m., business meeting, speaker 2–3 p.m. Speaker to be decided.
New Faces at the Historical Society

We’ve had several changes in staff at the Society recently. We were very sad to say goodbye to Marsha Heinze and Allen McBride. Marsha has moved south of Mankato and Allen left for Oklahoma. We wish them both the best.

Nancy Zempel, longtime manager of Fort Ridgely, has retired as site manager. Nancy transitioned site management from the Minnesota Historical Society, to the Friends of Fort Ridgely, and then to NCHS in December of 2005. Her tenure ends with the restoration of the commissary building and site. We will sincerely miss her leadership, but thank her for dedicating a big chunk of her life to Ridgely.

Amber Bentler: Former Harkin and Ridgely Site Guide, Amber, has taken over as Ridgely Site Manager. Amber has great experience with us, as well as the Minnesota Historical Society. We’re excited to have her expertise at Ridgely. Amber lives in New Ulm with her husband Dan and their children.

If you stop by the Treaty Site you may see some new folks. We’ll let them introduce themselves.

Mitch Lawson: I’m a sophomore at Minnesota State University, Mankato, currently studying mechanical engineering. I’m from South St. Paul, Minn. where I have my brother, mom, and step dad. I enjoyed my first year at Mankato and I’m hoping this year won’t be any different.

Maia Haggart: I’m a first year student at Gustavus Adolphus College. I’m originally from Golden Valley Minnesota where I grew up with my mom and step dad and our two dogs. I’m interested in studying Spanish and possibly nursing. I’m loving my time on campus so far but I would love to study abroad at some point during my four years. I love to run and attend yoga classes on campus as well as participate in other extra-curricular activities.

Katelyn Juni: I am a Junior at Gustavus and am majoring in both History and Theatre. My father is a member of the United States Army and we are currently stationed in Vine Grove, KY, though I have family in New Ulm, MN. I am an avid ready and adore being outdoors. I intend to go to graduate school, but I am not yet certain of what I would like to study. Being a History major, I am very excited to have the opportunity to experience the more public side of my field of study with the Nicollet County Historical Society.

While not new, the Mayo House Historic Site staff are new to us. Here’s more about them:

Becky Pollack, Site Manager: I have worked with the Mayo House as tour guide and site manager since 2008. I enjoy the interactions of discussing the stories and history of the Mayo Home with visitors. My position with the Mayo House allows for me to also work at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson. I enjoy the outdoors, reading and history fact finding. I look forward to continuing to providing opportunities that engage the public in Minnesota history. I live in Le Sueur with my husband, Nick and two children Gregory (12) and Samantha (9). A graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato I am blessed to be able to settle with my family in my husbands hometown.

Hi I am Don Lavold, Tour Guide at the W.W. Mayo House, I credit Viroqua, Wisconsin as my home town. I reside in Le Center, and like Minnesota almost as much as I do Wisconsin. I have enjoyed working as a tour guide at the Mayo House for the past seven years. I like people a lot, and appreciate parents who tell me they are trying to teach the importance of history to their children. I am thankful to the Lord and the Mayo Clinic for helping me in being able to state that I am cancer free today.

Ian Karels has been a tour guide since 2009 at the Mayo House, and likes that tours tend to be small groups providing a tour that fosters a deeper appreciation of the Mayo Home. A graduate of Le Sueur Henderson High School in 2011, Ian now attends South Central College and will be transferring to Bethany Lutheran College for Media Arts. He enjoys spending his free time reading and catching up with friends.

Monetary Donations

received since the July newsletter:

Janice & Robert Meyer II
Anonymous donors

Exterior Redesign Project

Miel & Lavonne Craig
Anonymous donor

Memorials

received since the July newsletter:

In Memory of
Wayne “Bill” Thompson
Given by
Marshall & Janet Anthony

In Memory of
Judy Hanson
Given by
Eunice Amos
Marshall & Janet Anthony
James & Mary Brandt
Paul & Marie Engel
Bonnie Holz
Richard Holz & Lorna Whitmore
Evie Nelson
Roger & Myrna Schoeb
Wayne & Elaine Smith
James & Diane Stenson
Buster & Nina West
Anonymous Donors
The Remarkable Walk of Colonial Jack

by Joe Callahan

February 9, 2007
Reprinted courtesy of The Newburyport Daily News

Back in 1908, a Newburyport man embarked on a remarkable walking trip of about 9,000 miles that took him around the border of the United States. Not only did he walk but he pushed a wheelbarrow carrying his needs. He constructed a pyramid-shaped top for the barrow to keep the weather out.

John A. “Colonial Jack” Krohn, a native of St. Peter, Minn., was married to Elizabeth Morton of Newburyport. At the time of his walk they had a 6-year-old daughter, Beatrice.

Colonial Jack, as he liked to be called, was a printer by trade and had worked for several firms in the local area including The Daily News. To help meet expenses on his trip, he planned to sell a souvenir coin about the size of a silver dollar. On one side was a reproduction of himself with his wheelbarrow and on the reverse a brief description of his intended trip. His coin supplier would mail coins ahead to a post office along the route and Colonial Jack would pick them up when he got to that town.

He sold hundreds of these coins.

His wife would travel by train and meet him from time to time. She would also go ahead of him and put up posters and seek publicity from local newspapers. As a result, he was greeted with great fanfare in most communities. He also carried a book and in each town he would go to the post office and get that town’s postmark in the book. He also carried a pistol for his own protection.

Throughout his journey, he rarely had to pay for meals or overnight accommodations as restaurants and hotels were eager to have a person of fame as their guest.

At 1 p.m. on June 1, 1908, Colonial Jack, then age 37, started his walk before a crowd of several hundred people in front of the Portland, Maine, post office. He headed west across Maine through New Hampshire and Vermont and reached New York in three weeks and Niagara Falls in five weeks. From there he headed along Lake Erie passing through Cleveland and then, in several weeks, Detroit. From here he went north through Michigan’s upper peninsula and into Wisconsin.

On Aug. 21 he crossed Lake Superior to Duluth, Minn., his native state. Here he was met by many friends and relatives, and was treated like a king. He made his way west through North Dakota and Montana without any great difficulty, walking railroad beds most of the way. In Idaho, his wife met up with him again and, unfortunately, she became ill and was forced to return home. They would not meet again until early spring in New Jersey. In Washington, he encountered his only snow, but it not being too severe did not slow him down.

Colonial Jack continued on next page
At the end of his 23rd week, he made it to Seattle where he spent a couple of days visiting his sister whom he had not seen for many years. From Seattle, he headed south, crossing into Oregon on Nov. 17 and into California Dec. 7. It was Christmas in Elmira and he passed the major cities of the Golden States’ Pacific coastline, and then headed east across the desert and into Yuma, Ariz. He later described the desert, Arizona and New Mexico as the most difficult part of the trip. He entered Texas at El Paso and spent six weeks crossing the Lone Star State. Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama were crossed with no great difficulty and Jack was focused on Jacksonville, Fla., where he would head north for the final leg of the journey. He reached that goal about May 1 and, accompanied by fine spring weather and his desire to reach home, he again made good time through the south Atlantic states. In Lakehurst, N.J., he was met again by his wife for the first time in several months.

Colonial Jack arrived in Newburyport on July 16, 1909. He was met on the road by his wife and Beatrice whom he had not seen for 14 months. He then stopped on Prospect Street to visit his in-laws and then it was on to The Daily News where he was interviewed and photographed. A large photo of him and the wheelbarrow appeared on Page 1 that day. He then went to the post office to get his book stamped. His arrival drew large crowds to the downtown area. The following day he started out for Portland to complete his historic trip. He arrived there on July 21 and was greeted at the post office by another large crowd including family and friends from Newburyport. He gave interviews, posed for photos, shook hands with well-wishers and then dined with the dignitaries of that city.

Colonial Jack had spent 357 days walking, never on a Sunday, and took 19 other days off, mostly because he was ill. He wore out 11 pair of shoes and purchased new ones as needed. His book, upon the journey’s completion, contained the postmark or railroad station stamp of 1,209 places. He also wore out five wheels on the wheelbarrow. His record walk for one day was 51 miles, this being near Pensacola, Fla.

In 1910, Colonial Jack wrote a book giving a week-by-week account of his travels and the experiences he encountered. There are still a few of these books in the area and I am told that from time to time both the book or one of his coins appear for sale on eBay.

Some time in the late ’20s, he and his wife took up residence at 278 Elm St. in Salisbury. Here he conducted a roadside fruit and vegetable stand for many years. Many Salisbury people still alive today remember him quite well.

Colonial Jack died on Aug. 12, 1956 after a long illness and he is buried in the Long Hill Cemetery in Salisbury.

John A. Krohn, a St. Peter boy, has started to walk from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, pushing ahead of him all the way a wheelbarrow containing his extra clothes and such other articles as he desires to carry with him. His route will be along the coast as far as possible and he expects to cover the trip, a distance of 8,000 miles, in 400 days. His wife will travel along the route by train, billing each town her husband expects to visit with conspicuous posters announcing the time of his arrival. Krohn will travel under the name of “Colonial Jack” and will sell aluminum souveniers to pay the expenses of his trip.

Account of “Colonial Jack” from the New Ulm Review, July 1, 1908, page 1.
Partnership to Create New Exhibit for Lac qui Parle

The Society and Gustavus Adolphus College have teamed up for another exhibit. NCHS director Ben Leonard, Gustavus History Department Chair Dr. Sujay Rao, and students from their Public History fall semester class are working on a new exhibit for Lac qui Parle Mission Historic Site near Montevideo, Minnesota. St. Peter graphic designer Eileen Holz will design it. The work is being funded by the Minnesota Historical Society’s Historic Sites Division.

In September students met with constituents at the Mission and listened to their hopes for a new exhibit. The class is in the midst of research and will have a finished design by mid-December. Installation could begin in the spring.

Saving a Rural School

The Friends of District 6 and its president Garfield Eckberg have been working hard to save their old school house along Highway 22 in New Sweden Township. Generous donations have made it possible to repair and restore the two biggest threats to old buildings—the roof and foundation. Crews are now busy repairing the foundation and basement. Soon the school will be back on solid footing.

Once finished, the space will be great for community gatherings, school groups, and programs. If you’d like to help with the project in any way, call the Society. Though NCHS is not involved in the work or fundraising, we are acting as fiscal agent for the Friends of District 6 group. Any financial donation is tax deductible based on IRS guidelines.

Our previous collaborative effort, the Commemorating Controversy exhibit will travel to the The National Museum of the American Indian, New York, the George Gustav Heye Center, in January. The museum is located in the historic Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House. That building was designed by Cass Gilbert. Gilbert was raised in Minnesota and designed many prominent buildings including the Minnesota State Capitol, Woolworth building in Manhattan, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

District 6 school house gets a new foundation thanks to the efforts and fundraising of The Friends of District 6.
M osto f you have heard by now that NCHS entered into a contract with the Minnesota Historical Society to manage the Mayo House Historic Site. We began the arrangement July 1st. The House is open Fri.–Sun. Noon to 4 p.m. through October. You will get in free with your NCHS membership—along with Mayo House Interpretive Society and MHS memberships. “I think this is a nice partnership,” said NCHS Director Ben Leonard. “We have experience operating other state sites. Our goal is to increase the ways people can interact with Mayo, and reach as many as we can with the site’s important history.”

Mayo House History

Dr. William Worrall Mayo hand-built this small Gothic-style home in 1859. It was the birthplace of Dr. William James Mayo in June of 1861. Dr. Mayo set up his first medical practice in Minnesota from this home. Later in Rochester, Minnesota, Dr. W.W. Mayo and his two sons William James and Charles Horace founded the world-renowned Mayo Clinic.

Between 1874 and 1920, it was the home to three generations of Carson Nesbit Cosgrove family of the Green Giant Company history. Seven children form the second and third generations of the family were born in the home including two Green Giant Company Presidents. From 1936 to 1967, the home served the community as the first Le Sueur Public Library. The Mayo House is owned and was restored and warmly furnished to the 1860 time period by the Minnesota Historical Society. Since 1986, the historic home has been operated under a management agreement with the Minnesota Historical Society. The Mayo House Interpretive Society (MHIS) and Nicollet County Historical Society (NCHS) will partner to continue working with the management of this unique historic site.

Candlelight Tours

The historic W. W. Mayo House will offer Candlelight Tours on Friday, December 6th and Saturday, December 7th 2013 between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. View the Mayo Home decorated for a turn of the century Christmas all enchanting in a soft glow of light. Enjoy special Christmas music in the parlor. Children will enjoy a craft table that allows them to make a small gift and ornament from the past. Cookies and cider will be served. Tours will include interpretation of holiday traditions from the 1850s to turn of the century, incorporating traditions both the Mayo and Cosgrove Families would have celebrated while living in the Mayo Home.
Nicollet County Historical Society has entered into an agreement to become the fiscal agent for Connecting Nicollet County, a county-wide leadership program. The program is in its fourth year and has engaged, to date, in training almost 100 people who live or work in Nicollet County. It is strongly supported by Nicollet County and the University of Minnesota Extension as well as local businesses.

This county-wide leadership program offers community members an opportunity to network, develop leadership skills and gain an increased awareness and understanding of the assets of Nicollet County. Throughout the program, participants will visit every community within Nicollet County and learn about its unique resources; as well as develop personal leadership styles including conflict resolution, dealing with the media, how to lead in a multicultural world, leading for the common good and how to be a visionary leader.

The program has evolved from a steering committee to a full board of directors, which guide, set policy and direct the plans for the monthly training days. Peggy Carlson serves as the Program Coordinator and works with the board of directors to develop future training sessions and events.

Training days are held the second Thursday of each month from September to May. Training days include a leadership classroom segment provided by Catie Rasmussen, University of Minnesota Leadership & Civic Engagement. Following the morning sessions, participants tour businesses and organization throughout Nicollet County; from the departments of the courthouse to industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, conservation, health care, education and green industries, just to name a few.

For more information contact Peggy Carlson at cncpcoordinator@gmail.com, or by calling 507-469-0048 or by visiting www.connectingnicolletcounty.org

“This was a great experience. A ‘melting pot’ of a group. It was fun to be in a group again that wasn’t necessarily related to my profession. The tours were amazing, and I learned a lot about our community. I will definitely use these connections in the future.”

~ Trent Nielsen
Owner, Vice President, Nielsen Blacktopping
**Women at Fort Ridgely**

Women at Fort Ridgely were quick to realize the harsh realities of life at this remote post. Suffering the same inadequate food and housing conditions as their husbands, they were met with extreme loneliness and the struggles of maintaining a family. At that time Army Regulations contained no orders regarding the care for, and integration of, soldier’s wives.

As trying as life was these women were determined. One woman wrote, “I had ‘gone for a soldier,’ and a soldier I determined to be.” The wives of officers and enlisted men took important positions in the daily life at Fort Ridgely, such as volunteering as nurses at a time when the U.S. Army did not have a nursing corps, as well as serving to keep moral high. When the Dakota attacked Fort Ridgely many women, along with civilians, helped cast bullets, roll cartridges, and tend to the wounded. Catherine Mead, for example, worked for 48 hours straight aiding the injured soldiers.

Although united through the hardships of life on the frontier, prejudice existed between these women. Whereas officer’s wives (referred to as “ladies”) did not have to provide any services, the wives of enlisted soldiers were required to work to remain with their husbands. These women often served as seamstresses or laundresses. Regulations stated that one laundress could serve 19.5 soldiers for their quarters, medical care and one meal a day and receive $3 a month for officer’s laundry, but only 50 cents for the enlisted men.

“I know ‘Uncle Sam’

Must be an

old bachelor,

For he made

no provisions

for an officer’s wife;

And the

very worst fate

That I ever can

wish him

Is one room

and kitchen

The rest of his life.”

— Poem from *The Army and Navy Journal* (1853)

The “Clara Barton of the Minnesota frontier”, Eliza Muller not only delivered coffee to troops during the battles at Fort Ridgely, but organized women to make cartridges with the blacksmith. Additionally Eliza assisted her husband, the fort’s surgeon, tend to the wounded in their own quarters.

At one point she even joined the battle by assisting Sergeant Jones move the cannon to fire upon the stables in an effort to fend back the Dakota warriors.

Eliza Muller passed away in 1876 and is buried at Fort Ridgely cemetery.

— quote from 1853 first expedition to site of what would be Fort Ridgely (see Beck, 109)

Jared Schmidt is a graduate student at Minnesota State University, Mankato and is pursuing a Master’s of Science in Applied Anthropology, as well as a certificate in Museum Studies.

He interned this past summer with NCHS to create a twelve panel poster display for Fort Ridgely focusing on the role this important frontier institution served during the American Civil War and the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862.

**Women at Fort Ridgely**

by Jared Lee Schmidt

Jared Lee Schmidt
Teaching Minnesota History

The summer tourist season may be over, but that doesn’t mean sites have been quiet this fall. All of our sites welcome school groups from across Minnesota. State history is a core component of K–12 curriculum—especially sixth grade. Events like the 1851 Treaty and U.S.-Dakota War, and places like Mayo House and Harkin Store, are part of the state standards for all students.

Early in the school year 44,000 Minnesota teachers received the Minnesota Historical Society’s education and field trip guide. In it folks will find great opportunities for immersing kids in our shared past. The Minnesota River Valley is a great place to do that.

Thanks to County and member support, all Nicollet County schools are free to visit our sites at no cost. Those from outside the county do have to pay a small admission fee. In addition to field trips, the Society visit classrooms around the area. We’re excited about history, and it’s so rewarding to watch kids get engaged and learn.

St. Peter third-graders at the Crossing.

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2013–2014 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:
Harkin Store: 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.
Fort Ridgely: Closed for the Season.
TSHC: See program times below / Fee: $5 adults, $4 seniors (65+), $3 children 6–17, free for children under age 5, and NCHS members.
Mayo House: $6 adults; $5 seniors, college students and children ages 6–17, free for children age 5 and under, MHS, NCHS, and MHS members.

Oct. 19 Northern Slaves: by Walt Bachman, 3 p.m. (see description on page 4)  TSHC
Oct. 20 Lonesome Ron’s Round-up, 1–4 p.m.  Harkin Store
Oct. 24 Film: Islamic Art, 2 p.m. (see description on page 4)  TSHC
Oct. 25 Card Artistry by Michael Callahan, 8:30 p.m., $10 at door (see description on page 7)  Cox House
Nov. 3 History of Minnesota’s State Hospitals, Michael Resman, 2 p.m. (see description on page 4)  TSHC
Nov. 7 Documentary Film Series: Kind Hearted Woman Part 1, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)  TSHC
Nov. 9 Here the Blues Led: with Joel Carlin, 7 p.m. (see description on page 5)  TSHC
Nov. 14 Documentary Film Series: Kind Hearted Woman Part 2, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)  TSHC
Nov. 15 Card Artistry by Michael Callahan, 8:30 p.m., $10 at door (see description on page 7)  Cox House
Dec. 5 Documentary Film Series: Strongman, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)  TSHC
Dec. 6 Candlelight Tour at Mayo House, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., (see description on page 15)  Mayo House
Dec. 7 Candlelight Tour at Mayo House, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., (see description on page 15)  Mayo House
TBA Christmas at the Cox House  Cox House

2014

Jan. 9 Documentary Film Series / Short Films Collection:
Sunshine, Aquadettes, Record Breaker, and Mr. Happy Man, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)  TSHC
Jan. 26 Nicollet County Historical Society Annual Meeting Jackson Campus Center Banquet Rooms
Speaker to be announced.
Mark your calendars, and watch for reservation form in your next newsletter.
Feb. 6 Documentary Film Series: Jiro Dreams of Sushi, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)  TSHC
Mar. 6 Documentary Film Series: Queen of the Sun, 7 p.m. (see page 3)  TSHC
Apr. 3 Documentary Film Series: A Good Day to Die, 7 p.m. (see page 3)  TSHC
May 1 Documentary Film Series: Parking Lot Movie, 7 p.m. (see page 3)  TSHC

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

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