Traveling Exhibit Gets National Attention

The Society teamed up with Gustavus Adolphus College and Dr. Elizabeth Baer in January of 2012 to teach a course on the U.S.-Dakota War. Instead of writing a paper or taking a final exam, students created a traveling exhibit with the help of graphic designer Eileen Holz.

The exhibit, “Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota-U.S. War of 1862,” vastly exceeded our expectations. It has reached over 20,000 people and traveled across Minnesota, to the Flandreau Sioux Community, and even to Washington D.C.

In late March we found out the exhibit will travel to the National Museum of the American Indian in 2014. It will first go to the Smithsonian Institution in New York City, and later to the Mall in Washington D.C., before coming back home in mid-2015. “We are incredibly honored and excited beyond words,” said NCHS director Ben Leonard. “The events of 1862 are not just important for local or state residents. It’s national history. We’re incredibly humbled that our organization has this chance to interpret our past on a national stage.”

Recently we learned that the exhibit has also been awarded a national award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History. AASLH recognizes outstanding accomplishments in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history. By publicly recognizing excellent achievements, the Association strives to inspire others to give that extra effort. This is NCHS’s second award. The first came in 2008 for the Treaty Site’s central exhibit.

Leonard and Dr. Baer, along with student and former NCHS employee Tory Clark, will discuss the project at the AASLH national conference in Birmingham, Alabama in September.

“Commemorating Controversy” is currently on display at the Anoka County Historical Society and Treaty Site History Center.
Members
Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NC HS since our March Crossing.

Renewed Individual Members:
- since our March following renewing and new members of NC HS

Renewed Life Members:
- Robert & Kay Moline

Renewed $200 Advocate

Business Members:
- Benco Electric
- Nicollet County Bank

Renewed Patron Members:
- Nicollet Chamber of Commerce
- Roland & Edi Thortensson
- Stephen & Barbara Wilkinson

Renewed Sustaining Members:
- Robert & Leona Knernberg

Renewed Family Members:
- Dan Bock
- Gil & Peggy Carlson
- Duane & Brenda DeBieleck
- Dwight & Gini DeBoer
- Peter & Phyllis Disher
- Bernhard & Marilyn Erling
- Alma & Jerome Forst
- Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
- John Jerson
- Walter & Maurine Johnson
- Dale & Kay Mowbray
- Roger & Barbara Nelson
- Tammi & Jeff Skinner
- Karen & Jon Smithers
- Traverse des Sioux
- Richard & Janet Wettergren
- Larry & Joan Zambino

Renewed Individual Members:
- Verda Beatty
- Marie Benson
- Ruth Brandel
- Carolyn Brethorst
- Opal Dewanz
- Jacke Feldman
- Mike Haueuer
- Scott Hermanson
- Renee Jackson
- Patricia Johnson
- Donley Johnson
- Lucinda Krosch
- Robert Lambert
- Ruth E. Larson
- Loren Lindsay
- Linda Miller
- Evie Nelson
- Janet Prehn
- Ronald Roselli
- Bob Schabert
- Bernadine Thompson
- Gertrude Wright

New Family Members:
- Matt & Kathleen Horak
- Nathan Huber
- Susan Iffner
- Myron Kaduce

New Individual Members:
- Gerald Floren
- Boyd Kramer
- Tim Pluss
- Lois Weber

Executive Board
- President: Tami Skinner, St. Peter
- Vice President: Jeremy Freeman, St. Peter
- Secretary: Steve Baxa, St. Peter
- Treasurer: Marie Dranttel, St. Peter
- Historian: Alma Forst, St. George

Directors
- Steve Baxa, St. Peter
- Abbi Carleton, Nicollet
- Dr. Chris Corley, North Mankato
- Matt Horak, Norseland
- Patti Korth, Norseland
- Dr. Lori Latham, North Mankato
- Emilie Lokensgard, Norseland
- Pam Morson, Lafayette
- Scott Hermanson, St. Peter
- Bob Schabert, Courtland
- Sally Webster, Bernadotte

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- Executive Director, Ben Leonard
- kristina@nchsmn.org
- Museum Store Manager, Ruth Grewe
- Harmin Store Site Manager, Ruth Grewe
- Museum Store Asst. Manager, Amber Bentler
- Harmin Store Site Guides, Rose Asleben, Glenn Striker
- Ft. Ridgely Site Manager, Nancy Zempel
- Ft. Ridgely Site Guides, Annaliese Endorf, Charlotte Nack, Dorothy Polesky

Treaty Site History Center
1851 N. Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082
TSHC Phone: (507) 934-2160
TSHC Fax: (507) 934-0172
Hours: M.–Sa. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday 1–4 p.m.
General Information Via e-mail: museum@nchsmn.org or research@nchsmn.org
Website: www.nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House
500 N. Washington Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082
Cox House Phone: (507) 934-4309
The Cox House is available year-round for a variety of special programs, facility 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–Sept. Mon. & Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
May 28–29 & Sep. 14–Oct. 14: Sat.–Su. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fort Ridgely
72404 County Road 30
Fairfax, MN 55332
Phone: (507) 436-7888 or (507) 934-2160
Website: ridgely@nchsmn.org
Hours: May 25–Sep. 3
Th. & Su.: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Director’s Column
In the last newsletter I talked about the behind-the-scenes planning that the public rarely sees. We do a lot of it. Not everything that we start, or every idea we brainstorm, gets done—but some of them do. I’m really excited about the new partnerships you can read about in this issue. We’re working on another big idea that we’ll be able to talk more about soon.

All of these collaborations and projects aren’t about keeping us busy, they’re about bringing more opportunities to learn about our history, our communities, and our similarities. Visitors don’t necessarily care which organization runs what—or that the building is owned by one group and the campground by another. They just want to experience the place.

Sure, we’re proud of who we are. But the places and history are what’s most important to us. We want to serve every visitor and resident of Nicollet County, whether they know they’re being served by us or not. I had a great 2 weeks off traveling the west with my family. If you’ve never driven 5,500 miles across ten states with four kids—you probably should—at least once.

Ben Leonard, Director

Arches National Park, near Moab, Utah.
The Society with partner St. Peter Community and Family Education are already looking forward to the next season of documentary films starting in September. Just like always, they’re the first Thursday of every month from September through May, and always free for everyone!

Thurs., Sept. 5, 7 p.m.: *Queen of Versailles*
A documentary that follows a billionaire couple as they begin construction on a mansion inspired by Versailles. During the next two years, their empire, fueled by the real estate bubble and cheap money, falters due to the economic crisis.

Thurs., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.: *5 Broken Cameras*
The first-ever Palestinian film to be nominated for best Documentary Feature by A.M.P.A.S®, the critically-acclaimed *5 Broken Cameras* is a deeply personal, first-hand account of life and non-violent resistance in Bil’in, a West Bank village surrounded by Israeli settlements.

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.: *Strong Man*

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*

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

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

Thurs., Apr. 3, 2014, 7 p.m.: *Parking Lot Movie*

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**E-Newsletter**

Do you want to stay up-to-date with the current events and programming at the Nicollet County Historical Society? We don’t want you to miss out on new programs and local events of interest so we now offer a weekly e-newsletter that will keep you up-to-date. If you haven’t been receiving the e-newsletter and would like to try it out, just let us know via an email to: news@nchsmn.org.
NCHS Summer Intern

Hi! My name is Jessica Burggraf, and I’m the new intern for the Nicollet County Historical Society! This summer I’ll be doing a lot of research up in Saint Paul at the Minnesota Historical Society in preparation for an exhibit on the Lac Qui Parle Mission. I enjoy laying on a beach and soaking up the summer sun just as much as the next person, but I have a special love for holing myself up in a library, searching through dusty books and discovering something new. When I’m not getting my adrenaline fix from a research topic, you’ll probably find me on a rugby pitch. I’m a junior at Gustavus Adolphus College, and I play on Gustavus Women’s Rugby team. Most people don’t expect it considering I’m a book worm art history major who has a slight obsession with floral print. After Gustavus, I’m planning on attending graduate school for Museum Studies. I am so excited for this opportunity and for the chance to see an exhibit come together from start to finish.

Treaty Site Exterior

The last newsletter unveiled an ambitious reimagining of the Treaty Site exterior. It’s hoped the new look will do more than just replace broken sidewalks, but help lower energy costs and create a more inviting environment too.

We want to thank the donors that have stepped up so far. We still have a long way to go to make this a reality. It’s going to happen, but how quickly depends on how fast we can raise another $55,000. That’s a lot of money. We’re working on it, and we wanted you to know we won’t give up.

Ridgely in Civil War Researcher

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. Jared is from Westbrook, Minn. and received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa in 2010. Following graduation he served with AmeriCorps VISTA in Deer Lodge and Helena, Montana for two years, working with programs that focused on domestic violence and childhood hunger. This summer he will be interning 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. Various panel topics include construction of the fort, women at the fort, soldier life, and the possibility that slavery existed on the Minnesota Prairie. Jared has truly enjoyed the process thus far and is excited to see where this project will progress as he works on contributing to the interpretation of the history of his home region.
When did 4-H start?
What was Floral Hall?
How does the fair happen every year? Why was the fair called off in 1946?

Joni Anderson and Eileen Holz have been working extremely hard to answer those questions and more with a new traveling exhibit on the fair’s nearly 150 year history.

The pair have poured over thousands of pages and photographs. We’re really excited to see the completed exhibit at the fair in August. The Fair Board, Society, and Nicollet County will pool their spaces in the Wetherill Building to show off the 9-panel exhibit, historical flipbooks, and a continuously showing slideshow of fair images.

The Nicollet County Fair runs from August 7-11th. If you’re interested in volunteering to staff the Society booth please talk to Ben at ben@nchsmn.org or 934-2160.
Fort Ridgely

The Fort Ridgely Historic Site began its season on May 23, 2013. We were busy with students on Friends of Fort Ridgely School Day on May 16. About 350 5th and 6th graders were at the site to hear the history of the site and also nature programs presented by the Minnesota DNR.

After years of anticipating upgrades for the commissary—a major project will start at the site this month. New electrical, furnaces, and windows and doors are just a few of the face lifts that will be happening during the summer months.

Programs at the site will continue this year. Look for the NCHS e-mail newsletter each week to keep an update of coming events.

Best wishes for a fun summer and travel the valley and join us at Fort Ridgely Historic Site.

Fort Face Lift

If you've stopped out at Fort Ridgely this season, you may notice that it's once again a construction zone. We apologize for any inconvenience to visitors, but we couldn't be happier about the work. The Fort has benefited from several recent projects, like the new trail, a new roof, and monument restoration. This work has been done by the Minnesota Historical Society and paid for by state bonding dollars.

This year the Commissary is being tuck pointed, windows and doors are being restored, new furnaces and air conditioners installed, more insulation added, and electrical and lighting redone. That's a long list of much needed improvements, but the bulk of the work should only take six weeks.

We're lucky to have a strong partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, and are happy to contractually operate Ridgely, Harkin, and the Traverse des Sioux walking trails.

Follow @nchsmn on Twitter and friend the Nicollet County Historical Society on Facebook today!
**Harkin Happenings...**

**Season in Full Swing**

The Harkin Store opened for the season on May 5th. After Memorial Day, we are open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 to 5 p.m. Early in the season, the weather was cold so we stoked up the stove for our visitors. The weather is warming up and we have a variety of programs that can be in the store, on the porch, or on the driveway.

Sunday afternoons in the 1870s were family time or time to relax, visit friends and maybe do a bit of fancywork. There will be a showing of some of the work in tatting, hardanger, knitting, and other types of work. Come relax at the store with refreshments and a display of items pioneers did on Sundays for our July 14th program.

Pioneer women were an important part of the development of the territory of Minnesota and the state. Through various displays, see how the pioneer women lived, from the basic housekeeping to entertainment. See what they used for tools and what jobs they did on our Day in the Life of A Pioneer Woman on July 21st.

Come enjoy an afternoon on July 28th for our Christmas In July program. We decorate the store and the gift shop has Christmas items for sale. There will be Scottish “goodies” for sampling.

This 34th annual West Newton Day event celebrates the heritage of the Minnesota settlement of West Newton that existed halfway between New Ulm and Fort Ridgley from 1856 to 1901. Historical photographs from Bob and Agnes Gleiser will be on display, as well as the history of the Alexander Harkin family. Alexander was the founder of the 1870’s Harkin Store. We invite any descendants of West Newton’s earliest settlers to share their stories and any old photographs for the special event on Sunday, August 4th from 1 to 4 p.m.

Above: Alexander Harkin

Center: Harkin-Massopust Store in West Newton Township, circa 1960

Left: Cutting wood near Harkin Store, West Newton, circa 1905

Images from the collections of the Nicollet County and Minnesota State Historical Societies.
Society Partners With Connecting Nicollet County

The Society has signed a memorandum of understanding with Connecting Nicollet County to be their fiscal agent and office home starting in August. The two organizations both keep their autonomy, but are both excited about our new partnership.

Connecting Nicollet County is a leadership development program stewarded by the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the CNC board of directors—with financial support from Nicollet County, University of Minnesota, and local businesses.

Participants gather one day each month from September through May in the communities throughout the county. Each day includes leadership training, meeting with community leaders, and tours of businesses and facilities in that particular community. Participants will tour together, study together and dine together. Each day ends with reflection and discussion on application of the information learned.

Anyone interested in applying for the 2013–2014 class should visit http://www.connectingnicolletcounty.org or contact Catie Rasmussen at rasmu035@umn.edu or 507-276-3514 (cell).

Connecting Nicollet County Seeks Program Coordinator

The program coordinator will provide administrative oversight to the program including organization and fund development, communications, alumni relations, project management and marketing, working in partnership with a board of directors and program stakeholders. This is a part-time position of 15 hours/week with the potential to increase hours depending on successful fund development. Target start date is September 1.

Required Qualifications: Experience in program management, fundraising, excellent written and oral communications, strong background in technology and computer related programs, self-starter, precise, attention to detail and deadlines.

To Apply: Send letter of interest and resume to: Connecting Nicollet County, c/o Wayne Whitmore, Treaty Site History Center, 1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082. Application deadline is August 1, 2013. For further information call Wayne at 507-232-3257 or Catie at 507-389-6749.

Area Events...

= Karen Colbentz, Principal, St. Peter Public Schools

“Connecting Nicollet County has been an incredible experience for both leadership and networking... leadership skills which I am able to use in my job. Networking with others from our county and seeing all our county has to offer has provided me with the affirmation that we all live in a great place.”

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8 the CROSSING
NCHS is Square

About a year ago we renovated our sales area at the Treaty Site History Center. Recently, we’ve implemented a new point-of-sale system. That may not seem like important news to most of you, but we’re pretty excited by it.

The Society now uses “the Square” to process purchases. Every time you use your credit card at a store, they pay a fee. We were spending a substantial amount on fees. The new system still has them, but fees are smaller and easier to calculate. The web-based sales system is a huge improvement over the old system. Plus the software is free.

The bottom line is we’ll be able to serve you better, and pay less to do it. We now take every kind of credit card at the Treaty Site. We don’t yet offer credit card sales at other sites, but that may be possible down the road.

If you have “Square Wallet” let us know. It’s possible for you to pay your membership or other NCHS purchases electronically—and from anywhere.

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

Culligan Mayer
Community Insurance Agency
Dave’s Place
First National Bank

Society Plays Role in City’s Gift

The City of St. Peter is donating a decommissioned fire truck to its Sister City—Petatlán, Mexico. The two cities have had a relationship since 2009. In 2012 NCHS created a traveling exhibit on Community in Petatlán. The exhibit is currently at the Otter Tail County Historical Society in Fergus Falls.

Petatlán is located in the state of Guerrero, about 30 miles south of Ixtapa. In July Society director Ben Leonard is planning to transport the truck, along with fellow Sister City Committee member and Gustavus professor Joel Carlin, to McAllen, Texas. There they will meet their Mexican counterparts and formally exchange the vehicle.

It’s a great opportunity for more connection and collaboration between cities. The fire truck will serve their community well. We look forward to continued friendship and partnerships in the future.

~ Ben Leonard, NCHS, Director

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

Karen Dummer Robison: Biehn, Young and Nonnenmacher Families from Alsace, France.
Judy Hanson: price list, E.C. Davis Seed Co., St. Peter.
Robert Meyer: article about 89 men from National Guard who left St. Peter for March Field, California at the time of World War II: June 26, 1942. New Ulm Journal about Dakota War, photos of drowning at Hallet’s Pond in 1939; two cameras from Hattie Meyer; medical items; Wesley Meyer’s teddy bear.
Sara H. McKay: St. Peter property inspections from 1979 to 2013.
St. Paul, MN.
Sharon Hacker: William the St. Peter Tribune building and exhibits of the Treaty Site History Center. Upper Sioux tribal elder Tom Ross helped us create the 2008 Treaty Site central exhibit. Members Janet Jones, Theresa Mollert, and Eunice Larson were true friends and supporters.

We are thinking of their families, and we celebrate their lives by remembering the many things they did for others. Thank you. We miss you.

Society Mourns

We were sad to lose some good friends since the last newsletter. Past NCHS President Malcolm MacKenzie was a driving force behind building the Treaty Site History Center. Dakota elder Ernest Wabasha, of Morton, Minn., was an important advisor in the planning of the building and exhibits of the Treaty Site History Center. Upper Sioux tribal elder Tom Ross helped us create the 2008 Treaty Site central exhibit. Members Janet Jones, Theresa Mollert, and Eunice Larson were true friends and supporters.

We are thinking of their families, and we celebrate their lives by remembering the many things they did for others. Thank you. We miss you.

Great New Gifts

Summer brings increased activity, and the NCHS shops at the Treaty Site, Harkin Store, and Fort Ridgely are no exception. There are great new books, handmade items, and other unique things to choose from. We just got in new shirts featuring a great old Engesser Beer label—wear a little piece of St. Peter history!

Society Receives Bequests

We were honored to be presented with a bequest from the estate of Malcolm MacKenzie by his children Kyle MacKenzie Nowell and Charles MacKenzie. The money has been placed in a fund for renovating the Treaty Site Historical Society exterior.

Malcolm was a longtime board member, friend, and supporter of the Society. As NCHS President he was instrumental in the planning, fundraising, and construction of the Treaty Site History Center. We owe Malcolm and his family our thanks and gratitude.

Alta Nelson, the first Minnesota Historical Society manager at Fort Ridgely in 1976, left the Society funds to purchase a new 1858 Great Star Pattern flag to fly outside the Commissary, theater system, and portable microphones. “The new equipment is wonderful, and has really improved our interpretation at the Fort,” says NCHS director Ben Leonard. Thank you so much to the Alta Nelson family for her generosity and ardent support of Fort Ridgely.
Area Events...

Pulitzer Prize Winning Author Speaking at MSU-Mankato

This year’s common read at MSU-Mankato is *Strength in What Remains* by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Tracy Kidder. Now in its fourth year, the goal of the Common Read is to encourage all students, faculty, staff, families, and community members to join in reading the book, participating in discussions, and attending events.

Kate Hansen, coordinator of the campus Common Read program, said the book could also be a conversation piece for families, whose sons and daughters may be preparing to leave home this summer. “It is the hope of the Common Read program that the events and activities surrounding it will lead to learning from the perspectives of all who participate,” she said.

Kidder will speak in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom at MSU on September 11th. The 7:30 p.m. event will also be streamed online.

*Strength in What Remains* is the true story of Deo, a young man who grew up in the mountains of Burundi, and survived a civil war and genocide before seeking a new life in America. In New York City, he lived homeless in Central Park before finding his way to Columbia University. According to Kidder, Deo’s story really begins with his will to turn his life into something truly remarkable; he returns to his native country to help people there, as well as people in the United States.

Anyone wishing to host small group discussions, or looking for more information, should visit the Common Read site or contact Kate Hansen at 507-389-5498, or by email at kate.hansen@mnsu.edu.

CASTLE Kickoff and Book Discussion Open to Public at New Ulm Public Library

Community and Seniors Together Learning Environment and New Ulm Public Library are hosting a CASTLE Kickoff Mixer and Book Discussion on August 29.

At 5:30 p.m., CASTLE will celebrate its second year as a membership program that offers the opportunity for an adult to join a community of adults who learn for the joy of learning without grades, tests, papers, or long-term classes. There are courses during fall, winter, and spring terms with special events that focus on fun, friendship, and college-level learning.

At 6 p.m., Ric Jacobsen, pastor at Oakwood United Methodist Church in New Ulm, will facilitate a discussion of *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger, a novel about tragedy, grief, and grace in small-town New Bremen, Minn., in the summer of 1961.

Attendees are welcome to both free events; no registration is required.

Stop by the library Service Center or call the library at 507-359-8331 to place a hold on a copy of *Ordinary Grace*. CASTLE members may purchase the book at a discount at Sven & Ole’s Books. Call 507-354-3212 to learn more about CASTLE, or online at newulmseniors.org/castle.html. Phone 507-359-8334 for more information about library programming.

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“The dead are never far from us. They’re in our hearts and on our minds and in the end all that separates us from them is a single breath, one final puff of air.

And what is happiness, Nathan? In my experience, it’s only a moment’s pause here and there on what is otherwise a long and difficult road. No one can be happy all the time.

The miracle is this: that you will rise in the morning and be able to see again the startling beauty of the day.”

— William Kent Krueger, author of *Ordinary Grace*
Playing Card Artistry
& Drawing Room
Conjuring in 1913
1913. 2013. So much of life in Saint Peter has changed in the past 100 years. But in an art form that capitalizes upon the blind spots in the human brain, not much has changed at all. Join Michael Callahan 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.

August 1, 2 & 3 at the Cox House, Shows will begin at 8:30 p.m. (sundown). A fourth and final late-night show will be held at 11 p.m. on Saturday, August 3. Tickets $10 at the door.

Teddy Bear Picnic on Cox House Lawn
The teddy bears are having a picnic! The Nicollet County Historical Society is hosting a Teddy Bear Picnic on Saturday August 17, 11–1 p.m. on the lawn of the historic Cox House. Bring a blanket (we’ll have some extras) and your favorite teddy bear to the Cox House lawn for a fun time. Kids aged 2 to 7 will enjoy hearing a teddy bear story, crafts, and a lunch fit for a bear! Space is limited and reservations are required. Don’t let your teddy bear miss it!

The cost is $12 for one child & adult. An additional child may attend for $8.

Money Doesn’t Grow On Trees, But Sprouts at Plant Sale by Susan Carlin
Summertime warmth has finally made its way to Saint Peter. And many local residents have new plants to soak up the long sunny days, thanks to the Cox House Plant Sale. Hundreds of plants were donated to the sale by dedicated volunteers and friends. Many hours were spent digging, potting, and pricing those plants in preparation for the sale. And at 8 on the morning of May 25, there was a line of supporters gathered at the Treaty Site to purchase unique and heritage plants to beautify their local gardens. The Nicollet County Historical Society raised nearly $900. Not bad for the late spring and move to Memorial Day Weekend.

All of those funds will be used to preserve and improve the facilities and programming at the historic Eugene St. Julien Cox House. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success—plant donors, NCHS staff, and those who purchased plants at the sale. Special recognition should go to Jen Baxa and her sons who spent many hours preparing for the sale. To all who participated—thank you! Through your actions, we will be able to share the Cox House with more people than ever.

Cox House Happenings...

Saturday, July 13 / 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Tea Party at the Cox House
Children aged 5 to 10 are invited to bring their American Girl doll (or other favorite doll) and an adult friend to a tea party at the Cox House. The tea party will be held on Saturday, July 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tea and sandwiches will be served. Guests will listen to historical American Girl stories and participate in crafts. In addition, children will learn about the role that tea played in the culture of earlier Saint Peter residents. The home was formerly the residence of Eugene St. Julien Cox, Saint Peter’s first mayor, and was a local center of social activity for the prospering riverside town. The cost is $15 for one child and adult. An additional child may attend for $10. Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest tea party clothes. Reservations are necessary, as seating is limited. To register or inquire for further details, contact Susan Carlin at 507-382-5162 or sdgcarlin@gmail.com. The Cox House is located at 500 North Washington Avenue, at the intersection with Skaro Street, in Saint Peter, MN. This event is sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society.

The CROSSING
Witchcraft in the Swede Settlement in Belgrade

From The Mankato Free Press printed in the Saint Peter Tribune, September 23, 1885

It will hardly be credited to that at this day and age of the world, that the witchcraft of the darker ages cold be revived amidst our enlightened people. But such is nevertheless the fact. Not only is the Belgrade Swede settlement, but instituted by order of the clergymen for a trial for witchcraft to be held last Sunday, after the service and sermon in the forenoon of that day, in the Swede Lutheran church of the vicinity. The facts are that Mrs. John Solamon has been sick for the past three years. She was attended for the first two of those years by reputable physicians of good standing in the community. But the present year, she with the advice of her friends, hearing of the witchcraft remedy in Sweden, wrote, or had her husband write to parties in Sweden to obtain information in reference to the witchcraft remedy. Receiving encouraging information in response to such inquiries, she, or her husband, sent a lock of her hair and a fragment of her clothing, as requested, together with the amount of money called for by the Professor, or witchcraft doctor.

In response thereto they received the information that new sickness was brought on by the manipulations of an old woman witch in the community. The information was received by letter from Sweden stating that the old woman by whom Mrs. Solamon had been bewitched and who had inflicted this sickness upon her was an old woman who frequently came to their house. They then set to work to find out who that old woman could be, and soon came to the conclusion that an aunt to both Mrs. Solamon and her husband, by the name of Mrs. Johnson, living in Hebron, Nicollet County, who frequently visited them must be the one. Mrs. Johnson is a woman of respectability and good standing in the community where she lived many years. There upon they began to talk to it openly and publicly that Mrs. Johnson was the one who had bewitched Mrs. Solamon and caused her long sickness. They received the further information from the witchcraft doctor in Sweden that Mrs Solamon could only be cured by bringing the accused Mrs. Johnson, publicly before the sick woman, and accuse her and slap her on her mouth until her mouth would bleed and then Mrs. Solamon would get well. Then they made a complaint to the Swede preacher, A. Anderson, who as a judge ordered her to be brought up for trial, which trial took place after the sermon and service in the Swede church last Sunday, at the house of John Solamon, in the presence of this his sick wife, she being the first witness – the preacher acting as judge and the deacous as jury.

The preacher had summoned a large crowd of witnesses before they left the church, made up of nearly all the Peterson family, well known to the police fraternity of Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. Mrs. Solamon testified that thirteen years ago while riding in a wagon together, Mrs. Johnson touched her back and it tickled when she touched it. And about three years ago, just before Mrs. Soloman was taken sick, Mrs. Johnson was visiting at her house, and while there she saw her take hold of the quilt of the bed, and soon after was taken sick, and while lying sick in that same bed and ever since, she felt that tickling in her back. Charles Lind another witness, stated that he was well posted in witchcraft disease, and knows that Mrs. Soloman’s disease was caused by witchcraft. Mrs. John Peterson stated that she also was posted in witchcraft diseases, and she had seen the witches send the craft off, and seen it fly in the air, and strike the persons who were soon after taken sick, the same way as Mrs. Solamon was.

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Witchcraft
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Mrs. Gustafson, and several others, testified to about the same thing. Others were present who did not believe in witchcraft, but were not allowed to testify, and were overruled by the preacher, judge and the whole crowd. The accused was not present at the trial, but was found guilty, but at last account sentence had not been passed upon her.

~ A Subscriber

Left: St. Peter first graders enjoying the shade of a massive cottonwood at the Crossing.

Right: Historic St. Peter Cornet Bandwagon at the June Nicollet Friendship Days parade.

Left and bottom: Canoe adventurists who took part in the June 20th Minnesota River Paddle with Scott Kudelka (left), Area Naturalist for the Department of Natural Resources.
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: 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, CFW Community Education 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

TSHC: See program times below / Fee: $5 adults, $4 seniors (65+), $3 children 6–17, free for children under age 5, and NCHS members.

2013 Calendar of Events:

July 11 Minnesota River Paddle (Registration is FULL), 5:30 p.m.
July 13 Fort Ridgely and the U.S.-Dakota War, 2 p.m.
July 13 Tea Party, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (see description on page 12)
July 14 Afternoon of Leisure, 1–4 p.m.
July 14 Learn to Canoe! (Registration is FULL), 2 p.m.
July 20 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War, 1 p.m.
July 20 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War Battlefield Tour, 2:30 p.m.
July 21 Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman, 1–4 p.m.
July 28 Christmas in July, 1–4 p.m.
Aug. 1 Minnesota River Paddle (Registration is FULL), 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 1 A Portrait of Playing Card Artistry and Drawing Room Conjuring in the Year 1913, 8:30 p.m. (see page 12)
Aug. 2 A Portrait of Playing Card Artistry and Drawing Room Conjuring in the Year 1913, 8:30 p.m. (see page 12)
Aug. 3 A Portrait of Playing Card Artistry and Drawing Room Conjuring in the Year 1913, 11 p.m. (see page 12)
Aug. 3 The Milford Settlers: Land Thieves or Victims?, 1 p.m.
Aug. 3 The Milford Settlers: Land Thieves or Victims?, 2:30 p.m.
Aug. 4 34th Annual West Newton Day, 1–4 p.m.
Aug. 7–11 Nicollet County Fair, don’t miss the NC Fair Historical Exhibit in Wetherill Hall
Aug. 11 Old Time Sounds, 1–4 p.m.
Aug. 17 Teddy Bear Picnic, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (see page 12)
Aug. 17 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War, 1 p.m.
Aug. 17 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War Battlefield Tour, 2:30 p.m.
Aug. 18 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War, 1 p.m.
Aug. 18 Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War Battlefield Tour, 2:30 p.m.
Aug. 18 Bees and Honey, 1–4 p.m.
Aug. 25 Old Schools Day, 1–4 p.m.
Sept. 1 The West Arrives in West Newton, 1–4 p.m.
Sept. 5 Documentary Film Series: Queen of Versailles, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)
Sept. 8 Grandparent’s Day, 1–4 p.m.
Sept. 15 Snakes of the Minnesota River, 1–4 p.m.
Sept. 22 Preparing for Winter, 1–4 p.m.
Sept. 29 Ladies Crafts, 1–4 p.m.
Oct. 3 Documentary Film Series: 5 Broken Cameras, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)
Oct. 6 Sheep-Wool-Quilts, 1–4 p.m.
Oct. 13 1870’s Transportation, 1–4 p.m.
Oct. 20 Lonesome Ron’s Round-up, 1–4 p.m.

Please watch the NCHS website, Facebook & Twitter and MHS 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 2013 at the following level (please check one).

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

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