Nicollet County Poor Farm

Nicollet County paid for a historic marker to be erected at the site of the County Poor Farm, south of the Fort Road on County Rd 4, in 2008. The Society researched and wrote the marker. Since then, more information has surfaced thanks to retired County employee and NCHS volunteer Nita Aasen. NCHS and the County hope to soon apply for a legacy grant to replace the marker. The proposed text below has not yet been approved, but it does reflect the new information.

In 1865 the County Board purchased 260 acres from Almond and Caroline Door, Granby Township, for $3,000 in order to provide lodging, food, and clothing for county ‘paupers.’

From 1865–1958 twenty couples were hired as overseer’s to manage the farm and resident’s care. Records show that a minimum of 125 residents, which included 34 women and children, lived on the farm. One woman was a resident for a minimum of 42 years. The Poor Farm was renamed County Home for the Aged & Infirm in 1918 to reflect that many reasons, besides being poor, brought people to the farm.

A minimum of 29 people either died on the farm, (as early as 1877) or were interred at the farm’s cemetery, which is now unmarked. The last known interment was in 1936. Burials are posted on the Nicollet County Poor Farm Cemetery’s site on www.findagrave.com.

Catch NCHS on TPT!

The Society was featured on Twin Cities Public Television’s “Museums Creating Community.” http://www.tpt.org/?a=programs&id=22181

The program has been playing statewide this summer. If you missed it, watch it through TPT’s Video Vault anytime you like at http://www.mnvideovault.org/.

“This has been a fantastic year,” says NCHS director Ben Leonard. “We’ve collaborated with TPT, MPR, Star Tribune, Rochester Post-Bulletin, and others. We’ve even been talking to National Public Radio for an upcoming radio documentary.”

Local history is important--especially in its locality. But 2012 has made clear that the events that happened in Nicollet County were national news back then, and they continue to matter. Not just to folks around here—but all over the nation. It’s remarkable to think about, and your historical society has been interpreting to a very large audience this year.

Also related, on October 19th–21st NCHS will be exhibiting “Commemorating Controversy The Dakota-U.S. War of 1862” to visitors at President Lincoln’s Cottage Historic Site in Washington D.C. The site is planning a whole weekend of events surrounding the history of 1862, in addition to displaying “The Emancipation Proclamation” at the same time. Up to several thousand people are expected over the weekend.
Members

Thanks to the following new and renewing members of NCHS since our June newsletter and through September 2012.

Renewed Business Members:
- Arts Center of Saint Peter
- Brighton Township
- First National Bank
- Minnesota Goodrich Construction
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- New Sweden Mutual
- Insurance Company
- Wood Lake Battlefield
- Preservation Association

Renewed Sustaining Members:
- Milton & Elaine Brostrom
- Stephen & Elizabeth Hogberg

Renewed Family Members:
- Richard Deran
- William & Marilyn Bessler
- David Breituning
- John & Katha Chamberlain
- Roger & Lois Currier
- Arden & Marilyn DeBoer
- Sandra Gappa
- Myrtle Gieseke
- Mary Klinger Family
- Mike & Maryetta McCarty
- Janice & Robert Meyer II
- Steve & Pam Moren
- Janet & Byron Nordstrom
- Carolyn O’Grady & Jim Bonilla
- Ken & Patsy Rosow
- Sue & Lee Schott
- Marty & Carol Sterner
- Michael & Bonnie Webster

Renewed Individual Members:
- Josephine Ameo
- Eunice Amos
- Peg Bindner
- Shirley Bishop
- Herbert Brunner
- Eleanor Depuydt
- Marty Duncan
- Dale Himmelman
- Jan Holte
- Eileen Holz
- Marjorie Johnson
- Gretchen Koehler
- Ronald McMullen
- Dr. Craig Nelson
- Sylvia Neshem
- Ralph Novotny
- Bruce Osborn
- Brian Oviatt
- Donna Resner
- Anders Ringdahl-Mayland
- Dorothy Schultz
- Karen Smithers
- Jennifer St. Julien Powers
- Neil Stevermer
- New Patrons Members:
  - Dave & Patti Purdy

New Family Members:
- Roberta Bartholdi
- John Byrnes
- Bob & Dinna Nafe

New Individual Members:
- John Coughlin
- Frank Cremer
- Jennifer Egger
- Candice Latourelle

Executive Board
- President: Gary Schmidt, North Mankato
- Vice President: Jeremy Freeman, St. Peter
- Secretary: Tami Skinner, St. Peter
- Treasurer: Marie Dranttel, St. Peter
- Historian: Steve Baxa, St. Peter

Directors
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- Alma Forst, St. George
- Patti Kelly, Norseland
- Dr. Lori Lahlum, North Mankato
- Emilie Lokensgard, Norseland
- Pam Morson, Lafayette
- Scott Herrman, St. Peter
- Bob Schabert, Courtland
- Sally Webster, Bernadotte

Contact Information
- Executive Director, Ben Leonard
  ben@nchsmn.org
- Collections Manager, Bob Sandeen
  bob@nchsmn.org
- Office Assistant, Kristina LeClerc
  kristina@nchsmn.org
- Museum Store Manager, Ruth Grewe
- Cox House Manager, Richard Tostenson
- TSCH Museum Assistants, Jessica Becker, Victoria Clark, Joan Jordan, Allen McBride, Loren Sundboom
- TSCH Maintenance, Wayne Passon
- Harkin Store Site Manager, Ruth Grewe
- Harkin Store Site Guides, Rose Alsleben, Victoria Clark, Glenn Stryker
- Ft. Ridgely Site Manager, Nancy Zempel
- Ft. Ridgely Site Guides, Victoria Clark, Annaliese Endorf, Charlotte Nock, Dorothy Polesky, Mindy Sommer

Treaty Site History Center
- 1851 N. Minnesota Avenue
- St. Peter, MN 56082
- TSCH Phone: (507) 934-2160
- TSCH 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.
- 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: Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
  May 28–Sep. 3 Tu.-Su. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
  Sep. 4-Oct. 14: Sa.-Su. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fort Ridgely
- 72404 County Road 30
- Fairfax, MN 55332
- Phone: (507) 426-7888 or (507) 934-2160
- Website: ridgely@nchsmn.org
- Hours: May 25–Sep. 3
  Th. & Su.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Director’s Column

Shortly after you receive this newsletter I will be heading to Washington D.C. with Gustavus representatives to display our traveling exhibit, “Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota-U.S. War of 1862” at President Lincoln’s Cottage Historic Site.

It’s an amazing opportunity made possible through a unique partnership with the College funded by Gustavus, Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and the Minnesota Historical Society. Created by a January-term Gustavus class, the exhibit has traveled around the state since March. Soon, a copy will be permanently displayed at the Treaty Site, while others continue to other institutions throughout 2013.

The sesquicentennial of 1862 may be nearing an end, but I think this year has marked the beginning of a new phase for NCHS. Through the class and exhibit, we’ve formed some wonderful friendships. We worked closely with leaders at Flandreau, Sisseton, and Santee. We have a new model for telling stories through graphic panels that will have applications for all different kinds of topics. We’ve also found a place and a voice among state-wide and national media.

Our history isn’t just local history. You can’t tell the history of Minnesota or the United States without talking about what happened here. We experienced unprecedented attention and attendance this past season. Many individuals, organizations, and news outlets encountered us for the first time. I think they found what you already know to be true: a professional, articulate, friendly, interesting Society with many stories to tell. I think we earned some relevancy and respect in 2012, and I’m excited to build and leverage that in 2013 and beyond.

Ben Leonard, Director
The Society and St. Peter Community and Family Education have teamed up for the third year to bring you the popular documentary film series at the Treaty Site History Center. Admission to the film series is free for all. Join us the first Thursday of each month through June. Films are shown at the Treaty Site History Center at 7 p.m. Please contact the Society at 507-934-2160 or museum@nchsmn.org for more details.

Finishing out the series in 2012 are:

**Thurs., Nov. 1, 7 p.m.: Priceless$**
58 minutes. Not Rated. *Priceless* is a filmmaker’s personal journey across America to answer a provocative question: why are some of our government’s most basic policies, like food and energy, so out-of-date...and can anything be done about it? The filmmakers set out on a spellbinding—and at times hilarious—ride from rural America to the halls of Congress to find out more, because democracy is a precious resource. In fact, it’s Priceless$.

**Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 p.m.: Let There Be Light**
This 1946 American documentary film commissioned by the U.S. Army Signal Corps follows 75 U.S. soldiers who sustained debilitating emotional trauma and depression. A series of scenes chronicle their entry into a psychiatric hospital, their treatment and eventual recovery. In 2010, this film was selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.”

And continuing in 2013 with:

**Thurs., Jan. 3, 7 p.m.: Happy**
78 minutes. Not Rated. Does money make you happy? Kids and family? Your work? Do you live in a world that values and promotes happiness and well-being? This film sets out to answer these questions and more. Taking viewers from the bayous of Louisiana to the deserts of Namibia, from the beaches of Brazil to the villages of Okinawa, *HAPPY* explores the secrets behind our most valued emotion.

**Thurs., Feb. 7, 7 p.m.: The Loving Story**
77 minutes. Not Rated. This documentary film tells the dramatic story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple living in Virginia in the 1950s, and their landmark Supreme Court case, Loving v. Virginia, that changed history.

**Thurs., Mar. 7, 7 p.m.: We Still Live Here**
56 minutes. Not Rated. Celebrated every Thanksgiving as the Indians who saved the Pilgrims from starvation, and then largely forgotten, the Wampanoag Tribes of Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard are now saying loud and clear, and in their Native tongue, *As Nutayuneán, We Still Live Here.*

The Wampanoags ancestors ensured the survival of the English settlers known as the Pilgrims, and lived to regret it. Now a cultural revival is taking place. Spurred on by their celebrated linguist, Jessie Little Doe Baird, recent winner of a MacArthur ‘genius’ award, the Wampanoag are bringing their language home.

**Thurs., Apr. 4, 7 p.m.: Sweetgrass**
101 minutes. Not Rated. An unsentimental elegy to the American West, *Sweetgrass* follows the last modern-day cowboys to lead their flocks of sheep up into Montana’s breathtaking and often dangerous Absaroka-Beartooth mountains for summer pasture. This astonishingly beautiful yet unsparring film reveals a world in which nature and culture, animals and humans, vulnerability and violence are all intimately meshed.

*Films continued on page 9*
Artifact & Archival Donations
accepted into our collections since the June 2012 Crossing:

Bob Isenberg: photo of Lafayette Fire Department members.
Carol Molin: photo of the Central Annex School as the Arts and Heritage before 1958 tornado.
Gustavus Adolphus College Archivists: book of Constitution Minutes & accounts of Swedish Library Society, St. Peter 1874–1904; signature book of Merchants Bank, St. Peter 1904–1907; book of minutes of St. Peter Hotel Company 1871–1888; Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Peter Grand Concert program, April 30, 1905; items from the Union Presbyterian Church, St. Peter; items from St. Peter’s Evangelical Luth. Chu. in St. Peter; items from the Norseland Lutheran Church.
Hugh C. McWhorter: maps of St. Peter.
Herb Poncic: Sanitary Ice Company building photo N. Front St., St. Peter. Building behind the ice co. sign was the Wainwright warehouse on Minn. River-used as shelter for refugees in 1862. Demolished not long after photo was taken.
Paul Grabow: 1927 Nicollet County atlas.
Mary Jane Splett: St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee issue and 1980 Nicollet County atlas.
Gordon J. Day: Ft. Ridgely items re George Rieke, defender of fort in Aug. 1862; includes two 1906 postcards from 1896, Rieke’s obituary, 1930 memorial booklet with certificate stating George Rieke was a defender.
David Schauer: black and white class photo of the students of Lake Prairie Township District 40 school during the 1947 to 1948 school year.
Penny Purzer: reproductions of two photographs (on one piece of paper) from the St. Peter State Hospital.
Jeff Walker: original set of the two volumes of Gresham’s History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties and an original copy of Neil’s History of the Minnesota Valley.
Leona Miller: Dayton Hale: postcards and two albums of color, aerial photos of St. Peter after the March 1958 tornado.
John Mayer: St. Peter Govenaires items, including scrapbooks and photographs.
Diane Schoettlin: lawn mower used by her father, Raymond L. Hein, at his home at 505 N. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter from 1947 to circa 1971.
Sharon Wolfe: envelope for a certificate of deposit issued by the Nicollet County Bank in St. Peter, a red dustpan “FARM ERS ELEVATOR CO. TRAVERSE, MINN. PHONE 34-W5” and a black notepad.
“Compliments of the ENGESSER BREWING & MALTING CO. ST. PETER, MINN.” Stan Muellerleile: two Johnson & Company banners, sewn by his mother Hazel Muellerleile and used in the Johnson & Co. booth at the State Fair and a salesmen’s order book containing price lists of items in the Johnson & Co. wholesale variety line.
Mary Ann Zins: The Sioux Uprising in Minnesota, 1862, by Jacob Nix.
Walter C. Johnson: pencil from Johnson & Co. Imprinted with “Johnson & Company, Union Made, Go-phur Brand Work Garments, St. Peter, Minn.”

Collection Corner
by Jessica Becker

Harvest is upon us. The fields are full of combines kicking up dust and the roads are full of trucks. It’s the time of year when all the old-timers sitting at the corner café are reminiscing about the “good old days.” The yesteryears before all the newfangled technology like GPS took over, when you had to “have your hat on straight” to get that picker through the field, bickering about how kids these days just don’t understand how lucky they have life. Museums are not the first places that come to mind when people think of harvest season but are a wonderful place where young and old alike can experience the technology of our past. Giving the new generations an up-close look at how their grandparents farmed helps create awareness and hopefully sparks an interest in finding out more about how people used to live. Our archives are full of pictures of antique John Deere tractors plowing the fields, our physical collection contains yokes and harnesses from when teams of horses and mules used the original horsepower to plow the fields. So remember your local museum when you’re cleaning out great-uncle Bob’s old barn because that old planter or rake will help the next generation better understand what the old-timers are talking about.

The ladies left to right are: Agnes Schwab, Enza Tetzloff, and Alma Nimps.
The overall which these three maids are filling here are actually to be worn by one man. Ordered from the St. Peter, Minn. Johnson & Co. overall factory they have a 70-inch waist.
This, one of the many photographs found in the Inabelle Moss scrapbook chronicling several years of the Johnson & Co. manufacturing business in St. Peter, was loaned by her nephew Mark Davis recently to be digitized for the collection.

Below: From NCHS photograph collection.
The 150th anniversary of the U.S./Dakota War of 1862 has generated more visitors to the site than in previous summers. Visitors of all ages came to Fort Ridgely to learn or to refresh the stories about the war in southern Minnesota.

The programs at the site each Saturday were well received and often the room was overflowing, with some visitors standing or sitting on the floor. On August 18 we had 300 plus visitors to the site.

Books about the war saw the sales in the gift shop at an all time high.

I hope that members of the society were able to join us at the Fort for the many varied events that we had each weekend.

The new trail system, the repairs of the monument and the signage updates make the story of the site available during the fall as one visits the Minnesota River Valley to enjoy the colors of the season.

Retirement by Nancy Zempel

After 26 years of working summer weekends at the Fort Ridgely Historic Site, I have decided to step down as manager for the site.

I plan to spend more time with my husband and camp on summer weekends. I have many projects to complete and plan to work to finish quilts for my family.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the job at Fort Ridgely has been the visitor that comes to do family research. More time will be spent to complete my family history books for children and grandchildren.

I have enjoyed the time at Fort Ridgely Historic Site and appreciate all that Ben Leonard the NCHS board has done to support the efforts to keep the site open to the public.

Thank you Nancy!

Nancy has been a fixture at the Fort for 26 seasons. We will miss her immensely, but are happy she'll now have more time to do some of the things, like quilting, that she loves. She certainly deserves it.

Nancy began working at the Fort in 1986. For comparison, here's some other things that happened that year.

- The world's first computer virus
- Plans for the "Chunnel" between the U.K. and France are announced
- Halley's Comet passes by on its 75 year orbit
- Hands Across America
- Minnesotan Greg LeMond wins his first Tour de France
- Whitney Houston, Falco, Bon Jovi, and the Bangles all had hit songs

Nancy has seen tremendous change during her tenure. She became Site Manager for the Minnesota Historical Society after Tim Talbott left for Kansas. Nancy then transitioned management of the Fort to the Friends of Fort Ridgely, and again when NCHS began site management on December 1, 2005.

Nancy has met thousands of visitors and planned many, many programs. The last two seasons were some of the busiest in the site's history. We won't be able to replace Nancy. We will work very hard to continue her hard work and dedication in future years, and hope to make her proud. Thank you so much for everything Nancy. We simply can't say that as much, or as eloquently as we would like.
Courtland History

Courtland

by Kristi Roelfs

At a Glance...
GPS Coordinates: 44°16'06"N – 94°20'30"W

Historical Marker Location: At the intersection of U.S. Highway 14 and County Road 24, within the town of Courtland, Minnesota.

Little Known Fact: In 1890, the township population was 927, in 1900 it was 735, and in 1910 it was 672.

History of Courtland Township
Designated after the township’s first post office, the Minnesota legislature established Hilo Township in 1858 as one of Nicollet County’s original townships. The name changed to Courtland in 1865.

First European and American settlers
In the spring of 1855, the first European settlers arrived in what would become Courtland Township. Additional people followed in the coming months. Primarily, the first settlers were of German descent though a few were Scandinavian. A number came directly from Europe while many others settled in areas such as Wisconsin and Illinois before deciding to move into the Minnesota frontier.

History of Courtland Township communities
In 1856, the village of Red Stone was surveyed on land in the southern portion of Section 35 near the Minnesota River. In addition, the town site of Red Stone City was established west of present-day Courtland. Settlers constructed a few buildings but neither town survived for more than a handful of years. The ground each stood on is now largely farmland.

Also in 1856, a post office named Hilo began in a Courtland township residence. In 1858, the town of Hilo formally organized. After a re-survey was done in 1865, the name of Hilo changed to Courtland. In 1872, residents erected the first commercial building in town, a warehouse, when the Chicago and North Western Railroad arrived. By 1882, Courtland established itself as an important trade center for the area. It was served by three general stores, two blacksmith shops, a harness shop, a hotel, saloon, grain elevator, and a railroad depot. In 1892, Courtland officially incorporated as a town.

Religious organizations established
In 1858, the Evangelicals held religious services and built a wood-frame church in 1878. Another church, Courtland Evangelical Lutheran, began to hold services during the winter of 1859-1860. Courtland Evangelical Lutheran officially organized in 1867 and members constructed a wood-frame church building in 1881.

New Book Thoroughly Examines Courtland History
Sheila Wingate spent countless hours researching and writing the definitive history of Courtland – the early years anyway, from 1855–1910. Sheila uncovered photographs and documents few people have seen in over 100 years. Many more will see her book. Come to the Treaty Site to get your copy today.
History Center Events...

Minnesota Star Watch with Mike Lynch

Join WCCO Radio’s Mike Lynch for an amazing night under the stars when you take the Minnesota Star Watch Class offered through Saint Peter Community and Family Education. The class begins with an indoor presentation followed by quality time outside to take in the beautiful show going on overhead. It is being held on Tuesday, October 23rd from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Community and Family Education at 934-3048, extension ‘0’ for more information and to register by the October 15th registration deadline.

Make the stars your old friends as we watch the great celestial show in the skies over St. Peter.

Minnesota Star Watch Class with WCCO Radio’s Mike Lynch
Tuesday, October 23, 7 p.m.
Treaty Site History Center (1851 N. Minn. Ave.)

$8 per person GI-F29 / $16 per family GI-F30

You will get a great handout package with user-friendly star maps and constellation charts, websites, a telescope-buying guide, and more!

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Harkin Happenings

The Harkin Store has been a very busy place. People have found us by going between Fort Ridgley and New Ulm for the 1862 activities. We are happy that they have found us. We have had busy Sundays with our programs being on that day in the afternoons. Our programs bring a variety of interests. Our biggest program so far has been June 3, Dairy Day with 273 and the next was July 1 with the New Ulm Battery with 154.

With the season coming to a close on October 21, we are hoping that you have come to visit us. In October we are open Friday, Saturday and Sundays with the programs on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Our program schedule below, closing out the 2012 year.

Our gift shop is having a 20% off sale, come a shop for the Christmas season. The shop is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in October from 10 to 5 p.m. with programs on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. We are open MEA week on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, until October 21.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7
Sheep-Wool-Quilts

Alexander Harkin came to Minnesota and West Newton to raise sheep on the hills. He did for about 13 years and was noted as having good quality wool. We have a program to honor the wool industry.

Come see the displays of the wool industry and what to use wool for. There will be displays of many quilts, new and old, an old spinning wheels and carders and wool items.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14
1870’s Transportation

The 1870’s Harkin Store was a busy place with different kinds of transportation coming to the store for supplies. The program will be information and a picture display of the different types of transportation.

The program will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Come and see the store and hear about the riverboat town of West Newton.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
Lonesome Ron’s Round-Up

Our last program has become so popular with musicians and people who enjoy their music. 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 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. 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 it’s 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, if not this year hopefully next season.

The store is located nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21 or the bottom road or nine miles east of Fort Ridgley. It is operated by Nicollet County Historical Society, for more information contact the Society at 1-507-934-2160 or the store when open at 1-507-354-8666.
Society Rewards Early Holiday Shoppers!

Merchandise at Harkin Store and the Treaty Site is 20% off for the month of October. There are still lots of quality unique items to stash for the holidays. In fact, the remodeled Treaty Site shop has never offered as much selection. Are you looking for a book on Dakota history? We have some favorites as well as some great recently published ones. Stop by soon.

Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Nicollet County Historical Society’s annual meeting will be Sunday, January 20, 2013 at Gustavus Adolphus’ Jackson Student Union banquet hall. The dinner service will begin at 1 p.m., business meeting at 2 p.m., and program at 2:30 p.m.

Independent historian Curt Dahlin will discuss the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and the roles played by Fort Ridgely and St. Peter. Curtis Dahlin grew up on a farm near Sisseton, South Dakota, on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation. He has spent decades researching the history of the Minnesota River Valley. Curt has recently published several books and will have them available to sign and sell.

Cost for the dinner and this great program is just $15 for members, $20 for non-members, and $5 for those wishing to attend the program only. For details and registration call Ben at 507-934-2160. Reservations with payment are due by January 13, 2013.

Films continued from page 3

Thurs., May 2, 7 p.m.: Brother Towns
58 minutes. Not Rated. Brother Towns is a story of two towns linked by immigration, family, and work: Jacaltenango, a highland Maya town in Guatemala; and Jupiter, a coastal resort town where many Jacaltecos have settled in Florida.

Brother Towns chronicles a story of how and why people migrate across borders, how people make and remake their communities when they travel thousands of miles from home, and how people maintain families despite their travel. Because we are all immigrants, this is a universal human story, and a quintessential American one. All of us understand family.

Thurs., June 6, 7 p.m.: Garbo the Spy
88 minutes. Not Rated. The Allies called him Garbo. The Nazis dubbed him Alaric. Both sides in World War II were sure Juan Pujol Garcia was their man. In reality, Pujol was a double agent—and his final allegiance was to the Allies.

From the relative comfort of Lisbon, Garbo fed false information to the Nazis and fabricated a network of phantom agents across Europe. Although he never fired a single shot, Garbo helped to save thousands of lives, most notably by misinforming the Germans about the timing and location of the Normandy D-Day invasion. In his inexhaustible imagination he even went so far as to secure death benefits from the Nazis for an imaginary agent’s nonexistent widow.

In this documentary thriller, director Edmon Roch artfully interweaves propaganda footage, interviews with intelligence experts and key players in Garbo’s life (as well as with Garbo himself), and clips from Hollywood films to conjure forgotten and living memories, heroes and spies, secrets and lies.
Nicollet County Fair 2012 Recap and 2013 Exhibit Help Needed

The Nicollet County Fair was a success this year. We want to thank everyone who volunteered at our booth, and those who stopped by to chat, or look at the Communities exhibit.

Nicollet County Fair Board member Joni Anderson is working on a special project. The Fair Board received a grant from the USDA and Legacy Foundation for preserving some memories of the Nicollet County Fair.

She is currently collecting photographs and stories from locals who have participated in past fairs. She is specifically asking for stories, memorabilia, and photos about 4-H, food, working at the fair, old buildings, animals, carnival, and exhibits.

If you are interested in contributing to this exhibit, please contact Joni Anderson at joniann@myclearwave.net or the Nicollet County History Center.

Some of these stories will be compiled into an exhibit to be displayed at future fairs. We applaud Joni and the Fair Board for undertaking this project.

Image Collectors Gathering

There seems to be a growing number of people in the area who have a passion for collecting images, be they old photos or old postcards.

The Historical Society would like to invite such people to a gathering of “Image Collectors” for an evening of sharing. We propose to start with images of St. Peter. Future meetings will include the rest of Nicollet County. The evening would start with a slide presentation of some of the choice images from the Society’s collection and then proceed to a sharing of images brought by the public. Means for showing digital images will be available (PowerPoint, CD, DVD, or flash drives). Printed copies may also be shared.

This group would gather primarily to share their common interest in collecting images. However, the opportunity will also be available to expand the Historical Society’s archival collection of images. As was evident in St. Peter’s past, valuable photos can literally be blown away. We would like to prevent that from happening again. Arrangements for loaning, digitizing, or making a permanent loan to the Society will be discussed briefly during the session.

Sat., October 27, 1:30 p.m. Treaty Site History Center.
2012–2013 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. $7 combo-pass to TSHC & Cox House.

Oct. 1–31  **SALE! 20% off in the TSHC Shop during October** Treaty Site History Center

Oct. 7  **Sheep-Wool-Quilts. 1–4 p.m. (see details on page 8)** Harkin Store

Oct. 14  **1870's Transportation. 1–4 p.m. (see details on page 8)** Harkin Store

Oct. 21  **Lonesome Ron's Round-up 1–4 p.m. (see details on page 8)** Harkin Store

Oct. 23  **Minnesota Star Watch Class with Mike Lynch 7 p.m.** Treaty Site History Center

Pre-registration required through St. Peter Community Education (see details on page 7)

Oct. 27  **Image Collector’s Gathering 1:30 p.m. (see details on page 10)** Treaty Site History Center

Nov. 1  **Documentary Film: Priceless 7 p.m., FREE (see synopsis on page 3)** Treaty Site History Center

Dec. 6  **Documentary Film: Let There Be Light 7 p.m., FREE (see synopsis on page 3)** Treaty Site History Center

2013

Jan. 3  **Documentary Film: Happy 7 p.m., FREE (see synopsis on page 3)** Treaty Site History Center

Jan. 20  **Nicollet County Historical Society Annual Meeting** Jackson Campus Center Banquet Rooms

U.S.-Dakota War historian Curt Dahlin will be the speaker.

Mark your calendars, and watch for reservation form in next newsletter.

Feb. 7  **Documentary Film: The Loving Story 7 p.m., FREE** Treaty Site History Center

Mar. 7  **Documentary Film: We Still Live Here 7 p.m., FREE** Treaty Site History Center

Apr. 4  **Documentary Film: Sweet Grass 7 p.m., FREE (see synopsis on page 3)** Treaty Site History Center

May 2  **Documentary Film: Brother Towns 7 p.m., FREE (see synopsis on page 9)** Treaty Site History Center

June 6  **Documentary Film: Garbo the Spy 7 p.m., FREE (see synopsis on page 9)** Treaty Site History Center

Please watch the NCHS website and MHS website for further events and details for additional programming.

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

**Culligan Mayer**

**Community Insurance Agency**

**Dave’s Place**

**First National Bank**

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My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

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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
☐ Patron $ 100
☐ Supporter $ 200
☐ Benefactor $ 500
☐ Life Member $ 1,000

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Nicollet County Historical Society

Membership applications should be mailed to:
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St. Peter, MN 56082