October 30, 5–8 p.m.
Gothic Gathering: 
A Spirited Evening at the Cox House

The Nicollet County Historical Society invites you to join us October 30th from 5–8 p.m. for a spirited evening of Victorian Halloween fun! Guests will gather at the E. St. Julien Cox House to partake in a traditional Victorian Halloween celebration.

Halloween was a fashionable holiday to celebrate in the Victorian era. Magazines printed Halloween recipes, decorating ideas, and games. In the late 1800s Halloween in the United States was about community and neighborly get-togethers in recognition of quaint customs of days gone by. The Halloween holiday was known to most Americans during the time of the Coxes and was an occasion for a party.

In keeping true to that tradition, we are opening the historic 1871 Gothic-styled cottage for a night of tricks and treats. The house will be open to explore and styled to reflect the spirit of the holiday. The evening’s activities include discovering the secrets of your future through tarot card readings, calling upon the spirits of the dearly departed, and other Halloween amusements. Come mingle with friends and neighbors, and enjoy your tricks with treats (and bar) provided by Patrick’s on Third.

Admission to the event is $15 per person. The cost of your admission includes entrance to the evening’s festivities, one drink ticket, and a host of hor d’oeuvres. Must be 21+ to attend. Please bring identification as staff will be carding at the door. We ask that children be left at home for the evening. Costumes are encouraged. Party-goers are urged to purchase their tickets in advance at the Treaty Site History Center or by visiting the Nicollet County Historical Society’s online store at squareup.com/store/nicollet-county-historical-society.

Gothic Gathering: A Spirited Evening at the Cox House is sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society, the Arts Center of Saint Peter, and Patrick’s on Third.

NCHS Annual Meeting Date Announced

Please join us for the Nicollet County Historical Society’s annual meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at the Treaty Site History Center. 2017’s annual meeting will feature an open house of the new exhibit “Fur Trade in Minnesota” which is opening that day! More details and registration information will be in December’s newsletter.

TSHC Hours

NCHS and the Treaty Site History Center will be closed from December 19, 2016 through January 8, 2017.

Reminder: The Treaty Site History Center will be closed Sundays from November 6, 2016 through February 26, 2017.
Members
Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the July 2016 Crossing.

Renewed Supporter Members: Nelson Printing - in kind
Renewed Patron Members: Dave Solheim Roland & Edith Thorstenson
Renewed Individual Members: Scott Hermanson Karen Robison Sara Samuelson Jerod Spilman
Renewed Senior Members: Vickie Johnson Tim Pulis Agnes Stensby Bernadine Thompson
New Family Members: Alex Ek - Complimentary Pow Wow Dave & Marci Greisen - Complimentary Jim & Judy Mans Stephanie Schutt - Complimentary Co. Fair
New Individual Members: Patrick Tanis

Executive Board
Officers:
Joe Urban, President, St. Peter
Scott Hermanson, Vice President, St. Peter
Marie Dranttel, Treasurer, St. Peter
Pam Morson, Secretary, Lafayette

Directors:
Nita Aasen, St. Peter
Tim Bartelt, St. Peter
Tom Brown, St. George
Abbi Carlton, Nicollet
Amanda Frie, St. Peter
JoAnn Gieseke, Nicollet County
Eileen Holz, St. Peter
Maria Lokensgard, Norseland
Bob Schabert, Courtland
Mark Ulman, North Mankato
Alma Forst, Past President, West Newton Twp.

Contact Information:
Executive Director, Alyssa Auten
alyssa@nchsmn.org
Research Coordinator, Bob Sandeen
bob@nchsmn.org
Office Manager, Elaine Deschaine
elaine@nchsmn.org
TSHC Site Manager, Jessica Becker
sitemanager@nchsmn.org
TSHC Archives Assistant, Kris LeClerc
director@nchsmn.org
TSHC Museum Assistants, Jack Buser, Cindy Freeman, Marsha Heinze, Amanda Johnson, Graham Skinner, Loren Sundboon
TSHC Fall Intern, Sydney Branom
TSHC Janitor, Robert Weber

Harkin Store Manager, Ruth Grewe
Harkin Store Site Guides, Rose Alsleben, Donna Dose, Justin Grewe, Robin Grewe, Glenn Stryker
 Ft. Ridgely Manager, Amber Bentler
 Ft. Ridgely Guides, Cory Becker, Opal Dewanz, Annalieise Endorf, Amanda Johnson, Charlotte Nack

Director’s Column
Happy autumn, everyone! I write this to you with many emotions and things to report. First, the Water/Ways exhibit has left us and we’ve been doing a lot of reflecting on the experience of hosting a Smithsonian exhibit. Second, I am getting married on October 21 and can’t believe what an exciting and busy time this is! Finally, it is with a sad heart that I am announcing my resignation from the Nicollet County Historical Society after three terrific years. My husband and I will be moving to Osceola, Wisconsin where he will be starting a new job. We have purchased a house there and will be closer to home and our families. This decision was not easy. It came after many pro/con lists and a lot of discussion. I am very sad to leave Nicollet County but this is the right time and situation for my family. I am filled with gratitude for all the relationships and memories I have from this organization and community. NCHS has been a wonderful “work home” and I will miss it dearly. A big thank you to everyone who played a part in my time here. Thank you to our wonderful staff, board, and volunteers, I could not have done it without you. My last day will be November 22 and I hope to see you before then.

There are many exciting things coming to NCHS. From new exhibits through early 2018 to new programming ideas, this Society is one of the best in the state. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to lead the Nicollet County Historical Society.
Over 80 people joined MSUM-Mankato graduate students along with archaeologists Pat Emerson, Ron Schirmer and David Mather on September 24th at the Traverse des Sioux State Historic Site adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center. Participants helped unearth artifacts disturbed through ground squirrel activity. Every site tested yielded at least one artifact, from nails to 19th-century dinnerware and even a cow hoof. All the objects collected were documented with their GPS locations and will be cataloged by the Minnesota Historical Society. The work was done to assist with ongoing prairie restoration work being done by the Many Rivers Chapter of Prairie Enthusiasts.

“We were so excited to welcome the public to this unique event, said Ben Leonard, Manager of Outreach and Community Partnerships for the Minnesota Historical Society. “We hope those that came had a good time, but they really helped us do important work. We thought this was a one-time event, but were so happy with it maybe we can do it again sometime.”
New and Returning Faces at the Treaty Site

Sydney Branom, Museum Intern
Hi! My name is Sydney Branom, and I'm an intern at the Treaty Site. I'm a history major at Gustavus Adolphus College, and I love to read and spend time with friends.

My job is to reach out to Gustavus students and let them know the benefits they receive from the college’s partnership with NCHSMN. I also do graphic design for marketing campaigns and run the Instagram page!

Kris LeClerc, Archives Assistant
Kristina LeClerc has a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from St. Catherine University in Saint Paul, Minn. She has worked for many years as a Technical Services librarian, specializing in Technical Services/Cataloging, and is excited to share those skills with the NCHS Research Library. Kristina has lived in Saint Peter for ten years and you may remember her as our Office Manager from 2012 to 2014. She is thrilled to return to NCHS and begin working part-time in the library.

History Center Bits…

Give us your two cents!

You’ve no doubt seen or heard about all the changes at NCHS that have taken place in the last year and are coming up for 2017. As part of this process, the Society is reevaluating how we use our time and resources to better serve our members and local communities. As friends of the Society we’d like to invite you offer up your two cents. Coming soon we will be releasing a survey about membership to the Society, programming, exhibits, and our research services. We’re looking for honest and constructive answers to offer insight into how we can better serve everyone who engages with NCHS. Please watch for more information coming soon!

Society’s Wishlist

Here are several items which would be put to good use at the Society. We would take them new or gently used. A cash donation works, too. Just let us know for what the cash is intended.

- Wet/dry vacuum (3 gallon or larger)
- Tablecloths
- Watering cans
- Gardening gloves
- Office supplies
- Gently used patio furniture
- 8’ stepladder, aluminum or fiberglass
- External hard drives and flash drives

Archives Still Seeking County Images

We are still seeking additional photographs from all parts of the county. If you are willing to share your images with us, please contact us or stop at the museum. While we always welcome donated photographs, we are also very happy to be able to borrow them and return them after they have been scanned and saved as digital images. As you can see from the examples below we collect a wide variety of topic-images and welcome almost any image that you wish to share and most importantly, preserve.

Left to right: Lund and Lindquist Grocery and Dry Goods, Lafayette; operators at New Sweden Telephone Exchange used this switchboard circa 1940; Marcato Orchestra, which was led by James Welsh of St. Peter, with the five members were all from the Norseland Band–Julius Annexstad, Bennett Johnson, James Welsh on the sousaphone, saxophone player Raymond Johnson, and Julius Wagner on trombone.

Photo credits: NCHS Photo Archives
The Nicollet County Historical Society Reports Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibition Resounding Success!

We are excited to report that the six-week showing of the Smithsonian Institution’s traveling exhibition Water/Ways was a resounding success. NCHS would like to give our sincere thanks to the dozens of individuals and organizations who helped bring this exhibition to the Treaty Site History Center! During its six-week run in St. Peter, the exhibition welcomed 754 visitors, 585 program attendees, 261 children for field trips, and 44 adults for guided tours. There were 18 programs, 28 partner organizations, 23 donors, and over 30 volunteers involved in preparing for and hosting the exhibit.
The Society will once again partner with St. Peter Community and Family Education to present our eight season of documentary films starting in September. They’re shown every month from September through May. Admission to the film series is free for all! The Treaty Site History Center is located one mile north of downtown Saint Peter at Highways 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic.

Alone in the Wilderness, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
57 min., Not Rated, Free. Alone in the Wilderness tells the story of Dick Proenneke who, in the late 1960s, built his own cabin in the wilderness at the base of the Aleutian Peninsula, in what is now Lake Clark National Park. Using color footage he shot himself, Proenneke traces how he came to this remote area, selected a homestead site and built his log cabin completely by himself. The documentary covers his first year in-country, showing his day-to-day activities and the passing of the seasons as he sought to scratch out a living alone in the wilderness. Following the film, local wilderness skills instructor Mike Hertel will discuss self-reliance and survival skills!

Rendezvous with History: A Grand Portage Story,
Dec. 1, 7 p.m.
25 min., Not Rated, Free. Histories and accounts of the North American fur trade are full of amazing tales of trade with Native American tribes, adventurous exploits of voyageurs, the rise and fall of magnificent fortunes, and grand explorations resulting in the opening of a continent. Much of this history unfolded at Grand Portage. Here is a great story: a story of a time when the Grand Portage Ojibwe were one of the most powerful tribes of the Great Lakes. This film is shown at the Grand Portage National Monument. Following the film, Northwest Company Fur Post Site Manager Patrick Schifferdecker will talk about the Fur Post and the fur trade in Minnesota (and he may even be in costume!).

Volstead Fever: Prohibition in Minnesota,
Jan. 12, 2017, 7 p.m.
27 min., Not Rated, Free. Stories from Prohibition don’t just come from big cities like Chicago and New York. They can be found all over, from Minneapolis/St. Paul to our own backyard in southwest Minn. Volstead Fever: Prohibition in Minnesota features the Congressional author of Prohibition, Representative Andrew Volstead of Granite Falls, the impact Prohibition had on the historic Schell’s Brewery of New Ulm and Ghent, the first town in Minn. to serve alcohol when Prohibition ended. In this documentary about the Prohibition-era of southwest Minn., you’ll get a glimpse at early 20th century history, visiting the home of Andrew Volstead and learning dark secrets about Granite Falls’ supper club, Bootleggers. You’ll also hear from local brewers who are shaping the landscape of locally produced beers and find out how Schell’s was able to survive Prohibition for its 13-year duration. Potential program to be announced.
If you’ve been keeping up with the happenings around the Treaty Site this year, you know there have been many changes to the building and grounds. Nearly all the exhibit areas in the building have been updated or changed, much needed building renovations and upgrades are completed or nearly so, we’ve expanded our online and social media presence, updated our collections database, and much more.

My hope in undertaking all these changes was to offer our visitors a better experience, but also to ensure they want to come back in the future to see what’s new. No one wants to visit a museum that never changes. Why would someone come back to see the same things?

We still have a few changes coming for next year as well. We will be hosting two traveling exhibits from the Minnesota Historical Society—Fur Trade in Minnesota and Electrifying Minnesota. We’re also working with local partners to bring in new and exciting smaller exhibits and programs as well, so stay tuned.

As always, I invite all of you to visit us at the Treaty Site History Center to see the exhibits or join us for a program.

Above: Newly-installed snow retention system on the roof above the north doors of the Treaty Site History Center. Snow retention systems help prevent large blankets of snow from avalanching off the roof onto anything below. These will protect people and our new Rain Garden Learning Site from injury and damage.

Bottom: Newly-expanded Nicollet County Township exhibit in the Schmidt Gallery, which includes new maps, photographs and artifacts.

Artifact & Archival Donations
accepted into our collections since the July 2016 Crossing:

LuMar B. Johnson: Korean War era army uniform: dress jacket, pants, tie, belt, and overcoat from his service 1954–’56 in 1st Inf. Div., as private first class with time spent in Korea.

Joyce Halverson, from estate of Robert and Marjorie Halverson: two Swan Lake Methodist Church ledgers, Brighton Twp.

Janice Gilmsdal: Channels 4 and 11 video tapes of St. Peter tornado; newspaper articles, photos, and publications by the Community Hospital, FEMA, and Allina’s Regional Health Services about tornado; certificate stating that the house at 410 N. 7th St. in St. Peter was safe for occupancy.

Mark Davis: Davis Family History (Davis-Pettis Genealogy) by Alice and Sadie Powrith, Cleveland, Minnesota, Sept. 15, 1971.

Patricia Miller Peterson: 50th (1942) anniversary history of Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Peter by Henry N. Benson.

Ann Gustafson Mallett: ass’t. issues of the St. Peter High School Peter Patter from Nov. 1957–May ’61. [Note: does not include all issues from time period.]


Craig A. Nelson: colorized, framed page from the 1874 Andreas Atlas of Minn. showing various structures in St. Peter.

Marcia Gustafson: color slides of people, events, and places in St. Peter taken by her father, Rev. Herb Gustafson from Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Peter.


Emmalene R. Trotter: documents from the Block family of Nicollet Co., including Charles Block of Lake Prairie Twp.


Bonnie Danielson: photos from the Reinart P. Danielson family of New Sweden Twp., and documents from Swan Lake Lutheran Church.

Ron Wiemimont: photo albums of Saint Peter High School swimmers, swimmers at the outdoor swimming pool along No. 4th St., St. Peter, Wettenegren Dairy trucks, football players, St. Peter business district scenes, circa 1940s to early 1950s. Many photos of Glenn “Jake” Jacobson, St. Peter swimming coach.

Becky Garver: 1927 Nicollet County Atlas.


Becky Briggs, representing Connie Johnson and her daughters, Laurie, Janice, and Kristin: Lafayette resident Donley Johnson’s U.S. Air Force uniform, two jackets (blue), one hat (blue), one dress coat (blue), and one winter overcoat (tan), from Korean War era.

Susan Aune: photo of Masonic Knights Templar of St. Peter. Pictured are Ernest Gustafson and Lorenzo Gault.


Lewis Giesking: Charter of the City of St. Peter (no date) in booklet format.
Treaty Site
History Center
to host
traveling exhibits

The Nicollet County Historical Society is excited to explore the fascinating people and places of Minnesota’s first global business in “Fur Trade in Minnesota,” a new traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center opening Saturday, January 14, 2017.

Hundreds of years ago, Minnesota played a key role in the fur trade, which stretched across five continents. Visitors to the exhibit can lift a 45-pound Voyageur’s pack, learn how the fur trade shaped Ojibwe art and discover how beaver pelts could be transformed into sleek, stately hats that were all the rage among wealthy Europeans.

“Fur Trade in Minnesota” will be on view through March 27, 2017.

“Fur Trade in Minnesota” was created by the Minnesota History Center’s “Exhibits to Go” program which brings Minnesota history to communities statewide.

“Electrifying Minnesota” Exhibit Opens Spring 2017 at Nicollet County Historical Society!

“Electrifying Minnesota,” a new exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society’s Traveling Exhibits Program, will be on display at the Nicollet County Historical Society starting April 8, 2017! “Electrifying Minnesota” illuminates the powerful ways electricity has transformed lives in Minnesota for well over 100 years.

Imagine what it was like, for the first time, to have electricity available at the flick of a switch. Discover what makes the miracle of generating electricity possible. Learn what people thought about electricity in the late-19th and early-20th centuries and how we will generate it in years to come. Period silent films, photography and an interactive electromagnetic generator all reveal the power of electricity and how it shapes our lives as Minnesotans.

“Electrifying Minnesota” will be on view through August 27, 2017.

This exhibit was created by The Baaken Museum in partnership with the Minnesota History Center. It is on temporary loan from the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

The Minnesota Historical Society Traveling Exhibits Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008.
I would like to start off by saying this season at the Fort was full of excitement to say the least. We had quite a bit of traffic as well as media coverage with the closing of the golf course. It is sad to see the end of the 90-year old golf course but it does open up many new and wonderful possibilities at the Fort as well as for the Park. We had big turnouts for many of our programs this year and saw quite a few first-time visitors. I see this as a trend for the years to come with all the possibilities for programming as well as the building partnership with the DNR in the Park. I am already planning for next year, so you can go ahead and mark your calendars for the weekend of June 10th for the Company B Encampment. There are many reenactors interested in this growing event and next year is going to be awesome! So book your campsite now so you do not miss out on anything that weekend. I am looking forward to getting ready for the 2017 season.

This season will officially end October 23rd so if you have not made it out to the Fort there are a few weekends left and the drive along the Minnesota River is beautiful right now!
Do you want to get more involved with the Society? Have you ever considered volunteering with us? We love our volunteers and think you should join in on the fun! We currently have several opportunities available at our sites.

**Opportunities include:**

**Visitor Services:** These volunteers assist at the Treaty Site History Center by staffing the front desk—greeting visitors, answering phone calls, answering basic questions, and assisting visitors with purchases in the Gift Shop. We’d prefer someone who could commit to volunteering on a regular schedule, perhaps one day per week.

**Tour Guides:** Our guides lead tours for adults and children alike at the E. St. Julien Cox House, Traverse des Sioux Historic Site, and the Treaty Site History Center. NCHS gives tours to a wide variety of groups including school field trips, scouting troops, and other groups of all ages.

**Events & Programming:** NCHS strives to provide educational and informative programming for all ages. We are looking for individuals who can help with special events and execute new educational programming and events at all NCHS sites.

**Archives & Collections:** Assist NCHS staff with research, digitizing photographs, encapsulating documents, and more! Curatorial volunteers will help with inventory projects, clean exhibits and artifacts, perform basic data entry.

**Maintenance & Handymen:** Are you handy with a hammer or like working in the garden? NCHS has plenty of opportunities to work inside and outside on various projects. This might include light carpentry work, weeding, snow removal, and general site upkeep at all NCHS sites.

... and many more!

NCHS staff provides training for all volunteers. All positions are unpaid. If you’re interested send an email to museum@nchsmn.org, or give us a call at (507) 934-2160 to discuss your interests.

Winston Churchill said “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give back.”
## 2016/2017 Calendar of Events:

### Event/Program information:

- **Harkin Store and Fort Ridgely**: $6 adults (18–64), $5 seniors (65+), and college students, $4 children (ages 5–17).
  Free for age 4 and under, MNHS and NCHS members.
- **TSHC**: $6 adults (18–64), $5 seniors (65+), $4 children (ages 5–17). Free for age 4 and under, MNHS and NCHS members.

### Event Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely closes for season</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Lonesome Ron’s Roundup, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Harkin closes for season</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Gothic Gathering at the Cox House, 5 p.m. (see description on page 1)</td>
<td>Cox House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Documentary Film Series: <em>Alone in the Wilderness</em>, 7 p.m. (see description on page 6)</td>
<td>TSHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>TSHC closed for Holiday Fare</td>
<td>TSHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Arts Center Holiday Fare, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (see description below)</td>
<td>TSHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Documentary Film Series: <em>Rendezvous with History: A Grand Portage Story</em>, 7 p.m. (see description on page 6)</td>
<td>TSHC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Treaty Site History Center closes for holiday season</td>
<td>TSHC</td>
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### 2017 Events:

- **Jan. 9**  | Treaty Site History Center reopens after holiday season | TSHC          |
- **Jan. 12** | Documentary Film Series: *Volstead Fever: Prohibition in Minnesota*, 7 p.m. (see description on page 6) | TSHC          |
- **Jan. 14** | NCHS Annual Meeting at Treaty Site History Center      | TSHC          |

### Holiday Fare

**SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 2016, 10:00-3:00**

**TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER, St. Peter**

- **JURIED ART, JEWELRY & CRAFTS** for sale by more than 25 regional artists
- **BARLEY’S ANGELS CRAFT BEER TASTING** for a mere $5 donation
- **MORE LEFSE** than ever, for sale hot off the griddle
- **HOLIDAY BAKE SALE** featuring tasty treats by local foodies
- **FREE ADMISSION** to the History Center permanent collection

**ART! BEER! LEFSE!**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ARTS CENTER**

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315 S. Minnesota Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082 | artscentersp.org | 507-931-3630

Hours: T 1-6, W 1-6, Th 1-5, F 1-5, Sa 10-5 & Su 1-5

Like The Arts Center of Saint Peter on Facebook | Follow @ArtsCenterSP on Twitter
Your membership dollars at work…

E. St. Julien Cox House • Historic Fort Ridgely
Harbin Store • Traverse des Sioux
Treaty Site History Center

NCHS Membership Application

Name ______________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________
Phone ( _______ ) _____________________________________________
E-mail _______________________________________________________
My check is enclosed □ Please debit my credit card □

Acct. Number __________________________________________________
CVV Code ___________________ Expiration Date _______________________
3 its on rev–VISA®, MC®, Disc®, 4 its on rev–AE®

Authorized Signature _____________________________________________

□ Please save mailing costs, I will read my newsletter online.

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2016–17 at the following level (please check one).

- Senior (65+) $ 30
- Individual $ 40
- Family $ 50
- Sustaining $ 75
- Patron $ 100
- Supporter $ 200
- Benefactor $ 500
- Life Member $ 1,000

Business Memberships

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