How Does Your Garden Grow?

With silver bells and cockle shells? Or some other floral beauties?

If spring fever has you itching to get your hands dirty, why not get grubby for a cause? Dig up and donate your plants to the E. St. Julien Cox House Annual Heritage Plant Sale. Potted up, hearty old-fashioned perennials sell best, but we don’t look askance at newcomers to the sale. Think phlox, hostas, mums, dahlias, cannas, sedum, iris, columbine, herbs, rhubarb and of course any others.

You may drop off your plant donations anytime on Thursday, May 16, or Friday, May 17, at the Cox House (please plant in containers) for the Saturday sale. If no one is there, leave your plants just inside the Skaro Street garden gate. Be sure they are identified and also leave your name and phone number. If you need containers or assistance with your plants, or if you want to help with pricing and setting up, call the Treaty Site, 507-934-2160.

Please spread the word and bring your friends to make our sale a big success again this year. We will be most grateful.

While We’re on the Subject...

Don’t miss the plant sale itself on Saturday, May 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stop by the Cox House Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. for a preview sale. Whether you’re a novice starting a new garden or a master gardener expanding one, this will be your chance to pick up some bargains. Money raised directly supports the E. St. Julien Cox House and the gardens.

The Annual Heritage Plant Sale is sponsored by the Minnehaha Questers and the Nicollet County Historical Society.
Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS for fourth quarter 2018.

Renewed Business Member:
Benefactor Business:
Patrick’s on Third

Renewed Patron Members:
Brian & Deborah Fors
Janice & Robert Meyer II
Edith & Roland Thorstenson

Renewed Supporter Members:
Joy Lutzi
Marlin Peterson

Renewed Sustaining Members:
Eileen Holz

Renewed Family Members:
William & Marilyn Bessler
Duane & Brenda DeBlieck
Jerry & Shirleen Gulden
Robert & Leona Isenberg
Ray & Liz Jacobson
Dave & JoAnn Johnson
Joe Metzen, Kay Brandt
& Cordelia Metzen
Jim & Dee Dee Michaels
Tuff & Ginney Miller
Cindy & Larry Mohr
David & Doris Nelson
Dennis & JoAnn C. Schmidt
Jerry & Peggy Wolfe

Renewed Individual Members:
Maria Erling
Scott Hermanson
Julie A. Johnson
Maria Lokensgard
RaVae Nygard

Renewed Senior Members:
Eunice Amos
Roger Currier
Richard Holz
Marjorie Johnston
Maurine M. Johnson
Victoria M. Johnson
Ellis Jones
Willis Lindquist
Mary Long
Marshall Peterson
Tim Pulis
Karen A. Robison
Helen Schauer
Agnes Stensby

New Family Members:
Tom & Sue Kretschmer
Joel & Carol Moline

New Individual Member:
Terry Sveine

New Senior Members:
Lynnette Hoffman
Karen Reyelts
Mary Topp

NCHS Board...

Executive Board Officers
Maria Lokensgard, President, Norseland
Eileen Holz, Vice President, St. Peter
Loren Sundboom, Treasurer, St. Peter
Gabriela Roemhildt, Secretary, St. Peter

Directors
Tim Bartelt, St. Peter
Tom Brown, St. George
Tom Hagen, North Mankato
Ruth Klossner, Bernadotte
Matthias Leyer, North Mankato
Kate Martens, St. Peter
Joe Metzen, St. Peter

NCHS Staff...

Executive Director: Jessica Becker
director@nchsmn.org
Research Coordinator: Ruth Einstein
researchcoordinator@nchsmn.org
Office Manager: Elaine Deschaine
elaine@nchsmn.org
TSHC Museum Assistants:
Amanda Johnson, Erica Smith
TSHC Janitor: Robert Weber
NCHS Webmaster: Scott Lassiter

Harkin Store Manager: Ruth Grewe
harkinstore@mnhs.org
Harkin Store Site Guides: Donna Dose,
Justin Grewe, Robin Grewe, Glenn Stryker

Harkin Store Manager: Ruth Grewe
amber@nchsmn.org

Harkin Store Site Guides: Opal Dewanz,
Annaliese Endorf, Char Nack

NCHS Sites information...

Treaty Site History Center
1851 N. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160; Fax: 507-934-0172
Hours: Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Archives: Tues.–Fri. 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
General info via e-mail: museum@nchsmn.org
or research@nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House
500 N. Washington Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160
For tour and rental info: cox@nchsmn.org
General tours:
May 26, June 30, July 28, & August 25 from 1–4 p.m.
Watch for program info.

Fort Ridgely
72404 County Road 30, Fairfax, MN 55332
Phone: 507-508-2848, ridgely@mnhs.org
Hours:
• May 25–Sept. 1: Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.,
  Sun. 12–4 p.m.
• Closed Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day.

Harkin Store
P.O. Box 112, New Ulm, MN 56073
Eight miles West of New Ulm on Co. Hwy. 21
Phone: 507-354-8666, harkinstore@mnhs.org
Hours:
• May 3–Sept. 1: Fri.–Sun 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
• Sept. 7–Oct. 20: Sat. & Sun. 12–4 p.m.
• Open Memorial Day and Labor Day, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Closed July 4.

Director’s Column

APRIL SHOWERS BRING... DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The endless winter and historic snowfall have caused spring flooding to be on our minds recently. If I could, I would snap my fingers and make all three go away right now. Unfortunately, I don’t have the power to do that.

This isn’t the first time Nicollet County, or even St. Peter, has prepared for such a disaster. Some forecasters are saying that flooding this year has the potential to be on par with the historic flood of 1965.

April 1965 saw record flooding of the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers. A perfect storm of events leading to the historic spring floods. A bitterly cold March prevented the 60-inch deep snowpack from melting slowly and heavy April rains fueled rapid snowmelt over the still frozen land.

The City of St. Peter, residents, and volunteers battled a two-front flood: melting snow runoff coming down the hill to the city center and the rising Minnesota River itself. As the waters flowed and rose, volunteers hurried to build a levee along Sunrise Drive. Eventually, engineers were forced to open a section to divert the rushing waters down Madison Street, a path that

FLOODING continued on page 3
would cause the least amount of damage. At the same time, the river swelled on the city’s east side, making St. Peter a virtual island.

In the end, the Minnesota River crested at 29.07 feet at midnight on April 10, 1965, three feet higher than during the devastating flood of 1951.

There was a lot to be learned from this disaster and leaders used their knowledge and experience to better prepare their communities for major floods. I’m grateful to say our organization has done the same.

As you know, we operate out of the Treaty Site History Center where we safeguard thousands of artifacts, most irreplaceable. Over the years we’ve seen the flood waters get close to the Treaty Site History Center but rest assured, we are doing everything in our power to protect the site and its contents. How? Back in 2010, the staff and Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive disaster response plan for us to follow during times like these.

We can also rely on other local historical organizations to help. The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums has a great Mutual Assistance program wherein participating organizations pledge to assist each other in times of need. Most MALHM members are smaller organizations like us, and extra skilled hands during emergencies can make a big difference.

And then there’s you: our members, volunteers, and community supporters who realize the value of ensuring we’re safe and dry. Your experience is invaluable during times of crisis. In the past, you’ve sandbagged or brought snacks to those who are, and you’ve even come at a moment’s notice to help safeguard archived and office materials. We are forever grateful to you.

This is a reminder that not all the Society does is seen in our exhibits and programs. Preserving our history means more than just telling stories. We have to make sure we protect our collections and resources against whatever Mother Nature sends our way.

Jessica Becker, Executive Director
Welcome aboard!

The Society gained three new board members after the January Annual Meeting. We are lucky and honored Matthias, Kate, and Joe agreed to serve.

Matthias Leyrer, North Mankato
Matthias Leyrer is a native of New Ulm, Minn. and currently resides in North Mankato. He has written for several publications advocating for better Urban Planning, use of resources and historic preservation. He has run for city council on a similar platform in the past and still remains active in local issues that surround such issues. Matthias is a 2011 graduate of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn. He’s excited to be a part of historic preservation in Nicollet County and is looking forward to making a difference in the area.

Kate Martens, St. Peter
Growing up in Montana and South Dakota, Kate was raised with an enthusiasm for history and learning from the past. Family trips included ghost towns, monuments, battlefields, and buffalo jumps. This all fed into her insatiable reading of anything history. Of particular interest was reading about multiple perspectives of the same times, nurturing deep respect for the diverse peoples involved.

In college, she focused on European history as a double major in French and German. There’s nothing like reading about cultures in the language of the participants! She has traveled in Europe and savored the places she spent time reading about. One of her greatest joys has been the faces of students as they, too, discover the joy of the past and its link to the future.

Kate’s other passion is her family—Bruce and Lisa, James and Jamie, Bob and Melissa and grandsons Liam, Patrick and Evan. Frau (Madam) Martens just retired after a teaching career centered on gifted education, world languages, and diversity initiatives. Working with the Nicollet County Historical Society will be the perfect combination of all her interests.

Joe Metzen, St. Peter
Joe Metzen is a life-long Minnesota native. He was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Northfield. Joe went to college at University of Minnesota-Morris, earning a B.A. in history and German in 1994. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1998.

Joe has resided in Nicollet County since 2009, first in North Mankato and now in St. Peter. He lives in an older house in St. Peter with his wife, Kay, and his daughter, Cordelia. He currently works for the Nicollet County District Court. Joe remains interested in history, reading books about a variety of historical periods and visiting historical sites when taking a trip. Joe and his family have been members of the Nicollet County Historical Society for several years.

New in the Treaty Site Gift Shop
Marlin Peterson has recently published a book called The Sod Fort and Scandinavian Guards of Norseland, Minnesota in 1862, which details several events of Nicollet County history during the U.S. Dakota War. It is a historical analysis of two events which took place in August 1862 at Norseland, the building of a sod fort and the enlistment of a company of 100 militia soldiers for the defense of the community and St. Peter. The events are analyzed in relation to similar events which occurred throughout the region during the same time period. The book is available for $8 at the Treaty Site Gift Shop.
We’re in this together!

Earlier this winter I was contacted by Sandy Robbins, a researcher for the Chippewa Historical Society in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (affectionately called “the Soo”). The building that is home to the Society was built between 1889 and 1890, and was designed by Clarence John Johnson, an architect and St. Peter native. Recent renovations to the rusticated stoneework structure spurred Sandy’s quest for photographs and information about Clarence and his family so that a commemorative display could be mounted.

I’m still a neophyte when it comes to Nicollet County history, but when Sandy called and said she was researching a son of Swan Johnson, I knew exactly who she was talking about! Last fall we were involved in a substantial genealogical research project for Carol Dearholt, a descendant of Olof (Ole) and Margaret Nelson, who immigrated from Sweden and settled near Swan Lake, and whose daughter, Lizzie, married Swan Johnson.

NCHS Archives volunteer Nita Aasen, whose primary focus is to complete and maintain an obituary database of Nicollet County newspapers, had been able to track down obituaries for the Nelsons, their children, in-laws, and many of their grandchildren. We knew from Lizzie’s obituary that her children included two architects, Clarence and Aaron, as well as Colonel Franklin O. Johnson and Brigadier General Arthur A. Johnson (both West Point graduates and buried at Arlington), as well as three daughters, all of whom died quite young. We had absolutely no idea what happened to Aaron, we had incomplete and inaccurate information about Clarence, and surprisingly, the Johnson gravesites were nowhere to be found.

It took all four of us—Sandy, Carol, Nita, and me—to solve these mysteries. We learned that Clarence moved from the Soo to Helena, Montana, to supervise the construction of Fort Harrison. In 1896, in decaying health due to acute tuberculosis, he returned to St. Peter. He traveled with his mother to more temperate South Carolina, where he died a few weeks later at age 30. Clarence was buried in his family plot at Woodlawn (it turns out there is a family plot at Woodlawn!). Those burials had not been included in the cemetery database, but our records on the family are now accurate, thanks to Nita’s efforts. Nita has also posted the family’s biographies and portraits on findagrave.com, a superb—and free—online resource.

Tracing Aaron’s journey was more complicated. An architect trained at the University of Minnesota, he went to Helena to relieve Clarence as his health failed. His work as a civil engineer for the Army took him to posts all over the country and to the Philippines. He was even a prospector in Alaska for several years around the turn of the century and returned there in his later years. His obituary, found by Sandy, relates that Aaron died in Sitka in 1944 and is buried there.

We have been helped so much in uncovering the history of our Nicollet County families by genealogists such as Sandy and Carol; by folks like Jane and Barry Gappa, who helped Jim Sather obtain a photo of his newly discovered biological father by going to Lafayette High School and taking a picture of his father’s portrait found on the wall of graduates; and even by the Historic American Engineering Record, part of the National Park Service, which recently completed a comprehensive documentation project on the Broadway Bridge.

Go Team History!

Clarence John Johnson
Monetary Donations
received by NCHS for fourth quarter 2018.

Monetary
Eileen Holz
Catherine Martens
Cindy & Larry Mohr
Lindsay Prunty
Gregory Prunty
Gabriela Roemhildt
Marie Renneke
($500 golden ticket winner
Give To The Max Day)
Loren & Roxane Sundboom

Memorials
received by NCHS for fourth quarter 2018.

In Memory of
Margaret Annexstad
Given by
William & Marilyn Robertz
In Memory of
Audrey Hanson
Given by
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
Judith Scholl
Richard & Janet Wettergren
In Memory of
Clair McRostie
Given by
Leanne Jacobson
In Memory of
Patricia Burg Stark
Given by
Eileen Holz
Richard Holz

End of Year Donations
Carl & Bev Aanonsen
Milred Anderson
Eric Annexstad
Peg Bindner
Mel Craig
Marie Dranttel
Fred Hanson
Scott Hermanson
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz
Emille Lokensgard
Maria Lokensgard
Beatrice Martinson
Warren Michels
honoring Stan Davis
Bob & Kay Moline
Bill & Durene Pedersen
Carol M. Peterson
Herb & Louise Porcin
Marillyn & William Robertz
Harold & Louise Rodning
Beth Russell
Emily Stark
Roland & Ed Thorstenson
Jerry Weldy
Linda & Dave Witte

NCHS anniversary celebration continues with:

Do You Remember?: NCHS at 90

The Nicollet County Historical Society’s newest exhibit opened for a
member preview at our annual meeting on January 27. We’re celebrating a
couple of milestone anniversaries, the 90th anniversary of NCHS and the
25th anniversary of the opening of the Treaty Site History Center, with this
new commemorative exhibit. Do You Remember?: NCHS at 90 details some of the
most significant events of the Society’s history.

The exhibit features a timeline display detailing the major events, people,
and places of the Society’s history and showcases artifacts donated through the
decades, items from past exhibitions, photographs, and more.

Artifacts of note include a walking stick that belonged to Governor Horace
Austin, medals received by Brigadier General William Carey Brown, medical
instruments used by early physician Dr. Asa W. Daniels, and a baseball used
during the St. Peter vs. Le Sueur game that took place during the September 7, 1876, Northfield Bank robbery by the
James Gang.

Admission fees apply to non-members.

Upcoming exhibit:

World War II: Hometown View
May 1–June 30 | Treaty Site History Center

The Nicollet County Historical Society will display their exhibit World
War II: Hometown View to commemorate National Military Appreciation
Month in May and the 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord, also known as D-Day, in June. The exhibit includes a look at the homefront during the
war, military uniforms with personal narratives from those involved in the war and a remembrance quilt sewn during the war. Visit the Treaty Site
History Center to view this special display. Admission fees apply to non-
members. The exhibit runs May 1–June 30, 2019. For more information, call
507-934-2160 or e-mail museum@nchsmn.org.

D-Day! A 75th Anniversary Commemoration of Operation Overlord
Thu., Jun. 6 | 6 p.m. | Saint Peter High School Theater | FREE.

Arn Kind, a historical reenactor, will give a program commemorating the 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord, or
D-Day, at the Saint Peter High School Theater. Watch history come alive with a realistic and colorful portrayal of the
people who participated in these events. A collaboration of the Saint Peter Senior Center, Saint Peter Public Library, Saint Peter
Community and Family Education, Nicollet County Historical Society and American Legion Post 37. This project is made possible
with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the people of Minnesota for Library Legacy activities.

Film Series Continues

Two films remain in our First Thursday film series. NCHS and St. Peter Community and Family Education are excited
to bring you some great documentary films. Everyone is welcome to attend these totally free films. Films are shown at the
Treaty Site History Center and begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:40 p.m.

Seth Eastman: Painting the Dakota
Thu., Apr. 4, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center, FREE.

Before and after the film, view the NCHS collection of Seth Eastman prints.
This is a story of art crossing the boundaries of culture and time. Learn about artist and military officer Seth
Eastman’s life and the traditions of the Dakota he depicted, through Eastman’s artwork, essays, and interviews with
Dakota elders. Eastman was a soldier who spent many years in the American west, particularly working as an artist
to document Native Americas for the U.S. government and for private purposes. In the 1840s, he was the
commander at Fort Snelling and was accompanied by his wife, Mary Henderson Eastman. Eastman and Mary were
very sympathetic to the Indians and they took great pains to learn their language and customs, making his images
some of the most accurate and interesting of the nineteenth century. Not Rated, Runtime 60 min.

The Great Math Mystery
Thu., May 2, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center, FREE.

NOVA leads viewers on a mathematical mystery tour—a provocative exploration of math’s astonishing power
across the centuries. We discover math’s signature in the swirl of a nautilus shell, the whirlpool of a galaxy and the
spiral in the center of a sunflower. Math is essential to everything from the first wireless radio transmissions to the
prediction and discovery of the Higgs boson and the successful landing of rovers on Mars. But where does math get its
power? Astrophysicist and writer Mario Livio, along with a colorful cast of mathematicians, physicists, and
engineers, follows math from Pythagoras to Einstein and beyond, all leading to the ultimate riddle: Is math an
invention or a discovery? Humankind’s clever trick or the language of the universe? Rated PG, Runtime 54 min.

A Letter Writing Social
Sat., April 6, 1–3 p.m., Treaty Site History Center, FREE.

In this time of instantaneous communication, handwritten correspondence is a rare and wondrous item. Keep the art
of letter writing alive. Prepare your pen and paper and join in and write a good old fashioned letter or card.
At this come-and-go, family-friendly event, connect with an old friend, write a thank you, or scribble a note to a loved
one. We encourage you to bring samples of family letters especially if they might be of historical interest, fountain or dip
pens, other writing utensils, letterhead, stamps, your address book, etc. Refreshments provided.

Walk-ins are welcome but we encourage you to sign-up so we can prepare the materials.
North Mankato History Revealed
Thu., April 11, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center, $3/non-member and FREE/NCHS member.

North Mankato has no location to feature its history. The result is that most residents know very little about the history that surrounds them. (for example, we have two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places!) This presentation will include a lively description of 45 images of the North Mankato that we pass by every day, but that hardly anyone sees.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Tom Hagen taught history and English in Southern Minnesota public schools for thirty years. After retirement, he began to teach at Minnesota State University in the humanities department specializing in Asian Studies and has worked as an adjunct faculty member there for the last 14 years. Tom has also been active in preservation work, restoring and rebuilding four properties, and he received a Stewardship Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota for his work.

Monetary Donations
received by NCHS for first quarter 2019.
Monetary
Anonymous
Carol Dearholt
Carolyn M. Dobler
E. Lorraine Gatchell
Lorraine Olson
Herb & Louise Poncin
Douglas & Judy Schultz
Linda Swenson
Betty Thompson

Memorials
received by NCHS for fourth quarter 2019.
In Memory of
Verda Beatty
Given by
Lorraine Olson
In Memory of
Bonita Covell
Given by
Eileen Holz
William & Marilyn Roberts
In Memory of
Gertrude Wright
Given by
Ed & Bev Wetherill

THANK YOU TO:
Annual Meeting Skit Volunteers:
LAURA C. LAUMANN - Val Youngblom
C. PARKS LAMPMAN - Craig Allen Nelson
THOMAS J. McDERMOTT - Tom Hagen
GEN. WILLIAM C. BROWN - Dave Solheim
JUDGE HENRY N. BENSON - Robert Meyer
JUDGE WILLIAM GRESHAM - Don Gustafson
JUDGE HENRY MOLL - Herb Poncin
MRS. C. H. CLARK - Beverly Gustafson
ARTHUR EVENSON - Brian Oviatt
MRS. WEBBZHAR - Bette Johnson
AUGUST SAMUELSON - Tom Brown
REP. OSCAR A. SWENSON - Howard Swenson
JAMES ROGERS - Scott Hermanson
WILLIAM MALLGREN - Chuck Goettlicher
SENATOR C. N. COSGROVE - Dean M. Pettis
CLOSING COMMENTS - Jessica Becker
DIRECTOR - Elsa Cornell
ORGANIZER/DESIGNER - Eileen Holz
CENTERPIECES - Dean M. Pettis
PHOTOGRAPHER - Ruth Klossner
Joni Anderson, NFCB
Saint Peter High School

A memorable Annual Meeting!
The NCHS Annual Meeting in January had a special treat in store for attendees. In celebration of the Society’s 90th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Treaty Site History Center, some very special folks performed a re-enactment of our first meeting at the Nicollet Hotel in 1928. Thank you for a very memorable day!

Here’s what we’ve been up to since the fall newsletter

The NCHS Annual Meeting in January had a special treat in store for attendees. In celebration of the Society’s 90th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Treaty Site History Center, some very special folks performed a re-enactment of our first meeting at the Nicollet Hotel in 1928. Thank you for a very memorable day!

Our cast of characters singing along to one of the skit’s songs. Pictured left to right: Herb Poncin, Craig Nelson, Tom Hagen, Val Youngblom, Dave Solheim, Don Gustafson, and Rob Meyer. …...and the full house audience joins in.

Top left: Elsa Cornell portraying famous author Emily Dickinson in excerpts of William Luce’s play The Belle of Amherst. The event was a fundraiser for the Cox House.

Top right: Christmas at the Cox House was a great success this year. Pictured are Cox House Committee members Richard Tostenson and Roxane Sundboom decorating one of the three trees at the house.

Above: The Treaty Site History Center came close to resembling an igloo with all of the snow this winter.

Bottom left: NCHS hosted several programs during this year’s St. Peter Winterfest celebration, including our annual Night at the Museum where we watched the 2002 classic Ice Age.
Preparing the Fort for Visitors

It has been a long and frigid winter and Fort Ridgely has been hit with plenty of freezing temperatures, wind and snow! I can only imagine what the grounds will look like when the snow finally melts?

Fort Ridgely is the only public Civil War Battlefield in Minnesota and because of this prestigious status, we are excited to be participating in “Park Day” offered through the American Battlefield Trust. Fort Ridgely’s Park Day will be held on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Saturday, May 25th for inclement weather).

There are many things to be done. Grounds clean up, weeding and gardening, washing signs and many other things after the long winter. If you are interested please e-mail me at amber@nchsmn.org or call the Fort at 507-508-2848 and I will get you signed up. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and refreshments will be provided.

This will be our second year participating in this event with the American Battlefield Trust and because of our participation Fort Ridgely is mentioned in their magazine Hallowed Ground. It is a wonderful organization and they do many things for the battlefields all around the United States.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fort throughout the season and love meeting new visitors as well.

Happy Spring!

Enjoying a walk around the parade grounds is part of the learning experience at Fort Ridgely.

Explore the exhibits inside the Commissary to learn more about Minnesota’s only public Civil War battlefield.
Harkin Happenings…

by Ruth Grewe
Site Manager Harkin Store Site

Harkin Store Prepares for Season

On Friday, May 3, the historic Alexander Harkin Store will open its doors for another season. For those of you who are not familiar with the site; the store was built in 1870 in the small riverboat town of West Newton and operated as a general store until 1901. The building, all of its furnishings and about 40 percent of the merchandise is original to the 1870s.

Staff is busy readying the site for the upcoming season. Spring cleaning is a big job but we’re getting excited for opening day and the people we’re going to meet during tours and programs. Soon we’ll be unboxing new merchandise and tidying up to welcome all of you starting May 3.

The store will be open Friday–Sunday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. from May through Labor Day weekend and by appointment. As usual Harkin Store offers a variety of programs and displays on Sunday afternoons. Join us opening weekend for “Egg Coffee and Newtons” on Sunday, May 5th from 1 to 4 p.m.. Something new we’re offering this season is “Arriving in West Newton” on May 19th with a display of items people would have brought along in their trunks.

Come and see us this summer and get a glimpse of what life was like in the 1870s.

We hope that the continued Gateway to New Ulm road construction detour will not deter you from coming to see us. If you have any questions about the Harkin Store call 507-354-8666.

See you this summer!

Reminder: We will again be dealing with the MNDOT highway construction project this season. The Highway 14/15 intersection will be closed for construction through 2019. Please follow the signage or check: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/14newulmtonmankato/ before your visit.
Aft er a long, cold w inter, the E. St. Julien Cox House committee is thinking about spring and making plans for the season. We are heading into spring after a wonderfully successful fall and winter at the Cox House. This spring the committee is spending time working to schedule many of the maintenance projects a house of its age needs. Up first thanks to a generous donation from NCHS Champion Business member Crown Underground, LLC, we’ll start whipping the lawn and gardens into shape as soon as the weather permits.

Our work continues to implement the new site interpretation. New this year will be updated tour scripts and more new and different programs that highlight the history of the house and the era when the family lived there.

The Cox House will be opening for the season on Sunday, May 26. The traditional guided tours will be offered on May 26, June 30, July 28 and August 25 from 1–4 p.m. Various programs throughout the year will also offer special opportunities to view and tour the house.

As always the Cox house is open for groups by appointment. The rates for admission are $6 for adults, $5 for seniors 65+, $4 children ages 5–7, and free for Society members. Call 507-934-2160 or e-mail cox@nchsmn.org for more details.

Volunteers of all ages are once more needed to help with tours at the Cox House. Volunteers are trained on site and have lots of fun. There is no minimum commitment of time so give us a call at the Treaty Site today.

Don’t forget to stop at the Annual Heritage Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18. The sale will be held at the Cox House from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have any plants to donate please drop labeled containers off at the house anytime Thursday or Friday before the sale.

We hope to see you at the house this summer!
2019 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: Treaty Site History Center events are free unless stated otherwise.

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<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Egg Coffee &amp; Newtons Day, 1 p.m. (see description on page 9)</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Mother’s Day with Aprons, 1 p.m. (see description on page 9)</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Annual Heritage Plant Sale, 8:30–1 p.m. (see description on page 1)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Park Day, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (see description on page 8)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Arriving in West Newton (NEW PROGRAM), 1 p.m. (see description on page 9)</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Opening Day at Fort Ridgely, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (see description on page 8)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Live Music with Bob Bovee, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House, 1–4 p.m. (see description on page 10)</td>
<td>Cox House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Film Series: Seth Eastman: Painting the Dakota, 7 p.m., Free (see description on 6)</td>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>A Letter Writing Social, 1–3 p.m., Free (see description on 6)</td>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 11</td>
<td>North Mankato History Revealed with Tom Hagen, 7 p.m., $3 non-members, NCHS member free (see description on 7)</td>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Film Series: The Great Math Mystery, 7 p.m., Free (see description on 6)</td>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Company B Weekend, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (see description on page 8)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Company B Weekend, 12 noon–4 p.m. (see description on page 8)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Father’s Day with Crafts, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Day in the Life of a Prairie Woman, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Children’s Day, 10–3 p.m. (see description on page 8)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Live Music with Carver Creek Bluegrass, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Potions, Powders &amp; Patent Medicine: Women’s Health &amp; Beauty Secrets of the Past with Susan Hynes, 7 p.m., (see description on page 10)</td>
<td>Cox House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Minnesota River Program with Scott Kudelka, 1 p.m. (see description on page 8)</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House, 1–4 p.m. (see description on page 10)</td>
<td>Cox House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Independence Day, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>1870s Fashion Day, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Afternoon of Leisure, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Harkin Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Relentless Business of Treaties with author Martin Case, 7 p.m., $3/non-members</td>
<td>Treaty Site History Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House, 1–4 p.m. (see description on page 10)</td>
<td>Cox House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House, 1–4 p.m. (see description on page 10)</td>
<td>Cox House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please watch the NCHS website, Facebook & Twitter and MNHS website for further events and details for additional programming.
Your membership dollars at work…

NCHS Membership Application

Name _______________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Phone ( _______ ) _____________________________________________
E-mail _______________________________________________________
My check is enclosed □ Please debit my credit card □
Acct. Number _____________________________________________________
CVV Code Exp. Date ---------------------------------------------------
3#s on rev – VISA®; MC®, Disc®; 4#s 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 2019 at the following level (please check one).

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- Individual $40
- Family $50
- Sustaining $75
- Patron $100
- Supporter $200
- Benefactor $500
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Nicollet County Historical Society
Membership applications should be mailed to:
Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

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