

How Does Your Garden Grow?

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



Getting underway at the 2018 Annual Heritage Plant Sale.

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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.



Tent full of donated plants for the 2017 Cox House Plant Sale.

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 Thorstensson

Renewed Supporter Members:

Joy Lutz
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 Michels
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 Johnson
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 Leyrer, 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**

Ft. Ridgely Manager: Amber Bentler

amber@nchsmn.org

Ft. Ridgely Asst. Manager: Cory Becker

Ft. Ridgely 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: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Archives: Tue.-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



Jessica Becker

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



Flood water and dike on Madison Street looking west in St. Peter during the 1965 flood. The front-end loaders in this view to the west are at the intersection of Madison St. and North Washington Avenue.



Aerial photo of the Treaty Site History Center building and grounds during the September 2010 floods. Credit: Bolton & Menk.

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

Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS for first quarter 2019.

Renewed Business Member:

Advocate Business:

First National Bank Minnesota

Renewed Patron Members:

Nita & Paul Aasen

Don & Beverly Gustafson

Lori Ann Lahlum

Renewed Supporter Members:

Jerry Weldy

Renewed Sustaining Members:

Milton & Elaine Brostrom

Renewed Family Members:

John & Julianne Allerson

Dr. Bruce & Debra Beatty

Claude & Sandra Brew

Arden & Marilyn Deboer

Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson

Lisa Isenberg &

Philip Friedlund

Janet & Byron Nordstrom

Douglas & Judy Schultz

Jonathan & Karen Smithers

Marty & Carol Sterner

Howard & Jane Swenson

Renewed

Individual Members:

Joni Anderson

Michael Frederick

Renewed Senior Members:

Margaret (Peg) Bindner

Thomas Brown

Herbert Brunner

Melanie Covell

Carol M. Forbes

Daniel Groebner

JoAnn Gieseke

Donna Marie Kowal

James Muyres

Arnold Nimps

Judy Teigen

Bonnie Tostenson-Sellner

Brick Purchase:

JoAnn Gieseke

New Individual Member:

Matthias Leyrer

New Family Members:

David Bendy

Complimentary MVL 2019

winner at Booster Club

Auction

Now you can
purchase or renew
memberships
online!

Visit

nchsmn.org/membership
for details.

History Center Bits...

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,
NCHS Board Director



Kate Martens,
NCHS Board Director



Joe Metzen,
NCHS Board Director

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.

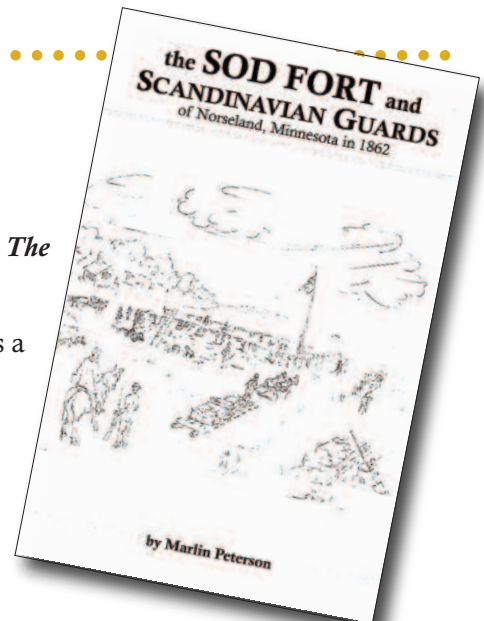
Kate's other passion is her family—Bruce and Lisa, James and Jamie, Bob and Melissa and grandsons Liam, Patrick and Evan. Frau (Madam) Martens just retired after a teaching career centered on gifted education, world languages, and diversity initiatives. Working with the Nicollet County Historical Society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



Tune In!

Turn your dials to
KNUJ Radio for
Community Affairs
every fourth Tuesday
at 9:15 a.m.
to hear about what's
happening at NCHS!

From the Archives...

by **Ruth Einstein**
Research Coordinator



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 stonework 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 descendent of Olof (Ole) and Margaret Nelson, who immigrated from Sweden and settled near Swan Lake, and whose daughter, Lizzie, married Swan Johnson.



Clarence John 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!

Artifact & Archival Donations

First Quarter 2019 Donations:

- Bob Douglas:** Photographs of schoolhouses in rural Nicollet County.
- Anne L. Davis:** Reproduction of photo of Cliff Mollert Band, St. Peter, c.1947; copy of a publicity poster for band.
- John Glynn:** Batboy uniform, St. Peter men's baseball team worn by John "Tom" Glynn, c.1961.
- Joan Goettman:** Scrapbook/photo album documenting designing and creating the Centennial Quilt for North Mankato, 1998.
- Jane Haala:** Commemorative plate, Brighton Methodist Church.
- Tom Hagen:** 1850s spinning wheel, a large cotton wheel, floor-standing yarn winder.
- Sara Hanson:** Two photos of Cox House, 1968.
- Bonnie Holz:** Buttons relating to Gustavus, St. Peter High School, 4-H, Homecoming, and miscellaneous events.
- Andy Hopp:** Booklets from Craft-o-Rama; issues of Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School *The Charger*; two local bank coin purses.
- John Hurd:** Items from Sweet Earth Food Co-op.
- LeAnn Metzger:** Memorabilia from the Miss St. Peter competition, 1969.
- Brian Oviatt:** Items from Marigold Dairy, North Mankato; ribbon, inscribed National Army, St. Peter, Minn., Feb. 18, 1917.
- Marlin Peterson:** Memorabilia from First Lutheran Church of St. Peter and Scandian Grove Lutheran Church; aerial photo—1965 St. Peter flood; St. Peter Hatchery promotional item; photographs: Peterson family, New Sweden, c.1904; Scandian Grove Lutheran Church parsonage, undated; ribbon inscribed "Secretary of the Scandian Grove Choir"; book: *The Sod Fort and Scandinavian Guards of Norse-land, Minnesota in 1862*, by Marlin Peterson.
- James Robinson:** Encampment medallions.
- Cliff Stemper:** Items from Mankato's 1965 flood; WW2 ration books, grocery notebooks; newspaper clippings about *North Mankato Review*.
- Roxane Sundboom:** Norseland Lutheran Church directories, 1993; Nicollet Elementary School, K-2 class and staff photos, 1974; commemorative plate from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nicollet.
- Judy Teigen:** Norseland Lutheran Christian Day School Reunion program, 2001.
- Bonnie Tostenson-Sellner:** Two photographs relating to the District 32 school.
- Gustavus Adolphus College:** Transom



Chippewa Historical Society building, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, designed by Nicollet County native, Clarence John Johnson.

Credit: www.facebook.com/CCHSMI/ used with permission

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
Mildred Anderson
Eric Annexstad
Peg Bindner
Mel Craig
Marie Dranttel
Fred Hanson
Scott Hermanson
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz
Emilie Lokensgard
Maria Lokensgard
Beatrice Martinson
Warren Michels
honoring Stan Davis
Bob & Kay Moline
Bill & Durene Pedersen
Carol M. Peterson
Herb & Louise Poncin
Marilyn & William Robertz
Harold & Louise Rodning
Beth Russell
Emily Stark
Roland & Edith Thorstensson
Jerry Weldy
Linda & Dave Witte

Historical Society Exhibits, Programs & Events...

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.

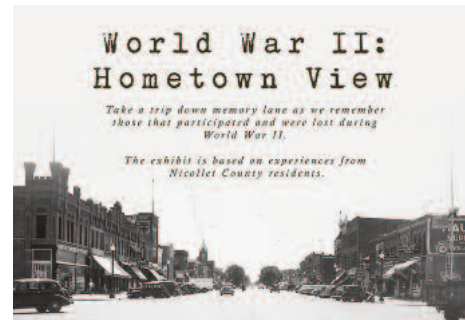


Upcoming exhibit:

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 hometown 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 was 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.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS continued on page 7



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.

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

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!



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*.

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 Robertz

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. WEIBEZAHN - 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, NCFB
Saint Peter High School



Fort Ridgely Events

Programs are included with site admission of \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and college students, \$4 ages 5–17, free age 4 and under and MNHS members. State Park vehicle permit required.

Park Day

May 18 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

History buffs, community leaders, and preservationists will help with grounds clean up, weeding and gardening, washing signs and many other things as part of Park Day, the American Battlefield Trust's annual hands-on preservation event.

Opening Day

May 25 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Visit the exhibits inside the restored commissary, explore the parade grounds and wander through the ruins of this once-thriving outpost. Learn about the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, a major event in Minnesota's early history. Refreshments will be provided or pack a picnic to enjoy on the parade grounds.

Company B Weekend

June 7 & 8 | 10–4 p.m.

and
June 9 | 12 noon–4 p.m.
Fort Ridgely will be hosting a Company B Drill Weekend. Civil War reenactors from Company B and many other reenactment groups will be at the Fort to run musket drills, talk to visitors, and give a sense of what life was like at the Fort during the Civil War. There will be a genuine Sutler selling his wares and canons ready to fire. You'll have to stop by to see what else might show up. It's a great weekend to reserve a campsite so you don't miss a single shot!

Children's Day

June 22 | 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Old fashioned games and crafts! Come on out and enjoy baseball, stilts, hoops, and sticks as well as some crafts the kids can keep their hands busy with all afternoon.

Minnesota River Program with Scott Kudelka

June 29 | 1 p.m.

Minnesota River Story description: Flowing across the southern part of the state, the Minnesota River has its own unique story beginning with the glaciers and continuing to the present day. The Dakota called it Mnisota or clear blue water or clouded blue water. This program will look at both the natural and historical significance including the role of geology, rich cultural and how the valley has seen a dramatic change since Euro-Americans.

Ridgely Report...

by **Amber Bentler**
Site Manager Fort Ridgely Historic Site



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



Harkin Store Site Manager Ruth Grewe sharing the history of the Store with visitors.

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.



Upcoming Events at Harkin Store

All programs take place on Sundays at 1 p.m. Programs are included with site admission of \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and college students, \$4 ages 5-17, free age 4 and under and MNHS members.

May 5	Egg Coffee & Newtons Day
May 12	Mother's Day with Aprons
May 19	Arriving in West Newton
May 26	Live Music with Bob Bovee
June 2	Dairy Day
June 9	Father's Day with Crafts
June 16	Day in the Life of a Prairie Woman
June 23	Live Music with Carver Creek Bluegrass
June 30	Independence Day
July 7	1870s Fashion Day
July 14	Afternoon of Leisure



Don't forget to browse the gift shop to find something special for you or a loved one.

Cox House Corner...

After a long, cold winter, 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!



Restored kitchen of the 1870 Cox House with the Stewart stove in the center.



Summer guided tour dates:

May 26, June 30, July 28
and August 25 |
all from 1–4 p.m.

Annual Heritage Plant Sale

May 18 | 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

See cover story for more details.

Potions, Powders &

Patent Medicine:

Women's Health & Beauty Secrets from the Past

June 27 | 7 p.m. |

Free/NCHS members
and \$3/non-members

Crushed beetles, arsenic wafers, and Lydia Pinkham's Compound were among the somewhat questionable substances used by women in the past. Some were beneficial and have stood the test of time, some useless, and some even deadly. Susan Hynes, a costumed living history interpreter, will give a colorful presentation on women's health and beauty practices from bygone eras.



Historic interpreter Susan Hynes presenting her program *Potions, Powders & Patent Medicine: Women's Health & Beauty Secrets from the Past* happening at the Cox House June 27.

THANK YOU!

Crown Underground, LLC
for sponsoring yard
upkeep at the Cox House
for 2019!

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.

continuing	Do You Remember?: NCHS at 90 <i>A commemorative exhibit on display now.</i>	Treaty Site History Center
opening May 1	World War II: Hometown View An exhibit to commemorate National Military Appreciation Month in May and the 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord, also known as D-Day, in June.	
continuing though June 30	<i>Admission fees apply to non-members. (see description on 6)</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 5:	Egg Coffee & Newtons Day , 1 p.m. <i>(see description on page 9)</i>	Harkin Store
May 12:	Mother's Day with Aprons , 1 p.m. <i>(see description on page 9)</i>	Harkin Store
May 18:	Annual Heritage Plant Sale , 8:30–1 p.m. <i>(see description on page 1)</i>	Cox House
May 18:	Park Day , 10 a.m.–2 p.m. <i>(see description on page 8)</i>	Fort Ridgely
May 19:	Arriving in West Newton (NEW PROGRAM) , 1 p.m. <i>(see description on page 9)</i>	Harkin Store
May 25:	Opening Day at Fort Ridgely , 10 a.m.–4 p.m. <i>(see description on page 8)</i>	Fort Ridgely
May 26:	Live Music with Bob Bovee , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
May 26:	Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House , 1–4 p.m., <i>(see description on page 10)</i>	Cox House
Apr. 4:	Film Series: Seth Eastman: Painting the Dakota , 7 p.m., Free <i>(see description on 6)</i>	Treaty Site History Center
Apr. 6:	A Letter Writing Social 1–3 p.m., Free <i>(see description on 6)</i>	Treaty Site History Center
Apr. 11:	North Mankato History Revealed with Tom Hagen , 7 p.m., \$3 non-members, NCHS member free <i>(see description on 7)</i>	Treaty Site History Center
May 2:	Film Series: The Great Math Mystery , 7 p.m., Free <i>(see description on 6)</i>	Treaty Site History Center
June 7 & 8:	Company B Weekend , 10 a.m.–4 p.m. <i>(see description on page 8)</i>	Fort Ridgely
June 9:	Company B Weekend , 12 noon–4 p.m. <i>(see description on page 8)</i>	Fort Ridgely
June 9:	Dairy Day , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 9:	Father's Day with Crafts , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 16:	Day in the Life of a Prairie Woman , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 22:	Children's Day , 10–3 p.m. <i>(see description on page 8)</i>	Fort Ridgely
June 23:	Live Music with Carver Creek Bluegrass , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 27:	Potions, Powders & Patent Medicine: Women's Health & Beauty Secrets of the Past with Susan Hynes , 7 p.m., <i>(see description on page 10)</i>	Cox House
June 29:	Minnesota River Program with Scott Kudelka , 1 p.m. <i>(see description on page 8)</i>	Fort Ridgely
June 30:	Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House , 1–4 p.m., <i>(see description on page 10)</i>	Cox House
June 30:	Independence Day , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 7:	1870s Fashion Day , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 14:	Afternoon of Leisure , 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 25:	Relentless Business of Treaties with author Martin Case , 7 p.m., \$3/non-members	Treaty Site History Center
July 28:	Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House , 1–4 p.m., <i>(see description on page 10)</i>	Cox House
Aug. 25:	Guided tours of the E. St. Julien Cox House , 1–4 p.m., <i>(see description on page 10)</i>	Cox House

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



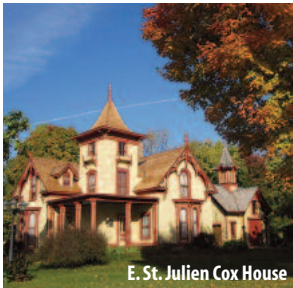


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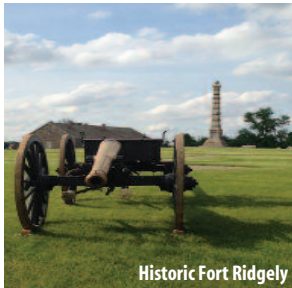
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E. St. Julien Cox House



Historic Fort Ridgely



Alexander Harkin Store



Traverse des Sioux Townsite



Treaty Site History Center

- NCHS Membership Application -

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My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

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3 #s on rev-VISA®, MC®, Disc®, 4 #s on rev-AE®

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