

Announcing Two New Exhibits at the Treaty Site

BENT BUT NOT BROKEN: Our Story in Pictures

A new exhibit is on display now at the Treaty Site History Center titled **"Bent but Not Broken: Our Story in Pictures."** The display is a community-curated photo exhibition that depicts the devastation and recovery after the March 29, 1998, tornado. The exhibit includes many pictures, newspaper stories, and artifacts such as green safe occupancy signs that went on houses, a clock from the Nicollet County Courthouse that stopped when the power went out, and more. The exhibit will be on display through December 15, 2018.

At the left please see the list of those we thank who loaned or donated tornado photos and stories for "Twist



A portion of the photographs, clippings, and items documenting St. Peter's 1998 tornado.

of Fate" and **"Bent but Not Broken: Our Story in Pictures."** And many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and talents to making our newest exhibit a great success. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Bent but not Broken Donors:

John Chevalier	Trudi Olmanson
Michael Cimino	Lori Olson
Donna George	Brian Oviatt
Jan Glimsdahl	Lori Pherson
Joyce Halverson	Lindsay Prunty
Eileen Holz	Chelsea Roberts
Brad Johnson	Marilyn Robertz
Robert Johnson	Bob Sandeen
Ruth Klossner	Jon Smithers
Barb Luker	Terri Stratton-Hicky
Kate Martens	Loren & Roxane Sundboom
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Environmental Health
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Gustavus Adolphus College
Mankato Free Press
Minneapolis Star Tribune
Minnesota State Patrol
Nicollet County
Emergency Management
Nicollet County Sheriff
St. Peter Herald
St. Paul Pioneer Press
St. Peter Regional Treatment Center

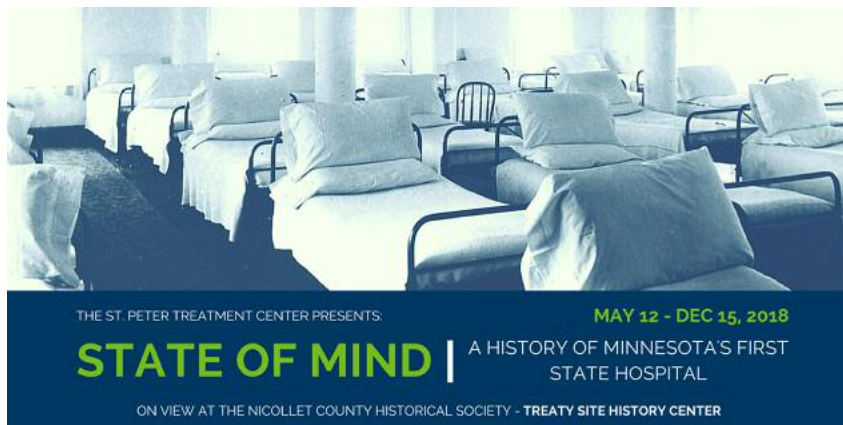
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STATE OF MIND: A History of Minnesota's First State Hospital

A new exhibit from the St. Peter State Hospital Museum, **"State of Mind | A History of Minnesota's First State Hospital,"** will be on display at the Nicollet County Historical Society - Treaty Site History Center from May 12 through Dec. 15, 2018.

The exhibit, created in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, features relics and photos from key periods in the hospital's history, as well as storyboards, video, and more. Selected from the hospital's own extensive collection, the artifacts help tell the stories of patients, staff, and how the treatment of mental illness has evolved in the 150 years since the facility was established.



Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the Annual Meeting..

Business Members:

Renewed Champion:

Gustavus Adolphus College

Renewed Advocate:

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Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Beatty
Arden & Marilyn Deboer
Dwight & Geni Deboer
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
Dave & Joanne Johnson
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Janet & Byron Nordstrom
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New Patron Members:

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New Family Members:

Marian Determan
Daniel Groebner
Benjamin & Leah Matzke
won at Trinity Lutheran
Church silent auction
Malcolm & Phyllis Maxwell

New Senior Members:

Patrick Bowen
Melanie Covell
Linda Vogel

Now you can
purchase or renew
memberships
online!
Visit
nchsmn.org/membership
for details.

NCHS Board & Staff...

Executive Board Officers:

Maria Lokensgard, President, Norseland

Eileen Holz, Vice President, St. Peter

Nita Aasen, Secretary, St. Peter

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Tom Brown, St. George

Amanda Frie, St. Peter

JoAnn Gieseke, Brighton Township

Tom Hagen, North Mankato

Ruth Klossner, Bernadotte

Gabriela Roemhildt, St. Peter

Loren Sundboom, St. Peter

Contact Information:

Executive Director: Jessica Becker

director@nchsmn.org

Archives: researchcoordinator@nchsmn.org

Office Manager: Elaine Deschaine

elaine@nchsmn.org

TSHC Museum Assistants: Graham Skinner and Erica Smith

TSHC Janitor: Robert Weber

NCHS Webmaster: Scott Lassiter

Harkin Store Manager: Ruth Grewe

harkinstore@nchsmn.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.

• 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

Hours: Sundays, 12–4 p.m., May 27–Sept. 2

• For tour and rental info: cox@nchsmn.org

Fort Ridgely

72404 County Road 30, Fairfax MN 55332

Phone: 507-508-2848, ridgely@mnhs.org

Hours:

• May 26–Sept. 2, 2018:

Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sun. 12–4 p.m.

• Closed Memorial Day, July 4, & Labor Day

Harkin Store

P.O. Box 112, New Ulm MN 56073

Eight miles NW of New Ulm on Co. Hwy. 21

Phone: 507-354-8666, harkinstore@mnhs.org

Hours:

• May 4–Sept. 3: Fri.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

• Sept. 8–Oct. 21: Sat.–Sun. 12–4 p.m.

• Open Memorial Day & Labor Day: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

• Closed July 4

Director's Column



Jessica Becker

Apologies for the tardy arrival of your spring newsletter but we have been waiting for some important information we wanted to pass along to you as we head into the summer travel season.

As you're probably aware, roadwork continues on highway 169 this summer. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is working on the 10 miles of roadway between St. Peter and Le Sueur between now and October to make travel safer and more enjoyable for travelers along that corridor. Unfortunately, that means getting to and from the Treaty Site and Traverse des Sioux townsite will be a little different than usual.

Thanks to a meeting with MnDOT officials we now have a better idea of when and how road construction will affect travelers to and from the Treaty Site and Traverse des Sioux this summer. I'm happy to say the situation is not a grim as we first expected so that's great news! Staff and visitors will still have full access to the site all summer but during mid-June, to mid-July, it might get a little complicated exiting the site due to traffic flow. Nothing we can't handle because we've seen all of this before. Staff at MnDOT is providing us with a handy map for our visitors to explain how the detour will work.

Unfortunately, the map was still not ready at the time we decided to go to print but we hope to have it soon. If you'd like a copy mailed to you please call the Treaty Site. It will also be available on our website and social media pages. Visit nchsmn.org or facebook.com/NCHSMN for those digital copies.

I hope this doesn't discourage you from visiting us this summer. We have two new and truly wonderful exhibits on display through the end of the year.

Jessica Becker, Executive Director

History Center Bits...

New Faces:

Meet Your New Board Members

The Society gained two new board members after the January Annual Meeting. We are lucky and honored Gabriela and Loren agreed to serve.



Gabriela Roemhildt,
NCHS Board Director

Gabriela Roemhildt
Board Director
Gabriela is a transplant to St. Peter from Southern California. As a former Navy wife, she has lived all over the world with her husband, Mark, and daughters, Raina

and Rebekah. She has an undergraduate degree in Cultural and Historic Preservation from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, a Master of Arts in Humanities from Cal State, Dominguez Hills and a Master of Library Science from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She currently works for the City of Saint Peter in the Recreation and Leisure Department as the Senior Center coordinator. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the church council at First Lutheran and both the American and Minnesota Library Associations. She stresses the importance of lifelong learning and always having a book to read.



Loren Sundboom,
NCHS Board Director

Loren Sundboom
Board Director
Loren grew up in North St. Paul and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in pharmacy. He worked his entire life as a pharmacist starting in Albert

Lea. In 1973 Loren moved his family to St. Peter and worked as a pharmacist at "Econo" and in 1998 took a position at the Regional

Treatment Center where he worked until he retired in 2005. Loren is married to Roxane and between them they have five children and one granddaughter.

Loren's interests are in American history with a special interest in western and Minnesota history. In his spare time he and Roxane are trying to visit as many museums as possible. Loren has been an active volunteer at NCHS for approximately nine years. Also, he currently serves as Chairman for the St. Peter Preservation Commissions which he has been active with for the past eight years.

We were sad to lose Marie, Scott, Marcy, Joe, & Mark. We know they are doing well, and likely enjoying their fourth Monday of every month evenings back. We sincerely appreciate their service!

Interns

Jeremy Freeman

Spring Undergraduate Intern, Minnesota State University-Mankato

My internship is learning how to catalog archaeological artifacts during my last semester as an Anthropology undergrad with Dr. Ron Schirmer at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Cataloging basically means recording all the pertinent information about each artifact: its size, weight, the material its made out of, if the artifact is a tool or not, but most importantly how it ties back to the people of a particular area and the ways in which they used that artifact.



Jeremy Freeman,
Spring Intern

Most of the stuff I have cataloged come from the Timberlake site in Nicollet County (Richard Holz's collection), historical pieces from the Traverse des Sioux area and pieces that are dated to the Woodland period. Overall, it's of a lot of stuff to look at and cataloging can be very time consuming, but it has its rewards.

Rachel Vang Summer Graduate Intern, Minnesota State University-Mankato

Cemeteries are an important part of a community's memory, both past and present. Through my internship and service learning hours I will be assisting NCHS in researching the historical background of cemeteries in Nicollet County. My internship and service learning hours with NCHS are in pursuit of my master's in Applied Anthropology and Museum Studies Certificate at Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Rachel Vang,
Summer Intern

Monetary Donations

received by NCHS since the Annual Meeting.

Monetary

Anonymous
Tom Hagen
Fred Hanson Jr.
Arlene Sandeen
Sally Webster

New Faces continued on page 4

History Center Bits...

New Faces continued from page 3



Hallie M. Uhrich,
Service Learning Student



Linda Schwarze,
Archives Volunteer

Hallie M. Uhrich Service Learning Student
I am a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato and I am taking an introduction to museum studies course this semester. As part of this course we are required to complete ten hours of service learning with a museum or historical society. I have previously volunteered with the Blue Earth County Historical Society and I thought it would be beneficial for me to explore other historical societies in the area. I am majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Art History and a certificate in Museum Studies. I am especially interested in the archives and collections volunteer opportunity you have as I one day hope to work in a museum as an archivist or registrar.

Linda Schwarze Archives Volunteer

Goodbye Kris!

Everyone with the Nicollet County Historical Society is sad to say farewell to our Research Coordinator Kristina LeClerc. Kris resigned from NCHS to pursue a great new job opportunity with the school district. She will be greatly missed! Please help us in wishing Kris all the best in her new endeavor!



Kristina LeClerc

Note: The staff and Board of Directors are taking this time to evaluate how to best fill this position. We hope to have news for you soon and ask for your patience. The Research Library is still open Tuesday–Friday during regular hours but we do ask that you call us at 507-934-2160 to ensure a volunteer is available to assist you.

Artifact & Archival Donations

Fourth Quarter 2017 Donations:

Gary Olson: Multiple copies of *Ever the Letters* by Clair B. and Esther Pearl Olson.
Rebecca Otterness: 1998 newspapers regarding the St. Peter Tornado. Papers include the *St. Peter Herald*, *Mankato Free Press*, *Pioneer Press*, *Star Tribune*.

Harry Foster: Large stack of *t. Peter Herald* newspapers.

Ruth Klossner: DVD with images of 2017 Princess Kay-Emily Annexad.

Wendy Nelson: Collection of reference materials that includes *Minnesota History* (11 issues) and other maps, book and a travel atlas.

Robert Lambert: Book, *My Dash* by Robert A. Lambert.

Roxanne Sundboom: 4 old-fashioned school desks.

Barb Olmanson: Collection of papers related to the E. St. Julien Cox House.

First Quarter 2018 Donations:

Edwin Stock: Govenaires T-shirt; Govenaires jacket.

Larry Richie: Book: *Footsteps along the Straight River* by Larry Richie.

Nita Aasen: Book: *Twist of Fate*; Book: *Twist of Fate: one year later*.

Nadine Veith Michels: *Pioneer Press* article about the Jesse James gang and St. Peter; Joy Gould's Circus pendants (2).

Karen Zins: 1998 tornado-related newspaper articles insert and e-mail correspondence.

Brown-Nicollet Environmental Health:

Photo album of images from 1998 tornado; *Plat Book and Farmer's Directory* of Nicollet County Minnesota.

Lois Currier: Empty can of honey from Swenson's – "Nicollet County Brand"

Dianne Fields: Photos of SPHS 1932 Band.

Lion's Club: Stuffed lion toy.

Donald & Bev Gustafson: Johnson Uniform overalls – white/blue pinstripe denim.

Doug and Judy Schultz: Nicollet High School yearbooks (8): 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1985, 1986, 1987; *Dreams of My Mother* by Joel A. Peterson; *A History of the Augustana Synod in Nicollet County, Minnesota* by Charles Hendrickson.

Frani and Mark Anderson: St. Peter Chamber commemorative ornament 5 piece set 1998 to 2002.

Carol Miller: Farmer's Sate Bank Lafayette bell-shaped money bank.

Nancy Hennen: Autographed copy of *Early History of Nicollet County* by Howard M. Nelson.

Bob Sandeen: 1950 and 1951 St. Peter High School yearbooks.

Bruce Aiton: Real estate documents for Reverend John Felix and Mary Briggs Aiton, including patents, grants and deed for farmland in Lake Prairie Township. All dated in the 1800s. Includes a family history for John Felix Aiton.

Nadine Veith Michaels: U.S. flag with 48 stars. Stitched. Owned by the Fred Veith family.

Barb Haack: *Rebuilding a Greater Gustavus* videotape; various newspaper and periodical articles related to the 1998 tornado.

Eileen Holz: *Walkers in the Red River Valley* by Gertrude Walker.

Doug and Judy Schultz: Reference materials: *A Millennium of Progress* from

the *St. Peter Herald*, September 1999; *100 Years of History*, Lafayette Fire Department Centennial; *Music and Memories for 100 Years: 1904-2004*, Lafayette Band, supplement to the Lafayette Nicollet Ledger, 2004. *Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative*: Various reference book and periodicals relating to Nicollet County History, including *Carnegie Libraries of Minnesota* by Kevin Clemens, *Old Traverse des Sioux* by Thomas Hughes, and *The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851* by Thomas Hughes.

Edwin Stock: Drum and Bugle Corp music for the Public Use Materials collection.

Dorothy Redding: Loan of videotape of the KEYC broadcast of the 1998 tornado.

Eileen Holz: Large assortment of reference materials including phone books, plat books, and church brochures/booklets.

YES, I/We would like to make a donation to NCHS...

These funds will be used for archive and collection supply purchases: storage boxes, batting, muslin, Ethafoam, etc.

Name _____ Authorized Signature _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Acct. Number _____

CVV Code _____ Expiration Date _____

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

☐ Please accept my ANONYMOUS Donation

☐ I understand that my donation will be acknowledged in NCHS publications

Please make checks payable to:

Nicollet County Historical Society

Mail to:

Nicollet County Historical Society

1851 North Minnesota Avenue

St. Peter, MN 56082

World War I Treasures in the Storeroom

by Marlin Peterson, NCHS volunteer

I have recently been assisting in the back storage area, lending my knowledge of military items to identify and help organize that portion of the NCHS collection. With a special interest in the First World War, a number of items in the collection grabbed my attention, some of them being quite rare. One rare item I found directly related to a May 2017 *Mankato Free Press* article I had written for Memorial Day, on the U.S./Canadian soldiers of WWI. Found in the collection was an army cap belonging to a St. Peter resident who served in the Canadian army during WWI.

During WWI the soldiers of the British Empire came from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, India, Australia, and New Zealand. Of the 619,636 soldiers of the Canadian army, at least 35,612 were American citizens. These Americans served for a variety of reasons. Some had been born in Canada or had family connections there or relatives already serving. Many Americans were angered by the 1914 invasion of neutral Belgium by the German armies attacking France and felt that we should help defend France—our staunch ally during the American Revolution. Many were outraged by the pacifist views and lack of action of President Woodrow Wilson after the sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania* in May 1915 in which 124 American lives were lost and then as in every war, there were those who joined up for glory and adventure.

Searching county histories for my newspaper article I found several dozen men from southern Minnesota who had served in the Canadian army during the war and searching a Canadian military website I found a recruiting form called an “Attestation Paper” on many of the men, three of whom had Nicollet County connections. Born in Kasota in 1893, Leslie Parson of St. Peter enlisted in February 1915 and spent over two years at the front, being gassed once and wounded several times. Maurice Wheeler of North Mankato served in the 48th Canadian Highland Infantry and survived the fighting but died of pneumonia several weeks after the armistice and is buried at Dieppe, France.



The third man and the connection of the artifact in the NCHS collection was Luther V. Stone, brother of prominent St. Peter attorney Marshall Stone. Marshall's wife Josie was a pillar of the historical society in its early years and my mother had a lifelong close association with the Stones. While attending high school and teacher training she boarded at the Stone's home at 416 So. Washington Ave., and had their trust to attend to their house once while they were on vacation visiting relatives in Canada. The house is still there today, and my mother likely would have been acquainted with Luther Stone as well.

Too old to join the American army, Luther enlisted in the Canadian army at Winnipeg Manitoba on March 25, 1918, just four days before his 45th birthday. The hat in the NCHS collection has ‘STONE’ written inside the sweat band and the maple leaf badge on the front indicated that Luther was a member of the 13th Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops. Research indicated that there were over 13,000 men in the railway troops battalions, their main job was repair, maintenance and laying track and ties on damaged lines. They sometimes worked close enough to the front to receive artillery fire and some of the men were killed or wounded. Luther's unit spent much of its time stationed near Albert, France, on the Somme Front, working on the Amien to Arras rail line. By the end of the war they had moved into Belgium where they also worked on damage after the war was over.

For serving under arms of a foreign power these Americans by law could have been prosecuted and stripped of their citizenship, however due to their large numbers no such action was ever taken. Around 2,700 Americans died in the Canadian service and on

November 11, 1927 in remembrance of all of the Americans who had served, the U.S. and Canada dedicated the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice at Arlington National Cemetery.

Luther Stone evidently took great pride in his service which is indicated on the Stone family monument at Woodlawn Cemetery which reads: ‘L. V. STONE CANADA E. F. WORLD WAR I’ (The E.F. indicates Canadian Expeditionary Force). Not being eligible for an American flag, last Memorial Day I fashioned a special maple leaf flag holder and placed a Canadian flag on Luther's grave to honor him.

Left: Luther Stone's Canadian military service dress cap with maple leaf badge, found in the collections of the Society.

Top: On Nov. 11, 1927, in lasting memory of the Americans who fought for Canada, the United States and Canada dedicated the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Marlin Peterson.

Bottom: Luther V. Stone's grave marker in Woodlawn Cemetery, rural St. Peter, where he is buried near his father and mother.



Treaty Site History Center Events

EXHIBITS

Bent But Not Broken: Our Story in Pictures

May 12–December 15 | Treaty Site History Center

State of Mind | A History of Minnesota's First State Hospital

May 12–December 15 | Treaty Site History Center

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Sun., May 20 | 1:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | FREE

Whether you have native landscaping or a natural area, there's maintenance to perform this spring! Native landscaping is less energy-intensive than traditional gardening, but there's some basic work you can do to keep the planting healthy.

Bring your gardening gloves and join Genevieve Brand from Seed to Site, LLC for a work day at the Treaty Site History Center and we'll go over when to remove last year's stems, what weeds to worry about, and ways to improve your native plant experience by attracting more native pollinators.

Forgotten History Lecture Series: Country Schools in Nicollet County

Thur., May 31 | 2:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center |

FREE for NCHS members / \$3 for non-members

The country school was an icon of our educational system at the time. In 1900 Nicollet County had over 60 school districts. This presentation by historian Bob Douglas will describe the location of these rural schools and what has happened to some of them. No quiz will be given.

The Crusade for Forgotten Souls

Thur., June 14 | 7:00 p.m. | St. Peter Senior Center | FREE

Help us welcome Susan Bartlett Foote, author of the new book *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls* for a FREE presentation, Q&A, and book signing event.

The Crusade for Forgotten Souls recounts Minnesota's reform movement that broke the stigma surrounding mental illness, publicized the painful truth about the state's asylums, and resulted in the first legislative steps toward a modern mental health system. Foote tells the story of the early advocates for compassionate care of the mentally ill who made the crusade a success.

Susan Bartlett Foote is professor emerita in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota, where she was head of the Division of Health Policy and Management from 1999 to 2005. She is the author of *Managing the Medical Arms Race: Innovation and Public Policy in the Medical Device Industry*.

The Saint Peter Community Center is located at 600 South Fifth Street in Saint Peter, MN. Parking is available at Walnut St. and S. Washington Ave. Please use Door B.

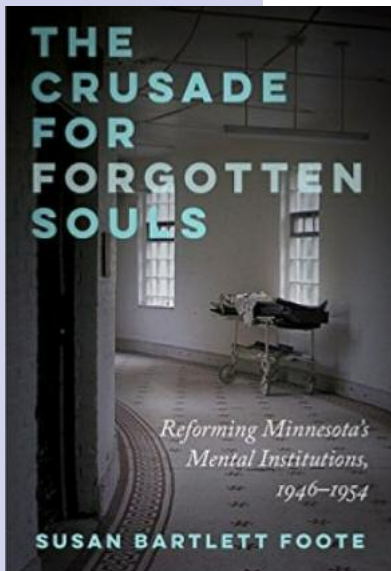
Sponsored by: Nicollet County Historical Society, Saint Peter Community & Family Education, St. Peter Public Library, St. Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department, St. Peter Reads, St. Peter Treatment Center, and the Gustavus Book Mark.

Books will be available for sale for \$20 at Saint Peter Community and Family Education, St. Peter Public Library, Swedish Kontur, Nutter Clothing, The Refinery, St. Peter Food Co-op, Her Happy Place, *St. Peter Herald*, Nicollet County Historical Society, and The Book Mark.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Thur., June 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | FREE

Get in touch with nature by going for a scavenger hunt and look for items you haven't paid attention to before. The fun part of this program is to go searching for natural items like leaves, flowers, plant products (i.e. fruits, berries, nuts or seeds), animal tracks, trees and other signs of the environmental world around us.



Treaty Site History Center Events continued...

American Bison

Thur., July 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | FREE

As the largest mammal on the Great Plains, millions of bison once roamed North America and played an integral role in the livelihood of many American Indian tribes. The American bison is an animal built to live in harsh conditions and this is demonstrated through an activity called "Build a Bison." We will also talk about the distribution of bison prior to the arrival of Europeans, the difference between the words "bison" and "buffalo," and the conservation effort to save this American icon.



Big Woods

Thur., August 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | FREE

A dense forest dominated by maple and basswood once covered a 3,000 square mile area of southern Minnesota reaching all the way to present day Mankato. Called "Bois Grand" or "Big Woods" by early French explorers, it was recognized as a distinct area from the band of hardwood forests surrounding it. In this program we will see how it formed, some of the rare species found in this ecosystem and history over time.



Society's Wish List

The Nicollet County Historical Society needs some things to help its operations! 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. Please contact Jessica at director@nchsmn.org or at 507-934-2160 if you have questions. *Thank you!*

- Wet/dry vacuum (3 gallons or larger)
- Office supplies (pens, pencils, tape)
- External hard drives and flash drives
- Monetary donations for technology upgrades
- Fiberglass ladder, between 6' and 12' tall
- Paper cutter
- 2 Watering cans
- Gardening gloves
- Gently used whicker patio table and chairs for the Cox House
- 8-1/2x11 white or cream cardstock

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!



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.

May 26 - Opening Day: Visit the Commissary, walk the parade ground and bring a picnic. Refreshments will be served! Also DNR Naturalist Scott Kudelka will have Archery in the Park in the afternoon near the Upper Picnic Shelter.

June 9 - Children's Day: Come on out and enjoy a game of baseball, stilts, hoops and sticks as well as some crafts for the kids.

June 16 - New Ulm Battery: The New Ulm Battery will be at the Fort to celebrate Father's Day! They will talk about black powder and fire off a few rounds.

June 30 - Civilian Conservation Corp Hiking Tour: Take a walking tour of the grounds to learn about the history of the CCC and what life was like for these young men. Tour starts at 1 pm and will take about an hour.

July 7 - America's Flags: Learn about the history of Old Glory and how the current flag came to be the symbol of the United States. The presentation starts at 1 p.m.

July 21 - Children's Day: Come on out and enjoy a game of baseball, stilts, hoops and sticks as well as some crafts for the kids.

July 28 & August 4 - Archery in the Park: DNR Naturalist Scott Kudelka will have Archery in the Park in the afternoon near the Upper Picnic Shelter.

Ridgely Report...

by Amber Bentler

Everyone at NCHS is looking forward to another great season at Fort Ridgely. The hours of operation have been changed slightly in order to maximize our staff and visitor time. Our new hours will be Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m. We also have a wonderful program line up for the season sure to draw families, park goers and history buffs! If you haven't been out to the Fort in a few years things have been changing, we have added a childrens' area and increased the gift shop to add to the experience. We will hopefully be adding a few more programs throughout the season so stay tuned. Make plans to come on out and see the Fort and maybe take a hike or have a picnic in the park.



Fort Ridgely grounds showing some of the foundations, the monument and the Commissary.

Built in 1853 as a police station to keep peace as settlers poured into the former Dakota lands, it withstood several attacks in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and became a training ground for Civil War recruits.

Right: from a Fort Ridgely divided back postcard in the collection of the Minnesota State Historical Society.



New Ulm Battery at Fort Ridgely. See them June 16th this year.

Harkin Happenings...

by Ruth Grewe



We hope to have warmer weather when the Harkin Store opens on May 4th at 10:00 a.m. We are looking forward to a great year with a different days open and changed hours. Also, we have a slightly different look when you come, we have done some outside changes, trimming trees and shrubs, but inside we look just like the 1870's general store.

As usual, our programs are on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. You'll see the first half of summer's schedule is in the sidebar to the right. We are excited about the programs we have set up. Our first is "Egg Coffee and Newtons" made on the original stove in the store. Mother's Day will be the "Day In the Life of a Pioneer Woman" with displays of items they used directly from the store shelves. Another favorite program is Memorial Day Sunday with music by Bill Cagely and Sarah. They sing and play assortment of instruments and Sarah does Appalachian clogging. Come and sit on the porch or bring a blanket or lawn chair for the afternoon. The Harkin Store is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 to 4 p.m. with programs on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. The gift shop is open the same hours as the store and has book, toys, unique and handcrafted items, also 10 cent candy.

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



Last year's Day in the Life Of event.

Savor the smells and sights of an 1870s general store as you sample the wares or try a game of checkers. When the railroad bypassed the small town of West Newton, the Harkin Store was forced to close with much of the unsold inventory still on the shelves, where it remains today.



Alexander Harkin Store and home.



Upcoming Events

All programs take place on Sundays at 1:00 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 13 - Mother's Day-Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman

May 20 - Minnesota River-boats

May 27 - Bill Cagely-Music for All Ages

June 3 - Dairy Day with Samples

June 11 - Flag Day-Display

June 17 - Father's Day-Hand Crafts

June 24 - Music by Carver Creek Bluegrass

July 1 - Independence Day-New Ulm Battery

July 8 - 1870's Clothing Review

July 15 - Shopping with Laura Ingalls

July 22 - Christmas In July

July 29 - Old Games Day



E. St. Julien Cox House a fine example of Carpenter Gothic architectural style of the 1870s

Summer Social Season Programs

Annual Heritage Plant Sale
May 19 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

If These Walls Could Talk
May 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Free
Learn what happened in early Victorian bedrooms, kitchens, and front parlors.

Strawberry Moon Party
June 16 | 1–3:00 p.m.
Once every June, right around wild strawberry harvest time, the moon turns to a pink tone, and with it, strawberries come to the house for all to enjoy strawberry delights including sparkling wine and festive local music.

Shunpiker's Picnic
June 30 | 1–4:00 p.m.
The excitement of a Shunpiker's picnic is the discovery of a beautiful place in nature. Grab your box lunches and enjoy a halcyon summer day. Don't forget your walking sticks.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
July 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Free
Did you know by just looking at the table you could tell who was coming to dinner?

Why Did They Build That?
July 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Free
An interesting discussion on Victorian architecture.

Cox House Corner...

Summer at the Cox House

by Richard Tostenson, Cox House volunteer

With spring comes a time of renewal and new beginnings, and that's exactly what's happening at the Cox House this year. We are excited to announce that the house will be open for guided tours every Sunday, from May 27th until September 2nd for the 2018 Season, tours will begin at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Each tour will last 40 minutes.

You will get to hear some of the personal and political stories of the time, with interesting architectural views of why the Victorians used various design elements on their homes. Visitors will get a glimpse of the new inventions and time-saving era products that the industrial revolution brought, and of course some tongue in cheek banter of societal norms and expectations of the time. Visitors are sure to have, what the Victorians would call, “a bang up to the elephant time.”

Our Summer Social Season will be filled with Victorian entertainment and amusements as we plan on monthly events at the house. We think your family will leave our house with a giggle mug on their faces. To the left are just a few of the coming attractions we are planning for spring and early summer that may peak your curiosity.

Please call for details and cost for Strawberry Moon and Shunpiker's Picnic in early June.

Saturday, May 19 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Annual Heritage Plant Sale

Spring is coming and that means it's time to mark your calendars for the Annual Heritage Plant Sale – Saturday, May 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This annual fundraiser for the E. St. Julien Cox House is a favorite of many local gardeners who come to choose from a wide variety of interesting plants, bulbs, shrubs, and more. Have questions about the plants? No problem! A Master Gardener will be on site to answer your gardening questions.

The Questers invite everyone to pot those plants and bring them to the Cox House to support this local historical gem! You may deliver plants to the Cox House on Thursday, May 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Friday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please label your plants, the volunteers who will price and arrange them appreciate it.

Need extra pots? Pick up a few by the Skaro Street garden gate two weeks before the sale. Questions or to volunteer call: Susan Stenson at 507-931-0912 or Theresa Bjorklund at 507-246-5378.

Not only is this annual event a community favorite, it's also an opportunity to celebrate the Cox House. The House will be open to the public during the time of the sale. Regular site admission will be charged to visitors touring the house.

This year's plant sale is sponsored by the Minnehaha Questers, the Nicollet County Historical Society and Thrivent Financial.

Money raised will support the E. St. Julien Cox House.



Cox House Heritage Plant Sale

In Search of a Bell...

by Eileen Holz

re·search /rē,sərCH/

noun

1. the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

I have been doing family history research for over 50 years and I know that **good** research follows the **facts**.

But I really did want it to be the Arts and Heritage bell!!

Having been an early member of the Arts and Heritage Council, I fell in love with that old school house building. There were hours and hours of volunteering: decorating for every holiday, being on the gallery committee, serving as a board member, making soup for the annual Holiday Fare, all with many, many other volunteers who loved that old building. So when it was severely damaged by the nasty tornado in March of 1998 we were devastated. Even though many agonized on how to save it and where to find the money after we were denied FEMA help, we also learned that valuable rental space would be lost on the third floor and the dreamed-of theatre would be lost because modern-day builders would not be able to duplicate the open third floor (originally a basketball court and classrooms) "because it would be filled with joists and rafters." Then the tale came forward that the bell which had been in the bell tower (for which we even named the AHC newsletter *As Seen from the Bell Tower*) was SEEN the evening of the tornado—but when Don Glimsdal went the morning of March 30th to retrieve it, it was GONE.

So I really did want it to be the Arts and Heritage bell!!

Fast forward to 2018. As a volunteer on the NCHS exhibits committee we were deep in discussion about the exhibit plan for 2018. It came up in that conversation that there were—as is often the case for an organization observing 50 years of existence—mysteries in the NCHS collection, such

as the mystery bell that was found at the back door of the Treaty Site History Center some time back. My response, "I know of a mystery bell in St. Peter."

And I really did want it to be the Arts and Heritage bell!!

And so the research began...

THE FACT:



The inscription on the bell: 201 / HENRY SHANE & CO. / BALT ORE, M.D. / 86.

With the help of the mighty internet, this researcher found that there still exists, near Baltimore, Maryland, the McShane Bell Foundry, founded in 1856. After an agonizing time of leaving messages about information of their bell #201—the number excised on the top of the mystery bell—on their website contact page and leaving numerous messages on their answering machine, a very helpful McShane foundry worker who had been with the company for over 50 years called. "Yes, they had inventory records." "The records have been closed to view for several years now because they are so fragile." [...and I am thinking I am this close and I won't get an answer!!] "But I really felt bad about that so I started copying some of the older historical bell information into my 'little book.' Give me a minute." [Five minutes pass...]

THE BELL FACTS from the McShane Foundry records:

Order Number: 4339

Order Date: 16 October 1886

Bell Weight:

Shipped Bell Weight: 181 lbs

Parts Weight: 20 lbs

Total Shipped Weight: 201 lbs

Bell composition: "Bell Bronze" = 80% copper / 20% tin

No personalized inscription other than the

McShane foundry information

Ordered by: Philip Dick

Bell continued on page 11

Bell continued from page 10

Ordered for: St. Peter School District
Bell Cost: \$17.50 [that's about \$450.80 in 2018 dollars]
Shipped with 65-feet of rope
Payment Method: Cash
Shipment Method: Star Line Rail Road
Shipped Date: from Baltimore
6 November 1886

So I really did want it to be the Arts and Heritage bell!!!



The Original Lincoln School

BUT THE FACT: that the mystery bell was purchased in 1886 and the first permanent school in St. Peter, the beautiful mansard-roofed, bell-towered, three-storied brick building on the corner of 5th and Grace was built in 1870, which would mean that it went bell-less for 16 years—something I really didn't think that the school planners had in mind for St. Peter's very first permanent school.

But I really did want it to be the Arts and Heritage bell!!!

So apparently stories of mystery bells found are a hot news topic. Pictures, interviews, and stories ensued and...the mystery bell donor came forward. Thank you Steve Scholl who promptly came

into the Historical Society to clear up the mystery of THIS bell. It is, in fact, the bell from the Lincoln School, the first of which is pictured on right top: Steve's tale was of his grandfather wanting the bell from the first Lincoln School, completed in 1886, which burned down in 1913, and since was apparently

installed in the second Lincoln School (pictured right bottom) built about 1913 on the same 3rd and Chatham block.



The Second Lincoln School

Now that was another incredibly beautiful building, and one of the only, at that time, prairie-style buildings in all of St. Peter. But you will note there is no bell tower or anything that even looks like it could hold a bell. So this researcher went to a popular present-day research technique—Facebook and the “St. Peter, Minnesota, our Hometown” page with the question: “Even though I attended Lincoln School for kindergarten, I don’t remember any sort of bell or bell ringing. Do any other Lincoln pupils remember a bell?” And answers poured in...“I went to Lincoln school, Kindergarten through 3rd grade...I do not recall a bell.” “You don’t remember the big bell? We were in the same class. I [remember] the bell. It was fun to ring! It would lift you up, it was so big.” “When you walked in the front door and turned to the left there was a small room that had the bell in it I believe.” “Lincoln—the rope to ring the bell was in a little room to the right of the front entrance.” “[I] do remember the bell! Burt the janitor would sometimes ring it, can also remember playing in the old fire escape.” “I remember Burt Skramsted [sic] as a very quiet, but friendly janitor. I remember Burt ringing a bell by using a rope in a small closet like room in the front entry. I never thought to ask to ring it.” “I have a vague memory of Mr. Kohl the janitor (was his first name Leo?) pulling a long rope to ring a bell. He lived across the street, next to the foursquare church.” “I went there for years too but don’t remember a bell.”

With Scholl's recollection of getting the bell with his grandfather and father and “not having to go outside to retrieve it” and the comments above plus many more, one can **surmise** that the “mystery” bell was the bell from the bell tower of the first Lincoln School, repurposed for the second Lincoln. It **possibly** cracked in the three now-welded places during the fire in 1913 but was still ring-able and was reinstalled in the prairie-style Lincoln School and used, occasionally, during that school's tenure until the second Lincoln was demolished in 1963. The **FACT** that the first Lincoln was completed in 1886 makes sense with the [18]86 partial date excised on the now-not-a-mystery bell—the bell and the building being of the same date.

But I really did want it to be the Arts and Heritage bell!!!

Therefore, the **RESEARCH**, seems to indicate that the found bell is not the Arts and Heritage bell. But I am still searching for **that** mystery bell.

So now I have bells in my bonnet! I am fixated on St. Peter's bells—some missing for certain, some just not known to me where they are. Maybe you can help. Please let me know at hazelart@hickorytech.net if you have any information about the bells listed on page 12.

Bell continued on page 12

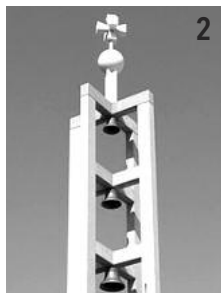
Bell continued from page 11

Where is:



1

- 1) the Washington Elementary bell from the school which stood in Minnesota Square Park at the northeast corner of the intersection of Fourth and Elm streets?



2

- 2) the bell from the original First Lutheran Church?
Is it one of the three in the present church carillon on Sunrise Drive or was it lost in the fire?



3

- 3) the bell from the "old" fire hall?
If the plaque above the bell mounted outside on the 3rd Street side of the "new" fire department is correct: "Fire Alarm: 1878 to 1927" what "new bell" was on its way into the steeple at the "old" fire department next to the present Post Office, when the St. Peter Herald of 22 December 1886 reported: "Louis Rice is engaged in enlarging the cupalo [sic] on the fire engine house, the present size of the same being too small to hold the new bell."



4

- 4) a bell from the Methodist Episcopal Church on the corner of 5th and Nassau (across Nassau from the now-gone Central School), when it was lost in a fire in 1929? It certainly looks like there should be a bell in that steeple.



5

- 5) the bell from the Norwegian Lutheran Church, now a private home, at 213 N. 3rd Street?



6

- 6) the bell—if there was one—in the steeple of the now-gone original Church of St. Peter catholic church?
Is it somewhere in the new Church of St. Peter at 1801 West Broadway?

- 7) the bell from the steeple of the now-gone St. Mary's Catholic Church / Church of the Immaculate Conception which stood at 523 South Third Street from 1889 until it was demolished in 1992?



7

- 8) the bell in the steeple of the Union Presbyterian Church at Locust and 3rd Street in St. Peter?
Is it in the bell tower today and is it still rung?



8

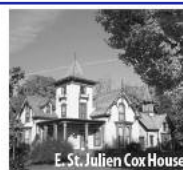
- 9) AND where is the bell from the original St. Peter High School / Central Annex / Arts & Heritage building since the evening of March 29, 1998?



9

Because I really do want to know where the Arts and Heritage bell went!!

All photos for this story were found in the collection of the Nicollet County Historical Society Archives.



E. St. Julien Cox House



Historic Fort Ridgely



Alexander Harkin Store



Traverse des Sioux Townsite



Treaty Site History Center

*preserve our past
solidify our future*

- **endowed fund or planned gift**
- **leave a lasting legacy**
- **provide a base for the future**

- one-time gift by check, stock, bonds, mutual funds
- pledge a gift over one, two, or more years
- name NCHS in your will or trust
- name NCHS as beneficiary of insurance policy
- give tangible personal property or real estate

contact Jessica at 934-2160 for more information
1851 N. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082
director@nchsmn.org

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Grants Summary

Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation Grant

In July 2016, the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation awarded NCHS a \$35,435 grant for many needed building updates at the Treaty Site History Center. The grant funds paid for new computers for staff, museum software upgrade, new archives shelving, exterior security cameras and new security system, building sound system, roof repairs and installation of snow guards, a new drinking fountain with a bottle filling station, and a new exterior utility shed. We'd like to thank the Schmidt Foundation for its continued support of organizations such as ours.



new and missing information from older paper records. In June 2017 staff, volunteers, and interns completed project and the grant closed last fall. There will be more projects to follow now that NCHS has a solid knowledge base to from which to work. The project was funded by two separate Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grants with funds provided by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.



History Tidbit...

H. C. Miller & Co. cigar manufacturer's of this city, find in looking over their books that they made during the year 1882 one million and a half of cigars. In looking over the files we notice that in the year 1880 the firm made 340,000, and this was considered a big business.

3 January 1883 / *St. Peter Tribune*



Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant

In April 2015 a massive three-dimensional collection evaluation and inventory consolidation began. The objective of the project was to update our three-dimensional artifact numbering system collection and consolidate artifacts where possible to make room for future donations. A temporary collections assistant was hired to oversee the project and volunteers and interns helped as work allowed. During the project, items were examined, evaluated with certain criteria, and reboxed with new wrapping if needed. Information for each item's record in the digital database was updated to include any



2018 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 thru 12/15 *Bent But Not Broken: Our Story in Pictures* (see pg. 1 for details)

May 12: thru 12/15 **Exhibit Opening: State of Mind**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (see pg. 1 for details)

May 13: **Mother's Day - Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

May 19: **Annual Heritage Plant Sale**, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (See pg. 10 for details)

May 20: **Minnesota Riverboats**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

May 20: **How Does Your Garden Grow**, 1 p.m., FREE. (See pg. 6 for details)

May 24: **If These Walls Could Talk**, 7 p.m. (See pg. 10 for details)

May 26: **Opening Day**

May 27: **Opening Day**

May 27: **Bill Cagely - Music For All Ages**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

May 31: **Forgotten History Lecture Series: County Schools in Nicollet County**, 2 p.m., \$3 non-members (See pg. 6 for details)

June 3: **Dairy Day with samples**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

June 9: **Children's Day**, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (See pg. 8 for details)

June 11: **Flag Day Display**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

June 14: **The Crusade for Forgotten Souls book event**, 7 p.m. FREE. (See pg. 6 for details)

June 16: **New Ulm Battery**, 12–3 p.m. (See pg. 8 for details)

June 16: **Strawberry Moon Party**, 1–3:00 p.m. (See pg. 10 for details)

June 17: **Father's Day - Hand Crafts**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

June 24: **Music by Carver Creek Bluegrass**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

June 28: **Nature Scavenger Hunt with Scott Kudelka**, 7 p.m. FREE. (See pg. 6 for details)

June 30: **Civilian Conservation Corps Hiking Tour**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 8 for details)

June 30: **Shunpiker's Picnic**, 1–4:00 p.m. (See pg. 10 for details)

July 1: **Independence Day - New Ulm Batter**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

July 7: **America's Flags display**, Program at 2 p.m. (See pg. 8 for details)

July 8: **1870's Clothing Review**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

July 12: **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?**, 7 p.m. (See pg. 10 for details)

July 15: **Shopping with Laura Ingalls**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

July 19: **American Bison with Scott Kudelka**, 7 p.m. (See pg. 7 for details)

July 21: **Children's Day**, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (See pg. 8 for details)

July 22: **Christmas in July**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

July 26: **Why Did They Build That?**, 7 p.m. (See pg. 10 for details)

July 28: **Archery with Scott Kudelka**, 10 a.m.

July 29: **Old Games Day**, 1 p.m. (See pg. 9 for details)

Aug. 4: **Archery with Scott Kudelka**, 10 a.m. (See pg. 8 for details)

Aug. 16: **Big Woods with Scott Kudelka**, 7 p.m. (See pg. 7 for details)

Sept. 20: **Night Hike with Scott Kudelka**, 7 p.m.

Treaty Site History Center

Treaty Site History Center

Harkin Store

Cox House

Harkin Store

Treaty Site History Center

Cox House

Fort Ridgely

Cox House

Harkin Store

Treaty Site History Center

Harkin Store

Fort Ridgely

Harkin Store

St. Peter Senior Center

Fort Ridgely

Cox House

Harkin Store

Harkin Store

Traverse des Sioux, Free

Fort Ridgely

Cox House

Harkin Store

Fort Ridgely

Harkin Store

Cox House

Harkin Store

Treaty Site History Center

Fort Ridgely

Harkin Store

Cox House

Fort Ridgely Upper Picnic Shelter

Harkin Store

Fort Ridgely Upper Picnic Shelter

Treaty Site History Center

Traverse des Sioux Town Site

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



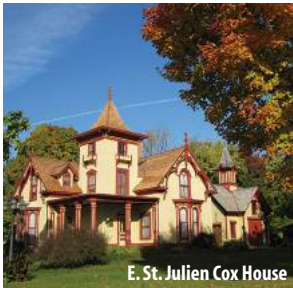


**NICOLLET COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
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Historic Fort Ridgely



Alexander Harkin Store



Traverse des Sioux Townsite



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 #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 2017 at the following level (please check one).

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+)	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$ 200
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$ 1,000
Business Memberships	

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for info

Please make checks payable to:

Nicollet County Historical Society

Membership applications should be mailed to:

Nicollet County Historical Society
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St. Peter, MN 56082

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