



the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

July 2016 • Volume 21 / Issue 2

Smithsonian WATER|WAYS exhibit is almost here!

As you may have heard, the Nicollet County Historical Society and the St. Peter area are gearing up to host *Water/Ways* exhibition, made up of three independent exhibits! *Water/Ways* is the Smithsonian Institution's new traveling exhibition that focuses on the relationships between people and water. *Water/Ways* will be on display at the **Treaty Site History Center August 13 through September 25, 2016.**

Right: a photo from the *Water/Ways* companion exhibit at the New London/Spicer Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, telling the story of water in Kandiyohi County. NCHS will also develop the water story for Nicollet County to accompany the upcoming Smithsonian *Water/Ways* exhibition.

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Minnesota is one of only five states chosen by the Smithsonian to launch this new exhibition. Six greater Minnesota communities will explore the meaning of water—by telling their local water stories and collectively envisioning their water future.

Developed as part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program, this exhibit is specially designed for smaller, rural communities, like St. Peter. Each community embarks on their own exploration of water and their identity, history, and culture – sharing their local water stories and envisioning the future of water.

Water/Ways continued on page 3

To learn
more about
Water/Ways
programming
see pages
4, 5, and 15!

Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the April 2016 Crossing.

Renewed Champion

Business Members:

Gustavus Adolphus College

Renewed Advocate

Business Members:

Arts Center of Saint Peter
Brighton Township

Renewed Supporter Members:

Larry & Judy Biederman

Renewed Patron Members:

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Sally Webster

Renewed Sustaining Members:

Ellis Jones
Ranae Peterson

Renewed Family Members:

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Bette & Bill Auten
Terry & Sandra Gappa
Myrtle Gieseke
Robert & Sally Lambert
Candace M & Jeffrey Latourelle
Carolyn & John Meyer
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Ken & Patsy Rossow
Roger & Myrna Schoeb
Sue & Lee Schott
Doug & Judy Schultz
Jon & Karen Smithers
Richard & Janet Wettergren
Jeff Wettergren &
Melanie Lynard

Renewed

Individual Members:

Rolf Annexstad

Renewed Senior Members:

Herbert Brunner
Helen Christianson
Ellie Depuydt
JoAnn Gieseke
Malcolm Maxwell
Elaine Hermanson
Dale E. Himmelman
Mollie Hoben
Karen A. Humphrey
Charles L. Johnson
Marolyn Kleinert
Ronald McMillin
Sylvia Nesheim
Jim Pitmon
Ron Roselli
Robert Schabert
Mary Ann Scharf

New Advocate

Business Members:

The Nicollet House

New Patron Member:

Gene Retka

New Family Members:

Bredford & Linda Johnson
Dana Melius
Trudi Olmanson & Eli Hoehn
Erling-Sven Family
Dean & Jane Wahlund

New Individual Members:

Maria Erling

New Senior Members:

Joseph Brunner
Gail Dummer
Ann Baack Essling
Kay Herbst Helms
Julie Johnson
Ruth Klossner
Kenneth Saffert
Gary Schuft
Sally Wilkins

Executive Board

Officers:

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

Directors:

Nita Aasen, St. Peter
Tim Bartelt, St. Peter
Tom Brown, St. George
Abbi Carleton, Nicollet
Rhonda Dass, North Mankato
Amanda Frie, St. Peter
JoAnn Gieseke, Nicollet County
Eileen Holz, St. Peter
Maria Lokensgard, Noreland
Bob Schabert, Courtland
Mark Ullman, North Mankato
Alma Forst, Past President, West Newton Twp.

Contact Information:

Executive Director, Alyssa Auten

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bob@nchsmn.org

Office Manager, Elaine Deschaine

elaine@nchsmn.org

TSHC Site Manager, Jessica Becker

sitemanager@nchsmn.org

**TSHC Museum Assistants, Jack Buser,
Colleen Flaherty, Cindy Freeman, Marsha
Heinze, Amanda Johnson, Graham Skinner,
Loren Sundboom**

**TSHC Summer Interns, Bree Krumwiede,
Sarah Busse**

TSHC Janitor, Robert Weber

Harkin Store Manager, Ruth Grewe

**Harkin Store Site Guides, Rose Alsleben,
Donna Dose, Justin Grewe, Robin Grewe,
Glenn Stryker**

Ft. Ridgely Manager, Amber Bentler

**Ft. Ridgely Guides, Cory Becker, Opal Dewanz,
Annaliese Endorf, Amanda Johnson,
Charlotte Nack**

Treaty Site History Center

1851 N Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082

Phone: 507-934-2160; Fax: 507-934-0172

Hours: Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.;
Sun. 1–4 p.m. (Mar.–Oct.);
CLOSED: Three weeks around Christmas,
dates TBD

Archives: Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., by appt.
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 information call 507-934-2160.

Harkin Store

PO Box 112, New Ulm MN 56073

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

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

Hours:

• May–Sept. & First 3 Weekends in Oct.: Sat. and Sun.
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
• Memorial Day–Labor Day: Tue.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
and Mon. holidays 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fort Ridgely

72404 County Road 30, Fairfax MN 55332

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

Hours:

• Sept. and first three weekends in Oct.: Sat.–Sun.
10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Mon. holidays 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
• Memorial Day weekend–Labor Day: Fri.–Sun.
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Open Mon. holidays

Director's Column



Alyssa Auten

2016 may go down as one of the most ambitious years in recent memory for the Nicollet County Historical Society. By the end of the year, we will have done the following: hosted or created six exhibits and completed or participated in over 100 programs and outreach events. About half of what I just described will be taking place in the next six months! The biggest of these is hosting the Smithsonian Institution's *Water/Ways* exhibit from August 13 to September 25. The estimated visitors to this exhibit will be between 2000 and 3000, which means the Treaty Site will see a major increase in guests!

The only way we can accomplish this is with your help. Some of these upcoming events will be held over multiple days. If you have ever thought about volunteering with the Nicollet County Historical Society, here is your chance. Check out these events where help will be crucial:

Nicollet County Fair – August 10 to 14 This year, we will be in the Exhibitor Hall promoting *Water/Ways!* We will have a water-themed photo “booth” and merchandise. There will be a total of 21 shifts during the Fair with each shift needing two people.

***Water/Ways* exhibit – August 13 to September 25** This nationally-touring exhibit will take up the entire north gallery space at the Treaty Site! We're looking for help in multiple ways—become a docent for the museum, help us clear out and set up the exhibit space, or donate your time or money to help spruce up the rooms where the exhibit will be held.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of nonprofit organizations. To sign up for the *Water/Ways* exhibit or the Nicollet County Fair, contact me at alyssa@nchsmn.org or at 507-934-2160.

Help us make 2016 our biggest and best year yet!

Water/Ways continued from page 1

Our state partners have designed their own companion exhibit as a part of *Water/ Ways*. This complementary exhibit, *We Are Water MN*, has been developed to tell the Minnesota story. *We Are Water MN* is an interactive story collecting exhibit that focuses on individuals' relationships with and responsibilities to water. The exhibit includes stories from people reflecting on the meaning and experience of water in Minnesota, stories from local people from each host site community, and space for visitors to the exhibit to add their own stories and images. *We Are Water MN* also raises awareness about the quantity and quality of Minnesota's water, connecting exhibit-goers to active water solutions.

As a part of *Water/ Ways* The Nicollet County Historical Society is also designing its own companion exhibit to tell our local story. The Society's exhibit includes the history, culture, geography, and health of this region's waterways, and reflects upon local stories and experiences. Local exhibit contributors from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Gustavus Adolphus College, as well as many independent water experts and enthusiasts took part in a day-long roundtable discussion designed to brainstorm and develop the water themes that the Society's exhibit will feature. This exhibit will be a showcased exhibit at the Treaty Site far beyond its time on display for *Water/ Ways*.

Be sure to check out all the great programming being offered during *Water/ Ways*' six-week stay at the Nicollet County Historical Society!

Through the *Water/ Ways* traveling exhibit the Society hopes to share the special local water stories and help others to envision the future of local waterways. More information about the *Water/ Ways* exhibit can be found at nchsmn.org, by calling (507) 934-2160, or e-mailing museum@nchsmn.org.

Some Nicollet County Water Experiences

1951: The grain elevators of the Hubbard Milling Company in Mankato, Minnesota, can be seen in the lower right corner of this 1951 aerial photograph. The bridge across the flooded Minnesota River connected Mankato with North Mankato. Most of North Mankato, which suffered extensive flood damage, is visible in the distance

photo credit: NCHS archives

2009: (below left) Floodwalls near North Mankato

photo credit: Jeff & Louise Davis



c1908: (above right) The old water tower was removed not long after the new water tower was constructed in the early 1900s in Nicollet, Minnesota.

photo credit: NCHS archives



1965: Water released from a dike along Sunrise Drive flowed along North Eighth Street in the foreground of this photo before it was diverted to flow eastward along Madison Street in St. Peter during the 1965 flood. The water eventually made its way to the Minnesota River.

photo credit: NCHS archives



2014: At nearly 9,000 acres, Swan Lake is believed to be the largest wetland of its kind in the Continental United States.

photo credit: Mankato Free Press file photo

Celebrate **WATER** | **WAYS**

A Watershed of Events

Aug. 13, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: **Water/Ways Exhibition Open House, Treaty Site History Center**

Help us celebrate the opening of the *Water/Ways* Exhibition at the Nicollet County Historical Society! This open house will include remarks and a ribbon cutting from 9–9:30 a.m. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Explore the exhibit after the remarks, free admission until 12 p.m.

Aug. 14, 10 a.m.: **Minnesota River Paddle, River View Park, Mankato, Minn.**

Free, Registration Required. Join the Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka for a paddle down the Minnesota River from Mankato to St. Peter. We will leave from River View Park on the west side of the river at 10 a.m. and paddle for about 13 miles with a couple of stops along the way. On these stops Scott Kudelka will talk about the history and natural characteristics of the Minnesota River Basin. Plan on the trip taking at least 5 hours (depending on water flow and paddling ability of the participants) and bring along items that will make you comfortable including food, water, sun screen lotion, rain gear, etc.

*** Register for the Minnesota River and Swan Lake Paddles by emailing alysa@nchsmn.org or calling 507-934-2160, must RSVP to participate, space is limited***

Aug. 17, 2 p.m.: **“Waterfalls of the Minnesota River” presentation with Bob Douglas, Treaty Site History Center**

Free admission. The Minnesota River Valley contains many waterfalls, many unknown to most people. Bob will tell how these waterfalls formed and how to find them. Bob's *Waterfalls* books will be available for purchase during the event. The presentation will begin at 2 p.m., followed by a discussion and social time.

Aug. 18, 7 p.m.: **Showing of the film *Tapped*, in partnership with the Ney Nature Center, Treaty Site History Center**

Free admission. Join us for a viewing of the film *Tapped*. This documentary scrutinizes the bottled water industry and its effects on our precious resources and health. Will this video change the way you think about water? Come and find out. Following the viewing, be a part of a facilitated discussion as we continue to process the information from the documentary and consider how we play a part in the economics of the bottled water industry. Discussion will be led by the Ney Nature Center, a *Water/Ways* partner.

Aug. 19, 5 p.m.: **Membership Show Closing Reception, Arts Center of Saint Peter**

Free admission. In honor of *Water/Ways*, the Arts Center of Saint Peter's annual membership show is water-themed! *WaterStories: Work by Members of the Arts Center of Saint Peter* will be on display at the Arts Center July 22–Aug. 21, featuring more than 40 pieces by area artists. The public is invited to the reception Friday, Aug. 19, 5–7 p.m. which will feature a water bar—a unique chance to sample area waters, learn about water quality issues, and chat with staff from Bolton & Menk, an engineering and surveying firm with a strong commitment to water quality. The water bar is generously underwritten by Bolton & Menk.

Aug. 21, 2 p.m.: **“When Water Dreams: A Celebration,” Treaty Site History Center lawn**

Free admission. Join us for a water celebration on the NCHS lawn that will showcase the talents of local poets, writers, musicians, and dancers. Bring your family, your friends, and your neighbors to the lawn party.

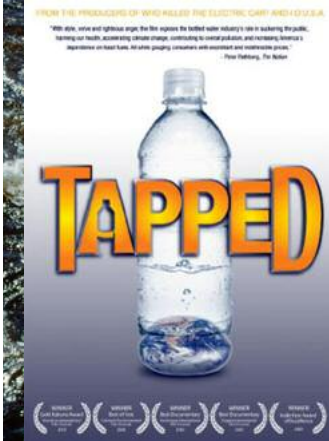
Aug. 25, 7 p.m.: **Water Chakra Yoga with Kelly Holland**

(Come for the exhibits, stay for the yoga!), Treaty Site History Center

\$5 at the door. Come enjoy a connection to your body, the water and the benefits of practicing movement in the museum setting. Yoga instructor Kelly Holland will teach an hour class with a focus on the 2nd chakra (water) and how it impacts our bodies. All-levels mindful yoga practice, please bring a mat, towel or blanket. *Limited to first 50 people. \$5 at the door, free for NCHS members (must show membership card).*

Aug. 27, 10 a.m.: **St. Peter Water Treatment Plant tour, 1312 West Broadway Avenue, Saint Peter, Minnesota**

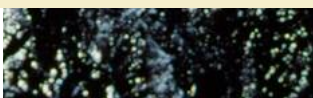
Free, No Registration Required. Join us for a tour of the City of St. Peter's state of the art reverse osmosis water treatment plant. The 2011 plant provides high quality drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: nine wells ranging from 130 to 780 feet deep, that draw water from the Tunnel City-Wonewoc, Jordan, Wonewoc Sandstone, Mt. Simon, and Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifers. Learn about this new facility and how the reverse osmosis system works.



Tapped, movie, Aug. 18



Kelly Holland, yoga, Aug. 25



Aug. 27, 12 noon: St. Peter Wastewater Treatment Facility tour,**400 W. St. Julien St, Saint Peter, Minnesota**

Free, No Registration Required. Join us for a tour of the City of St. Peter's Wastewater Treatment Facility. By utilizing advanced technology, with careful attention to detail, this facility provides effective treatment of wastewater for the Saint Peter area. Its operation demonstrates the commitment of Saint Peter and its citizens to the preservation of Minnesota's resources, protecting the environment for future generations.

Sept. 3, 10 a.m.: Swan Lake Paddle, Nicollet Bay Access

Free, Registration Required. Go for a paddle on North America's largest wetland complex Swan Lake with the Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka and learn about some of the interesting facts and stories about this incredible natural resource. We will meet at 10 a.m. at the Nicollet Bay Access (north side) off of Highway 14 west of Nicollet about two miles and plan on being on the water for at least an hour and a half.

*** Register for the Minnesota River and Swan Lake Paddles by emailing alyssa@nchsmn.org or calling 507-934-2160, must RSVP to participate, space is limited***

Sept. 8, 7 p.m.: Documentary Film Series:***River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*, Treaty Site History Center**

Free admission. Not Rated. 47 min. This is a film about people and organizations helping to solve the water quality problems facing the state's namesake river. Among the problem-solvers are a high school biology teacher and his students, a Dakota elder, farmers, experts on urban and agricultural drainage, citizen activists, geologists, politicians, amateur anglers and fisheries professionals, and more. They are representative of the many hundreds of people who live and work in the Minnesota River Basin who are working together to restore the Minnesota River. The program is hosted by Minnesota's premier advocate for the outdoors, Ron Schara. Following the film, executive producer John Hickman will be present for a discussion and Q&A!

Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.: Night at the Museum—*Finding Nemo*, Treaty Site History Center

Free admission. Just keep swimming to a night of entertainment at the Treaty Site History Center during the *Water/Ways* exhibition! Wear your favorite pajamas or *Finding Nemo* costumes, bring a blanket, and spend an evening viewing the *Water/Ways* exhibit and watching the family favorite film. Finding Nemo-themed snack packs will be available for purchase for \$5 each. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. so families will have time to come in and explore the museum before the movie. Movie starts at 6:30 p.m. *Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

Sept. 12, 7 p.m.: “Paddling the Minnesota River” presentation, Treaty Site History Center

Free admission. People have been paddling the Minnesota River for hundreds of years and it served as a major transportation route for some of the early explorers like Joseph Nicollet and George Featherstonhaugh. Later steamboats became the prime way for moving in the Minnesota River Valley until replaced by the railroad. Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka will talk about how the river has become a favorite place to paddle and some of his favorite segments.

Sept. 18, 1:30 p.m.: “Interfaith Perspectives: Water” Treaty Site History Center

Free admission. The River Prairie Network of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light invite you to engage a panel of diverse faith traditions and theological voices as we consider the importance of water and our obligations to care for it. Come learn how water is more than simply a commodity for religions from around the world.

Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m.: “The Minnesota River—In Your Backyard,” Treaty Site History Center

Free admission. Learn about the health and history of the Minnesota River. Join us for presentations and discussion about geology, water quality trends, channel and flow changes of the Minnesota River in the vicinity of St Peter. Featured speakers will include: Carrie Jennings, Glacial Geologist, Research and Planning Director, Freshwater Society; Pat Baskfield, Hydrologist and Eileen Campbell, Continuous Water Data Coordinator from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and Christian Lenhart, Research Professor, Dept. of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, University of Minnesota.

Sept. 24, 9 a.m.: Water Chakra Yoga with Kelly Holland

(Come for the yoga, stay for the exhibits!), Treaty Site History Center

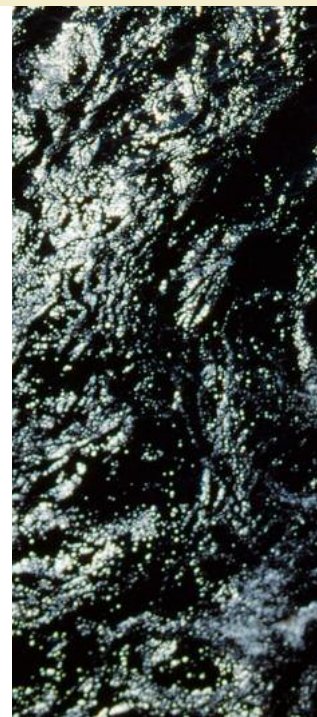
\$5 at the door. Come enjoy a connection to your body, the water and the benefits of practicing movement in the museum setting. Yoga instructor Kelly Holland will teach an hour class with a focus on the 2nd chakra (water) and how it impacts our bodies. All-levels mindful yoga practice, please bring a mat, towel or blanket. *Limited to first 50 people. \$5 at the door, free for NCHS members (must show membership card).*

Sept. 25: *Water/Ways* closing reception, time and details to be determined.

River Revival, movie, Sept. 8



Finding Nemo, movie, Sept. 9



FILMS ON FIRST THURSDAYS

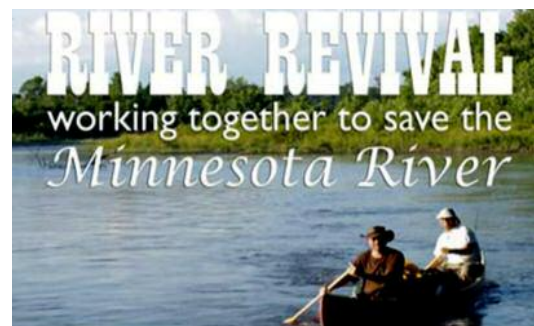
Season 8 / 2016–17 Film Series Planned

The Society will once again partner with St. Peter Community and Family Education to present our eight season of documentary films starting in September. They're shown every month from September through May. *Admission to the film series is free for all!* The Treaty Site History Center is located one mile north of downtown Saint Peter at Highways 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic.

River Revival:

Working Together to Save the Minnesota River,
Sept. 8, 7 p.m.

47 min., Not Rated, Free. This is a film about people and organizations helping to solve the water quality problems facing the state's namesake river. Among the problem-solvers are a high school biology teacher and his students, a Dakota elder, farmers, experts on urban and agricultural drainage, citizen activists, geologists, politicians, amateur anglers and fisheries professionals, and more. They are representative of the many hundreds of people who live and work in the Minnesota River Basin who are working together to restore the Minnesota River. The program is hosted by Minnesota's premier advocate for the outdoors, Ron Schara. Following the film, executive producer John Hickman will be present for a discussion and Q&A!



John Hickman,
***River Revival*, exec. producer**

***Midwife*, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.**

Not Rated, Free. *Midwife* follows Minnesota home birth midwife, Sarah Biermeier (of Geneabirth), during her first year as a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM). The



documentary quietly shows the life of a home birth midwife, from prenatals, to births, to postpartums, while also examining what the birth environment looks like in states where home birth midwifery is not legal, and families are faced with fewer birth options.

Twenty-two states do not allow CPMs to attend home births. If a midwife chooses to practice anyway, they are faced with the possibility of arrest. In an act that should be simple, giving birth has become a human rights issue and a political event. *Midwife* shows the compassion and beauty that begin with birth, and encourages viewers to explore their options, and with whom they choose to attend their births.

Following the film, local midwife and owner of River Valley Birth Center, Erika Urban, will be present to answer questions and discuss the ancient practice of midwifery.

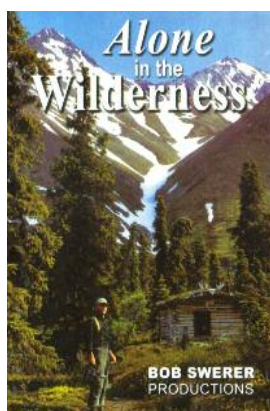
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/71202401>



Erika Urban,
River Valley Birth Center



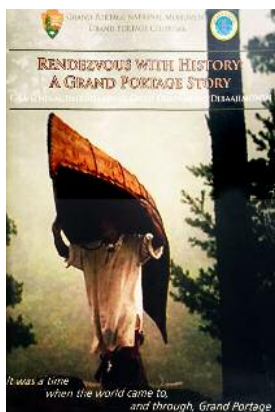
Mike Hertel,
wilderness skills instructor



***Alone in the Wilderness*, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.**

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

Film Series continued on page 5

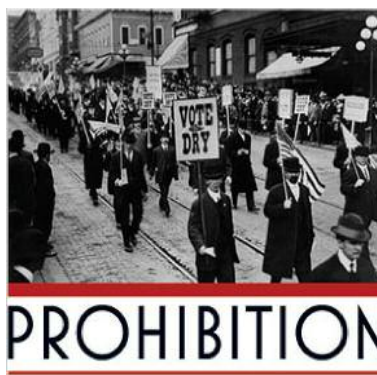


Rendezvous with History: A Grand Portage Story, **Dec. 1, 7 p.m.**

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

Volstead Fever: Prohibition in Minnesota, **Jan. 12, 2017, 7 p.m.**

27 min., Not Rated, Free. Stories from Prohibition don't just come from big cities like Chicago and New York. They can be found all over, from Minneapolis/St. Paul to our own backyard in southwest Minn. *Volstead Fever: Prohibition in Minnesota* features the Congressional author of Prohibition, Representative Andrew Volstead of Granite Falls, the impact Prohibition had on the historic Schell's Brewery of New Ulm and Ghent, the first town in Minn. to serve alcohol when Prohibition ended. In this documentary about the Prohibition-era of southwest Minn., you'll get a glimpse at early 20th century history, visiting the home of Andrew Volstead and learning dark secrets about Granite Falls' supper club, Bootleggers. You'll also hear from local brewers who are shaping the landscape of locally produced beers and find out how Schell's was able to survive Prohibition for its 13-year duration. Potential program to be announced.



Community Event...

Join NCHS at the Nicollet County Fair



The Nicollet County Historical Society was organized August 22, 1928, when 96 members of the Old Settlers' Association gathered for a picnic dinner in Floral Hall of the fairgrounds during the 1928 county fair. Help us celebrate at this year's Fair August 10 through 14.

As usual, we'll have books, t-shirts and memberships for sale, as well as friendly representatives to talk about local history. In addition this year, stop by to learn more about the Smithsonian's *Water/Ways* exhibit that opens at the Treaty Site History Center the Saturday of the Fair, August 13! If you're interested in volunteering at our booth, please contact the Society at 507-934-2160 or alyssa@nchsmn.org. Two-hour shifts are available throughout the Fair and it's a lot of fun!

Monetary Donations

received since the April 2016 Crossing.

Monetary

Rolf & Jean Annexstad
District 5M2 Lions
John & Sharon Iverson
Christy Martin
NCHS Quilters
Janet Boese
Janet Hoffmann
Onie Isenberg
Marolyn Kleinert
Dorothy Paulson
Dorothy Schultz
Bev Wetherill
Doug & Judy Schultz
Barbara Wilkinson

Monetary designated to Rain Garden Installation

Nita Aasen
Eric Carlson
Mollie Hoben
Steve & Elizabeth Hogberg
Herb & Louise Poncin
Arlene Sandeen
Karen & Jon Smithers

Monetary designated to Water/Ways Exhibit

Marlin Peterson

Memorials

received since the April 2016 Crossing.

In Memory of Mae Johnson

Given by
Owen & Evelyn Swenson

In Memory of Martin Menk

Given by
Ed & Beverly Wetherill
William & Marilyn Robertz
Judy Scholl

In Memory of Carol & Maynard Olson

Given by
Thorild & Ardith Nelson

In Memory of Lester "Bud" Peterson

Given by
Lorraine Olson

We want your suggestions!

NCHS is here to serve our members and friends. If you have ideas for programs, events or classes you'd like to see offered, give us a call at 507-934-2160 or e-mail us at museum@nchsmn.org.

Treaty Site Rain Garden Nears Completion!



North Patio in progress



Patios above NCHS Rain Garden



Rain Garden completed

In our last newsletter we unveiled plans to redesign the exterior North Plaza Viewing Area and lawn to create a rain garden and rain garden learning site. This project has been a long-time coming at the Treaty Site and is meant to do more than simply repair broken bricks and create a new pretty view. Because of the Treaty Site's proximity to the Minnesota River and local trail systems, we have an opportunity to educate thousands of people about the wet meadow ecosystem in our exterior rain garden learning site.

The prairie wetland and Minnesota River played an important role in the lives of indigenous peoples in this region for over 10,000 years. These early peoples set the precedent for appreciating and using the river and prairie wetland responsibly. As evidenced by future land use by fur traders and Euro-American settlers, this appreciation was passed on through generations. Unfortunately, advances in agriculture and industry have changed that mindset.

The Minnesota River Valley has long been identified as an impaired waterway due to poor conservation management practices, though many members of the public are unaware of this issue. Our hope is that by installing a rain garden learning site at such a high traffic location we can help educate, empower and reinforce each viewer's responsibility for water. The learning site will act as an educational tool to demonstrate to the public how an individual can affect change within their own backyard with something as simple as a rain garden.

This space will create awareness of the problem with rainfall and sediment runoff and the subsequent impact on water quality. It will also provide tangible resources to viewers on how they can be involved in water conservation efforts. Information on such efforts could include installing low-flow appliances, xeriscaping their lawns and contacting their city public works office for other conservation initiatives. By partnering with Seed to Site, LLC, the Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and other local water organizations, we are confident their expertise will aid us in producing reliable and useful learning site content.

While the construction and planting are finished, the project is still not quite complete. The Society is still working with our partners to produce the interpretive signage that will be situated within the garden. The panels will discuss prairie potholes, why people install rain gardens, and the importance of planting native pollinators. How quickly we finish the project depends on how fast we can raise them funding for the signs. We are in need of two, large interpretive reader rails at a cost of \$400 each. If you are interested in contributing to the completion of this project call the Society at (507) 934-2160 or email us at museum@nchsmn.org.

We want to thank all the donors and volunteers who stepped up to help make the project a success so far. We could not have done it without you!



Treaty Site History Center aerial photo

photo credit: Jon Smithers

NCHS Site Information

Treaty Site Talk...

Treaty Site History Center

by Jessica Becker



There's always a lot of activity here at the Treaty Site, but things have definitely ramped up lately. If you have somehow missed it so far, the Treaty Site will be hosting the Smithsonian's new traveling exhibition *Water/Ways* starting in August. As you can imagine this requires no small amount of planning, elbow grease, and manpower.

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work to be done yet. The north galleries need to be emptied to make room for the new exhibit. Display cases need to be emptied and cleaned, items need to be given new homes or stored, and new pieces need to be brought out for display with the Society's local exhibit. On top of all of this there are light cleaning, maintenance, and even carpentry projects we'll need help with before the exhibit opens.

We are anticipating an influx of 2,000 to 3,000 additional visitors for this exhibit over the six weeks we're hosting *Water/Ways*. The Treaty Site operates on a very small crew of staff and volunteers daily. With that many extra visitors we're going to need some extra support with visitor services, especially on the weekends.

In short, we need your help.

You won't have to commit big chunks of time to volunteer. We've got projects to match anyone's availability and interest. If you have a special talent or area of expertise you think we could use, let us know. We'll put your talents to good use! Call the Treaty Site and we can talk about how you can help make this exhibition a huge success for NCHS!

I hope to see you all at the Treaty Site soon!



Top: TSHC front entrance enhanced recently with landscaping of prairie plantings and a donor and memorial brick patio.

History Center Event...

Archaeology Field Work

**Treaty Site History Center & Traverse des Sioux Prairie
Saturday, September 24th
from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Come do real archaeology at the Traverse des Sioux historic site on Saturday, September 24th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can help us collect artifacts and document disturbed areas of the site with archaeologists from MSU-Mankato and the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is excited to partner the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Many Rivers chapter of Prairie Enthusiasts to make this event possible.

The event is free and the public is welcome to arrive any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., but we ask you dedicate at least one hour—or stay the whole time! Participants will be given instruction and supervision on-site. Prior knowledge of archaeological techniques is not necessary. Please wear old clothes. The entire event is outside.

For more information please contact Ben Leonard at the Minnesota Historical Society: 507-340-7463 or ben.leonard@mnhs.org. The Treaty Site History Center is located one-mile north of downtown Saint Peter at Highways 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic.



Be an archaeologist for a day.

photo credit: MNHS

Ridgely Report...

Fort Ridgely Historic Site

by Amber Bentler



Things at the fort are off to a wonderful start. We have two new exhibits this season. First we have a new ten-panel exhibit on Fort Ridgely. This exhibit covers everything from the building of the fort in 1853 to the rebuilding of the commissary by the Veterans Conservation Corp in 1936. It also talks about women at the fort as well as slavery. It does a nice job telling the stories of the men that served at Fort Ridgely and went on to serve in the Civil War and were decorated for their bravery. This is a very under-told story and we are pleased to have it added to the gallery. The second exhibit is the twelve panel "Commemorating Controversy" exhibit. This exhibit was put together by students at Gustavus and won a national award in 2012. It has been busy traveling around the U.S. with its most recent stop at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. Stop by to see these two wonderful exhibits.

Our gift shop has been growing over the last two years. There are many new things added to the shelves. We have wonderful goat's milk soap and bath salts made by Denise Grundler of Farmington as well as diamond willow walking sticks, canes and lamps made by Lloyd Vollmer. This is our last year getting the diamond willow so if you have been looking for some of the north woods charm stop by this season. We have lots more so if you need a gift for someone remember us.

We have many programs yet to come for the season. Feel free to check the NCHS website so you can make plans to visit Fort Ridgely.

Harkin Happenings...

Experience Life in the 1880s

by Ruth Grewe



Old Games Day at Harkin Store

We are going just great with visitors from 31 states and 5 countries. Most of our visitors enjoy the Sunday afternoon programs that we have. Harkin has many exciting programs to fit all interests yet to come this summer. Pioneer women were working along side their men and also doing their work so we have a display of the tools and jobs that they did. We invite ancestors or people with information about West Newton to come with that information on August 7th for our 37th West Newton Day program. We display information that we have and have a contact board out also. Our Old Games Day is popular with children and their parents and grandparents,

come and play with us. Crystal Bock will be giving a program on Bees and Honey, she will bring her equipment and talk about her processing of the honey product. Old Schools Day will be about the old schools in Nicollet County, so if you have some old pictures of any schools that were in Nicollet County, please bring them for copying. Our programs are usually from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, they are included with admission to the store. You also will see the old store merchandise, which 40% is from the 1870s to 1901 era. Come enjoy the day, enjoy the porch and the view of the river. Our gift shop is open the same hours as the store and is filled with books, toys, souvenirs, 10-cent candy, and many hand-crafted items. See you at the Harkin Store this season!

New Faces at the Treaty Site

Graham Skinner, Museum Assistant

Graham Skinner is a Senior at Cleveland High School. He enjoys art, playing his saxophone, reading, sports, and hunting. After high school, he plans to go to college and study mechanical engineering.

Robert Weber, TSHC Janitor

I began volunteering at the Treaty Site six years ago because I wanted to donate time back to the St. Peter community for the confidence and comfort it has given me since I moved here 12 years ago. With my hobbies I have utilized the community gardens, the safe streets for bicycling, the walking paths at the Gustavus Linnaeus Arboretum, and the municipal swimming pool.

Now, as a staffed janitor at the Treaty Site I can keep the grounds and building clean to enhance our guests' experience here. I'm glad to be on board at the Treaty Site and the Nicollet County Historical Society.

Amanda Johnson, Museum Assistant

I'm from Le Sueur, Minn. I am a college student, I studied at South Central and University of Minnesota, Morris for my major of Anthropology. I'm planning on continuing the rest of my studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato this fall.

I had discovered Anthropology fit me well back in high school, after I had taken a trip to Costa Rica in 2011. I had started to help out at W. W. Mayo House in Summer of 2011, and continued to help out on and off for a few years. I started to volunteer at the Treaty site to hopefully gain some experience within a museum and learning the different ways local history is interpreted.

Bree Krumwiede, Summer Intern

My name is Bree Krumwiede and I'm a sophomore at Southwest Minnesota State University. I'm majoring in History and minoring in Dakota studies and have enjoyed all my classes on these subjects so far! After my undergraduate studies, I plan on attending graduate school for library science with a specialization in archival studies

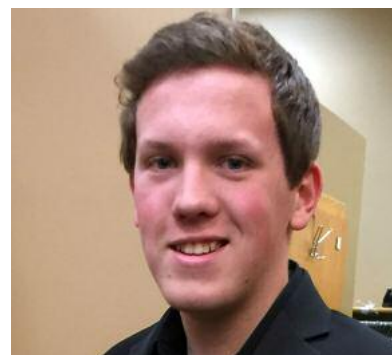
Sarah Busse, Summer Intern

Hi! My name is Sarah Busse. Although I'm 12 years old, I LOVE history! My favorite time era is the 19th century. DO you know what happened in that time? I do! The American Civil War! My hobbies include: martial arts (Tae Kwon Doe, a South Korean form of self-defense, and Krav Maga, an Israeli form of self-defense), reading, swimming, listening to music (a lot from the Civil War era), taking care of pets (I LOVE animals), and learning about history. If you need me, I'm mostly likely in the archives or reading books about ALL kinds of stuff! That's me in a nutshell!

Society's Wishlist

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

- Wet/dry vacuum (3 gallon or larger)
- Leaf blower
- Tablecloths
- Watering cans
- Gardening gloves
- Office supplies
- Gently used patio furniture
- 8' stepladder, aluminum or fiberglass
- Sturdy, good condition shelving for archives
- Interior paint for north gallery spaces (call for specific colors)
- External hard drives and flash drives



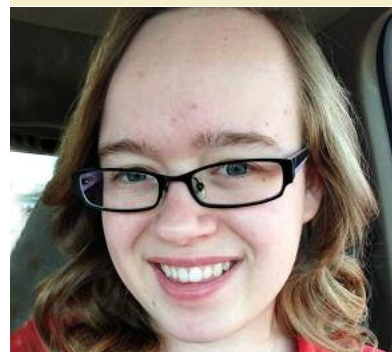
Graham Skinner, Museum Assistant



Robert Weber, TSHC Janitor



Amanda Johnson, Museum Assistant



Bree Krumwiede, Summer Intern



Sarah Busse, Summer Intern



Intern Bree Krumwiede, working in the Society's three-dimensional collections storage.

NCHS Business Members

Thank you

Champion:

Gustavus Adolphus College

Advocate:

Brighton Township
Arts Center of Saint Peter
New Sweden Insurance
Nelson Printing
The Nicollet House
Weber's Catering

History is Your Business

Most of you have seen businesses acknowledged in our newsletter. These organizations have thoughtfully and generously supported the Society through membership. Our business members are critically importing in supporting the mission and activities of the Historical Society.

This year NCHS has placed increased importance on partnering with area businesses. We've added some benefits of becoming a member to give businesses an incentive to join. For example, any new business member that joins at the \$500 or \$1000 level will receive a feature in an upcoming newsletter about the history of their business! We list business members and a link to their website on our website. And as always, a business membership is a tax-deductible donation.

Is your business or employer interested in history or community-minded? Have program ideas? We'd love to talk with you about special presentations or programs wherever you are in the county!

What if you're already an individual or family member and your employer joins? We'd love to continue to have you as members. Full members are entitled to receive our newsletters, vote at the annual meeting and more. Plus you know that you are doing extra to support and save our shared past.

Have any questions? Alyssa and Elaine are here to help. Give us a call at 507-934-2160 or e-mail alyssa@nchsmn.org. Thank you so much for your continued friendship and support!

Levels of NCHS Business Memberships

\$200 Advocate Business Membership

- 10 site/event passes
- Listing and link on the NCHS website as an Advocate Business Member
- Listing as an Advocate Business member in our newsletter and annual report
- One room rental at the Treaty Site History Center at a 25% discount)

\$500 Benefactor Business Membership

- 25 site/event passes
- Listing and link on the NCHS website as a Benefactor Business Member
- Listing as a Benefactor Business Member in our newsletter and annual report
- One room rental at the Treaty Site History Center at a 50% discount
- Business "History Twist"—an article with an historical "twist" about your business will be featured in one issue of the Society's newsletter, *The Crossing*, after initial enrollment

\$1000 Champion Business Membership

- 75 site/event passes
- Listing and link on the NCHS website as a Champion Business Member
- Listing as a Champion Business Member in our newsletter and annual report
- 100 – 20% merchandise discount cards
- One free room rental at the Treaty Site History Center
- Business "History Twist"—an article with an historical "twist" about your business will be featured in one issue of the Society's newsletter, *The Crossing*, after initial enrollment



Become a Benefactor or Champion Business Member today and NCHS will do a "History Twist" about your business.

photo credits left to right: NCHS Photo Archives, Eileen Holz, City of Saint Peter Public Library

MNHS Showcase Event at Nicollet County Historical Society

It was a packed house at the Nicollet County Historical Society on July 7. That evening 198 people visited the Nicollet County Historical Society and Traverse des Sioux Historic Site for the Minnesota Historical Society's annual Membership Showcase! NCHS and Traverse des Sioux (an MNHS historic site that NCHS operates) were expressly chosen to host this event. Our staff worked with Membership Services at the Minnesota Historical Society to develop the agenda and features of the evening. This included remarks given by NCHS Executive Director Alyssa Auten, Chairman of Davisco Foods International and longtime supporter Mark Davis, MNHS CEO Stephen Elliott and Winona Mayor Mark Peterson.

The event featured heavy hors d'oeuvres from the Saint Peter Food Co-op, drinks from Whiskey River, music by gypsy jazz band Mill City Hot Club, entertainment by Savants of Question and beer tastings by the

historic Schell's Brewery. NCHS would like to thank the following people and businesses for helping to make this event a huge success: Jeremiah Burnham, City of Saint Peter, Cindy Freeman, G & K Rental, Steve Hogberg, Keeley's Farm Drainage and Landscaping Supply, Brian Oviatt, and Loren Sundboom. Our sincerest apologies if we missed anyone!

A capacity audience is welcomed to the TSHC by Director Auten for the MNHS Membership Showcase.



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

Name _____

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®

Authorized Signature _____

☐ Please accept my ANONYMOUS Donation

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

I wish for my donation to be directed to:

☐ **A donation** toward the expenses

of installing the *Water/Ways* exhibits. \$ _____

☐ **A general donation** to support the

most pressing needs of NCHS. \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Nicollet County Historical Society

Mail to:

Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Artifact & Archival Donations

accepted into our collections since the April 2016 Crossing:

Pell Johnson: 1917 *The Gustavian* yearbook from Gustavus Adolphus College

Michael Frederick: Nicollet County Centennial Fair and Traverse des Sioux Park buttons

Ruth Klossner: *The History of Bernadotte Twp. 1866–2016* and 1975 Atlas & Plat Book of Nicollet County

Nita Aasen: *Minnesota Place Names* book; photos from the March 1998 tornado in St. Peter

Gail Dummer: large collection of books, maps, plat books, and three photographs from the Johnson & Company in St. Peter (two are dated July 1905)

Monroe Elementary School: assorted school documents

Lucy Tanner: Holiday House membership cards for Edward Tanner (1956, and the following January expiration dates: 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1963; and December 1963 and December 1964 expiration dates), coloring book/menu, and an obituary for Jim Martell from the *Star Tribune* of 4-15-2014

Crossview Covenant Church in North Mankato: assorted church publications, including membership directories and historical albums

Bernadine Thompson: file containing information about rural Nicollet County schools and teachers

Jim Grabowska: photos of teachers and students at the St. Peter High School from teacher Helen Dressler in the 1940s and 1950s.

Larry Kortuem: Engesser beer bottle with "Zest" beer label attached

Mary Fox: 1961 photo of the North Mankato Elementary School and photos of Gov. Quie and Ray Eckes at a board meeting in Nicollet County in May of 1980

Request for Volunteers and Tour Guides

Do you want to get more involved with the Society? Have you ever considered volunteering with us?

We love our volunteers and think you should join in on the fun! We currently have several opportunities available at our sites.

Opportunities include:

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

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

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



Volunteering with NCHS can get you into all sorts of interesting experiences...



...from dressing like water to heavy lifting...



...to helping folks learn the Nicollet County story! Volunteer docent Steve Hogberg leading a tour at TSHC.

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

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

... and many more!

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

Winston Churchill said "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give back."

2016 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

Harkin Store and Fort Ridgely: \$6 adults (18–64), \$5 seniors (65+) and college students, \$4 children (ages 5–17).

Free for age 4 and under, MNHS and NCHS members.

TSHC: \$6 adults (18–64), \$5 seniors (65+), \$4 children (ages 5–17). Free for age 4 and under, MNHS and NCHS members.

Aug. 7	37th Annual West Newton Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 13	Water/Ways Exhibit Open House, 9 a.m.–12 noon (see description on page 4)	Treaty Site
Aug. 14	Minnesota River Paddle, 10 a.m. (see description on page 4)	River View Park
Aug. 14	Old Time Games Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 17	Waterfalls of the Minnesota River with Bob Douglas, 2 p.m. (see description on page 4)	Treaty Site
Aug. 18	Documentary Film Series 7 p.m. (see description on page 6) <i>Tapped,</i> with discussion led by Ney Nature Center after the film	Treaty Site
Aug. 19	Arts Center of Saint Peter Closing Reception, 5 p.m. (see description on page 4)	Arts Center of Saint Peter
Aug. 20	The Battles of Fort Ridgely and the New Ulm Battery, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Aug. 21	“When Water Dreams: A Celebration” 2 p.m. (see description on page 4)	Treaty Site lawn
Aug. 21	Bees and Honey, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 25	Water Chakra Yoga with Kelly Holland, 7 p.m. (see description on page 4)	Treaty Site
Aug. 27	Water Treatment Plant tour, 10 a.m. (see description on page 4)	Broadway Water Treatment Plant
Aug. 27	Wastewater Treatment Facility tours, 12 noon (see description on page 5)	St. Peter Wastewater Treatment Facility
Aug. 28	Old School Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Sept. 3	Swan Lake Paddle, 10 a.m. (see description on page 5)	Swan Lake, Nicollet Bay Access
Sept. 4	The West Arrives in West Newton, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Sept. 8	Documentary Film Series 7 p.m. (see description on page 6) <i>River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River,</i> hosted by Ron Shara with discussion & Q&A led by producer John Hickman after the film	Treaty Site
Sept. 9	Night at the Museum—Finding Nemo, 6:30 p.m. (see description on page 5)	Treaty Site
Sept. 10	Fun Fall Trail Run, 10 a.m.	Fort Ridgely
Sept. 11	Re-Elect Grant Election Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Sept. 12	“Paddling the Minnesota River” presentation, 7 p.m. (see description on page 5)	Treaty Site
Sept. 17	Wild About Wildlife with Scott Kudelka, 2–3 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Sept. 18	Snakes of the Minnesota River, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Sept. 18	Interfaith Power and Light program, 1:30 p.m. (see description on page 5)	Treaty Site
Sept. 22	The Minnesota River—In Your Backyard, 3:30 p.m. (see description on page 5)	Treaty Site
Sept. 24	Water Chakra Yoga with Kelly Holland, 9 a.m. (see description on page 5)	Treaty Site
Sept. 24	Public Archaeology event, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (see description on page 9)	Traverse des Sioux
Sept. 24	Cemetery Tour, 2–3 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Sept. 25	Water/Ways Closing Reception, time TBD	Treaty Site
Sept. 25	West Newton Post Office, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Oct. 1	Children’s Day, 12 noon–3 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Oct. 2	Horses-Horseshoes-Leather-Ropes, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Oct. 6	Documentary Film Series 7 p.m. (see description on page 6) <i>Midwife,</i> with discussion & Q&A by Erika Urban of River Valley Birth Center after the film	Treaty Site
Oct. 9	Sheep-Wool-Quilts, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Oct. 16	Preparing for Winter, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Oct. 23	Lonesome Ron, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store

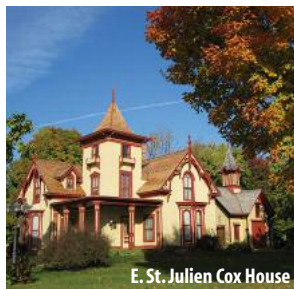


**NICOLLET COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
1851 N. Minnesota Ave. • St. Peter, MN 56082

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

Non-Profit
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Your membership dollars at work...



E. St. Julien Cox House



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 2016–17 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	

call or
e-mail
for info

Please make checks payable to:

Nicollet County Historical Society

Membership applications should be mailed to:

Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082