



*Greetings
from NCHS!
Wishing
you all
the Hope,
Wonder,
and Joy
that the
Season
can bring!*



NCHS Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Nicollet County Historical Society's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at the Treaty Site History Center. Brunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program at 12:30 p.m., and a brief business meeting to follow.

March 2018 marks the twentieth anniversary of the most tornadic March in Minnesota history. Our program will focus on the devastating weather events of March 29, 1998. The day's featured speaker is Kenneth Blumenfeld, a Senior Climatologist at the Minnesota State Climate Office who will discuss the unusual meteorological conditions leading up to the tornado outbreak of March 29, 1998, as well as what tornadoes like these tell us about the climate of Minnesota. Blumenfeld is a nationally recognized applied climatologist focusing primarily on Minnesota's climate, emphasizing climate change and severe weather.

Brunch is being catered by hilltop Hy-Vee in Mankato.



Kenneth Blumenfeld

Winter Hours for NCHS Offices and Treaty Site

- Closed Sundays
- Closed December 18, 2017 through January 8, 2018. Archives and group tours available during this time by appointment only.

NEW HOURS in 2018!

- Beginning January 9, 2018:
Sundays CLOSED
Mondays CLOSED
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Coming Spring 2018

This spring marks the 20th anniversary of the March 1998 tornado that ripped through our county causing devastation in its wake. The Nicollet County Historical Society would like to commemorate the event with help from you.

We are gathering photos, videos, and stories about that day and about the cleanup and rebuilding that occurred the days, weeks, and months afterward.

If you have a story to tell, please e-mail it to research@nchsmn.org along with your contact information. Starting January 9th, photos may be dropped off in person at the Treaty Site History Center Tuesday–Friday from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please allow for some time as there is paperwork involved.

Any stories or media donated to NCHS may be used by NCHS according to our donation policy and may also be archived.

From the Director

It's that time of year again - snow is in the forecast and holiday plans are in full swing. Where did the year go? I can hardly believe I've been your director for one year because it seems like just yesterday I was moving into my new office at the Treaty Site and planning for 2017. I want to thank each and every one of you who welcomed, encouraged, helped, and inspired me over the past year.



Jessica Becker

The last twelve months were filled with learning, networking, listening, and reinforcing for me what a great community and county this is. Despite my many years with NCHS, there was a lot to learn, many new people to meet, and now an entire nonprofit business to run. As Executive Director at NCHS, I am responsible for overseeing the operation of five historic sites and the tens of thousands of artifacts, photographs and other archived materials housed in our collection. We are responsible for creating unique and exciting experiences for the public to learn about this place and its history and we love what we do.

I hope you're as proud as I am of the year we're closing out and just as excited for our next one. 2018 promises to be a truly big year full of milestones, anniversaries, and celebrations surrounding Nicollet County's wonderful history, including our very own 90th birthday!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Everyone here at NCHS hopes you and yours have the merriest of holiday seasons!

Cheers!

Upcoming Events

Dec. 18, 2017–Jan. 8, 2018: NCHS and Treaty Site History Center closed

Jan. 11: Documentary Film Series

The Ivy League Farmer,
7 p.m., Treaty Site, *Free*

Jan. 25: Forgotten History Lecture Series:
Drug Stores and Druggists of St. Peter,
2 p.m., Treaty Site, *Free for NCHS members / \$3 for non-members*

Jan. 28: NCHS Annual Meeting,
11:30 a.m., Treaty Site, *registration required*

February 1: Documentary Film Series
Minnesota Hotdish: A Love Story,
7 p.m., Treaty Site, *Free*

February 22: Forgotten History Lecture Series:
World War I Treasures in the Storeroom,
2 p.m., Treaty Site, *Free for NCHS members / \$3 for non-members*

March 1: Documentary Film Series
(Mid)West of Somalia,
7 p.m., St. Peter High School, *Free*

April 5: Documentary Film Series
On Eagle's Wings,
7 p.m., Saint Peter High School, *Free*

May 3: Documentary Film Series
Country School: One Room–One Nation,
7 p.m., District 6 School House, *Free*

Documentary Film Series:
Films on First Thursdays

The Nicollet County Historical Society and St. Peter Community and Family Education present our ninth season of documentary films! They’re shown every month from September through May free of charge.

The Ivy League Farmer
January 11, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | **FREE**

The Ivy League Farmer offers a first-hand glimpse into the lives of a dairy farm family on the cusp of generational and technological change. It's also a love story that explores a small town's concern about local kids not getting enough to eat.

After graduating from Harvard and landing his dream job on Wall Street, 23 year-old Joel Gilbert returns to the heartland to spend one final summer at home on his family's dairy farm. While there, he quickly learns that the three-generation family farm is in trouble. Using the skills he gained with his Ivy League degree, Joel is now faced with the difficult task of confronting his strong-willed father and convincing the proud man to take the ultimate risk to save the farm. Joel also has another unexpected problem—he's falling in love with the girl of his dreams in the small town in which he grew up. This film is being shown in partnership with the Nicollet County Farm Bureau.

Local collectors will have a display of prohibition era collectibles to filmgoers to check out before and after the film.

Runtime is 98 minutes.

Following the film join Nicollet County Farm Bureau and local dairy farming families for a short Q&A and discussion about the economics of the local dairy business.

This film sponsored by Nicollet County Farm Bureau.

Minnesota Hotdish: A Love Story
& NCHS Hotdish Tasting Fundraiser
February 1, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | **FREE**

Biting into a forkful of good, old-fashioned Minnesota hot dish is an experience like no other! It's one that's rooted in the memories of almost every person privileged enough to call themselves a Minnesotan. But what makes this dish so special? Where does the tasty treat come from? And...gulp...just how many calories are in there? We'll endeavor to answer all of these questions—and seek out some of the craziest connections to hot dish our great state has to offer! Experience the history, heritage, and flavorful future of this one-of-a-kind dish!

Runtime is 29 minutes.

Hotdish Tasting Fundraiser at 5:30–6:30 p.m. Call the Treaty Site for more information.

(Mid)West of Somalia
March 1, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. | St. Peter High School | **FREE**

Since the 1990s, Minnesota has become home to more than 30,000 immigrants from Somalia and other east African nations. They have settled in cities and towns around the state, becoming a prominent part of communities throughout southern Minnesota. In the documentary film *(Mid)West of Somalia*, several Somali-American millennials provide a behind-the-scenes glimpse into their everyday lives. From career aspirations to the joys of the hijab, from bigotry in the shopping aisle to surprising encounters with bacon, these savvy and smart women and men offer insights you will not discover on the six o'clock news.

Before the film enjoy light refreshments with the panelists and filmmaker.

After the film, please join a panel of local Somali-Americans, including participants in the film, who will discuss their experiences and respond to audience questions.

Runtime is approx. 35 minutes. Appropriate for all audiences.

Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society, Gustavus Adolphus College, Recreation & Leisure Services, Senior Center, and Community & Family Education.

FILM SERIES continued in right column.

FILM SERIES continued

On Eagle's Wings: Minnesota's Sacred Music
April 5, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. | St. Peter High School | **FREE**

This one-hour documentary explores the dramatic shift in sacred music, beginning in the 1960s, when major Christian religions attempted to reach out to engage the congregation. Minnesota is home to a significant number of highly accomplished songwriters and musicians who have helped bring new music to many faiths. Featuring Father Michael Joncas, composer of “On Eagle's Wings.”

KSMQ President and CEO Eric Olson will introduce the film.

Runtime is approx. 57 minutes. Appropriate for all audiences.

Country School: One Room—One Nation
May 3, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. | District 6 School house | **FREE**

From immigration issues in early schools to the controversial demise of their widespread use in the 1950s and 1960s, *Country School* combines visually stunning images of a myriad of restored and decaying buildings - including one designed by Frank Lloyd Wright—with surprising, humorous and heartwarming stories from former teachers and students. More than just nostalgia, *Country School* also delves into the dark side of the one-room school experience and dispels the myths behind the revered institution that helped bind a young nation together.

Powerful commentary from one-room school historians and writers provides insight into lessons learned from the school days and school ways of yesteryear.

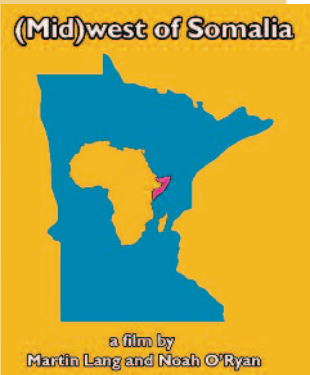
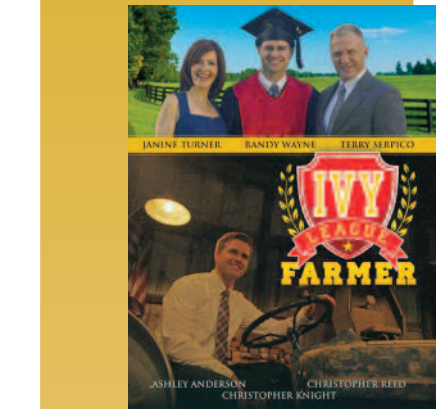
Following the film Garfield Eckberg will present a brief overview of the District 6 School building and the restoration efforts of Friends of District 6.

Runtime is approx. 72 minutes. Appropriate for all audiences.

The District 6 schoolhouse is located on Highway 22 near the junction of Highway 111 near New Sweden.



photo credit: <http://forgottenminnesota.com>



Recently the Minnesota Department of Transportation rescued several pieces of the Broadway Bridge during its recent restoration work and donated them to the Nicollet County Historical Society. They donated light poles, fixtures, a pedestrian railing, and historic construction plans.

A huge thank you to our volunteers Brian Oviatt, John Mayer, and Tim Bartelt for loading, transporting, and unloading again at the Treaty Site History Center.



Annual Meeting Registration Form / Sunday, January 28, 2018

Enclosed is my/our check for the amount of:

\$_____ for _____ reservation(s) at \$15/person (members)

\$_____ for _____ reservation(s) at \$20/person (non-members)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

- Brunch at 11:30 a.m.
- Program at 12:30 p.m.
- Brief business meeting to follow.

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 _____

Checks should be made payable to: **Nicollet County Historical Society**
Return by **Friday, January 19** to: **Nicollet County Historical Society, 1851 North Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082**