



the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

July 2014 • Volume 19 / Issue 2

In Need of Repairs!

Last April, six inches of snow could not put a damper on the excitement filling the Cox House as a loving couple exchanged vows in the parlor. Three weeks ago, the lobby of the Treaty Site rang with voices as a boisterous tour of school children gathered to learn about the Dakota War. Yesterday, a hush fell over the research room as a man stumbled upon the obituary of his great-grandfather. No doubt you have similar stories about the ways our sites have touched your life and connected you with our community, past and present.

Like all of you, our sites have been affected by the capricious weather this spring and summer.

In late April, water poured through the roof of the Cox House. As we cleaned up and assessed the damage, we learned that the Cox House property is in desperate need of repairs.

The Treaty Site building, which is twenty years old, has also been leaking extensively this spring, primarily through the skylights in the lobby.

Both sites are in need of costly repairs. We're part of the way there. Insurance payments will allow us to repair interior damage to the Cox House, as well as replace the entire cedar shingle roof on the

REPAIRS continued on page 11



Annual Cox House Heritage Plant Sale a Success!



We're extremely happy to announce that the annual Cox House Heritage Plant Sale, held on May 17, was a HUGE success. The fundraiser brought in over \$1,800, sold 900 plants and included almost 300 volunteers and visitors. The Nicollet County Historical Society would like to thank those who helped make this event a success. We are very lucky to have such dedicated members of the Society and the community!

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Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the March 2014 *Crossing*.

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alyssa@nchsmn.org / cell: 651-470-1528

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bob@nchsmn.org

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kris@nchsmn.org

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Determan, Katelyn Juni, Mitch Lawson,
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Harkin Store Manager, Ruth Grewe
Harkin Store Site Guides, Rose Alsleben,
Robin Grewe, Karen Rogotzke,
Glenn Stryker

Ft. Ridgely Manager, Amber Bentler
Ft. Ridgely Guides, Annaliese Endorf,
Rachel Montpetit, Charlotte Nack,
Karen Rogotzke, Becky Schueler,
Nancy Zempel

Mayo House Manager, Becky Pollack
Mayo House Guide, Amanda Johnson,
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Treaty Site History Center

1851 N Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160; Fax: 507-934-0172
Hours: M.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Sun. 1-4 p.m.;
Archives: M.-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
General info via email: museum@nchsmn.org
or research@nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N Washington Ave., St. Peter MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160
Open June, July, August the first and third
Saturday of each month; tours at 10 a.m.
and 1 p.m. Group tours of 10+ available at
other times by appointment. The Cox House
is available year-round for a variety of pro-
grams and facility rentals. Please call for
more information.

Harkin Store

PO Box 112, New Ulm MN 56073
Eight miles east of New Ulm on Co. Hwy. 21
Phone: 507-354-8666
Hours: May, September, First 3 Weekends
in October:

Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Memorial Day-Labor Day:

Tu.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
and Monday holidays
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fort Ridgely

72404 County Road 30, Fairfax MN 55332
Phone: 507-934-2160 / 507-508-2848
Hours: Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day
Sept., first 3 weekends in Oct.
Fr.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday holidays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

W.W. Mayo House

118 N Main St., Le Sueur MN 56058
Phone: 507-665-3250 or 507-934-2160
Hours: May-Oct.: Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun. 12-4 p.m. Closed July 4th

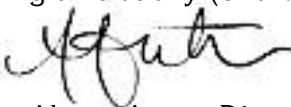
Director's Column

A Summer of Exhibits at the Nicollet County Historical Society.

The Society's role within Nicollet County is to preserve, protect and interpret the rich history of Nicollet County and Minnesota. This is accomplished by the interpretation of our six historic sites, creating exciting and educational programs for the public, and by maintaining our collection of historic items. One comment many historical societies hear from the public is that their donated items often just sit in boxes in a storage room and are not seen again; here at NCHS we are working to remedy this! We have initiated a program called the "Exhibit of the Month" which will consist of a monthly-rotating exhibit of items and documents of a certain theme or topic.

The Society is very fortunate to have two summer interns who will be working on creating the twelve months of upcoming themes; starting this July with an exhibit on World War I items. There's even talk of an October exhibit about the breweries that have existed in Nicollet County. The Society greatly appreciates donated items and we are striving to make them more accessible to our members and the public.

Aside from the Exhibit of the Month project, the summer of 2014 is looking to be one of our busiest yet. We have a calendar of over 70 events this summer; from Swan Lake paddles to battlefield tours, there's something for every interest. At our historic sites we aim to educate our visitors while delivering a fun and memorable experience that's suitable for the whole family. We hope you'll take some time this summer to visit the Treaty Site, take a walk on the Traverse des Sioux trails, or attend one of our great programs at any (or all!) of our historic sites.



Alyssa Auten, Director



Alyssa Auten

FILMS ON THURSDAYS

Season 6 / 2014-15 Film Series Planned

The Society with partner St. Peter Community and Family Education, and often other community partners as noted, are already looking forward to our sixth 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.


Thurs., Sept. 4, 7 p.m.: *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie*
 60 min., not rated. *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie* tells the rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history. Prior to Euro-American settlement in the 1820s, one of the major landscape features of North America was 240 million acres of tallgrass prairie. But between 1830 and 1900—in the span of a single lifetime—the prairie was steadily transformed to farmland. This drastic change in the landscape brought about an enormous social change for Native Americans. In an equally short time their cultural imprint was reduced in essence to a handful of place-names appearing on maps. The extraordinary cinematography of prairie remnants, original score and archival images are all delicately interwoven to create a powerful and moving viewing experience about the natural and cultural history of America.




Thurs., Oct., 7 p.m.: *Connected by Coffee*
 70 min., not rated. *Connected by Coffee* follows two North American coffee roasters on a 1,000-mile journey across Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua to listen to the stories of the people who grow their coffee. On the way they meet with soldiers who have become growers, powerful women who are controlling their own destinies and countless farmers joining together to form cooperatives. We'll witness how coffee is changing from a tool of oppression into a tool for empowerment, and how it is transforming small-scale growing communities across the world. And we'll see the indomitable spirit of people who are determined to live joyfully in the face of economic, social, and environmental challenges. As ethical consumer practices like fair trade grow, questions arise about how fair they really are amidst the historical injustices of global politics and international trade. *Connected by Coffee* confronts these questions and motivates consumers to make a difference. Throughout the journey we learn how every cup of coffee we drink connects us in a very real way to the people who produce it. *Connected by Coffee* will be shown as a partnership between the following: the NCHS, St. Peter Community Education, St. Peter Reads, St. Peter Food Co-op and River Rock Coffee.



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Sandy Lerner
Christy Martin
Barb & Don Olmanson
The Marlin Peterson Family
Herb & Louise Poncin

Exterior Redesign Project
Larry & Joan Zambino

Memorials

received since the
March 2014 *Crossing*:

In Memory of
Art Glass
Given by
Jerry & Shirleen Gulden

In Memory of
Keith Kreykes
Given by
Lois Annexstad
Herb & Louise Poncin
Ed & Bev Wetherill

In Memory of
Richard Meurer
Given by
Bill & Marilyn Robertz

In Memory of
Cora Schultz Sjoström
Given by
Owen & Evie Swenson

History Center Events...



Trail Program

Please join us for a “two-part trail tour” presented by Scott Kudelka, Minneopa Area Naturalist. The two programs, one in August and one in September, will take place out on the Traverse des Sioux trails and will teach participants about the two very different landscapes on either side of the Minnesota River—the Prairie and the Big Woods.

During the Prairie tour on August 14 we will learn how prior to Euro-American settlement of southern Minnesota, the tall-grass prairie dominated the landscape through the Minnesota River basin. A hike through our restored prairie will give us a chance to learn about some of the plants and wildlife found in this ecosystem. Scott will talk about its benefits to the natural environment and how people over time have viewed and managed it as a resource.

During the Big Woods program on September 11 we will examine how these forests formed in the first place, some of the rare species found in this ecosystem and its history over time. The 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.

The two-part program will take place at the Traverse des Sioux trails north of St. Peter.

The Prairie: Thursday, August 14 at 7 p.m.

The Big Woods: Thursday, September 11 at 7 p.m.

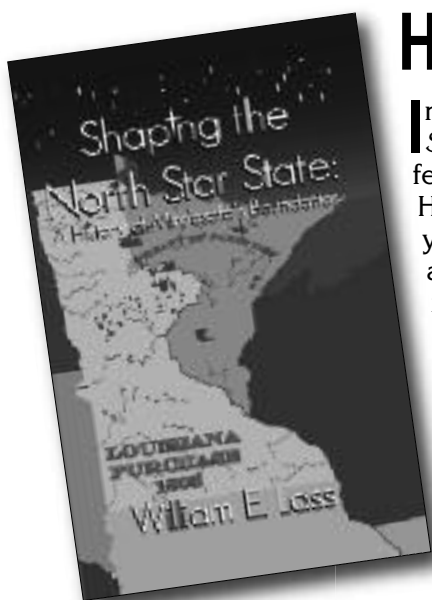
Both parts of this series are free. We hope you'll join us!

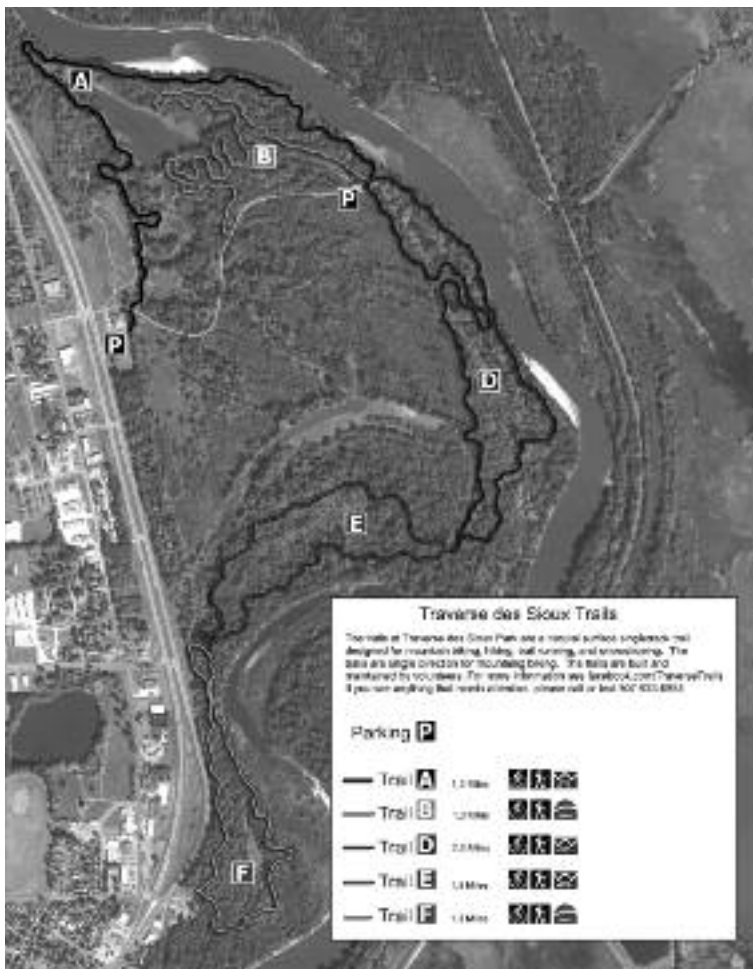
William Lass' New Book Hits Our Shelves!

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the arrival of William Lass' new book, *Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries*. Now, a few months later the book has arrived on the shelves of the Treaty Site History Center and Fort Ridgely Historic Site. Stop in to either site to buy your copy and learn about Minnesota's bizarre Northwest Angle, the attempt to make Minnesota a long, narrow state, and many other interesting aspects about the shape of our state.

William Lass will be a guest speaker to discuss his book two times this year:

Fort Ridgely State Historic Site
Saturday, August 9, 2 p.m.; regular site admission,
MNHS and NCHS members free
and
Treaty Site History Center
Thursday, August 21, 7 p.m.; this program is free.





Proposed trail systems for the Traverse des Sioux park land.

History Center Event...

Traverse Trails at the Traverse des Sioux Park Land

an update from
Dave Newell, Trail Organizer

Over a decade ago, the Traverse des Sioux park land in St. Peter, Minnesota had a trail system that was accessible to bikers, walkers, hikers, and all outdoor enthusiasts. The tornado of 1998 that hit St. Peter demolished the majority of the trails and changed much of the landscape of the park. Over the last six years, a small group of St. Peter residents have worked to bring trails back to the land. In October of 2013, the City approved the proposal to build new trails in the park. The trail system will involve more than 15 miles of trail that will be accessible to mountain bikers, hikers, joggers and snow shoeing in the winter. Currently, roughly eight miles of trail has been built with the intent of finalizing the rest of the trail by spring of 2015.

Ted Moline Scholarship Winner Josh Orpen



Moline Scholarship winner, Josh Orpen

As a graduate of Saint Peter Public Schools, I fondly remember grade school field trips to Nicollet County Historical Sites, such as Fort Ridgely, Traverse des Sioux, and the Treaty Site History Center. Each experience stuck with me over the years and had a significant influence on my recent decision to return to school for my teaching license in social studies.

After graduating from high school in 2004, I attended Gustavus Adolphus College, where my time and energy was devoted to communication studies and history courses, piano lessons, student radio, and coaching basketball. A year after graduation, I was hired as an Americorps VISTA at A Chance To Grow (ACTG), a nonprofit educational agency in Minneapolis, to serve as their Communications Coordinator. Two years later, I landed at Target Corporation in downtown Minneapolis as a Public Relations Coordinator.

My girlfriend and I recently returned from volunteering and traveling in Southeast Asia this past winter. We spent the majority of our time living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where I taught English to novice monks at a Buddhist temple for two months. My teaching experience there is a major reason why I am starting the initial teaching licensure program at the University of Minnesota this summer. I am honored to have received the Ted Moline Scholarship and look forward to my learning experience at the Nicollet County Historical Society.

NCHS Site Information

Cox House Corner ...

E. St. Julien Cox House is open for the summer!



Sidewalks were installed for better access to the kitchen and to the main entrance of the Cox House. Thank you to the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation for making this improvement possible.

The E. St. Julien Cox House will be open the first and third Saturday during the months of June, July and August; with a tour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is \$6 adults, \$1 for children age 6–17. Free for age 5 and under and members of the Nicollet County Historical Society.

The E. St. Julien Cox House was the home of one of the earliest settlers of St. Peter. Eugene Cox was an attorney, St. Peter's first Mayor, and a representative to the State House and Senate. The home, built in 1871, is one of the few fully restored Italianate homes in Minnesota. When you visit the Cox House, you will tour the home and chat with costumed history players who are portraying members of the Cox family.

New sidewalks have been installed approaching the house and our wonderful volunteers have spent countless hours

working on the yard and gardens. Make sure to add a tour of the Cox House to your list of things to do during a summer Saturday!

Also, be sure to come and enjoy some of the many programs that the Cox House has to offer year-round!

Ridgely Report ...

Fort Ridgely Historic Site by Amber Bentler



photo by Amber Bentler

Fort Ridgely has seen quite a few changes in the last couple months. Through the end of July, the Fort will be displaying nine of our most famous American flags. The flags include the Naval "Don't Tread On Me", the Bennington 76 which was carried at the Battle of Bennington during the Revolutionary War, the Grand Union Flag which was the "first American flag", the fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, the 33-star Oregon flag, the 34-star Kansas flag, Lincoln's Campaign flag, the 48-star flag which flew for 47 years before Alaska and Hawaii joined the Union and of course the 32-star "Great Star Pattern" which was flown in 1858 when Minnesota joined the Union as the 32nd State. If you have wondered what these magnificent

flags look like or the history behind them you should come on out and take look.

We also have the National Award winning "Commemorating Controversy" exhibit. This very informative exhibit tells about the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and the many issues that have surrounded this piece of our national history. The award-winning exhibit will be on display for the season.

On June 27th and 28th Fort Ridgely hosted our first Company B Drill Weekend. There was a full company that weekend as well as a bugler, drummer, and flute player. The days began with revelry just like it would have when the Fort was in operation. The company performed drills with muskets on the parade ground as well as camped overnight. The New Ullm Battery was also present to talk about the cannon and, of course, they fired off a few rounds.

The summer has started off with a bang and we look forward to very busy and successful season at Fort Ridgely Historic Site.

Harkin Happenings ...

Harkin Store Update by Ruth Crewe

The Harkin Store opened on May 3 this year. The weather was not very good at the beginning of May but now we are seeing more visitors since the weather has gotten warmer. We have a different program every Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m.; so far they have been well attended!

We have had visitors from around 10 states and 8 countries so far. I'm always amazed at how they find out about us "in the sticks". Visitors love to see the old things from the development of the United States; a place like the Harkin Store was part of that movement. Our store has 40% of the original merchandise on the shelves. We give information about the town of West Newton and the Harkin Store and of course, Alexander Harkin, the first owner.

Some of our 2014 summer programs include: Our July 6 program will be the New Ulm battery firing the 1862 cannon every half hour. We will be serving cold watermelon and lemonade. "Christmas in July" will be happening on July 13 with decorations and Scottish treats. On July 20 the "Best of the Worst" program will feature live music—old time polkas and waltzes. Our newest program is on July 27, "Shopping with Laura Ingalls". Laura went shopping with her parents only a few times but they were very memorable for her so we are setting up those items that she wrote about in her book series.

We charge admission to the store and our programs are part of the admission. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (65+), children 6–17, and for students with ID. Members of the NCHS and the MNHS get free admission with their membership. The Harkin Store is open from Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 to 5 p.m. with programs from 1 to 4 p.m. Come visit us along the bottom road or Nicollet County Road 21, nine miles northwest of New Ulm or we are nine miles east from Fort Ridgely.



"Wonderful stop!" says Emily Quick, Embarras, Minn. in her review of Harkin Store after a family visit to the site. "A beautiful drive a few miles outside of New Ulm along the river begins the trip back in time. This store is filled with authentic and many ORIGINAL goods from the late 1800s. The store clerk was extremely friendly and chatted with both my children about life in the time period. She was happy to show us glasses, sewing supplies, and all sorts of goodies from the shelves. An amazing time capsule of pioneer life..."

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g43366-d143328-Reviews-Harkin_Store_Historic_Site-New_Ulm_Minnesota.html

W.W. Mayo House ...

New Tour Guide at Mayo House by Becky Pollack

The Mayo House welcomed tour guide Amanda Johnson as we opened for tours in May. Amanda graduated from Le Sueur Henderson High School with a passion for writing and history. She is currently a student at the University of Minnesota, Morris planning to graduate with a degree in Anthropology. Amanda replaced longtime tour guide Don Lavold, who retired this spring. We were so happy to honor Don's seven years of tour guiding at the Mayo House with a lunch at the Cosgrove Bed and Breakfast. Don, your dedication to sharing the stories of the Mayo Family and the Cosgrove Family has been outstanding. *Thank you!*



Meet NCHS Volunteer: Jack Buser



My name is Jack Buser and I grew up in a small town in Nebraska, just across the river from Sioux City, Iowa. Near my hometown was the monument to Charles Floyd, the only member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to die. There was also a monument to War Eagle, a Dakota Indian who worked with the Euro-Americans. These monuments made me interested in history from an early age. I majored in Biology from Wayne State University and then got a Masters in Zoology and Ecology from the University of South Dakota. I taught Biology for six years then began working for 3M and spent most of my career there. I retired from 3M and opened a coffee shop in Webster City, Iowa, which I operated for five years. Then I went back to teaching at Iowa Center Community College in Fort Dodge, Iowa for a few years.

I am married to Susan and we have three children and five grandchildren. Susan and I moved to St. Peter in September of 2013, which is when I wandered into the Treaty Site History Center and decided to become a volunteer here; I started in January 2014. I enjoy spending time here, meeting people and helping them understand what the Treaty Center is all about—so stop in and see me!



Summer Intern: Ryan Walker

My name is Ryan Walker I am a master's student in the applied Anthropology program at Minnesota State University Mankato. My primary focus is in cultural anthropology with major interests including political anthropology, economic anthropology, social control and museum studies. I previously attended the University of North Dakota where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, with an emphasis in archeology, and a minor in history. My main historical interests include early Minnesota history, Pre-Columbian North America, and military history.

Our summer intern, Ryan Walker, spent his first week putting together a temporary exhibit at the Treaty Site. The display features artifacts uncovered by Jeff Hayden from a field near Fort Ridgely. It includes such items as mortar shells, belt buckles, bullets and even an unfinished arrowhead. Mr. Hayden graciously loaned us the items and the exhibit will be featured at the Treaty Site for the summer. Come in to the Treaty Site for a look at the display and the rest of our wonderful exhibits!



TSHC

Summer Employee: Sarah Cooper

Hello! My name is Sarah Cooper and I'm from St. Charles, Illinois. I am a junior History and English major at Gustavus Adolphus College. I'm also heavily involved in music at Gustavus being in the band, orchestra and choir. I've been interested in working at a museum since 8th grade and plan on getting my master's degree in library science or museum studies after I graduate from Gustavus.

A BIG THANK YOU to the students at Veritas et Lux Preparatory School!

The very helpful students of Veritas et Lux Preparatory School have volunteered countless hours to weed, rake, prepare and maintain the lawn and gardens at the E. St. Julien Cox House. We have some exciting programs and events this year and thanks to the students our yard is sure to look beautiful for each of them!



Volunteers Needed at the Nicollet County Fair

The Nicollet County Historical Society will once again be present at the Nicollet County Fair. This year's fair is August 6-10 and we are always looking for volunteers to help us at our booth! This year's hours are Wednesday 3 to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in being a helping hand at the fair, please contact Alyssa at alyssa@nchsmn.org or call the Treaty Site at 507-934-2160.



Share your interests of all things Fair and NCHS by volunteering for a shift in the NCHS booth at this year's Nicollet County Fair.

We would also like to say **thanks** to these business members:

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Artifact & Archival Donations

accepted into our collections since the March 2014 *Crossing*:

St. Peter Lions Club: archival records from the St. Peter Lions Club.

James Schultz: 1983 Nicollet County, Minnesota Rural Resident Directory.

Jean Potter: two Nicollet County Plat Books.

Marlin Peterson: *The Faces Behind the Names*, two volumes about Americans who were killed in Vietnam.

Richard Runck: shotgun and powderhorn: broken stock, separate from the rest of the weapon; initials J L on the stock; the shotgun was found sticking out of a fallen tree on land in the vicinity of the Little Rock trading post; powderhorn found at same site.

Bob Sandeen: bottle collection of Jim Derner featuring St. Peter Engesser Brewery bottles, St. Peter Bottling Works bottles, St. Peter drug store bottles, and others; Engesser Beer case.

Brian Oviatt: Engesser 7-ounce beverage bottle, clear, red lettering on white background; Hendrickson Bros. trade card from St. Peter with The Alden Fruit Vinegar label and an image of a vase of flowers on the other side; letter from 1883 with St. Peter cancel on the envelope.

Helen Miller Schauer: assorted St. Peter items: booklets, photographs, newspaper clippings, Gustavus Adolphus College jewelry, two copies of each of the 1956, 1957, and 1958 St. Peter High School yearbooks, St. Peter High School blue and white pennant, and issues 1 through 8 of Volume XII of the St. Peter High School *Peter Patter* newspaper from the 1958-1959 school year; numerous items for the Cox House (see worksheet); three scrapbooks concerning St. Peter High School, issues 3, 5, 6, and 8 of Volume XI of the St. Peter High School *Peter Patter*, and a framed advertisement for the Hom Aid Products business in St. Peter.

Craig A. Ferkenstad: yardstick from Nelsen's Furniture store in St. Peter.

Rick Tuomala: three maps showing proposed alternative routes of U. S. Highway 169 in or near St. Peter, dated 2001, options 2 through 4.

Norseland Area Preservation Assn. News...

Friends of District 6 Restoration Update

Mark your calendars! The New Sweden 150th celebration and class reunion for students of District 6 will be held on **September 14, 2014**. You will have a chance to marvel at the work that has been done to restore the former District 6 school house and New Sweden Township Hall while celebrating the 150th anniversary of the New Sweden Township. A pork chop dinner will be served at the Scandian Grove Church Park at 5:30 p.m. with the Norseland Area Preservation Association.

We've been busy this past winter. Thanks to many generous individual donors and a substantial grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation, we had a new furnace installed and insulated the entire building, which meant the basement finally had heat during the cold months. We also had the electrical service updated and replaced the porch floor and pillars, which will soon be better accessible via new steps. Look for a fresh coat of paint from the Valspar Group to spruce up the exterior, thanks to a grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Interior restoration begins soon! We are also excited to install two historical markers, thanks to additional funds from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation. One marker will be installed in Norseland and the other will be at the schoolhouse itself. We are always looking for people interested in helping us preserve our rural school history. Interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities? Please contact the Friends of District 6 President Garfield Eckberg at 507-327-3237 or gre37@wildbluecoop.com.



Friends of District 6 President Garfield Eckberg (center) accepting the first of 28 gallons of paint from a generous Picture-It-Painted grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and the Valspar Corporation.

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REPAIRS continued from page 1

house. A generous emergency grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation will help cover some of the repairs to the carriage house, shed, and fence. These funds go a long way toward helping us defray the costs, but they aren't enough.

We need your help. Your financial contribution will help us make these necessary repairs:

Treaty Site

- Skylight reglazing: \$11,505
- Additional roof repairs: \$ 1,975

Cox House

- Repair and replace windows in the house: \$ 5,000
- New cedar shingle roof on the shed and repairs to the carriage house roof: \$ 1,500
- Replace fence: estimated from \$10,000 to \$15,000

These are daunting figures to an organization of our size. Your contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100—or whatever amount you are able to make at this time—will ensure that repairs are made and the sites that are so important to us will continue to function and grow. Repairing the sites will also allow us to focus time and resources on the award-winning exhibits and programs you've come to expect from us.

Making a contribution is easy. Use the form below to make your contribution by mail or visit our website (nchsmn.org) to donate online at this time.

We've said it before and we'll say it again: you make our work happen, through your support, your volunteering, and now—as many of you have done so generously in the past—through your financial contribution. If you donate today, you will help us make most repairs by the end of the year. Help us preserve these sites so they can continue to tell the stories of our community.



The Society would like to thank former board member Julie Gilbert for crafting the fundraising request and District 6 article in the newsletter.



I/We would like to help with NCHS site repairs...

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

☐ Please accept my ANONYMOUS Donation

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

My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Acct. Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

Please make checks payable to:
Nicollet County Historical Society

Donations should be mailed to:
**Repair Donation
Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082**

Area Events...

Join the Community Read

Gustavus and St. Peter Reads partner for *Where Am I Wearing?* & *Where Am I Eating?*

Gustavus has chosen their Reading in Common books for their first-year student class and St. Peter Reads is proud to partner with Gustavus to promote the community portion of this Community Reads event.

This year's events will focus on two books by Kelsey Timmerman, *Where Am I Wearing* and *Where Am I Eating*.

In his first book, *Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People That Make Our Clothes*, Timmerman takes audiences on a journey through Asia and Latin America. From a 20-something T-shirt maker in Honduras to a single mother of two in Bangladesh,

Timmerman humanizes the issues of globalization, intimately describing the connection between impoverished garment workers' standards of living and the all-American material lifestyle, bridging the gap between global producers and

consumers. *Where Am I Wearing* has been featured in *Time*, *Financial Times*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *Christian Science Monitor*.

In his global quest to meet the farmers and fishermen who grow and catch our food, Timmerman documented the experiences that led to his latest book, *Where Am I Eating: An Adventure through the Global Food Economy*. This book tells fascinating stories of the farmers and fishermen around the world who produce the food we eat, explaining what their lives are like and how our habits affect them.

Kelsey Timmerman, sponsored by the Gustavus Reading in Common program, will be in St. Peter for a lecture and book signing on **Wednesday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m.** on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in Alumni Hall. This is a free event and open to the public.

For more information and announcement of additional upcoming events please check out these websites:

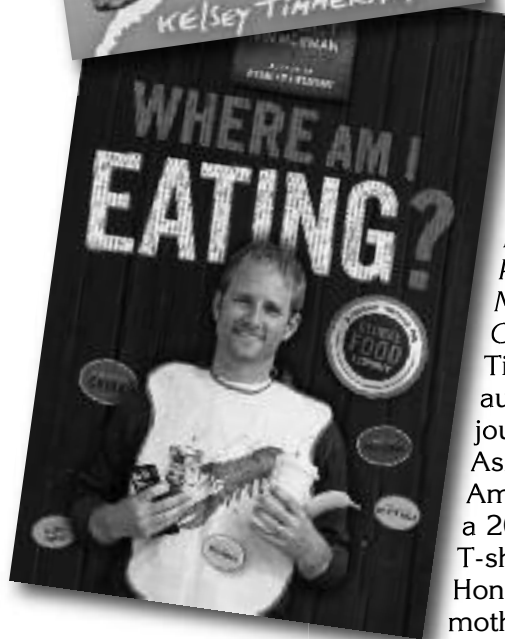
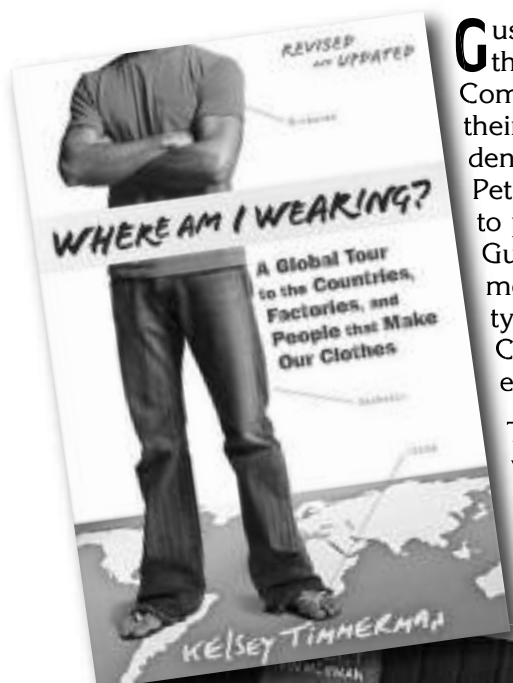
Kelsey Timmerman webpage and blog:
<http://whereamiwearing.com/>

Gustavus Orientation page:
gustavus.edu/orientation/ReadinginCommon

St. Peter Reads Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/StPeterReads>

St. Peter Reads Blog page:
<http://stpeterreads.wordpress.com/>

contributions from Gustavus Adolphus College and whereamiwearing.com



Area Events...

Sat., July 19, 2014, Greenhill Cemetery, Saint Peter, 10 a.m.

Captain Asgrim Skaro Recognized

On Saturday July 19, 2014 at 10 a.m., the Governor's Civil War Commemoration Task Force and the Nicollet County Historical Society will host a remembrance event that will include commemoration ceremonies honoring Nicollet County's Asgrim Skaro, Captain in the Ninth Minnesota Infantry, Company D, who lost his life on December 16, 1864, when a bullet hit his right breast while leading a charge at the Battle of Nashville in Tennessee. The

event will also include dedication ceremonies of a new grave marker and presentations by state and local dignitaries. This event is part of sesquicentennial ceremonies to commemorate and remember the participation of all Minnesota Civil War soldiers by honoring the memories of the 20 soldiers who were returned for burial in Minnesota of more than 800 who died in battle.

The event will be held in Greenhill Cemetery in Saint Peter and is open to the public. The cemetery is located on Sunrise Drive between Traverse Road and Dodd Avenue. The event will be held rain or shine. Visit mncivil-war150.com for directions.



Civil War Capt. Asgrim K. Skaro, who was killed in the battle of Nashville in 1864. He was one of the founders of St. Peter in Nicollet County in 1853.

Connecting Nicollet County program accepting applications

Applications are being accepted for the 2014–2015 Connecting Nicollet County Leadership program. With a mission of connecting people, creating awareness of resources, and building leadership throughout Nicollet County, the program is now coming into its fifth year and has become well established with involvement by almost one hundred participants.

In each monthly session from September through May, participants visit a different community across the county to tour local businesses, community and historical sites, agricultural venues, government agencies, schools, and health care facilities. Participants also learn new leadership skills through professional workshops on conflict management, strategic thinking, leading effective meetings, cultural competency, dealing with change, visionary and ethical leadership, and generational trends.

This affordable opportunity is available to individuals or company-sponsored employees who live or work in Nicollet County. Space is limited to a maximum of 25 participants. Brochures and application forms are available by e-mailing Peggy Carlson at cncpcoordinator@gmail.com, calling 507-479-0048, or from any board member. Deadline is July 31.

Position Announcement: Program Coordinator of Connecting Nicollet County

Position Description: The Program Coordinator will provide administrative oversight to the program including organization and fund development, communications, alumni relations, project management and marketing. Working in partnership with a board of directors and program stakeholders, the Program Coordinator is responsible for the successful operation of a comprehensive leadership development educational program specifically designed to enrich the skills of emerging leaders and to connect the communities, organizations and residents throughout Nicollet County. This is a part-time position of 15 hrs./week with the potential to increase hours depending on successful fund development. Target start date is July 15th.

Required Qualifications: Experience in program management, fundraising, excellent written and oral communications, strong background in technology and computer related programs, self-starter, precise, attention to detail and deadlines.

To Apply: Send letter of interest and resume to:

Connecting Nicollet County
C/O Wayne Whitmore
Treaty Site History Center
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Application deadline: July 11, 2014.

Further information, call Wayne at 507-232-3257 or Catie at 507-389-6749.



NCHS Director, Alyssa Auten, is applying to be a member of the 2014–15 CNC group.

photo courtesy of St. Peter Herald

2014 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

Harkin Store: \$5 adults (18–64), \$3 seniors (65+) and children (6–17) Free for age 5 and under, MNHS and NCHS members

Fort Ridgely: \$5 adults (18–64), \$3 seniors (65+) and children (6–17) Free for age 5 and under, MNHS and NCHS members

Mayo House: \$6 adults (18–64), \$3 seniors (65+), college students and children (6–17) Free for age 5 and under, MNHS, MNHS and NCHS members

Treaty Site History Center: \$5 adults (18–64), \$3 seniors (65+) and children (6–17) Free for age 5 and under, MNHS and NCHS members

July 13	Christmas In July, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 13	Learn to Canoe!, 10 a.m.	Swan Lake in Nicollet County
July 13	Prairie Program with Naturalist Scott Kudelka, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 17	Minnesota River Paddle, 5:30 p.m.	Seven Mile Creek Park
July 19	Tastes and Sounds of the Civil War, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 19	Rededication of Captain Asgrim Skaro's Grave, 10 a.m. (see notice on page 13) <i>Sunrise Drive between Traverse Road and Dodd Avenue. The event will be held rain or shine.</i>	Greenhill Cemetery
July 19	E. St. Julien Cox House Tours, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.	Cox House
July 20	Music: "Best of the Wurst", 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 25	Frontier Fun Kids Activities, 12 p.m.	W.W. Mayo House
July 26	Frontier Fun Kids Activities, 12 p.m.	W.W. Mayo House
July 27	Shopping With Laura Ingalls, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 27	Frontier Fun Kids Activities, 12 p.m.	W.W. Mayo House
Aug. 1	"Giant Story" Mayo House Tour, 10 a.m.	W.W. Mayo House
Aug. 2	"Giant Story" Mayo House Tour, 10 a.m.	W.W. Mayo House
Aug. 2	E. St. Julien Cox House Tours, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.	Cox House
Aug. 3	35th West Newton Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 3	"Giant Story" Mayo House Tour, 10 a.m.	W.W. Mayo House
Aug. 7	Minnesota River Paddle, 5:30 p.m.	Seven Mile Creek Park
Aug. 9	William Lass: <i>Shaping the North Star State</i> , 2 p.m. (see notice on page 4)	Fort Ridgely
Aug. 6–10	Nicollet County Fair and NCHS Booth (see notice on page 9)	Nicollet County Fairgrounds
Aug. 10	Old Time Games Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 14	Prairie-Woods Program Part 1 — The Prairie, 7 p.m.	Traverse des Sioux trail (at Treaty Site)
Aug. 16	Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War & Battlefield Tour, 1 & 2:30 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Aug. 16	E. St. Julien Cox House Tours, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.	Cox House
Aug. 17	Bees and Honey, 2 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 17	Le Sueur Tigers Tour, 12 p.m.	W.W. Mayo House
Aug. 21	William Lass: <i>Shaping the North Star State</i> , 2 p.m. (see notice on page 4)	Treaty Site History Center
Aug. 23	Curtis Dahlin Program, 1:30 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Aug. 24	Old Schools Days, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Aug. 30	Children's Games and Craft Day, 12 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
Aug. 31	Labor Day: The West Arrives in West Newton, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
Sept. 4	Documentary Film Series: <i>America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie</i> , 7 p.m. (see description on page 3)	TSHC
Sept. 6	Causes of the U.S. – Dakota War & Battlefield Tour, 1 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.	Fort Ridgely

- Sept. 7 Grandparent's Day, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Sept. 10 Author Kelsey Timmerman at Gustavus for Reading in Common Gustavus Alumni Hall
Lecture and book signing for Where Am I Wearing? and Where Am I Eating?
See story on page 12 / Free and open to the public
- Sept. 11 Prairie-Woods Program Part 2 – The Big Woods, 7 p.m. Traverse des Sioux trail (at Treaty Site)
- Sept. 14 Snakes of the Minnesota River, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Sept. 14 New Sweden Twp. 150th Celebration & Class Reunion for Dist. 6 Students Dist. 6 School
(See story on page 10 for details) & Scandian Grove Church Park
- Sept. 21 Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Sept. 21 Tools and House Building - mid-1800s, 12 p.m. W.W. Mayo House
- Sept. 28 Sheep-Wool-Quilts, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Oct. 7 Documentary Film Series:
Connected by Coffee, 7 p.m. (see description on page 3) TSHC
- Oct. 5 Preparing for Winter, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Oct. 5 Mayo House Artwork Tour, 12 p.m. W.W. Mayo House
- Oct. 11 River program with Naturalist Scott Kudelka, 1 p.m. Fort Ridgely
- Oct. 12 Horses-Horseshoes-Leather-Transportation, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Oct. 16 Swan Lake program, 7 p.m. Treaty Site History Center
- Oct. 19 Music- Lonesome Ron's Round-up, 1 p.m. Harkin Store
- Nov. 6 Documentary Film Series / TBA, 7 p.m. TSHC
- Nov. 29 Afternoon Christmas Tours, 12 p.m. W.W. Mayo House
- Dec. 4 Documentary Film Series / TBA, 7 p.m. TSHC
- Dec. 6 Afternoon Christmas Tours, 12 p.m. W.W. Mayo House
- Dec. 12 Christmas Candlelight Tours (evening), TBA W.W. Mayo House
- Dec. 13 Christmas Candlelight Tours (evening), TBA W.W. Mayo House



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



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stpeterherald.com

Fort Ridgely
Harkin Store
Traverse des Sioux
E. St. Julien Cox House
Mayo House



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Treaty Site History Center



E. St. Julien Cox House



Alexander Harkin Store



Historic Fort Ridgely



Traverse des Sioux Townsite



W.W. Mayo House

NCHS Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Acct. Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

☐ Please save mailing costs, I will read my newsletter online.

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2014 at the following level (please check one).

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<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 45
<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**