



the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

March 2015 • Volume 20 / Issue 1

June 14, Flag Day

Grand Opening of the Patio

Over a year ago the Nicollet County Historical Society received an extremely generous anonymous donation to redesign the front landscaping at the Treaty Site History Center. The sidewalks that were original to the building's construction in 1992–1994 were starting to crack and heave. It was decided that it was time to do some redesigning and give the entry area new life. NCHS hired Creative Landscape, Inc. and Blue Heron Landscaping to design the new landscaping, including prairie plants, small trees and boulders. With the Highway 169 construction and flood of last June the work was delayed until September and October. The project was completed mid-October and it looks terrific, a nice new welcome to the Treaty Site.

The Nicollet County Historical Society will be holding a “grand opening” party on June 14, which is also Flag Day! When the building was constructed a flag pole was installed but has not been used for years because the strong winds that come through this area kept ruining flags. Fortunately, there are new, extremely durable flags available and during the grand opening we will raise a flag on our flag pole for the first time in a long time! Details are still being sorted so keep an eye out for press about the event. Thank you to the anonymous donor who made this beautiful landscaping happen!



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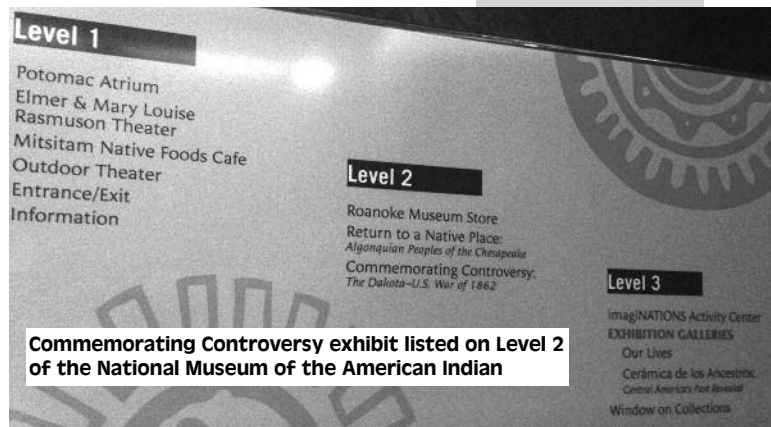
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“Commemorating Controversy” in Washington D.C.

by Susie Carlin

In mid-March, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for a conference. While I was there, I visited the National Museum of the American Indian, a component of the Smithsonian Institution that is located on the National Mall. In 2015, NCHS's exhibit, “Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota-U.S. War of 1862” is on display in this museum. The twelve panels of “Commemorating Controversy” explore the causes, voices, events, and long-lasting consequences of the conflict and were produced by students at

Smithsonian *continued on page 10*



Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the first of the year:

Renewed Champion

Business Members:

Gustavus Adolphus College

Renewed Advocate

Business Members:

Brighton Township

Renewed Sustaining

Members:

Ellis Jones

Ranae J. Peterson

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Melanie Lynard

Richard & Janet Wettergren

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Ellie Depuydt

Maria Erling

JoAnn Gieseke

Mollie Hoben

Charles L. Johnson

Patricia Judd

Marolyn Kleinert

Bob Lambert

Sally Lambert

Maria Lokensgard

Mary Long

Phyllis Maxwell

Ms. Sylvia M. Nesheim

Ann Pesavento

Bob Schabert

Mary Ann Scharf

New Advocate

Business Member:

Mankato Area

Lifelong Learners

New Sustaining Members:

Julie & Chris Gilbert

New Family Members:

Emma Janni

Tom, Lelia & Orla Leonhardt

Anissa Sandland

New Individual Members:

Sharon Pinney

Jerry Weldy

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Mark Ulman, North Mankato

Joe Urban, Saint Peter

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TSHC Museum Assistants, Jessica Becker,

Jack Buser, Marian Determan,

Mitch Lawson, Teresa Saum

Loren Sundboom

TSHC Maintenance, Wayne Passon

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, Dan Cochran,

Annaliese Endorf, Rachel Montpetit,

Charlotte Nack, Nancy Zempel

Mayo House Manager, Becky Pollack

Mayo House Guide, Sadie Frauendienst,

Amanda Johnson

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.;

Archives: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

General info via e-mail: museum@nchsmn.org

or research@nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N Washington Ave., St. Peter MN 56082

Phone: 507-934-2160

Tours of 10+ available by appointment.

The Cox House is available year-round for a

variety of programs 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: 507-508-2848

Hours: Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day

Fr.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sept., first 3 weekends in Oct.

Sat.-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

Hours: May-Sep.: Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Closed July 4th



Alyssa Auten

Director's Column

Spring feels like it's finally here and we couldn't be more thrilled here at the Nicollet County Historical Society. Spring means our trails are starting to come back to life. Spring means more wildlife can be seen along the river and near our historic sites. Spring means we're busy planning a variety of summer programming the whole family can enjoy.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is charged with preserving the past. That includes photographs, stories, buildings and a variety of other items and ideas. As we work hard at preservation, we are seeing a shift in the history and museum industry. What the public wants to experience at a museum is changing, and how we share our history is changing also. Studies show that museum-goers are looking for more hands-on activities and more experiential programming. As we think about our mission and the coming season, these changing trends are in the front of our minds.

The NCHS Board of Directors recently met for a retreat day; a day to talk about priorities and where our energy will be focused this year. The board went through a variety of exercises to highlight both our strengths and our weaknesses. We realized that we have so many ideas that we need to prioritize and feature the strengths of this organization. It was decided that the number one priority for 2015 will be educational programming and events.

At the Nicollet County Historical Society we are working hard to create new programming that focuses on a variety of topics and reaches a variety of demographics. At the Treaty Site History Center we'll be hosting a three-day program for children about Dakota culture; we'll be promoting native prairies through a "tour local prairies" day; and we are holding a "Forgotten Settlement" day for children to learn about the lost Traverse des Sioux settlement. Our other historic sites are also planning a multitude of programs each weekend, from battlefield reenactments to herb garden tours, to a day in the life of a pioneer woman.

An historical society is all about the past, but we're also about making it relevant to the present and inspirational for the future. We hope you'll join us as we start a terrific 2015 season!

Alyssa Auten, Director

Join us in welcoming... Board Members...

Rhonda Dass, North Mankato, is a faculty member of the Anthropology Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato and also serves as the Director of American Indian Studies. Her interest in museums has been a lifelong focus influencing her education and her work. Her educational path combined art history with multicultural studies at the undergraduate level leading to her work in conservation and restoration. Her graduate studies brought her to Museum Studies with a focus on material culture creation that combined well with her work on PhDs in Folklore and American Studies. The new multidisciplinary certificate program in Museum Studies keeps Dass busy these days along with her work as a practicing artist. She is a weaver who also paints and tattoos. She resides in Lower North Mankato with her husband, Michael Wilen, and their two German Shepherds, Sadie and Cain.



**Rhonda Dass, North Mankato,
Board Member**

Julie Gilbert has lived in St. Peter for almost twenty years, the past nine of which have been in a house that is exactly one hundred years older than she is. Julie is both a reference librarian at Gustavus and a writer whose fiction often draws on history for inspiration. She also likes to spend time investigating local cemeteries. A past board member, Julie is excited to return to a more active role in the Society.



**Julie Gilbert, St. Peter,
Board Member**

Mark Ulman lives in North Mankato and has been in education since 2001. His undergraduate degree is in Business Management, and Master's degree is in Educational Excellence. Mark obtained his Social Studies licensure from Spring Arbor University with a minor in Psychology, and has Advanced Placement certification in Economics from the University of Iowa.

Mark has taught a wide range of classes within the social studies field including: Civics, Economics, Advanced Placement Economics, Human Geography, Psychology, Social Problems, Sociology, United States History, and World History.

In addition he has been a coach for the past 18 years in cross country and track and field, and has also coached my childrens' teams in soccer, hockey, and triathlons.



**Mark Ulman, North Mankato,
Board Member**

Office Manager...

Leilia Leonhardt has a Bachelor's Degree in business management, with a minor in Accounting and has worked for the City of Saint Peter Finance Department since 2008. She thrives on numbers and helping people. Not only does she like to keep busy, she loves to learn. She is excited about the new opportunity to help NCHS and can't wait for the experiences it will hold. As a bonus for NCHS, Lelia will be volunteering her time to maintain the records of Memberships, Donations, and Memorials. She will be in the office mostly nights and weekends, so don't hesitate to e-mail her at lelia@nchsmn.org.



**Leilia Leonhardt,
Office Manager**

FILMS ON THURSDAYS

Season 6 / 2015 Film Series Continues

Please join us for the 2014–15 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened every month at the Treaty Site History Center, through May. *Admission to the film series is free for everyone!*

NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Thurs., April 9, 7 p.m.:

Cox House Shorts Film Series

Not rated. The Cox House Shorts Film Series shines a light on the life in the Victorian Midwest during the late 1800s. Using archival photos and documents from around the region, as well as the “living archive” of the E. St. Julien Cox House museum, these short films share the experiences of local people in the context of pressing issues of the day, including the roles of women, life as a child, disease and death, the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, and really wide streets! The Cox House Shorts are student films created in a collaboration between the Department of Communication Studies at Gustavus Adolphus College and the Nicollet County Historical Society. Several Gusties will speak to their filmmaking experiences after the viewing.



Images courtesy of
John Muir National
Historic Site



Thurs., May 7, 7 p.m.:

John Muir:

A Glorious Journey

20 min., not rated. This film tells the story of John Muir, America's most famous naturalist and conservationist. Muir shared his love of nature through writing and inspired people to protect our country's wild places, fueling the formation of the National Park Service and the modern conservation movement. This film is shown at the Visitor Center at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California, and was produced by the National Park Service.

After the film, Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka will present a program on local conservation. Conservation is an important endeavor by humans to protect, restore, and improve the natural environment. This can be done in a variety of ways, both large and small. Scott will talk about some of the interesting conservation projects that have taken place here in the Minnesota River Basin.



An Evening With Maud Hixson



“Maud knows how to sing to you. Her style is so efficient, moving and always true to the meaning of the lyric and the integrity of a great melody. It makes her liberties all the more expressive. It’s refreshing to hear a great singer who knows it’s really all about the song.”

— Michael Johnson,
singer, songwriter, guitarist

With support from Nicollet County Bank, the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners present “An Evening With Maud Hixson,” singer of soft jazz selections from the flapper, swing, and bebop eras. Hixson will be accompanied by Rick Carlson on piano and Steve Pikal on bass. Doors open at 7 p.m., program begins at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 24, at the Treaty Site History Center, 1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, one mile north of St. Peter on Hwy. 169, on east side. Refreshments will be available before the performance and during intermission. Tickets are \$15 at Nicollet County Bank, the Arts Center of Saint Peter, and the Treaty Site History Center, and in Mankato at both Hy-Vee stores and at the Lifelong Learners Office on the MSU-M campus. For more information, contact Mankato Area Lifelong Learners at (507) 389-2011.

Maud Hixson has performed at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and in New York at Lincoln Center’s Rose Hall, the New York Cabaret Convention and the Midtown Jazz Series. A two-time recipient of the Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Hixson has held album release events at the Dakota Jazz Club in Minneapolis and the Café at Broadway in New York. Learn more about Maud Hixson on her website: maudhixson.com.

NCHS Opening & Holiday Hours...

Saturday, May 2:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Harkin Store
opens for season

Saturday, May 2:
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.:
W.W. Mayo House
opens for season

Friday, May 22:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Fort Ridgely
opens for season

May 25:
Treaty Site
History Center
will be closed in
observance of
Memorial Day

July 4:
Treaty Site
History Center
will be closed in
observance of
the Fourth of July
*See you at St.
Peter’s 44th annual
Old Fashioned
Fourth of July
Parade and in
Minnesota Square
Park for the Picnic*

July 4:
W.W. Mayo House
will be closed in
observance of
the Fourth of July

A Treaty Site Romance

Jean (Binger) Drexler and Steven Bradley Walter were friends who graduated from high school together in Fairfax in 1978. After graduation Jean moved to Mankato and Steven joined the Navy; 35 years later they reconnected through Facebook in December of 2013. Jean and Steven had their first date at the Treaty Site History Center a few years ago. During that first date they watched our museum film but spent the whole time talking and reconnecting. Now, two years later they decided to get married in the Treaty Site’s Melva Lind Gallery room, the very same room in which they had that first date! On March 13, 2015 Jean and Steven tied the knot. The Nicollet County Historical Society congratulates them on their new life together!

Keep the Nicollet County Historical Society in mind as a place for receptions, ceremonies, weddings, reunions, birthday parties, or conferences. Check out rental possibilities at http://www.nchsmn.org/facility_rental.html.



Interesting & Informative Programming



History on Tap: Beer Sampling with Barley's Angels and the Mankato Brewery
Friday, May 8, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center
 Mankato Brewery started producing beer in 2012 and contributes to the rich history of brewing in southern Minnesota. Barley's Angels of Southern Minnesota provides women with a comfortable environment to explore and learn about craft beer. Join these two organizations

to explore the modern history of beer making in Minnesota and taste samples from Mankato Brewery. *\$15 per person. Must be 21 to participate. Deadline to register (register through the St. Peter Community Education office): May 5.*

Geology of the Minnesota River
Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m., Treaty Site History Center, Regular site admission

How was the Minnesota River Valley formed? This interesting story features glaciers, the formation of a glacial lake and a wall of water pushing across what is now southern Minnesota. To get a better view of what happened here thousands of years ago we will take a hike around the Traverse des Sioux trail system and see the Minnesota River up close.

Note the present day Minnesota River is comparatively tiny, shown meandering through the large valley carved by mighty Glacial River Warren.

— © Minnesota River Basin Data Center
<http://mrbd.c.msu.edu/minnesota-river-valley-formation>



The Forgotten Settlement
Tuesday, June 23, 9 a.m.–noon, Treaty Site History Center

Follow the trails to explore a piece of St. Peter history that is long gone—see the locations of old homes and buildings. Who lived there and what happened to the settlement? What was life like in a log cabin? *This program is designed for children who will be entering 1st through 5th grades. A light snack will be provided. \$15 per child. Deadline to register (register through the St. Peter Community Education office): June 18.*



Genevieve Brand
 Seed to Site

Prairie Field Day
Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join us as we visit local prairies in Nicollet County. Genevieve Brand from Seed to Site will be on hand to talk to us about the ecology of native prairies, how to identify some common prairie plants, and how to establish native plants on your own land. We'll

also learn how native prairie plants were used by indigenous people in the area.

We will contact participants with specific locations and details as the date nears. Plan to dress for the weather conditions. The program will begin and end at the Traverse des Sioux Prairie, adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center. Participants will drive from site to site during this tour; please consider carpooling! If you wish, you can pack a picnic lunch and we'll end with an informal lunch at the Traverse des Sioux Prairie.

\$10 per person. Deadline to register (register through the St. Peter Community Education office): July 6.

The Long Arm of History

by Marlin Peterson

While attending the NCHS annual meeting at GAC, my attention was immediately captured by a recently acquired photo on the backside of the annual report, of the old Railroad Hotel on the corner of Fifth and Pine in St. Peter. I am well acquainted with the building as it was one block east of my uncle David Henning's house on the corner of South Washington and Pine and several blocks west of my grandma Peterson's house in the two hundred block of Pine St. The hotel was owned for a while by my grandmother's uncle Swante, and run by her maiden aunts Mary and Anna Randahl, who were siblings of my great-grandfather Reverend Johannes Randahl, pastor of Scandian Grove Lutheran Church at Norseland from 1891 to 1905.

In 1879 my great-grandfather Johannes Randahl graduated from Lutheran Seminary, was married several weeks later, and moved to the Dakota Territory, where he lived in Sioux Falls and pastored at least three churches over the next dozen years. During that time his younger brother Swante and two sisters Mary and Anna also moved to Sioux Falls where Swante purchased a bakery on Phillips Ave. which was run by his two sisters who lived upstairs over the bakery. During this time my grandmother Hannah was born in 1882. In 1891 Reverend Randahl and family moved to Norseland where he pastored Scandian Grove Lutheran church for the next fourteen years and about that same time his three siblings moved to Moorhead, Minn. where Swante obtained a position with Hope Academy and his



two sisters ran a boarding house for college students. In 1893 the three siblings moved to St. Peter where Swante acquired a position with the boarding department at Gustavus Adolphus College and at some point also purchased the Railroad Hotel across from the Northwestern Depot. In the photo the "S. H. Rand(ahl)" sign above the hotel sign was immediately recognized by me. The hotel was run by his sisters Mary and Anna, who upon close examination by myself appear to be the two women standing out front in the photo. In August 1901 at age 39, Swante was married and to the couple was born a daughter Ruth in July 1902. Around that same time or shortly after Swante sold the hotel, perhaps to his sisters, and acquired the grocery store and stock of A. H. Freeman in St. Peter. The following year Swante developed a severe stomach ailment, recovered briefly and then was afflicted with 'brain fever' and died on October 21, 1903. As a prominent business man and well known around St. Peter his funeral was said to be one of the largest within the memory of many persons. He is buried on the eastern side of Resurrection Cemetery.

Initially I did not recognize the name of the photo donor Pam Seaser from Owatonna, Minn. (which was part of a box of photos donated to NCHS) however after a bit of

Old Railroad Hotel on the northeast corner of Fifth and Pine in St. Peter, donated by Pam Seaser.

photo from NCHS archives

Looking for a few good folks...

"Are you a history lover and interested in volunteering for NCHS? We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities at any of our six historic sites! Give Alyssa a call at 507-934-2160 or e-mail her at alyssa@nchsmn.org if you're interested in learning more."

Old Railroad Hotel *continued on page 10*

NCHS Site Information

Ridgely Report ...

by Amber Bentler, Site Manager



Painting by James McGrew of Fort Ridgely, circa 1890.

— from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Monetary Donations

received since the first of the year:

Monetary Donations

Mildred Anderson
The Mark E. & Mary A. Davis Foundation
Harold A. Nelson Estate
Paape Companies, Inc.
Herb & Louise Poncin
Arlene Sandeen

Non-monetary Donations

Dean Otto
Mary & Wally Gibbons

Memorials

received received since the first of the year:

In Memory of
Mary Ann Zins

Given by
Lorraine & Harold Olson

In Memory of
Vernita Dummer

Given by
Linda Dummer
Ron Dummer
Lorraine & Harold Olson
Deb (Dummer) Harris
Betty (Dummer) Henning
Judy (Dummer) Malone

Greetings from Fort Ridgely Historic Site! The 2015 season is upon us and I have been busy planning programs and ordering new things for the gift shop.

Opening day is Friday, May 22nd, and we are opening the season with John Labatte on Saturday, May 23rd! John will be giving his **Causes of the Dakota War** program at 1 p.m. followed by his **Battlefield Tour** at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday is also **Family Picnic Day**, come on out with a picnic lunch and enjoy the prairie. There will be baseball, hoops and sticks,

and other old fashioned games to play. If you have kites bring them along as well, the parade grounds are a great place to fly kites. If you don't have a kite we do sell some in our gift shop.

The next big event will be June 6th and 7th. It is our annual **Company B Reenactment Weekend**. Company B soldiers along with the 2nd Minnesota, New Ullm Battery, Arn Kind, and many other re-enactors will be here to show what a day in the life of a soldier would be like during the 1860s. The soldiers will be running musket drills and the Battery will be shooting the cannon! Bring the whole family and reserve a campsite in the park so you don't miss a thing.

The gift shop will be featuring new t-shirts and sweatshirts as well as locally made, all natural goat's milk soap, lotion, and lip balms along with many other items that make Fort Ridgely stand out as a wonderful place to shop. Please remember us when you need a unique gift for someone special.

This season is shaping up to be a fabulous year! If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to help out with any events give me a call at 507-508-2848. *I will see you at the Fort!*

Harkin Happenings ...

by Ruth Grewe, Site Manager

We are excited that this is the 145th year of the Harkin Store. We are opening on May 2nd at 10 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The store will be having many various programs on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Check out the list in the calendar of events.

Admission to the programs is included with the admission to the store.

Our gift shop is open the same hours as the store with many books, toys, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy.

If you haven't been to the 1870's general store with 40% original on the shelves come enjoy the costumed guides explaining the store and village of West Newton, as well as the terrific view from the porch. See you this exciting year.



Watercolor by Jo Lutz Rollins of Harkin-Massopust Store, 1948.

— from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

HELP WANTED!

The Harkin Store is looking for Site Guides from Memorial Day to Labor Day, various hours available. If you're interested in learning more about what this position entails please contact Harkin Store Site Manager Ruth Grewe at ruthieag@hotmail.com.

NCHS Site Information

Cox House Corner...

by Richard E. Tostenson, Site Manager

Only three words can explain our off season. Repair. Restore. Clean. As many of you know last year spring Mother Nature brought her many wonders raining down on our house, both indoors and out. The high winds damaged the cedar and metal roof, and rain ran down our walls and ceilings. Over the years our storm windows, on inspection, had rotted and our fence had blown over, as well.

We took advantage of our off season with completing the repairs. Replacing and painting 16 of our large storm windows. The house, roof and garden shed roof were completely replaced with new cedar and zinc strips. Two of our garden fence sections were repaired with five to go. Inside we needed to replace the damaged carpet from the water damage, the main and second floor carpet

was replaced in January and February. When the carpet was pulled there was damage to the underlayment from the water and some damage to the stairs as well. Needless to say we are awash in saw dust and dirt.

As I submit this report we are in the process of cleaning and putting the house in order.

We would like to take a moment to thank all of you, for your kind and generous support this past year. You made it possible for us to keep this historic home in repair. A very heartfelt thank you to the Schmidt Foundation for your constant and unwavering support.



W.W. Mayo House ...

by Becky Pollack

Saturday, February 14th, twenty local 3rd to 5th graders had Afternoon Tea at the Mayo House in honor of Valentine's Day. The afternoon included an authentic mid-1800's Afternoon Tea menu with peach tea and lemonade, tips about proper tea etiquette, historic facts about Afternoon Tea and Valentine's Day, and a tour of the Mayo Home. With the help of great volunteers the menu included four courses: salad course of fresh blueberries served in Phillo pastry and cucumber on cracker with cream cheese and hint of dill; bread course of scrumptious scone with lemon curd and marvelous mini corn muffin; entrée course of open face turkey sandwich with cranberry

dollop, petite stacked sandwiches and delicious deviled egg; dessert course of Valentines frosted heart cookie, homemade heart treats and a chocolate shell filled with mousse. While participants practiced their etiquette by not putting their pinky up, they learned that Valentine's Day was first declared a holiday in 1537 but Hallmark didn't produce its first Valentine's Day card until 1913. The afternoon ended with each participant receiving a box of conversation hearts, which were invented in 1866. Thank you to the volunteers and participants that made this event a great success!



Afternoon Tea at the W. W. Mayo House.

— photos by Becky Pollack





The Railroad Hotel, northeast corner of Fifth and Pine in St. Peter, aka Schwengler's Store, aka a present-day rental unit with a major addition since the Railroad Hotel days.

— photo by Eileen Holz

Old Railroad Hotel continued from page 7

deep recollection I recognized her to be the grand-daughter of my aunt, Eva (Mrs. Jay) Seibert who died in 1993, at which time the photos would have changed hands. After twenty years the photos traveled from 219 West Jefferson St. in St. Peter, to Owatonna and now back to NCHS this past summer, which then allowed NCHS to acquire copies of my large collection of Randahl family photos. A note of irony, Mary and Anna Randahl also buried in Resurrection Cemetery, are in the plot adjacent to the father of Bob Sandeen, archivist at NCHS.

Smithsonian continued from page 1



Gustavus Adolphus College in conjunction with the Nicollet County Historical Society. The National Museum of the American Indian typical hosts over a million visitors each year, and we're proud that the Nicollet County Historical Society can lend this exhibit and raise international awareness of this important piece of our local and national history.

Above: TSHC Site Manager at the Smithsonian's exhibit of "Commemorating Controversy". Below: Smithsonian's webpage announcing the exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian.



Artifact & Archival Donations

accepted into our collections since the Oct. 2014 *Crossing*:

Robert Meyer: Sept. 10, 1956 map of proposed site of St. Peter High School; *Old Traverse des Sioux* by Thomas Hughes

James Herkelrath: Herkelrath family history booklet

Oren L. Thorson: photos of Mrs. Lucy Lehmann, Courtland public school teacher

St. Peter Chamber of Commerce: 2014 Oktoberfest buttons

City of St. Peter: 1944 National Pedestrian Protection Contest plaque

Waseca Co. Hist. Soc.: Mar. 1998 St. Peter tornado photos

Diane Hansen: congregation photo outside of the Scandian Grove Luth. Ch. at Norseland (ca. 1920s?), photo of house in the Norseland area, photo album, Borgeson family history documents

Pam Seaser: photo collection, including Railroad Hotel, Pine & Fifth Sts. in St. Peter & John A. Johnson

Ruth Klossner: Dist. 7 School items, Nicollet & Brown Co. Plat Books

Molly Regan: Aug. 1912 wedding dress, veil, & shoes of Cecelia Engesser, Mrs. Raymond Fay, St. Peter

Crossview Covenant Ch., No. Mankato: 4-piece communion set, Covenant Mission Ch. previously on 215 Belgrade Ave., two registers of members; 2 commemorative plates

Marlin Peterson: New York *Tribune* newspapers from Nov. 16, 1853 and Dec. 29, 1853; Gov. John A. Johnson for President postcard; Gov. John A. Johnson button (black border); Valentine postcard with 1909 Traverse, MN cancel; delegate medal of H.W. Johnson of New London for the 1949-74th Annual State Firemen's Convention in St. Peter; 4 Lafayette Fun Fair buttons (1960, '71, '72, & '73); 2 St. Peter Capitol Days buttons (1960 & '61); St. Peter vs. New Ulm 1948 football button; 1902 Lucerne, Switzerland souvenir to Emma Zwingli of Traverse, MN

Stan Muellerleile: Bill Krisastis's popcorn trays used in grandstand of Nic. Co. Fair

Jane Smith Estate: St. Peter Women's Literary Club & St. Peter Music Club documents

MaryAnn Zins: books & reference materials.

Roger Schoeb: assorted items for archives

Herb Poncin, for Donna Veroeven: Kerns Birthday Club album of photos

Erik Huber: 1998 St. Peter Tornado photos; 2 DVDs concerning SPSHS football

Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network: 2 St. Peter State Hospital postcards

Brian Oviatt: *The Mystery of Metropolisville* by Edward Eggleston

Hazel Bach: photo album of members of the Lundeen, Turner, Johnson, & Sandeen families in Oshawa Twp., Nicollet Co. & other relatives & neighbors

Burton Johnson: clock given to Clare Moll, photos of: small child Clare Moll, Mrs. Henry Moll, Henry Moll in garden, Henry Moll on a horse, young man Clare Moll; 1955 Nicollet County Atlas, Clare Moll's personalized document holder, assorted St. Peter publications

Garfield Eckberg: Geologic Atlas Nicollet County; Surface Water Hydrology Atlas Nicollet Co.; Public Drainage Atlas Nicollet Co.

Elizabeth Sandell, for the Evangelical Covenant Ch., No. Mankato: large collection of photos & documents, including church ministers & confirmation classes

Ruth Klossner: large photo collection of areas in & near Courtland, Klossner, Lafayette, Nicollet, & Winthrop

Nicollet County Historical Society film shares story of Nuremberg trials' scribe

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Larry Tillemans' story, one which played out often on the prairies of Minnesota's small towns during World War II, needs to be told. Many were heroes, but neither Tillemans' place in history nor his message should never be forgotten.

That's why Tillemans, now 88, travels the state, the featured performer in "The Typist," an award-winning documentary about this simple man's life and remarkable work documenting the testimony from the Nuremberg trials. Tillemans is believed to be the last living typist from those horrific trials of 23 of the most important military and political leaders of Hitler's Nazi Germany.

Tillemans doesn't want us to forget. Tillemans hasn't. As "The Typist," this Minneota native documented the testimony of both victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust.

It took him a long time to hit the road. Tillemans, like many young Americans of his day, joined the military. As a sergeant in the United States 3rd Army – and one of few men with adequate typing skills– Tillemans stepped into the most horrific scenes of that war. The Nuremberg trials, a series of military tribunals held by the Allied forces after World War II, ran from Nov. 20, 1945 to Oct. 1, 1946.

From 1941 to 1945, 6 million of Jewish faith were targeted, then methodically murdered. This genocide took place throughout Nazi Germany and Hitler's other German-occupied territories. Another 5 million non-Jews were estimated to have been slaughtered by the Third Reich.



Looking deeper into those numbers, consider that of the nearly 8.87 million Jews residing in Europe at the time, Hitler's regime killed more than 5.93 million. Approximately 1 million were children. In Poland alone, 3 million Jews were murdered, as only 300,000 remained. Hitler's troops also targeted other Poles, gypsies, homosexuals, Soviet prisoners of war and the mentally and physically disabled. The Nazis set up a network of 42,500 facilities to concentrate, confine, and kill Jews and other victims.

It was Tillemans' job as clerk at both the Nuremberg and Dachau war crime trials to listen to each story, the horrific details. So he listened, typed and relived each bit of testimony.

"Eisenhower toured one of the camps, and he told American soldiers, 'Get all the evidence that you can because somewhere down the line some SOB is going to say it never happened,' " Tillemans says at the start of the documentary.

So he did. But upon return from his military duty, Tillemans shut off those visions of genocide. Or he drank them away. Battling alcoholism through much of his adult life, a third drunk-driving offense in his 60s turned him to Alcoholics Anonymous. And it saved him.

While AA helped him battle his addiction, it was the spiritual cleansing and finally opening up

Larry Tillemans speaks at NCHS after the viewing of the "The Typist."

– photo by Dana Melius, St. Peter Herald, used with permission

"The Typist" follows the life and work of Larry Tillemans, believed to be the last living clerk-typist from the Nuremberg Trials. As a sergeant in the U.S. 3rd Army, it was Tillemans' duty to document the testimony of victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust—information that deeply affected the young Minnesotan. After years of carrying this emotional burden, Tillemans decided to share his experiences with as many people as possible, a tireless effort that brought the value of first-person testimony to a world struggling to remember the lessons of Nuremberg.

To view "The Typist" on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2l4Tz2m99EA>

Typist continued on page 12



A packed house listens to Larry Tillemans' presentations after the viewing of the Emmy award-winning documentary of his experiences during the Nuremberg trials.

— photo by Dana Melius, St. Peter Herald, used with permission

Typist continued from page 11

about the war that saved the soul. Tillemans began to talk about the Holocaust and his role in documenting that genocide. He had never forgotten those horrors; now, he wanted to make sure others wouldn't.

For over nearly 25 years, Tillemans has traveled the country as "The Typist." This Emmy award-winning documentary was spearheaded by Eric Olson of KSMQ-TV, an Austin, Minn., public television station. Olson, KSMQ president and CEO, joined Tillemans and about 80 local residents at a Thursday showing at the Treaty Site History Center.

The 57-minute film was sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society and St. Peter

Community and Family Education.

"These are the types of projects that public television is so well positioned to do," Olson told the local crowd.

Larry Tillemans told his story so we won't forget.

St. Peter Reads Annual Spring Author Brunch

St. Peter Reads is pleased to present its Annual Spring Author Brunch on Saturday, May 16, 2015, in the Banquet Rooms, Jackson Campus Center of Gustavus Adolphus College. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and will feature humorist and author, Michael Perry and his fictional debut, *The Jesus Cow*, which officially releases three days after the St.

Peter appearance. Michael is no stranger to this area as he was a featured speaker in March 2006 when he delighted the audience with his memoir, *Population: 485 - Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*, and again in October of that same year, when he talked about his book, *Truck: A Love Story*. An open to the public time, beginning at 12 noon, will allow time of book sales and signings.

The ticketed event also features several other authors as they rotate among the tables, in what is referred to as a Moveable Feast. Authors include local and emerging writers such as Roger McKnight, Jan Holte, Dale Redlin, and Dr. Curt Stolee.

New this year will be three SneakPeekSaturdays when one participating author will be appearing at the Saint Peter Public Library. These events start at 11 a.m. and are free and open to the public. April 25 is Mankato author Allen Eskens, with his debut mystery, *The Life We Bury*; May 2 brings Geoff Herbach, with his most recent, *Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders*; and May 9 features Rachael Hanel, with her

memoir, *We'll Be the Last Ones to Let You Down*.

Reservations can be made at stpetercommunityonline.com or by calling the Saint Peter Community Education office, 507-934-3048. The cost of the Brunch, catered by the Dining Service of Gustavus Adolphus College, is \$22. Seating is limited.



St. Peter Reads Annual Spring Author Brunch a moveable feast event with regional authors circulating among brunch tables

Author Brunch

Saturday, May 16 / 9:30 a.m.-noon / \$22
Jackson Campus Center, Gustavus Adolphus College

Keynote: **Michael Perry**, humorist and author,
new fiction debut, *The Jesus Cow*
Reservations required / Seating limited:
stpetercommunityonline.com / 507-934-3048

■ ALSO: SneakPeekSaturdays

Saint Peter Public Library / 11 a.m. / free

April 25 **Allen Eskens**, *The Life We Bury*

May 2 **Geoff Herbach**, *Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders*

May 9 **Rachael Hanel**, *We'll Be the Last Ones to Let You Down*

<http://stpeterreads.wordpress.com/>

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Traverse des Sioux Library System, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Cox House Event...

Murder Mystery at the Cox House

On Friday, March 13, guests gathered together for the first-ever murder mystery hosted at the Cox House. The setting was the S.S. Libertia, sailing from New York to Southampton, England, on the eve of World War I. Poor Captain Bayard (portrayed by Joel Carlin) had a short-lived role for the evening, as he was murdered within the first half hour. The rest of the event was spent uncovering secrets, sorting out clues, and trying to discover just who murdered the captain. There were English barons, American arms dealers, double agents, a smuggling ring, a gun duel, a marriage proposal, and plenty of double-crossing! In the end, everyone had a wonderful time. (Well, except for poor Captain Bayard.)

It's August 14, 1914 and you are aboard the S.S. Libertia, sailing for Southampton. Captain Bayard has gathered all the passengers and crew members of his ship to hear the tragic news...

— photo at right by Dana Mellus courtesy of St. Peter Herald



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Mayo House



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2015 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely, Mayo House: \$6 adults (18–64), \$5 seniors (65+) and college students, \$4 children (ages 6–17). Free for age 5 and under, MNHS and NCHS members

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

April 9	NOTE DATE CHANGE! Documentary Film Series: <i>Cox House Short Film Series</i> , 7 p.m. (see description on page 4)	TSHC
April 24	An Evening with Maud Hixson, doors open at 7 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. (details on page 5)	TSHC
May 2	Harkin Store opens for the season, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Harkin Store
May 2	W. W. Mayo House opens for the season, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.	W.W. Mayo House
May 3	"Egg Coffee and Newtons", 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
May 7	Documentary Film Series: <i>John Muir: A Glorious Journey</i> , 7 p.m. (see description on page 4)	TSHC
May 8	History on Tap: Beer Sampling with Barley's Angels and the Mankato Brewery 7 p.m. (see description on page 4) <i>Registration required, must be 21 to participate</i>	TSHC
May 10	Mother's Day—Aprons, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
May 17	Minnesota River and Riverboats, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
May 16	St. Peter Reads Author Brunch, 9:30 a.m. (see story on page 12)	Jackson Campus Center, GAC
May 21	Geology of the Minnesota River, 9 a.m. (see description on page 4)	TSHC
May 22	Fort Ridgely opens for the season, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
May 23	Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 program & battlefield tour, 1 p.m. and Family Picnic Day 12–4 p.m. (see details on page 8)	Fort Ridgely Fort Ridgely
May 24	Memorial Day—Music by Bob Bovee, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
May 31	145 Years Old Celebration, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 6	Women During the Civil War	Fort Ridgely
June 6 & 7	Company B Drill Weekend	Fort Ridgely
June 7	Dairy Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 13	The Telegraph with Daryl Hrdlicka, 1–4 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 14	Flag Day and Grand Opening of TSHC Patio, (see story on page 1, watch for details)	TSHC
June 14	Flag Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 20	Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 program & battlefield tour, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 21	Father's Day—Men's Crafts, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
June 23	The Forgotten Settlement 9 a.m.–noon (see description on page 4) <i>Registration required, children 1st through 5th grades</i>	TSHC
June 27	Children's Day, 12–4 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 27	Archery in the Park (Upper Picnic Shelter), 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 27	Water Cycle Program (Upper Picnic Shelter), 4 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 27	Civilian Conservation Corp Tour, 6 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 27	Wild About Wildlife (Upper Picnic Shelter), 7 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
June 28	Music—Carver Creek Bluegrass, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 4	America's Flags, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 5	Independence Day—New Ulm Battery, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 11	Prairie Field Day 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (see description on page 6) <i>Registration required</i>	TSHC
July 12	Christmas In July, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 18	Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 program & battlefield tour, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 19	Shopping With Laura Ingalls, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store
July 25	Children's Games and Craft Day, 1 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 25	Children's Day, 12–4 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 25	Archery in the Park (Upper Picnic Shelter), 6 p.m.	Fort Ridgely
July 26	Old Games Day, 1 p.m.	Harkin Store



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

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