

2014 Annual Report



Our Mission

The mission of the Nicollet County Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Nicollet County and the State of Minnesota.

71,565* Served in 2014

Keep up the good work!

~ Clark and April Johnson

Front Cover: Men and women camping at Lake Emily, east of St. Peter. Surnames include: Essler, Evenson, Feldman, Ludcke, Perry, Rinkel, and Williams, about 1895.

photo from NCHS photo collection available on Minnesota Reflections

Top: The 2014–15 class of the Connecting Nicollet County program visits the Harkin Store.

photo by Amy Pehrson

Below: Intern Ryan Walker worked hard to create each Exhibit of the Month in the north gallery of the Treaty Site

gallery of the Treaty Site.

As an historical society that cares for six historic sites, we encourage our members and the public to visit these sites and attend special programming. However, aside from visiting us, we are available to the public in many other ways. Our website was visited by over 15,000 people this year, our collections are available anywhere in the world through the Minnesota Digital Library, and the NCHS page on ExploreMN website had over 17,000 hits.

While the construction on Highway 169 dramatically decreased visitor numbers at the Treaty Site and Traverse des Sioux trails, our other historic sites had a substantial amount of visitors this year; totals at the Cox House, Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely and the



Mayo House reached over 13,000. Use of our archives went up dramatically this year, too.

This year was akin to 2012, a year that had almost two million people exposed to the work NCHS was doing remembering the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. 2014 was similar in that the award-winning Commemorating Controversy exhibit was seen by over 350,000 visitors to the National Museum of the American Indian in New York. While this outreach is not included in our number served, this was another year with a huge asterisk!

Our mission is to discover, preserve and disseminate the history of Nicollet County. I think the last few years have shown that one doesn't just have to visit our historic sites to be affected by the work we are doing.



Center left: "The Mothers" a Paul Granlund bronze sculpture in Louise Park at the Mayo House; depicts Louise Mayo, wife of Dr. William W. Mayo and mother of Dr. William James and Dr. Charles Horace Mayo, and Louise Cosgrove, wife of Edward Cosgrove of Green Giant Company history. Along with children, Gertrude Mayo, William James Mayo and Robert Cosgrove.

Center right: The newly-finished Traverse des Sioux biking and walking trails east of the Treaty Site were used by hundreds this year.

Bottom left: Company B reenactors teach children how to drill and march at Fort Ridgely.

Bottom center: NCHS Director Alyssa Auten, Gustavus professor Elizabeth Baer and MNHS employee and past Director of NCHS Ben Leonard stand with the Commemorating Controversy exhibit that was loaned to the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center during their Native American Month program in November.

Bottom right: Trail along river.







Director's Report

Many historical societies have evolved into community-engagement facilitators, along with their traditional roles of maintaining collections and research material, teaching the public about the history of the area, and operating historic sites. We are working hard to increase this coming year's community programming and outreach, and we worked hard in 2014 to do the same.

However, this past year we spent a large portion of our time maintaining our buildings and repairing damaged parts of those buildings. Despite the cost, these repairs were necessary; without our buildings we wouldn't be able to host programs like the Documentary Film Series or the Christmas at the Cox House event. The structures in which we work allow us to continue to create programs and events to teach our visitors about Nicollet County's history. While our main focus is our collections, exhibits, and programming, we have to make sure the buildings in which these things occur are taken care of.

This year we asked for a lot from you—our members and our supporters. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity during the major repairs at the Cox House and the Treaty Site. I cannot thank you enough for your words of encouragement during the

Minnesota River flood and the construction on Highway 169.

We are here to serve our members and the public, but in return, you give us a reason to do the work we do. You are excited by the History on Tap series we're starting, you're willing to volunteer your time at our Winterfest activities, and your support makes coming to the office each day a pleasure.

2014 was a great year and I hope 2015 will be even better. Thank you for joining us.

Aut

Alyssa Auten Director Nicollet County Historical Society



Alyssa Auten

We feel so lucky to live in a community that has such great programs like the Treaty Center.

~ Montana Rasmussen and Sam Haseltine

Memorial to Mary Ann Zins

The Nicollet County Historical Society was saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member, volunteer and researcher, Mary Ann Zins.

Mary Ann Loretta Zins was born on May 5, 1945 in New Ulm. She graduated from Nicollet High School and attended Mankato State University. Mary Ann had worked at Pinks clothing store in New Ulm and at 3M in New Ulm before retiring in 2002.

Some of the projects she completed for NCHS were documenting the names on markers in all the rural cemeteries in Nicollet County, which have been converted into memorial pages on findagrave.com. She also clipped out all obituaries and marriages from the early years of the *Nicollet Leader*, which are now on an electronic database. Mary Ann also collected all the obituaries from local veterans of World War I, she thought it important each one was memorialized. Her latest project was making a book of obituaries for all those interred at the Swan Lake Catholic Church.

Her hobbies of genealogy became a passion, tracking her family history back to the 1500s. Mary Ann was thrilled to find the actual interment sites of her Zins ancestors in the Swan Lake Cemetery after pouring over the original cemetery maps.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is forever grateful for Mary Ann's research and hard work. She was a treasured part of NCHS and will be very dearly missed.



Mary Ann Zins

NCHS 2014 at a Glance

Below top: Second Story Comedy facility rental continued throughout 2014, bringing over 800 visitors to the Treaty Site.

Left: After much anticipation the exterior landscaping project was completed in the fall of 2014. A grand opening event is being planned for spring of this year!

Center: St. Peter's youth Volunteers in the Park helping with the gardens at the Cox House.

Right: Special directions and a map were given to the public to help them find the Treaty Site History Center during the summer's Highway 169 detour.

Bottom left: NCHS participated in the Arts Center of St. Peter's first annual "Tablescape Competition" during the Holiday Fare at the St. Peter Community Center. The table was created with a theme of winter hiking on the two trail systems adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center.

Bottom center: Harpist Koleesa Amundson plays wonderful period Christmas Music in the Mayo House parlor during the Annual Candlelight Christmas Tours of the Mayo House.

Bottom right: Volunteers gather to rescue an injured pelican along the Traverse des Sioux trails.

We have witnessed the dramatic change over the years and feel proud of our Society.

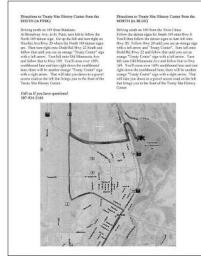
~ Marilyn Robertz













2014 Board

t's been said that a board of directors can make or break an organization. NCHS is extremely lucky to have a board of directors who, despite their varying backgrounds, work together to ensure this society is doing its job and serving the public well. A huge thank you is in order for the board members who are finishing their terms, those who are just joining us, and those who are continuing to dedicate their time to NCHS.

Officers

Steve Baxa, Saint Peter President (2nd term ending 2014)

Scott Hermanson, Saint Peter Vice President (1st term ending 2014)

Marie Dranttel, Saint Peter Treasurer (1st term ending 2014)

Pam Morson, Lafayette Secretary (2nd term ending 2016)

Alma Forst, West Newton Township Historian (2nd term ending 2015)

Directors

Eileen Holz, Saint Peter (1st term ending 2016)

Nita Aasen, Saint Peter (1st term ending 2016)

Michael Callahan, Oshawa Township (1st term ending 2016)

Bob Schabert, Courtland (2nd term ending 2016)

Maria Lokensgard, Norseland (1st term ending 2016)

Joe Urban, Saint Peter (1st term ending 2016)

Lori Lahlum, North Mankato (2nd term ending 2014)

Abbi Carleton, Nicollet (1st term ending 2015)

Matthew Horak, Saint Peter (resigned 2014, 1st term ending 2015)

JoAnn Gieseke, Nicollet County (1st term ending 2016)

Tami Skinner, Saint Peter (outgoing President 2014)

2014 Staff

We owe every bit of our success to the talented staff members and large group of dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours working for us. Spread out over 50 miles, these staff members work hard to make NCHS the well-reputed organization it is. Whether it's giving a tour to a group of school children, shoveling sidewalks during the winter months or planning next month's program, our appreciation cannot be expressed enough.

Rose Alsleben, Harkin Store Site Guide Alyssa Auten

Executive Director, alyssa@nchsmn.org

Jessica Becker, Museum Assistant

Amber Bentler

Fort Ridgely Site Manager, ridgely@nchsmn.org

Jack Buser, Museum Assistant, Volunteer

Susie Carlin

Treaty Site Manager, susie@nchsmn.org

Sarah Cooper, Museum Assistant

Marian Determan, Museum Assistant

Annaliese Endorf, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Sadie Frauendienst, Mayo House Site Guide

Jeremy Freeman

Office Manager, jeremy@nchsmn.org

Robin Grewe, Harkin Store Site Guide

Ruth Grewe

Harkin Store Site Manager, harkin@nchsmn.org

Maia Haggerty, Museum Assistant

Steve Hogberg, Tour Guide, Volunteer

Amanda Johnson, Mayo House Site Guide

Katelyn Juni, Museum Assistant

Donald LaVold, Mayo House Site Guide

Mitch Lawson, Museum Assistant

Kristina LeClerc, Office Manager

Rachel Montpetit, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Charlotte Nack, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Wayne Passon, Maintenance Coordinator

Dorothy Polesky, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Becky Pollack

Mayo House Site Manager, mayhouse.bp@gmail.com

Karen Rogotzke, Harkin Store Site Guide

Bob Sandeen

Research Coordinator, bob@nchsmn.org

Teresa Saum, Museum Assistant, Volunteer

Rebecca Schueler, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Victoria Steinhaus, Research Assistant

Glenn Stryker, Harkin Store Site Guide

Loren Sundboom, Museum Assistant, Volunteer

Richard Tostenson

Cox House Manager, cox@nchsmn.org

Nancy Zempel, Fort Ridgely Site Guide



Alyssa Auten, NCHS Director with Amber Bentler, Fort Ridgely Site Manager

2014 NCHS Financials & Balance

2014 was a year of many necessary building repairs and challenges that made access to the Treaty Site difficult. When water was dripping into the Treaty Site lobby from seven different locations, we knew we had to fix our skylights. When water was pouring into the parlor at the Cox House, we knew we had to replace both the tin and cedar roofs. Highway 169 was under massive construction during most of the summer, dramatically hindering access to the Treaty Site. The Minnesota River also flooded again in June, closing the Treaty Site for a week.

Fortunately, we have terrific supporters who pitched in, either with grant money or by donations. We were able to repair both of our buildings and we hope these repairs will last for decades, allowing us to put our focus on more important work.

While the major repair projects set our financial stability back, an increase in programming and facility rentals helped relieve that burden. The staff and volunteers at NCHS work very hard to ensure we are serving the public and are cognizant of doing it in a fiscally-responsible way. The Society functions on a lean operating budget and because of that we are so grateful for the financial support from Nicollet County and its residents.

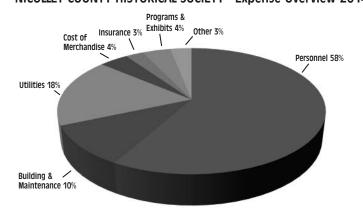
ASSETS

Current Assets:

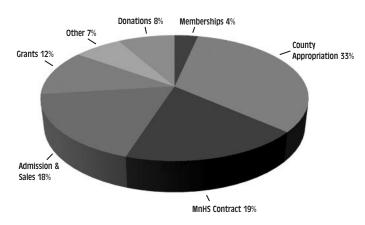
Detailed financial statements are available upon request.

As of December 31, 2014

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY · Expense Overview 2014



NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY · Income Overview 2014



CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS PLEDGES/DONATIONS RECEIVABLE MERCHANDISE INVENTORY	122,694.30 4,685.45 14,474.17
Total Current Assets	141,853.92
Fixed Assets	
BUILDING & IMPROVEMENTS	2,110,724.20
OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE	79,595.72
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS AT COST	2,190,319.92
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	(951,890.36)

TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,380,283.48

1,380,283.48

LIAE

Net Fixed Assets

ABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	
Current Liabilities:	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	3,421.05
PAYROLL TAXES PAYABLE	2,514.86
SALES & USE TAX PAYABLE	935.00
NOTE PAYABLE - NCB	22,510.60
Total Current Liabilities	29,381.51
Total Liabilities	29,381.51
Fund Balances:	
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	97,561.00
UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	1,253,339.97
Total Fund Balances	1,350,901.97
Total Liablities & Fund Balances	\$1,380,283.48

2014 Monetary Donors

The Society is extremely grateful for the monetary and non-monetary support we receive from our members, patrons and supporters. We would not be able to operate our buildings, create exhibits or offer programming without it. We are so appreciative of your help in 2014 with the repair fund, the exterior redesign project, the prairie restoration project, and for the general donations that came in. Thank you to all of you, we cannot express our gratitude enough.

Mark & Frani Anderson Lois Annexstad **Anonymous Donors** Roberta Bartholdi Paul & Helen Baumgartner Richard Beran **Genevieve Brand** Mel Craig Creative Landscape, Inc. Dani DeVere **Marie Dranttel Ecumen Prairie Hill** Lisa Gault **Bruce & Sue Gray** Fred Hanson Jr. **Scott Hermanson** Eileen Holz **Eunice Holz** Clark & April Johnson Ellis Jones Donna Kowal **Kurt & Maren Leonard** Ben & Amy Leonard Sandy Lerner Lions Club. District 5M2 **Christy Martin Beatrice Martinson Edward McLean Martin & Carol Menk** Cindy & Larry Mohr **Robert & Kay Moline Thomas Morgan Barb & Don Olmanson** Marlin Peterson

The Marlin Peterson Family
Herb & Louise Poncin
Marie Renneke
William & Marilyn Robertz
Marilyn Rodning
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Beverly Sohm
Loren & Roxane Sundboom
Linda Swenson
Roland & Edi Thorstensson
Mary Vinquist
Sally Webster
Larry & Joan Zambino

Donations - Designated for NCHS Exterior Redesign Project Eileen Holz Gretchen Koehler Loren & Roxane Sundboom Larry & Joan Zambino NCHS Site Repair Fund
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Paul & Helen Baumgartner
Mike & Pam Bidelman
Steven & Becky Briggs
Eric Carlson
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eholz graphix
Fred Hanson Jr.
Dolores Holteen
Eileen Holz

Donations - Designated for

Marlin Peterson Bill & Marilyn Robertz Mary Ann Scharf Loren & Roxane Sundboom

Donations - Designated for Prairie Restoration

Anonymous Donors

Donations - Cox House Restoration Project

NCHS Quilters
Janet Boese
Onie Isenberg
Marolyn Kleinert
Dorothy Paulson
Dorothy Schultz
Bev Wetherill
Barb & Don Olmanson
Bill & Marilyn Robertz

2014 Support









2014 Memorials

In Memory of **Agnes Akland** Given by Robert & Leona Isenberg

In Memory of
LaVonne Craig
Given by
Melvin Craig
Herb Poncin
Owen & Evie Swenson

In Memory of Art Glass Given by Jerry & Shirleen Gulden

In Memory of Judy Hanson Given by Britny & Emin Aklik

In Memory of **Donley Johnson** Given by Marjorie Johnson

In Memory of
Jim Kienlen
Given by
Duke & Marie Kramer
Marie Kramer

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

In Memory of **Dolores Lueck** Given by **Anonymous Donors Carolyn Brethorst Becky & Steven Briggs** Naomi Brust **Marie Carlson** Arden & Marilyn DeBoer Elmer & Karen Fenske **Bruce & Luann Flygare Susan Giddings Christine Harris Elaine Hermanson** Leo Hoffman Robert & Leona Isenberg **Ruth Klossner** Janice & Dennis Larsen Ardis & Earl Lund Mary McGraw Carl & Gayla Mattson Steve & Pam Morson Myra Shingelbe **Dennis Sjorgren Douglas & Cynthia Smith Anita Smits Dona Totman Charles Youngblom**

In Memory of **Richard Meurer** Given by Bill & Marilyn Robertz

In memory of Harold Nelson Given by Gary Youngblom Lorraine Olson

In memory of **Warren Rodning** Given by Marilyn Rodning

In memory of **Bonnie Roemhildt** Given by Janet Anthony

In memory of

Cora Schultz Sjostrom

Given by

Owen & Evie Swenson

In memory of John Vinquist Given by Mary Vinquist

In memory of
Helen Block Volk
Given by
Judy Scholl
Ed & Bev Wetherill

In memory of

Maynard Youngblom

Given by

Harold & Lorraine Olson

In memory of Mary Ann Zins Given by Eileen Holz Eunice Holz

Below: Civil War Reenactors stand by the original and new grave marker for Captain Asgrim K. Skaro during a rededication program sponsored by the Governor's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and NCHS in July.



2014 Collection Donors

Lois Annexstad Roberta Bartholdi Liz Zurek Beaudry Kathy Blank **Gregory Carlson** City of St. Peter **Crossview Covenant Church** in North Mankato Garfield Eckberg. representing the Friends of District 6 Craig A. Ferkenstad Michael Frederick Diane Hansen James M. Herkelrath Helen Hunter Clifford G. Johnson Pell Johnson **Ruth Klossner** William Lindberg

Mary McGuire
Robert Meyer
Odie Mielke
Stan Muellerleile
Andy Nelson
Dean Otto
Brian Oviatt
Marlin Peterson
Jean Potter
Gladys Rasmussen,
in memory of butter maker
Holger Rasmussen
Molly Regan
Marilyn Robertz
Richard Runck

Molly Regan
Marilyn Robertz
Richard Runck
St. Peter Chamber of Commerce
St. Peter Lions Club
St. Peter Tourism Bureau
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Jane Smith Estate
Owen & Evie Swenson
Oren L. Thorson
Chester R. Tollefson
Rick Tuomala
United States Army Corps
of Engineers
Jodee Vogel
Waseca County Historical Society

Other donation photos on page 8.

A listing of the items donated are detailed in quarterly issues of *The Crossing*, the Society's newsletter.



Ashtray with Engesser Brewery emblem from the brewery's Rathskeller.

2014 Activities & Programs

This past year NCHS collaborated and partnered with a large number of community organizations. Some of these included Gustavus Adolphus College, Mankato State University, Saint Peter School District, St. Peter Food Coop, Arts Center of St. Peter, Prairie Enthusiasts, Blues Fest, Women Celebrating Women, the St. Peter Chamber, St. Peter Reads and many others. Visitors and audiences experienced battlefield and trail tours, documentary films, a monument rededication, and many other exciting events and programs.



Above right: NCHS Director Alyssa Auten and Treaty Site Manager Susie Carlin gave a program on St. Peter during the depression and played Nicollet County trivia at Ecumen Prairie Hill.

Left: About 100 aprons were displayed at the Harkin Store during their "Mother's Day" program.

Right: Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka gives a trail tour about native prairies.

Thank you so much for the wonderful presentation. It was interesting and very informative, the residents LOVED it!"

~ Lisa, Ecumen Prairie Hill



Memberships

Thank you so much for all your help at the Treaty

Site. Thank

you, thank
you for

everything

you have

done to

make our

project great!

 Students in Gustavus Communication Class who worked with NCHS on Cox House Short Films.

\$1000 Crossing Circle

Life Members Marian Anderson Roberta Bartholdi Steven & Becky Briggs **Verlin Carlson** Mel Craig Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davis Marie Dranttel Garfield & Marjorie Eckberg Julie & Sam Gault Lisa Gault **Delores Holteen Emilie Lokensgard** James McPherson Arlene Sandeen Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schmidt Loren & Roxane Sundboom David & Linda Witte

\$1000 Champion Business Members Gustavus Adolphus College

\$500 Benefactor
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Jennifer St. Julien Powers

Agnes Stensby Neil Stevermer Bernadine Thompson

Mark Ulman Joseph Urban Lois Weber

Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association

Gertrude Wright



District 6 school, being restored by Friends of District 6.



Autograph book that contains many autographs and writings by well-known St. Peter residents, donated by Marilyn Robertz.



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



Company K, Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment badge that was worn by John A. Johnson (not the Governor; but rather the John A. Johnson who later became the Sheriff of Nicollet County) donated by Pell Johnson.



1851 N. Minnesota Avenue • St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: (507) 934-2160 • Fax: (507) 934-0172
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. • Sunday 1-4 p.m.
Archives: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
General information: museum@nchsmn.org
Archives information: research@nchsmn.org
Website: www.nchsmn.org