



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

2018 Annual Report



Treaty Site History Center, in the early morning. Celebrating 25 years in this building.
photo by Jessica Becker

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.

NCHS is a community organization. While not all County residents and visitors may step foot on to one of our historic sites, or attend one of our programs—we're here to make all of our lives better. Those new to the area learn about area history and meet folks who share their interests. We strive to make history accessible to learners of all ages by providing information and opportunities to connect our past to our present. We hope the 20,498 people who visited our historic sites in 2018 enjoyed their experience.

But we're not just about our sites and our mission isn't either. You don't have to come to one of our buildings to be served by the Society because chances are we'll reach you through outreach, publications, and even digitally. We work with local government like Nicollet County and the City of Saint Peter, state agencies like the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and special interest groups like Southern Minnesota Tourism Association and the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway to advocate not just for history, but for all of us.

Just like brick and mortar stores are struggling to compete with online retailers, our sites are facing competition from the online world too. Many people are choosing to learn their history from our online resources over visiting our sites. The Society served over 486,000 people online in 2018. Our social media presence has grown rapidly over the past year and we're reaching hundreds of thousands via our six Facebook pages, Twitter and Instagram. Many of you know we have over 1,500 photographs, maps, and more available anywhere in the world for free through the Minnesota Digital Library and Digital Public Library of America that was seen by over 3,000 users, and our event listings on the Explore Minnesota Tourism website had over 9,000 hits.

Our mission is to discover, preserve and disseminate the history of Nicollet County. The Society has shown that one doesn't just have to visit our historic sites to be affected by the work we are doing, but we sure hope you do.



Executive Director Jessica Becker and Dr. Anton Treuer. Becker attended an educational workshop given by Dr. Anton Treuer titled "How can we help all students do better and overcome the persistent, racially predictable disparities in our educational system?"

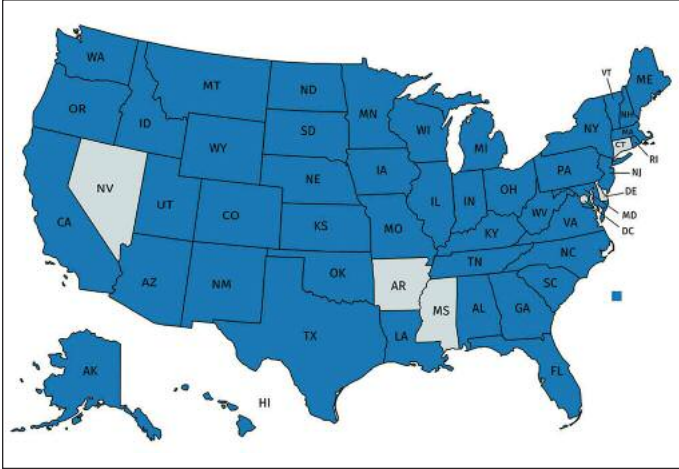
Field trip visitors to Harkin Store listen to Ruth Grewe tell about general stores of times gone by.



This fall students at Chaska Middle School West explored NCHS traveling exhibit "Commemorating Controversy: The U.S. Dakota War of 1862."

NCHS 2018 at a Glance

We track physical visitors to our sites, our online visitors and followers, radio listeners, and also our traveling exhibit outreach separately to get a more accurate number of those we serve, and a better understanding of our audience.



20,498 onsite visitors
at the five sites
25,731 website page views with
7,137 unique visitors
3,065 Minnesota Reflections
collection views
Over 242,000 radio listeners
on KNUJ & KTOE
2,733 combined Facebook
page likes & 433,979
people reached
17,740 Twitter impressions
30 new NCHS memberships

NCHS welcomed visitors from around the world in 2018. They came from 44 states and 15 countries! In how many languages can you say "thanks for visiting"?



Twist of Fate event in the Saint Peter High School Auditorium, including visiting speaker, Sen. Amy Klobuchar
photo credit Ed Lee

Below left:
The Annual Heritage Plant Sale fundraiser for the E. St. Julien Cox House drew many green thumbs to the house in May.

Below right:
A portion of the photographs, clippings, and items documenting the March 29, 1998 tornado on display during "Bent But Not Broken: Our Story in Pictures."



Director's Report



Jessica Becker
NCHS Executive Director

As I reflect upon the past year I cannot help but feel pride in the Society's many accomplishments. We successfully navigated a full summer of road construction at three of our sites and even recorded some of our best attendance numbers in recent years at the Treaty Site despite the highway detours. The Treaty Site opened two exhibits, combined our sites offered over seventy programs, we paid off the 2013 HVAC loan and so much more.

From our very first meeting in 1928 to our meeting this year, we've seen many changes over the years. But through good times and bad times, our mission has remained the same—to preserve, protect, and share the history of Nicollet County. As you will see in the following pages, we have put your membership dollars and donations to good work. Your support provided our patrons with opportunities to explore Nicollet County history through new programs, exhibits, additional research tools, and much more. We also continue to work with community partners who help the Society by offering speakers for programs, planning or sponsoring events, or by becoming business members.

As we bid farewell to 2018, I want to thank everyone who supported the Society this year—our members, donors, friends, volunteers, board members, and staff for their continued commitment to our mission. Your support through financial assistance and gifts of time, talents and treasures directly contributes to our success now and always. The hard work of 2018 is a tribute to the exciting things to come in the year ahead.

Onward and forward!

Jessica Becker
Executive Director

President's Report



Maria Lokensgard
NCHS Board President

It has been a challenging, yet exciting year for your Nicollet County Historical Society, and I am happy to say we have finished strong.

2018 has been referred to as the "Year of Road Construction." The Highway 169 project directly affected the Treaty Site; detours and road closures deterred visitors both at Harkin Store and Fort Ridgley, and those two sites will continue to be dealing with MNDOT for another year. We experienced lower admissions and lower gift sales at each site, but thankfully the board approved a budget which took many of these obstacles into consideration. Through expense reduction, and controlled purchases we were able to stay on budget.

There were fresh, new exhibits and programming at all the sites. A small sample of the outreach programs include: *Bent but Not Broken*—Tornado Anniversary, *State of Mind*—State Hospital Museum, New Ulm Battery at the Fort, Resurrection Cemetery Tour, Old School Days Display at Harkin Store, County Historical Markers seen at the fair, and the Commemorating Controversy exhibit at the Mankato Pow Wow. I encourage you to watch for the upcoming exhibits and events as the year unfolds.

NCHS also reached a milestone by celebrating our 90th anniversary. This is quite an honor, and it shows the dedication and commitment many have given through the years to ensure a continued appreciation for our area history.

In order to continue being a vital community resource, the board is launching our "90 FOR 90" Refer a Friend

Membership Drive for 2019 and we need your help! Our goal is to welcome 90 new members in honor of our 90 years, and if you refer someone who becomes a member, your own membership will be extended for 90 days. We all know family, friends, neighbors, and businesses who may be interested in our mission, so please help promote NCHS and the benefits we have to offer.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors I wish to extend our deep appreciation to Jessica for her dedication and commitment; thank you to the staff at all our sites for their contributions of time and talent; and the many volunteers for their outstanding efforts as NCHS ambassadors. We also want to acknowledge and thank all of you, who are the foundation of this organization and will be vital in continuing to keep us active for another 90 years.

Maria Lokensgard
NCHS Board President

Harkin Happenings / Site Report

Ruth Grewe, Site Manager

Harkin Store had many visitors from 36 states and 8 countries this year. They were fun to visit with and share with them our history of Nicollet County and Minnesota. They were happy to see 40% of the original merchandise from the 1870s era making it possible for them to connect with the Harkin Store time period. Many would say it brought back memories from their families.

Many came just for the programs on Sunday afternoons. Our most well-attended program was the "1870's Fashion Review," with 131 seeing our display. Our next most attended day was "Christmas in July" program with 121 attendees. Our programs are very important for drawing people to the site and we are trying to expand and enhance them so they are fresh and new for those who come every year.



Unfortunately, we didn't have many field trips this year but we are hoping that will change this year. Bus tours were down as well because many of our adult visitors are now traveling with old cars or motorcycles, or visiting with their grandchildren.

Harkin Store opens on Friday, May 3rd in 2019 with our programs still on Sunday afternoons. We have a new program "Arriving in West Newton" on May 19th with a display of items that would have been brought with arriving settlers. Our Father's Day program will be a week earlier with men's hobbies. Leatherworker Dan Cochran will be displaying leather products, an important vocation at that time. Again back by popular demand is the "1870 Dress Review" on July 7th.

We hope that not only people from other states and countries will visit in 2019 but also locals to learn about our area of Minnesota.

Those of us who work at Harkin are glad to tell the story to our visitors and we hope they had a great time with us.



Left:
The Harkin Store offered programs and displays every Sunday throughout the summer like the Sheep, Wool, and Quilts display on October 7.

Ridgely Report / Site Report

Amber Bentler, Site Manager



The 2018 season was a good one. We had visitors from California and as far away as Sweden visit Fort Ridgely this past year. Our research library has been the biggest draw for out-of-town visitors doing genealogy research on their families. The staff at Fort Ridgely has put in many hours answering questions and assisting these visitors with their research. We really enjoy being able to provide this service to our visitors and love getting to know them and their stories.

Programs at Fort Ridgely are always a draw to visitors of all ages. The Flag Program is always the largest draw. Staff member Anna Endorf wrote this wonderful program a couple of years ago and we are always surprised at the amount visitors who come to learn about "Old Glory."

We are looking forward to a great season in 2019 and hope to see new faces throughout the year. Happy New Year from the staff at Fort Ridgely!



Left:
Kids can try out Fort Ridgely's new Kid Room! Dress in period clothes, pretend you are occupied with tasks of yesteryear, a hands-on experience for your next visit to Fort Ridgely.

Cox House Corner / Site Report

Tom Hagen, NCHS Board member &
Cox House Committee member

This was a year renewal and new beginnings at the Cox House. After being open by appointment recently, the house was open for guided tours over the summer every Sunday, from May 27th until September 2nd. Tours were offered on the hour in the afternoons and lasted about 40 minutes.

Our Summer Social Season was filled with Victorian entertainment and amusements. Cox House volunteer Richard Tostenson presented a series of programs to augment the open hours. Attendees heard some of the personal and political stories of the time, with interesting architectural views of why the Victorians used various design elements on their homes. Visitors glimpsed the new inventions and time-saving era products that the industrial revolution brought, and of course some tongue in cheek banter of societal norms and expectations of the time.

Once the house closed down for the summer, there was still a lot happening at the house. In the fall a new Cox House Committee formed in order to better serve the house. The first decision taken was to reinstitute the traditional Christmas at the Cox House open house over a weekend in December. In concert with community volunteers, the house was decked out in fine Victorian style. The evening tours were a resounding success with punch, cookies, and costumed Cox family interpreters. The second day was capped off with a visit from Santa for the children. With the remarkable impersonation of Richard Tostensen as Judge Cox, the event was a resounding success.

On other fronts, the rooftop squirrel problem was addressed in the fall, but it proved ineffective as they have returned and will have to be dealt with again. The Committee was pleased to accept a bid from Spring Touch to deal with the Creeping Charlie problem in the lawn, and with Crown Underground's offer to sponsor the yard restoration in the coming year.

Outstanding issues at the Cox House remain including; tree pruning, repair of woodpecker damage on the front bay, the need to repair or eliminate the garden fencing, and the eventual need for the exterior painting of the house. It has been a successful year but with challenges ahead.

We thank everyone for their continued support of this truly wonderful local gem.

*Had a great time!
The house was
beautiful
and inviting.
The Judge is
one of a kind—
Very funny!*

~ Susan Hynes

Cox House volunteer Richard Tostenson presenting a program about what happened in early Victorian bedrooms, kitchens, and front parlors.



2018 Board

The Nicollet County Historical Society has been fortunate over the years to have a board of directors that is supportive, dedicated and invested in the success of the organization. We are very grateful for those currently on the board, those retiring from the board, and those who have volunteered to join the board in 2019; thank you for your service!

Executive Board

Maria Lokensgard, Norseland
President (2nd term ends 2019)
Eileen Holz, St. Peter
Vice President (2nd term ends 2019)
Nita Aasen, St. Peter
Secretary (2nd term ends 2018)

Directors

Tim Bartelt, St. Peter
(2nd term ends 2021)
Tom Brown, St. George
(2nd term ends 2020)
Amanda Frie, St. Peter
(1st term ends 2018)
JoAnn Gieseke, Brighton Township
(2nd term ends 2018)
Tom Hagen, North Mankato
(1st term ends 2019)
Ruth Klossner, Bernadotte
(1st term ends 2019)
Gabriela Roemhildt, St. Peter
(1st term ends 2020)
Loren Sundboom, St. Peter
(1st term ends 2020)

2018 Staff

We know exactly how lucky we are to have the staff that we do. Spread out across Nicollet County and beyond, and worth their weight in gold, they consistently give so much effort, expertise, and excitement. Through their hard work and some dedicated volunteers, NCHS answered thousands of phone calls and emails, talked to audiences all over creation, helped genealogists find lost relatives, preserved historical treasures, and cleaned toilets more times than we care to think about. Any thank you is inadequate, but we'll say it anyway.

Executive Director:

Jessica Becker

Research Coordinator:

Kris LeClerc
(Jan.–Mar.)
Ruth Einstein
(Jul.–present)
Elaine Deschaine
Amanda Johnson
Erica Smith
Robert Weber

Office Manager:

TSHC Museum Assistants:

TSHC Janitor:

Harkin Store Site Manager:

Harkin Store Site Guides:

Ruth Grewe
Donna Dose
Justin Grewe
Robin Grewe
Glenn Stryker

Fort Ridgely Site Manager:

Fort Ridgely Asst. Site Manager:

Fort Ridgely Site Guides:

Amber Bentler
Cory Becker
Opal Dewanz
Annaliese Endorf
Charlotte Nack

*Nice job very professional site!!!
Learned alot about a city I only lived in for six years. Thanks.*

~ Andrew J. Rodgers

2018 Activities & Programs

In 2018 NCHS worked with many community organizations on programming, displays, and exhibits. Some of these included the Arts Center of Saint Peter, Saint Peter Community & Family Education, St. Peter Reads, KSMQ Public Television, the St. Peter Treatment Center, Gustavus Adolphus College, and many others. Visitors and audiences went back in time to experience the thrill of artillery fire at Fort Ridgely, took in a documentary film, celebrated Christmas with the Cox family, and many other exciting events and programs.

Images of our past year's activities and programs are interspersed throughout your annual report.

NCHS volunteer Nita Aasen leads a tour of Resurrection Cemetery just outside St. Peter.



2018 Volunteers / Gift of Time

Each year many volunteers contribute time, expertise, and energies to NCHS. They researched, greeted visitors, gave dozens of tours, pulled weeds or maintained trails, built things, and so much more. All these tasks and more translate into literally hundreds of things we couldn't have done without them. Thank you!

Archives & Collections

Nita Aasen
Mike Bidelman
Marcy Muchow
Marlin Peterson
Bob Sandeen
Linda Schwarze

Guides & Docents:

Treaty Site & Traverse des Sioux

John Chamberlain,
Cindy Freeman
Tom Freeman
Steve Hogberg

Harkin Store

Jolene Leighton
Jenny Menzer

E. St. Julien Cox House

Richard Tostenson

Treaty Site Front Desk

Warren Michels
Bill Pedersen
Loren Sundboom

Treaty Site

Building & Grounds

Tim Bartelt
Genevieve Brand,
Seed to Site, LLC
Steve Guse
John Mayer
Brian Oviatt
Herb Poncin
Adam Stensrud
Robert Weber
The Prairie Enthusiasts—
Many Rivers Chapter

Treaty Site

Events & Exhibits

Michael Cimino
Bob Douglas
Eileen Holz
Martin Lang
Kate Martens
Karen Mesrobian
Tami Skinner
Friends of District 6
Nicollet County Farm Bureau
St. Peter State Hospital
Museum & St. Peter
Treatment Center volunteers

E. St. Julien Cox House

Sarah Busse
Elsa Cornell
Ella Henry
Thomas Hagen
Will Jentges
Dave Johnson
Gregory Prunty
Mark Roemhildt
Loren Sundboom
Dwight Tostenson
Hans Tostenson
Caleb Wunderlich
Nicollet County
Master Gardeners
Minnehaha Questers
SouthPoint Financial
Credit Union employees:
Nick Burger, Brad Haynes,
Sandy Ruckert, Joel
Schwartz, Shane Wilmes
& Lori Wolkow
Many local students
working on community
service projects

Interns & Student Workers

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Rachel Vang, Intern,
Jeremy Freeman, Intern,
Hallie Uhrich, Service
Learning Student

*We hope we listed everyone
but please let us know if we
missed someone!*

Committees:

Annual Meeting

Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Amanda Frie
Ruth Klossner
Maria Lokensgard

Archives/Collection

Nita Aasen
Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Ruth Einstein
(Research Coordinator)
Eileen Holz
Brian Oviatt
Bob Sandeen

Executive/Nominating

Maria Lokensgard
(President)
Eileen Holz (Vice President)
Nita Aasen (Secretary)

Exhibits

Nita Aasen
Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Tom Brown
Ruth Einstein
(Research Coordinator)
JoAnn Gieseke
Eileen Holz

Cox House

Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Tom Hagen
Lindsay Prunty
Gabriela Roemhildt
Loren Sundboom
Roxane Sundboom
Richard Tostenson (Chair)

Programs

Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Elaine Deschaine
(Office Manager)
Tami Skinner
Loren Sundboom

Membership

Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Elaine Deschaine
(Office Manager)
Amanda Frie
Eileen Holz

Fundraising

Jessica Becker
(Executive Director)
Amanda Frie
Tom Hagen

Below, left to right:
Our view from atop the
St. Peter Cornet
bandwagon in the 2018
Nicollet Friendship Days
Parade.

Two boys showing off their
snake charming skills at
Harkin Store during
"Snakes of the Minnesota
River" presented by expert
Tom Jessen.

Christmas at the Cox House
tablescape, 2018.



2018 NCHS Financials & Balance Sheet

The Nicollet County Historical Society was fortunate to have had a monetarily uneventful year! We were able to operate within our means and major disasters were not to be found. NCHS would like to thank Nicollet County for its unwavering financial support of our mission. We continue to diversify our funding overall, but the taxpayers of Nicollet County provide an important and stable base. And of course, our relationship with the Minnesota Historical Society and their historic sites we operate is also important to us. To all of you who supported us this year, we offer our deepest thanks.

(Please see the meeting packet for financial statements)

2018 Monetary Donors

The Society is exceedingly grateful for the 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 cannot express our gratitude enough.

Anonymous
Crown Underground LLC
E. Lorraine Gatchell
Douglas A. Hedlin
Tom Hagen
Fred Hanson Jr.
Eileen Holz
Eldon Martin
Christy Martin
Catherine Martens
Cindy & Larry Mohr
Marlin Peterson, in honor of
Janet Hoffmann

Gregory Prunty
Lindsay Prunty
Marie Renneke
(\$500 Golden Ticket winner
Give To The Max Day)
Gabriela Roemhildt
Arlene Sandeen
Loren & Roxane Sundboom
Township of West Newton
Sally Webster
Richard & Janet Wettergren

End of Year Donations

Mildred Anderson
Eric Annexstad
Carl & Bev Annonsen
Peg Bindner
Mel Craig
Marie Dranttel
Fred Hanson
Scott Hermanson
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz
Emilie Lokensgard
Maria Lokensgard
Beatrice Martinson

Warren Michels
honoring Stan Davis
Bob & Kay Moline
Bill & Durene Pedersen
Carol M. Peterson
Herb & Louise Poncin
Marilyn & William Robertz
Harold & Louise Rodning
Beth Russell
Emily Stark
Roland & Edi Thorstensson
Jerry Weldy
Linda & Dave Witte

2018 Memorials

In Memory of
Margaret Annexstad
Given by
William & Marilyn Robertz

In Memory of
Patricia Burg Stark
Given by
Eileen Holz
Richard Holz

In Memory of
Marjorie Eckberg
Given by
Loren & Roxane Sundboom

In Memory of
Z. Sam Gault
Given by
Nicollet County Bank
Employees

In Memory of
Audrey Hanson
Given by
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
Judith Scholl
Richard & Janet Wettergren

In Memory of
Warren R. Jacobson
Given by
Leanne Jacobson

In Memory of
Ruth Larson
Given by
Evi Davenport
Dorothy Grosvenor
Eloise Hayman
Joanne & David Karvonen
Maria Lokensgard
William & Marilyn Robertz
Judy Scholl
Stenson Family Farms
Nils & Kristi Stolen
Robert & Dorothy Wells

In Memory of
Clair McRostie
Given by
Ed & Bev Wetherill

New bricks installed in the
TSHC front patio.



2018 Support



Memberships

\$1000 Crossing Circle

Life Members:

Marian Anderson
 Roberta Bartholdi
 Steven & Becky Briggs
 Verlin Carlson
 Mel Craig
 Mark & Mary Davis
 Marie Dranttel
 Garfield Eckberg
 Julie & Sam Gault
 Lisa Gault
 Tom Hagen
 Delores Holteen (dec. 6/29/2018)
 Emilie Lokensgard
 James & Patricia McPherson
 Brian Oviatt
 Arlene Sandeen
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schmidt
 Loren & Roxane Sundboom
 David & Linda Witte

\$1000 Champion

Business Members:

Crown Underground LLC
 Gustavus Adolphus College

\$500 Benefactor

Business Member:

Patrick's on Third

\$200 Advocate

Business Members:

Arts Center of Saint Peter
 Brighton Township
 First National Bank
 Nelson Printing
 New Sweden Mutual Insurance Co.
 New Sweden Township
 Nicollet County Farm Bureau
 The Nicollet House
 Volunteer Services,
 St. Peter Treatment Center

Life Members:

Carl Aanonsen
 Ken Albrecht
 Mildred Anderson
 Lois Annexstad
 Phyllis Annexstad
 Marshall & Janet Anthony
 Willis & Rachel Anthony
 Marian Babcock
 Paul & Helen Baumgartner
 Napoleon Chagnon
 Stanley Davis
 William Dobbs
 E. Lorraine Gatchell
 Bruce & Sue Gray
 Fred Hanson Jr.
 Charles Hendrickson
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hilding
 Janet Hoffmann
 Eunice Holz
 Carl & Susan Johnson

John Kvamme
 Mrs. William Lager
 Ben Leonard
 Elgene Lund
 Eugene Majerowicz
 Beatrice Martinson
 Ursula & Clair (dec. 2018) McRostie
 Robert & Kay Moline
 Mrs. Herbert Monke
 Barb Olmanson
 Dr. & Mrs. Vern Olmanson
 Lorraine Olson
 Dennis Paschke
 Carol Peterson
 Marian Peterson
 Dean & Peggy Pettis
 Herbert & Louise Poncin
 Bill & Marilyn Roberts
 Marilyn Rodning
 Wayne Schmidt
 Judy Scholl
 Robert Swedberg
 Linda Swenson
 Betty Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Volk
 Merton & Margaret Wenner
 Ed & Bev Wetherill
 Val Youngblom

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 Marlin Peterson
 Jerry Weldy

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 Kate Martens
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 Gene Retka
 Bob Sandeen
 Nathan Sterner
 Edith & Roland Thorstensson
 Sally Webster

Sustaining Members:

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 Julie & Chris Gilbert
 Eileen Holz
 Gayla Lueck-Mattson
 Janet Prehn
 Dean & Jane Wahlund
 Buster & Nina West
 Richard & Janet Wettergren
 David & Faith Wicklund

Memberships continued

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Rolf & Jean Annexstad
Tim Bartelt
Steve & Jen Baxa
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Beatty
Jessica Becker
Amber Bentler
William & Marilyn Bessler
Jack Buser
Andrew & Sarah Davis
Duane & Brenda DeBlick
Arden & Marilyn DeBoer
Dwight & Geni DeBoer
Elaine Deschaine
Marian Determan
Bill & Deb Dixon
Bob & Judy Douglas
Charles & Carol Eggert
Annaliese Endorf
Billy & Jill Folkerts
Brian Fremo
Myrtle Gieseke
Robin Grewe
Ruth Grewe
Daniel Groebner
Jerry & Shirleen Gulden
John Hall
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
William Hanson
Andrea Hawker
Bruce & Elizabeth Hawkinson
Joel Henderson & Jane Coleman
Donald & Rhonda Hermanson
John Hickman
Ann Hokanson
Julie Huiras Mascitti
Lisa Isenberg & Philip Friedlund
Robert & Leona Isenberg
Barbara Jerabek
Ray & Liz Jacobson
Amanda Johnson
Bradford & Linda Johnson
Dave & JoAnn Johnson
Chris Jones
Allison Kim

Tom & Sue Kretschmer
Robert & Sally Lambert
Sally Lambert
Kristina LeClerc
Dave & Pam Lendt
Tim Lokensgard & Family
Mike & Maryetta McCarty
Benjamin & Leah Matzke
Malcolm & Phyllis Maxwell
Joe Metzen, Kay Brandt & Cordelia Metzen
Carolyn & John Meyer
Jim & DeeDee Michels
Warren Michels
Tuff & Ginny Miller
Cindy & Larry Mohr
Joel & Carol Moline
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Elizabeth Mulvehill
David & Doris Nelson
Thorild & Ardith Nelson
Janet & Byron Nordstrom
Roger & Gail Norland
Revae Nygard
Dan & Lor Oachs
Trudi Olmanson & Eli Hoehn
Steve Ream & Elaine Hewitt
Marjorie & Earl Renneke
Harold & Louise Rodning
Mark & Gabriela Roemhildt
Ken & Patsy Rossow
Rich & Colleen Ryan
Dennis & JoAnn C. Schmidt
Doug & Judy Schultz
Jeff & Tami Skinner
Erica Smith
Karen & John Smithers
Emily Stark
Marty & Mary Carol Sterner
Tamara Stoffel
Glenn Stryker
Owen & Evie Swenson
Jeff Wettergren & Melanie Lynard
Sara & Peter Wenstad
Jerry & Peggy Wolfe
Lawrence & Joan Zambino

Individual Members:

Joni Anderson
Eric Annexstad
James Bartels
Kathleen Bouchie
Maria Erling
Jacquelyn Feldman
George Ferrell
Carol Forbes
Michael Frederick
George Green III
Scott Hermanson
Julie A. Johnson
Maria Lokensgard
Barbro Martensson
RaVae Nygard
Molly Reinemann
Sara Samuelson
Mary Ann Scharf
Terry Sveine
Patrick Tanis
Lois Weber
Robert Weber
Caleb Wunderlich

Senior Members:

Eunice Amos
Peg Bindner
Patrick Bowen
Bonnie Brandel
James Brown
Thomas Brown
Herbert Brunner
Helen Christianson
Elsa Cornell
Melanie Covell
Lois Currier
Roger Currier
Sharon Domeier
Eleanor Depuydt
Opal Dewanz
Gail Dummer
Alma Forst
Audrey Gatchell
JoAnn Gieseke
Jane Haala
Pat Halter
Barbara Hanson

Ronald Haugen
Kay Herbst Helms
Thomas Hergert
Elaine Hermanson
Dale Himmelman
Lynnette Hoffman
Richard Holz
Susan Hynes
Roger Jackson
Charles L. Johnson
Marjorie Johnson
Maurine M. Johnson
Victoria M. Johnson
Ellis Jones
Patricia Judd
Myron Kaduce
Marolyn Kleinert
Ruth Klossner
Gretchen Koehler
Donna Kowal
Willis Lindquist
Loren Lindsay
Mary Long
Harriet Mason
Margaret Muchow
Jim Muyres
Sylvia Nesheim
Arnold Nimps
Elizabeth Peters
Lonnie Peterson
Marshall Peterson
Ranae Peterson
Sharon Pinney
Tim Pulis
Donna Resner
Karen Reyelts
Karen A. Robison
Ronald Roselli
Kenneth Saffert
Helen Schauer
Agnes Stensby
Judy Teigen
Bernadine Thompson
Mary Topp
Bonnie Tostenson-Sellner
Linda Vogel
Barbara Wilkinson
Nancy Zins

*Great staff!
Beautiful
grounds!
Programming
is family
friendly and
fun for all ages!*

~ Cheyanne St. John
about Fort Ridgely

Bottom, left to right:
The NCHS booth at the
Nicollet County Fair in
August 2018 featured a
sampling of the many
historical roadside markers
that dot our county.

Visitor views
Commemorating
Controversy exhibit in
the Education Tent at the
Mankato Pow Wow.

Fort Ridgely grounds
showing some of the
foundations, the
monument, and the
Commissary.



2018 Collections Donors

Fifty-two donations of historical materials that illuminate the lives of Nicollet County families, businesses, churches, and organizations became part of our archival collections in 2018.

- Photographs and other items chronicling the 1998 tornado and its aftermath.
- Autograph books, ledgers, photographs, and documents relating to the Martin Peterson family of New Sweden and the Scandian Grove Lutheran Church
- A scrapbook/album documenting the design and creation of the North Mankato Centennial Quilt, 1998. The quilt was handcrafted by over 30 area quilters.
- Photographs and genealogies relating to the Andreas Ritz family of Granby Township.
- Several wonderful photographs of rural schoolhouses.
- Artifacts collected by physician and Indian Agent Jared Daniels, as well as supporting documentation, a family genealogy, and digitized family photographs.
- Donations of textiles include coveralls and a meat lugger's uniform from Johnson Uniform Company, and a batboy uniform for the St. Peter men's baseball team dating to the early 1960s.

Research requests are made regularly, most often concerning family history. A notable example was the monumental task of tracing several generations of a Nelson family and an Olson family. An e-mail with the subject "Happy customers," reads "My sister and I were squealing with delight with all of the original documents you sent concerning our ancestors...I was so concerned about Christine and then she married a younger man and had three children. I hope she had a happy life. We also were so glad to get all of the other tidbits of news about family members. You really did dig deep and obtained things that we never could."

Hats off to volunteer Nita Aasen for her extraordinary effort, which brought in \$300 to the archives.



First communion of twins Magdaline (Lena) and Tresea Molitor, St. Michael Catholic Church, Belgrade Township, c.1906.

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1851 N. Minnesota Avenue • St. Peter, MN 56082

Phone: (507) 934-2160 • Fax: (507) 934-0172

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General information: museum@nchsmn.org

Archives information: research@nchsmn.org

Website: www.nchsmn.org