NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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A Look Back at Nicollet County Bank

by Bob Sandeen, Research Volunteer

This article begins with a reprint of the article about the bank that appeared in the October 1, 1930 issue of the *St. Peter Herald*. Additional information has been added at the end of the 1930 article.

The Nicollet County bank, founded 48 years ago by H. L. Stark and Ed. R. Moore, has the largest resources in Nicollet County. Originally planned and arranged for by Mr. Stark, then a grocer, the new institution envisaged a program of constructive service which has since remained its guiding star. Mr. Stark's active connection with the bank has been outstanding, both because of the length of his service and the constructive leadership which he gave it as president for 47 years, until his retirement in Jan. 1930.

The bank now is a $2,000,000 institution, ably and conservatively managed by a corps of officers which comprises: L. J. Gault, pres.; H. L. Stark, and C. W. Babcock, vice-pres.; E. H. Lindberg, cash.; H. C. Filler, asst. cash.; and T. W. Halverson, teller. Directors are: H. L. Stark, Zuriel Gault, L. J. Gault, E. H. Lindberg, C. W. Babcock, T. S. Willcox, S. L. Erickson, Ed. Bornemann and C. P. Lampman.

It was in 1882 that Mr. Stark conceived the idea of starting a new bank in St. Peter. Business firms and citizens urged him to start up a bank service, for he enjoyed an enviable reputation for integrity and square dealing, and often times came to the rescue of the impoverished settlers in the way of credit. Finally, he listened to their pleas and, with Ed. R. Moore, opened a private bank that year in a small wooden building where the Dick store now stands. They had a joint capital of $7,000.

From the start their venture prospered. Within six months they saw the need of more capital, and decided to incorporate as a state bank. This was done in 1882 with C. W. Babcock, E. R. Moore, Jul. Schleuder, Sr., and Mr. Stark as directors. Mr. Stark was president, Mr. Schleuder, vice-president, and Mr. Moore, cashier. The bank started with a capital of $25,000. Its first progressive step was to

NCB continued on page 7

Treaty Site winter hours begin!

Reminder: The Treaty Site History Center will be closed for winter break from December 15, 2019 to January 6, 2020.

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Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS received in the third quarter of 2019.

Business Member:

Renewed Advocate:
New Sweden Mutual Insurance

Renewed Sustaining Members:
Frank & Mark Anderson

Renewed Family Members:
Mark & Lauren Boomgaarden
Charles & Carol Eggert
Mark Ehlers
Robert & Sally Lambert
Terry Morrow
Gail & Roger Norland
Rich & Colleen Ryan
Jeff Wettergren & Melanie Lynard

Renewed Senior Members:
Helen Christianson
John Hickman
Karen Humphrey
Ruth Klossner
Sharon Robinson
Kenneth Saffert
Victoria Steinhaus
Linda Vogel

Business Member:

New Advocate:
CCF Bank - Pauline Kruger

New Patron Members:
Bill & Jane Horton

New Family Members:
Evelyn & Harry Solo

New Individual Member:
Brad Wilmes

BE SURE TO USE THE ENCLOSED BUSINESS-REPLY ENVELOPE FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR FOR DONATIONS TO NCHS.

Monetary Donations

received by NCHS for the third quarter of 2019.

Monetary
Anonymous
Anonymous for Archives
Douglas Eatonk for *Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger* Digitization
Tom Hagen
Joseph Kastantin
Marta Kurak for *Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger* Digitization
C.M. Peterson
Janet & Angel Ruiz for Harkin Store Special Programs
SouthPoint Financial Credit Union
Loren & Roxane Sundboom

NCHS Board…

Executive Board Officers

Maria Lokensgard, President, Norseland
Eileen Holz, Vice President, St. Peter
Loren Sundboom, Treasurer, St. Peter

Directors

Tim Bartelt, St. Peter
Tom Brown, St. George
Tom Hagen, North Mankato
Ruth Klossner, Bernadotte
Matthias Leyrer, North Mankato
Kate Martens, St. Peter
Joe Metzen, St. Peter

NCHS Staff…

Executive Director: Jessica Becker
director@nchsmn.org
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researchcoordinator@nchsmn.org
Office Manager: Elaine Deschaine
elaine@nchsmn.org
TSHC Museum Assistants:
Amanda Johnson, Erica Smith
TSHC Janitor: Robert Weber
NCHS Webmaster: Scott Lassiter

Harkin Store Manager: Ruth Grewe
harkinstore@mnhs.org
Harkin Store Site Guides: Donna Dose, Justin Grewe, Robin Grewe, Glenn Stryker

Ft. Ridgely Manager: Amber Bentler
amber@nchsmn.org
Ft. Ridgely Asst. Manager: Cory Becker
Ft. Ridgely Guides: Opal Dewanz, Annaliese Endorf, Char Nack

NCHS Sites information…

Treaty Site History Center
1851 N. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160; Fax: 507-934-0172
Hours: Tue.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
CLOSED: Dec. 15, 2019–Jan. 6, 2020
• 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
Hours: CLOSED FOR THE SEASON
See seasonal events on page 9
• For tour and rental info: cox@nchsmn.org

Fort Ridgely
72404 County Road 30, Fairfax MN 55332
Phone: 507-508-2848, ridgely@mnhs.org
Hours: CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

Harkin Store
P.O. Box 112, New Ulm MN 56073
Eight miles NW of New Ulm on Co. Hwy. 21
Phone: 507-354-8666, harkinstore@mnhs.org
Hours: CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

Director's Column

Jessica Becker

Most of you have seen businesses acknowledged in our newsletter in the past. They have thoughtfully and generously supported the Society through partnerships, donations, sponsorships, and memberships.

This year and next NCHS has placed increased importance in partnering with area businesses so we're seeking their participation and collaboration. Visitors to our sites will recognize our business partners as a vital part of preserving our community history. Our business partners and members have an opportunity to increase their visibility within our communities and to link the name of their business with an important cultural presence in Nicollet County. Have program ideas? Display ideas? We'd love to talk with you about special presentations or programs wherever you are in the county.

We also encourage businesses to support the Society through membership. Business owners are well aware of the value of being known as a community builder. Each era is intertwined with what has come before, and, in turn, leaves a legacy for the future. Our community's future depends on businesses like yours, supporting the work of organizations like ours. Membership with the Society also affords you many benefits including free or reduced admission to our sites and events, Society updates through our newsletter *The Crossing*, and much more.

Save the date for Open the Doors to History, a business membership open house on April 23, 2020, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. to learn more about how businesses can play a vital role in preserving community history.

If you're interested in learning more now about how your business can become involved with the Nicollet County Historical Society, Jessica and Elaine are here to help. Give us a call at 507-934-2160 or e-mail membership@nchsmn.org. Thanks so much for your continued friendship and support!

Jessica Becker, Executive Director

April 2020

NCHS to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment with New Displays!

A Century of Civic Engagement: The League of Women Voters Minnesota

The Minnesota Legislature finally voted YES on September 8, 1919 to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote and ending the 72-year struggle for woman suffrage.

But as distinguished Minnesota suffragist Clara Ueland said that day, "Today is the commencement rather than the end of our work." The League of Women Voters Minnesota was born, with Ms. Ueland as its first President, to help carry out the new work of empowering voters and defending democracy, with women now at the table – and in the voting booth. One hundred years later, LWV Minnesota continues to thrive as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization promoting good government and civic engagement throughout Minnesota.

Beginning in April 2020, visit this vibrant exhibit that features Minnesota's suffrage story, highlighting the women who made it happen–and who continue to lead through the League of Women Voters to make democracy work for all.

Alongside the League of Women Voters Minnesota exhibit, NCHS will also host a new popup exhibition from the National Archives, Rightfully Hers, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Rightfully Hers contains simple messages exploring the history of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women's voting rights before and after the 19th, and its impact today. Despite decades of marches, petitions, and public debate to enshrine a woman's right to vote in the constitution, the 19th Amendment–while an enormous milestone–did not grant voting rights for all. The challenges of its passage reverberate to the ongoing fight for gender equity today.

Rightfully Hers is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the National Archives has launched a nationwide initiative and major exhibition that explores the generations-long fight for universal woman suffrage. The exhibition is presented in part by the National Archives Foundation through the generous support of Unilever, Pivotal Ventures, Carl M. Freeman Foundation in honor of Virginia Allen Freeman, AARP, and Denise Gwyn Ferguson.

An example of the 12-banner exhibition provided to NCHS by the League of Women Voters Minnesota.

History of Funerals in the U.S.

This article courtesy of http://www.thefuneralsource.org/hi0301.html, presented as background for the upcoming *A House in Mourning* Cox House event held on October 26.

In early America, home funerals were the practice everywhere, and each community had a group of women who came in to help with the "laying out of the dead." Visitation was held in the front parlor followed by a procession to the church and cemetery.

Until the mid 1800s most families cared for their own dead. They prepared, dressed and displayed their loved ones within the confines of their own home. Early American houses often did not have parlors, however as houses grew, and national mannerisms became more set, proper families made sure they had front rooms filled with their finest possessions, quality furniture, portraits, sterling silver and often a piano. Because these rooms were usually clean, closed off, and quite formal, people often used them when someone died as a place to lay out the body and allow funeral visits. The body was usually displayed in a casket that was made or even purchased at the general store.

Most grander homes of the 19th century had a false, or "death door" placed off of the formal room, that led to the outside without steps to remove a deceased family member. It was considered improper to remove a body through the door the living crossed to enter, also, it was considered bad form to carry them out feet first. Later a grave was dug, in the family cemetery.

Since home parlors, have been largely replaced by funeral homes, the formal front room, or parlor has been turned into the modern family living room.

Caring for your own dead began to change dramatically during the Civil War. Soldiers were dying on the battlefield, and their families would want them sent home for burial. This is when the practice of embalming, for shipping bodies over a long distance, first began to take place. Dr. Auguste Renouard (1839–1912), a U.S. physician, was one of the early leaders in the field, laying the groundwork for present-day embalming methods.

During this time period, the family graveyard was moving towards the more park-like settings of the local cemetery. Also, the United States, established a number of national military cemeteries, where members of the armed forces were, and continue to be, buried.

Soon after came the undertakers, who undertook this duty for the families at a time of need. It was not long before this became the normal way for families to take care of their dead.

Over time, Undertakers become known as Morticians and Funeral Directors. In the beginning of the 1900s, the newly formed National Funeral Directors Association was pressing its members to consider themselves "professionals," not tradesmen as the earlier coffin-makers had been.

Historic post-mortem practices:

- **Post-mortem photography (or memento mori): the family would gather, either with a "posed" deceased relative or gather around the coffin of the deceased in their home. Post-mortem photos of deceased children were very popular, especially during the Victorian period.**
- **During the time of transition from home to church funeral services, often you will find either a private service for the family or a prayer service at the home before transferring the body to the church for the public funeral service.**
- **Pall bearers were selected from friends of the deceased and that did not stop with the age of the deceased. Early obituaries often would list the name of a deceased child's classmates as pall bearers.**
- **Present-day funeral cards are a vestage of the historic funeral invitations.**
- **Evidence of death in the home could have been the mourning wreath on the front door, the covering of mirrors throughout the house, stopping the clocks at the time of death, or draping the entry door in black crape.**
- **Mourning dress consisted of anything from a widow's bonnet of heavy black crape with a veil, and widower's black worn often for a year's duration. Mourning a child could last for two years, though after the first year the heavy crape may have been replaced with a lighter-weight fabric.**
- **Family artifacts may contain the popular Victorian custom of "the letter edged in black" which announced to distant family and friends the loss from the family.**
- **The inscribing of an epitaph on a tombstone goes back to ancient Egypt. Often just a word of relationship or a comment on the deceased's life; a favorite Bible verse; but some so witty that books have been written by folks whose hobby is collecting unusual epitaphs.**
- **Burial practices and wanting to document your loved one's final resting place have spawned such current websites as Find A Grave, Billions of Graves, the Iowa Gravestone Project, CanadaGenWeb's Cemetery Project, which are of great value to present-day genealogists.**

St. Peter *Herald*
Friday, November 11, 1898, Page 1

Death of E. St. Julien Cox.

A telegram was received here last Friday announcing the death of E. St. Julien Cox, which occurred at Los Angeles, Cal. The news was not unexpected for word came herefrom time to time announcing his serious illness and that he was suffering from cancer of the tongue. His letters to old friends here were even pathetic for he recognized that the end was not far away and he told of the pain and suffering which he endured. And yet when the news came it was a shock to his old-time friends who learned of his demise with sadness, for his death recalled the fact that another of the old pioneers had gone, and this time it was a pioneer who for years was one of the leading citizens of this section.

Judge Cox was so well known that even a brief biography is scarcely necessary. He was born in Philadelphia. The year of his birth was 1835, thus being 63 years of age at the time of his death. He was educated in the schools of Pennsylvania and was admitted to the bar before he had attained his majority. In 1851 he had moved Wisconsin and in 1857 came to St. Paul and from there to St. Peter the same year.

He had made this his home from that time up to a few years ago when he went to California, hoping to improve his shattered physical condition. He was a man of brilliant mental attainments and soon after his arrival at St. Peter he took a prominent place in the public affairs of Nicolet County and Minnesota.

When the war of rebellion was declared he was among the first to tender his services and he served with distinction. In the outbreak of the Sioux Indians he was one of the leaders of the defence and it was his arrival at the head of his troops that made the people of New Ulm feel that they were safe from attack from the Indians. He was a natural leader of men and those who followed him did it because he was loyal to those under him and treated them with that consideration which always wins hearts of men.

For years he was prominent in politics and was one of the democrats of the valley who succeeded. In 1873 he was elected to the house of representatives and two years later to the state senate and in both bodies served with distinction. He was once candidate for Congress against H. B. Strait and even his opponents admitted his election. He was counted out, contested his seat at Washington but not permitted to occupy it.

In 1877 he was elected judge of the Ninth Judicial District by an unparalleled majority, his opponent being Alfred Wallin, now one of the justices of the Supreme Court of North Dakota. He served as judge for one term. After his term of Judge, he removed to Grand Forks where he practiced law for a few years and then located at St. Peter. After a few years here, his health began to break down and he left here for California where he resided up to the time of his death.

He was married in 1856 to Miss M. Mahew, of Oconomowoc, Wis. Mrs. Cox and six children survive him. During his residency of upwards of forty years in St. Peter he was not only a familiar figure in public affairs but was a friend and champion of the interests of St. Peter. He was a friend of the poor and oppressed and was a man who was known for his honesty and his integrity. Many here will feel that in his death they lost a personal friend.

History Center Bits…

Join Us for the Season of Giving
GIVE TO THE MAX DAY IS NOVEMBER 14th

give TO THE MAX
NOV. 14, 2019

Each year, thousands of generous supporters celebrate Give to the Max Day by making online donations on GiveMN.org to the charitable organizations of their choosing.

Please join us on November 14, 2019, for Give to the Max Day and help us continue to preserve, protect, and share the wonderful history of Nicollet County.

Our goal is to raise $1,000, and you can help us reach it!

Be sure to mark your calendar and make your gift on November 14 by visiting GiveMN.org and searching for the Nicollet County Historical Society.

Give the Gift of History this Holiday Season

It's not too early to start thinking about your holiday shopping list. An NCHS membership is never out of stock, the wrong size, and it keeps giving the whole year.

Membership comes with free admission to all our sites and programs, our quarterly newsletter, museum store discounts, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing you've helped an organization in need.

We really appreciate the generosity and thoughtfulness of our supporters. E-mail membership@nchsmn.org or stop by the Treaty Site for a Gift Membership application.

Still Accepting Applications for
2020 NCHS Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee is seeking individuals to fill vacant seats on the Board to begin in 2020. We are looking for individuals from any of the cities or townships across greater Nicollet County and from various professional backgrounds, especially legal, accounting, facilities, and human resources.

Applications are due by Friday, November 15, 2019. For more information or to request an application, please contact Executive Director Jessica Becker at (507) 934-2160 or email director@nchsmn.org.

Now you can purchase or renew memberships **online!** Visit **nchsmn.org/membership** for details.

Memorials

received by NCHS for the third quarter of 2019.

In Memory of
Daniel Johnson
Given by
Pamela Morson

In Memory of
Stan Davis
Given by
Janet Anthony
Thomas Ferris
Marlys Knutson
Riley-Tanis & Associates, PLLC
Judy Scholl

In Memory of
Doug Nygard
Given by
Janet Hoffman
Nygard Family
Herb & Louise Poncin

In Memory of
Arlene Sandeen
Given by
Nita & Paul Aasen
Michael & Michelle Fischer
Friends of Bob Sandeen
Eileen Holz
Bill & Marilyn Robertz
Marty & Carol Sterner
Dean & Jane Wahlund
Anonymous

In Memory of
Owen Swenson
Given by
Gerald & Jan Albrecht
Ardith & Thorild Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Schultz

In Memory of
Milo Wills
Given by
Ardith & Thorild Nelson

We remember…

… with honor the following members who we lost since our last newsletter.

Stan Davis
William "Bill" Robertz
Arlene Sandeen
Roger Schoeb

Artifact & Archival Donations

Third Quarter 2019 Donations:

Nita & Paul Aasen: Glass mug, St. Peter High School Seniors All Night Party, June 12, 1988.

Martin Anderson: Photographs, documents, and genealogical material relating to the extended families of Carl Anderson and Emma Olson Anderson.

Melissa Blackstad: Photographs of the aftermath of the 1998 tornado in St. Peter taken by her grandparents, Norma and Marvin Wellnitz.

Donald Borcherding: "Explorations of Lt. Andrew Talcott, 1819–1820," by Donald Borcherding.

Melanie Covell: Reference copy of a photo of Gustavus Dean Melva Lind; invitation to Questers State Day, 2019.

Bob Douglas: Posters with ethnographic data concerning Nicollet County residents; photo, Nira Larson, Robarts Glen, St. Peter, 1952.

Bruce & Sue Gray: Memorabilia from the Engesser/Zellmar Bros./Schell Circus; memorabilia and minutes from the St. Peter Chapter of the barbershop quartet singing association S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

Chris Harris: Materials relating to the families of Joseph and Theresia Altmann, and Frederich and Augusta Bauermeister.

Janet Hoffmann: Karen Hedricksen's report cards from Washington School and Central School, 1920–1922; thermometer promotional, St. Peter Feed Mill; woolen throw, St. Peter High School Class of 1984; SPHS letter-jacket letter for music.

Ray & Liz Jacobson: Schwerr-Niese Buck-Tordsen genealogy, by Harold H. Schwerr, 1985.

Loren Lindsay: Brick from Stewart brickyard, North Mankato, c.1910.

John Luepke: Cereal seed display once belonging to Art Axelson, West Newton Twp.

Joy Lutzi: Songbook from the Rotary Club of North Mankato; poster of the North Mankato Centennial Quilt.

Robert Meyer: Transcription of the daily diary of Ernst Adolph Meyer,1851–1853; copy of a photograph of Ernst Meyer.

Dee Dee Michels: Objects from the Veith family farms and Veith Bakery of St. Peter.

Kay Mowbray: Cowbell from the Iver D. Hill/Thorvald and Julia Estesen farm near Norseland.

Tom Nelsen: Photographs of Tom's fourth grade classes at the NCHS Encampment, 1995–1998.

Brian Oviatt: Promotional mug from Emich's Market in Nicollet.

Patti Pherson: Textiles for use at Cox House.

Bill & Marilyn Robertz: Documents and photographs relating to the Laumann, Schumacher, and Barnes families.

Lucy Tanner: Postcards of sites around St. Peter.

Nancy Woods: Crucifix and last rites objects belonging to Richard Spiess of St. Peter.

Archives Artifacts

The Anderson-Olson-Olsen Family Donation

Ruth Einstein, Research Coordinator

The NCHS Archives has recently accepted a donation of materials that offers an intimate portrait of the lives of the Carl and Emma Olson Anderson family of St. Peter. Emma's family, including her parents and uncle, Andreas and Christine Olson and Matthias Olsen of Norseland, are also represented in the collection.

Carl Anderson and Emma Olson, wedding portrait, St. Peter, 1885.

In 1880, Carl (Charley) Anderson immigrated to America from Sweden to join his brother, Salomon, who had paved the way to Nicollet County ten years previously. Carl met his future wife, Emma Olson, at the home of Salomon and his wife, Antoinetta Olson Anderson. Carl and Emma married in 1885, thus two Swedish Anderson brothers married two Norwegian Olson sisters.

Carl and Emma farmed at the north end of St. Peter and raised five children, William, Emil, Alvin, Harry, and Mabel. Their peaceful life changed in 1915, when 22-year-old Harry fell and accidently shot himself in the chest while hunting along Robarts Creek. Carl relates in his memoir that Emma was adamant that Harry be moved from St. Peter to the hospital in Mankato, though doctors warned that Harry's condition was too precarious. Carl decided that Harry would not be transported despite Emma's threat that if Carl refused, "everything [would be] over between us."

Although Harry's condition intermittently improved, a hemorrhage occurred two weeks after the accident. Doctors, including a physician called from the Mankato Clinic, were unable to staunch the bleeding and Harry died the next day.

Harry Anderson (with football), St. Peter High School football team, 1910.

Harry's death and the disagreement regarding his care eroded Carl and Emma's relationship and they eventually separated. The collection contains writings by Emma expressing the depth of her feelings for her son

Carl's memoir, 1860–1948, in addition to relaying his account of Harry's accident and death, also relate his memories of his childhood in Sweden, his immigration to America, his marriage to Emma, and life in St. Peter.

Several other remembrances of the Anderson and Olson/Olsen families are found within these papers, including correspondence and taped interviews conducted at family reunions. Photographs of Anderson family members and a genealogy of the Olson family are among the materials that round out this remarkable collection.

Help Us Welcome…

Colton Kramer, Intern

My name is Colton Kramer and I am 20 years old and currently an intern here at the Treaty Site History Center. I am from Worthington, Minnesota originally and moved here to attend Minnesota State University, Mankato where I am studying History with a minor in Political Science. I am a big film enthusiast and a self-proclaimed critic with an emphasis on films ability to portray accurate, reliable history. History has always been a hobby of mine which I credit my father for. History has this power to give a sense of wonder to the land around us, whether that be a famous fort or a house in which a historical figure lived. Currently, in my internship here I am working at the main desk where I answer calls and help visitors with any questions or with the exhibits. I hope to gain historical experience and connections that will help me with my future career in history.

Colton Kramer

Mitchel Meyerhoff, Archives Intern

My name is Mitchel Meyerhoff. I hail from Winona Minnesota, but am currently a senior at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, graduating in the Spring of 2020. After graduation, I plan to continue my education towards an MLIS and hope to work in a college library or in a historical society in the future. I am an Intern under Ruth here at Nicollet County Historical Society for the Fall Semester, working on reorganizing the historical society collection of books to better serve members of the society and the general public. In my free time, I enjoy reading, freewriting, and hanging out with friends.

Society's Wish List

The Nicollet County Historical Society needs some items to help its operations! Here are several items which would be put to good use at the Society. We would take them new or gently used.
A cash donation works, too. Just let us know for what the cash is intended. Please contact Jessica at director@nchsmn.org or at 507-934-2160 if you have questions.
Thank you!

- **External hard drives and USB flash drives, to back up our didital collection**
- **Fiberglass ladder, between 6' and 12' tall**
- **8-1/2" x 11" white or cream cardstock**
- **Monetary donations for archival quality storage boxes**
- **Supplies: Paper towels, hand soap, dusting clothes**

Don't forget to do your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com and choose the Nicollet County Historical Society as your charity. We even made an AmazonSmile Charity List of products we need to be donated to make it even easier to support us. Please help us stock up!

Historical Society Events…

EXHIBITS

North Mankato: A Stroll Through 120 Years **| through December 14 | TSHC**

Ghost Towns Bus Tour

October 26 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m. | Depart from Patrick's on Third | $5 Mem./$10 Non-Mem.

Nicollet County is home to numerous former communities, many of which haven't made the map for decades.

This bus tour will leave Patrick's on Third, corner of Park Row and Third Streets, no later than 9:00 a.m., and arrive back there at approximately noon. Enjoy a guided tour of several Nicollet County ghost towns with local historian Bob Douglas. Bob will share his knowledge of lesser-known places in our midst, some which have completely vanished and left no trace of their history behind.

The cost for this trip is $10.00 for the public and $5.00 for Nicollet County Historical Society members and is limited to 40 people.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. You may pay online or purchase in person at the Treaty Site History Center, at 1851 N Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082.

Contact information: Jessica Becker – 507-934-2160

The tour group will be departing from Patrick's on Third (125 S Third Street, St. Peter, MN 56082) at 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by Patrick's on Third, GP Engineering, Nupa, and Jason & Jackie Harrell

A House in Mourning

October 26 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | E. St. Julien Cox House | $5

Please join the Cox family in mourning the dead. Guests to the home will find Mariah Cox and her remaining immediate family grieving over the loss of her beloved husband, Eugene St. Julien Cox.

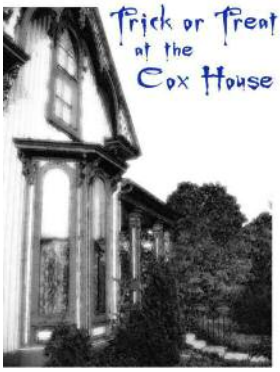
Be our guest and join us at the Eugene St. Julien Cox House for this richly layered turn of the century event. The mourners will be able to see the house styled to reflect the spirit of the occasion and participate in traditional Victorian funerary practices.

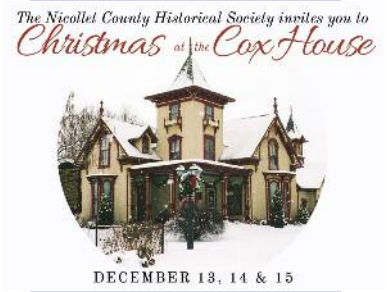
Cost is $5.00 for non-members. Contact us at 507-934-2160 or cox@nchsmn.org with questions.

Trick or Treat at the Cox House

October 31 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | E. St. Julien Cox House | FREE

Kids and their families are invited to trick or treat at the historic E. St. Julien Cox House on October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.





Christmas at the Cox House

December 13, 14 & 15 | E. St. Julien Cox House

Discover how the Cox family celebrated the Christmas season on December 13, 14 & 15.

On Friday night from 7–9 p.m. enjoy a holiday open house. Savor the sights and smells of a Victorian Christmas as you take some time and explore the intricately styled home at your own pace.

Guests on Saturday evening will experience how the Cox family prepares for the upcoming holiday with a tours of the house. Afterwards, guests can enjoy cookies and Calling Day Punch in a home decked out in true Victorian splendor for the Christmas season.

Gather the kids on Sunday for family day at the Cox House. Beginning at 1:00 p.m. the Coxes invite all the good little boys and girls to meet St. Nicholas. They will hear a story, sing carols, and get a chance to tell him what they want for Christmas this year. Spend the rest of the afternoon getting creative with Victorian arts and craft projects the whole family will enjoy.

Christmas at the Cox House is truly a favorite local tradition. Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for NCHS members and kids ages 13–17, and free for children ages 12 and younger. Purchase tickets at the door.

Please contact the Nicollet County Historical Society at 507-934-2160, cox@nchsmn.org, or nchsmn.org/nchs-events

Documentary Film Series

11TH SEASON

Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian

November 7 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | FREE

This documentary follows Kate Beane, a young Dakota woman, as she examines the extraordinary life of her celebrated relative, Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa). Biography and journey come together as Kate traces Eastman's path—from traditional Dakota boyhood, through education at Dartmouth College, and in later roles as physician, author, lecturer, and Native American advocate. Doors open at 6:40 p.m., 57 minutes. Not Rated.

The Lutefisk Wars

December 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | FREE

Troubles escalate in a small North Dakota town when a Schwan's frozen food delivery man is mistaken for someone else and ends up embroiled in the middle of an old feud over two Norwegian mafia families and their lutefisk recipe. Doors open at 6:40 p.m., 86 min. PG (Trailer: http://www.lutefiskwars.com/trailer.html)

NCB continued from page 1

rent quarters in the Nicollet Hotel building, now occupied by Swenson's electric shop, where they installed a "burglar-proof safe." Those first years were a struggle for the institution.

In about one year, Mr. Moore decided to quit the business and Z. S. Gault was elected to his place as cashier, adding another leading character of the community to its forces. He continued actively as cashier until 1926 when he retired to private life. His death occurred this summer.

The bank was noted for its progressive tendencies. In 1887, its business had grown to such an extent that larger quarters were needed. It was decided to build. Rather than take money out of the banking business itself, Erickson, Stark and Gault used their private funds to erect the present building, then the show place of the town, and for the tourists of that time. Today the building stands as one of the best in the town, for it was built to endure. During the process of construction, the great fire swept through St. Peter wiping out many merchants, but the new structure came through unscathed. When the bank was able to handle the load, which owing to real estate involved, it took over the building. The banking room was remodeled and enlarged in recent years and now is a splendid improvement to the town. Here ends the 1930 article.

~

In the 1850s, St. Peter had a bank that was also named the Nicollet County Bank, but there were never any connections between that one and the bank that is the subject of this article. Initially, the private bank was located in the Gardner building, which was once on the site of 304 South Minnesota Avenue, the present location of Contents, and the location of the Dick store in 1930. Swenson's electric shop, where the incorporated bank rented space, was listed as being at 124 South Minnesota Avenue when the 1930 article was written. The building now occupied by

Erbert & Gerbert's was constructed as the bank's new home in 1886, not in 1887 as the 1930 article stated. The November 17, 1886 issue of the *St. Peter Tribune* stated that the bank's new vault door had been installed, the tiling had started, and that "the building will probably be completed in a couple of weeks." It has been described as being an example of the Eastlake/Queen Anne style of architecture. It should be noted that the "Great Fire" that was mentioned in the 1930 article happened in November of 1887, well after the bank was completed. The bank moved to its new building at 220 South Third Street in 1965.

Four generations of the Gault family have been key figures in the history of the Nicollet County Bank. Zuriel S. Gault served as the cashier for over 40 years. His son, Lorenzo J. Gault, served as the bank's president, as did Zuriel's grandson, Sam. The last president, also named Sam, is Zuriel's great-grandson. His sister, Lisa, was the senior vice president.

~

This following is a Fall 2019 update from www.bankwithpioneer.com about the new owner and new president of the former Nicollet County Bank, now Pioneer Bank.

In August 2019 the Nicollet County Bank of St. Peter became the eighth location of Pioneer Bank. A merger with Nicollet County Bank was announced in February and the purchase was finalized on May 1, 2019. "We are thrilled to be a part of the St. Peter community and have enjoyed getting to know its residents," said Nate Newhouse, President of Pioneer Bank. "We look forward to serving the community and providing value to our customers."

Nate has over 19 years of banking experience and joined Pioneer Bank in 2017. Nate has experience in processing, operations, loan support and compliance, but the bulk of his background is in branch management, commercial and ag lending.

Nate is a graduate of Iowa Lakes Community College and Buena Vista University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management. He also attended Consumer Credit School, Commercial Lending School, Compliance School, Bank Leadership Institute and Iowa School of Banking. In addition, Nate is an alumnus of the Graduate School of Banking in Colorado. Nate volunteers for Feeding Our Communities Partners Backpack Food Program, Kiwanis Holiday Lights, South Central College and Habitat for Humanity.

In his spare time, Nate enjoys playing drums and percussion in various bands and productions, riding bike, pheasant hunting, and all things music-related, including attending live music performances. He also enjoys spending time with his wife, Macey, and three sons, Logan, Jasper, and Huck.

Are you moving?

If you are moving, please remember to call or send in your new contact information so you will continue to receive The Crossing and other Society correspondence in a timely manner. Contact Elaine at 507-934-2160 or elaine@nchsmn.org with changes. Third class bulk rate mail is not forwarded and if a newsletter is returned to us, the Society must pay the return postage.

Snowbird Address

Please remember to contact Elaine at 507 934-2160 or membership@nchsmn.org with your winter address so your NCHS news reaches you in a timely manner.

Tune In!

Turn your dials to KNUJ Radio for Community Affairs every fourth Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. to hear about what's happening at NCHS!

HARKIN STORE

Harkin Happenings... by Ruth Grewe

We were busy this year, even with the detour. People did come, and we were busy. Our best-attended program took place on Labor Day with The West Arrives in West Newton with Lonesome Ron, even with the rainy program days. The Bees and Honey was the next best attended. We are always surprised at the turn out for our programs.

We are happy to say that next year we are going to be celebrating 150 years of the store with some new and some improved programs. The detour hasn't stopped people from getting to us. I'm happy to say that the gift shop was also a favorite for our visitors, especially our local made items, and our toys, and candy.

I wish to thank my crew for all that they do to help me run the site, Robin, Glenn, Justin, and Donna, thank you.

Check the newsletter and website for our next year's information.

Lonesome Ron entertains on the Harkin lawn.

Harkin visitors learning about bee-keeping.

FORT RIDGELY

Ridgely Report... by Amber Bentler

The 2019 season at Fort Ridgely was a wonderful one. It brought many visitors from different states and as far away as Japan. We also had unwanted guests in the form of gnats in the Spring that seemed to make hiking and a few events a little less fun. Regardless we had good turnouts for many of the events and loved getting to meet new people and visit with repeat visitors who stop every year.

Scott Kudelka's programs about the "Minnesota River" and "Wild About Wildlife" were both well attended this year. Scott does a great job of educating visitors of all ages and keeping things interesting. We appreciate all he does!

The New Ulm Battery made sure the season ended with a bang, and we had quite a crowd. The Battery members are always knowledgeable about black powder and very willing to answer any and all questions from the excited crowd.

We are busy planning for next year and look forward to seeing everyone again.

Scott Kudelka presents a program at the Fort.

The always popular New Ulm Battery.

Cox House Corner…

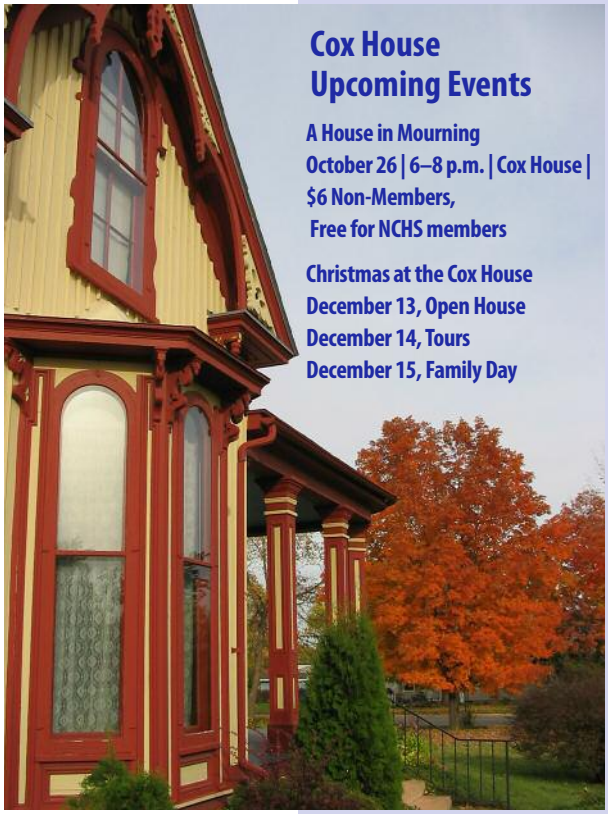
Seasonal Events at the Cox House

Fall is finally here. The Eugene St. Julien Cox House committee is gearing up for the season with an immersive program, **A House in Mourning**. Join us at the Cox House on Saturday, October 26th, from 6 to 8 p.m. to experience a richly layered turn-of-the-century event. Guests to the home will find Mariah Cox and her remaining immediate family grieving over the loss of her beloved husband, Eugene St. Julien Cox. Mourners will be able to see the house styled to reflect the spirit of the occasion. Admission is $5.00 for non-members.

Christmas at the Cox House is scheduled for December 13, 14, and 15 this year. We'll have an open house event on Friday, tours on Saturday, and new this year is a dedicated family day on Sunday. We hope you'll join us for the festivities and maybe bring along a friend or two.

The committee is also busy planning for the 50th anniversary of the Cox House on the National Register of Historic Places happening next year. 2020 programming will have a focus on preservation with opportunities for the community to learn how to restore their homes with hands-on workshops. The committee is seeking bids for an upcoming landscaping project, a refresh of the Cox House exterior paint, and maintenance of the front porch.

The landscaping project will pay tribute to a traditional Victorian garden complete with heritage plants common to this area. You can help us make it an authentic heritage garden by donating plants for the upcoming project. Stay tuned! We will be sharing a list of much-needed plants to complete the Cox House garden.



Cox House Upcoming Events

A House in Mourning
October 26 | 6–8 p.m. | Cox House | $6 Non-Members, Free for NCHS members

Christmas at the Cox House
December 13, Open House
December 14, Tours
December 15, Family Day

Volunteers Needed for the Following:

Museum reception:
Wednesdays and Thursdays and special events

Tour Guides:
On-call for special tours and events at the Cox House, Traverse des Sioux historic site, and Treaty Site History Center.

Newsletter:
Articles written by scholars and local historians

Committees:
Use your skills and interests to assist the Society with programs, exhibits, fundraising, and more!

Volunteers meet people from all over the world. All volunteers will be trained by staff members.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® ENROLLED ORGANIZATION

Thrivent Choice

Nicollet County Historical Society members who are also Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to the Society through Thrivent's member-advised charitable grant program, Thrivent Choice®, eligible members can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds are distributed by directing Choice Dollars. Choice Dollars can be directed to the Nicollet County Historical Society through the Thrivent Choice program twice per year. If you need assistance to do this there is detailed information online at: https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/OR our NCHS Office Manager, Elaine Deschaine, elaine@nchsmn.org or 934-2160 would be happy to walk you through the process of making your Thrivent Choice Dollars donation. NCHS would certainly appreciate you directing dollars our way and we would put your donation to very good use.

Here's what we've been up to

Nicollet County Fair from left to right:

Marlin Peterson setting up NCHS booth at the fair.

Joe Metzen helping organize the marker panels.

Hundreds of people viewed our fair display about Nicollet County Historical Roadside Markers.

"Shadows at the Crossing: Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux" is a popular event for NCHS. First performed almost 20 years ago, the Traverse des Sioux personalities were resurrected again this year. Weather was not in our favor for 2019 but you will get another chance to learn from these historic characters again in the fall of 2020.

Shadows at the Crossing spirits Jennie Pettijohn Tyler portrayed by Cindy Freeman (right) and Joseph LaFramboise portrayed by Al Behrends (left).

since the last newsletter

After many years of darkness our building's name once again shines brightly as a beacon on the prairie.

Above: From Cairo to the Cloud. Dr. Samuel Kessler, Dr. Greg Kaster, and Dr. Fuad Naeem of Gustavus Adolphus College discuss the program held at St. Peter High School Auditorium.

Below: Visitors from across the area have visited the Treaty Site to see our newest exhibit ***North Mankato A Stroll Through 120 Years***.

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1928

If you have already seen the North Mankato exhibit it is well worth a return trip to view the recently-donated items given by Northland Beverage of North Mankato, just recently added to augment the story about North Mankato businesses.

E. St. Julien Cox House

Historic Fort Ridgely

Alexander Harkin Store

Traverse des Sioux Townsite

Treaty Site History Center

preserve our past
solidify our future

Membership dues and all other donations go directly to enhancing the reach and impact of NCHS collections, programs, and exhibits at our sites—and to expand those services to new audiences.

■ membership support

business	
Advocate	**$ 200**
Benefactor	**$ 500**
Champion	**$1000**
senior	$ 30
individual	$ 40
family	$ 50
sustaining	$ 75
patron	$ 100
supporter	$ 200
benefactor	$ 500
life	$1000

contact Alyssa at 934-2160 for more information

1851 N. Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter, MN 56082
alyssa@nchsmn.org
www.nchsmn.org

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1928

WANTED

Writers | History Buffs | Storytellers

We invite members to volunteer to write articles for *The Crossing*. Share your knowledge of Nicollet County and Minnesota history by contributing an article for the newsletter. Does your family have a story to share? Do you have a favorite Nicollet County anecdote to relate? Do you have an old picture with a story to tell? Share your talents. If you are interested in donating for an upcoming edition please contact

Jessica at 507-934-2160 or director@nchsmn.org

SAVE THE DATE

WE INVITE YOU AND YOUR GUEST TO
OPEN THE DOORS TO HISTORY

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, April 23, 2020
5 to 6:30 p.m.
Nicollet County Historical Society
at the
Treaty Site History Center

Please join us for an open house at NCHS-Treaty Site History Center to learn more about the rich history in our county.

NICOLLET COUNTY BUSINESSES
WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION IN SPRING 2020

2019 & 2020 Calendar of Events:

Event/Program information:

TSHC: Treaty Site History Center events are free unless stated otherwise.

2019

continuing thru 12/14	***North Mankato: A Stroll Through 120 Years***	**Treaty Site History Center**
Oct. 26:	**A House in Mourning,** 6–8 p.m. **Ticketed event, $5 non-members. (see description on page 6 & 9)*	**Cox House**
Oct. 26:	**Ghost Towns Bus Tour,** 9 a.m.–12 p.m., *(see description on page 8)* ***RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY OCT. 25 | $10/$5***	**Depart from Partrick's on Third**
Nov. 1 & 2:	**Treaty Site History Center Closed for tours**	
Nov. 2:	**Arts Center of Saint Peter Holiday Fare** Art, Food, Lefse! | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.	**Treaty Site History Center**
Nov. 7:	**Film Series: *Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian,*** 7 p.m., Free *(see description on page 8)*	**Treaty Site History Center**
Nov. 14:	**Give to the MAX Day, consider a gift to the Nicollet County Historical Society**	
Nov. 28–30:	**Treaty Site History Center Closed for Thanksgiving**	
Dec. 5:	**Film Series: *The Lutefisk Wars,*** 7 p.m., Free *(see description on page 8)*	**Treaty Site History Center**
Dec. 13–15:	**Christmas at the Cox House** *(see description on page 8 & 11)* **Friday, December 13, 7–9 p .m.: Holiday Open House** **Saturday, December 14, 4–8 p .m.: Tours** **Sunday, December 15, 1–4 p .m.: Family Day**	**Cox House**
Dec. 14:	**Last day to visit the Treaty Site History Center in 2019**	

2020

Jan. 7:	**Treaty Site History Center reopens for 2020**	
Jan. 9:	**Film Series: *Well Fed,*** 7 p.m., Free	**Treaty Site History Center**

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

NICOLLET COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EST. 1928

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

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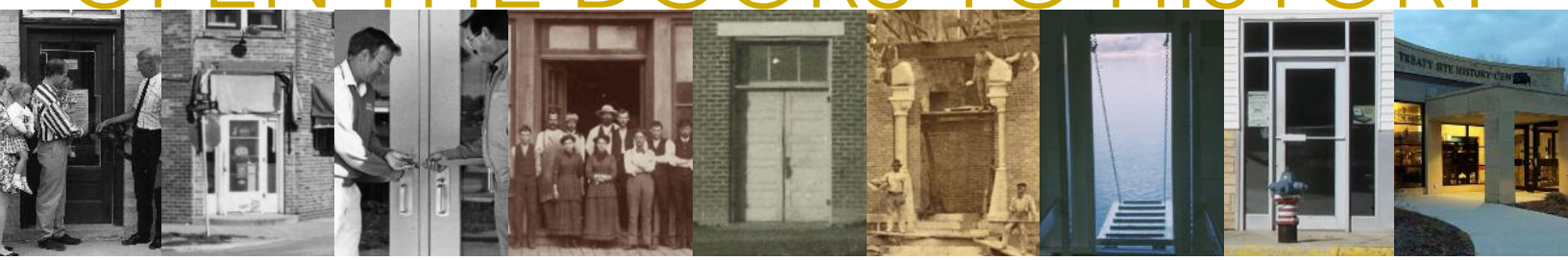

SAVE THE DATE
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP
OPEN HOUSE

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 10