



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

2020 Annual Report



"Walking down the unknown trail of COVID-19"
Actually the interpretive trail on the Traverse des Sioux Townsite
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.

Like most nonprofit organizations, nearly every aspect of the Nicollet County Historical Society's operations were impacted by the pandemic. But our exceptional staff and volunteers pivoted and adapted, and we are positioned to come through this historic experience stronger than ever.

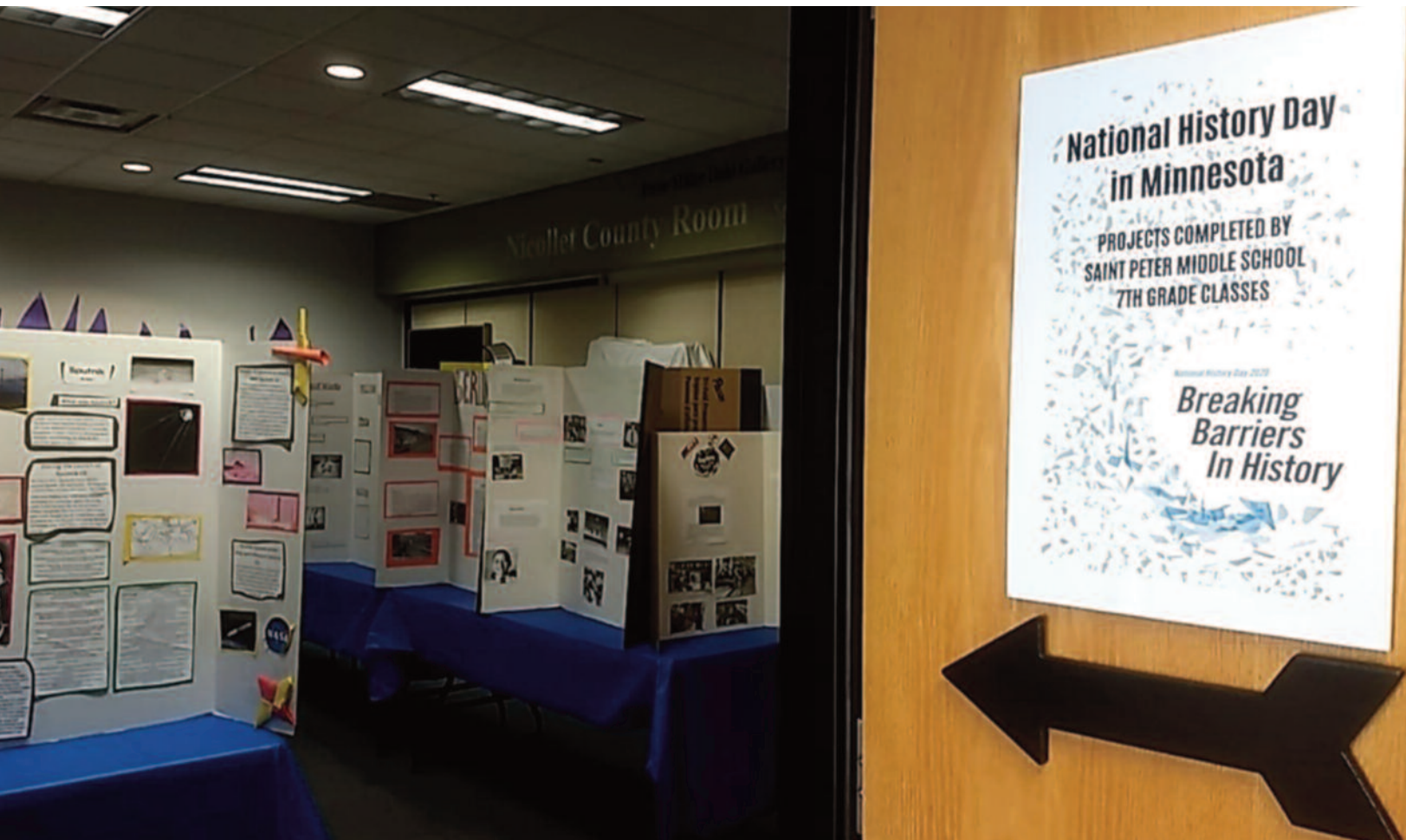
Operations at our historic sites came to a halt in mid-March due to coronavirus community health concerns. We closed down mere weeks later and went home to work when the Governor issued the Stay at Home order.

When planned events and exhibits became pandemic casualties we adapted and found ways to share our history remotely. And when it became apparent that the pandemic itself was a part of our history, our staff began documenting that history in real-time — preserving our experiences as memories to be shared with future generations.

Through this all, the fundamental work of the Society continued unabated. The Board and committees met regularly to monitor the situation and plan for our future. Work is ongoing to improve and maintain our historic properties, especially the Cox House. Cataloging artifacts is a continuous process and our library and archives remain accessible for research from home. Revamping our website became a priority, so the Society had a better platform from which to present history. We increased our social media presence, reaching tens of thousands more people.

2020 has been a difficult time for nonprofits across the country, but we look forward to a bright future for the Nicollet County Historical Society with your support.

In February the History Center displayed Saint Peter Public Schools 7th grade projects for **National History Day** in Minnesota. The public was able to view these great projects and learn a little more about History Day, as part of the regular tour experience.



NCHS 2020 at a Glance

570 VISITORS

Despite closing in March, we still served hundreds of people at the Treaty Site History Center.



RADIO LISTENERS 260K+



NCHS news and updates were broadcast over the airwaves at KNUJ radio station.

3,127 WEBSITE VIEWS

Since July people visited our website for all different types of information and entertainment.



1,500+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

hours were logged by our dedicated bunch of volunteers during the course of the year.



SOCIAL MEDIA REACH 501,938



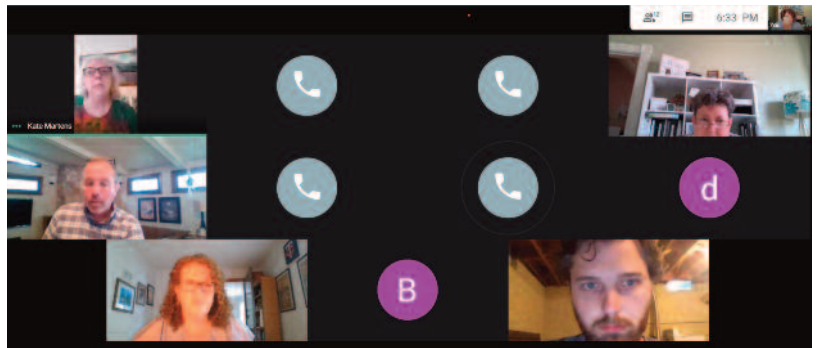
people, businesses, and organizations were reached through Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

NEW NCHS MEMBERSHIPS 19

JOIN US

neighbors, family & friends joined to support preserving history in Nicollet County.

When we closed our doors to the public in March, the Society's mission to preserve, protect, and share our history didn't stop. Our exhibits are only one way we fulfill that mission; it's just the one most often thought about.



The board and committees met...



we upgraded our website in July, adding new stories, resources, and ways to connect with history...



we participated in the #MNMuseumAlphabet challenge in the spring...



the way we share history moved online—focused on social media, email, and the website...



and we shared blog stories...



... and research continued.

A Letter from our President & Executive Director



Kate Martens
NCHS Board President



Jessica Becker
NCHS Executive Director

Lots of people believe history and museums are about the past when they're actually about change. Our world changes every day. 2020 is proof of that fact. History is about documenting and interpreting these changes and making them relevant to the present. History relays to us stories from our past, but it also connects us through time and encourages us to explore. It feels especially important to preserve Nicollet County's history for tomorrow's generations after the year we experienced.

The Society changed considerably during 2020 and will continue to do so in the next year and over the next decade. But there are also things we hope never change. We reflect on this historic year with you.

We made some difficult decisions in 2020.

In early March, we closed our doors to help slow the community spread of COVID-19. We canceled our planned spring events—the seasons at Fort Ridgely and Harkin Store, and our Open the Doors to History membership event. We postponed or canceled several exhibits, including our League of Women Voters suffrage exhibit. We also saw the cancelation of all facility rentals and turned down new ones during the summer.

Making lemonade from lemons.

When it became apparent we wouldn't open our doors in the near future, our staff, Board, and committees switched gears and began working on long-range plans.

2020 certainly tested us in ways we never imagined, but it was also a year of success in many ways. Despite closing our doors, people continued to learn about history on Facebook, read our blog, viewed our online exhibits, and much more. We forged new partnerships and offered new programs with Rethos: Places Reimagined. We found ways to provide favorites like the Documentary Films Series virtually in collaboration with St. Peter Community and Family Education. We stayed debt-free throughout the year, and through generous donors, we're able to ensure continuation in future lean times.

The Society's success this past year was made possible by the hard work and dedication of some amazing people. The devotion to history shown by so many staff, volunteers, and members has been inspiring. It is incredibly humbling to have so many good people believe in what the Society has done, what we can do, and how we do it.

This year also challenged your NCHS Board of Directors to lead us through truly unnavigated waters. They spent many hours in and outside of meetings to help guide NCHS this year. A truly heartfelt thank you to our staff. We are fortunate to have such flexible, diligent, and selfless people employed at NCHS. And

a special thank you to our many volunteers. These tireless and driven people freely contribute their time, talents, and energies to NCHS.

Looking ahead to a brighter future.

While many want to put 2020 behind us, historians are the record keepers of our time here. In our communities are individuals, businesses, and organizations making history every day. One hundred years from now, people will remember the history we are making today. This is something we can all share, a sense of belonging to something bigger. We promise to remember and learn from 2020 forever.

Though change is inevitable, as we close a tumultuous year and embark on whatever 2021 holds, we are honored to have the support of our members, friends, and partners.

Kate Martens
NCHS Board President

Jessica Becker
Executive Director

Right: Unfortunately this is what greeted many of our potential visitors during 2020. Hopefully it will change to a Welcome sign very soon in 2021.



Committee Report: Membership

Kate Martens, Board Member & Committee Chair

Members: Tim Bartelt, Tom Brown, Eileen Holz, Kate Martens (Chair), and Jessica Becker (Executive Director)

The Membership Committee has been working in conjunction with the Executive Board and the Fundraising Committee as the unique presence of the Society during 2020 required new approaches. Renewal notices are being sent out as expiration dates occur, and our social media presence is providing a recruitment tool. Business memberships have been relatively stable during this time of challenge for so many of our businesses.

The Society is enhancing our membership software in 2021. The upgrade will provide many tools to maximize our records and our membership contact. Please ensure your membership and contact information is current to continue receiving newsletters and other Society updates. If you have questions about your membership please contact us at info@nchsmn.org or (507) 934-2160.

Committee Report: Cox House

Loren Sundboom, Board Member & Committee Chair, and Roxane Sundboom, Committee Secretary

Members: Tom Hagen, Paul Honken, Matthias Leyrer, Bill Pedersen, Lindsay Prunty, DeNel Richert, Loren Sundboom (Chair), Roxane Sundboom, Patti Zutter, and Jessica Becker (Executive Director)

The year 2020 was the 50th anniversary of the Cox House's placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Our focus was on the preservation and restoration of the Cox House this year, starting with removing and replacing the fence around the garden. The old fence was removed earlier this year, but we had some trouble getting new materials. Therefore our new fence will be built the first thing in the spring.

The Committee continues our quest to better serve our visitors. Work on our interpretive model was ongoing while we were closed this year. Watch for survey materials and other input opportunities in the near future to help us make the most of our special historic home.

Though most of our programs were canceled this year, we were able to offer virtual programming this fall. NCHS partnered with **Rethos: Places Reimagined** to offer a three-part online building rehab workshop. Historic preservation specialist Laura Leppink taught attendees about making a conditions assessment, drafting a maintenance plan, and tackling basic window and wood rot repairs. (See audience at right.)

Despite the many challenges faced this year, we're looking forward to 2021. Our goal is to complete many of the preservation projects we didn't finish this year such as installing the fence, repairs, and a new coat of paint. The Committee will also embrace and utilize the results of our ongoing marketing analysis. The plan will equip us with new tools to better serve our visitors. The Cox House will celebrate its 150th birthday in 2021 so stay tuned for ways to help us celebrate this historic event (subject to public health recommendations).

The **Rethos: Places Reimagined** series reached 64 total attendees, including:

- At least six homeowners from Nicollet County
- Staff at Hennepin County Environment and Energy working to promote salvage and reuse of building materials
- A carpentry student who is restoring a 1909 home in St. Paul
- Owners of a mid-century home in Rochester
- Duluth-based architect with a 1909 home
- Preservationist drafting a maintenance plan for 15+ historic properties in an Indiana town
- A staff person from New Hampshire Preservation Alliance interested in creating similar programs for their audience.



Left: **Rethos** Historic Preservation Specialist Laura Leppink engages with workshop participants during Live From the Cox House: What's Wrong with My House? on October 14, 2020.

Committee Report: Capital Fundraising

Kate Martens, Board Member & Committee Chair

Members: Ray Jacobson, Kate Martens (Chair), Donna Nelson, and Jessica Becker (Executive Director)

As with all activities for NCHS since March, fundraising has been impacted by the Covid-19 shut-down. The Committee has met and developed a strong list for possible activities when we re-open and has also participated in Give to the Max Day in November. This year the Board provided a match of \$650 for the event, and overall donations exceeded our goal of \$1,000 (the goal has not been met in previous years). Over \$2,000 was raised during the event.

The sale of memorial bricks has also been ongoing, with \$875 being raised through these sales this year. Revision of the literature on this program is planned.

The Committee has been working on the timeline which was developed to maximize publicity and minimize costs for future events. The Committee is also investigating how better to publicize memorials and grants for the future.

Committee Report: Exhibits

Members: Tim Bartelt, Tom Brown, Eileen Holz, Kate Martens (Chair), Joe Metzen, Bob Sandeen, and Jessica Becker (Executive Director)

The Exhibits Committee had big plans for 2020. Our calendar was full of a wide array of large and small exhibits on many subjects. Unfortunately, when the Treaty Site History Center closed on March 16th due to the coronavirus, our plans were paused.

In July, the group met to discuss our options regarding ongoing and future exhibits. We decided not to put more time and funds into developing the 2020 fall exhibits but instead to focus on future displays. Research from these exhibits would be used for online content and social media campaigns instead. We also created two online exhibits that are running on the Society's website.

We decided to extend Educational Excellence through March 2021. This exhibit opened at the 2019 annual meeting and featured the history of the Saint Peter School District.

In April 2021, the committee decided to create an exhibit consisting of storeroom treasures. The group is very excited about this one. It is planned to run into September.

After that display closes, a Nicollet County artists exhibit will be on display. The group hopes to utilize donations and loans because the collection does not contain many artifacts relating to artists.

Educational Excellence opened in January at the 2019 annual meeting. This exhibit on the history of Saint Peter schools is extended into March 2021.



Committee Report: Programs

Tami Skinner, Board Member & Committee Chair

Members: Ray Jacobson, Kate Martens, Joe Metzen, Donna Nelson, Tami Skinner (Chair), and Jessica Becker (Executive Director)

Despite all of the programming challenges related to the pandemic, the Programs Committee found creative ways to deliver quality experiences for the public. While the number of programs was not as robust as in previous years, the committee was proud to provide a few exceptional programs.

On February 8, before the museum was closed, the Treaty Site History Center hosted a **Family Day** where children could visit the museum for free with a paid adult admission. Scott Kudelka, DNR Naturalist, entertained and educated families with his Animal Tracks & Signs program.

The **First Films on Thursday's** documentary series with Saint Peter Community & Family Education moved from in-person screenings to monthly films that could be viewed from the comfort of your own home. Links to stream the films from a computer or tablet were provided. Participants had the opportunity to watch various films designed to inform, challenge ideas, and create conversation. After each film, people were encouraged to provide comments on our Facebook page.

On October 3 & 4, the **"Shadows at the Crossing"** event was held on the Treaty Site History Center's trails. The event followed social distancing protocols, including small group reservations. The public was very supportive, and each night was sold out well in advance. The Society garnered \$400 from ticket sales. Many thanks to all of the actors, trail guides, costume/set designers, and especially, Jessica Becker who orchestrated everything!

Top: Local actor Andrew Davis portrays the Reverend Stephen Riggs during Shadows at the Crossing in October.

Bottom left: Kids visited the Treaty Site History Center for free with any paid adult admission on February 8, 2020. Minneopa Area DNR Naturalist Scott Kudelka taught kids about animal tracks and signs that day too.

Bottom right :Our popular Documentary Film Series went virtual with our audience viewing from home.



*The practical
value of history
is to throw the
film of the
past through
the material
projector of
the present
on to the screen
of the future.*

~ B. H. Liddell Hart

2020 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 organization's success. We are very grateful for those currently on the board, those retiring from the board, and those who volunteered to join the board in 2021; thank you for your service.

Executive Board

Kate Martens, Saint Peter,
President (1st term ends 2021)
Tami Skinner, Saint Peter,
Vice President (2nd term ends 2022)
Matthias Leyrer, North Mankato,
Secretary (2nd term ends 2021)
Loren Sundboom, Saint Peter,
Treasurer (1st term ends 2020)

Directors

Tim Bartelt, Saint Peter
(2nd term ends 2021)
Tom Brown, Saint George
(2nd term ends 2020)
Marie Dranttel, Saint Peter
(1st term ends 2020, resigned 2020)
Ray Jacobson, Saint Peter
(1st term ends 2022)
Joe Metzen, Saint Peter
(1st term ends 2021)
Donna Nelson, Saint Peter
(2nd term ends 2022, resigned 2020)
Bob Sandeen, Saint Peter
(1st term ends 2022)

2020 Staff

We know exactly how lucky we are to have the staff that we do. They never stopped, never slowed, never doubted our ability to make the best of 2020. They pivoted, adapted, and improvised with amazing speed. They made everything work in a stressful and uncertain environment. Any thank you we proffer is inadequate, but we'll say it anyway.

<i>Executive Director:</i>	Jessica Becker
<i>Research Coordinator:</i>	Ruth Einstein
<i>Office Manager:</i>	Elaine Deschaine
<i>TSHC Museum Assistants:</i>	Amanda Johnson Erica Smith
<i>TSHC Janitor:</i>	Robert Weber
<i>Cox House Assistant:</i>	Sarah Busse
<i>Harkin Store Manager:</i> (Jan.–Jun. 2020)	Ruth Grewe
<i>Harkin Store Site Guides:</i> (Jan.–Jun. 2020)	Donna Dose Justin Grewe Robin Grewe Glenn Stryker
<i>Fort Ridgely Manager:</i> (Jan.–Jun. 2020)	Amber Bentler
<i>Fort Ridgely Site Guides:</i> (Jan.–Jun. 2020)	Opal Dewanz Annaliese Endorf Charlotte Nack

Your volunteer Nicollet County Historical Society board of directors continued to meet throughout the year—in person early in the year then to virtually as in the image on page 3—working through all the complexities of running a non-profit during a nationwide pandemic.



2020 Volunteers / Gift of Time

Each year volunteers contribute time, expertise, and energy to NCHS. While volunteering looked a little different this year, these dedicated individuals researched from home, pulled weeds, served on committees, and so much more. Over the course of 2020, they accrued more than 1,500 hours serving NCHS! *Thank you!*

2020 Collections Donors

Ruth Einstein,
Research Coordinator

9

Eighteen donations of materials that illuminate Nicollet history became part of our archival collections in 2020 before we were forced to close our doors due to the pandemic. At that time, efforts were made to document the responses to the pandemic of Nicollet County businesses and churches.

Even though we have been closed to on-site visitors, research requests have continued to come in regularly, most often concerning family history. The Research area of our beautiful new website offers searchable indexes of Nicollet County obituaries and cemetery records, as well as an overview of our genealogical holdings, such as family histories and descent charts. These resources were compiled in great part due to the efforts of volunteer Nita Aasen. Having our obituary index online has been helpful to genealogy researchers and has resulted in several orders for digital obituary files.

Nita has continued to volunteer many hours a week from home, and Bob Sandeen has made himself available to researchers who can avail themselves of his deep knowledge of Nicollet County history.

We are also grateful to the members of our Collections Committee: Nita Aasen, Eileen Holz, Brian Oviatt, Marlin Peterson, and Bob Sandeen, plus staff Ruth Einstein (Research Coordinator) and Jessica Becker (Executive Director).

Steven Anderson
Lois Annexstad
Nancy Birch
Chris Harris

Eileen Holz
Ruth Klossner
John Kvamme
Solveig Langr

Willis Lindquist
Loren Lindsay
Sally Maschke
Old Mill Museum
Brian Oviatt
Rose Schmit
Yvonne Splettstoesser

St. Peter Chamber
of Commerce
Emma Woods
Rick Wright

Below: Engesser Brewing Company beer cases: The cases range from the 1890s to 1942, including some from the prohibition era. Some were repainted by the brewery after prohibition to reflect the new beers being sold. Engesser also purchased and repainted other breweries' cases for their own use. Repair and repainting of cases were likely done in-house. This is the largest and most diverse collection known of its kind.



Last winter NCHS hosted 16 interns from a Gustavus Adolphus College J-term course called "Museums Matter." These students worked in groups of four to perform a Conditions Assessment of textiles in the collection under the supervision of Director Becker.

Memberships

Thank you to all involved in this presentation! Very interesting, well presented, great talent and an evening to remember. Katha topped off a great evening with flair!! History is SO interesting. See you again next year. Thanks from the couple from Ellendale.

~ Karen Knudson Ibberson
about
Shadows at the Crossing

Your membership is not just a financial donation but a declaration that you believe local history plays a vital role in the community by preserving the story of the path we walk together. We thank our current members who continue their commitment to the operation of NCHS and look forward to welcoming new members. Help us increase our numbers by inviting a friend to join today

NCHS makes every effort to provide an accurate listing of our members. However, COVID-19 and the upcoming changes to our membership database mean there could be errors in this listing. If we made a mistake or if you have questions about your membership, please contact us at (507) 934-2160 or director@nchsmn.org.

\$1000 Crossing Circle Life Members:

Marian Anderson
Roberta Bartholdi
Larry & Judy Biederman
Steven & Becky Briggs
Verlin Carlson
Mel Craig
Mark & Mary Davis
Eleanor Depuydt
Marie Dranttel
Garfield Eckberg
Sam & Julie Gault
Lisa Gault
Tom Hagen
Gretchen Koehler
Emilie Lokensgard
Maria Lokensgard
James & Patricia McPherson
Brian Oviatt
Marlin Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schmidt
Loren & Roxane Sundboom
David & Linda Witte

Life Members:

Carl Aanonsen
Ken & Janet Albrecht
Mildred Anderson
Lois Annexstad
Marshall & Janet Anthony
Willis & Rachel Anthony
Marian Babcock (dec.)
Paul & Helen (dec.)
Baumgartner
John & Rosemary Braun
William Dobbs
T.R. Fritsche
E. Lorraine Gatchell
Bruce and Sue Gray
Fred Hanson Jr.
Charles Hendrickson (dec.)
Arlene Hilding
Janet Hoffmann
Eunice Holz
Carl & Susan Johnson
Mrs. Harry Kramer
John Kvamme
Mrs. William Lager
Ben Leonard
Maria Lokensgard

Elgene Lund
Wayne Lynn
Eugene Majerowicz
Beatrice Martinson
Robert & Kay Moline
Luella Monke (dec.)
Barb Olmanson
Dr. & Mrs. Vern Olmanson
Lorraine Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ostrom
Dennis Paschke
Carol Peterson
Marian Peterson
Dean & Peggy Pettis
Herbert & Louise Poncin
Marilyn Robertz (dec.)
Wayne Schmidt
Judy Scholl
Linda Swenson
E.A. Swenson and Sons
Norseland General Store
Betty Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Volk
Merton & Margaret Wenner
Ed & Bev Wetherill
Val Youngblom

Corporate Member:

Ursula McRostie

\$1000 Champion Business Members:

Crown Underground
Riley-Tanis & Associates PLLC

\$500 Benefactor Business Members:

Gustavus Adolphus College
Pioneer Bank

\$200 Advocate Business Members:

Arts Center of Saint Peter
Brighton Township
CCF Bank
eholz graphix
First National Bank Minnesota
New Sweden Mutual Insurance
St. Peter Regional
Treatment Center
St. Peter State Hospital Museum
St. Peter Food Co-op

Supporter Members:

Deanne Lee Clendenning
Joy Lutzi
Jerry Weldy

Patron Members:

Nita & Paul Aasen
Mike & Pam Bidelman
Katha & John Chamberlain
Sandy Chianelli
Audrey Gatchell
Stephen & Barbara Grams
Beverly Gustafson
Stephen & Elizabeth Hogberg
Eileen Holz
Bill & Jane Horton
Ellis J. Jones
Lori Ann Lahlum
Paul & Gail Lindfors
Kate Martens
Janice & Robert Meyer
Red Top Farms
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ostrom
Bill & Durene Pedersen
Lawrence Potts
Janet Prehn
Gene Retka
Bob Sandeen
Dave Solheim
Buffalo Commons Press
Harry & Evelyn Solo
Glenn Stryker
Roland & Edi Thorstensson
Dean & Jane Wahlund

Sustaining Members:

Frani & Mark Anderson
Milton & Elaine Brostrom
A. Nannette Chambers
Scott Hermanson
Buster & Nina West

Family Members:

Joe & Cordelia Metzen
& Kay Brandt
John & Julianne Allerson
Tim Bartelt
Dr. Bruce & Deb Beatty
Jessica Becker
David Bendix
Amber Bentler
James & Tracie Lea Benzmillier

Marilyn & Bill Bessler
Mark & Laura Boomgaarden
Patty & Darryl Breitenfeldt
Claude & Sandy Brew
Thomas & Carol Brown
Duane & Brenda DeBlicke
Arden & Marilyn DeBoer
Dwight & Geni DeBoer
Elaine & Dan Deschaine
Opal Dewanz
Bill & Deb Dixon
Donna Dose
Bob & Judy Douglas
Charles and Carol Eggert
Mark Ehlers
Ruth Einstein & Marian Broida
Annaliese Endorf
Justin Grewe
Robin Grewe
Ruth Grewe
John Hall
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
Donald & Rhonda Hermanson
Lori Heslep
John Hickman
Robert & Leona Isenberg
Lisa Isenberg & Philip Friedlund
Ray & Liz Jacobson
Amanda Johnson
Dave & JoAnne Johnson
Julie Johnson
Dennis Kemp
Lucy Lowry
Carolyn Mager
James & Jamie Martens
Bob Martens & Melissa Windom
Phyllis & Malcolm Maxwell
Mike & Maryetta McCarty
Carolyn & John Meyer
Warren & Terri Michels
Tuff & Ginny Miller
Cindy & Larry Mohr
Joel & Carol Moline
Terry & Martha Morrow
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Charlotte Nack
David Nelson
Donna Nelson
Thorild & Ardith Nelson
Janet and Byron Nordstrom

Memberships continued

Trudi Olmanson
William Riebesell
Harold & Louise (dec) Rodning
Ken & Patsy Rossow
Rich & Colleen Ryan
Kris Sack
Dennis & JoAnn Schmidt
Doug & Judy Schultz
Jeff & Tami Skinner
Erica Smith
Karen & Jon Smithers
Marty & Carol Sterner
Howard & Jane Swenson
Richard Tostenson
Jeff & Melanie Wettergren
& Melanie Lynard
Gerald & Peggy Wolfe
Rick Wright
Larry & Jo Zambino

Individual Members:

Joni Anderson
Eric Annestad
Haley Ashwood
Susan Austin
Maria Erling
Julie Ferrell
Michael Frederick

Brian Fremo
Marcia Gustafson
Jay Hanson
Paul Honken
Bradford Johnson
Ryan Kupcho
Matthias Leyrer
Dana Melius
Rebecca Novak
DeNel Potter Richert
David Vavreck
Robert Weber
Brad Wilmes

Senior Members:

Eunice Amos
Tait Anderson
Peg Bindner
Janet Boese
Ruth Brandel
Helen Christianson
Elsa Cornell
Melanie Covell
Lois Currier
Barbara DeZuani
Gail Dummer
Carol Forbes
Alma Forst

JoAnn Gieseke
Daniel Groebner
Marlene Groves
Elaine Hermanson
Dale Himmelman
Lynnette Hoffman
Richard Holz
Karen Humphrey
Susan Hynes
Charles Johnson
Keith Johnson
Marjorie Johnson
Maurine Johnson
Vickie Johnson
Patricia Judd
Ruth Klossner
Donna Kowal
Robert Lambert
Sally Lambert
Sara Leadholm
Willis Lindquist
Mary Long
Harriet Mason
Dee Dee Michels
Margaret Muchow
Jim Muyres
Catherine Neitge

Arnold Nimps
ReVae Nygard (dec.)
Elizabeth Peters
Marshall Peterson
Ranae Peterson
Tim Pulis
Donna Resner
Karen Reyelts
Sharon Robinson
Karen Robison
Ronald Roselli
Kenneth Saffert
Sara Samuelson
Mary Ann Scharf
Helen Schauer
Yvonne Splettstoesser
Victoria Steinhuis
Agnes Stensby
Terry Sveine
Evie Swenson
Judy Teigen
Bernard Thieman
Mary Topp
Bonnie Tostenson-Sellner
Linda Vogel
Diane Wild
Barbara Wilkinson

*A visit to a
museum is a
search for beauty,
truth, and
meaning in
our lives.
Go to museums as
often as you can.*
~ Maira Kalman

2020 NCHS Financial Report

Thank you for your support during this challenging year. Your gifts mean the Society is well-positioned for entering an uncertain 2021. Your generous support truly humbles the board members and staff, and we are grateful. NCHS treasures each donation that arrives in support of local history. Collectively, every dollar adds up and makes an enormous difference. Thank you so very much to everyone who gives according to their ability.

The financials you see on pages 13 and 14 provide a general snapshot of revenues and expenses. If you would like to request full financials, please contact Jessica Becker at (507) 934-2160.

CARES Act Supports Non-profits

The Nicollet County Historical Society applied for assistance through the Federal CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program and received funds through the Nicollet County CARES Relief Grant Program. These two programs bolstered our bottom line by \$52,500 to ensure the Society continued to preserve and share Nicollet County history during COVID-19.

Thank you for your support during this challenging year. Your gifts mean the Society is well-positioned for entering an uncertain 2021. Your generous support truly humbles the board members and staff, and we are grateful. NCHS treasures each donation that arrives in support of local history. Collectively, every dollar adds up and makes an enormous difference. Thank you so very much to everyone who gives according to their ability.

2020 Monetary Donors

NCHS makes every effort to provide an accurate listing of donors between January 1 and December 31, 2020. If we have made an error, please contact us at (507) 934-2160.

Willis & Rachel Anthony
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous Fund of InFaith
Community Foundation
Biederman Family Fund
at the Mankato Area
Foundation
Peg Bindner
Carolyn Dobler
Marie Dranttel
Daniel & Mary Groebner
Stephen Hogberg
Carl & Susan Johnson

Judy Malmberg
Cindy & Larry Mohr
Lorraine Olson
Bill & Durene Pedersen
Carol Peterson
Herb & Louise Poncin
Ronald Roselli
Elizabeth Russell
Kris Sack
Doug & Judy Schultz
Betty Thompson
Roland & Edi Thorstensson
Mary Vinquist

End-Of-Year:
Mildred Anderson
Anonymous
Larry & Judith Biederman
Thomas Hagen
Grace Hanson
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz
Emilie Lokensgard
Elizabeth Peters
Judy Scholl

In Kind Donation
eholz graphix



Give to the Max Day:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Alyssa Auten, General Fund
Tim Bartelt
Kay Carlson, General Fund, in memory of ReVae Nygard
Marie Dranttel
Andrea Fish, General Fund
Jeremy Freeman, E. St. Julien Cox House,
Lisa Gault
Sara Hanson, E. St. Julien Cox House
Jon & Family Haugdahl, E. St. Julien Cox House,
in memory of ReVae Nygard
Scott Hermanson, General Fund
Jason Hermis, General Fund, in honor of ReVae Nygard
Eileen Holz, General Fund
Raymond Jacobson

Bradford Johnson, General Fund
Kathleen Keller, E. St. Julien Cox House, dedicated to Oliver George
Diane Lochner
Ada, Malamen
Kate Martens
Dana Melius, General Fund
Joseph Metzen
Brian Oviatt, General Fund
Marlin Peterson
Sharon Pinney, General Fund
Marie Renneke
Bob Sandeen
Jayne Sjostrom, General Fund
Tami Skinner
Loren Sundboom
Mary Vinquist
Patricia West, General Fund, in memory of ReVae Nygard

2020 Memorials

Thinking of others at what is a worrying and challenging time for us all speaks volumes of our donors' kindness and compassion.

In Memory of
Pearl Morrison
Given by
Doug & Judy Schultz

In Memory of
Ravae Nygard
Given by
Melanie Covell
Eleanor Depuydt
Harriet Mason
Minnehaha Chapter Questers
Judy Scholl

In Memory of
Julian Olson
Given by
Thorild & Ardith Nelson
Doug & Judy Schultz

In Memory of
Marilyn Barnes Robertz
Given by
David & Aleda Harrington
Eileen Holz
Eunice Holz
Mary Krugerud
Harriet Mason
Minnehaha Chapter Questers
Doug & Judy Schultz
Barbara Wilkinson

In Memory of
William Robertz
Given by
Marilyn Robertz

In Memory of
Louise Rodning
Given by
Thorild & Ardith Nelson
Harold Rodning

Given by
Lorraine Olson

Nicollet County Historical Society

Statement of Financial Position

For the years ending December 31, 2020 and 2019
Unaudited

ASSETS

	2020	2019
Current Assets:		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 225,095.57	\$ 140,082.02
Inventory (merchandise for resale)	\$ 11,866.35	\$ 11,866.35
Investments - CDs	\$ 13,517.63	\$ 13,517.63
Investments - Mutual Fund	\$ 78,268.98	\$ 78,268.98
Accounts Receivable	\$ -	\$ 143.40
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 328,748.53</u>	<u>\$ 243,878.38</u>
Fixed Assets:		
Building & Improvements	\$ 2,120,106.72	\$ 2,120,106.72
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 93,960.79	\$ 93,960.79
Total Fixed Assets at Cost	<u>\$ 2,214,067.51</u>	<u>\$ 2,214,067.51</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ (1,272,898.59)</u>	<u>\$ (1,272,898.59)</u>
Net Fixed Assets at Cost	<u>\$ 941,168.92</u>	<u>\$ 941,168.92</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,269,917.45</u>	<u>\$ 1,185,047.30</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ 7,001.88
Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ 605.81	\$ 2,551.86
Sales Tax Payable	\$ (448.35)	\$ (349.73)
Short term loan NCB	\$ -	\$ (40.00)
Paycheck Protection Program Loan	\$ 27,500.00	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 27,657.46</u>	<u>\$ 9,164.01</u>
Equity		
Restricted Funds	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 1,442,344.98	\$ 1,492,344.98
Retained Earnings	\$ (316,461.69)	\$ (406,513.92)
Net Income	<u>\$ 66,376.70</u>	<u>\$ 90,052.23</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$ 1,242,259.99</u>	<u>\$ 1,175,883.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,269,917.45</u>	<u>\$ 1,185,047.30</u>

Nicollet County Historical Society
Statement of Activities & Functional Expenses
For the years ending December 31, 2020 and 2019
Unaudited

Changes in Net Assets:

Revenues & Other Support

	2020	2019
Admissions	\$ 799.43	\$ 20,906.54
County Appropriations	112,962.00	110,747.00
Donations/Memorials/Fundraising	74,237.70	113,131.40
Facility Rentals	-	380.00
Grants (income & Reimbursements)	27,040.00	-
Investment Income	1,854.28	1,452.37
Memberships	13,980.00	12,319.00
Merchandise Sales	717.41	17,831.63
MHS Contract Revenue	2,000.00	45,348.80
Programs & Event Income	390.35	4,858.00
Miscellaneous Income (and reimbursements)	<u>3,534.23</u>	<u>5,400.21</u>
 Total Revenues	 \$ 237,515.40	 \$ 332,374.95

Expenses

Programing, Exhibits & Events	1,056.75	6,034.16
Cost of Merchandise Sold	956.02	9,962.90

Support/Operating Expenses

Wages	88,301.28	120,141.28
Payroll Tax	5,605.74	9,191.68
Employee Benefits	11,113.13	12,230.03
 Advertising	 1,878.00	 2,305.74
Office Expense, Postage & Printing	12,150.10	15,099.92
Insurance	8,755.00	7,964.00
Professional Fees	6,630.34	7,224.76
Utilities (total)	19,757.28	26,681.77
Repairs & Maintenance	10,213.55	17,896.20
Lease Expense	100.00	100.00
Assn Dues & Memberships	669.00	534.00
Miscellaneous Expense	4,065.51	6,758.28
Reimbursable Expense	<u>(113.00)</u>	<u>198.00</u>
 Total Expenses	 <u>171,138.70</u>	 <u>242,322.72</u>
 Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	 \$ 66,376.70	 \$ 90,052.23

2019 NCHS Annual Meeting Minutes

15

Sunday, January 26, 2020

The business meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Approved by acclamation

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and accepted by all present

Treasurer's Report: NCHS Treasurer Loren Sundboom informed attendees about the financial health of the organization and thanked Nicollet County for their continuing support.

- \$220,000 in checking
- \$90,000 gift by Mr. Odegard- unrestricted
- \$50,000 Grant from Mankato Foundation

Director's Report: Executive Director Jessica Becker welcomed the members. She reported that weather slowed early season. Throughout the year 70 programs on three sites. We had a successful major exhibit on North Mankato history. In the new year with new funding the goal will be to spend a little to save a lot in terms of building upkeep and maintenance. In the new year, there will be a League of Women Voters exhibit and a possibility of an exhibit from the Smithsonian. The Cox house grant and the Rethos grant will help to renew this major society exhibit. Lastly a special thanks to board, staff and volunteers for making it a successful 2019.

President's Report: Board President Maria Lokensgard began with a thank you to all involved who contributed their time, talents and dollars to NCHS. She was grateful for the opportunity to lead in 2019 and encouraged others to become involved because it lends a new perspective.

Nominating Committee: The slate of candidates was presented. A call for nominations from the floor was made. A motion was made to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates as presented:

- New Board Members: Marie Dranttel, Ray Jacobson, Donna Nelson, Bob Sandeen, Tami Skinner
- Officers: Kate Martens, president; Tami Skinner, Vice president; Loren Sundboom, Treasurer; and Matthias Leyrer, Secretary.

The motion was seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Adjournment of the Meeting: The meeting adjourned. MSC.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hagen, NCHS Board Member

*A people without
the knowledge of
their past history,
origin and culture
is like a tree
without roots.*

~ Marcus Garvey

Upper right: The TdS townsite trails were a popular go-to location for locals searching for open space recreation.



Below: The prairie restoration project was undaunted by the pandemic and was enjoyed by many visitors in 2020.



Right: A portion of the Athletics exhibit from *Educational Excellence* which was extended into March 2021 with hopes of more audience.



Bottom: NCHS Treaty Site History Center Museum Store offered online shopping and curbside pickup to our local customers.



1851 N. Minnesota Avenue • St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: (507) 934-2160
Website: www.nchsmn.org



General information: museum@nchsmn.org
Archives information: research@nchsmn.org