NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1928

the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

November 2021 • Volume 26 / Issue 3

Mother & Daughter Build Friendships from St. Peter Research

by Guest Writer Janelle Molony

Above: Janelle Molony (left) and Jodi Decker

CONTENTS

Director's Column **2 & 5**
Sites Info **2**
2nd Quarter 2021
Member recap **2**
Donations recap **2**
President's Report **3**
From the Archives **4**
Archives Donations **4**
Cox House Corner **5**
Film Series at Home **6**
Memorials **6**
We remember **6**
History Bits **7**
Give to the MAX
Gift of History
Holiday Shopping **8**
Call for Board Members **9**
Current Exhibits **10**
Events Calendar **11**
Membership Form **12**

Janelle Molony and Jodi Decker, a mother-daughter research team from Phoenix, Ariz., have recently traced their ancestral roots back to a first-generation German-American farm girl from Sibley County, who spent several years in the St. Peter State Hospital. Martha Gruening (born 1870) was thought to be delusional when she complained of trouble eating and drinking after a mysterious 1927 surgery. She emerged from her hospital committal in 1934, weathered, but resilient and capable of defending her reputation in society with the support of her (then) St. Paul neighborhood friends and family. "We know this because she went on to lead a totally normal life, retiring in Henderson, Minn.," Martha's great-granddaughter Janelle says.

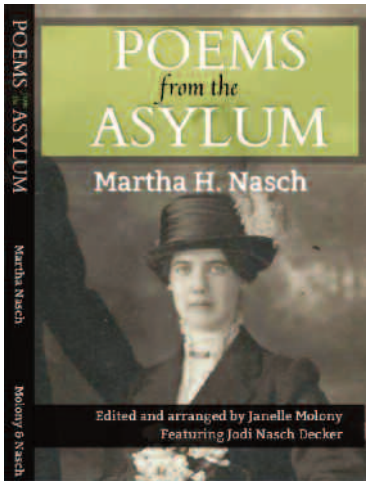
While the end of this genealogical trail is fascinating, the journey itself was an unexpected delight. Their summertime family tree project erupted into a multi-generational neighborhood reunion. Janelle says, "As my mother and I were researching, we kept finding loops back from one marriage to another, where neighbors intermarried and lifelong friends shared the same home addresses."

To better understand the twists in the family tree branches, Janelle and Jodi had to search out personal connections from descendants in a neighborhood they don't even live in. "We had no clue what to expect, but then people started responding to our emails with wonderful stories!" Janelle expressed. Using U.S. Census records, research forums, and social media, Janelle and Jodi were able to find and connect with a descendant from nearly every neighboring household on Martha's old street. "We have a running group conversation that is quite robust these days," Jodi reports.

The group efforts to find out who Martha Nasch was before and after her stint at St. Peter taught the family just how close-knit their ancestors used to be by seeing how often one's family members were seen in the neighbor's old albums (like today's photo-bombing). "We can exchange scanned photos like baseball cards," Janelle joked.

By openly sharing family stories, the group has been able to flesh out the personalities of their loved ones as multi-dimensional, complex, and very relatable. "We know Martha's friends and family were able to visit her on Sundays, at the hospital," Janelle explains, "and if they were anything like the granddaughters we've met on this journey, then they would have been a fantastic support system for her during and after her recovery."

Janelle shared that by extending the research to other locals, "We learned that three houses in a row had family members at the hospital. For the longest time, our family kept this part of our history as a shameful secret, but now we see there is a much larger dynamic at play than one woman's stint in a 'madhouse.' We've discovered a whole community of empathy and encouragement." They are especially grateful for the generous resources they received from St. Peter State Hospital Museum and the Minnesota Historical Society. The mother and daughter look forward to an in-person visit with all their new local friends, as soon as pandemic restrictions are lifted.



Their upcoming book, *Poems From the Asylum*, an anthology of Martha Nasch's writing, is anticipated for an early 2022 release. To learn more, see www.JanelleMolony.com/sevenyearsinsane or follow on Facebook @SevenYearsInsane

Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS as of 22 October 2021.

Benefactor Business Member:
Gustavus Adolphus College
Pioneer Bank

Renewed Advocate Business Member:
St. Peter State Hospital Museum
New Sweden Mutual Insurance Company

Renewed Patron Members:
Joni & Neil Anderson
Lori Heslep
Janet Prehn
Dave Solheim
Evelyn J. Solo

Renewed Family Members:
Mark & Laura Boomgaarden
Katha & John Chamberlain
Barb Church
Charles & Carol Eggert
Donald & Rhonda Hermanson
Dave & JoAnne Johnson
Diane Lochner
Carolyn & John Meyer
Terry & Martha Morrow
Kenn & Patsy Rossow
Jeff & Tami Skinner
Karen & John Smithers
Erica Smith

Renewed Individual Members:
Dwight DeBoer
Michael Frederick

Renewed Senior Members:
Audrey Gatchell
Andris Grunde
Jane Haala
Susan Hynes
Kay Herbst Helms
Elaine Hermanson
Charles L. Johnson
Catherine Neitge
Steven Poncin
Bernard J. Thieman
Bonnie Tostenson-Sellner
Linda Vogel

New Family Members:
David & Jenny Luepke
Mitchell & Laura Nelson
Roger Wilkinson

New Senior Member:
Bernie Bastian
Lorie Fetzik
John Luepke
Judy Voss

We make every effort to provide an accurate listing of membership renewals and donors. If we have made an error please contact us at 507-934-2160 or info@nchsmn.org and we'll make corrections.

Monetary Donations

processed by NCHS through 22 October 2021

Monetary
Verlin Carlson
Audrey Gatchell
Karen A. Humphrey
Bob & Sally Lambert
Paul Malchow
Mary Sobel Ott
Andru Peters

NCHS Board…

Executive Board Officers

Kate Martens, President, St. Peter
Tami Skinner, Vice President, St. Peter
Loren Sundboom, Treasurer, St. Peter
Tim Bartelt, Secretary, St. Peter

Directors

Dana Melius, St. Peter
Ray Jacobson, St. Peter
Matthias Lyrer, North Mankato
Joe Metzen, St. Peter
Ken Rossow, St. Peter
Bob Sandeen, St. Peter

NCHS Staff…

Executive Director: Jessica Becker
director@nchsmn.org
Research Coordinator: Ruth Einstein
researchcoordinator@nchsmn.org
Accounting: Barb Church
office@nchsmn.org
TSHC Museum Assistants:
Sara Busse & Erica Smith
TSHC Janitor: Robert Weber
Cox House Manager: Kate Roberts
cox@nchsmn.org

NCHS Sites information…

Treaty Site History Center
1851 N. Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160
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
General info via e-mail: cox@nchsmn.org
* Ths site remain closed temporarily due to community coronavirus concerns

Traverse des Sioux
1851 N Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter, MN 56082
adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center
Open dawn to dusk year-round

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

KNUJ AM 860
• 860AM • knuj.net • 97.3FM •
"Your Friend in Southern Minnesota"

Tune In!

Hear Executive Director Jessica Becker on Community Affairs every fourth Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. on KNUJ Radio! Turn your dials to 860 AM, 97.3 FM, or listen online at knuj.net.

Director's Column

Jessica Becker

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

~ F. Scott Fitzgerald

Fall is my favorite season. I know many people love the new green of spring and the warmth of summer. But I love autumn because it means hot apple cider and bonfires on chilly nights and transitioning to cute boots and sweater weather. Plus, Mother Nature puts on quite a dazzling and colorful finale to the growing season. It's also a reminder that change is a good thing.

We're coming to the end of October, and our tourism season is over. That's not to say we don't have visitors, but they're fewer and farther between and will stay that way over the next few months as folks burrow in for winter. I want to thank all of you who visited us this summer once we reopened. I know you had a lot of options for places to visit, so we appreciate you staying local. Hopefully, you learned something new.

Fall is also about preparing for winter. Bears fatten up for hibernation, squirrels stockpile acorns, and trees shed their vibrant leaves to weather our harsh Minnesota winter. Then, when everything reawakens in spring, this long rest will have served them well.

So, too, will NCHS use the quiet of fall and winter to prepare for spring. The work we do now lays the groundwork for our future successes. It's this solid base that allows later work to build up into something incredible.

Every year at this time, we also prepare a budget for the following year. We pay close attention to our finances here at NCHS. Barb works hard and is a wizard with QuickBooks, but it's not as simple as earning income and watching expenses. We use forecasting to help us understand where our numbers have been to plan where they might go. Due to the pandemic, it's not as easy as it used to be. If visitors aren't coming, then we need to shift staffing. We ask ourselves whether spending money on advertising will help make up the revenue difference. We offset all of that with the cost of PPE and potential time off or closure if staff or volunteers become ill.

As you can see, one factor can determine the course of an entire season. That's why during budget planning, we look at every aspect of our operation. What's working? What's not? What can we do better or differently?

Director's Column continued on page 5

President's Report

**Kate Martens, President,
NCHS Board of Directors**

Kate Martens, President
NCHS Board of Directors

We are mid-way through Fall, and I must say we at NCHS have made the most of late summer and early fall! Temperatures rose and fell, but our activity was steady. August 11–15 saw the return of the Nicollet County Fair, and we got to see so many members and friends again! Our 3 days of open hours at the Treaty Site have been busy! I have had the pleasure of working at the desk several times, and I love to see people come in to get their history on! The special exhibits have been well received.

We presented our award-winning exhibit Commemorating Controversy at the 49th Mahkato Wacipi in the Education tent. Amid the Native storytellers and the story of the boarding schools, we had some great discussions with attendees. I'm looking forward to the 50th Wacipi next September!

The choices for our virtual **Film Series** have been excellent and I personally enjoyed *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, suggested viewing date was 10/7/21, but you can watch it at your leisure. My father was a "cripple" and the documentary depicts well the issues he faced and the way the laws changed for his benefit. *The Warrior Tradition*, November's offering, is also excellent. Watch and then join our discussion by following the link on our website.

Shadows at the Crossing was a huge success again this year. We changed some of our characters which keeps it alive. Responses were all positive and we had a long waitlist. I would remind everyone that those stories are presented in our Treaty Site exhibits all the time, so if you missed Shadows at the Crossing, come visit and refresh your recollections at your leisure, or request a guided tour with our volunteer docents.

We are in the process of sending out monthly membership renewal reminder notices since we didn't actively send those letters during Covid times. We will start adding your renewal date to the newsletter so watch for that, and remember, our members are the basis of all our work!

November 18 is **Give to the Max Day.** The Board of Directors is again offering a match to encourage donations. Last year was very successful and we hope to do even better this year. We are working to increase our fundraising activity, so watch for new opportunities.

Probably highest on the Executive Committee's priority list right now is finding new Board members. We have three open Board positions, and we are looking for applications from the community and membership. If you or someone you know has strong public relations or legal experience, please go to the website and fill out the application. This process is competitive, so please give us complete information for deliberation purposes. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, November 5. Please contact me if you have any questions. Send me an email at board@nchsmn.org or leave me a message at (507) 351-4218. Come join us in this exciting time in history!

President Kate Martens, mans the NCHS booth with a friend.

Hotelier Bernard Bornemann (aka Al Behrends) shares what his legacy is to Traverse des Sioux. Volunteer Jane Haala, left, serves as a Shadows guide.

Steve Hogberg as General Henry Sibley awaits his next tour group.

Artifact & Archival Donations

to Fall 2021:

Mark Davis: Organizational records of the Nicollet Creamery Association, 1904-1972.

Paul Dumdei: Commemorative items and reference materials.

Mark Fiemeyer: Photographs and genealogies of the extended Fiemeyer, Ginkel, Ulrich, and Unverworn families.

Michael Frederick: Promotional and commemorative items.

Eileen and Eunice Holz: Promotional and commemorative items; cookbooks, anniversary publications from Union Presbyterian Church.

Andy Hopp: Anniversary books, Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Nicollet; materials from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School; Nicollet County 4-H projects and records, commemorative pins.

Rush Lind: Promotional and commemorative items; St. Peter area directories, 1899, 1959.

Willis Lindquist: Scrapbook, St. Peter High School Indoor Circus, 1938–1942.

Marilyn Lindsay: Camp Fire Girls uniform of Betty Philipson Morphew, North Mankato.

Patricia Mead: Child's coat from the Clarence Mead family, c.1900.

LeAnn Peterson Metzger: Materials relating to Marion Holberg Peterson and Les Peterson, including Marion's wedding dress and photographs.

Marlin Peterson: *The Ridglian*, 1934–1935, publication of Company 2712, Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Ridgely State Park.

Parkview Manor: Coveralls of a staff member of the St. Peter Area Ambulance Service.

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church: Publication commemorating the life of the parish, "St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Lafayette, Minnesota, 1942–2021."

Saint Peter High School: *The Peterian*, St. Peter High School yearbook, 2019, 2020.

Roxane Knutson Sundboom: Materials relating to Frances Ginkel Knutson and Elmer Knutson, including Frances' wedding dress, photographs, and textiles.

United Church of Christ, New Ulm: Records of Friedens Evangelical Church in Nicollet, from 1898–1925.

Donald Watts: Genealogical material concerning the Watts-Ellis family.

From the Archives…

by Ruth Einstein
Research Coordinator

We are here and collecting

In the few months since the Research Center and Archives at NCHS have reopened to welcome researchers and donations, evocative and useful materials from throughout Nicollet County have been accepted by the Society.

Ginny and Tuff Miller, former owners of Pizza Villa and Grannie's Parlour restaurants in St. Peter, donated photographs, a history, and menus, along with Tuff's Grannie's Parlour staff jacket. You would be hard pressed to find someone who lived in St. Peter during the 1960s and '70s who doesn't have wonderful memories of enjoying their favorite pizza or broasted chicken at Pizza Villa after a high school game or bowling.

The NCHS Archives recently accepted significant donations from the Bernadotte and Lafayette area. Extensive collections were donated by Bernadotte Lutheran Church and by Ruth Klossner, whose renowned photographs and documentation of church and community activities make up the bulk of these extraordinary donations.

Tuff Miller, Rene Voigt, Ginny Miller, Pizza Villa, St. Peter, 1977.

Mark Fiemeyer, whose extended family settled in Courtland and the middle and western parts of the county, has donated a sweeping collection of photographs and annotated genealogies. These materials bring the names on census records to life. Mark is a respected historian of the Courtland area, and through countless hours of conversation with relatives and historical research, he has been able to identify almost all the individuals pictured and has pieced together an enormous amount of genealogical information. The photographs and genealogies include members of the Fiemeyer, Ginkel, Unverworn, Hagberg, Meyer, Ulrich, and Youngblom families, among others.

Joseph Fimeyer, Albert Fimeyer, and Charlie Lindemann. This studio photo shows the three men posing as carpenters.

The Research Center has welcomed two new faces! Retired librarian Lorie Fetzik has set to work cataloging and labeling our reference library according to Library of Congress standards (including spine labels!). University of Minnesota student Emmy Levanetz has been spending her volunteer hours hunched over a computer inputting donation records into our collections catalog. Longtime volunteers Bob Sandeen and Nita Aasen continue their efforts to meet the needs of our researchers. Bob and Nita are joined on the Collections Committee by Eileen Holz, Brian Oviatt, Marlin Peterson. We are enormously grateful to our volunteers.

The initial rush of researchers and donors after reopening has tapered off, so if you have a research request or have historical materials to be considered for acquisition, please get in touch to make an appointment.

Cox House Corner…

by Kate Roberts
Cox House Manager

On the corner of Washington & Skaro

During the COVID closure, we attempted to tackle some big projects, but, unfortunately, due to the pandemic, labor and building material shortages paused our work several times.

Now, we're thrilled the much-needed preservation work is underway. Up first is the installation of our new fence. Starting that project meant moving the potting shed because we also had to move the fence 16 feet east. Cox House Committee members Tom Hagen and Loren Sundboom worked with Kevin Stolt and his Sentence to Serve crew to move the shed on rollers. It's now out of the way. Next, Down to Earth Landscaping will dig up and move the current posts 16 feet toward the house and install our new, era-appropriate cedar fence.

The new fence will showcase the beautiful prairie plants donated by John and Katha Chamberlain to be installed by Genevieve Brand of Seed to Site, LLC.

Photo Credit: Nancy Madsen / *St. Peter Herald*

We need to complete a few preservation projects before we can paint the house and install the new perimeter plants. To do this, we've enlisted the help of local craftsman Erik Hendrickson. He completed inspecting the porch, and we're contracting with him to complete the porch preservation project next spring. Erik will also be repairing storm windows during the rest of this fall and through the winter.

Since January, we've worked with The Cardinal Marketer to develop the new Marketing Strategy for the Cox House. As a result, we now have a framework to build our brand, programming, and audience. We'll use the process and final strategy information going forward, along with the interpretation model.

Director's Column *continued from page 2*

The staff and committees are busy planning next year's exhibits and programs. We have some great learning and exploration opportunities on the horizon that we look forward to sharing with you soon. If you'd like to be a part of creating these activities, I encourage you to join one of those committees.

If your organizational skills are strong, we could use some help over winter break in the back room. We are packed to the rafters in our storage and workshop areas and could use extra hands to move and shuffle things around.

Since we don't have a Curator, we could also use help processing the fantastic three-dimensional collections items that have arrived since we began accepting donations again. You'll work closely with staff, but this opportunity requires you to be a self-starter, be patient, and pay attention to detail. If you're a process-driven individual, this opportunity is perfect for you.

Although we're busy and planning for what we hope is a glorious spring, we're never too busy to appreciate you—our members, supporters, and friends. We're grateful from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support. Whether it's through membership dollars, volunteer time, or any of the many ways you participate with NCHS, thank you.

Jessica Becker
Executive Director

Donate to our "Keep the Cox House Standing" fundraiser!

Historic preservation is a constant process. With your help, we can fund timely preservation projects at our stunning landmark home. Immediate needs include exterior paint and window repairs. Please help us "Keep the Cox House Standing" by donating today at nchsmn.org/visit/e-st-julien-cox-house/.

Memorials

received by NCHS through 22 October 2021.

In Memory of
Keltgen and Mans ancestors who settled in Nicollet County in the late 1800s
Given by
Mans and Keltgen Families

In Memory of
Luella Annexstad Monke
Given by
Karen A. Humphrey

In Memory of
Marion Peterson
Given by
Eileen Holz

We remember…

with honor the following individuals whom we lost since our last newsletter.

- **Delores Gleason, Former NCHS Board Director**
- **Robert "Bob" Isenberg, Patron member**
- **Dennis "Denny" Kemp, Family member**
- **Marion Peterson, Life Member**

Historical Society Event…

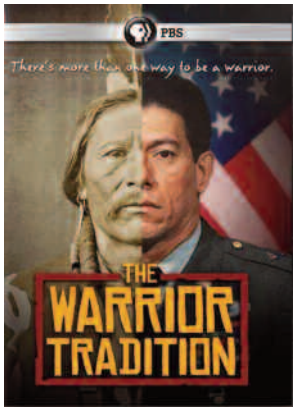
Announcing the 2021–22 Documentary Film Series at Home

The Nicollet County Historical Society in Saint Peter Community and Family Education presents our 13th season of documentary films! These documentaries are designed to inform, challenge ideas, and create conversation.

This fall, our films will not be shown in person. Instead, we are providing the links for you to view these films online for free at home. Links to stream the films are provided on our website at nchsmn.org/events.

After watching each film, we encourage you to participate in an online discussion in the Documentary Film Series Discussion Page on NCHS's Facebook page.

Documentary Film Series



The Warrior Tradition

The Warrior Tradition tells the astonishing, heartbreaking, inspiring, and largely untold story of Native Americans in the United States military. Why would Indian men and women put their lives on the line for the very government that took their homelands? The film relates the stories of Native American warriors from their own points of view – stories of service and pain, of courage and fear. **NR, 55 min. Recommended viewing date: Thu., Nov. 4.** *Remember to join the Documentary Film Series Discussion Page on NCHS's Facebook Page.*

Becoming Big League

Becoming Big League explores how sport was changing in 1960 and how that changed Minnesota. From Olympic hockey to High School hoops, from pro-sports origins in Big Ten titles, *Becoming Big League* is a retro sports page come to life that illustrates how 1960 might be the most dynamic year in Minnesota Sports history. A Twin Cities PBS Original production. **NR, 58 min. Recommended viewing date: Thu., Dec. 2.** *Remember to join the Documentary Film Series Discussion Page on NCHS's Facebook Page.*

Family Weekend at the Museum

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27, 2021

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks and spend time with loved ones. Instead of battling crowds and lines in busy stores, spend some quality educational time together at our **Family Weekend at the Museum**. Kids visit the Treaty Site History Center for FREE with your paid adult admission. Explore the exhibits, participate in a family-friendly activity, and walk off the turkey with a stroll together around the trail.

More information is coming soon. Visit our website and follow us on Facebook for the latest.

History Center Bits...

give TO THE MAX Nov. 18, 2021

NCHS is participating in the 13th annual **Give to the Max** giving event taking place this year starting on Monday, November 1, and culminating on Thursday, November 18. Give to the Max Day is Minnesota's great giving get-together, a statewide day of charitable giving. Pledge to support local history with a donation to the Nicollet County Historical Society.

Early Giving for Give to the Max begins November 1 and continues through **Give to the Max Day**, with random drawings for more than $100,000 in prize grants throughout the event.

Each donation made through GiveMN.org qualifies NCHS for additional grants from the Give to the Max prize pool, thanks to the continued generosity of the Bush Foundation. GiveMN will award:

- $500 Early Giving Golden Ticket prizes daily Nov. 1–17
- $500 Golden Ticket prizes every 15 minutes on November 18
- $1,000 Hourly Golden Ticket prizes every hour on November 18
- $6,000 Power Hour prizes, shared among the top three organizations based on the amount raised between 10:00–10:59 a.m. and 10:00–10:59 p.m.
- The Give to the Max grand prize, a $10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket from all donations made through GiveMN.org Nov. 1–18

Our goal is to raise $2,000. Your donation of just $10 provides essential support for collections care, educational programs, future exhibits, and many other initiatives.

Be sure to mark your calendar and make your gift between November 1-18 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 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 appreciate the generosity and thoughtfulness of our supporters. E-mail membership@nchsmn.org or stop by the Treaty Site for a Gift Membership application.

Find us on Facebook: Our history is full of little tidbits that haven't made it into our exhibits yet.What are they? Check out our Facebook pages t o find out!

Just in Time for Your Holiday Shopping

Our museum store is stocked to the brim with gifts for any history lover on your list. We will be open on Black Friday (11/26) and Small Business Saturday (11/27).

The Beautiful Snow:
The Ingalls family, the Railroads, and the Hard Winter of 1880–81,
by Cindy Wilson
The Long Winter is one of the most memorable novels in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House series. It beautifully details the dramatic events of a harrowing winter with months of never-ending blizzards leading to railroad blockades that all but cut off fledgling communities.

But what really happened during the Hard Winter of 1880–81?

Lively and rewarding, *The Beautiful Snow* is a new look at the Hard Winter. Pulling from nearly three thousand regional newspaper articles, *The Beautiful Snow* weaves the historical record around a Wilder's fictionalized account of *The Long Winter*. From the tireless efforts to dig out the railroad blockades, to lavish oyster parties, to carefully spun boosterism, the Hard Winter comes to life with extraordinary tales of survival, resilience, and defiance that adds to Wilder's beloved novel.

Minnesota Moxie:
True Tales of Courage, Muscle & Grit in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes,
by Ben Welter
Minnesotans are a tough lot, capable of pulling a house six miles by muscle alone or giving birth to a sixteen-pound boy. In 1921, young Phoebe Fairgrave set a parachute world record, stepping off the wing of a biplane 15,200 feet above the Twin Cities. In 1962, the last powerhouse Gophers football team brought home the Rose Bowl trophy. A year later, thirteen-year-old Jean Webb of Minneapolis risked arrest and refused to leave a segregated restaurant. In 1979, Gerry Spiess crossed the Atlantic alone in a 10-foot sailboat he built in his White Bear Lake garage. These inspiring stories and dozens more, culled from the *Star Tribune* newspaper archives, are presented in their original form by author Ben Welter, along with in-depth background, fresh interviews and more than seventy-five historic photos.

Around America to Win the Vote:
Two Suffragists, A Kitten, and 10,000 Miles,
by Mara Rockliff
In April 1916, Nell Richardson and Alice Burke set out from New York City in a little yellow car, embarking on a bumpy, muddy, unmapped journey ten thousand miles long. They took with them a teeny typewriter, a tiny sewing machine, a wee black kitten, and a message for Americans all across the country: Votes for women's! The women's suffrage movement was in full swing, and Nell and Alice would not let anything keep them from spreading the word about equal voting rights for women. Braving blizzards, deserts, and naysayers—not to mention a whole lot of tires stuck in the mud—the two courageous friends made their way through the cities and towns of America to further their cause. One hundred years after Nell and Alice set off on their trip, Mara Rockliff revives their spirit in a lively and whimsical picture book, with exuberant illustrations by Hadley Hooper bringing their inspiring historical trek to life.

Starting on November 26, the NCHS member discount increases to 20% for the rest of 2021. Don't forget you can shop online. Use promo code HOLMBR20 to receive your discount when you shop online for curbside pickup. Scan the QR code with your phone's photo app to shop.

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The Nominating Committee is currently accepting applications for three new members of the Board of Directors to start in 2022.

Being a member of the NCHS Board of Directors provides you with a unique opportunity to help make history accessible for learners of all ages. While our Board of Directors provides oversight and financial leadership, we also expect board members to take an active role in helping the Society grow and thrive.

Directors are expected to:

- Attend bi-monthly board meetings.
- Actively participate in planning, governance, and fundraising.
- Serve on committees.
- Be ambassadors, volunteering your time and talents at our historic sites or within our communities.

The best candidates have:

- A passion for history.
- Connections that can help promote NCHS.
- Experience in law, fund development, or facilities management.
- And the will to make a difference in the community.

The deadline for consideration is Friday, November 5, 2021.

If you would like to apply or would like more information visit our website at nchsmn.org/nchs-call-for-board-members.

If you have questions, please get in touch with NCHS Board President Kate Martens board@nchsmn.org or (507) 934-2160.

History Center Bits…

Are you a Snowbird?

Please remember to contact us with your winter address so NCHS news reaches you in a timely manner. E-mails are more important than ever.

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. Third class bulk rate mail is not forwarded and if a newsletter is returned to us, the Society must pay the return postage. Update contact information or share your e-mail with us by contacting Executive Director Jessica Becker at director@nchsmn.org or calling 507-934-2160.

Visit the NCHS Online Catalog:

Researchers can explore some of the Nicollet County Historical Society's cataloged collection online. Don't see what you're looking for? Contact the Research Coordinator at research@nchsmn.org or 507-934-2160.

Volunteers Needed for the Following:

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

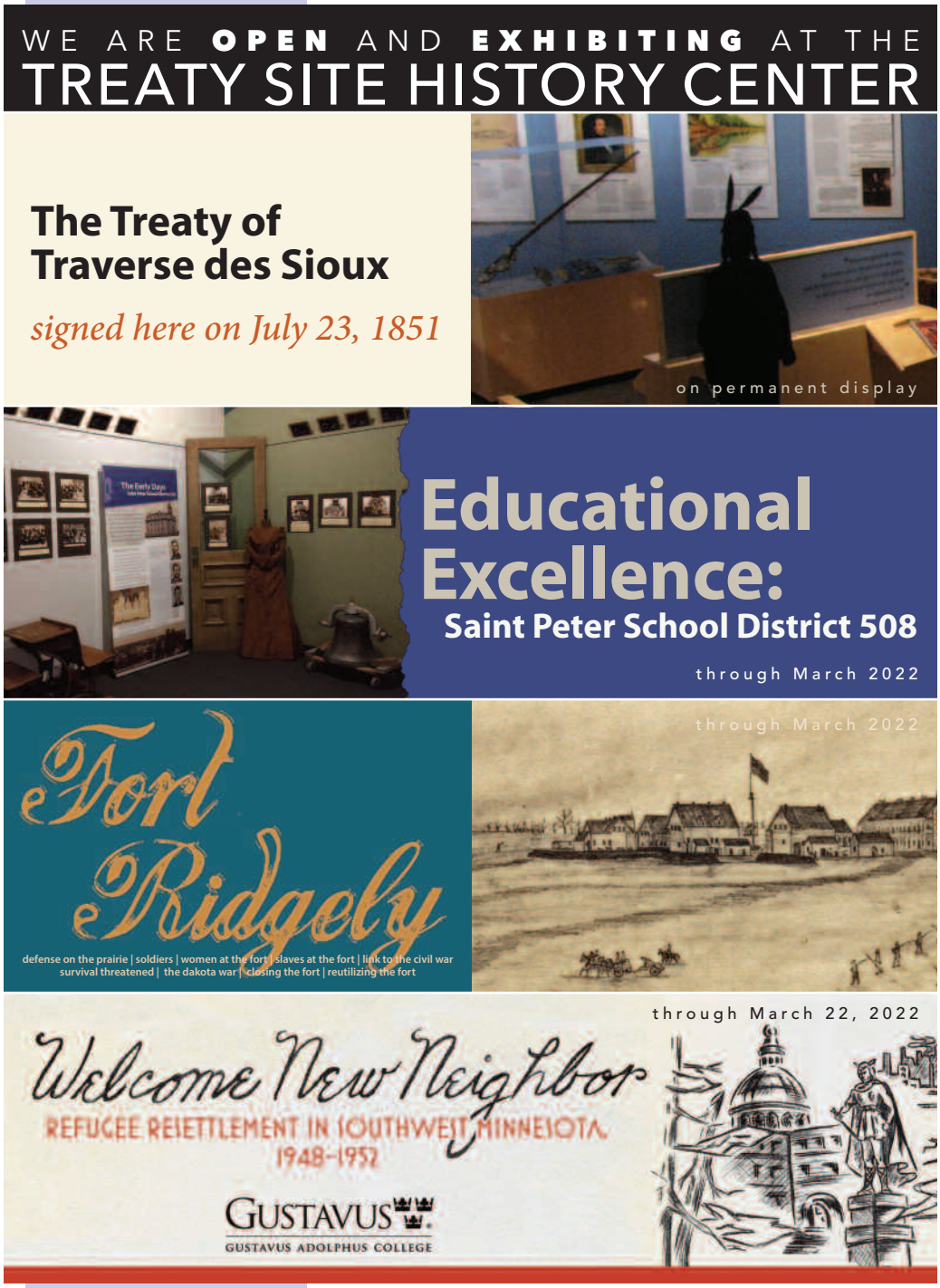
Committees: Use your skills and interests to assist the Society with programs, exhibits, fundraising, and more! Volunteers meet people from all over the world.

All volunteers will be trained by staff members

Shop our Online Gift Store:

We are offering curbside pickup! Shop from the comfort of home and bring history home with you when you pick up your order. Visit our website and click "Shop" in the upper right corner.

History Center Current Exhibits…



Educational Excellence: Saint Peter School District 508

Put on your saddle shoes and lace up your PF Flyers to take this stroll down memory lane. We're going back to school and the subject is the history of Saint Peter Schools. Reminisce about your teachers, hot lunches in the cafeteria, FFA, pep fests, cheering on the home team, and much more.

Fort Ridgely

Although only open for fourteen years, Fort Ridgely drastically impacted the State of Minnesota and the American frontier. Through its short tenure as a military post, Fort Ridgely's soldiers, their wives, and the accompanying civilians contributed to the transformation of this region.

Built on land that was once the traditional ancestral home of the Dakota, Fort Ridgely saw conflict with the Dakota, was home to men, women, and even slaves. This exhibit explores and gives voice to the diverse populations that experienced Fort Ridgely.

Welcome New Neighbor

"Welcome New Neighbor" explores the resettlement of European refugees in Minnesota at the end of World War II. Unable to return to their homelands, Displaced Persons sought a safe place where they could rebuild their lives and support their families. The 1948 Displaced Persons Act required DPs to have evidence of a job offer and a place to live before they would be granted permission to come to the United States. The Minnesota Displaced Persons Commission coordinated with volunteer social agencies to identify sponsors for families emigrating from Europe.

The images and documents presented in this exhibit come primarily from the Lutheran Church Archives at Gustavus Adolphus College and the Displaced Persons Program Files at the Minnesota Historical Society.

1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux

The Treaty Site History Center's permanent exhibit interprets the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux as a watershed moment in Minnesota history. The consequences for both Dakota people and Euro-Americans are explored through large graphic panels, hands-on activities, artifacts, and a portion of Twin City Public Television's Dakota Conflict.

Happy Thanksgiving Wishes For Everyone.

Here's a heartwarming thanks to you for the friendship that you bring to our Society.

~ Your Friends at NCHS

2021 Calendar of Events: *All events are subject to public health recommendation*

Event/Program information:

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

continuing to March 2022	***Educational Excellence: Saint Peter School District 508*** **an exhibit celebrating the history of Saint Peter schools**	**Treaty Site History Center**
to March 2022	***Fort Ridgely***	**Treaty Site History Center**
to March 2022	***Welcome New Neighbor: refugee resettlement in Southwest Minnesota, 1948–1952***	**Treaty Site History Center**
Nov.:	**Film Series at Home: *The Warrior Tradition*** *(see details page 6)*, Free	**Watch from Your Home**
Nov. 1–17	**GIVE TO THE MAX Early Giving**	
Nov. 5:	**Board of Directors candidate application deadline**	
Nov. 18	**GIVE TO THE MAX DAY**	
Nov. 26–27	**Family Weekend at the Museum** *(see details page 6)*, child free with paid adult	**Treaty Site History Center**
Nov. 26:	**NCHS Member Discount in Museum Store increases to 20% (through Dec. 31st)**	
Dec.:	**Film Series at Home: *Becoming Big League*,** *(see details page 6)*, Free	**Watch from Your Home**
Dec. 13:	**NCHS Board of Directors meeting**	**TBD**
Dec. 18:	**Last day to view History Center exhibits in 2021**	**Treaty Site History Center**
Dec. 19–Jan. 5:	**NCHS offices and History Center exhibits Closed for Winter Break**	
Dec. 31:	**Last day for mail to be postmarked for 2021 business**	
2022		
Jan. 6:	**NCHS Offices & History Center reopen for 2022**	**Treaty Site History Center**
Jan. 6:	**Film Series at Home: film TBD**, Free	**Watch from Your Home**

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

NICOLLET COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1851 N. Minnesota Ave. • St. Peter, MN 56082

E. St. Julien Cox House
Traverse des Sioux
Treaty Site History Center

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 9
St. Peter, MN

Your membership dollars at work…

E. St. Julien Cox House

Traverse des Sioux Townsite

Treaty Site History Center

NCHS Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Acct. Number _____

CVV Code _____ Expiration Date _____
3 #s on rev–VISA®, MC®, Disc®, 4 #s on rev–AE®

Authorized Signature _____

☐ Please save mailing costs, I will read my newsletter online.

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2021 at the following level (please check one).

☐	**Senior (65+)**	**$ 30**
☐	**Individual**	**$ 40**
☐	**Family**	**$ 50**
☐	**Sustaining**	**$ 75**
☐	**Patron**	**$ 100**
☐	**Supporter**	**$ 200**
☐	**Benefactor**	**$ 500**
☐	**Life Member**	**$ 1,000**
	Business Memberships	**call or e-mail for info**

Please make checks payable to:
Nicollet County Historical Society

Membership applications should be mailed to:
Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

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