



# the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

August 2021 • Volume 26 / Issue 2

## Welcome back! *We missed you.*

- Open hours are Thursday–Saturday from 10 a.m. –4 p.m.
- The Research Center is not open for walk-ins. The Research Center area is small, and we're short-staffed, so we welcome researchers and donors by appointment only. Contact Ruth Einstein, Research Coordinator, at 507-934-2160 or [research@nchsmn.org](mailto:research@nchsmn.org). Appointments are available Thursdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. –3 p.m.
- Please wear a mask if you are not yet fully vaccinated (not yet two weeks after your last shot).

Please be patient with one another as we navigate reopening.

After a 15-month hiatus, the Nicollet County Historical Society is excited to welcome you back through our doors. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this unprecedented time. Each familiar face we see come through the front doors brings a smile to our faces. We hope to make your visit as enjoyable as possible while adhering to our health and safety protocols.

### Keeping us all safe.

We've put safety measures in place to protect the health of our visitors, staff, and volunteers:

- We are conducting enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces and providing hand-sanitizing stations for visitors.
- Masks are encouraged to protect our visitors who cannot be vaccinated.
- We still recommend keeping your distance between other groups or visitors.
- If you feel sick, have flu-like symptoms, or have been in contact with someone who has recently had COVID-19, please visit us another time.
- Many interactive components have been removed for safety reasons.

Left: To best welcome visitors back, staff and volunteers received a refresher tour from veteran docent Steve Hogberg.

Right: Contactless payment options are accepted at the History Center. Now customers can use Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, Google Pay, and dip or tap their cards.



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## Traverse des Sioux

The Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts continues their efforts to restore the prairie on Traverse des Sioux. The volunteer group has been diligently fighting invasive plants that are encroaching on the young prairie plants now showing beautiful signs of their success.

Despite a hot summer so far, the prairie looks much better this year, with more desirable prairie plants over the weedy ones. Burning was not possible this spring. Instead, it was mowed mid-June to prevent annual weeds from setting seed and allowing more sun to reach the perennial prairie plants.

Stop out to the prairie soon and take a stroll through this beautiful, living exhibit.



## Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS as of 23 July 2021.

### Renewed Advocate Business Member:

Brighton Township

### Renewed Sustaining Member:

Mark & Frani Anderson  
Elsa Cornell

### Renewed Patron Members:

Marcia Gustafson  
Lori Ann Lahlum  
Bill & Durene Pedersen  
Lawrence W. Potts  
Harold Rodning  
Dean & Jane Wahlund

### Renewed Supporter Members:

Nita & Paul Aasen

### Renewed Family Members:

Katha & John Chamberlain  
Arden & Marilyn DeBoer  
Charles & Carol Eggert  
Lisa Isenberg & Philip Friedlund  
Stuart D. & Mary Ann Hanson  
Dave & JoAnne Johnson  
Robert & Sally Lambert  
Phyllis & Malcolm Maxwell  
Dale & Kay Mowbray  
Thorild & Ardith Nelson  
Karen & John Smithers

### Renewed Individual Members:

Eric Annestad  
Brian Fremo

### Renewed Senior Members:

Peg Bindner  
Joann F. Gieseke  
Bradford Johnson  
Donna Kowal  
A. Loren Lindsay  
Harriet Mason  
Margaret Muchow  
Ron Roselli  
Mary Ann Scharf  
Evie Swenson  
Judy C Teigen  
Bernard Thiemann  
Jerry Weldy  
Barbara Wilkinson  
Nancy Zins

### New Family Members:

Barb Church  
Diane Lochner  
Jodi & Ryan McCormack  
Kathryn Roberts

### New Senior Member:

Andru Peters  
Steven Poncin

We make every effort to provide an accurate listing of membership renewals and donors. We recently upgraded our museum software so if we have made an error, please contact us at (507) 934-2160 or office@nchsmn.org and we'll make corrections.

## Monetary Donations

received by NCHS as of 23 July 2021.

### Monetary

Mildred Anderson  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Frani & Mark Anderson  
Estate of Ralph P. Odegard

## 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

### Bookkeeper: Barb Church

office@nchsmn.org

### TSHC Museum Assistants:

Sara Busse & Erica Smith

### TSHC Janitor: Robert Weber

### Cox House Manager: Kate Roberts

## 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

\* This 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  
membership **online!**  
Visit [nchsmn.org/membership](http://nchsmn.org/membership) for details.

**KNUJ** **AM**  
**860**  
• 860AM • [knuj.net](http://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](http://knuj.net).

## Director's Column



Jessica Becker

*Welcome back, friends!* After being closed for 15 months, we opened our doors to the public on Thursday, June 17th, for a soft opening. Right now, we're open three days a week, Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and I'm confident we will continue that schedule through the rest of the year. We held our grand reopening on Saturday, June 26th, offering free admission to the museum. Thank you to everyone who stopped by that day, especially since the weather was less than cooperative. Speaking of stopping by, attendance has been outstanding so far. We welcomed 113 visitors over the six days we were open in June. We're seeing steady visitor traffic so far in July as well.

I strongly encourage you to visit us this summer because our current exhibit roster is impressive. Besides our renowned permanent exhibit about the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, we are exhibiting three other temporary displays. The *Fort Ridgely* banner exhibit, previously displayed in the commissary at Fort Ridgely historic site, is shown in the Melva Lind Gallery. Held over from spring 2020, *Educational Excellence: Saint Peter School District 508* is on display in the Schmidt Gallery. And our newest exhibition, *Marian Anderson: Her Artistic Process*, is situated in the Dahl Gallery. So we have something on display for everyone to enjoy.

As we're settling into a groove at the museum, we're also looking forward to other pre-pandemic activities like the Nicollet County Fair. We're anticipating an excellent turnout for the fair's 150th anniversary this year. NCHS will be in the Wetherill Building, so please stop by and say hello. Also, if you're feeling helpful, we are looking for volunteers to take a shift at the booth to help with outreach. Shifts are two hours each Wednesday through Sunday. If you're interested in volunteering at the fair, please contact me at [director@nchsmn.org](mailto:director@nchsmn.org) or call 507-934-2160 in early August.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jessica Becker

Executive Director



# President's Report

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

**WE ARE BACK!** It is so nice to be able to say (type) that! Executive Director Jessica had prepared elegant plans for re-opening under Covid restrictions, including a comprehensive one-way self-guided tour with signage and disinfection stations to preserve the health of all staff and visitors, including an efficient appointment set up. And then we didn't need it. We were able to complete the Pollinator Plant Sale with open order pick-up rather than the appointment schedule that had been arranged. Everyone was happy to get the personal tutelage of Genevieve Brand (Seed to Site, LLC) on how best to care for their new plants.

We were also able to open the doors to drop-in visitors and then hold a Free Day to celebrate the Marian Anderson exhibit. It was so gratifying to see our community come in and reacquaint themselves with the Museum. As we look to the Fall, the Board is doing a second-half of the year review of the budget. We were able to make many refinements of our technology and planning and have made good use of the time we weren't able to welcome you into the History Center. Continued membership renewals and your support have made a huge difference.

Now we look forward. The Nicollet County Fair and the Mahkato Wacipi are on our calendars, and hiSTORY hangout, Documentary Film series, and our social media presence will continue as they did through the past year. The value-added components we were able to develop during the shutdown won't go away; we just have a larger toolbox with which to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and disseminating Nicollet County History.

However, our main excitement will be seeing you members come into the History Center to browse around and say hello! Remember, as members, you have no admission fee, so come view the exhibits. The Cox House will also be planning for your visits, so watch the website for information. You will notice that the invitation to participate on committees with the Board is in the Volunteer Opportunities section of *The Crossing*, as is the call for Board member applications. A vital, engaged Board of Directors is crucial to the organization's success, so consider your potential contribution and apply soon!

## 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](http://nchsmn.org/nchs-call-for-board-members). If you have questions, please get in touch with NCHS Board President Kate Martens [board@nchsmn.org](mailto:board@nchsmn.org) or 507-934-2160.



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

### ***A Bountiful Donation!***

**Many thanks to John and Katha Chamberlain for their generous gift of native flowers and grasses to our future prairie garden at the Cox House. Local consulting and design company Seed to Site propagated the plants and is handling installation. Chamberlains have also graciously covered Seed to Site's fees to install the garden.**



## From the Archives...

by **Ruth Einstein**  
Research Coordinator



# We are here and collecting

As Led Zeppelin memorably sang, "It's been a long time, been a long time / Been a long lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely time / Yes, it has."

Since reopening, we have been deluged with research requests and offers to consider materials for donations from so many of you. We are deeply grateful to know that the Research Center and archives have been on your mind during these many months. We have been waiting patiently, or sometimes not so patiently, to be able to assist you personally with your requests.

The Research Center area is small, and we're short-staffed, so we are welcoming researchers and donors by appointment only. To make an appointment, please contact Ruth Einstein, Research Coordinator, at [research@nchsmn.org](mailto:research@nchsmn.org) or 507-934-2160. Appointments are available

Thursdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Online research services are still available, and our website has an abundance of resources available for free.

We are looking forward to meeting new friends of the Research Center and reconnecting with our NCHS family!



Photograph of the original local of the Pizza Villa restaurant on Minnesota Avenue in St. Peter.



A portion of the 200th "Anniversary of America" Promotional item - Reelect John A. Johnson Sheriff, Nicollet [Minn.], 1950, from a donation from Evie Swenson

## Artifact & Archival Donations

to 23 July 2021:

**Nita Aasen:** Materials reflecting the history of the home located at 720 N. Third Street in St. Peter, in which the Aasen family lived for many years. The materials include information about the house, its former residents, and the history of St. Peter.

**Frani Anderson:** Downtown St. Peter Retail Market Analysis, 1987.

**Estate of Marian Anderson:** Photographs of North Mankato; materials used for researching her painting for the North Mankato Centennial.

**Steven Anderson:** Pocket diary belonging to George Anderson and carried with him during his Civil War service, 1861–1865.

**Bernadotte Lutheran Church:** organizational records and photographs.

**Mary Compart:** Scrapbook of newspaper clippings regarding soldiers from St. Peter, including Oliver Compart, stationed at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, during the Korean Conflict.

**Millie Adams Dosh:** genealogical materials relating to the Adams/Maher family.

**Barbara and Connie Frey:** Photograph of Martin John Frey, Jr., in his barber shop in Nicollet, c.1905; digital images; Frey and Witty descent charts.

**Marcia Gustafson:** Sterling dish given to Adele Gustafson by Amy Turner in June 1975 after the retirement of Pastor Herbert Gustafson and their move to Massachusetts. The dish was given to Amy Turner's parents in 1906 as a gift for their 25th anniversary; correspondence from Amy Turner to the Gustafsons, 1979; two newspaper clippings about Amy's trip to New York City in 1979, at age 96.

**Gustavus Adolphus College Archives:** District 13 High School Basketball Tournament program, 1940.

**Julie Wills Harris:** Burlington Baskenette, a gift from maternal grandparents, Ervel Bode and Lorna Bode, used by Julie and her siblings, rural Nicollet, 1960s; doll; photographs of members of the Wills family.

**Merrilee Jacobsen Kinney:** Materials relating to the Thomas Downs family.

**Ruth Klossner:** Materials relating to the communities of Courtland, Klossner, Lafayette, and Nicollet, including digital and printed photographs and documents.

**Mary Krugerud:** Pages from a scrapbook kept by Marilyn Robertz during her hospitalization at the Ah-gwah-ching tuberculosis sanatorium.

**John & Marit Kvamme:** Organizational records of the Central School Task Force.

**Peter Langsjoen:** "Langsjoen: Building a Legacy"

**Joyce Lendt:** Directories and anniversary publications of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nicollet.

**John Luepke:** Reproduction of a photograph of Art Axelson.

**Ginny & Tuff Miller:** Grannie's Parlour restaurant jacket belonging to Tuff Miller; photographs and menus of Pizza Villa restaurant, St. Peter, 1959–1983; "The Pizza Villa Story," by Ginny Miller, 2015; Ticket, Cherry Creek Theatre Company, 1984.

**Marcy Muchow:** Receipts from Nicollet County businesses, 1961–1963.

**Char & Todd Nelson:** Cemetery records, Clear Lake Methodist Church.

**New 2 You Family Thrift:** Framed display of Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Encampment medallions.

**Nicollet County Health and Human Services:** Materials relating to the department's COVID-19 vaccine clinics, 2021.

**Brian Oviatt:** IOOF Encampment sign; ticket to the 1908 National Democratic Convention in Denver, at which John A. Johnson was a nominee for president.

**Andru Peters:** "History of Camp Lakeview National Guard Training Camp, 1881–1931, Lake City, Minnesota" by Andru Peters.

**Cathleen Peterson:** St. Peter High School Class of 1939 reunion photos and newspaper clippings, 1964–1989; invitation to the wedding of Betty Noren to Warren Fuller and a photograph of the bride and bridesmaids, 1942; confirmation certificate of Lloyd Noren; photograph of the fire raging at First Lutheran, St. Peter, 1962.

**Marlin Peterson:** Envelope addressed to A. Harkin with British stamp, 1876; Ft. Ridgely souvenir; Veteran of the Month certificate issued to Maurice Wheeler, former resident of North Mankato who died of pneumonia in Dieppe, France, 1918; postcard of drawing "New Ulm, Minn., Prior to Indian Massacre of 1862," 1904.

**Linda Rist:** Records of the Hebron Methodist Church of Belgrade Township, Nicollet County, 1880–1903.

**Harold Rodning:** "My Life Story: Harold Rodning Family History" and "Peterson-Svenson Genealogy" by Arthur B. Halverson.

**David Schmit:** "Descendants and Ancestors of Julius Schmit and His Wife Margaret Morson of Nicollet County, Minnesota."

**Donald Schoeb:** Reproduction of a letter from Michael Schoeb and sister Marie Schoeb in St. Peter in 1860 to their family in Switzerland and translation in English.

**Martha Smetana:** Photographs of St. Peter High School sports teams, 1943–1945.

**Evelyn Swenson:** Promotional items, Nicollet County businesses; booklet: "Fallout Protection for Homes with Basements", Dept. of Defense, July 1966 with results of O. Swenson survey and insert, "Last Minute Fallout Protection for Livestock"; 4-H scrapbook of Olive Peterson, 1925–1968; country school art projects and maternity clothing made by Evie; Mathias and Martha Olsen family history.

**Donald E. Watts:** Digital documents and images relating to Eliza Watts (1808–1887) and family, former residents of Traverse des Sioux and St. Peter.

**Rick Wright:** Organizational records, Willow Lawn Creamery, Traverse Township.



## Cox House Corner...

by Kate Roberts  
Cox House Manager

# On the corner of Washington & Skaro

Though it seems like an incredibly old tale at this point, COVID-19 put a serious dent into the plans for the Cox House. We're still hoping to complete much-needed restoration work on the exterior of the house as well as replanting some of the gardens this summer thanks to our generous restoration and garden donors. If all goes well, hopefully, we will be able to open with a celebration in the fall.

The Cox House Committee and I have many ideas for special events as well as the regular tour hours in the plans for the coming months which I am excited about. With the new interpretive plan, (a new and exciting dimension to the house) we will need volunteers for tours and for manning the special events. If you have a love for history, historic houses, and meeting new people please give the History Center a call to sign up for training or email at [cox@nchsmn.org](mailto:cox@nchsmn.org). All ages welcome!

I look forward to seeing you soon.



## NCHS Event...

# SHADOWS AT THE CROSSING

## Treaty Site History Center & Traverse des Sioux

Fri., Oct. 1 & Sat., Oct. 2, 6:30–8 p.m.

Join us for the return of this popular and informative guided after-dark walking tour! You'll meet personalities who lived in the Traverse des Sioux area over 160 years ago. Local actors portray their "spirits" by telling dramatic and humorous stories about their lives and experiences. You'll find these stories fascinating, sometimes tragic, but always inspiring. Groups will be led by costumed guides to the "spirits" at stations on the trail starting at 6:30 p.m.

Shadows at the Crossing is appropriate for children ages 8 and up as well as adults. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 8+, and \$20 for families. Nicollet County and Minnesota Historical Societies members receive a 20% discount.

Due to last year's overwhelming success, we request that you make reservations in advance to secure your time slot. Call (507) 934-2160 to schedule your time and purchase tickets beginning Friday, September 10, 2021.

Registration and advanced ticket purchases  
are highly recommended.

**Do you want to  
attend this event  
FREE OF CHARGE?**

**Volunteer to be a guide!**

**Costumed guides lead  
groups by lantern light  
along the trail. Guides  
must be old enough to  
tell time and able to pace  
the group's movement  
to each stop.**

**If interested, contact  
Jessica at 507-934-2160  
or [director@nchsmn.org](mailto:director@nchsmn.org).**



## Memorials

received by NCHS through  
23 July 2021.

In Memory of  
**Eunice Amos**  
Given by  
Duane & Brenda DeBlieck  
Ken & Patsy Rossow

In Memory of  
**Paul Lindfors**  
Given by  
Lori Lahlum

In Memory of  
**Bernie McGuire**  
Given by  
Marshall & Janet Anthony

In Memory of  
**ReVae Nygard**  
Given by  
Ed & Bev Wetherill

## We remember...

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

- Carl Aanonsen
- Ken Albrecht
- Joan Nimps
- Merton Wenner
- Thomas Witty

## 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](http://nchsmn.org/events).

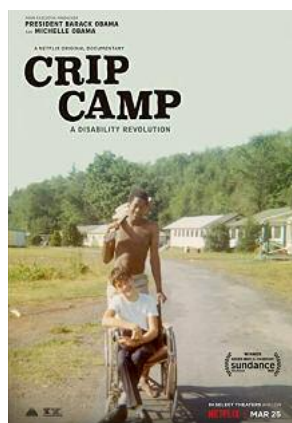
After watching each film, we encourage you to participate in an online discussion in the Documentary Film Series Discussion Page on NCHS's Facebook page.

## Documentary Film Series

### *Minnesota 13: From Grain to Glass*

Minnesota 13 explores the little-known history of an elite moonshine produced in the heart of Minnesota during Prohibition, and the modern-day attempts of a micro-distillery to resuscitate the brand as a craft whiskey. NR, 1 hr. 14 min. **Recommended viewing date: Thu., Sep 2.**

*Remember to join the Documentary Film Series Discussion Page on NCHS's Facebook Page.*



### *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*

On the heels of Woodstock, a group of teen campers are inspired to join the fight for disability civil rights. This spirited look at grassroots activism is executive produced by President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution premieres March 25th. NR, 1 hr. 47 min. **Recommended viewing date: Thu., Oct. 7.** *Remember to join the Documentary Film Series Discussion Page on NCHS's Facebook Page.*

### *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.*



# TREATY SITE Current Exhibits

- **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.

WE ARE **OPEN** AND **EXHIBITING** AT THE  
**TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER**

## The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux

*signed here on July 23, 1851*



- **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.



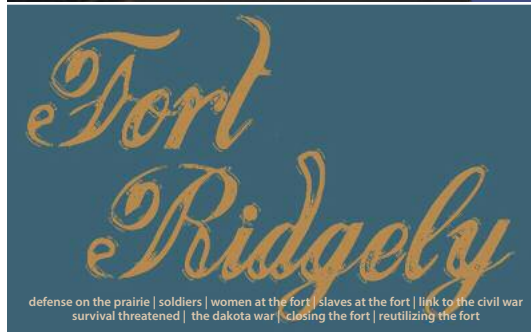
## Educational Excellence: Saint Peter School District 508

through March 2022

- **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.



through September 25, 2021



**Marian Anderson**  
HER ARTISTIC PROCESS

continues to live on in her art and the inspiration it brings about in fellow artistic souls.

**Marian Anderson: Her Artistic Process** recognizes the nationally acclaimed artist and displays her unfinished works alongside completed pieces. We hope you come away from this exhibit with a motivation to pursue your own unique artistic talents.

- **Marian Anderson: Her Artistic Process**

Inspiration has always been at the heart of Marian Anderson's work. Growing up in the woods and marshes of Nicollet County set in place a lifelong love of nature, and it was the natural world that fueled her creativity in adulthood. A self-taught and self-published artist with no formal training, Marian's legacy



# TREATY SITE Upcoming Exhibit

## Welcome New Neighbor REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA, 1948-1952

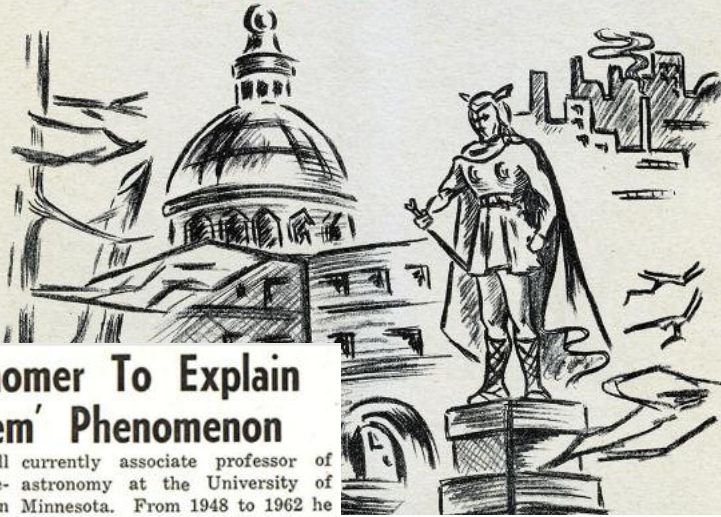


EXHIBIT OPENS

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 2, 2021

TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER

1851 N. MINNESOTA AVE. SAINT PETER, MN

Explore the history of local refugee  
resettlement after World War II

GUSTAVUS  
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Sponsored by the Department of Communication Studies  
and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library  
Supported by the Council of Independent Colleges  
and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

## Prominent Astronomer To Explain 'Star of Bethlehem' Phenomenon

Professor Karlis Kaufmanis will again present his Star of Bethlehem lecture Sunday at 4 p.m. in Nobel Lecture Hall. His visit has been a yearly tradition, sponsored by the Nu Upsilon Gamma fraternity.

The lecture itself concerns modern scientific explanations for the fabled star which led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. There is some evidence that this phenomenon was caused by the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn 1973 years ago at the time of Christ's birth.

Present methods of plotting planetary movements enable scientists to accurately estimate the dates of such heavenly phenomena far into the past.

The lecture has been presented hundreds of times throughout the nation and received nation-wide publicity a few years ago when it appeared in many of the country's leading newspapers.

Professor Kaufmanis himself is

currently associate professor of astronomy at the University of Minnesota. From 1948 to 1962 he was associate professor of astronomy and mathematics at Gustavus. He is the author or co-author of some twenty books, as well as numerous articles in American, Canadian, and English periodicals.

Tickets are 25c apiece. The proceeds will go to the Kaufmanis Scholarship Fund sponsored by Nu Upsilon Gamma in recognition of Mr. Kaufmanis's teaching services. Recipients are second-semester freshmen majoring in math, who exhibit need and academic potential.

Not only were classroom professors like Karlis Kaufmanis, a mathematician or Arturs Cava, a voice teacher, opera director and opera singer, welcomed to Gustavus but a gardener Robert Strikis, and a baker, Edgar M. Liepens brought their families to "The Hill" also. Note the Liepens' family's destination on their refugee card below.

## • "Welcome New Neighbor" | October 2, 2021-March 2022

The "Welcome New Neighbor" exhibit 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.



Professor Karlis Kaufmanis

730  
RO - P - 267

THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

PC/RT Form No. RT/

F-6-2046120

GROUP RESETTLEMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_ VIA \_\_\_\_\_ EMBARKATION STAGING CENTER-SCHEME \_\_\_\_\_

(Country of Destination)

1. NOMINAL ROLL OF PERSONS DEPARTING FROM RESETTLEMENT CENTER

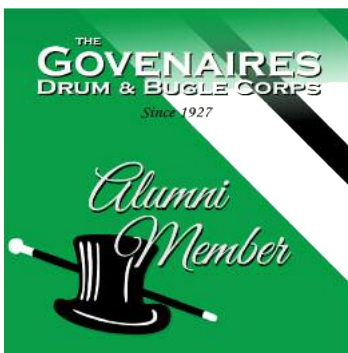
2. US ZONE GERMANY on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

No.	Sur. No.	Form No.	Family	Name	First	Mar. Stat.	Country of origin	Religion	Mar. Stat.	Date of birth	Country of birth	Occupation	Destination	Zone of field office of origin
129.	91469	612278	KLAUSNER	Yakov			Poland	Jew.	M	2, Mar. 18	Poland	Tailor	HLAS	Brooklyn, N.Y.
130.	"	"	KLAUSNER	Taubas			"	"	M	25, Feb. 18	Poland	Housewife	"	"
131.	"	"	KLAUSNER	David			"	"	S	14, Oct. 46	Germany	Child	"	"
132.	"	"	KLAUSNER	Guta			"	"	S	6, May 48	Germany	Child	"	"
133.	86023	618392	KOLTUN	Shapka			"	"	M	30, Oct. 19	Poland	Carpenter	"	1533 S. Millard Ave., Chicago 23 Cook
134.	"	"	KOLTUN	Nechuma			"	"	M	5, May 26	Russia	Housewife	"	Ill. Wasseraufington
135.	"	"	KOLTUN	Abraham			"	"	M	3, Dec. 46	Germany	Child	"	"
136.	91376	613246	KOPFERMANN	Gunter			Estonia	Prot.	M	22, Jan. 11	Estonia	Manager	HLF	Madison, J. Hills, West Fulton, N.Y.
137.	"	"	KOPFERMANN	Heleno			"	"	M	20, Feb. 20	Estonia	Housewife	"	Geislingen
138.	"	"	KOPFERMANN	Tidw			"	"	S	16, Oct. 47	Germany	Child	"	"
139.	73406	643605	KRUUSE	Walter			"	"	M	3, Mar. 34	Estonia	Locksmith	"	Walter Lots, 6295, Bloomfield Glens, Birmingham, Bham. P. La.
140.	"	"	KRUUSE	Saine			"	"	M	17, Apr. 39	Estonia	Bookkeeper	Non. Ag.	Rittsburg, Pa. Schmeb, Gnd.
141.	94601	677160	KUNCE	Nykolos			Lith.	R.O.	M	7, Aug. 04	Lith.	"	"	K. Niesonsure, 2343, N. Howard St.
142.	70828	622073	LANKICKI	Roman			Poland	"	M	12, Jan. 20	Poland	Clerk	NCWC	Philadelphia 33, Pa. Heilbronn
143.	93469	619015	LEBOWITZ	Alexander			Czech	Jew.	S	28, Feb. 20	CSR	Jeweler	Joint	St. Omaha 2, Nebraska Heidenheim
144.	82293	825595	LEBOWITZ	Salomon			Roum.	"	M	12, Nov. 13	Roumania	Baker	"	Philadelphia, Pa. Heidenheim
145.	"	"	LEBOWITZ	Iren			"	"	M	25, Nov. 23	Roumania	Housewife	"	"
146.	"	"	LEBOWITZ	Herman			"	"	S	3, May 47	Germany	Child	"	"
147.	44790	626396	LIEPENS	Edgar M.			Latvia	Prot.	M	23, Aug. 10	Latvia	Baker	Non. Ag.	Dr. Carlson Edgar, 821 South Fourth
148.	"	"	LIEPENS	Emilia			"	"	M	5, Apr. 04	Latvia	Housewife	"	Str. St. Peter, Minnesota, Stuttgart
149.	"	"	LIEPENS	Brigitte			"	"	S	21, Jul. 35	Latvia	Pupil	"	"
150.	"	"	LIEPENS	Ausma			"	"	S	4, Sep. 41	Latvia	Pupil	"	"
151.	63060	579634	LISCHITZ	Fanny			Poland	Jew.	M	27, Dec. 88	Poland	Housewife	HLAS	Bronx, New York U 1 n



# Govenaires are Preserving their History

Emily Stark, Alumni Group Director,  
Govenaires Alumni Group



The Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps, of St. Peter, Minn., are collecting drum corps artifacts and pictures! This fall, they will be holding an archiving event to scan photos and documents related to the corps to build a collection in advance of the corps' 100th

anniversary in 2027. If you have artifacts or photos that we could scan, contact Emily at [emilystark47@gmail.com](mailto:emilystark47@gmail.com) to learn more about this event or set up a time to learn more about your items. The Govies are proud of being the oldest competing drum and bugle corps \*in the world\* and are excited to start gathering items showcasing their history.



Above: The 1963 Crusaders

Below left: The Black Knights, c1967-'68, essentially a "feeder group" for the Govenaires, so they would have a constant source from which to draw for new members.

Photo Credit: Bev Anderson Butler, whose brother is pictured in the group.

Below right: The 2016 Govenaires playing in Minnesota Square Park following the Fourth of July parade.



## History Center Bits...

### hiSTORY hangout:

If you love talking about history and looking at old photos and maps, please join us for hiSTORY hangout, a free discussion group about local history topics. Each hangout will take place on the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. The September 13th topic will be *Schools in Nicollet County*. For more information and a link to join, please visit our website at [nchsmn.org/events](http://nchsmn.org/events).

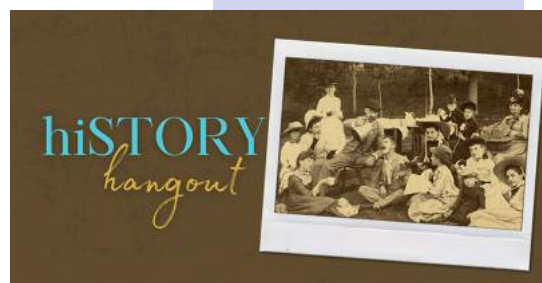
### Visit the NCHS Online

**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](mailto:research@nchsmn.org) or 507-934-2160.

**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 to find out!

**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.

*We appreciate everyone who helps keep Nicollet county's history alive, and we look forward to seeing you soon.*





## TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE

A splendid array of attractions and joy making stunts that will simply drive "dull care" and the "gloom bug" to the tall timber. Top-notchers only are found at this gathering. Every minute an hour of pleasure! Every hour a heap o' happiness!

### NICOLLET COUNTY FAIR

September 20, 21, 22, 1915  
ST. PETER, MINN.

## Volunteers Needed at the Nicollet County Fair

The Nicollet County Historical Society will once again be present at the Nicollet County Fair. This year's fair is August 11-15 and we are always looking for volunteers to help us at our booth! We'll be in the Wetherill Building greeting passersby and talking with folks who stop at the booth for information or to see the Fair's anniversary display. Two-hour shifts are available throughout the fair. If you're interested in volunteering at our booth, please contact the Society at 507-934-2160 or [director@nchsmn.org](mailto:director@nchsmn.org).

Right: Carl Annexstad is standing amidst the items on display in a dairy booth at the Nicollet County fairgrounds centennial in 1971. Items on display include the Norseland Theater curtain and a photo and the medals of champion buttermaker Sam Haugdahl.

# 150 Years at the Nicollet County Fair / 1871-2021

On October 4, 1871, the Nicollet County Agricultural Society held the first annual Nicollet County Fair. Much like today, fairgoers saw horses, pigs, cows, locally made furniture, fruits, vegetables, flowers, paintings, and photographs. According to an advertisement, even Governor Horace Austin was scheduled to address the visitors.

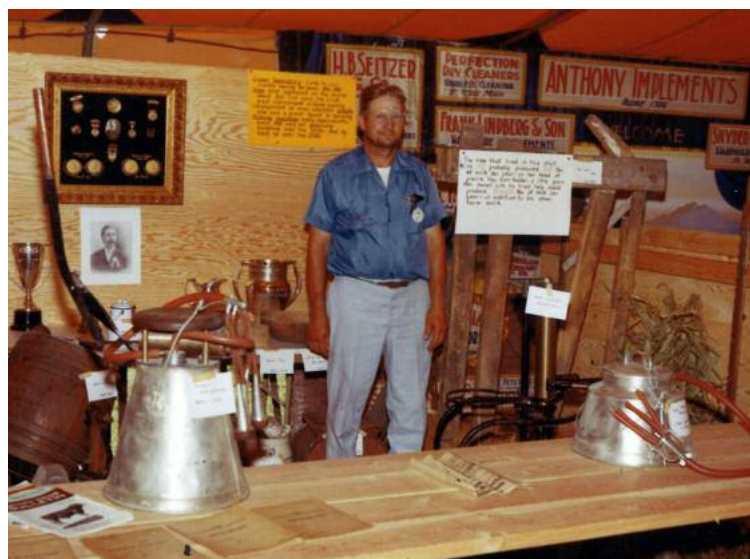
Since the annual celebration did not yet have a permanent location, the Fair was held around Nicollet County during the 1870s. They took place in St. Peter in 1872 and 1873 and Nicollet in 1874, 1875, and 1878. According to local newspapers, visitors were pleased with the site when it was held at Scandian Grove in 1877. But by 1880, the Fair moved back to St. Peter, where the Fair committee had constructed new buildings and a racetrack.

Over the years, the Nicollet County Fair offered a variety of activities for visitors to attend. They had horse races with "trotters" and "runners." Men played baseball games at the Fair as early as 1890, and fireworks displays occurred at least as far back as 1900. The 1895 Fair program announced that there would be chariot races, horse races, balloon ascensions, and band music. The 1915 Fair promised to have bicycle, motorcycle, and automobile races. Acrobats, gymnasts, and comedians were also listed in the advertisements.

Even during tough times, the Fair continued. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, the Fairs continued to attract large numbers of visitors. Between 8,000 and 9,000 people attended the 65th Annual Nicollet County Fair in 1934. Mrs. W. H. Holz was one of the three people who each won a prize of \$100. Despite many people leaving the county to serve in the military or serving in other capacities elsewhere, the Fair took place during World War II. However, the 1946 Nicollet County Fair was canceled as a precautionary measure to reduce the spread of polio, which was a severe problem for many years.

What would the Fair be without Nicollet County 4-H? Nicollet County 4-H Clubs were impressively represented in 1956 when 469 members out of a total membership of 555 exhibited at the Fair. "Livestock, dress revue, corn, potatoes, small grain, and garden exhibits were judged and placed at the county Fair for state Fair competition," according to the *St. Peter Herald*. The August 8, 1968 issue of the *Herald* reported: "Record 4-H Displays At Fair-More Than 3,000." This was an "all-time high" for the number of project exhibits that were judged.

The Fair saw other anniversaries over the years, including its centennial. Gloria Benson wrote and directed "A Time to Remember," a pageant for the 1971 Centennial Fair in which more than 60 people participated. It described selected events in the county's history during the previous 100 years in its two-hour performances. Mrs. Benson also wrote and arranged a Bicentennial pageant with 150 participants for the 1976 Fair. In addition, special permission from the singer John Denver, who married St. Peter resident Ann Martell, was obtained to use an altered version of one of his songs.



The fairgrounds also grew, modernized, and changed over the last 150 years. The wooden grandstand, which was at least 80 years old, was demolished in July of 1985. It was replaced

*FAIR continued on page 11*



*FAIR continued from page 10*

with an aluminum and steel structure. And in 1998, when a tornado blew through town, the fairgrounds suffered severe damage. At least 13 buildings were destroyed. But as with the rest of the town's salvageable buildings, repairs were made, and the Fair was held early in August 1998.

One thing that never changes is the Fair's importance to our small rural communities. Whether it's 4-H contests, exhibits at Johnson Hall, or local entertainment, there are so many different things to see and do at the Fair that are unique to Nicollet County. But that is what makes county Fairs so meaningful to our communities.

Our founding fathers and mothers came to our region and used their hobbies and interests to make a living. Even though their interests are broad, the fact that they happened here makes them special to us. Many of these hobbies and interests have translated into fair events we experience today.

The Nicollet County Fair's importance must continue to live on for another 150 years and beyond to demonstrate the importance and vital role the county Fair plays in the community for all ages.



Above: The fairgrounds suffered severe damage during the 1998 tornado. The extent of the destruction can be seen in this aerial photo.

## 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.

<b>continuing</b>	<b>Educational Excellence: Saint Peter School District 508</b>	
<b>to March 2022</b>	<b>an exhibit celebrating the history of Saint Peter schools</b>	<b>Treaty Site History Center</b>
<b>to Sept. 2022</b>	<b>Marian Anderson: Her Artistic Process</b>	<b>Treaty Site History Center</b>
<b>Aug. 9:</b>	<b>CANCELED hiSTORY hangout</b>	
<b>Aug. 11–15:</b>	<b>Nicollet County Fair, Wetherill Building</b>	<b>Nicollet County Fairgrounds</b>
<b>Aug. 24:</b>	<b>Community Affairs on KNUJ, 9:15 a.m.</b>	
<b>Sept.:</b>	<b>Film Series at Home: <i>Minnesota 13: From Grain to Glass</i>, (see details page 6), Free</b>	<b>Watch from Your Home</b>
<b>Sept. 13:</b>	<b>hiSTORY hangout: Nicollet County Schools, via Zoom</b> The link to join can be found at <a href="https://nchsmn.org/events">nchsmn.org/events</a>	
<b>Sept. 17–19:</b>	<b>49th Annual Mankato Wacipi, Learn more at <a href="http://www.mahkatowacipi.org">www.mahkatowacipi.org</a></b>	<b>Land of Memories Park</b>
<b>Sept. 25:</b>	<b>Marian Anderson: Her Artistic Process closes</b>	
<b>Sept. 28:</b>	<b>Community Affairs on KNUJ, 9:15 am</b>	
<b>Oct.:</b>	<b>Film Series at Home: <i>Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution</i>, (see details page 6), Free</b>	<b>Watch from Your Home</b>
<b>Oct. 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Shadows at the Crossing: Spirits of Old Traverse des Sioux, 6:30-8 p.m., (see details on page 5)</b>	<b>Traverse des Sioux Trail</b>
<b>Oct. 2:</b>	<b>Welcome New Neighbor exhibit opens</b>	
<b>Oct. 26:</b>	<b>Community Affairs on KNUJ, 9:15 a.m.</b>	
<b>Nov.:</b>	<b>Film Series at Home: <i>The Warrior Tradition</i> (see details page 6), Free</b>	<b>Watch from Your Home</b>
<b>Nov. 5:</b>	<b>Board of Directors candidate application deadline</b>	
<b>Dec.:</b>	<b>Film Series at Home: <i>Becoming Big League</i>, (see details page 6), Free</b>	<b>Watch from Your Home</b>

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

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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).

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+)	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$ 200
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$ 1,000
<b>Business Memberships</b>	

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](http://nchsmn.org/membership) for details.