

Serendipity Happens!

by **Ruth Einstein**
Research Coordinator



This postcard image shows the Johnson & Company building in St. Peter on the southwest corner of the intersection of Minnesota Avenue and Broadway, facing the avenue. The company made shirts, pants, and overalls. The lighter colored building was constructed in 1900 with the three-story addition added to the west in the spring of 1905.

Over these past several months, a confluence of materials associated with Johnson & Company (later Johnson Uniform Company) of St. Peter and the Johnson family has flowed into the NCHS collections from many donors near and far – as far away as Washington State!

Johnson & Co. uniform factory was an outgrowth of an early garment manufacturer in St. Peter and was established as an independent entity by Miles B. Johnson and William H. Mueller in 1900. The brick building at the southwest corner of Minnesota Avenue and Broadway, built that same year, housed the factory and later a wholesale business in variety goods that by the 1950s was one of the largest of its kind west of Chicago.

Brian Oviatt kicked off the Johnson Donations Fest with a pair of neon orange Johnson Uniform Company

Go-Phor brand coveralls. Johnson manufactured garments for meat luggers and butchers, racing pit teams, dairies, garages, and airline workers, to name a few. Although we don't know who wore these coveralls, it would be hard to miss someone wearing them on a tarmac.

Scott Dobie of Nutter Clothing Co. donated a terrific collection of Johnson items, many of which were given to him by former Johnson employee Conrad "Connie" Peterson. These items were on display at Nutter's before being brought to NCHS. Included in this donation is an industrial sewing or embroidery machine, which is fitted into a rolling wooden table and comes complete with a hanger with dangling spools of colored thread spooled onto cardboard cones. Tools used by Connie Peterson in the third-floor cutting room of the factory include a perforator machine, an electric hand-held round-knife fabric cutting machine, and a pair of massive fabric shears.

An embroidered Johnson & Company banner with



A Johnson & Company sewing machine donated to the NCHS collections by Scott Dobie of Nutter Clothing. Scott received this item originally from Conrad "Connie" Peterson, who was a long-time Johnson & Co. employee.

a fold-over flap with the updated name "Johnson Uniform Company" is a beauty. Scott also donated a pair of classic Go-Phor brand overalls and a framed Nutter newspaper advertisement promoting Johnson clothing.

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Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS since the last Crossing as of 7-31-2022.

Renewed Advocate Business

Arts Center of Saint Peter

Renewed Benefactor Business

Patrick's on Third

Renewed Supporter Members:

Nita & Paul Aasen
Bill & Deb Dixon
Gene Retka

Renewed Patron Members:

Pam Bidelman
Elsa Cornell
Marcia Gustafson
Scott Hermanson
Ellis Jones
Lawrence Potts
Ken & Patsy Rossow
Dean & Jane Wahlund

Renewed Sustaining Member:

Scott Hermanson
Ryan Kupcho

Renewed Family Members:

Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson
Dave & JoAnne Johnson
Diane Lochner
Warren & Terri Michels
Tuff & Ginny Miller
Dale & Kay Mowbray
Thorild & Ardith Nelson

Renewed Individual Members:

Eric Annexstad
Brian Fremo

Renewed Senior Members:

Howard Bode
Jacquelyn Feldman
Daniel Groebner
Richard Holz
Bradford Johnson
Loren Lindsay
Margaret Muchow
Andru Petersl
Ronald Roselli
Mary Ann Scharf
Agnes Stensby
Terry Sveine
Bernard Thieman
Jerry Weldy
Nancy Zins

New Sustaining Member:

Adam Malameng
Burt & Kelly Norell

New Family Members:

David W. Goodell
Gary & Joanne Miller
Byron & Jill Norell
Bruce & Marc Norell
Shawn Parker

New Individual Members:

Greg Hanson
LeeAnn McMillian
Brad Parks
Brandon Stolt
Michelle Wolfe

New Senior Members:

Steve Carlstrom

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.

Now you can purchase or renew memberships online!

Visit nchsmn.org/support/membership for details.

NCHS Board...

Executive Board Officers

Kate Martens, President, St. Peter
Tami Skinner, Vice President, St. Peter
Ken Rossow, Treasurer, St. Peter
Dana Melius, Secretary, St. Peter

Directors

Eric Annexstad, St. Peter
John Chamberlain, St. Peter
Alma Forst, West Newton Township
Ray Jacobson, St. Peter
Dave Johnson, St. Peter
Joe Metzen, St. Peter
Bob Sandeen, St. Peter
Denny Schmidt, New Sweden Township
Jon Smithers, St. Peter
Loren Sundboom, St. Peter

NCHS Staff...

Executive Director: Jessica Becker

director@nchsmn.org

Operations Coordinator: James Ihrke

office@nchsmn.org

Research Coordinator: Ruth Einstein

research@nchsmn.org

TSHC Museum Assistants:

Sara Busse & Erica Smith

Custodian: Robert Weber

Cox House Manager: Kate Roberts

cox@nchsmn.org

NCHS Sites information...

E. St. Julien Cox House *

500 N. Washington Ave.
Saint Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160
E-mail: cox@nchsmn.org
Open seasonally for tours and events

Traverse des Sioux

Adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center
1851 N Minnesota Ave.
Saint Peter, MN 56082
Open dawn to dusk year-round

Treaty Site History Center

1851 N. Minnesota Ave.
Saint Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-934-2160
Hours to 9-6: Thu.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
NOTE: starting Sept. 6th: NEW HOURS
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
E-mail: info@nchsmn.org

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

Dear members and friends,

It's been a busy spring and summer since our last newsletter. For once, summer has been our time of change and renewal, and I couldn't be more excited for our future. The Cox House reopened, we hired a new staff member, held a Board retreat, planned some special events, and so much more.

James is settling into his new role at the History Center, and Kate is breathing new life into the Cox House. So, with things running smoothly (for the moment) at our museums, the Board and I are looking ahead to the next couple of years.

Board President Kate Martens has a very informative article in the newsletter that will fill you in on the terrific and vital work the Board is undertaking to keep our organization running optimally while also planning for our future. One outcome of the work they started at their retreat will be a new strategic plan that their facilitator and I are working on this summer.

We're assessing our place within Nicollet County's communities by asking ourselves some uncomfortable questions and holding a mirror up to our organization. To give NCHS a solid platform to build from, we're first evaluating our mission statement and are adding a supporting vision statement to work toward. From there, three long-term initiatives will guide our work at the sites, operations, programs, and contribute to our legacy.

As our core supporters, please watch for opportunities to contribute to our plan as

Director continued on page 10

President's Report

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



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

Since the last *Crossing* publication, the Nicollet County Historical Society Board of Directors began an exciting endeavor. We met at the History Center for a retreat on May 6 and 7 to discuss the role and future of the Society from a collaborative viewpoint. The group looked at our inside perceptions of NCHS in the county and from a wider audience. Discussions included the excellent use and reputation of our archives and collection, research presence, membership, the perception of history, who and how we serve, and where we can expand our services. Through this process, we devised some goals for our mission and vision. This is just the start of an ongoing mission to review our complex activities and how we represent the history of Nicollet County to the best effect.

Our membership and members were a central topic because members are a vital source of support and outreach. However, in a county of over 30,000 people, our membership totals just over 250. We want to make membership in NCHS a positive "back-yard fence discussion." We know through taking attendance that our members don't visit the sites regularly, which poses a barrier to that goal. We have fantastic exhibits, and upcoming programs at the sites we hope are enticing for members and the public. We want to ensure everyone takes advantage of the history preserved and presented by NCHS. Member involvement on the various committees of the Historical Society and the events we sponsor is a goal for improvement.

Another central theme of the retreat was that history is not dead. We are living in historic times, and NCHS conserves that history. I was reminded of that when I attended the St. Peter Public Schools Hall of Fame induction ceremony. So many of this group's members are our Society supporters, and records of their honor become part of our history. As the township/town celebrations of Independence Day occurred, NCHS was a source of reports on past events. The Nicollet County Fair is fast approaching, and NCHS will be there with our Bandwagon! We always enjoy conversations with county residents at our table, where we can share the ongoing activities of the Historical Society.

Our Board is an incredible, active, engaged, and creative group of individuals crafting a roadmap for the future of NCHS. I invite communication with our members regarding how we are doing and what you would like us to consider for the future. Feel free to drop me a line at board@nchsmn.org. Your input is important to me!



The Board works through a priority planning session during the May 7th retreat.

Memorials

received by NCHS
as of 7-31-2022.

In Memory of
Dick Gardner
Given by
Ken & Patsy Rossow

In Memory of
Craig Nelson
Given by
Eileen Holz

In Memory of
Barb Olmanson
Given by
Lisa Gault
Eileen Holz
Ambrose & Schelli McCabe
Steve & Bonnie Olmanson
Marge & Paul Peterson

We remember...

with honor the following
friends and members
whom we lost since our
last newsletter.

- Richard "Dick" Gardner,
Family member &
archives researcher
- Barbara "Barb" Olmanson,
Life Member, committee
member
- Steve Ziesmer,
friend of NCHS

Monetary Donations

processed by NCHS
since the last *Crossing*
as of 7-31-2022.

Monetary
Elsa Cornell
Bruce & Sue Gray
Ward & Wendy Larson
Warren & Terri Michels
Brandon Stolt

New Faces at the Historical Society...

New Board on Board

The Society welcomes six new board members this year. Eric Annexstad grew up on a dairy farm near Norseland and today works as a farmer. John Chamberlain has lived in the Minnesota River Valley for 60 years and brings many years of nonprofit experience to the Board. Alma Forst is a self-proclaimed “history buff” and has previously served on the Board. Dave Johnson is a St. Peter native and proudly serves the community by giving back his time to many local organizations. Denny Schmidt is no stranger to NCHS having partnered with us for the documentary film series during his many years with Upper Midwest Management. Last but certainly not least, many recognize Jon Smithers as the man with the drones, but he’s been an active member of the St. Peter community for over 43 years.

We continue to miss the services of Tim Bartelt, Loren Files, and Matthias Leyrer. They did a great job and we wish them well with any new endeavors!

As mentioned in the President’s message, our new Board members have jumped right in and are doing well. We’re lucky to have a strong Board of Directors and the continued support of members like you!

Welcome, James!

We’re excited to welcome James Ihrke to the History Center’s team as our new Operations Coordinator! After years of careful consideration of our needs, staff strengths, our evolution as an organization, and a nod to succession planning, we created this new position that will grow and change with NCHS.

James is running the day-to-day operations of the History Center, giving tours, performing office tasks, with office tasks, and keeping the building running smoothly.



James Ihrke,
Operations Coordinator

About James: I grew up on the shores of Madison Lake, where fishing, biking, baseball, and 4-H were my primary interests. My passion for history can be traced back to amazing teachers at Mankato Loyola, graduating as a National Honor Society member in 2000. I continued on to Gustavus Adolphus College, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in History.

I have long held a desire to work as a librarian, and being hired by NCHS as Operations Coordinator in July 2022 feels like the start of the fulfillment of that dream.

I have worked as a professional musician for 15+ years, which has taken me on many adventures I would never have had otherwise. My proudest accomplishment is being selected as an “Emerging Artist” grantee by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. You will still find me playing weekends with “The Ben Marti Trio.”

As for hobbies, I am a voracious reader, learning gardener, occasional curler, and a huge Star Trek fan.

SITE REPORT: Cox House Corner... at the corner of Washington & Skaro

by Kate Roberts
Cox House Manager

Summer at the Cox House

June 4th saw the Grand Re-Opening of the E. St. Julien Cox House and the start of our summer season. Many thanks go out to all the people who have made this summer's activities happen. I have been working to create interest in the house as well as convey the history of the Cox family and their contributions to not only St. Peter history but to that of the state itself.

With a variety of special events combined with the regular tours of the house we have, with the help of my very generous living history friends, had several events, such as, the St. Peter and the U.S.-Dakota War event where we focused on the citizens of St. Peter and Capt. Cox's role in the saving of New Ulm.



U.S.-Dakota War Event: Interpreter TJ Malaskee plays a friend of Eugene Cox speaking on the life of Cox.



Storm windows are being repaired and re-installed by NCHS member and local craftsman Eric Hendrickson.



Victorian ladies Kate Roberts and Susan Hynes enjoying the Strawberry Moon event.

A lighter event was Strawberry Moon where we served strawberry desserts and had many children's games available to play. The last event held on July 9th was a Frontier Independence Day with a visit from Pres. Abraham Lincoln portrayed by Bryce Stenzel, a very knowledgeable Lincoln impersonator.

I encourage you to come out and attend our upcoming events listed here or come for a tour and visit this grand home where citizens of St. Peter made history. Like our Facebook page to keep up with special events and information or go to the Nicollet County Historical Society website and check out the Cox House icon for information.



Cox House Upcoming Events

**Old-Time
Traveling Medicine Show**
August 13, 2022 | 2, 3, & 4 p.m.
Join us for this **FREE** and fun event with three different shows featuring the acts of the Cherry Sisters, Lonesome Ron, Katie B. Schmellen and Skunky, Violet McNeal, and many more. Delightful vaudeville-style shows and shenanigans. Shows at 2, 3 & 4 p.m. Come for one or stay for all!

**Trick-or-Treat
at the Cox House**
October 31, 2022 | 5-7 p.m.
Families are invited to come to trick-or-treat at the Cox House. Visit nchsmn.org/events for more details.

Christmas at the Cox House
December 16-18, 2022
Experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of a Victorian Christmas and discover how the Cox family and their friends celebrated the season

EASILY BOOK A COX HOUSE TOUR



Scan the code with your phone's photo app to book a tour!

HISTORY CENTER EVENTS:

Films Series | in person again

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.

We are thrilled to announce that after a COVID hiatus we will be showing these upcoming fall/winter films at the Treaty Site History Center and welcome you all back for viewing.

Documentary Film Series

Dick Cavett's Watergate | Sept. 1 @ 7 p.m. | TSHS | 55 min.



From 1972 to 1974, the Watergate scandal unfolded on The Dick Cavett Show, as Cavett interviewed nearly every major Watergate figure. Even non-political guests expressed their opinions about Watergate on the show. With exclusive access to the archive of The Dick Cavett Show, *Dick Cavett's Watergate* documents the scandal in the words of the people who lived it: from the botched burglary at the Democratic National Headquarters; to the must-see TV of the daily Congressional Watergate hearings; to the on-going behind-the-scenes battle between the White House and The Dick Cavett Show; culminating with the resignation of the President of the United States on August 9, 1974. *Dick Cavett's Watergate* offers a unique opportunity to mark the 40th anniversary of a defining moment in American history.

No October film. Please consider attending "Shadows at the Crossing."

USO: For the Troops | Nov. 3 @ 7 p.m. | TSHC | 60 min.



For 75 years, the United Service Organizations (USO) has lifted the spirits of American soldiers and has kept service personnel connected to their families and country while abroad. From its inception just prior to American involvement in World War II, the USO has remained steadfastly committed to its mission of increasing morale amongst our servicemen and women. *USO: For the Troops* conveys the fast pace and complex logistics of a modern USO tour, and underlines the importance of the organization not just for service people, but for America as a whole.

While some aspects of war have greatly changed, the need for connection, entertainment, and care within our armed forces has not. Interviews with past performers and celebrities are interspersed with moving first-person accounts from veterans and historians who discuss the USO's mission and impact. By showcasing the horrors of war alongside the morale-building activities of the USO and its volunteers, this film creates a comprehensive view of the lasting impact of the USO and shares new insights into American culture and the realities American soldiers face while overseas.

Project Bike The Final Stretch | Dec. 1 @ 7 p.m. | TSHC | 90 min.



Join us and filmmaker Danna Sikkila for *Project Bike, The Final Stretch*. A film featuring Minnesota's only woman-led bicycle tour with visual artists and their studios setting the destinations. For five years, creative leader and 410 Project Director Dana Sikkila has set out on a one-of-a-kind art/bike tour, advocating for the important point that every artist has skills and creative ideas to help grow and sustain their communities. Over the years, with her bike, trailer, and film crew, Sikkila has biked over 3,200 miles connecting with Minnesota artists living in communities ranging from the rural to large cities, learning what motivates her fellow Minnesotans to create art. Project Bike's mission is to showcase that art and artists are truly part of our chemistry as individuals, as communities, and as a state.

HISTORY CENTER EVENTS continued:

On Display at the History Center

**Brewers and Bottlers:
A Refreshing History of
Beer and Soda Making in Nicollet
County**

Now through March 25, 2023

Beer and soda have long held an important place in American history, even here in Nicollet County. The brewmasters and soda makers of the area served the role of providing refreshment to the hard-working people who were building the landscape we have here today. From the small pioneer breweries established on the territorial prairie to large modern bottling facilities, the Nicollet County Historical Society explores our rich history of locally produced beverages.

Brewers & Bottlers showcases material from the collections of the Nicollet County Historical Society and other donors related to the history and heritage of brewing and bottling in Nicollet County.

SHADOWS AT THE CROSSING

**Treaty Site History Center & Traverse des Sioux
Fri., Oct. 7 & Sat., Oct. 8, 6–8 p.m.**

Join us for the return of this popular and informative guided after-dark outdoor 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 inspiring, sometimes tragic, but always fascinating.

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 overwhelming past success, we highly recommend that you make reservations in advance to secure a tour. Call (507) 934-2160 or visit nchsmn.org/events for tickets beginning Friday, September 16, 2022.

*Registration and advanced ticket purchases
are highly recommended.*

River Valley Reflections

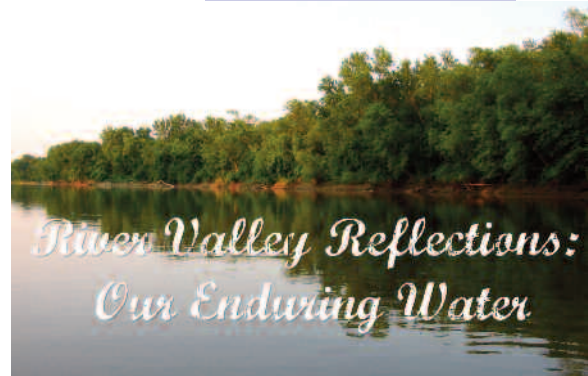
Now through Oct. 15, 2022

The Minnesota River Valley has a long and varied water history. There are several important waterways located within our region. This exhibit explores the importance of these waters and their continuing impact on living creatures and the environment through story, history, faith, ethics, the arts, and science.

The Minnesota River, Swan Lake, and other waterways have played an important role in the lives of indigenous people in this region for thousands of years. Native people used the river as a form of transportation, a food and water source, and a crossing point. It also contained a spiritual connotation for many. These early people set a precedent for responsibly appreciating and using the river and prairie wetland.

As evidenced by future land use by fur traders and Euro-American settlers, Native peoples passed on this appreciation through generations. But unfortunately, advances in agriculture and industry have changed that mindset.

Today, communities are exploring how to protect this valuable resource by envisioning the future of water.



Nicollet County Fair

**August 10-14 at the
Nicollet County Fairgrounds**

Join NCHS in the Wetherill building at the 151st Nicollet County Fair! On display this year is the St. Peter Cornet Band bandwagon. Stop by to check it out, chat with friendly staff and volunteers, sign up to win a membership and other fun prizes, and learn more about our terrific organization.



Storage room, Johnson & Company, 1914.

Johnson continued from page 1

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Eileen Holz, a Johnson & Company aficionado, who shepherded several collections of Johnson materials to NCHS. From the estate of Connie Peterson came three employee payroll ledgers, which illuminate the pay structure for employees at every level, from janitors and piece-goods workers to the owners and managers of the company.

Eileen also collected objects from the children of the late Don and Bev Gustafson, both of whom were avid collectors of St. Peter and Nicollet County memorabilia. The Gustafsons donated a



Shears used in the third floor cutting room of Johnson & Co. Donated to NCHS collections from Conrad "Connie" Peterson via Scott Dobie, of Nutter Clothing, St. Peter.



No. 175.	Screw Drivers,	3 inch.....	.19
"	"	4 inch.....	.20
"	"	5 inch.....	.25
"	"	6 inch.....	.30
"	"	7 inch.....	.34
"	"	8 inch.....	.39
"	"	9 inch.....	.44
"	"	10 inch.....	.53

Screwdriver used by seamstresses at Johnson & Company, in the manufacturers catalogue, C. S. Osborne. Tool Manufacturers, Catalogue Number 25, of Newark, New Jersey. Found by Ruth Einstein, NCHS Research Coordinator.

very old and rare wool work shirt, as well as a wood cubby used by Erana Fischer Peterson, a Johnson & Company seamstress. Cubbies such as this would have been found at the station of every seamstress. A purse and lunch might have been stored inside and completed piece goods placed on top of the lid.

A large collection of photographs, genealogy, and memorabilia from the Johnson-Phelps family (Isabella Phelps married Floyd B. Johnson, the son of Miles B. Johnson) was given to Eileen by Carl and Val Youngblom. These items were found in the home at 520 N. Third, previously owned by Miles B. Johnson. Isabella's father, Robert M. Phelps, served as superintendent of the State Hospital in St. Peter from 1912 to 1925.



Front row: Laura Phelps (Cross), 2nd from left, Isabella Phelps (Johnson), 3rd left. Floyd B. Johnson, 1st on left, hanging, pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks, St. Peter State Hospital, c.1918.

Eileen donated items from her own Johnson collection, including two promotional pencils and a cardboard thread cone. Eileen relates that the children of employees of the factory would decorate the empty cones as Christmas trees or fashion them into wreaths.

Eileen's donation also includes a "vintage" screwdriver used by a sewing

Johnson continued on page 10

From the Archives...

by Ruth Einstein
Research Coordinator



Artifact & Archival Donations

since March Crossing:

Robin Wettergren Bauer: Photographs and other materials relating to the activities of Robert Wettergren, Wettergren Dairy, and the Church of the Holy Communion.

Craig Nelson Estate: Craig's 1998 tornado photos, St. Peter event posters, issues of *The Gathering* newspaper, 1984–1985.

Allen Dahl: Johnson & Company meat lugger's uniform.

Gustavus Adolphus College Archives: Swenson Brothers Confectionery menu.

Scott Dobie, Nutter Clothing Company: Items associated with the Johnson & Company (later Johnson Uniform Company); two men's wool bathing suits c.1920.

Don & Bev Gustafson Estate: Shirt made by Johnson Uniform Co.; wooden cubby used by Erana Fischer Peterson, a seamstress at Johnson & Co.

Mark Fiemeyer: Digital records pertaining to Courtland, Minn., businesses, organizations, churches, families, and events; reproduction of *Brief History of the Bode Family, 1813-July 31, 1938*; reproductions of photographs relating to Courtland-area school districts 28, 41, and 54; Nicollet County Elementary School diploma of Marvin H. Fiemeyer, 1947; letter from County Superintendent Eugene Meyer to eighth grade graduates, June 10, 1940.

Barbara a& Connie Frey: 1920 Nicollet High School yearbook; NHS play program and clipping about the play; senior photo of Clifford Summers.

Jeffrey & Tammy Gustafson: Dress and petticoat worn by Ruth Youngquist Matson of Oshawa Twp.; Nelson-Youngquist genealogy.

St. Peter High School: 1919, 2020, and 2021 Saint Peter High School *Peterian* yearbooks.

Eileen Holz: Items from the Johnson Uniform Company, promotional items from St. Peter businesses, newspapers, and photographs. This donation includes a collection of photographs and memorabilia from the Johnson-Phelps-Linton family. Documentation project of Nicollet County artists compiled by Eileen Holz.

Erinda Ortiz Johnson: Items relating to the military service of Robert "Cy" Johnson.

Lauren Johnson: Photograph of the Floyd B. Johnson family, c.1927.

Bridgette Leonard Kennedy: Reproductions of photos and memoirs pertaining to the Henry and Locadia Berger Wentzlaff family and experiences living on Wentzlaff Island, Swan Lake, Nicollet.

Gloria Otto: Genealogical material relating to the extended Gottlieb Otto family.

Brian Oviatt: Company K, 2nd Minnesota banner; Johnson Uniform Company Go-Pfor coveralls.

Marlin Peterson: baseball glove, used by the donor in St. Peter during the years 1957–1961.

Dean Pettis: St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church commemorative plate; St. Peter High School Class of 1965 senior portraits.

Susan Schroeder Ponwith: Programs, invitations, and memorabilia from the St. Peter High School Class of 1949.

Stanley J. Schipreth: Pewter cup, souvenir of Saint Peter, inscribed "J. Schleuder Jeweler / St. Peter, Minn." c.1910.

Steve & Maureen Scholl: Engesser Brewery apron.

Janet Swanson: Photos of the 1998 tornado photos taken by Kermit Swanson; copies of an e-mail exchange between Kermit and a friend about tornado experiences.

Ed Wetherill: Photographs and VCR tapes relating to the Travers des Sioux Encampment, 1992–1998; digital photos of the Ed and Bev Wetherill's 50th anniversary.

Right: NCHS volunteer, Bill Pedersen, modeling the Engesser apron donated by Steve and Maureen Scholl. Below: detail of the embroidery. The embroidery matches the Johnson banner, so it is quite possible that the apron was embroidered at Johnson & Co. of St. Peter. No confirmation, of course.



Story of Levi A. Chapman

by Warren Michels

It began with a phone call from James Chapman from Duluth, Minnesota. He called me in regards to a relative buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Saint Peter, Minnesota. He said the individual's name was Levi Chapman, I checked my records and found no such person. Further conversations with James, I learned that his records stated Levi was buried with his sister and brother-in-law. Their graves were recorded in the records as graves 2 & 3. James records stated that Levi was buried in grave #1 next to them.

Days later, while volunteering at the Treaty Site, I asked Ruth Einstein to look up Levi's obit. He died in October, 1883 in a tragic saw mill accident by Lake Washington, Minnesota. Levi was 35 years old, leaving behind a wife and six children. The article stated that he was buried in Calvary Cemetery, Saint Peter, Minnesota. Cemetery records have been updated to include this new-found information.

James Chapman has made arrangements to have Levi's grave marked with a headstone.

Obituaries are recorded and can be found on "Nicollet County Historical Society" on the internet.

(nchsmn.org/research)



Newly installed grave marker for Levi Chapman in Calvary Cemetery, St. Peter.

Photo by Warren Michels.

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machine operator and products sold by the wholesale variety item business in the 1940s and '50s, such as the ever-popular Magic Darning Kits.



The Isabella and Floyd B. Johnson family, c. 1927. L to R: Floyd B. Johnson, Miles Johnson, Isabella Johnson, Robert "Phelps" Johnson. This photo was taken before the birth of son Linton Brockway and daughter Sara Linton "Sally". This Johnson family photo was donated to NCHS archives from Lauren Johnson, a great-granddaughter of Miles B. Johnson, father of Floyd.

A meat lugger's uniform, one of Johnson's specialty uniforms produced for the meat-packing industry, was found in the home of Elsie Dahl and was donated by her children.

Finally, to bring the Johnson Donations Fest to a close, at least for now, Lauren Johnson, a great-granddaughter of Miles B. Johnson who lives in Washington State, donated a photo of the Floyd and Isabella Johnson family. Interestingly, Lauren knew birth and death dates and that her family had resided in St. Peter but had no idea that her great-grandfather had established a thriving business that was the largest employer in the area! Lauren visited NCHS recently to see these materials for herself.

I must step away from the Johnson & Company material for a moment to mention the donation of a magnificent, extensive documentation project of Nicollet County artists, living and past, compiled by Eileen Holz. The project profiles 723 (and counting) Nicollet County artists who work(ed) in every medium, venues such as theaters, murals, arts educators, and visiting artists of note. Also included is material on "The Art of Grace" from Grace Lutheran Church which has many pieces of Nicollet County artists' work in their collection.

This project will eventually be used by the NCHS Exhibits Committee as the basis for an exhibit and other outreach efforts but is also available to enlighten and delight anyone interested in the creative folks of Nicollet County.

If your family history includes Nicollet County, contact the Research Center at research@nchsmn.org to find out how we can help you discover your roots. To search our online collections catalog, see <https://www.nchsmn.org/research/search-the-collection/>.


History Center's Open Hours to Change!

We're excited to announce that the History Center will once again be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays **beginning on Tuesday, September 6**. Beginning that day, the museum's exhibits will be open to tour Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. *The archives will continue requiring appointments.*

Director continued from page 2

the year progresses. We want to hear from you about what being an NCHS member means, how you want to participate in the Society, and much more.

I'm thrilled about our work and what it means for our future. I'm grateful for my seat at the table, and I can't imagine working with a better bunch of people.

Jessica Becker

 Executive Director

2022 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 on display

River Valley Reflections: Our Enduring Water,

through October 15, 2022

History Center

Brewers & Bottlers: A Refreshing History of Beer and Soda Making in Nicollet County,

through March 25, 2023

History Center

Aug. 13 Old-Time Traveling Medicine Show, shows at 2, 3, & 4 p.m., FREE

Cox House

Sept. 1 Film Series at the Center: *Dick Cavett's Watergate*, 7 p.m., FREE

History Center

Sept. 6 History Center begins new hours

History Center

Oct. 7 & 8 Shadows at the Crossing, 6–8 p.m.

Traverse des Sioux

Oct. 31 Trick-or-Treat at the Cox House, 5–7 p.m. FREE

Cox House

Nov. 3 Film Series at the Center: *USO: For the Troops*, 7 p.m., FREE

History Center

Nov. 17 GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Online

Dec. 1 Film Series at the Center: *Project Bike: The Final Stretch*, 7 p.m., FREE

History Center

Dec. 16–18 Christmas at the Cox House

Cox House

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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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 2022 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
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/support/membership for details.