

CONTENTS

Artists Sherman Strand 1, 8, 9
Director's Column 2
Sites Info 2
3rd Quarter 2022
Member recap 2
President's Report 3
3rd Quarter 2022
Memorials & Donations 3
Remembrances 3
From the Archives 4, 5
Cox House Report 5
TSHC Report 6
History Center Events 7, 8
Film Series 10
History Center Bits 10
Events Calendar 11
Membership Form 12

Dr. Sherman O'Neil Strand: from physician/surgeon to artist

by Eileen Holz

NCHS Volunteer Researcher

Note: This is the first in a proposed series of articles derived from the research on Nicollet County Artists: all ilks, living and past, done by Eileen Holz for the past three years for the Nicollet County Historical Society.

Born in Nicollet County 29 January 1920 to Ole and Olephine (Anderson Annexstad) Strand, Sherman started his life as the youngest of nine, the children of a farmer and later retired buttermaker Ole Nils "Nels" Strand. The Strand children included: Ruby Adrina (Strand) Davies—also a Nicollet County artist; Allen Noel, Stanley G., Stella C. (Strand) Ewing, Clifford Bennett, Vera (Strand) Forrest Sr., Dagmar O. (Strand) Riban, Doris V. (Strand) George, and our subject Sherman O'Neil Strand.

Growing up on the family farm outside of St. Peter, Sherman became interested in art at an early age and is said to have to have been sculpting as early as age nine with a clay sculpture of the Statue of Liberty.

Sherman attended rural Nicollet County schools, and then, while a sophomore at St. Peter High School, he also became fascinated with taxidermy.

In 1936, while attending St. Peter High School, that year's prom theme included the need for a replica of the Statue of Liberty. Sherman was asked by an English teacher/prom advisor if he would fabricate the statue which he did—at a size of 4-feet and weighing about 200 pounds, featuring a lit torch from a household light bulb. After prom the statue stood in the Strand's front yard at 722 8th Street in St. Peter with the torch being lit each night. That sculpture led to a commission for yet another Statue of Liberty for an art lover from Minneapolis.

In addition to art, Sherman's interest in taxidermy was mostly self-taught, however he did visit and interview Leon L. Pray in his lab in the Field Museum, Chicago and Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, chief taxidermist and curator of the University of Minnesota, Bell Museum.

Strand had trouble continuing with his art studies because neither his high school nor Gustavus had art departments at this early period.

Graduating from SPHS in 1938 and enrolled at Gustavus Adolphus College that same year with the intent of majoring in biology and chemistry as a replacement for being an art major. During his time at Gustavus he worked as a biology technician and continued his interest in the practical art of taxidermy with his studio in the basement of the first Folke Bernadotte Library, now the A. H. Anderson Hall / Social Science Center. From a Gustavian Weekly article of 11 March 1941 concerning his taxidermy:

"After the larvae of the carpet beetle have acted on the decayable matter and nothing but the skeleton of the animal is left, I put the skeleton in ammonia and hydrogen peroxide solution for a while. Then I mount the skeleton with wires."

The taxidermy works of Strand were exhibited in the Gustavus Museum of Natural History housed in the upper floor of Old Main in the 1940s.

Strand continued on page 8



The faces are Sherman and Ruby's parents, Ole and Olephine Strand. Sherman created this bas-relief in 1938 at the age of 19. This is a reproduction created in 1984 for a Strand family reunion. from the collection of Dianne (Holteen) Fields

Members

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS as of October 15, 2022.

Renewed Advocate Business

Brighton Township
New Sweden Mutual
Insurance Company
Volunteer Services SPRTC

Renewed Benefactor Business

Gustavus Adolphus College

Renewed Supporter Members:

Bill & Durene Pedersen
Evelyn J. Solo

Renewed Patron Members:

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Janet Prehn
Harold Rodning

Renewed Sustaining Members:

Frani & Mark Anderson

Renewed Family Members:

Mark & Laura Boomgaarden
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Renewed Individual Members:

Michael Frederick
Robert Weber

Renewed Individual Members:

Audrey Gatchell
Andris Grunde
Jane Haala
Thomas Hergert
Elaine Hermanson
Susan Hynes
Mary Lou Ihrke
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John Luepke
Harriet Mason
Joel & Carol Moline
Catherine Neitge
Evie Swenson
Linda Vogel
Judy Voss
Roger Wilkinson

New Crossing Circle

Life Member:

Peg Binder

New Patron Members:

Al & Mary Behrends
Scott Dobie

New Sustaining Member:

Sarah Nelsen

New Family Members:

Ken Bloch
Steve Firkins
Dennis Frank &
Kristen Simon-Frank
Bill Gronseth
Paul Hanson

New Individual Member:

Amanda Malkin

New Senior Members:

Leigh Baer
Linda Haight
Marvin Robinson

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.

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Dana Melius, Secretary, St. Peter

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Denny Schmidt, New Sweden Township
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Loren Sundboom, St. Peter

NCHS Staff...

Executive Director: Jessica Becker

director@nchsmn.org

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Research Coordinator: Ruth Einstein

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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.
E-mail: info@nchsmn.org

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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

Greetings, friends,

Those who know me well know that fall is my favorite season. I love the vibrant fall colors and cool, crisp weather. Fall is also a time of transition. With the season change comes changes at NCHS too. The Cox House tour season is done, and soon we won't be able to take school kids out on the trail until spring. We're planning for next year's exhibits, programs, and, of course, the budget.

As you read through the newsletter, you'll see it's filled not only with happenings but with news that many changes are happening at the sites. The biggest is our maintenance and preservation projects.

It's been an expensive year at NCHS, but the projects we've undertaken are necessary. We contracted with Schwickert's to clean and apply a new coating to the History Center's roof this fall. This new coating keeps a weathertight roof over our heads and precious treasures for another 15 years. It was \$55,260 well spent. And the multi-year preservation projects at the Cox House are coming to a close now that the House has a fresh coat of paint, new decking, fence, and garden. Those are thanks to the generosity of benefactors of the House.

As we transition to fall and winter, we also enter Giving Season. Please consider an unrestricted donation to NCHS this year-end to help us replenish our coffers after an expensive year. We're fortunate for our financial stability, but large projects like we saw this year make a dent in our accounts. Our mission is to gather, preserve, and share the history of Nicollet County, and we can't do that without the support of our members and friends.

Jessica Becker

Jessica Becker
Executive Director



Jessica Becker

President's Report

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



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

Nicollet County's history is rich and deep. I reflected on the legacy while preparing for Shadows at the Crossing this year. The concentration of populations around the Crossing area over the centuries by the Native Americans, early White inhabitants, and later immigrants around the "highway" of the Minnesota River resulted in Traverse des Sioux and later St. Peter and North Mankato. As farmers built homes and farms, the Townships served their needs. This network of settlements makes good sense and has served the County well.

I am very proud of how the history and townships of Nicollet County are represented at the museum. On display in the Center Gallery is a plat map of the entire county and a flipbook of the Century Farms. Our whole North Gallery displays items of importance from each township, and a block map is the huge geographical representation of our county. We are a center for research and have many contacts from all corners of the county with archival donations and research requests. Our membership represents the entire county, and we are pleased to serve you.

Our upcoming schedule of events is exciting, including Members-only opportunities. Join us on November 17 for an NCHS member exclusive program by Karen Annestad Humphrey called "Sam Haugdahl, the New Sweden Creamery, and World Champion Butter," and then on November 20 for "Photo Day with Santa" at the Cox House. See the calendar for more details.

The Film Series continues to be offered in person, which members enjoy. Thanks to the financial support of the William R. Witty Post of the American Legion, the films include some we might not have been able to offer. We are excited to see you there.

In more member-related news, we have compiled a survey asking members to inform us of their connection to the Historical Society. Please take the time to complete it, as the Board of Directors and staff will use the information to fine-tune our activity.

As we round out the third quarter of 2022, we hope to welcome more members to the Historical Society, and you, current members, can be our best recruiters. The resumption of regular hours at the sites still requires increased volunteers, and I really hope you will come to refresh your Nicollet County history memory banks. Think about joining us on a more active level; we treasure your participation. Thank you for supporting NCHS!

Remembrances...

Tim "Minnow" Bartelt



The Nicollet County Historical Society is grieving the loss of our dear friend Tim "Minnow" Bartelt. There are no words to express the extent of the hole his passing leaves in our community and the NCHS family.

Tim served on our Board of Directors for the last six years and was a long-time individual and business member. He also volunteered many hours at the museum, including helping to build the utility shed and shingle it, shuffling the archives spaces, helping with other handyman projects, sitting on committees, and generally supporting our mission.

We will always be grateful for his quiet leadership, quick wit, generous nature, and friendship.

Eunice Holz

NCHS is deeply saddened about the passing of our dear friend and supporter, Eunice Holz. Eunice was a steadfast and dedicated member and volunteer, taking on many roles over the years.

After retiring from St. Peter Public Schools, Eunice became very involved with the Society, serving on the Board for twelve years, as secretary of the Board, member of the building committee for the construction of the Treaty Site History Center, volunteer archivist, and a member of several committees, including School Day chairperson of the Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Encampment.

We are truly grateful for the mark she left on NCHS.

Memorials

received by NCHS
as of October 15, 2022.

In Memory of
Lorraine Gatchell
Given by
Audrey Gatchell

In Memory of
Eunice (Hawn) Holz
Given by
Paul & Nita Aasen
Melanie Covell
Brenda & Duane DeBleck
Pat & Mary O'Brien
Jan Olmanson

In Memory of
Gerald Scheurer
Given by
Lorraine Olson

In Memory of
Audrey Tolzmann
Given by
Mary Lou Ihrke

We remember...

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

- Tim "Minnow" Bartelt,
Board & committee
member & volunteer
- Lorraine Gatchell
- Arlene Raye Hilding
- Eunice Holz,
Board & committee
member & volunteer

Monetary Donations

processed by NCHS
as of October 15, 2022.

Monetary
Audrey Gatchell
Sheila Lein



Artifact & Archival Donations

for 3rd Quarter 2022:

American Legion William R. Witty Post #37 via Rick Wright: Two Company K posters with rosters, mounted on plywood; Program, Second Armistice Day, 1920; Post 37 Color Guard shirt.

Eric Annexstad: Klein Furniture Company promotional yardstick, circa 1940.

John Berbrich: Digital photos of the Beyer and Berbrich Saloon and Hotel in Courtland; images relating to the Kloppmann and Spoering families.

Joan Krisatis Bonham: Sugar bowl given to William and Amelia Krisatis by Herman and Albertina Krisatis; photos of members of the Krisatis family.

Darryl Breitenfeldt: Reproductions of the ownership abstracts of 309 and 502 Walnut Street, St. Peter.

Mark Davis: Horatio Alger Award presented to Mark E. Davis, 2016.

Valorie Dubois: Photograph of Marguerite L. Dryer at one year of age, St. Peter, 1886.

Anne Frey: Northland Beverages case and 12 Gold Medal sparkling water bottles.

Andreas Hendrickson: Paper bags from Sackett and Fay Flour Mill and Philip Dick Clothing Company.

Eileen Holz: Wool Easter coats made by Eunice Holz for her children, Dick and Eileen, in 1948 and 1951 respectively, and photos of the children wearing the coats.

Karen Humphrey: Genealogy of the Hans Christian Hanson and Johanna Hovland Hanson family of Norseland.

Jim Kollmann: Promotional ruler, Headlee Transfer Company of St. Peter.

Sheila Fischer Lein: Wedding dress of Irene Thom Fischer and associated photos and documents from the wedding of Irene Thom and Harold Fischer, 1943.

Tony Mack: Digital images of the wedding of William Hagedorn and Mary Pehling, 1901.

Karen Humphrey: Genealogical materials relating to the Dean Williams family, descendants of David Jenkin Williams of Nicollet County

Dee Dee Veith Michels: Items used in the Veith Bakery; radio, circa 1935; potato ricer.

Bonnie Norman: Genealogy of the Rankin and Roberts families; cabinet card photos.

Brian Oviatt: St. George baseball uniform, circa 1950.

Shawn Regan Parker: Digital images of the Engesser family.

Marshall Peterson: Items used or created during childhood by Ramona Peterson Klooster, Marlys Peterson Howard, Diane Peterson Birr, Marshall Peterson, and Marlin Peterson; auger possibly used by the donor's great grandfather, Martin Peterson; advertising and promotional items from Nicollet County businesses.

Myrene Jones Peterson: Autograph book and photo album belonging to Laura Jones (Davis), a nurse at the state hospital in St. Peter, 1881.

Karen Seeman: Author's copy of "Vets Buried in St. Peter and Vicinity," 1935, by Rosa C. Petersen, and correspondence.

Ever Expanding Collections

The list at the left enumerates the variety of items donated by folks who believe that NCHS is the proper place to store, display, and have these wonderful bits of Nicollet County history available for research. If you have photos, documents, family histories, maps, and artifacts with a Nicollet County connection, please contact us to see if it might fill a void in our collections.

From the Archives...

by Ruth Einstein
Research Coordinator



The NCHS Archives was recently offered a baseball uniform of 1940s or 1950s vintage, purportedly from the St. George baseball team. The donor of the uniform, Brian Oviatt, purchased the light-gray wool uniform in New Ulm at an antique store. When he contacted the dealer, he was assured that it had been acquired in St. George. Should we take the dealer's word for it? How could we establish beyond a reasonable doubt that this uniform was indeed from our St. George in West Newton Township?

We know from a history of St. George Catholic Church that there was a baseball team, at least during the early 1960s, and the uniform shirt has a red patch in the shape of an interlocked S and G. So far, so good. Sewn onto the back of the shirt are red letters indicating the name of the team's sponsor: George's Alleys. Aha! That was an intriguing clue.

George's Ballroom was a well-known and impressive enterprise in New Ulm; did George Neuwirth also own a bowling alley? He did, and in fact, the bowling alley and bar predated the ballroom complex. Darla Gebhard, research librarian at Brown County Historical Society, was kind enough to check New Ulm

phone directories for listings and confirmed that George's Alleys was the name of the bowling alley.

The evidence was stacking up. Then, it turned out that Tom Brown, a former member of the Society's Board of Directors, had been a member of the St. George baseball team in the early 1960s. Tom said my description of the uniform matched his recollection, and that he also knew that the team was in existence as early as the late 1940s. All this evidence taken together convinced our Collections Committee to vote to accept the uniform.

If you know anything more about the St. George baseball team or have photos of the players, please get in touch.

Traveling from the western part of the county to the east, we were thrilled to acquire equipment from the beloved Veith Bakery in St. Peter, donated by Dee Dee Veith Michels, daughter of Clarry and Marion Veith. Veith Bakery, established in 1914 by Clarry's parents, Fred and Flora Veith, was located on the corner of Park Row and Third. The building sustained significant damage during the 1998 tornado and was demolished soon after.

Archives continued on page 5



St. George baseball team uniform shirt.



Veith Bakery after the 1998 tornado.

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

by Kate Roberts
Cox House Manager

Our summer and regular tour season is over now. We had an enjoyable time visiting with local guests who visited the beautiful and historic Cox House and attended the special events. I was very pleased to receive many positive verbal comments after our special events and received the following comment via email:

Two weeks ago, I attended the medicine show that you held on the grounds and really enjoyed that. I look forward to other events held at the Cox house. C.I.

We also welcomed many out-of-town guests from cities around Minnesota and from Florida, Utah, Kentucky, Canada, and Iowa. The after-season has shaped up very well with a great number of private tours of the house, which have been very enjoyable.

I am looking forward to our fall programs that are coming up soon. I am especially looking forward to the visit to the Cox House from Teddy Roosevelt, as portrayed by Adam Linquist. Adam has portrayed Roosevelt extensively around the U.S. to many historical and conservationist groups and governmental agencies. He is a master of connecting his audience with Roosevelt's history, and you won't want to miss this presentation.

We are well on the way with the restoration work to be done on the house. Eric Hendrickson finished the

porch decking, and it looks brand new. He only has three storm windows left to repair and restore too. Bellissimo Paint and Coatings is painting the house, and by the time you receive this newsletter, they might be done. The new garden plants are growing beautifully, and once the house painting is finished, Seed to Site will install the rest of the house perimeter plants.

We sincerely thank the many volunteers, donors, and tradespeople who are helping us preserve our old house. If you would like to contribute to our maintenance and preservation efforts, please consider donating to our Keep the Cox House Standing fundraiser on Give to the Max Day on November 17.

A huge thank you goes out to Southpoint Federal Credit Union employees for their generous gift of volunteering. Employees spent several hours cleaning the grounds and carriage house on Monday, October 10, as part of their day of volunteer service.



Bellissimo Paint and Coatings' crew has just completed the Cox House repainting. Photo by Lynnette Hoffman

Archives continued from page 4

Among the donated objects are a gigantic rolling pin, a bismarck filler, a press to make lemon spritz cookies, two candy scales, a dough scale, a doughnut cutter and a steel implement used to flip the doughnuts in the fryer, and an impressive knife used to level off the layers in wedding cakes.



Bismarck filler used at Veith Bakery.

If you mention Veith's to anyone who lived in St. Peter during the decades that Clarry was arriving at the bakery to bake and make candy long before dawn, you're sure to hear how he and Marion were cherished by the community and, of course, what bakery item or type of candy was a favorite. The Society is grateful to have been entrusted with preserving this fondly remembered slice of St. Peter history.

If you have materials that reflect the activities of Nicollet County individuals, businesses, organizations, or faith communities, such as photographs, meeting minutes, or promotional items, or if you would like assistance learning about your Nicollet County roots, please contact the Research Center at research@nchsmn.org or 507-934-2160.

SITE REPORT: Treaty Site History Center...

by James Ihrke
Operations Coordinator



Summer has wrapped up, and Fall has begun. Meanwhile, the Treaty Site History Center has been abuzz with activity. Every day is a new adventure for me, whether it is learning to plan tours for 100+ students, recruiting volunteers, or even how to move an artillery piece.

We are now open Tuesdays through Saturdays, and I would like to express my gratitude to our volunteers and staff for making that as seamless as possible. Of course, we are always looking for more volunteers to help!

School is back in session, so it's tour season at NCHS! Special thanks to our docents, Kate, John, and Steve, for their time and expertise in guiding these groups through our exhibits. This year, we have had 500+ take a guided tour of the Treaty Site History Center and Traverse des Sioux historic site trail, and we have bookings every week into November.

We have had several projects since the last newsletter.

Schwickert's has recently completed the resurfacing of our roof. This was a big project that we are delighted to have finished.

Our work shed has been washed and stained. Special thanks to our custodian, Robert, for putting in the work on some sweltering days.

We have installed new picture lights in our theater room. These lights increase visibility for our magnificent Eastman lithograph, Joseph Nicollet's map, and other displays.

We had a group of handy volunteers install casters on the display cases in the Township Room. This has greatly increased our space and flexibility for this exhibit.

Lastly, we have been organizing our collections room, mainly recycling old office equipment so we can make room for new treasures.

As I close my first newsletter article, I think of how at the end of some new learning experience, I asked the director, "Is this a normal week?" to which she replied, "Yep." I love my job!



Students watching "The Dakota Conflict" on a school tour.



Schwickert's finishing up our roof project.



Our freshly stained work shed.



Our township room, with the newly reinstalled box puzzle!

HISTORY CENTER EVENTS:

Trick-or-Treat at the Cox House

Oct. 31, 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Cox House | **Free**

Families are invited to come to trick-or-treat at the Cox House.

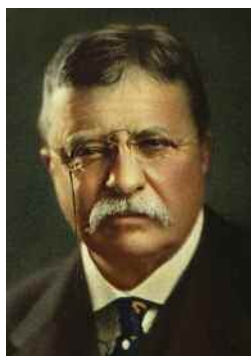
Roosevelt for President Campaign Party

Nov. 4, 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Cox House | **\$25 adults. This is a 21+ age event.**

Meet and visit with Teddy Roosevelt as portrayed by Adam Lindquist of Teddy Roosevelt Live. Enjoy a relaxed social with appetizers and beverages at the beautiful Cox House. Visit nchsmn.org/events for tickets.

Teddy Roosevelt Live Parlor Talk

Nov. 5 at 1:00 p.m. | Cox House | **\$10 adults, \$7 members, \$5 children**



Theodore Roosevelt was a prolific reader, storyteller, and author. Learn about his early life as a child, from his days as a Deputy Sheriff to charging up San Juan Hill. As the 26th President, learn about the ideology of Roosevelt and how each of us contributes to our shared country.

Ticketed event due to limited space. Visit nchsmn.org/events for tickets.

photographs, stories, and more about the history of Nicollet County. Then, we preserve them to share now and in the future through programs, exhibits, and more. In doing so, we make history more relevant and meaningful to people today by connecting them to what happened in their past.

Being storytellers and custodians of thousands of items takes staff and volunteers thousands of hours each year using their time and talents, and supplies like boxes, folders, exhibit boards, and so much more.

If you believe in the importance of gathering, preserving, and sharing Nicollet County history, please consider making a gift on Give to the Max Day on November 17.

Visit nchsmn.org/support/donate/ to contribute today.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sam Haugdahl, the New Sweden Creamery, and World Champion Butter

Nov. 17, 2:00 p.m. | History Center | **Members-only event | Free**

This is the story of one buttermaker, immigrant farmers to Nicollet County, and the prize at the 1900 Paris World's Fair for the world's best butter.

Karen Annexstad Humphrey grew up at Norseland-New Sweden, where she discovered her love of history at age eight when both communities and Minnesota celebrated their centennials. She is a past president of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. She currently serves on the boards of the Swedish American Historical Society and the National Lutheran Choir. Karen is the author of *Grace, Faith,*

Events continue on page 9



Photo courtesy of Karen Annexstad Humphrey and the Minnesota Historical Society

give TO THE **MAX** 
Nov. 17, 2022

Give to the Max Day 2022

Nov. 17, all-day

Gather. Preserve. Share. That's what we do at the Nicollet County Historical Society. We are charged with gathering documents, artifacts,

SENIORS OF 1942



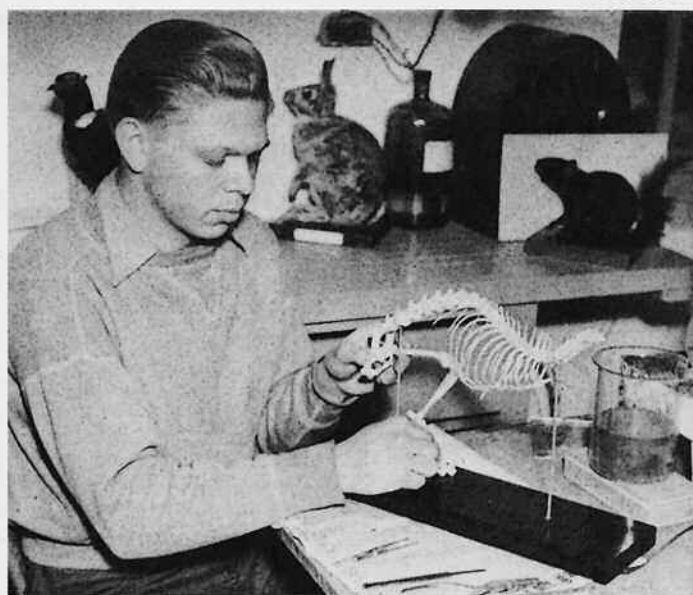
Above: 1942 Gustavian yearbook

Sherman Strand

Sherman Strand — St. Peter; As a biology assistant, Sherman is also the taxidermist at Gustavus. He is a member of Lambda Sigma and Grey fraternity. With majors in biology and chemistry he will look to research or medicine after graduation.

Below: 1943 Gustavian yearbook

IN THE REALM OF SCIENCE



Strand and the cat's last stand

bas-relief: a sculptural relief in which the projection from the surrounding surface is slight and no part of the modeled form is undercut. This art form can be either low-relief or high-relief.

Strand continued from page 1

After graduating from Gustavus, Sherman went on to attend the University of Minnesota beginning in June of 1942 with a pre-med major and became a member of Phi Rho, a professional medicine fraternity; graduating in the class of 1945 with a B.A., B.S. and M.B. from the University's School of Medicine. One of his hair-raising exploits at the University was being in the Phi Rho Fraternity House when it caught fire! The fire, initially discovered by Willis "Willie" Erickson, awakened "Shermie" who turned in the alarm and proceeded to rouse his fellow frat brothers all of whom escaped alive.

Sherman and Miss Ruth Henry of St. Paul married at Central Presbyterian church on 6 April 1945, having met at the University.

Strand served as a medical officer during World War II serving as a doctor at the Navy Air Weapons Station in China Lake, California.

He served an additional eight years as a naval reservist; and was discharged as a Lieutenant on 5 April 1951.

Sherman spent the majority of his professional medical career in Santa Monica, California as an ear, eye, nose, and throat physician and surgeon who in his later years of practice concentrated on plastic surgery.

Strand retired in 1978 and during his 31-year retirement he immersed himself in his lifelong passion—the study of art. He pursued that interest by attending the College of the Desert, Palm Desert, California and honed his artistic skills in several media including painting in watercolor and sculpture among others.



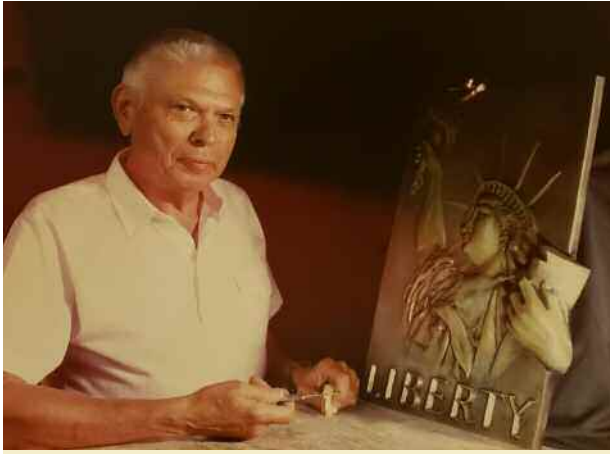
Summer Tiffany.
from the collection of Mary (Holteen) Barnidge



c1992 Spain(?) from an archived ebay sales webpage

In about 1986 Sherman's crowning artistic achievement came when he was selected as one of 16 artists from across the United States who were charged with depicting the major ethnic groups which entered the United States through Ellis Island. The pieces, which were bas-relief/high-reliefs, were completed for the Statue of Liberty's centennial in 1986 and also served as a fundraiser for the statue's repair and restoration. As a fundraiser, the limited edition bronze castings, 22 x 28-inches, were available for \$4,000 each, while paper casts, 16 x 20-inches, sold for

Strand continued from page 8



Sherman Strand with his bas-relief of Lady Liberty, from the collection of Dianne (Holteen) Fields

herself. The 16th plaque is an Ellis Island title plaque. The entire LIBERTY commemorative bas-relief limited edition series was bronze-cast at the California Sculpture Center at the College of the Desert, the art school that Strand attended after his retirement.

Strand's work has been exhibited in the Palm Springs Desert Museum, San Bernardino County Art Museum, and the California Sculpture Center.

In 2003 Sherman and his wife Ruth established the Strand Scholarship at Gustavus. An endowed scholarship, it is designated for pre-med students who have been accepted to the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Dr. Sherman O. Strand of Rancho Mirage, California passed away Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage. Per his wishes, there was no memorial service. As a veteran, his remains were placed at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California.



A full-sized casting of Strand's Lady Liberty in bronze and mounted on a polished walnut plaque is held in the NCHS collections. It was a gift of the artist himself in 1995.

Sources: Dianne (Holteen) Fields and Mary (Holteen) Barnidge, both nieces of Sherman Strand; Gustavus Adolphus College Archives, *Gustavian* yearbook, *The Gustavian Weekly* and the NCHS archives.

\$800 each. The reliefs were on permanent display at Ellis Island in the 1990s but today, according to the archivist of the Statue of Liberty National Monument are presently in storage. The bas-relief collection includes 13 which have the word "Liberty" each in the 14 different languages of the most prominent ethnic groups who entered the United States via Ellis Island and has representations of the emigrants themselves as they arrived in the US of A. Sherman's piece is in English "LIBERTY" and depicts Lady Liberty

Events continue from page 7

and the Power of Singing: The Alma Christina Lind Swensson Story; and Celebrating the Dassel Leikarring. An independent scholar, the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly has published three of her articles. Her article on Sam Haugdahl and the New Sweden Creamery was published in the Fall 2021 Minnesota History Magazine. Karen recently retired from the Minnesota Historical Society and is a consultant to the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

Photo Day with Santa

Nov. 20, 1:00–3:00 p.m. | Cox House | Members-only event | Free

Santa is visiting the Cox House before his busy season starts! Families will have 10 minutes with Santa to grab that perfect holiday snapshot. Bring your camera or phone. No photographer will be provided. Enjoy cookies and hot cider while you wait. Outdoor event.



Christmas at the Cox House

Dec. 16–18

Experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of a Victorian Christmas and discover how the Cox family and their friends celebrated the season. Visit nchsmn.org/events and social media for more details.

HISTORY CENTER EVENTS continued:

Films Series | in person again

The Nicollet County Historical Society and Saint Peter Community and Family Education present our fourteenth season of documentary films.

The 2022–23 Films on First Thursdays Documentary Films Series is generously sponsored by the William R. Witty American Legion Post 37.

Documentary Film Series

***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. *Not rated.*

***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 BITS:



Are you a Snowbird?

Please remember to contact us with your winter address, so NCHS news reaches you in a timely manner.

Are you moving?

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

2022–2023 Calendar of Events: *All events are subject to public health recommendation*

Event/Program information: Events are free for NCHS members unless stated otherwise.

continuing on display

River Valley Reflections: Our Enduring Water,
through December 21, 2022

History Center

Brewers & Bottlers: A Refreshing History of Beer and Soda Making in Nicollet County,
through March 25, 2023

History Center

Oct. 31 Trick-or-Treat at the Cox House, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Cox House

Nov. 3 Documentary Film Series | *USO: For the Troops*, 7:00 p.m.

History Center

Nov. 4 Roosevelt for President Campaign Party, 5:00–7:00 p.m., \$25 adults, This is a 21+ age event.

Cox House

Nov. 5 Teddy Roosevelt Live Parlor Talk, 1:00 p.m., \$10 adults, \$7 members, \$5 children

Cox House

Nov. 17 Give to the Max Day 2022

Nov. 17 Sam Haugdahl, the New Sweden Creamery,
and World Champion Butter, 2:00 p.m., MEMBERS-ONLY EVENT

History Center

Nov. 20 Photo Day with Santa, 1:00–3:00 p.m., MEMBERS-ONLY EVENT

Cox House

Nov. 24–26 NCHS offices and sites Closed for Thanksgiving

Dec. 1 Documentary Film Series | *Project Bike, The Final Stretch*, 7:00 p.m.

History Center

Dec. 12 NCHS Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.

TBD

Dec. 16–18 Christmas at the Cox House, \$10 adults, \$7 members, \$5 children. Watch NCHS website & social media for more details.

Cox House

Dec. 22–Jan. 9 NCHS offices and sites Closed for Winter Break

Dec. 31 Last day for mail to be postmarked for 2022 business

2023

Jan. 10 NCHS Offices & History Center reopen for 2023

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



ATTENTION NCHS MEMBERS:

NCHS MEMBER SURVEY



Scan the code with your phone's photo app to participate in our survey!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS!

Thank you so much for being a Nicollet County Historical Society member. Your membership and support are invaluable as we gather, preserve, and share the history that Nicollet County has experienced.

We have designed a survey to help determine what our current members value about their membership. This survey should take 5–7 minutes to complete.

Instructions:

- To begin the survey, scan the QR code with your phone or navigate to surveymonkey.com/r/nchsmembership
- Complete the survey by the end of the day on November 11, 2022.

If you would like to request a paper copy of the survey, please contact James at 507-934-2160 or membership@nchsmn.org.

Thank you for participating!

Please note: All answers are confidential and will NOT be identified with any individual.

Visit the Membership section of our website if you have questions.



**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
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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 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.