

the CROSSING

a publication of the **Nicollet County Historical Society**

Fall 2023 | Volume 29 / Issue 3



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Nicollet County Historical Society,

Your continued support over the last several years has been invaluable to our organization. As we navigate the current economic climate and the world rebounds from the pandemic, we ask for your help again.



Over the last few years, our operational landscape has shifted. Like the rest of the country, we face the impacts of inflation and the lasting economic effects of the pandemic, resulting in higher operating expenses. Cox House attendance has also significantly declined, and our aging buildings require ongoing maintenance and repairs. As a result, the admission fees, membership dues, and other forms of income we receive are no longer sufficient to cover the cost of keeping the doors open, maintaining

the buildings, and safeguarding our collection.

Our mission is to gather, preserve, and share the fascinating history of the people, places, and events that have shaped Nicollet County. We have been serving communities since 1928 and have no intention of stopping now. Looking ahead, our vision is to continue being a community asset and a leader in engaging and educating the public, fostering an appreciation for Nicollet County history.

As a valued community member, we are turning to you to help us continue to achieve our mission and vision. No matter how small, every donation will go a long way in supporting us.

Dear Friends and Supporters continued on page 3

MORE WAYS TO HELP

We understand that contributing should be easy and convenient, so here are more ways you can help:

- Membership Renewal:** If you're a member, renew your membership promptly. Your membership dues provide a steady source of income for our operations.
- Upgrade Your Membership:** Consider leveling up your membership.
- Monthly Giving:** You can set up automatic monthly contributions to split your donation into more manageable payments.
- Attend Events:** Participate in our programs. A list of our events can be found in your newsletter, on our website, and Facebook.
- Volunteer:** Donate your time and expertise. We often have volunteer opportunities for various tasks, from guiding tours to assisting with collecting and preparing exhibits. Volunteers add enormous value to NCHS, and not just with their help. The latest volunteer value in Minnesota is estimated to be \$34.47 per hour. In 2022, that was \$51,705.
- Shop the Museum Store:** Visit our gift shop to purchase books and other merchandise. The proceeds from your purchases go directly to supporting NCHS.
- Legacy Giving:** Consider including the Nicollet County Historical Society in your estate planning. Legacy gifts, such as bequests, can have a lasting impact on our organization. Please consult with your financial advisor or attorney.
- Spread the Word:** Help us raise awareness by sharing our mission and events with your friends, family, and social networks. Word-of-mouth support is invaluable.
- Matching Gifts:** Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program. If they do, your donation could be doubled, making your contribution even more impactful.

We want to emphasize that every contribution, no matter the size, plays a significant role in helping us to stay the stewards of Nicollet County's history, safeguarding it for future generations. By choosing one or more of these easy ways to support the Nicollet County Historical Society, you become integral to preserving our community's rich history.

ORGANIZATION INFO

NCHS Board

Executive Board Officers

Kate Martens, President, St. Peter
Tami Skinner, Vice President, St. Peter
Denny Schmidt, Treasurer, New Sweden Township
Dana Melius, Secretary, St. Peter

Directors

Eric Annexstad, St. Peter
John Chamberlain, St. Peter
Alma Forst, West Newton Township
Scott Hermanson, St. Peter
Joe Metzson, St. Peter
Bob Sandeen, St. Peter
Jon Smithers, 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

Treaty Site History Center

1851 N. Minnesota Ave.

Saint Peter, MN 56082

Phone: 507-934-2160

Hours: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

E-mail: info@nchsmn.org

E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N. Washington Ave.

Saint Peter, MN 56082

Phone: 507-934-4309

E-mail: cox@nchsmn.org

Traverse des Sioux

Adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center

1851 N Minnesota Ave.

Saint Peter, MN 56082

Open dawn to dusk year-round

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Jessica Becker

Dear Members,

As we enter the season of giving, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the year. Small history organizations such as ours play a crucial role in preserving our cultural heritage and sharing the rich tapestry of our history. We are the local storytellers, the preservers of family legacies, and the educators of future generations.

When you support small organizations like NCHS, you actively foster a more profound understanding within your community. Your contributions allow us to curate new exhibits, offer educational programs, and maintain our collections for future generations to explore and learn from. I invite you to give back to your local small museum this season, whether through membership, donations, or volunteering.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Let's embrace the spirit of giving and work together to make a difference in preserving our past for a brighter future.

With gratitude and warm wishes,

Jessica Becker

Executive Director

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

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

Tune In!

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

MEMORIALS

received by NCHS since the last Crossing of 7-2023.

In Memory of **William Lass**

Given by Lori Lahlum

In Memory of **Janet Hoffmann, ReVae Nygard, Marilyn Robertz, Barb Stangler, & Beverly Wetherill**

Given by Melanie Covell

We remember...

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

◆ Dr. William Lass (friend)

MONETARY DONATIONS

Steven & Becky Briggs

Nancy Bruch

Shannon Hillisheim

Stephen & Elizabeth Hogberg

Carl & Susan Johnson

Elgene Lund

Mike & Maryetta McCarty

Debra Nelson

Harold Rodning

Jennifer Spradling

Judy Voss

Robert Weber

Barbara Wilkinson

Dear Friends and Supporters continued from page 1

With your help, the Nicollet County Historical Society will continue providing educational and enriching experiences to all our visitors. We want to continue providing this service to our community, maintaining the high standards we have upheld for nearly a century.

We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support in the future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further ways you can support us, please don't hesitate to contact us.



MEMBERSHIP RECAP

Thank you to the following renewing and new members of NCHS through 11-9-2023.

Renewed

Business Benefactor Member:

Gustavus Adolphus College

Renewed

Business Advocate Members:

First National Bank Minnesota

Hometown Bank

New Sweden Mutual

Insurance Company

St. Peter State Hospital Museum

Renewed Patron Members:

Scott Dobie

Lori Heslep

Janet Prehn

Harold Rodning

Ken & Patsy Rossow

Renewed Sustaining Member:

Andru Peters

Renewed Family Members:

Mark & Laura Boomgaarden

Katha & John Chamberlain

Ruth Einstein

Bill & Deanna Gronseth

Donald & Rhonda Hermanson

Mary Lou Ihrke

Dave & JoAnne Johnson

LeeAnn McMillan

Amanda Malkin

Jim Mans

Carolyn & John Meyer

Warren & Terri Michels

Dennis Frank & Kristen Simon-Frank

Karen & Jon Smithers

Judy Teigen

Renewed Individual Members:

Eric Annexstad

Michael Frederick

Lynn Hanson

Robert Weber

Renewed Senior Members:

Andris Grunde

Jane Haala

Kay Herbst Helms

Elaine Hermanson

Susan Hynes

Charles Johnson

Loren Lindsay

John Luepke

Harriet Mason

Kay Mowbray

Jim Muyres

Catherine Neitge

Marvin Robinson

Sharon Robinson

Mary Ann Scharf

Bonnie Sellner

Yvonne Splettstoesser

Evie Swenson

Bernard Thieman

Linda Vogel

Judy Voss

New Patron Members:

Maggy Bolstad

Margo O'Brien

New Sustaining Member:

Donald E. Watts

New Family Members:

Edwin Rundell

Jamie Schmidt

Theresa, William, & Sarah Shores

New Individual Members:

Tessa Browning

Anna Simmons

New Senior Members:

Nancy Beck

Jeanne Groebner

Wayne Johnson

Ralph Ruschmeyer

Dennis Sjorgen

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.

SITE REPORTS

Cox House Corner

by Kate Roberts,
Cox House Manager

Summer has passed us now although we had an interesting time meeting new people and many members at our monthly events and Sunday tours. June saw our Crafts & Skills weekend, July we explored the Changing Times though the accomplishments of the younger Cox daughters, Lillian and Irene. We finished the summer in August with the event Love, Courtship and Marriage looking at the prevalent customs of the late Victorian era. The accompanying photo shows two of the extant wedding dresses we displayed from the NCHS collection. The dress in the background was especially exciting for me as it was the 1854 wedding dress of Harriet Jones Dodd wife



Kate Roberts
Cox House Manager



of St. Peter founder Captain William Bigelow Dodd. Many thanks go to the group of fantastic volunteers who helped make these events possible.

While our summer season is now over, we are still welcoming group tours with two already scheduled and private tours based on availability. In this era of struggle with keeping historic houses running I would encourage you to consider supporting the E. St. Julien Cox House with your donations or perhaps remember it in your will or with a bequest. It would be greatly appreciated and preserve a St. Peter legacy.

History Center Report

by James Ihrke,
Operations Coordinator

While walking on the prairie, I have seen swans flying overhead, wild grapes shriveling to raisins, snakes wiggling into their dens, and even a likely raccoon who likes to leave clam shells at our front door. These are all signs of summer coming to an end here at the Treaty Site History Center.



James Ihrke
Operations Coordinator



Visitors to the NCHS fair booth.

Another sign of summer closing is the Nicollet County Fair. From our new location next to the petting zoo, we interacted with over 1300 visitors this year. One ambitious 4-Her visited many times to build our log cabin exhibit, certain that she and her cow would be junior champions.

If you have seen our fair booth in previous years, you may have noticed something missing. Thanks to our hardy

volunteers, we have made space for the St. Peter Cornet Bandwagon in our museum. Built no later than 1880, it has been a popular fixture in parades over the years. It even has a special connection to the Civil War, but you'll have to come down to find out how!



Relocating the St. Peter Cornet Bandwagon to the museum.

The documentary film series, a free program held monthly, has returned. The topics are varied, from the life of squirrels to the history of Monopoly. Our next film, *JFK & LBJ: A Time for Greatness* on December 6, sheds light on the fascinating story of a president who knew how to harness the nation's grief over John F. Kennedy's assassination, twist arms, and get his way.

Our museum and trail tours continue to see strong demand. Students from as far away as Red Lake have visited our site to see the museum, walk the prairie, and learn about the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux with our wonderful docents. Give us a call if you have a group interested in touring the museum with a guide!

Our latest project has been updating the Josie Stone Room. Thanks to so many volunteers and staff, we are making better use of space, more working areas for researchers, and room for more treasures in our collection.

One article is too small to share everything, so stop on down, meet some of the new faces around, and see the exciting new things at the Treaty Site History Center!

ARCHIVES DONATIONS

Artifact & Archival Donations as of July 2023:

Kristin M. Anderson and the Hebron Cemetery Association:

Digital records and maps of the Hebron Cemetery Association; "Bethany Lutheran Church of Judson, Minnesota, 1903-2003;" reproduction of the program from the service celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Hope Pluto Annexstad and Glenn Annexstad: Clothing and photographs relating to the Pluto and Annexstad families.

Nancy Beck: Painting of the Beck farm in Bernadotte; military and other materials relating to Wallace Beck.

Becky Briggs: Military documents of Earl E. (Shorty) Lund; digital and print photographs, objects, and records concerning Lafayette-area organizations, schools, and businesses.

Karen Brinkman: Photo of Karen and Tiny Brinkman; Adolph W. Schilling's Bachelor of Commerce diploma from Gustavus Adolphus College School of Commerce, 1908.

Chisago County Historical Society: Poster advertising Philip Dick & Co.; card, "Compliments of S. Schumacher."

Kenneth Colakovic: Books, *Gustavus: 150 Years of History*, *Sesquicentennial History of Norseland Lutheran Church, 1858-2008*.

Patricia Depuydt: U.S. Army Honor Guard uniform, photos, dog tags, and insignia of William Depuydt, 1958-1960; photo of Bonnie Depuydt in her Air Force uniform.

Renville County Historical Society: Obituaries of Nicollet County residents.

Mark Fiemeyer: Photographs and reproductions of photos of Courtland-area families (Trebesch, Bode, Ginkel), Immanuel Lutheran Church organization members, Immanuel Lutheran School (donated by the family of Arthur John Bode), Brighton School District 59; Nicollet Consolidated School; an article from the Feb. 1941 issue of "True Detective" magazine on the murder of Nicollet County resident John Wellner (1859-1898); and transcriptions of newspaper articles relating to Courtland, 1855-1901.

Joyce Gardner: Two photographs of circus owner John Herriott with one of his miniature horses taken by Richard (Dick) Gardner; program of the pipe organ dedication at the Church of St. Peter, 1934.

David W. Goodell: Vietnam-era load-carrying equipment, M-1956.

Joan Hanson: Colt Dragoon pistol and holster belonging to Nicollet County Sheriff Edward J. Boys; reproductions of photos of Edward Boys and Austa Kennedy Boys; copy of a professional appraisal of pistol, 1955.

Lynn Hanson: Reproduction of a photo of teachers and students in a classroom in District 9 school, Belgrade Township, c.1936.

Peter Hanson: Digital file, Boys, Kennedy, Mackay Families, written by Harold Hanson.

Eileen Holz: Promotional give-aways from St. Peter businesses.

Andy Hopp: Cook stove handle, corn husking glove from the Melba and Harvey Hopp farm; promotional business items; Zion Lutheran Church centennial commemoration plate, 1974.

Karen Humphrey: Doll; photo of the doll in the arms of Pearl Annexstad, who is with her cousin Carroll Hermanson; two photos of Nicollet County boys who were students in the agriculture academy at the University of Minnesota. c.1920.

Clifford Johnson: Commemorative plates, Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Nicollet, 1959, 1994.

Lauren Johnson: Photos of members of the Floyd B. Johnson family.

William K. Klein: Book, *Uprising: A newspaper Story of the Sioux Uprising of 1862*.

Nicollet County Office of Public Services: Reproductions of Nicollet County plat maps.

Archives Donations continued on page 6

FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Ruth Einstein

Research Coordinator

Greetings from the newly spiffed-up, reorganized, and revamped Josie Stone Room at NCHS! The staff and many volunteers have been going the extra mile to make our reference area more inviting and user-friendly, and our resources more accessible. If you come in to get help with your family's story or to peruse one of our thousand-plus reference books, you won't recognize the place!

As you might have seen on our Facebook page, the sign from the old Carnegie Library was handsomely restored by Eric Hendrickson and now hangs in the Research Center. It's a beauty and looks fabulous on that freshly painted wall!



Ruth Einstein
Research Coordinator



Brian Oviatt, after hanging the Library sign in the Josie Stone Room.

Additional shelving will hold books and other reference materials carefully arranged by our capable and creative volunteer, Jennifer Monke. Jennifer has taken on the mammoth task of organizing and cataloguing the library. Nita Aasen and Margo O'Brien are indexing a huge genealogy collection to make it into a usable resource. Bob Sandeen has been spending his many volunteer hours helping researchers and editing photograph descriptions for accuracy and readability. Anna Simmons has taken the plunge and is learning how to catalogue photographs. Our long-suffering but devoted volunteer Lynn Hanson has been slaving over a hot book scanner to turn mountains of newspaper clippings into a searchable digital repository.

Team Archives is on the ball, so when you want information about Nicollet County families, businesses, churches, and organizations, we'll be able to find it for you.

Our Collections Committee (Nita Aasen, Jessica Becker, Eileen Holz, Brian Oviatt, Marlin Peterson, Bob Sandeen, and Yours Truly) has accepted over forty historically valuable donations since my last report. These materials represent life in every corner of the county from the 1850s to today.

We were thrilled to receive a large donation of materials from the St. George area from Marge Anton Marschel, daughter of Florence Klingler Anton and Philip Anton. Items from St. George have too often found their way to neighboring historical societies, so these items comprise a significant addition to the NCHS collections. The items donated run the gamut from a hand-decorated box for a rosary and small book in German of devotionals pertaining to Florence's First Communion at St. George, to a photo and diploma marking

Archives continued on page 6

Judy Malmberg: Book, *Victimized: Swedish Immigrants Labor on a Southern Plantation*, by Judith Thomas Malmberg.

Margaret Marschel: updated Anton genealogy; materials relating to the wedding of Florence Klingler and Philip Anton; materials relating to the Klingler and Anton families.

Kate Martens: Top of a cigar box from the J. D. Danby cigar factory of St. Peter.

Bobb Menk: Digitized photographic images and documents relating to the Martin and Carol Menk family; a copy of the transcription of an interview of Martin C. Menk conducted by the MNHS as part of the Minnesota's Greatest Generation Oral History Project; memorabilia from the commissioning of the submarine USS Minnesota, 2013; and a book, *Commissioning of USS Minnesota*.

Robert Meyer: Reproductions of records of Green Lawn Cemetery, including a spreadsheet of burials, a cemetery history by Josie Stone, transcriptions of minutes from annual Green Lawn Cemetery Association Board meetings (1856–1990), obituaries of some interred individuals transcribed from early newspapers, and by-laws of the Cemetery Association (1856 and revised, 1948).

Margo O'Brien: Book, *Memory's Trail*.

Brian Oviatt: Johnson Uniform Company Go-Pfor brand men's coveralls.

Steven Poncin: Digital reproductions of photographs related to the Brinkman family.

Wesley Quick and Jerry Strand: Materials relating to the Jolly Rodders Auto Club and the Minnesota Wings Motorcycle Club.

Audrey Webster Renner: Photo-crayotypes of Frederick and Johanna Webster.

Krista Riggs: Panoramic photographic of the Bode family reunion, 1938.

Peter Ruggles: Documents and photographs relating to the Bernhard Bornemann family.

Donald Schoeb: National Guard discharge document of Francis (Babe) Kayser, 1931.

Yvonne Spletstoeser: 25th anniversary publication, *St. Peter Speedway*, 1976.

Jeff Swenson: Items from the Norseland Store, including a crate with customer credit notes, sign letters, egg candling tickets, a Norseland University cap, and a calendar/thermometer give-away.

Ruth Ann Webster: Panoramic photographs of the Webster family reunion, 1933.

Vernon Willson: Ceramic beer or cider bottle, c.1860.

Myrna Yenter: Reclining Morris chair from the home of Walter and Agnes Michels of Belgrade Township; photo of Agnes Michels.



Florence Klingler, 8th grade graduation from St. George's School, 1926, and Florence's diploma.

Florence's graduation from St. George's School, to a constellation of items relating to her wedding to Philip Anton in 1938.

Marge sent a note reading in part, "It meant so much to me to have my family items so graciously accepted, and for you to listen to all my 'stories.' I know it was absolutely the right decision for me to give the items to the NCHS; it is the best possible place for them to be."

Do you have items that reflect your or your family's history in Nicollet County that might find a good home in the collections of NCHS, where they will be preserved for future generations and made available to researchers? Please contact the Research Center at 507-934-0591 or research@nchsmn.org.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

from all of us at your
Nicollet County Historical Society



NCHS EVENTS



Documentary Film Series

The Nicollet County Historical Society and Saint Peter Community and Family Education present our fifteenth season of documentary films! The public is welcome to join us for these free films at the Treaty Site History Center.

JFK & LBJ: A Time for Greatness

Thu., Dec. 7, 2 p.m., Treaty Site History Center | FREE | 60 minutes | NR

In many ways, President Lyndon B. Johnson was the most unlikely champion of Civil Rights. But his actions in the White House told a different story when he dared to champion two laws that changed America and the world—the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Now, fifty years later, *JFK & LBJ: A Time for Greatness* sheds light on the fascinating story of a president who knew how to harness the nation's grief over John F. Kennedy's assassination, twist arms, and get his way. The film includes rarely-seen footage, secret White House tapes, and personal testimony from LBJ's advisors, biographers, friends, and family. 60 min., NR.

hiSTORY hangout

November 16 at 10:00 a.m. | History Center | Free

Join us for our monthly history chat! We'll discuss the people, places, events, and more that have shaped our community. Share your memories or stories and engage in lively conversations with other history enthusiasts.

GIVE TO THE MAX!



November 16 | all-day

NCHS is participating in the 15th annual **Give to the Max** giving event taking place this year on Thursday, November 16. **Give to the Max Day** is Minnesota's great giving get-together, a statewide day of charitable giving. Pledge to support local history with a donation to the Nicollet County Historical Society.

Your donation of any amount provides essential support for collections care, educational programs, future exhibits, and many other initiatives.

Be sure to mark your calendar and make your gift on November 16 by visiting [GiveMN.org](https://www.givemn.org) and searching for the Nicollet County Historical Society.

JOIN THE NCHS BOARD

The Nominating Committee is seeking applications for new Society Board of Directors members who will begin their roles in 2024.

As an NCHS Board member, you'll have a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our organization. While providing crucial oversight and financial leadership, we encourage our board members to actively contribute to the growth and thriving of our society.

Board members are expected to:

- Attend monthly board meetings.
- Actively engage in planning, governance, and fundraising efforts.
- Be willing to serve on committees if requested.
- Volunteer your time and talents at our historic sites or within our communities as ambassadors.

The best candidates are those who:

- Have a passion for history.
- Possess connections that can help promote NCHS.
- Have previous Board experience
- Are determined to make a positive impact in the community.

The application deadline is February 9, 2024.

To apply or for more information, visit our website at <https://www.nchsmn.org/about-us/staff-and-board-of-directors>. For inquiries, please contact NCHS Board President Kate Martens at board@nchsmn.org or call 507-934-2160.

Become a part of preserving and sharing our local history. Your involvement can make a significant difference!

REMEMBERING OSCAR

by Eileen Holz

NCSH Volunteer/Guest Writer

I have been thinking back recently about the St. Peter elderly gentlemen who were part of my childhood—the Gilbertson brothers—carpenters—of Nassau Street; Fritz and Phil Watterberg—father and son—from the apple orchard in the bluffs above the 7-up silo; and Oscar Swanlund—the St. Peter Tomato Man. I did a bit of checking to see if their stories had been told and finding little have decided it was up to me. Since we are in the midst of tomato season, I am going to start with Oscar.

Oscar was born in St. Peter on 11 August 1894 to John Johnson Swanlund and Christina (Martinson). John, from Malmo län, Sweden, more commonly SVANLUND there, came directly from Sweden to St. Peter in 1882. Oscar's mother, born in either Minnesota or (more likely) Sweden, is found as Kirste/Kersti, Christine, or more commonly Christina Martinson born of Martin Anderson and Mary (surname unknown).

John is first found in the U.S. in the 1 May 1885 census we find him single, in St. Peter living with a group of seemingly unrelated Swedes. John and Christina marry in St. Peter on 7 Nov. 1885 at First Lutheran Church. By the 11 June 1895 census we find the Swanlund family complete with John listed as a laborer and Oscar at age 9/12s. Oscar was the fifth of five children: baby boy Swanlund born and died 9 June 1887, John Nels (30 June 1889–12 Feb. 1966), Anna aka Marie (22 March 1891–25 Nov. 1990), Martin (22 Nov. 1892–11 May 1994), then Oscar.

Then the family's luck seems to have run out.

Christina, on 28 June 1895, died of strychnine poisoning as starkly reported in Nicollet County death records, but more poignantly recorded in the church records of Trinity Lutheran Church as "Poison Taken in a weak moment & afterwards regretted." This left John with four children ages 6 years to 9/12 months to care for. Christina was laid to rest in Greenhill Cemetery and appropriately marked with a gravestone.

The family's troubles continue as we find a Nicollet County Court ruling dated 8 July 1898 reading "The mother of said child[ren] is dead. The family have been more and less aided by neighbors. The father is sick and has no means for support and has been in needy circumstances for years past." Continuing that John Nels, Martin, and Oscar "be received as pupils in

the State Public School." Just 3 days later another court document is filed and on 11 July 1898 John [the father] is declared insane—some believe from the grief of losing his wife and the mother of his children—but the official report reads "over-come by heat of sun and since has not been able to do hard work in direct rays of sun" and he is committed to the St. Peter State Hospital.

What happened to the Swanlund children?

John Nels "Jack" Swanlund would have been 6 years old at the death of her mother and 9 years old at the committal of his father. There are duplicate records for all three sons, Nils Johan aka John Nels, Martin, and Oscar for being sent to the Owatonna State School/Orphanage, but Jack is not listed in the census of same with Martin and Oscar in 1900, nor to date in any 1900 census. In 1908/09 Jack completed a Shorthand course at the Commercial College of Gustavus and his obituary lists him "graduated from the former School of Commerce at Gustavus Adolphus college." Jack's occupations through his life included: credit man for Buchanan & Sons in Carrington, North Dakota (1917), bookkeeper for a farm implement company in Carrington (1920), bookkeeper for an Oil Tool Office in Lynwood, Calif. (1930), salesman in Compton, Calif. (1931), bookkeeper for the County purchasing dept., in Compton (1940), postman in Compton (1942), and postman in Los Angeles, Calif. (1950). He married Olive (Felver) before 1921 and together raised two daughters, Avis M. and Fayne Ione. The *St. Peter Herald* reported on 17 Feb. 1966 that Jack died at the age of 76 in Compton, Calif.

Anna Marie Swanlund would have been 4 years old at the death of her mother and 7 years old at the committal of her father. The First Lutheran Church records list Anna Marie as the (adopted) daughter of Ola and Hanna Perhson [sic should be Pehrson] of Timber Lake, Traverse Township, Nicollet County and she appears with that family in 1900. It is presently unknown if the adoption happened just after her mother's death or if John attempted to care for her until his committal though no mention of a daughter appears in the committal papers. In 1924 she married Wilfred Oliver Decko in Nicollet County and they had children Shirley and Delmore Wilfred "Sonny". Anna Decko died at Community Hospital in St. Peter on Sunday, 25 Nov. 1990.

Martin "Mart" Swanlund, 3 years old at his mother's death and 6 at his father's committal, left the orphanage in 1900 at age 8 and was raised "as a son" by Willys Ford and wife Jennie and grew up in that farm family near Newport, Washington Co. Minnesota. Mart, with his wife Sarah "raised four sons—made a living through vegetable growing, especially strawberries and cantaloupe" reads his 1994 Celebration of Life posted on the Abbott, Krumrie, Retka, Miska Tree on ancestry by Judy (Abbott) Vernon Caffarel. Martin lived to 101 and died 11 May 1994 in Newport, Washington Co., Minnesota. A 19 June 2013 article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* by Elizabeth Mohr reads:

At the time, Swanlund's strawberry patch in Cottage Grove was one of the largest pick-your-own farms in the state.

"Everyone in the metro knew about them," Bailey said. "They had probably a couple hundred acres of strawberries, just off Hadley Avenue in the west side of Cottage Grove. ... I went there as a kid with my mom and dad."

Since the closure of Swanlund's and Zywiec Berryland Farm, there are no strawberry growers in Cottage Grove and only a few in the surrounding area.

Remembering Oscar continues through page 13

On 26 August 1899, the elder John Swanlund was discharged from the State Hospital and "sent home." We find him as a widower living on 8th Street and working as a day laborer in the 1900 St. Peter census and living alone; but in 1905 John, a laborer, and his 11-year-old son Oscar are together in St. Peter. The Swanlund family home was on the northeast corner of 8th Street at Madison. According to a journal held in the archives of the Nicollet County Historical Society, on 10 January 1907 John leased a building on the Gustavus campus for the purpose of "conducting a general jobbing" business with a cash investment of \$5,000. A jobber is a middleman or a wholesaler in any business who buys products directly from the manufacturer and sells to the retailer who deals with the consumer. (<https://howigotjob.com/education/who-is-a-jobber-and-what-are-their-functions/>) His merchandise included: barrels of flour, pork, pickles, cornmeal, beef, 75 barrels of salt, fish, oatmeal, lime, 30 cords of fir wood, 25 cords of redwood, 40 tons of hay. In April 1907 he re-defined his business as Produce & Provision & Furniture in partnership with H. J. Lundborg, the last journal entry being 1 Feb. 1908. The 1910 census listed his occupation as laborer/odd jobs; 1920 and 1930 no occupation listed, and 1940 farmer/retired. John Swanlund died in St. Peter, 21 May 1949 and is buried beside his wife Christina in Greenhill Cemetery. His pallbearers were Harold Overn, August Palmer, Fred Palmer, William Boethin, Alvin Anderson and Henry Kretchmer, all of St. Peter.

And now catching up with the subject of our search, Oscar Vilhelm Swanlund, 10 months old at his mother's death and 4 years old at his father's committal. In July of 1898 he becomes a resident of the State Public School (read orphanage) in Owatonna and is listed there with his brother Martin in 1900. In 1905 he is back in St. Peter living with his father, a laborer, at age 11, and again in 1910 at age 16. Oscar graduated from St. Peter High School and in 1913 was listed on the honor roll of a bookkeeping course at Gustavus and was also on the roster for the stenographic course. In that same year, he followed in the footsteps of his father, and two bookkeeping journals at NCHS indicate that he was conducting a "General Jobbing" business on 9 Jan. 1913 out of a building at #8 Clark Street rented for \$100 per month. Oscar's goods included in dated entries: flour, pork, pickles, cornmeal, beef, salt, fish, 30 cords of alderwood, 30 cords fir, 20 cords split pine. His customers included businesses such as College Produce Co., American Merchandise Co., U.S.

Commission Co.; and about 18 named individual buyers listed in the records but when researched only two were listed: James Nutter, a hardware merchant; and Herbert Filler, a banker, from St. Peter. The last entry in Oscar's journals was 11 April 1913.

As we track Oscar through the years in 1917 we find him farming for Mrs. C. W. Olson, rural route 1 St. Croix Falls, Polk Co., Wisconsin. In 1920 he is back with his father at 727 West Madison with no employment listed. 1930 he is working as a farm laborer on the farm of his brother "Mart" in Newport Township, Washington Co., Minnesota. In 1935 and 1940 was back in St. Peter with his father on Madison (misenumerated at Skaro). His 1942 draft record lists "not employed/study" though the employee records of Johnson Uniform Company indicate that Oscar started in their shipping department as a packer on 12 Dec. 1942; he states "order picker in a clothes factory" in St. Peter on the 1950 census, and shipping at Johnson's from 1958-59, retiring in 1959.

Oscar then becomes a city-farmer/gardener. The family property was essentially a quarter block or three lots, or as Oscar measured 2/5 of an acre, on the corner of 8th and Madison Streets. As I recall from my childhood visits the home faced Madison with three massive gardens behind the house which stretched from the 8th street side to the midblock alley; a large iron water pump was near the back room across the sidewalk, beyond the three gardens which were separated by a grassy walkways was a small red barn, to the west of the barn was an outhouse and to the east a junk dump. Much of the property was fenced with galvanized double loop woven wire fence with wooden posts.

The Tomato Man's crops not only included meticulously tended tomatoes which Patricia Freiart remembers were "always ripe before anyone else's and always delicious." Though folks hoped to find out the varieties Oscar planted, all they did learn was that he was an avid seedsaver. Cantaloupe, sweet corn, and some peas for his personal table were among his other crops—and of course the 25 rows of gladiolas, the bulbs of which were carefully overwintered in his kitchen or attic.

In 2017, *St. Peter, Minnesota, our Hometown* facebook poster Brad Johnson asked "back maybe 40 years ago, wasn't there an older guy in an old house with a big lot that sold tomatoes?" That started a 4+ year response dialogue of wonderful memories of neighbors and customers whose comments I will share here to continue Oscar's story.

Roberta Mulvehill

My neighbor and good friend. Oscar would give me tomatoes, and I would can them [, and] we would share. He would tell me to send one of the kids over at supper time and he would pick sweet corn at the last possible minute for us. ...I only know he saved seeds, started them in milk cartons in the house in March then as soon as possible put the cartons out into his home made green house. It consisted of storm windows on a slant, with the top on hinges attached to his garden shed. ...We had many "over the fence" conversations. He subscribed to the *Scientific American* and loved to discuss it with my son Scott Fultz. When his big basswood tree blew down my son Mark cut it up for him. The most wonderful thing about that kind old man was watching him age. As it became difficult for him to do things he figured a way. One of the things was when up and down in the garden was hard he would tie a bundle of tomato stakes on a rope and on hands and knees crawl and stake a long row sometimes around to the next row before

the difficult process of getting up. Many memories of a truly good person. One year he told me he had sold too many tomatoes and had to pay more income tax. He kept a log and reported every bag sold!! Oscar Swanlund was his name.

Kris (Mulvehill) Fultz

I lived next door to Oscar for many years. ... He had a solar powered lightbulb in his house that spun around.... My mom sent many dinners over to him. One of us kids would carry it over. He mowed the lawn with a push mower, no gas. He staked his tomatoes with soft strips of cotton and he showed me how to pinch the suckers off the tomato plants to get bigger tomatoes. ... I remember tomatoes as big as your hand. ... You could get a small bag of tomatoes for 50 cents, a large one for a dollar. The gladiolus were in buckets in his back entry. Along with the tomatoes. He was friends with Ruth who lived across the street. He said it wasn't nice to make fun of her and that she had been in the service and "been through a lot" and that it changed her. She gardened too but not in Oscar's way. For some years he kept a car in the garage kitty corner from his home where Bob Kretchmer and Adelaide lived. I only ever saw him drive it once. I learned about composting from him... He had a big compost pile where he put his eggshells and coffee grounds.... and oh so much more. It was a wonderful place to live and he was the best neighbor. My mother Roberta Mulvehill would send us kids over with homemade dinner and brownies or cake for Oscar. Oscar would send the dishes back clean with a bouquet of gladiolus or a bag of tomatoes.... Sometimes I would sit on his back stoop with he and "Kitty" and we would talk or sit quietly for hours. Oscar was a very soft spoken man. He was a very kind and gentle man. He lived a very simple life. I'll be forever grateful for the time I lived next door to him.

An aside about the neighbor, Ruth Culver, who lived with her parents Volney and Ella, and sister Evangeline, across Madison.

Brad Johnson

Found Ruth Culver's info on Find A Grave: Ruth Culver was born May 8, 1915, in Rochester to Volney and Ella (Wagner) Culver.... Later she enlisted in the WAVES of the U.S. Navy where she served as a payrovl clerk in Washington, D. C. for four years, followed by a one-year employment in government service in Los Angeles. At home in St. Peter, she cared for the family home and yard and raised many flowers and vegetables.

Roberta Mulvehill

The service Ruth was in was WW2. She never spoke to Oscar but when her lawn mower needed sharpening or repair she pushed it across the street. He would fix it and push it back.

Pete Rheume

...Oscar told my mother one time that the lady was a highly decorated soldier during WWII. When she came back to the US, as she stepped off the ship, she was brutally raped. Was in the State Hospital for a number of years. Then, her family bought the house she lived in and she lived out pretty much the rest of her life there.

Steve Leonard

She had a hell of an arm! She would throw dirt balls at me when I rode my bike past her house!

Jim Peters

Best place to trick or treat! He would give a "meat tray" (what you get when you buy 1.5 lbs of burger) with a full sized snickers bar, a handful of caramels, and an apple. (The only apple we could eat), because it came from a trusted source in the razor blade scare era.

Wendy Larson

I remember going there for beautiful gladiolas. They were breath-taking. Tomatoes, too. He seemed very gentle and kind.

Wilma Lee Travaille

...I should have mentioned that the gladiolas had to be dug up every fall and he put them on burlap in trays and stored them in his attic he showed me the attic was full of them. Then every spring he planted them again. A lot of work but so beautiful.

Roberta Mulvehill

Some of his bulbs were very very old, especially the black ones. They were dwindling. He could remember where and when he got most of them.

Liz Fahy Firman

Running up and down the rows of gladiolus and getting to choose my own is one of my favorite memories!

Wayne Heilman

Sat right at that table while Oscar sketched out the stars we were going to see from his telescope!!! He was the best neighbor I ever lived next to!!!

Lisa Schultz

This photo brought tears to my eyes. How many times did I sit at that table for a visit... He always gave me caramel's which were a real treat for me. What a kind loving man to have so much patience for the neighborhood kids.

Joyce Kretschmer Merino

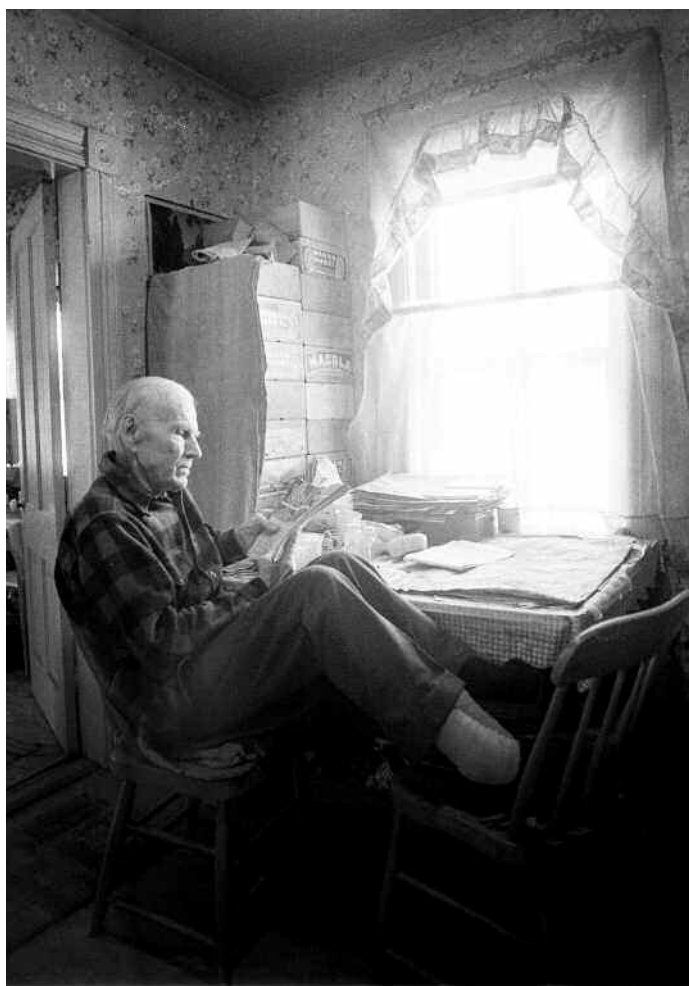
I think there are some lucky people in St. Peter who have gladiolas each summer from vintage Swanlund bulbs. Watch for big, strong, and brilliant color in local gardens.

Kris (Mulvehill) Fultz

I just wonder what this sweet humble man would think of us all remembering him this way!



Oscar Swanlund puts a bread pan of tomato seedlings in the window of his St. Peter home



Many winter hours were spent poring over the seed catalogs.
Oscar Swanlund, in his home in St. Peter.

Gardener's life rooted in planning, patience

By JEANINE NISTLER
Free Press Staff Writer

ST. PETER—Small clumps of dirt—probably tracked indoors from last year's garden—crumble underfoot on the worn wood floor.

Seedling boxes crowd the windowsills, and a bulging bag of peat moss slumps near the kitchen stove. Aging fruit crates stuffed with gladiola bulbs are stacked to the ceiling.

In the midst of his gardening paraphernalia, Oscar Swanlund tenderly transplants tomato seedlings and waits for the earth to warm.

This green thumb is itching.

It was a long winter, with more than a few days spent thumbing through the Burpee seed catalog while the north wind rattled the windowpanes.

Oscar has been a serious gardener for about half of his 87 years. The bachelor once peddled his produce to St. Peter grocers, but now Oscar's customers come to him.

Early in the season, his prices are as high as the stores because Oscar does not want to upset the balance of supply and demand. But as the summer progresses, Oscar charges less. "Or I keep the price the same and put more in the bag."

Peas, tomatoes, sweetcorn and melons are the staples in Oscar's garden. Gladiolas—25 rows of them—populate one edge of the plot, which is large in comparison to his neighbors' gardens on Madison Street, on the northwest side of town.

It takes a lot of time to tend a big yard and garden, but time is one thing Oscar has plenty of.

"The days are long," he says. "You can take your time.:

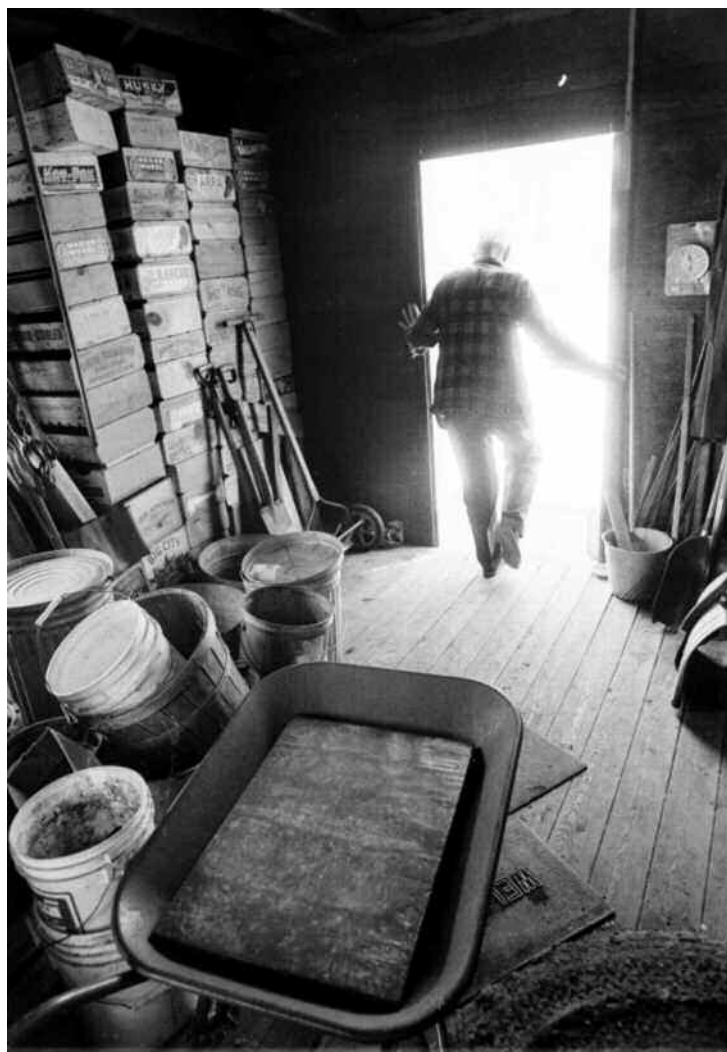


Photo credit: Mankato Free Press/John Cross



Photo credit: Mankato Free Press/John Cross

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The time is now about 1984: Oscar is no longer living at the corner of 8th and Madison home but has moved—or has been moved—to the Community Health Care Center attached to the old Community Hospital—this writer imagines this was not a welcomed relocation.

In the fall of 1984 Ron and Rebecca Arsenault came to St. Peter and lived at 3 or 4 different addresses but with their growing family of two girls they were seriously looking to find a more permanent place. In 1987 or 1988 Rebecca was riding her bike along 8th street and noticed a FOR SALE sign on Oscar's property, which had stood empty for several years. At the same time the young couple learned of the upcoming bid auction of the Trinity Lutheran parsonage on Mulberry on the contingency that the building be moved off the Trinity lot. Arsenault's bid on the 8th and Madison property was contingent that they won the parsonage so they would have a house to move to the lot. Ron shared that he called all the area house movers with the question, "Have you had requests for a bid to move a house in St. Peter?" With all of them answering "No" he determined that they might be the only bidder for the home. Going into the bid meeting there

Oscar Swanlund enjoys his life in the garden, outdoors

By Mike Nistler
Staff Writer

The inside of Oscar Swanlund's home is cluttered with the materials of the outdoor occupation that fills his days.

Gardening is Swanlund's life. His kitchen table is covered with empty containers for planting seed, brightly-colored seed catalogs and a note pad on which he scrawls his gardening records.

"I kind of understand gardening," said the 86-year-old Swanlund, who has been tilling the soil on his property on West Madison St. as long as he can

remember.

"Dad always had a garden when I was a kid," Swanlund said, adding that for 13 years he also worked with his brother who has a truck farm.

Swanlund's plot is not as ambitious a project as his brother's, but on his 2/5 of an acre, he grows enough to feed himself and numerous customers. He concentrates on growing tomatoes, sweet corn and cantaloupe. He also grows some peas.

"I like peas for myself. And I raise enough so I can give some to my neighbor."

Those peas are grown in exchange for the shopping trips that a neighbor makes for Swanlund, whose gait has become uneven and slow as the years have gone by.

"I don't get to town anymore," said the man whose only companion is a 13-year-old cat named Kitty.

"She's still lively. She catches birds yet. She catches rabbits. Everybody asks me what her name is; I just call her Kitty."

Swanlund is content to spend his days puttering in his garden, which is divided into three plots.

"It's gonna keep me busy from now on because pretty soon I'm going to have to mow grass."

He has no desire to give up his land. "People want to buy lots but I don't care to sell. I like to

have something to do."

Swanlund's work is done without the aid of fancy gadgets and shiny new equipment. A long-used rain gauge stands atop a weathered wooden pole near one of his plots. An enclosed porch houses a rickety old digger and a myriad of cans used to hold the sprouted seeds before their first transplant.

Swanlund is serious about his work. His first tomatoes of this season were planted in cans on Jan. 27.

"They've got buds on them, some of these," he said.

More tomatoes were planted March 14. Swanlund seeded still another box of tomatoes on March 19.

"I don't really need those. That's just kind of for insurance, you know."

Swanlund has sweet corn already in the ground. Although it hasn't sprouted yet, he expects to have it ready to eat by the 4th of July.

"It is really early. But the ground is ready and whenever the ground is ready, I plant," he said.

Besides the edible varieties of garden goods, Swanlund has planted 25 rows of gladiolas. The flowers add color to his outdoor environment.

"It's nice to be outside," Swanlund said. "I don't really get tired. I can't move fast enough to get tired."



Staff photo by Mike Nistler
Oscar Swanlund has been gardening for as long as he can remember. This spring Swanlund already has his tomatoes, sweet corn and peas planted.

Some stories shared by Ron and Rebecca:

While still negotiating on the lot and home Ron took a peek into Oscar's still-standing home and there in the middle of the living room was a toilet. Ron learned from Henry Kretschmer that Oscar had a battle with the City when he was informed that he had to stop using his outhouse as city code had made them illegal within city limits. There were apparently "words" between the two parties, but Oscar lost. When the plumber came to install the toilet he asked where it went and Oscar angrily pointed to the center of the living room "Put it there!" and that is where it was installed!—with no walls surrounding it.

At the time of their purchase of the property the house, barn, and outhouse were still standing. The barn contained piles of wooden peach crates, garden tools, and a horse stall. Ron and Rebecca learned that Oscar or his father

was one other bidder present. Their sealed bids were opened by Rev. Herbert Gustafson and he apologized to both bidders "Sorry you have bid exactly the same amount! \$2,500." Round two: Rebecca and Ron disagreed on the next bid, Rebecca wanted to raise the bid only slightly but Ron wanted to insure a win by doubling it to \$5,000. Rebecca finally agreed and they settled on \$5,000. Rev. Gustafson again opened the envelopes and said to Ron and Rebecca "Sorry again." At this point the couple was positive they had lost the bid on the house, but Gustafson went on to explain that the other bidder had raised his bid only \$1 to \$2,501, while Arsenaults had doubled theirs to \$5,000, thus winning the house.

John used to plow and grade the city streets with the horse. And a gravestone. Asking the neighborhood historian Henry Kretschmer if he knew anything about the gravestone they learned that Henry, when placing flowers on Oscar's mother's Christina's grave in Greenhill, had found the vandal-damaged split-in-half stone. Henry brought the pieces to Oscar to avoid further damage or loss. Ron attempted to return the stone to Swanlund family in Iowa but their directions were "toss it". The stone was lost in the 1998 tornado so the Swanlund family graves remained unmarked in Greenhill. Findagrave.com locates Christina, John, and Oscar in Sec: N/W Plot: 54 Grave: 11, Grave: 12, and Grave: 6 respectively.

Property items that survived the 1998 tornado are a 1949 license plate (now nailed on the wall of the Arsenault-built garden shed) and some of the wooden crates, though the tornado drastically reduced the collection. A treasure lost which the Arsenaults regret was a collection of about 200 sheets of Oscar's meticulous inventory of his produce sales.

But another reminder of Oscar remains, though it too involved a disagreement with the City. Oscar's water pump was still there and functioning with well water when the Arsenaults took over the property. Avid gardeners themselves, attempted to get to keep the pump but by then private wells had also been outlawed by code in St. Peter, so the well had to be filled with sand and the pump disconnected. But it does still remain at the corner of the Arsenault's garden as a tribute to its previous owner/gardener.

Rebecca answered the question "Does Oscar's spirit ever visit you in your garden?" with "All the time." She related that she and Ron talk often that neither have ever worked such wonderful soil and that it still today produces great crops. She added she suspects that it is the history of Oscar on his/their property that makes her such an avid grower of tomatoes herself.

They shared that the orientation of the moved home was dictated by trying to save many of the existing trees, so it faces 8th Street now rather than Madison Street as Oscar's had. Another change to the original Swanlund property was mandated by the City when the couple learned that they would not be able to start excavation of the basement until the grade was brought up to the level of 8th Street. That meant that 11 truck-loads of fill needed to be added to the south west quarter of the plot where the house would be positioned—an unlucky and unforeseen expense. So the contour of the lot has changed and the vegetable part of the garden is along the alleyway rather than to

the north of the house, but good soil is still apparent in the many flower beds also on the property.



from the photograph collection of Nicollet County Historical Society

This photo above gives a glimpse of Oscar's property during the 1965 flood from a location at the intersection of North Seventh and Madison Streets. This view to the west shows the damage caused by the controlled release of water from a dike along Sunrise Drive onto North 8th Street and Madison Streets. The water did extensive damage to the streets before making its way to the Minnesota River. Oscar's property/home is the small gray house on the right, Ruth Culver's is the small gray home on the left and the Henry and Adelaide Kretschmer white house can barely be seen across 8th Street from Culver's through the trees on the left.

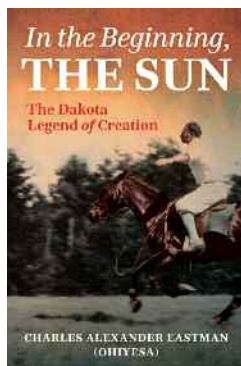
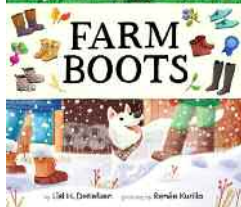
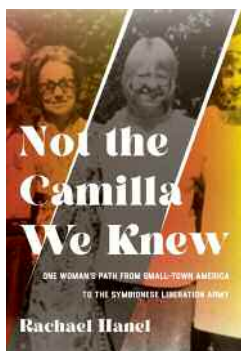


from the photograph collection of Nicollet County Historical Society

This photo shows Oscar's home from the side as taken looking east from 8th Street. The low portion to the left was the back room/porch/storage room where he stored his picked tomatoes and glads, ready for his customers.

~

Oscar Swanlund stands out in my mind as a most gentle, caring man who willingly shared the fruits of his labors and the bounties of his harvest... a kind gesture and assistance to his neighbors... his love and knowledge of the world around him and the sky above with his young visitors. *That we all should be so blessed.*



FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Just in time for your holiday shopping our museum store is stocked to the brim with gifts for any history lover on your list. *Starting on November 28, your member discount increases to 20% for the rest of 2023.*

***Not the Camilla We Knew: One Woman's Path from Small-town America to the Symbionese Liberation Army* by Rachael Hanel | \$17.95 paperback**

The mystery of how an ordinary Minnesota girl came to be, briefly, one of the most wanted domestic terrorists in the United States. During this time of mounting unrest and violence, Camilla Hall's story is of urgent interest for what it reveals about the forces of radicalization. But as Rachael Hanel ventures further into Camilla's past, searching out the critical points where character and cause intersect, her book becomes an intriguing, disturbing, and deeply moving journey into the dark side of America's promise.

***Farm Boots* | written by Lisl H. Detlefsen and Art | by Renee Kurilla | \$17.99 hardcover**

A delightful romp around farms through the seasons – and the many types of boots that are needed to get the job done. Grab your boots it's time to explore life on a farm! In joyful verse follow a diverse cast of families as they work together to care for crops and animals on their farms through spring, summer, fall and winter.

Follow farming families as they work and play in boots, all year long. Whether it's springtime puddle-splashing, riding at the summer fair, or herding sheep into the barn in winter, there's a type of boot for every kind of weather and activity.

Each season brings adorable farm animals, farming equipment, and of course boots in this exploration of farm and country life.

From the creators of *Right This Very Minute*, *Farm Boots* depicts a wide variety of agricultural settings in all four seasons. It is a celebration of footwear, fun, and life, both on and off the farm.

In the Beginning, the Sun: The Dakota Legend of Creation

by Charles Alexander Eastman (Ohiyesa) | edited by Sydney Beane & Gail Johnsen | \$17.95 hardcover

In the 1860s and 1870s, the boy who would become known as Charles Eastman was growing up in a Dakota community in Canada. On long winter evenings, he listened to elder Smoky Day tell the twelve legends of the Dakota creation cycle. They include stories of the marriage of the Sun and the Moon, the parents of all living things; the animal tribes and their councils; the misdeeds of the trickster Unktomi; the education of the first human, Waceheska; the war that Unktomi fomented between Waceheska and the animals; and much more. These stories told of how humans won the right to use the bodies of animals for their needs, but only if they respect the animals' spirits and do not destroy them wantonly.

In the 1880s, as a young man at college, Eastman wrote down the twelve stories. Shortly before his death in 1939, he revised the text for publication, but no book was ever released. For more than 80 years, this manuscript—written by one of the best-known and most prolific Native American writers of the early twentieth century—remained unpublished.

In this new publication, descendants of Charles and his brothers John and David Eastman have come together to present this remarkable work, more than eight decades after its completion. Five Eastman descendants contribute essays that offer new and personal perspectives on Charles Eastman's life and family, his work as an Indigenous artist and writer, and the impact of these stories on today's Dakota communities.

2023-'24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Event/Program information:

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

continuing on display

***Brewers & Bottlers* | through December 20**

***Celebrating the Past, Cultivating the Future* | through June 29, 2024**

History Center

History Center

Online

Nov. 16 **GIVE TO THE MAX DAY**

Nov. 16 **hiSTORY hangout, 10:00 a.m., FREE**

History Center

Nov. 23-27 **Closed for Thanksgiving Break**

Dec. 7 **Documentary Film Series | *JFK & LBJ: A Time for Greatness*, 2 p.m., details on page 7, FREE**

History Center

Dec. 20 **Last Day the History Center is open for 2023**

Dec. 31 **Last day for mail to be postmarked for 2023 business**

Jan. 11, 2024 **Documentary Film Series | TBD, 2 p.m., FREE**

History Center

Jan. 18 **hiSTORY hangout, 10:00 a.m., FREE**

History Center

Feb. 9 **Board of Directors candidate applications due**

Mar. 24 **Annual Meeting with special guest speaker Rachael Hanel**

History Center

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



NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 _____

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Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2023-24 at the following level (please check one).

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