



the CROSSING

a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society
Spring 2026 | Volume 32 / Issue 1

HISTORY DISCOVERY PRESERVATION KNOWLEDGE HISTORY DISCOVERY PRESERVATION KNOWLEDGE HISTORY DISCOVERY PRESERVATION KNOWLEDGE

Save the Date NCHS ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 N. Minnesota Avenue | St. Peter, MN 56082

The annual business meeting will be held on Monday, March 30, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. *There is no cost to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.*

- 5:00 p.m. – Doors open
- 5:30 p.m. – Business meeting
- 6:00 p.m. – Program



MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY

About our program and speaker:

Join Stephanie Hess for an engaging overview of the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL), a free website full of digitized historical materials from contributors across the state. For over twenty years, MDL has partnered with organizations like the Nicollet County Historical Society to digitize their collections and make them accessible online. In this presentation, Stephanie will demonstrate how to search MDL's collection of over 61,000 unique photographs, documents, maps, A/V recordings, and more. She will explore some of MDL's creative projects and share highlights of unique Nicollet County history that can be found in MDL.



Stephanie is the Digital Curator for the Minnesota Digital Library. With a background in local history and exhibit development, she oversees the digital storytelling projects for MDL, conducts K12 educational outreach, and manages MDL's social media accounts. The Minnesota Digital Library is made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

photo credit: <https://minitex.umn.edu>

<https://collection.mndigital.org/catalog/nico:1893#?xywh=881%2C1018%2C1965%2C1195>



St. Peter Cornet Band, St. Peter, Minnesota



NCHS Board Announces 2026 Slate for Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee of your Nicollet County Historical Society presents the following slate of board members for the 2026 term. We encourage you to attend the annual meeting to show your support for the Society and these dedicated volunteers.

Slate of New Candidates:

Kate Martens, Saint Peter

2026 Officers:

President - Denny Schmidt, New Sweden Township
Vice-President - Tami Skinner, Saint Peter
Secretary - Tacie Schwartz, North Mankato
Treasurer - Alma Forst, West Newton Township

Director Running for a Second Term

Scott Hermanson, Saint Peter

A heartfelt thank you to outgoing board member Bob Sandeen. His guidance and leadership will be truly missed!

Eligibility to Vote: Only active members in good standing are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please call 507-934-2160 or email info@nchsmn.org.



A former NCHS Board meets in a workshop session at the History Center.

An example of an MDL page from the NCHS image collection. NOTE this page has been digitally manipulated to show features of MDL only and is NOT a true representation of an actual MDL page, however this is an actual NCHS image.



Details Citation Download

Contributing Organization:
Nicollet County Historical Society

Title:
St. Peter Cornet Band, St. Peter, Minnesota

Description:
Members of the St. Peter Cornet Band standing on a dock at an area lake very likely Lake Emily, east of St. Peter.

Date Created:
1900?

Dimensions:
12.1 x 14.6

REMEMBRANCES

We remember

...with honor the following friends and members whom we lost since the last *Crossing* of 11-14-2025.

- ◆ Mel Craig
- ◆ Harold Rodning
- ◆ Bruce Gray
- ◆ Jennifer Spradling
- ◆ John LaBatte
- ◆ Mary Topp

NCHS MISSION: NCHS gathers, preserves, and shares the varied history of the people, places, and events that have shaped Nicollet County.

NCHS VISION: To be a community asset and leader, engaging and educating the public and fostering an appreciation of Nicollet County History.

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

When we reached out in December, we were facing a projected year-end shortfall of \$87,000, a gap that felt daunting after a year of rising costs and tightening budgets. What happened next was humbling. Fifty-five donors came forward with year-end gifts totaling \$80,160, reducing the shortfall to a manageable level and giving NCHS the footing it needs to move into 2026.

That support restores the stability we need to focus on what's ahead, including a busy summer season at the Cox House and History Center, tools that make our collections more accessible than ever, and the programs and exhibits that keep local history alive for everyone.

If you haven't already, we hope you'll renew your membership, follow us on social media, and spread the word about what NCHS has to offer. The best ambassadors we have are the people who already believe in this work, and you are clearly one of them. *Thank you!*

Jessica Becker



Executive Director



Jessica Becker

NCHS EVENTS



hiSTORY hangout

Thursdays, March 19, April 16, May 21 @ 10-11 a.m. | Nicollet County Historical Society

Join us for a fun and informative hiSTORY hangout! Whether you're a seasoned history buff or just curious about the past, this event is for you. New residents, families, and everyone in between are welcome. Ask questions, listen to the discussion, and enjoy learning about local history from your friends and neighbors. Show-and-tell is encouraged, so bring any photos, artifacts, or stories you'd like to share.



Community Affairs on KNUJ Radio

March 24 @ 9:15-9:35 a.m. | KNUJ Radio AM 860 or FM 107.3

Get the latest updates from NCHS on Community Affairs. Listen to KNUJ Radio every fourth Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. to stay informed.

NCHS Annual Meeting

March 30 @ 5-7 p.m. | Nicollet County Historical Society | Details on page 1

Viewers Like Us Club

The **Viewers Like Us Club** is a free and thoughtfully curated program from Twin Cities PBS (TPT) designed to bring adults together around meaningful media. It's like a traditional book club but swaps out the latest best-selling novel with award-winning programs from your local PBS station.

You'll enjoy a light snack and Twin Cities PBS-branded giveaways that help create a shared experience. The sessions are designed to spark conversation, encourage reflection, and foster community connection.

Facilitators from your NCHS and Community Ed will lead the sessions using easy-to-follow guides provided by TPT. Feedback from participants will help shape future programs and activities featured.

Broadcast Wars

April 2 @ 2-3:30 p.m. | Nicollet County Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

April 27 @ 4:30-6:30 p.m. | Nicollet County Historical Society

Community Affairs on KNUJ Radio

March 24 @ 9:15-9:35 a.m. | KNUJ Radio AM 860 or FM 107.3

Viewers Like Us Club

America Outdoors: Minnesota

May 7 @ 2-3 p.m. | Nicollet County Historical Society

More Than Money:

Planning for Your Legacy & Your Family Treasures

May 20 @ 2-3 p.m. FREE | Nicollet County Historical Society

**RSVP required | register here: www.nchsmn.org

