



# Connections

Spring 2005

*Serving Scott County:*

- Belle Plaine
- Blakeley
- Credit River
- Elko
- Lydia
- Jordan
- Marystown
- New Market
- New Prague
- Prior Lake
- Savage
- Shakopee
- St. Benedict
- St. Patrick
- Belle Plaine Township
- Blakeley Township
- Cedar Lake Township
- Credit River Township
- Helena Township
- Jackson Township
- Louisville Township
- New Market Township
- Sand Creek Township
- Spring Lake Township
- St. Lawrence Township

## Hello from the Executive Director

A New Year is underway. At this time, it is wise to reflect on the past and plan for the year to come. While we were challenged last year by a loss of staff, this New Year brings new beginnings; two new staff members have joined our team. Patrick Rodgers is our new Curator of Education and Collections with deep knowledge of both areas. Jada Hansen is our new Collections Assistant with a strong background in curatorial work as well as field research. Both of them bring a playful sense of creativity and rich experience in museum work. I encourage you to stop in and welcome them to SCHS.

While staff has changed, we remain committed to continuing the programs you have come to enjoy – such as Lunchbox Lectures, Coffee Talks, and engaging exhibits. In addition to continuing these programs, we are reaching out into the community to form new partnerships. This spring we are piloting an outreach workshop program for children and families in partnership with the Prior Lake Community Education, a new program we hope to expand in the fall.

This past year also saw the close of the unique Circus exhibit that graced our south gallery. It was hard to see it come down, but memories of visitor giggles and happy faces remain. Research is underway to de-

velop a long-term agricultural exhibit that explores the many facets of rural life in Scott County. In addition, we are committed to opening three to four new short-term exhibits each year. The first one opened February 3 titled “*A Tisket A Tasket: A Brightly Quilted Basket*” explores the history and artistry of basket quilts. In spring, look for “*Hook, Line and Sinkers: Fish Tales from Scott County Past and Present*,” a fresh new exhibit that incorporates oral histories from fishermen/women.

As with our education programs, we are reaching out to the community to help us develop new exhibits – from sharing stories and loaning objects for display, to construction and publicity.

Someone once said that change is good. While all of us at SCHS embrace change, we also respect and hold dear our history and the programs that define us. So while the faces may change you can count on the continuation of your favorite programs and on positive change in the creation of new programs, exhibits, partnerships, and outreach into our communities.

**Kathleen Klehr**  
SCHS Executive Director

Inside Connections	
Donations to SCHS	2
SCHS Updates	2-3
Research Library	4
Exhibits	5
Events Calendar	6

*Thanks to the following businesses who donated tea, treats, and flowers to our Valentine Tea program!*

- The Bake Shop in Belle Plaine
- Jordan Valley Floral & Gifts
- Radermacher Super Valu in Jordan
  - Panera Bread in Shakopee
  - Caribou Coffee in Shakopee



## **THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS MORE HISTORY SAVED, PRESERVED, SHARED**

Here are just a few recent acquisitions:

- John Monens: Scrapbooks kept by Sheriff Rip Schroeder (*pictured below*)
- Crystal Hennen: Pullman Bar Pin-up Calendar (*pictured at right*), Rock Spring White Soda Bottles (with soda)



- Cheryl Gebhart: silver plate items, chamber pot

- Brad Eller: oral history about Prior Lake fishing

- Eugene & Marjorie Vogel: Vogel/Lebens Family genealogy

- City of Savage: burial records, account books, minutes, birth and death registers from late 19th through 20th centuries.



- Fred Keup: Belle Plaine baseball statistics, car parts, 1920s folding chair from theater above Keup Motors

***Welcome new members!  
For those of you who have renewed your  
membership, thank you!***

### **CURATOR'S CORNER**

Patrick Rodgers

Greetings from your new curator! While I have met some of you in the last few months, I am still getting to know many SCHS members, as well as the society's collection. For those of you I haven't met, I just want to tell you a little bit about myself and some of the projects we're working on. In educational programs at schools around the county, I have been portraying Thomas Holmes, the nomadic founder of the city of Shakopee. Like Holmes, I am a native of Pennsylvania. I went to college in upstate New York and graduate school for museum studies in Toronto, Canada—and now here I am in Minnesota. I joke that I keep going further north, perhaps ending up in Greenland or Alaska some day. Unlike Holmes, however, I plan to stay here for some time (no prospecting for gold in Montana!). I have worked in several museums (the Philadelphia Museum of Art, an 18th-

century historic house in Pennsylvania, and the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul), but I feel most comfortable in a mid-sized institution like SCHS. I see a lot of opportunities within our collection and in expanding educational programs. Holmes has already proved a favorite with many school kids. He speaks to a

number of important concepts in county history: land speculation, the treaties with the Dakota that opened the area up to settlement, and the fledgling town of Shakopee.

I am especially excited about the upcoming exhibit on fishing resorts. The history behind fishing and resorts around Prior Lake, Cedar Lake, and others is fascinating. Of all the changes that have happened in Scott County in the last hundred years, to say nothing of the last ten, many of them occur beneath the surface of the county's lakes and rivers. The use of oral history will add the depth of personal experience to the historical and natural components of this exhibit. I would encourage anyone with a story to share about fishing in this county to contact me at the museum. After chatting with several others about their fishing experiences, I am beginning to see how separate stories are connected and speak to common themes that we can frame historically in the exhibit. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you at the museum or at events around the county.

**VOLUNTEERS!**

Since November 2004, volunteers have logged about **338 1/2 hours** staffing the museum on Saturday, updating computer records, helping set up exhibits, completing mailings, and looking up research requests. Thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and talents!



Justin Siemieniewski and Ben Brooks, both students in Prior Lake, painted walls and helped install the quilt show.

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Families relaxed in the Stans House with antique hats, lots of tea, good company and a spoonful of local history.

**VALENTINE TEA PARTY**



Chris Sweeny helps set up for the Valentine Tea.

Our Valentine Tea was well-attended and thoroughly enjoyable. The Stans House came alive with classic love songs playing in the background, history handouts on St. Valentine, and some wild hats.

**MEET JADA HANSEN: SCHS'S NEW COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT!**

I graduated in the spring of 2003 from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Greek. I had always been very interested in history as a kid and could often be found wandering through abandoned barns, looking for the bit of mystery that comes from old stories. It was at the University that I was able to really immerse myself in the past when I began to study the ancient world; in 1999 I went on my first excavation to Israel. It was at the ancient coastal port town of Caesarea, while walking through the ruins, that I realized I wanted to become an archaeologist. I have since worked on excavations in Cyprus, Ukraine and Italy as well as projects right here in my own backyard—the Midwest. This has given me many opportunities to

work in museums around the world of all sizes and with many different collections. I most recently worked for a Cultural Resources firm in Mendota Heights that allowed me to gain a better understanding of the historic and pre-historic record of Minnesota and the surrounding states. I am very excited to be a part of the team here at the Scott County Historical Society, as I now have the chance to work with artifacts and historical records of all kinds. Minnesota is the place that I have always called home and being able to participate in the preservation of some of her stories is an honor. The Stans Museum is a truly unique place, housing some of the counties earliest birth and death records as well as a sizeable exhibit on Africa. The diversity of the artifacts and archives here will forever be engaging.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ *Many thanks to*  
 ★ *those who*  
 ★ *contributed to*  
 ★ *our Annual*  
 ★ *Appeal!*  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

- Advocates (over \$100)**  
 ★ Jeffery Johnson, MN  
 ★ Committee for  
 ★ Employer Support of  
 ★ the Guard & Reserve  
 ★ (for lecture program)  
**Boosters (\$50-\$100)**  
 ★ Brian Turtle  
 ★ Prior Lake State Bank  
 ★ Scott County Abstract

- Mike & Nicole Murray  
 Tom Dubbe  
 Marcia Spagnolo  
 The Lion's Tap  
 Shakopee Valley News

- Other (under \$50)**  
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 Jerry Hennen  
 Elaine Kes  
 Nancy Powell

- Paul Wermerskirchen  
 John Fitzgerald  
 Dave Jensen  
 David Unmacht  
 Carol Majerus  
 Jane Nash

- Lecture Program Sponsors**  
 Joel & Betsy Sullivan  
 Mike & Nicole Murray

## *From the Research Library*

by Betty Dols

Belle Plaine claims him, Carver County Historical Society has a marvelous portrait of him, and one of his first homes was in Shakopee. Judge Andrew Gould Chatfield was one of the earliest settlers of Scott county, coming here from Mendota on horseback, following Indian trails. He made and lost several fortunes and died not wealthy but greatly admired and respected.

Andrew Chatfield was born in Otsego County, New York January 27, 1810. His parents were natives of Connecticut with ancestry back to the Revolutionary War and earlier. His parents Enos and Hannah Chatfield had left Connecticut and moved on to New York where Enos was a farmer and plasterer. They had four children, three of whom were sons. Andrew paid for his education in part, by teaching school. He was admitted to the bar in 1833 and married Eunice Beeman in 1836. He practiced law and was elected a member of the New York Assembly several times in addition to his activities on various committees for the Democratic party in New York. After working very hard for ten years without improving his financial position, he decided to start over in a new state.



Judge Andrew Chatfield. Photo from Harold Albrecht's book *This is Our Town* (1977).

He moved his family to Kenosha, Wisconsin in July of 1848. He was elected Judge of Racine County in 1850 and in that position attended a Supreme Court Session in Washington. There he met the Honorable Henry H. Sibley, delegate from Minnesota Territory. Through Sibley's recommendation, President Pierce appointed him Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Minnesota Territory April 7, 1853. His district included Winona, Scott, Carver, Sibley, LeSueur, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Rice, & Steele Counties.

In November of 1855, according to the Grantee Record Book #1 in Scott County, Judge Chatfield purchased many city lots and blocks in the City of Shakopee. In the next year he sold most of this property at a profit. In January of 1856, in pre-emption certificate #82, signed by President Franklin Pierce, Andrew G. Chatfield became the owner of 192 acres in Sec 6, Twp. 113N, Range 24W in Scott County, which was to become the City of Belle Plaine.

He died October 3, 1875, twenty-two years after coming to Minnesota, and is fondly remembered as one of the founders of Belle Plaine.

The material for this article was taken from the research library of the Scott County Historical Society.



South Gallery with full-size basket quilts from Valdeen and Susan Tuma (foreground), and Coralene Rawson (background)

## EXHIBITS

The opening of *A Tisket, A Tasket, A Brightly Quilted Basket* went off without a stitch...er, a hitch. Items on display include four large basket quilts, a multitude of Mary Hamre's handmade baskets, and a number of wall hangings. We had some items from our own collection that also fit nicely: a 1914 Singer hemstitch sewing machine and a 1930s painted quilting frame from Deutsch's hardware store in New Prague. Many thanks to Sandi Andersen and the members of the quilting groups who have graced our galleries with their artworks. If you haven't seen the show yet, it will be up through April. Come get a sense of how basket quilts are a unique form with a great variety of imagery and techniques.

You can also enter a **RAFFLE** to win a variety of bountiful *Basket* items donated by the Scott County Crazy Quilters. **RAFFLE drawing Saturday, April 30, 2005 during the Bountiful May Family Day.**



Joseph Deutsch's quilting frame, with a variety of Mary Hamre's handmade baskets underneath.



Raffle items on display in front exhibit case include a basket quilt pillow, a clever basket lamp, quilted sweatshirt and wall hanging.

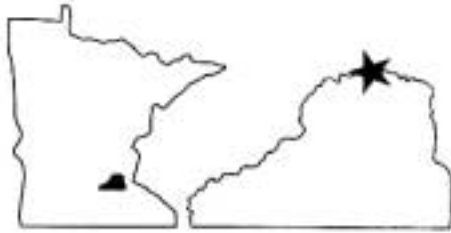
## One Fishy Exhibit: Hook, Line, & Sinker

While we are still in the research stages for *Hook, Line, & Sinker: Fish Tales of Scott County*, this project already has a three-fold identity: the main exhibit in the Stans Museum, a scaled-down version that can travel to schools or libraries around the county, and a series of community education classes in Prior Lake in May. Here's a taste of some of the exhibit's main themes and important objects:

- Changes in local flora and fauna, from milfoil to walleye.
- The stories we tell about fishing, from "whoppers" to "the one that got away."
- The history of fishing resorts: when they became popular, who they catered to, and what impact they had on their communities.
- Hands-on activities.

The exhibit will open in early May. We are seeking loans or donations of items that might pertain to this topic: old fishing poles or lures and the stories that go with them, fishing gear or clothes, even an old ice-fishing house. Contact Patrick at the Stans Museum for more information or to loan or donate items.

**SCOTT COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*searching, saving and sharing the history of Scott County*



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Thurs. 9:00—8:00  
Sat. 10:00—3:00  
Sun., Mon. closed

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**Staff:**

Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director  
Patrick Rodgers, Curator of Education &  
Collections  
Jada Hansen, Collections Assistant

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## What's ahead at the Scott County Historical Society:

- Mar. 5 Quilting Bee: 10-3.** Try your hand at a few crazy stitches! Have fun exploring baskets full of material, thread and whatnot to spark your imagination and encourage your hidden sewing talents. Check out the quilting exhibit while you're here!
- Mar. 9 Lunchbox Lecture: *Herbs & Leeches*, Noon**  
Explore the mysteries of 19th-C. healing arts with Dr. Pistulka.
- Mar. 10 Coffee Talk: *Herbs & Leeches*, 6:30pm**  
Explore the mysteries of 19th-C. healing arts with Dr. Pistulka.
- Apr. 30 Bountiful May: 10am - 3pm.** Let your creative spring juices flow by creating a May Day Basket to brighten a doorknob near you! What exactly is May Day? What are May-poles, why should a May day basket be given anonymously? Get answers to these questions and much more! Raffle drawing for the bountiful variety of Basket items donated by

the Scott County Crazy Quilters at 2pm.

- May 12 Exhibit Opening: *Hook, Line, & Sinker: Fish Tales from Scott County Past & Present*, 6:30.** The hot spots to fish have changed since the late 1800s. Find out how local fishing resorts thrived, how lakes have changed, and why we love stories about "Whoppers!"

**THE SCOTT COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY MISSION**

*Searching, Saving and Sharing the history and  
cultural heritage of Scott County.*

History and cultural heritage infuses every aspect of our lives, so please, when you're cleaning out the attic, basement or garage, think of us.