

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

[Key Ingredients: America by Food](#)



Mark your calendars! The Smithsonian Institution traveling Exhibit *Key Ingredients: America by Food* is coming in July of 2006. It won't be long before you can view this innovative exhibit of cooking traditions, special ingredients, and product packaging from across the U.S. Look for fun programming associated with the exhibit in July & August: a juried art show with the finest work from students throughout the county, open hearth cooking sessions at Murphy's Landing, a beer tasting fundraiser, and cooking demonstrations. Now that winter is in our midst, it's the perfect time to look forward to our summer offerings!

Many thanks to the Minnesota Humanities Commission for their help in bringing this exhibit to Minnesota and supporting our efforts with it.

[Thanks to MVEC!](#)



We received a \$500 grant from the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program! This money will help us purchase quality recording and transcription equipment for upcoming oral history projects.

[Souvenir Exhibit is Something to Write Home About](#)

Our latest exhibit offering, *Souvenirs: Collecting Experience*, was installed in September. The display shows a range of items collected by Scott County residents, from postcards of picnics at



Boiling Spring in Savage, to church jubilee souvenirs, to a pennant from the Elko Speedway. The exhibit includes a newly reinstalled African Gallery, with sculptures and paintings from Shakopee native Maurice Stans's trips to the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1950s. The exhibit will be on display through March of 2006.

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From the Director's Chair
by Kathleen Klehr

Thanks to all involved for making the Scott County Roast *Fundraiser* a wonderful success! Everyone enjoyed watching the talented dancers, listening to the melodic sound of the Paul Heffron Orchestra and laughing at Dick Jonckowski's County *Roast*. The evening netted close to \$1700 for the SCHS operational budget. The need for operational support has never been greater. Basic costs such as insurance and utilities have skyrocketed, putting a tremendous strain on meeting monthly bills. It is always easier to find money for specific projects. With so-called bricks-and-mortar projects, people can see the immediate impact of a gift whether it's a new copier or recording equipment. For general operating we rely on museum admissions, membership, museum store sales, fundraisers and local government support. While the historical society is in reasonably good financial shape, the projected increase in heating costs will certainly strain resources.

All non-profit organizations are feeling the crunch. Since members of the historical society are often members of other organizations, you will

likely be hit with year-end requests for your charitable dollars. I am not suggesting that you only contribute to the Scott County Historical Society, just that you consider us in your charitable plans for the year. Not everyone can afford a large gift; in fact, much of our support comes in small contributions. If you believe our work of collecting, preserving and sharing local history is important, then please consider making a year-end contribution, or pledging a manageable monthly contribution.

The impact of history on our lives was made apparent during a recent Smithsonian exhibit workshop at the Minnesota Humanities Commission. We were talking about food, memory, culture and history when I was reminded of the historical connections we experience every day when we cook and eat, especially at the holidays. Those special dishes we prepare are most likely handed down through the generations – it just wouldn't be Christmas without Aunt Colleen's gravy, or Mom's pumpkin cheesecake. It is the personal historical connections that make planning the Scott County dimension of the Smithsonian exhibit "*Key Ingredients: America by Food*" so thrilling.

Thanks to those of you who
have given in response to our
Annual Appeal!

- James Armstrong
- Michael Klatt
- Carol Majerus
- David Monnen
- Dorothy Sifferath
- Joe & Betsy Sullivan

Please mail your donation today, or consider a monthly pledge.

Welcome new members!

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mike & Peggy Dircks | Jon Schmitt |
| Kenneth Hokeness | Michael Seifert |
| Sandy Bachmeyer | James Armstrong |
| Cathi Boegeman | Sr. Joann Kelzer |
| Leuella Hennen | Duane Sivanish |

Thank you to all renewed members!

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS MORE HISTORY SAVED, PRESERVED, SHARED

Here are just a few recent acquisitions:

- Dale Kolb: Nameplate from bridge in Belle Plaine Twp., 1923
- Shirley Mahowald: photographs and clothing relating to Sherman Turner of Eagle Creek
- Christine Dysterheft: photo of Rev. Gustav Kuhn
- Shakopee Public Schools: fire hose, two copies of Julius Coller's *The Shakopee Story*
- Mary Pearson Kenney: autobiography of Dr. B.F. Pearson
- Lois Duede: Stagecoach museum commemorative plaque
- Harold Severson: Oral history interview on Mudbaden near Jordan.
- City of New Prague: timber from Yackley Cabin
- Laurie Trimbo: salt & pepper shakers from Bristol's Café, Belle Plaine
- Fred Kerber: 2 baseball mitts, mid to late 1950s.
- Doug Nachbar: 1864 land grant to William Nachbar, Helena Twp.
- Gerrie Heiland, Griffin Rug Machine with accessories



Catcher's mitt of state championship pitcher Fred Kerber of Shakopee. Three of the fingers are labeled "Doug," "Jim," and "Fritz" in blue pen.

Curator's Corner: **Spotlight on the Holidays** **By Jada Hansen**



As the holiday season rolls around once again, I'm drawn to recollections of seasons long past. Being constantly surrounded by historical objects, photographs, and archives, it's hard not to wonder what it must have been like in the days when "you had to walk uphill both ways" and "the snow drifts were as high as telephone polls." Although the prevalence of hills in Minnesota may have been exaggerated by my grandfather, the stories of holiday cheer it seems were not.

Among the items in our collection that deserve notice are the holiday aprons. These brightly garlanded half-aprons were worn as bits of holiday jewelry each season and enjoyed a sanctified place in the household, packed away in the attic each year, just like the Christmas tree ornaments and ceramic snowmen. The aprons were not altogether practical cooking and serving attire, due to the intricate ways in which some of them were decorated and the desire to keep them clean. However, the cheery garments certainly brought enough smiles to the faces of the guests that it must

have made it all worth it. One apron in particular from our collection, is decorated entirely with flocked holiday images including stockings, holly, a Christmas tree, candy canes and ornaments. Yet another apron contains similarly reminiscent holiday images of red poinsettias nestled in between gingham bows and springing up across the pockets. The final touches are blue check ties.



The holiday aprons in our collection range from the late 1920's to the 1970's and were not just popular as personal hostess attire, but were often times given away as gifts to all who came to the holiday party. It was common to receive an apron that was a work of art, fashioned of organdy and lace, and was seen as a personal gift.

So this holiday season whether you prepare pies yourself, watch mom pull them from the oven, or purchase them from a bakery, think about perhaps getting yourself a festive little apron to brighten up the kitchen. Or maybe see if grandma has one you can borrow.

From The Research Library: The Old Settler's Association

by Betty Dols

On March 28, 1874, thirty two pioneer citizens of the Shakopee Area, including Eagle Creek, Jackson, and Louisville townships met at the office of Henry Hinds to organize the Old Settlers Association of Shakopee. These founding members signed as being residents before the 31st day of December, 1857, who had reached the age of 21 years:

Ai. G. Apgar	Franz Laiping
Samuel Apgar	Isaac Lincoln
Comfort Barnes	N.M.D. McDonald
John G. Bass	Thomas Mullen
Daniel Beer	Frederick Pond
W. A. Cole	J.C. Schroeder
George Dailey	J. W. Sencerbox
Peter F. Duffy	Edward Smith
John Edert	Spier Spencer
Peter Geyermann	D. M. Storer
Henry Hind	H. H. Strunk
Thomas A. Holmes	Mathias Theis
David L. How	M. S. Titus
John Koeper	Robert B. Vessey
Ben Kohler	J. A. Wilder
Frank H. Kunz	Peter Yost

The first officers they elected were:

Henry Hinds, President
 M.S. Titus, Vice President
 D.M. Storer, Treasurer
 J. W. Sencerbox, Secretary

Most of these first 32 were easterners, the so called Yankees, who were often well educated and looking for business investments. There were also a few German and Irish immigrants who had spent seven to ten years in Illinois, Iowa or Wisconsin. The purpose of the Society, in addition to fellowship, was to preserve the history of the settlement and the settlers.

Henry Hinds published an editorial in the Argus on April 2, 1874, stating in part, "...the old settlers of Shakopee have laid the foundation of a



D. L. HOW.

"Squire" David Lennox How, businessman and member of the Old Settler's Association.

new society, and they must necessarily become historical to a limited extent. The next generation of inhabitants of Scott County will look back to the first settlers of Shakopee with a historical interest.

"One of the principal objects of the Old Settlers Association ought to be, and must be, to make a record of the men and women who made the original settlement of the region

we now inhabit. The events of their lives, and the events transpiring around them, should be written up for the use of the future historian of Shakopee and Scott County."

The first annual meeting was held on January 26, 1875, and fittingly, Henry Hinds gave the first address, in what became a tradition. At each annual meeting, the member who was to give the address at the next annual meeting was appointed. Some of the best information we have concerning the early days of the Shakopee area, as well as the County, are contained in these addresses. All of these speeches were printed in the Argus and in the Old Settler's Book, as well.

Also at the first annual meeting, the membership committee submitted the names of 52 new members, many of whom were the wives of the original founders. As the years went by, deceased members were written into the record with their obituaries.

Resolutions were adopted to attend the funerals of their fellow members and to publish obituaries of their lives. In addition to the formal business meeting, the annual meetings were social events with live music and a banquet.

Although the original Old Settler's Book has been lost to us, the minutes of the meetings and the speeches can be read in the microfilmed newspapers in the Library at the Scott County Historical Society.

Call for volunteers:

SCHS is looking for volunteers to assist with an upcoming oral history project. If you have experience doing one-on-one interviews and would be interested in participating in an oral history project interviewing county residents about their cooking traditions, please call the museum at 952-445-0378.

Minnesota's 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties

SCHS recently hosted a small exhibit on endangered historic structures at the Scott County Government Center. The exhibit was developed by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. The following list is taken from that exhibit, which can now be viewed at Mill City Museum. These buildings and historic districts are threatened by looting, continued disrepair and development.

- Ft. Snelling upper bluffs, Minneapolis & St. Paul
- Agate Bay, Two Harbors
- Jacob Schmidt Brewery, St. Paul
- Willkommen Park Pavilion, Norwood
- Young America
- The Minnesota Stoneware Co. Tunnel Kiln, Red Wing
- St. Anthony Falls historic district, Minneapolis
- Graves Farm, Sauk Rapids
- Roseau City Hall, Roseau
- Julian A. Weaver House, Granite Falls
- "Cap" Emmons Auditorium, Albert Lea

Halloween Hands-On Family History Day



Sandi the Gypsy and Patrick the Mummy assist visitors with felt pumpkins during our Halloween Family Fun Day. Other visitors to the museum included a movie star, Bob the Builder, a Dalmatian, a beetle, and a cup scout.

Look for our Upcoming Community Education Workshops

March: "From Boomtowns to Ghost towns," Register through Jordan Community Education

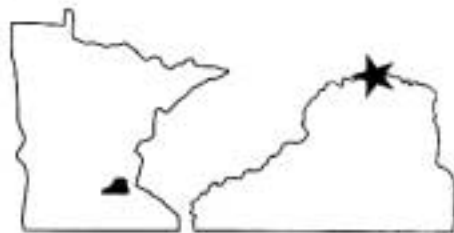
March: "House Detective," Register through Shakopee Community Education

March 15, 6-8 PM: "Saving Your Family Treasures," Register through New Prague Community Education

April: "Heirloom Seeds," Register through Shakopee Community Education.



The Roseau City Hall, a 1936 WPA-constructed building, destroyed this past summer.



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Hours:
Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00—4:00
Thurs. 9:00—8:00
Sat. 10:00—3:00
Sun., Mon., closed
Major Holidays

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

What's ahead at the Scott County Historical Society:

Thru March 24: *Souvenirs: Collecting Experience*, an exhibit of souvenirs and their collectors.

Jan. 2 & 16: Museum closed.

Jan. 11 & 12: *Surviving the Elements:* Lunch Box lecture (12 noon on the 11th) and Coffee Talk (6:30 PM the 12th) at SCHS. Think you've got it bad this winter? Learn about how the earliest county residents survived snow, locusts, and drought, and maybe you'll change your mind!

Jan. 28: *Family Hands-On History Day:* Indoor Games! When it's too cold to go outside, it's time to haul out the games. 11-2 pm.

Feb. 14: *Valentine Tea*—Reservations required.

Feb. 20: Closed for holiday.

Mar. 8 & 9: *House Detective:* Lunch Box lecture (noon on the 8th) and Coffee Talk (6:30 PM the 9th) . Dig up the history of your home.

Apr. 6: Agriculture exhibit opens. Join us for a kick-off event at 6:30 PM and tour the new exhibit!

Apr. 13: *Heritage Seeds* workshop by plant expert Rich Williams, 6:30 PM.

Apr. 29: *Family Hands-On History Day*, 11-2. Join the Scott-Carver Old Threshers Association for an early harvest and get a feel for farming activities of the past. View an old steam engine, help churn butter, and learn how to till the soil just in time for spring planting.

May 10: Cemetery Tour, noon.

May 11: Cemetery Tour, 6:30 PM.

July 1: *Key Ingredients: America by Food* exhibit opens