



# CONNECTIONS

Fall - 2007

*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



*Stans Collection, Central Africa Republic  
Varnished Elephant Tooth*

## New Exhibition!

***Scott County's Cabinet of Curiosities*** will be opening October 4. Traditionally Cabinets of Curiosities were rooms that held collections consisting of various types of objects. These objects included natural history specimens, religious relics, and works of art. Stories surrounding these objects enthralled hundreds of curious viewers. In some sense, Cabinets of Curiosities could be considered among the first museums.

Described by many historians as Wunderkammer, or "wonder rooms", these rooms developed in 16<sup>th</sup> century Northern Europe. Many early cabinets were filled with preserved animals, horns, tusks, skeletons, minerals, and other natural curiosities. Often random pieces would be combined to make mythical creatures. These specimens blurred the lines between myth and reality through playing with the laws of nature. Other intriguing objects included paintings, jewelry, and relics owned by various cultural groups and famous families. The unique use of a diversity of objects further introduced the fields of natural science, religion, philosophy, and art to the greater community. Stop in and see ***Scott County's Cabinet of Curiosities!***

### Inside Connections

From the Director	2
History Round Table	3
Programs	4
Collections	5
Research Library	6
Ancestry Chart	7
Events Calendar	8

## HELP SAVE A GENERATION OF HISTORY!

The Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), is collecting stories from Scott County residents to help preserve community history. This will be project will cover the time period from 1930 to early 1950, focusing on topics of family, school, work / service, and entertainment...

If you, or someone you know is interested in sharing stories, or helping to collect stories, please contact Kathy Klehr at the Historical Society (952-445-0378, or [kklehr@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:kklehr@scottcountyhistory.org)).



## From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

Wow – Summer sure slipped by quickly this year. I was pleased that many people braved our Minnesota weather in support of SCHS programs. Looking forward, we have many events and programs planned for this fall; check out the schedule on the back page.

Lately I have been thinking about the “*Boomer*” generation and how the changes they experience might affect us. Many people utilize our research library to work on their family genealogy. With the aging of the *Boomers* – will our library see increased use, or will their mobility and that of their children curtail interest in genealogy?

Many *Boomers* are approaching retirement age. Will their new leisure time bring increased volunteerism at the Museum, or will they retire to warmer climates?

This generation is among the first to really plan for financial security in retirement. Will this relate to increased financial donations, or will the recent volatility of the financial markets have a negative effect on donations?

These questions, and more, are being discussed across a variety of industries, including those of us who serve in the historic preservation field. I am an optimistic, and visualize a bright future for

SCHS. Aging *Boomers* – I see them wanting to pass on their family history to the next generation, through ancestry charts, family stories, and preservation of family & home-town history.

Leisure time – what better way to enjoy yourself then participating in your community through volunteering at SCHS events and programs! These *Boomers* may be boon to historical societies – providing not only their time, but also a wealth of experience.

Which brings me to financial security; everyone wants to retire with a mountain of cash and live the relaxed life in our twilight years. Nevertheless, a reality check indicates that may be a tad optimistic. However, this generation is much more financially prepared than those of the past, and more willing to support those organizations that connect with their values. Additionally, membership in the historical society is attainable by those of us with modest means. And, membership is the financial base upon which the society builds its strength.

So all you *Boomers* out there – I say embrace aging and retirement by investing in the Scott County Historical Society. Join a community of people committed to preserving the past and sharing it with the next generation.

## Stans Government Gallery Update

Our summer collection intern is completing an inventory of items stored in the Stans Government gallery cases. During this process she noted several items needed cleaning.

We are taking this opportunity to inspect and clean all items in the gallery, create and install new interpretive displays, and assess the exhibit cases for future use.

We plan to open the new government gallery in late August 2008. If you have any thoughts on what you would like to see in this exhibit, please contact Courtney.



## SCHS Participates in a New History Consortium

The *Minnesota River Valley History Round Table* is a consortium of local historical societies (from Scott, Carver, and Nicollet counties) who are working to bring together historians, volunteers, history buffs, and those with a general interest in history for monthly educational programs. The program will move from county to county in order to reach as many areas as possible, as well as encourage people to explore the Minnesota River Valley region out-

side their county. Each season will focus on a particular topic that members of the roundtable planning committee have selected. The 2007-2008 theme is military history.

SCHS kicked off the inaugural season of the Round Table with a Military Live Fire Timeline event in August. Pull out your calendars and mark the 3rd Saturday of each month for Round Table events.



### Mark your calendars for these Round Table Events *(all take place at 1pm)*

- Sept. 15 - *Images of the Pacific Theater*, Carver County Historical Society
- Oct. 20 - *Norse Warfare*, Carver County Historical Society
- Nov. 17 - *Fort Ridgely Archaeology*, Treaty Site History Center, St. Peter
- Jan. 19 - *Chronicaling the Iraq War: A Soldier's Perspective*, Scott County Historical Society
- Feb. 16 - *Minnesota Military Family Foundation*, Carver County Historical Society

## THANK YOU New and Renewing MEMBERS!

***Business:***

Jordan Agency

***Household:***

Geri & Neil Gillis

Pat & Leslie McLaughlin

David & Lorraine Stafford

Steve & Lynn Timmer

***Individual:***

Bill Coughlin

Auston Fjetestad

Lauri Glenn

Evelyn Kjos

Debra Kowalozyk

Bill Loughmiller

Pat Maas

John Mangan

Margaret Marez-Hooper

Sandra Mastino

Greg Morrill

Joyanne Newgard

Jeannette Peters

Elizabeth Register

Mary Lou Ryan

Nancy Schmit

Tom Schoenecker

Mary Warden Mary

Eileen Younggren

Carrie Zeman

## From the Programs Desk - By: *Andy Timmer, Program Manager*

Isn't it amazing that the dog days of summer are already upon us? We had a busy summer of programs here at the Scott County Historical Society. Our *Summer Solstice Tea* in June was a huge success and we will repeat it next summer. More Teas are coming up this fall and winter, so if you haven't attended one yet, I would strongly encourage you to join us for one (or two)!

This fall we continue our young girls programming a special Wartime Halloween Girl's Tea Party on October 20. Our spring girls tea filled extremely fast; if you are interested in attending in October, I encourage you to make reservations early. And, its not too early to plan to attend a Christmas Tea. This December we expand our regular Christmas Tea schedule to include special Wartime Holiday Teas for young girls.

In addition, this fall we offer presentations on the Dakota Conflict in late September and early October. These presentations explore the reasons for the clash, and its lasting legacy using primary documents to tell the story through the voices of those involved. Sign up for these through the Shakopee, Belle Plaine and Jordan Community Education.

In conjunction with Carver and Nicollet County Historical Societys, we present the *Minnesota River Valley History Round Table*, offering speakers/presentations on the third Saturday of each month rotating through all three historical societies. These roundtable meetings are free to the public. This year's theme is military service.

Our school field trip program seeks to educate students by giving them a hands-on experience. We are promoting the program to teachers this fall. Contact your son or daughter's social studies teacher and encourage them to call to

schedule one of these educational, informative and fun programs a part of their curriculum.

If you wish to receive notice of programs, exhibit openings, special events,... consider becoming a SCHS Member and/or join our email mailing list! Join through the link on our website at [www.scottcountyhistory.org](http://www.scottcountyhistory.org). SCHS members receive great benefits, including advance notice and reduced rates for various events, programs and exhibits.

Program Manager, Andy Timmer left SCHS to pursue other interests on August 18. We wish him future success. For any questions on upcoming events or programs, please contact SCHS at 952-445-0378 or [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org)



*Intern, Catie Jacobs doing research in SCHS Library.*

This summer we had an excellent intern, Catherine Jacobs from Gustavus Adolphus College. Catie has been updating our subject files for the Dakota Conflict of 1862, Prohibition in Scott County and Elko-New Market. As well as writing articles for the Scott County Scene, her research will be invaluable in the development of new programs.

**Curator Corner - By Courtney Wyant**

Remember us when you are going through your attic, garage and closets. Here are some items of interest we need.

**Call for items:**

- \* Uniforms - work, service and recreational
- \* Prior Lake, New Prague, Elko/New Market memorabilia
- \* Photographs of Scott County life

**Mom & Pop Shop Closing**

Our latest exhibit, *Mom & Pop Shop*, explores a range of family business throughout the county from the well-known Strunk drugstore of Shakopee to the Burns & Hahn General store of Belle Plaine. The exhibit will be on display until the end of September.

**Summer Intern Collection Project**

This summer has been exciting in the collections area. We have been working on a large inventory project in the Stans Government Gallery with the help of our intern Emily Seddon a junior at Macalester College. Emily has been cleaning, documenting and marking the objects in order to properly store them. Emily has also been helping



*Intern, Emily Seddon cleaning collection object*

us to update the room with ideas for new exhibitions. Look for a whole new exhibition to open in the Fall of 2008.

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



**Recent acquisitions:**

- Stagecoach Museum Costume and memorabilia donated by Lenny Bjerke
- 2 Family Photo albums (19c) donated by Elmer Clarke
- Kitchen utensils donated by Jerry Heiland
- Dangerfield's photographs, Belle Plaine and Scott County memorabilia donated by Clifford Johnson



## From the Research Library by: Betty Dols

The Scott County fair is over. The Minnesota State Fair is fast approaching, and many families use these events to schedule their family reunions. Some families use the Parish Festivals of their "Home" Church to schedule their reunions. If an immigrant couple arrived in Minnesota in the 1850's or 60's, it is possible for them to have literally thousands of descendants. In some of the close knit communities of Scott County many families have Annual Reunions.

In 1980 the Schoenecker family had a reunion and over 1,000 descendants came. The Lenzmeier Clan had a reunion in 1983 for over 300. Also in 1983 the Klehr families counted 1834 descendants of their immigrant ancestors and over 1,000 of them attended the reunion. In 1979 the Wermerskirchens had a reunion in Jordan and 900 came. Members of the Lenz family estimated 600 came to their reunion in 2001.

These are just a few that come to mind but my point is these reunions are a wonderful opportunity to connect with various branches of the family, to fill in blanks and update information on births, deaths, marriages, etc.

When making preparations for the big day plan ahead, and along with the potato salad and hot dogs, take a three ring binder with an ancestor chart, starting with yourself, your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, including dates and places of events. You may need several. Pass it around at the reunion to see if some family member can add to or correct your information.

Make Xerox copies of any unidentified photos you might have and put them in the three ring binder. Some of your relatives may have the same photos and theirs may be identified. A large sheet of posterboard with an outline of the main branches of the family can be put up on a tree or post to draw attention to the notebook. An ancestor chart has been provided in this newsletter.

## OUTREACH EXHIBITS

Traveling Exhibit - *Key Ingredients: America By Food*, a look at food traditions in Scott County, is making its way through the Scott County Library System.

**\*\*NEW\*\***

SCHS has been invited to create displays in a new exhibit case at the Prior Lake City Hall. The seasonal history of Prior Lake area is currently on display.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have some time to spare? Interested in making a difference? Love history? Enjoy being a "history detective? Then look no further!

**SCHS has any number of volunteer opportunities to fit your interests and skills.**

Tell us what you are interested in! Volunteering at SCHS is fun, informative, and a great way to make a lasting contribution to your community. Contact SCHS Today! 952-445-0378, or email [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org).

### Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler \_\_\_\_\_

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_.

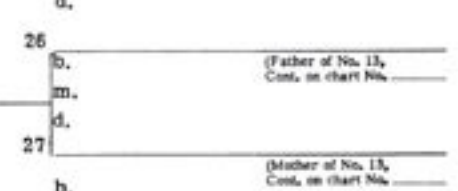
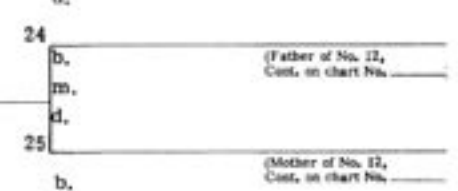
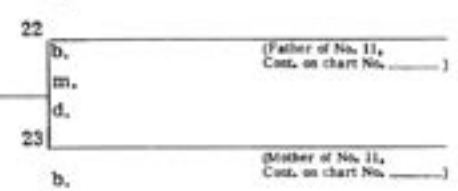
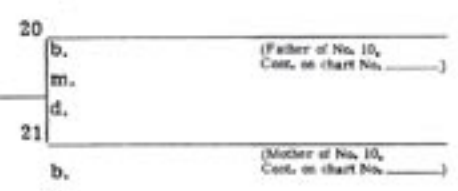
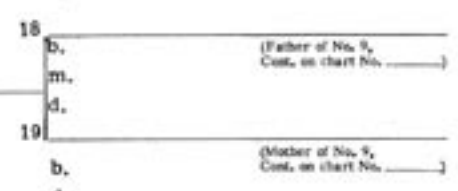
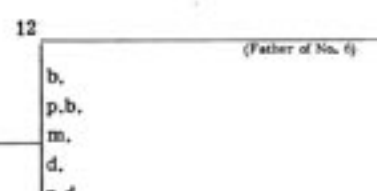
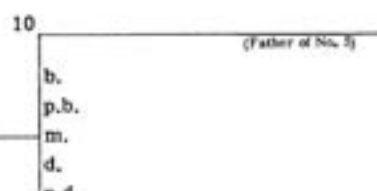
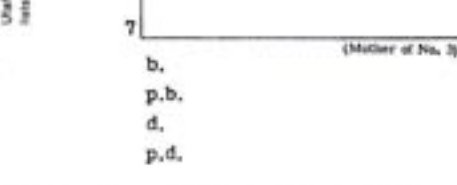
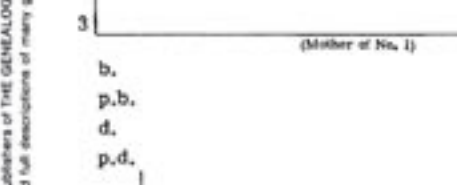
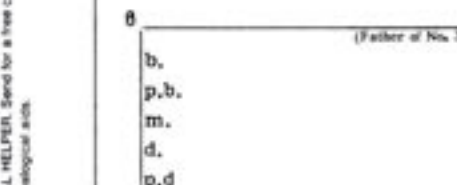
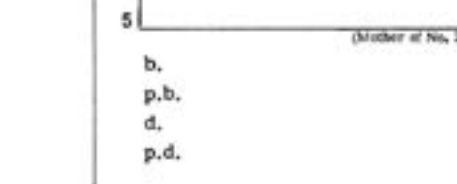
Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

b. Date of Birth  
 p.b. Place of Birth  
 m. Date of Marriage  
 d. Date of Death  
 p.d. Place of Death



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Hours:  
T, W, F 9am - 4pm  
Th 9am - 8pm  
Sat 10am - 3pm  
Closed: Sunday, Monday and  
Major Holidays

#### Board of Directors

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John Diers, Treasurer  
Jerry Hennen  
Tom Koskovich, Vice President  
Therese Scherer, President  
Ted Stans  
Sheila Helmick (Stans Foundation  
Representative)

#### Staff

Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director  
Courtney Wyant, Curator

## What's Ahead at the Scott County Historical Society

**September 8:** Heimatfest in Jordan

**September 15:** Dozinky Days in New Prague

**Dakota Conflict Presentations:** Shakopee Sept. 20,  
Jordan Sept. 25, Belle Plaine Oct. 2

**September 18** - Ladies Nite Out, Shakopee

**October 4** - Exhibit Opening *Scott County Cabinet  
of Curiosities*

**October 11** - SCHS Annual Meeting

**October 20** - Girls Halloween Party. Your favorite  
*American Girl Doll*™ can attend for free!\*

**November 22 & 23** - Closed for Thanksgiving

**Christmas Teas** – December 6 & 15 in the  
historic Stans House, decorated for the season.

\*\* NEW \*\*

**“Wartime” Holiday Tea** – December 8 & 13.  
Learn about holiday celebrations & traditions

during W.W. II, and help put together holiday  
packages for soldiers in Iraq. Your favorite *American  
Girl Doll*™ can attend for free!\*

**All Things Minnesota Book Club** – meets at 6:30pm in  
the Stans House on the third Thursday of each month.

**Scott County Crazy Quilters** – meets at 6:30pm in the  
museum on the fourth Thursday of each month

\* Event not sponsored by American Girl LLC.

## WISH LIST

The following items would make wonderful in-  
kind donations to SCHS! Please contact us to  
make a donation at 952-445-0378 or info@scot  
tcountyhistory.org, or stop by!

- \* LCD Projector
- \* Child-size wagon (like the old Radio  
Flyers), or a 4-wheel cart for the Garden
- \* Copy & photo paper

