



# CONNECTIONS

Winter - 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 Gallery Update.....

During the summer our curator and intern conducted an inventory of the Maurice Stans collection stored in the Government Gallery exhibit cases. During this inventory we discovered a little mold. Working on advice from conservation experts from the Minnesota Historical Society, I am happy to say the mold is not active, and we are in the process of cleaning every item in the gallery.

This has created an unexpected opportunity for SCHS to revise and upgrade the Government Gallery.

The “new & improved” exhibit will include artifacts from the SCHS collection and a variety of interpretive techniques to trace Maurice Stans business career and government service in the

Eisenhower and Nixon administrations. The exhibit will include relevant topics from the last half of the 20th century.

This is your chance to let us know what you would like to see in the exhibit. Send us your ideas by mail (address on back), email or drop in for a chat. This is also an opportunity for you to participate on a deeper level as a member of the design team.

We need your creative ideas, technical expertise, and hands-on help to make this exhibit is meaningful to students and adults. Get involved - Join us!

Special THANKS to Grant Thornton LLP for a generous donation in support of core project costs.

*Send your ideas to:*  
[info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org)  
 or call  
 952-445-0378

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## From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

As a historian, I am always interested to hear the stories connected to items being donated to SCHS. Each of these items have special meanings for residents of the County, and it is our job to not only preserve the items, but also the stories connected to them. This helps us create richer exhibits that provoke thought and inspire visitors to learn more about a subject. It also helps researchers understand objects in relation to their place and time.

In the near future we will begin work on two projects - updating the Stans Government Gallery, and creating an exhibit exploring our "second skin" - Uniforms. I invite you to participate by joining a planning committee for the Stans Government gallery, and/or by loaning or donating uniforms (sports, work, volunteer...). We cannot do this without you!

As you may know, Minnesota celebrates its 150th statehood anniversary in 2008. Scott County is planning its own celebrations to commemorate this historic milestone throughout the year. For more details, check out the article on page 7.

A new board member was elected at the Scott County Historical Society's 39th Annual meeting on October 11. Please join me in welcoming Jeff Williamson to the SCHS board of directors.

A native of Shakopee, Jeff graduated from Mankato State University with a degree in Sociology. During his service in the U. S. Army, he was a Finance Specialist in Korea and Germany. Jeff's professional experience includes rural mail carrier, and insurance agent and underwriter. He also brings a long list of volunteer experience from the Pond Dakota Heritage Society (past president and current program director), Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society, Dakota Society, Lac qui Parle Mission, Bloomington Historical Society, Yankee Interest Group, and Minnesota Genealogical Society.

"I've always had a deep interest in history since I was a little boy. --- I've been on the Board of Directors and an officer in several historical and genealogical societies. I've written several historical and genealogical books and many articles... and given many historical and genealogical presentations."

**WELCOME JEFF!**

### *The Minnesota River Valley History Round Table*

The 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 outside their county. Each season will focus on a particular topic that members of the roundtable planning committee have selected. This year's theme is *Military History*, the 2008 theme is *Transportation*.

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

Jan. 19 - *Chronicling the Iraq War: A Soldier's Perspective*, Scott County Historical Society

Feb. 16 - *Minnesota Military Family Foundation*, Carver County Historical Society

March 15 - Author talk: *A Nurse at Abu Ghraib: Reaching Past the Wire*, by: Deanna Germain, Lieutenant Colonel, USAR (Ret.) with Connie Lounsbury. at Nicollet County Historical Society

## THANK YOU New and Renewing MEMBERS! (July to Nov 20, 2007)

**Business:**

Lion's Tap  
Shakopee Chamber of Commerce  
Shakopee Gravel

**Sponsor**

Dr. Roger B. Hallgren  
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Tom & Sue Melchior  
Dave Minar, Cedar Summit Farm  
David E. Moonen, SC Abstract  
George & Shirley Plekkenpol  
Claude Sinnen  
Laurie Tolzmann  
Jack & Laurie Trimbo  
Jay & Melissa Whiting  
Will Williams  
David Unmacht

**Individual:**

Allen County Public Library  
Lois Anderson  
Ben Bartusek

Jon Burrell  
Kelly Carlson  
Laura Cloutier  
Bill Coughlin  
Jeanette Deutsch  
Nicklaus Erickson  
Carol Fehler  
Ken Geister  
Lauri Glenn  
David Grosser  
Judith Hentges  
Cathy Isles  
Cheryl Johnson  
Elaine Kes  
Pat Maas  
Greg Manthe  
Ken Marschall  
Robert Mayer  
Bonnie Rose Mintz  
Greg Morrill  
William Paron  
Joe Pekarna  
Dianne Piekarski  
Frank Pilney  
Patricia Ploumen  
Nancy Powell  
Sr. Zacchaeus Ryan  
Sandra Schubert  
Carol Scott  
Dorothy Sifferath  
James Sifferle  
Rita C. Sunder  
Ione A. Theis  
Lois Wendt  
Laura Wermerskirchen  
Shirley Widman  
Don Wruck  
Carrie Zeman

*SCHS strives to ensure our member and donor lists are accurate.  
We sincerely apologize if your name was missed. Please let us know  
and we will make a correction.*

## THANK YOU to Our Donors for Their Generous Support.

**Leader:**

Grant Thornton LLP,  
Thomas Walters  
Minnesota Valley Electric  
Cooperative, Operation  
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Stans Foundation, Ted Stans

**Sponsor:**

Canterbury Park, Randy  
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**Advocate:**

Bill's Toggery, Bill  
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Prior Lake Lions Club  
Ted Stans  
Peggy & Robert Weber

**Booster:**

Scott County Community  
Services Division  
Dorothy Sifferath  
Turtle's Bar and Grill, Brian  
Turtle

**Other:**

Theresa Boettcher  
Gayle Bowler  
Judy Emry  
Carol & Richard Majerus  
Marcia Richard

## From the Programs Desk

It has been a busy fall both on and off-site with community education presentations, participation in community events, and hosting girls teas. Here is what's been happening this Fall:

\* Stephen Osman, Senior Historian at the Minnesota Historical Society delivered three presentations on the Dakota Conflict in Belle Plaine, Jordan and Shakopee.

\* Volunteer Marcia Diers represented SCHS at the Prior Lake / Savage Fall Fest, and we participated in Shakopee's Career Fair, demonstrating the skills needed to be a Curator. In addition we gave corn-husk doll demonstrations at the opening of McKenna's Crossing in Prior Lake.

\* SCHS partnered with the Shakopee Downtown Partnership for Ladies Night Out, and "Movies in the Park"

\* Our Girl's History tea program continued with a Halloween Party in October, and concludes the year with three special 1940s Wartime Christmas Teas in December.

Looking ahead.....

Betty Dols, SCHS volunteer and local genealogist leads a class on Genealogy 101 in January.

The Minnesota River Valley History Round Table returns to Scott County in January with a talk titled: *Chronicling the Iraq War: A Soldier's Perspective*.

We'll be creating old time valentines and decorating heart cookies in February in New Prague and Prior Lake through Community Education classes.

Join us as we celebrate Women's History Month in March with coffee klatch discussions on the "Second Wave of Feminism" the history of women from 1960 to 1980. Community Education talks take place throughout the county.

It's also time to book school field trips. SCHS offers programs for 3 to 7 grade students. Ask you child's teacher to contact us about field trip options and available calendar dates.

Our Girl's History teas returns in the spring with a special Girls May Day Tea held in late April. We'll be learning the history of, and making May-Day baskets.

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help with these programs. Please give us a call. We need help preparing and delivering these fun programs!  
952-445-0378 or [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org)



*Pin the tail on the black cat. Girls Halloween Party.*

**Curator Corner**

We are beginning work on a new exhibit on Uniforms - our "second skin". This exhibit will use all sorts of clothing from the military, to overalls, to sports & hobbies in exploring the meaning of uniforms.

To make this exhibit a success we need your help. Please consider loaning or donating uniforms and their accessories that you may have in your closet, attic, garage or workshop. Don't forget the shoes, hats, clipboards, tools, order slips... that complete the uniform picture!

Courtney Wyant has left the Curator position at SCHS in October to pursue other options.

Any questions related to the collection or exhibits can be directed to Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director.

**NEW COLLECTIONS INTERN**

SCHS is happy to welcome a new Collections Intern, Rebecca (Becky) Brouillard. Becky has a History degree from the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, and is currently taking classes at St. Catherine University in St. Paul. In addition to her education, Becky brings wonderful archival experience from the National Archives and Records Administration in Chicago. Please join me in welcoming her to SCHS.



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

**Recent acquisitions:**



**2007 Lydia Can Cozy, donated by Don Beuch**

**c 1970s Water skis and Prior Lake Waterski Club Jackets, donated by: Leroy & Jane Horn**

**Stamped kitchen tablecloth, donated by: Mary Carol Majerius (Carol, any idea on the date of the tablecloth?)**



## From the Research Library by: Betty Dols

The federal and state census have always been a valuable tool for anyone doing genealogical or family history research. Although the various census schedules contain valuable clues, it was drudgery to track a family through the schedules. The advent of the computer has changed that, making it possible to search the federal schedules and many of the state schedules from the privacy of one's own home or most public libraries. It is important to be aware of the information contained in the schedules.

The first federal census was taken in 1879 in the eastern states and was taken every 10 years thereafter. The information on individuals was limited but the family information was quite good, and got better as the years went by. For anyone with colonial ancestry, these schedules have been studied and information extracted has often been published.

The first census available for Scott County is the 1850 Territorial census listing a very limited population. In 1857 there was a special federal census in the Minnesota Territory to ascertain if there was sufficient population for statehood. It was very thorough. It listed the dwelling number, family number, the name of each individual, age, sex, occupation, birthplace, in school, native citizen or naturalized citizen. Often one can follow a family's journey from the east coast by the births of the children in the various states along their way. It supplies the birth order and ages of the children so family group charts can be set up.

In addition to the federal schedules every 10 years, there were Minnesota state census schedules taken in 1865-1875-1885-1895-1905, making it possible to view a family unit every 5 years. In the 1870 census, for the first time persons of foreign birth were asked for the state they were born, in addition to the

country. Previous to that year, immigrants often said Germany or Norway or whatever country they came from. When they gave the German state of Bavaria or Pommerania, it narrowed the search area considerably. Also in 1870 relationship to the head of household is given for members of the household other than children.

In the 1900 census, one of the questions was year of immigration. This date is more apt to be remembered accurately by the individual who immigrated than by the children or grandchildren giving the information years later in an obituary. In the 1900 census the month and year of birth in addition to age was asked of each member of the household as well.

The 1920 and 1930 census continued to add questions that provided additional clues. Because census schedules are not released for 72 years, the latest schedules available to us are the 1930. The 1940 schedules will be released in 2012. The research library at the museum has all of the census schedules for Scott County on microfilm.

## Genealogy 101

Want to learn more about your family history but don't know where to start? Register for an introduction to genealogical research taught by local genealogist Betty Dols. The course will cover "making sense of the census" the clues contained in census schedules; the importance of court house records – including probate records; church records; naturalization; identifying the ancestral village; as well as computer resources. Handouts will be provided.

Register with: **Community Education:**  
**January 12, 1 - 3pm** in Shakopee (952) 496-5029

**Presented by:** Betty Dols, local genealogist with extensive research experience.

## Minnesota Celebrates its Sesquicentennial

The Scott County Historical Society is working with an active group of people from around the County to plan a year of celebrations for MN Statehood. After just two meetings we have brainstormed the following:

**Tentative decisions:**

- Partner with Murphy’s Landing on their planned event in May to celebrate Statehood Day.
- Host a BIG event the first weekend in October, possibly at Cedar Lake Farm. This will be a fundraiser for the Scott County Historical Society.
- Partner with Shakopee Ambassadors to create a float for entry into each city’s festival parade. Handout flyers with schedule of Scott County’s MN 150 events/activities.
- Don’t re-invent the wheel. We plan to partner with other organizations, and request that their planned activities / events use the MN Sesquicentennial Theme

**Want to get involved? VOLUNTEER!**

- Review & offer ideas
- Join one or more committees
- Help develop timeline
- Brainstorm funding

Contact SCHS for a list of meeting dates & times, or let us know how you want to be involved.

## PLEASE SUPPORT SCHS

The Scott County Historical Society relies on your financial support. Each year we appeal to our members and partners for a financial donation to support our mission to search, save and share the history and cultural heritage of Scott County.

I invite you to respond generously to our request. Your financial support allows SCHS to continue providing high quality outreach and education programming, engaging exhibits, an extensive research library, as well as maintain collection items for future generations.

**THANK YOU!**

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## SCHS WISH LIST

The following items would make wonderful in-kind donations to SCHS! Please contact us to make a donation at 952-445-0378, email at [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org), or stop by!

- \* LCD Projector
- \* Archival boxes & tissue paper
- \* Tea cups and saucers
- \* Cloth napkins (red or white)
- \* HP Photo paper

## 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 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)).





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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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Ted Stans  
Jeff Williamson

#### Staff

Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director

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

**January 12: Genealogy 101**, register with Shakopee Community Ed.

**January 19: *Chronicling the Iraq War: A Soldier's Perspective***, 1:00 p.m. at SCHS

**February 9:** Create old time valentines and decorate heart cookies in New Prague and Prior Lake through Community Ed

**March 8,11,13,15:** Coffee Klatch discussions on the "Second Wave of Feminism" the history of women from 1960 to 1980. Register through Community Ed.

**April 26:** Girls May Day Tea. We'll be learning the history of, and making May-Day baskets.

*\* Event not sponsored by American Girl LLC.*

**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

*Making a List  
Checking it Twice*

*Using this  
Coupon is  
Oh-So-Nice!*

**10% OFF**

*SCHS Museum Store Purchases  
SCHS Members Only (on top of your  
membership discount!)*

**Good Dec 1 - 31, 2007**

*Scott County Historical Society  
235 Fuller St. S., Shakopee 952-445-0378*

