



CONNECTIONS

Spring 2008

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

Minnesota celebrates its 150th Statehood Anniversary throughout 2008. Scott County has planned the following events.

Mark your calendar & Join the fun!

MN 150th Bike Tour - May 17, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Shakopee to Chaska along the Riverfront

MN 150th Celebration at The Landing - May 17, 10am - 5pm.

Horse drawn trolley rides, 1860s Base ball game, Kids games, Band Concert, performance by history actor Virginia Mae Hope (a WWII member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots), Living history interpreters, Special presentation on Minnesota's Birth, Picnic food & drink. (The Landing - formerly known as Murphy's Landing)

Main Street to Statehood Traveling Exhibit - Debuts at The Landing 150th event on May 17.

Catholic Cemetery Walking Tour

May 29, 2008, Shakopee. Walk through the cemetery and learn about the Benedictine connection, a family murdered, how the first became last & the last first, the intrepid widow, and other stories.

Scott County Celebrates MN 150th Float: Savage Dan Patch Days June 19 - 22, Belle Plaine

BBQ Days July 18-20, Prior Lake
 Lakefront Days July 28 - Aug 3,
 Shakopee Derby Days August 1-3,
 Jordan Heimatfest September 13,
 New Prague Dozinky Days September 20



Strait House Picnic Party - July 12, Tours of the historic Strait house, DNR naturalist lead nature walks, and SCHS puppet show - "Coming to Scott County" (State Park admission fee)

Scott County Fair - July 23-27, Jordan. The *Main Street to Statehood* traveling exhibit will be on display at the County booth. Visit the SCHS booth and "Name that Artifact" - odd items from the SCHS Collection.

City to County Tour - September 20, The Scott County City to County Tour includes a stop at the Strait House. (Hike 1.5 miles to the Historic House from parking lot)

Call: 952-445-0378 or info@scottcountyhistory.org

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From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

SCHS is humming with work on a number of projects this spring. To continue our professional work, we are currently accepting applications for the new position of Curator of Education and Collections. We are also interviewing for spring and summer college interns. Filling these positions will allow us to continue working on collections management, exhibit development, and delivery of educational programs.

A consultant has been hired to work with the SCHS board, staff, and community members to develop plans to update the Stans Government Gallery. It is our goal to reopen the gallery the end of August and promote it at the National Republican Convention in St. Paul. Thanks to the Grant Thornton company for their generous donation to this project. Thanks also to MVEC Operation Round-up and the Shakopee Downtown Partnership for their support in purchasing archival materials needed to rehouse the government collection. As you may recall, this past summer we found mold in the exhibit storage cases, which necessitated removal of the collection from storage and the closing of the exhibit. Since that time we have cleaned

the collection and are now in the process of cataloguing and rehousing the items.

In addition to work on three new exhibits (Government gallery, Uniforms and MN 150th exhibit), we are gearing up for school field-trips, youth summer activities, County Fair projects, and more. Volunteers are needed to help us deliver educational programs & complete exhibits. Call us to volunteer your time (training is provided).

This is also the time of year we begin planning our next fiscal year's budget. And in these difficult financial times, we need your support more than ever. Your gift supports strong educational programming for youth and adults, engaging exhibits both on and off site, professional preservation and conservation of collections, and special events. We take enormous pride and responsibility in meeting our mission to preserve and share the history of Scott County. Please help us to continue this worthwhile effort through a financial gift. Consider your donation an investment in your long-term memory.



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

Reaching Past the Wire: A Nurse at Abu Ghraib Speaker: Deanna Germain, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.) Saturday, March 15
Treaty Site History Center, 1851 N Minnesota Ave, St. Peter, MN 56082 (call 507-934-2160)

Speaker and Event TBA, Saturday, April 19,
Treaty Site History Center, St. Peter, MN 56082
(call 507-934-2160)

Minnesota 150th Celebration at The Landing.
As a part of this celebration, the MN River Valley History Round table presents History Actor Virginia Mae Hope at 11 am. The Landing (formerly known as Historic Murphy's Landing), 2187 East Highway 101, Shakopee, MN 55379. For more information call 952-442-4234

THANK YOU New and Renewing MEMBERS! (November 20, 2007 - February 26, 2008)

Business:

Klein Bank - Ben Ohlander

Sponsor

Ed & Gayle Bowler
Christine & Joe Dysterheft
Bob Vogel

Household:

Leo & Gloria Albrecht
Mike & Mary Armstrong
David Egger
Scott & LaVonne Garoutte
June Knuth
Lawrence & Phyllis Martin
Dick & Pat Mertz
Paulette Rislund
Mike Scherer
Anthony & Marcia Spagnolo
Doris Wermerskirchen
Richard & Brenda Williams
Lawrence Vossen
Don & Marcia Wagner
Richard & Donald Zaun

Individual:

Shirley Anderson
Charles Arnold
Tammy Arnold
Don Beuch
Elle Blomquist
Ken Brooks
Bill Colehour
Betty Dols
Emilie Duffy
Mary Fury
Dan Halloran
Don Hennen
Jerry Hennen
Clarence Holm
Vivian Isakson

Hedy Joachin
Kenneth Koppes
Tom Koskovich
Lori Lesinski
Kurk Marston
Ed Mosser
Dave Nickolay
Charlie Pass
Eugene Pexa
Harriet Pink
Barbara Pumper
Dan Reilly
Vic Ruhland
Eileen Schmitz
Robert Sime
J. Kristin Sweeney
Bette Undis
Bonnie Van Buskirk
Frances Wright

Joseph Koskovich
Lion's Tap - Bert Notermann
Rahr Malting Co.
Valley Sports - Dave Jansen

Booster:

Kathleen Boegeman
Dallas Bohnsack
Gordon Eischens
John Fitzgerald
David Grosser
Timothy Halloran
Jerry Hennen
John Mangano
Prior Lake Lion's Club -
Bruce Reddemann
Duane Sivanish
Joel & Betsy Sullivan

Other:

Mike & Mary Armstrong
Theresa Boettcher
Gayle Bowler
Mike Huber
Elaine Kes
Fred Keup
Joseph & Carolyn Kinney
Robert Laudon
Carol & Richard Majerus
Ken Marschall
Sandra Mastino
Robert Mayer
Tom Melchior
Linda Otto
Dan Reilly
James Sifferle
Char Voigt
Will Williams

THANK YOU to Our Donors for Their Generous Support.

Leader:**Sponsor:**

Minnesota Valley Electric
Cooperative
Shakopee Downtown
Partnership

Advocate:

Roger Hallgren
June Knuth

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

From the Programs Desk

SCHS hosted the MN River Valley History Round Table event in January. National Guard member, MAJ. Michael Murray presented his perspective of the Iraq



Maj. Michael Murray - Iraq

War to a large audience with a powerpoint presentation and engaging stories. Thank you Mike for participating in this program. The MN River Valley History Round Table ends its inaugural year at the MN 150th event at The Landing.

Next year we focus on Transportation History. Give us a call if you have ideas for programs or presenters!

We have scheduled a number of programs through June. What makes these so great is the involvement of other community members and the dedication of volunteers.

Coffee Klatch discussions on the “Second Wave of Feminism”; the history of women from 1940 to 1970 take place throughout the county through Community Education.

Call now to schedule **Field Trips** for students in grades 3-7. For information on field trip options or to schedule a field trip, contact us at 952-445-0378 or email at info@scottcountyhistory.org.

Reaching Past the Wire: A Nurse at Abu Ghraib Speaker: Deanna Germain, Lt. Col., USAR (Ret.) Saturday, March 15, 1 pm Treaty Site History Center, 1851 N Minnesota Ave, St. Peter, MN 56082 (call 507-934-2160)

Speaker and Event TBA, Saturday, April 19, 1 pm, Treaty Site History Center, St. Peter, MN 56082 (call 507-934-2160)

Girl's History Teas return in the spring with a special Girls May-Day Tea on Saturday, April 26. We'll discover the history behind May-Day baskets, and make one to take home!

Minnesota 150th Celebration at The Landing. As a part of this celebration, the MN River Valley History Round table presents History Actor Virginia Mae Hope at 11 am. The Landing (formerly known as Historic Murphy's Landing), 2187 East Highway 101, Shakopee, MN 55379. For more information call 952-442-4234

Betty Dols, SCHS volunteer and local genealogist leads a surprising **Cemetery Tour** May 29 at a the Shakopee Catholic Cemetery. There are sure to be some *hair-raising* stories!

SCHS has partnered with the Scott County Libraries to present **Seed Art** - hands-on craft activities for kids at SC Libraries this June. Kids (and adults) will create original art by decorating a map of MN with seeds! This activity is a part of the MN 150th celebration events.

Wine Making class. SCHS Member Clarence Johnson demonstrates how to make wine from your garden produce and much more. June 5 at SCHS.

Solstice Garden Tea (weather permitting). Join us for a special tea in the Stans Garden to celebrate the return of Summer! June 21.

VOLUNTEERS needed to help with programs. Please give us a call. Training provided and Fun Guaranteed! 952-445-0378 or info@scottcountyhistory.org

Curator Corner

The MN 150th exhibit, *Mainstreet to Statehood*, is beginning the design phase, which includes creating a sturdy, secure structure and developing content. Look for the debut of this exhibit at the May 17th MN Statehood celebration at The Landing!

Development of *A Second Skin: Uniform Identities* is underway. We are in need of textile garments for the exhibit. Please take a look through attics, basements, closets... and consider donating / loaning all types of uniforms. For more information please call 952-445-0378

COLLECTIONS INTERN

Collections Intern, Becky Brouillard, continues to plug away at accessioning the Stans Government Gallery collection. We appreciate her dedication and attention to detail. Look for a special event the end of August to reopen the exhibit.

This Summer SCHS is looking for four additional Interns to work on exhibit development, collections care, education, and marketing. If you or someone you know is interested in an internship, please contact SCHS at 952-445-0378 or email info@scottcountynistory.org.

ARE YOU A COLLECTOR?

Display your collection at SCHS. Recently SCHS acquired three display cases, one of which is dedicated to displaying Scott County resident collections. Call to schedule your display! 952-445-0378

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

Every once in a great while SCHS receives a large donation of items for the collection. Three years ago we received farm equipment and household items from the Clarence O'Brien estate.

This past year we were lucky to receive another large donation from the LaVonne (Bohnsack) Garoutte family. This collection includes great photographs (which are wonderfully identified), many kitchen utensils, clothing items, and much more. In addition, we also received a very cool wooden seed winnowing machine, as well as the school bell from the Scott County District #32 St. Patrick school. Special thanks to Scott County Facilities department for agreeing to store the large bell for us.

And THANK YOU to the Bohnsack - Garoutte family for their generous donation.



Evelyn Bohnsack & wringer washer 1983

Donations help to tell our story. Please consider donating items to help fill in the gaps in the SCHS collection. Give us a call. We accept most items that have a Scott County connection.

From the Research Library by: Betty Dols

As the State of Minnesota prepares for its 150th Birthday on May 11, 2008, thought I would see how the Scott County newspapers reported the change from Territory to State.

Shakopee had a weekly newspaper as early as 1855, **The Independant**. Most of the local weeklies were politically oriented with the state and national news printed in Minneapolis or St. Paul, sent out to the towns where a page or two of local news was added

Unfortunately a Shakopee paper from 1858 did not survive but both papers in 1857 had much news concerning the approaching bid for statehood in the Territorial Legislature. The (democratic) **Valley Herald** of Jan. 28, 1857 printed a letter from a legislator in St. Paul, "Since the session of the Legislature began, our city has been thronged with strangers.....To witness each evening knots of politicians scattered through the different rooms of the hotels, all feel anxious for the 'nation's fate'..... This being most probably the last Territorial legislature that will be assembled, and the iniatory steps for discarding our present state of pupilage, and throwing around ourselves the panoply of state sovereignty, having to be taken by this legislature, their acts assume more importance.....Already a bill has been introduced in the House by your Representative from the Belle Plaine Precinct, providing for the call of a Constitutional Convention.....The reasons why we should become a state, have been ably stated by the Governor, in his annual message."

From the **Republican Advocate** of Aug. 15, 1857 under the caption THE PRESENT POSITION OF AFFAIRS: "The body which we represent recognize as the legally organized Constitutional Convention, has unanimously passed and placed upon record a resolution preparing the way for a committee of Conference of five members from each body, to agree upon a plan by which but one Constitution shall be submitted to the people for their ratification.....Here the Republicans have determined to stand, and here they will stand, even let the worst consequences follow."

From the **Belle Plaine Enquirer** of Mar. 11, 1858, under the caption CONGRESS: "The two houses of Congress are occupied with the question of the admission of applying Territories into the Union, almost to the exclusion of every other subject.....". On April 1, 1858, the **Belle Plaine Enquirer** wrote: "Minnesota, it will be observed has been left to come in by herself.....And Minnesota will come in soon. The difficulties in the way are not insurmountable. The perpetual Legislature was really a singular blunder; but there is one consoling reflection; the two conventions are equally responsible for it."

Then in the May 13, 1858 issue of the **Belle Plaine Enquirer**, the single line: "It is reported that Minnesota is admitted to the Union. Again in the **Belle Plaine Enquirer**, of May 20, 1858, "The Senate Bill for the admission of Minnesota passed the Lower House of Congress by a vote of 158 to 38. Those in the negative were Republicans and Know-Nothings. The Bill elicited a lengthy and spirited debate..... As a general thing the bill was supported by Democrats and opposed by Republicans. Minnesota is allowed two Representatives."

"On the admission of Minnesota, Mssrs Rice and Shields had their credentials presented and were sworn in as Senators." "Saturday last, our Senators elect drew for their respective terms in the U.S. Senate. Mr. Rice drew the six year term, and Gen. Shields that of two years. The term of the former, therefore, will expire Mar.4,1863, and the latter Mar.4, 1859."

From the **Belle Plaine Enquirer** of June 3, 1858: "The wheels of our new Government have now been in successful operation for a week, and arguing from the high character of our Executive, it is fair to presume that no State in the Union will be governed with more fidelity to the people, or with a higher regard to the public welfare than Minnesota. The august body *yclept* 'The Legislature', met on Wednesday, and the inaugural message will be delivered to them in *propria persona* by Gov. Sibley. I understand that it will be replete with sound Democratic doctrine and advice the *Solans* will do well to heed the admonitions therein contained."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Join a committee
- Staff events
- Lead school tours
- * Garden maintenance (spring-fall)
- * Facility maintenance
- * Data entry
- * Participate in exhibit development

Volunteering Benefits at SCHS

It's great fun

Meet with your friends & make new ones

Share your expertise

Learn a new skill

Contribute to your community

Support an organization you believe in

Become a Time Philanthropist

You can donate your time on a regular basis, or occassionally. Contact SCHS and let us know how you want to be involved. 952-445-0378, or info@scottcountyhistory.org

SCHS WISH LIST

The following items would make wonderful in-kind donations! Contact us at 952-445-0378, email at info@scottcountyhistory.org, or stop by!

- * LCD Projector
- * Snow Shovel
- * Stain & sealer for front door
- * Paint (match gallery walls)
- * HP Photo paper

SUPPORT SCHS

The Scott County Historical Society relies on your financial support. We invite our members and partners to make a financial donation in support of our mission to search, save and share the history and cultural heritage of Scott County.

Please 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!

Crazy Quilters

Come & join us as we stitch! Learn how to crazy quilt or bring any hand-stitching project to work on (quilting, cross-stitch, knitting, etc.). Lots of free fabric, trims, threads, tips, fun and friendship, all for just annual dues of \$15 - includes individual membership at SCHS! For more information contact Sandi at (248) 868-4058.

2008 Meeting Dates

March 27	September 25
April 24	October 23
May 22	No mtg November
No mtgs June / July	December 4 (potluck)
August 28 (picnic)	

(Fourth Thursday of each month 6:00-8:00p.m.)

HELP SAVE A GENERATION OF HISTORY!

The Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), continues to collect stories from Scott County residents in an effort to preserve community history from 1930 to early 1950.

**We need help in the Belle Plaine, Jordan and Elko/
New Market areas for interviewers and narrators.**

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).





235 Fuller Street South
Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 952-445-0378
Fax: 952-445-4154
info@scottcountyhistory.org
www.scottcountyhistory.org

Hours:

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

Board of Directors

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

Staff

Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director

What's Ahead at the Scott County Historical Society

March 8,11,13,15: Coffee Klatch discussions on the "Second Wave of Feminism"- the history of women from 1940 to 1970. Register through Community Ed.

March 18: Shakopee Expo

April 5: Celebrate Jordan

April 18: Donor *Night at the Museum*

April 26 : Girl's May-Day Tea (*Girls may bring their American Girl Doll's to the tea for Free!*) * Event not sponsored by American Girl LLC.

May 1: Volunteer Luncheon - Thank You!

May 17: MN 150th Celebration at The Landing (formerly Historic Murphy's Landing)

May 29: Catholic Cemetery Walking Tour

June 5: Wine Making Class. Learn how to make wine from your garden produce!

June 10-13: Seed Art (MN 150th Activity) Hands-on seed art activity presented at Scott County Libraries

June 21: Solstice Garden Tea (weather permitting)

July 12: Historic Strait House Picnic Party (MN 150th Activity)

Summer 2008: Exhibit Openings

Mainstreet to Statehood

A Second Skin: Uniform Identities

Grand Re-Opening Stans Government Gallery

June through September: MN 150th Float! At each City Festival

September 20: *City to Country Tour*

October 4: Tentative *Speakeasy-Gangster Gala*

ON-GOING

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