



# CONNECTIONS

Summer 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

## Changes in the Wind!

For the past few months the Board and staff of SCHS have been working with an exhibit consultant to develop direction, priorities and work plans for updating the Stans Government Gallery.

During discussions with community members, it was suggested we expand our scope.

Taking into consideration all the recommendations and expert advice, the Society is making big changes in exhibit space this summer.

The African exhibit is moving from its current home to the East gallery (off the main hallway). Although this space is slightly smaller than the exhibit's current home, it will allow us to display numerous African artifacts that have been in storage. Additionally, the reduced space and limited display area prohibit keeping the Zebra and Lion.

*Your last chance to view the African Diorama is the end of June.*

The diorama will have new life as the Washington D.C. office of Maurice Stans. Utilizing general themes such as 20th century history, change, values, and achievement, the newly opened central gallery exhibits will focus on topics that make connections on a variety of levels.

This year's general theme is **Politics**. Exhibit topics include campaign finance (budgeting & spending), political cartoons & advertising, speeches & strategies, and voting.

Major goals for the new gallery space include creating engaging annual exhibits, delivering relevant programs, and providing learning opportunities for students and teachers.

**All these changes are open for public viewing. For more information, Call: 952-445-0378 or [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org)**

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## From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

Time has gotten away from us this spring, and our summer newsletter is usually in your hands by this time - I apologize. Big things have happened!

We hired a new Curator of Education and Collections, who came on board the end of April and hit the ground running. Theresa Norman brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to SCHS. She has a masters in Public History from St. Cloud State University, and excellent experience in collections care & public programming from Siouxland Heritage Museum in Sioux Falls, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, and the Rockford Area Historical Society. Please join me in welcoming Theresa to SCHS.

In addition to new staff, we have contracted with three college students to intern at SCHS this summer.

Colin McFarlane - Hamlin University, St. Paul  
 Jeffrey Boyle - Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA  
 Kelsey Peterson - College of St. Catherine, St. Paul.

Colin is focusing on education, Jeff is working on both education and collection care, and

Kelsey is focusing on collections care. We are extremely lucky to have such talented people working with us this summer. Please stop in and welcome them to SCHS.

SCHS has scaled back our programming a bit this summer to devote more of our time to exhibit development. Our ambitious goal is to complete the exhibit installation by the end of August, which means the museum will undergo enormous changes in a short period of time. I invite you to stop in often this summer to check on our progress. All aspects of the work will be open to public viewing. This is your chance to get a glimpse at behind-the-scenes museum work.

**Special Congratulats to SCHS Board Member John Diers. His book *Twin Cities by Trolley* won the American Institute of Architects Award and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission award for 2008. *Great Work John!***

As you read through the newsletter, take note of the activities we have planned for the summer.  
**Cut out the calendar on the back for your fridge - or share it with friends!**



MHS player gave a fantastic performance - Virginia Mae Hope, WWII Pilot - at The Landing (formerly Murphy's Landing), on May 17.

We welcome **The Landing** as a new member of the Round Table consortium. Looking ahead, we have chosen **Transportation** as our theme for next year. Carver County Historical Society kicks off a new season of monthly Round Table presentations.

September: Carver County Historical Society  
 October: The Landing  
 November: SCHS  
 January: Carver County Historical Society

February: The Landing  
 March: SCHS  
 April Open  
 May: SCHS

*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.*

**THANK YOU  
New and Renewing  
MEMBERS!**

**(Feb. 26 - May 31, 2008)**

***Business:***

Jordan Agency Inc.

***Sponsor***

Dora Fitzgerald

***Household:***

Tom and Patti Daly

Mike and Peggy Dircks

Richard and Carol Majerus

Ralph and Debra Malz

Irene and Gregory Powers

Rod and Cathy Wideman

Richard Wolfe

***Individual:***

Sandi Andersen

Betty Cain

Tom Dubbe

Mary Ehlers

Margaret Elftmann

Judy Emry

Roberta Everling

Dolores Fischer

Deanna Geer

Ann Gilcrest

Patricia Kahnke

Evelyn Kjos

Raymond Marschall

Jane Nash

Jeannette Peters

Mary Rausch

Charlene Scheffler

Duane Sivanish

Linda Solheim

John Tieben

Loren Zephier

**THANK YOU  
DONORS for Your  
Generous Support**

**(Feb. 26 - May 31, 2008)**

***Leader:***

Cargill Inc.

City of Prior Lake

City of Savage

City of Shakopee

Scott County

***Patron:***

Fabcon Inc.

***Sponsor:***

City of Elko/New Market

Dora Fitzgerald

***Advocate:***

***Booster:***

***Other:***

Charlene Scheffler

Will and Janet Williams

***In-Kind:***

Steve Blake

Cub Foods

Linnihan Foy Advertising

Three Rivers Park District

**VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**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*

Donate your time  
occasionally or on  
a regular basis.

Training Provided &  
Fun Guaranteed!

Let us know how  
you want to be involved.  
952-445-0378, or  
[info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org)

**ARE YOU A COLLECTOR?**

Display your collection at SCHS.

Recently SCHS acquired three secure display cases, one of which  
is dedicated to displaying ***Scott County Resident Collections.***

Call to schedule your display!

**952-445-0378**

**From the Programs Desk**

Minnesota's year-long birthday party kicked off in Scott County at The Landing on Saturday, May 17, with an all day celebration commemorating 150 years of statehood. The event included a bike tour, trolley rides, historic games and activities, costumed interpreters and a 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball game.

SCHS provided a picnic-style lunch at the event and much thanks goes out to all the many volunteers for all of their help and hard work. This was a great fundraiser for the Society!

Interns Jeff Boyle (a junior at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, IA) and Colin MacFarlane (a senior at Hamline University) will begin developing new educational programs for SCHS.

Designed to tie in with an upcoming exhibits on public service, elections and politics, the programs will focus on greater public involvement and will include such opportunities as listening to political speeches, discussing hot topics in politics from the 1950s compared to today, drawing political cartoons and voting for the next exhibit display at the historical society.



Special thanks to Everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make the May 17, Scott County MN 150th Celebration such a HUGE success.

*Pictured clockwise from left: Dennis Anderson, Jeff Williamson, Therese Scherer, Jane Kansier, Dennis, Vanessa Birdsey, Jeff, Theresa Norman, Pat Kuka, Fran Bohlke.*

**Thank You Volunteers!**

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

*2008 Meeting Dates*

No mtgs June / July	September 25
August 28 (picnic)	October 23

## Curator Corner

Staff is hard at work cataloguing the artifacts in the Stans Government Gallery as we prepare to move those items, topics and ideas into new gallery space.

A hands-on collections day for interns and volunteers was held on Saturday, May 31, with the intention of numbering, removing and rehousing as many artifacts from the Government Gallery as possible in order to clear out the space, and make

room for a new exhibit highlighting pieces from our African collection.

Over 50 objects were removed from the Government Gallery by the end of that day. New intern Kelsey Peterson, a junior at the College of St. Catherine, will continue focusing much of her energies on completing this project. Thank you Kelsey!

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

-Correspondence and other business papers from the Costello Hardware Company in Prior Lake (donated by Tom Klotz).

-1920s console slot machine (donated by Lois Duede).

-A set of keys to the light towers in Riverside Park (donated by Tom Schleper).

-Numerous photographs and other memorabilia from the Pink, Schmitt and Fitz families of Shakopee and Jordan (donated by Harriet Pink).

-1960s Civil Defense information sent to Shakopee farmer Herbert Hirscher detailing how farmers could protect their crops, animals and families from potential nuclear fallout (donated by Eleta Pumper).



***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.***

## Greatest Generation Project by: Commissioner Barbara Marschall

I have always been fascinated with history, especially American history. Stories about the men and women who helped to shape our country demonstrate the patriotism, heroism, and true courage of past generations. Of course, there were times and events in our history that are more interesting than others – times and events that were instrumental in making our nation what it is today. The generation of Americans who came of age between the Great Depression and World War II were ordinary people who faced historic challenges, made extraordinary sacrifices, demonstrated great acts of service and heroism, and were proud of what they accomplished. They were united by a common purpose and common values – duty, honor, courage, responsibility, and love of family and country. A few years ago, Tom Brokaw authored a book on “The Greatest Generation” to pay tribute to these men and women, and their many contributions to the lives we lead today. He boldly states that they are “the greatest generation any society has ever produced.”

The Scott County Historical Society has partnered with the Scott County’s Library System, Veterans Services Office, and the Minnesota Historical Society to collect, record, and preserve the history of Scott County residents who are part of this “Greatest Generation.” My daughter coordinated this project in Prior Lake, and I agreed to interview local residents who were willing to share their memories from the 1930s through the 1950s – stories about their family, school years, entertainment, the Depression, jobs, military service, World War II, life on the home front, and the modern 1950s. I spent time with people I had never met before and with others that I knew quite well. I recorded stories about life in Scott County from people who grew up here, raised their families here, and still live

here. I listened to stories from people who grew up in different parts of our country, but now call Scott County their home. Many of the stories had a similar theme. They lived in a critical time that shaped the history of our nation and the world. They were ordinary people with a modest demeanor that achieved great things.

In the 1930s, many families lost their farms, businesses, and jobs. Homeless and unemployed men drifted across the country looking for work or a handout wherever they could find it. 15 million people were out of work; 30 million Americans had no income of any kind. Many banks were closed. The landscape was slowly changing from rural to urban, but one in three Americans still lived on a farm. Crop prices were low and annual farm incomes were around \$400. Families survived on ration coupons and made do with what they had. Baseball was the national pastime from Yankee Stadium to sandlots across America. Stalin and Hitler were building their armies and plotting to change the world. The people I spoke with agreed that times were hard, but I heard no complaints about missed meals or the hardships that became part of daily life. Instead they talked about great childhood memories, loving families, lasting friendships, and their appreciation of a simple lifestyle.

This generation experienced the first military draft in our history. They have vivid memories of where they were when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Many young men left farms, ranches, and jobs to enlist in the service. Some exchanged their cap and gown for a military uniform. They understood what needed to be done and were willing to fight for what

## HELP SAVE A GENERATION OF HISTORY!

**We need INTERVIEWERS in the Belle Plaine, Jordan and Elko/New Market areas,** to collect stories from Scott County residents in an effort to preserve community history from 1930 to early 1950.

Contact Kathy Klehr at the Historical Society (952-445-0378, or [kklehr@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:kklehr@scottcountyhistory.org)).



they believed in. They fought their way across the battle fields of Europe and the South Pacific, filled with terror and the will to survive. Some of their war stories brought tears to their eyes and somber reminders of the bravery of those who did not come back.

The enduring contributions of the women of this generation dramatically changed the old rules of gender. During the war years, 35% of the workers in this country were women. They went to work in factories and laboratories, and raised the families that were left behind. They drove trucks, learned to weld, and operated machines to keep the factories running. They lead the effort to mobilize the resources and spirit of this country from the years of the Depression through the rebuilding of this nation following the war.

They celebrated when the war was over, and began to rebuild their lives. They returned to leading ordinary lives, started businesses, continued their education, or pursued careers that had been postponed. They demonstrated maturity and discipline beyond their years, and willingly accepted responsibility for their future. Their positive attitude contributed to the prosperity of the 1950s. They loved their country and their lives, and they were not afraid to show it.

They valued the contributions of Babe Ruth, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ernest Hemingway. They were entertained by Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Woody Guthrie. They listened to the Lone Ranger series on the radio, and flocked to the movies to see Clark Gable, Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, Errol Flynn, Roy Rogers, Betty Davis, Henry Fonda, and Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

When I agreed to interview members of this Greatest Generation in Scott County, I was eager to hear their stories. What I did not expect was the impact or effect these stories had on me. It was my honor and privilege to spend time with them. I was humbled by their gracious and genuine hospitality, and inspired by the many stories they shared. I have a renewed appreciation for the sacrifices they endured and the examples they set for all of us. Each narrative was

distinctive, but reflected the common experiences of the time in which they lived. These are the stories of my parents and grandparents generations, many of which have been forgotten or never shared because no one asked them. General Robert E. Lee once said, "It is history that teaches us to hope."

If you have family members from this generation that are still living, ask them to share their memories from years past, and preserve their record for future generations. If you, or someone you know, is interested in sharing stories or helping to collect stories, call the Scott County Historical Society at (952) 445-0378 or [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org). Training is provided in conducting interviews. The website also contains information on the history of Scott County, and the collections and exhibits in the Stans Museum.

I welcome comments or questions about this or any other topic. Please contact me at (952) 447-5748 or e-mail: [bmarschall@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:bmarschall@co.scott.mn.us). My mailing address is Scott County Government Center, 200 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Shakopee, MN 55379.

## All Things Minnesota Book Club

Ah Summer ----when it's perfectly acceptable to flop down in the hammock with a cool glass of ice tea & a great book.

Here is this summer's book list:

**June:** *Root Beer Lady: The Story of Dorothy Molter*, by Bob Carey

**July:** *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative*, by Ignatia Broker

**August:** *Crossing Hoffa: A Teamster's Story*, by Steven Harper

**September:** *They Called Me Teacher: From Both Sides of the Desk*, by Tom Melchior

*(Join in lively book discussions at SCHS, the third Thurs. of each month 6:30 - 8p.m.)*



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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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Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director  
Theresa Norman, Curator of Education  
& Collections

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

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

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

**June 29:** History Day at Canterbury Park. Kids Carnival Games, Quilt Raffle! *Fundraiser for MN River Valley History Round Table.*

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

**June 28:** Movie in the Park, Huber Park in Shakopee. Soda & chips sale - *Fundraiser for SCHS!*

**July 23 - 27:** Scott County Fair - MN 150th traveling exhibit on display. SCHS "What Is It?" odd historical items contest.

**July 26:** Movie in the Park, Huber Park in Shakopee. Soda & chips sale - *Fundraiser for SCHS!*

**August 2:** Ice Cream Social at Huber Park during Shakopee Derby Days. *Fundraiser for SCHS!*

**August 30:** Movie in the Park, Huber Park in Shakopee. Soda & chips sale - *Fundraiser for SCHS!*

**September 20:** *City to Country Tour*

**September 20:** Movie in the Park, Huber Park in Shakopee. Soda & chips sale - *Fundraiser for SCHS!*

### ON-GOING

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

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

**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
- \* Stain & sealer for front door
- \* Paint (match gallery walls)
- \* HP Photo paper

