



CONNECTIONS

Summer 2009

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

There are some “COOL” events coming up for the Scott County Historical Society!

We are hosting our first ever **Antique Flea Market**, in conjunction with Shakopee’s Derby Days. Just imagine all the “COOL” things you’ll discover! The event takes place Friday & Saturday, July 31 & August 1st. Antique dealers will enjoy displaying their items to a wonderful crowd, and visitors will enjoy strolling booths and exploring some “COOL” treasures!

Along with the Antique Flea Market, SCHS is again hosting its annual



Ice Cream Social at Huber Park on August 1st during Derby Days. Stop by for ice cream cones or a root-beer float - share a ‘COOL’ treat with your sweetie!

Mark your calendar now for a foot-stomping roof-raising **Night of Music** 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. October 16 at Turtle’s 1890 Social Club.

Along with the great “COOL” music, SCHS presents a silent auction with items sure to tempt you. Tickets for the Night of Music are \$10 and are available at SCHS beginning in July.

The Wolfe Brother’s Band kick off the evening with some fabulous Blues, followed by the Rock & Roll Outlaw Band, closing out the night with classic 1960’s & 1970’s music.

Proceeds from these events: **Antique Flea Market - Ice Cream Social - Night of Music**, benefit the Scott County Historical Society and help us further our mission to preserve and share the history and cultural heritage of Scott County

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From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

In my last column I wrote about the economic doom and gloom portrayed in the media, and suggested we take this with a grain of salt. Sure the economic outlook is grim, but there are opportunities. At SCHS we assessed our situation and made plans for the future.

We are blessed to have county and local government that support us and public officials that are very helpful, as well as great business members - who face some tough budgeting decisions. I am grateful for them and for our fantastic members and devoted volunteers. I thank all of these people for their continued support.

Even in this economy the past keeps slipping by, kids still need an education, and curiosity never stops. I don't see a slowdown at SCHS, but anticipate a growth in SCHS membership, program attendance, and library usage. People are looking in their own backyards for resources and entertainment - and here we are, ready to serve.

SCHS continues to look for ways to serve that will give the most impact with the resources at hand. We are dedicated to providing services that may not look the same, but are just as effective. We are making new partnerships and

developing collaborations to continue to further our mission.

As a member of SCHS you are our best Ambassador. I invite you to stretch yourself beyond your annual membership dues...

- encourage others to become SCHS members,
- attend SCHS programs and bring a friend,
- patronize SCHS business members, and let them know their support of SCHS influences your purchases
- contact your government officials and tell them why you support SCHS and what we do.

Don't ignore the economy, but don't let it keep you from pitching in. Together, we can continue to preserve the past, educate kids, and satisfy curiosity.

This Summer SCHS Welcomes four college interns

Each summer the SCHS invites college students to participate in our *Intern Program* at the museum. These students gain valuable hands-on experience that will add to their resume, as well as gain a deeper understanding of museum work, which may guide their future plans.

Please join me in welcoming...

Katherine Glasoe (Bethel University), *exhibits*
Stephanie Wojtanowicz (Hamline University), *exhibits*.

Rachel Simmons (Western Governors University, Utah), *collections* and,
Chelsie McGuire (University of MN), *education*

Internships run May through August. Please stop in and meet our new interns.



The Minnesota River Valley History Round Table ended its season in May, and resumes in September.

(February 1, 2009 - April 30, 2009)

THANK YOU New and Renewing MEMBERS!

Business:

Shakopee Heritage Society

Sponsor

Household:

Tom and Patty Daly
 Mike and Patricia Huber
 Patricia and Gary Kahnke
 Carol and Richard Majerus
 George and Shirley Plekkenpol
 Rod and Cathy Wideman

Individual:

Sandi Andersen
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 Robert Dondelinger
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 Margaret Elftmann
 Roberta Everling

Deanna Geer
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 Cindy Gutweder
 Carol Hartmann
 Evelyn Kjos
 Tom Klotz
 Jon Kubes
 Rita Lundgren
 Raymond Marschall
 David McCollister
 Jane Nash
 Theresa Norman
 Dale Oldenberg
 Jeanette Peters
 Joan Powell
 Mary Rausch
 Charlene Scheffler
 Duane Sivanish
 John Tieben
 Lois Wichmann
 Mary Wichmann
 Jeff Williamson

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 to Our Donors for Their Generous Support.

Leader:

Cargill Inc.

Patron:

Sponsor:

Minnesota Valley Electric
 Cooperative
 Canterbury Park

Advocate:

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 Church of St. Mary of the
 Purification
 Church of St. Mary

Booster:

Other:

Charlene Scheffler, \$10
 Duane Sivanish, \$10
 Mary Rausch, \$5

In-Kind:

Betty Dols, 1905 microfilm
 plat map of Sherburne Co
 Margaret Elftmann, carton of
 copy paper

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

We all leave a mark on this world through our families, work, and the organizations that we believe in and support. At the Scott County Historical Society we celebrate these legacies as they are the heart of history that we preserve every day.

We preserve the past, with an eye toward educating future generations on the history and culture of life in Scott County. If you are also thinking about the future, I invite you to please consider our Endowment Fund or a Legacy Gift (known as planned or estate gift), to ensure that SCHS has the resources to collect, preserve and share the history and cultural heritage of Scott County for years to come.

To learn more about giving opportunities, contact Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director at 952-445-0378

Curator Corner

This past March, two brown cardboard boxes were unearthed from the bottom shelf of a unit tucked into the back corner of my office. Upon opening the boxes I found hundreds of black and white photographs from the 1930s through the 1960s. The photographs were lying in the boxes, stacked up in various piles. When I asked about the images I was told they had been processed by the Werner Studio in Chaska and had been transferred from the Chaska Historical Society to the SCHS. I pulled the boxes off the shelf and, with the help of volunteers Shirley Kroyer and Diane Annen, began putting the images into plastic sleeves. After sleeving about 150 photographs it quickly became clear that we were running out of supplies while barely making a dent in the images. The following week Diane organized the photographs by size and counted them. She reported that the collection contains 1,531 images that range in size from 2.5" x 3.5" to 8" x 10".

After Diane organized the photos by size I really started to look at the images and what they contained. Because they were shot and processed by a professional studio, they are largely images of personal significance: babies and growing children, religious milestones, and wedding portraits. When I first saw the photographs I admit my first thought was "wow, this is going to be a lot of work." In looking through the images I began to realize what a great treasure the collection will be. The photographs are all in good condition and most of them are identified. Even greater, though, is the glimpse they give the SCHS into what life was like in Scott County during the first half of the 20th century.

While it will take us years to fully catalogue and house the collection, I am excited about the possibilities the photographs present to our community.



If you would like to learn more about the Werner Studio Photograph Collection or help catalogue the images, please contact me at 952-445-0378 or at tnorman@scottcountyhistory.org.

ADDITION TO MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY

SCHS recently added 50 additional photographs to its collection on the Minnesota Digital Library's (MDL) website. The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition was formed in 2004 as an online database to support the digitization of Minnesota's unique resources and special collections. More than 95 archives, historical societies, libraries, and other groups participate in MDL. Highlighting photographs of the Bohnsack, Pink, and Schmitt families as well as Scott County churches and President Bill Clinton's visit to Shakopee in 2000, the addition brings the total number of SCHS images available through the MDL to nearly 300. To view the photographs go to <http://reflections.mn.digital.org> and select Scott County Historical Society.

From the Programs Desk

The SCHS is hosting or participating in many exciting programs this summer. The month begins with a walking tour of Valley Cemetery on June 6 conducted by local genealogist Betty Dols. On June 9, 10, and 16 the SCHS will be offering family tree making for kids through the Scott County Libraries. Using a template, children will learn family tree basics when they link their name to their parents and grandparents names. Children will then have a chance to decorate their trees. The month winds down with crazy quilting demos on June 25 and Kids' Kraft on June 27. For Kids' Kraft we will read "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire" by Diane deGroat and make star whirlers (an American Girl craft from Molly's era) in preparation for the Fourth of July.

Beginning in July, the SCHS will be offering a series of new programs - walking tours of Scott

County cities. On July 8 we will explore the history of downtown Jordan. Two weeks later the Scott County Fair kicks off. Be sure to look for the historical society's booth in the Commercial Building. The month comes to an end with Kids' Kraft on July 25. We will read "Nocturne" by Jane Yolen and then make a paper luminary.

August starts with a bang as Derby Days headlines the first weekend of the month and the SCHS will hold its first Antique Flea Market (July 31 & Aug 1), and its annual ice cream social on August 1. Join us two weeks later on August 15 for a walking tour of downtown Belle Plaine and then wrap up the month with crazy quilting demos on August 27 and Kids' Kraft on August 29. For Kids' Kraft we will read "If You Find a Rock" by Peggy Christian and then make painted rock creatures.

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

Three family genealogies (donated by Betty Dols)

Commemorative plate from St. John the Baptist Church and a Dan Patch whiskey bottle (donated by Jack Kennelly)

Minnesota Supreme Court Records (transferred by the Dakota City Heritage Center)

Posters from ice fishing contests in New Market and Prior Lake (donated by Don Beuch)

Grenade style fire extinguisher (donated by Gary Turen)

Cedar box (donated by Shirley Anderson)

Booklet titled "The End is Only the Beginning for the Class of '57" (donated by Margaret Elftmann)

Ladies' fur coat and a cream of tarter canister (donated by Dorothy Breimhorst)

Three 1960s ladies' hats and a 1978 rural resident telephone directory (donated by Doris Wermerskirchen)

Photographs, premium lists, marketing materials, archival collections, and other Scott County Fair items (donated by Joy Newgard for Rose Lucius)



Fire Extinguisher



Commemorative Plate

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*

Recently I was lamenting the fact that the Scott County Historical Society doesn't have any immigrant trunks. The Carver County Society has at least six.

These trunks told a story.

Even though economic conditions were one of the major reasons for their decision to emigrate, it must have been terribly hard to leave the villages where they probably were born and where their families had lived for hundreds of years. Some of the poorest of the poor perhaps had little to leave but others, while finding their ability to support their families impossible, did have personal property including family heirlooms. The accumulated traditions, beliefs and relics handed down from generation to generation within families were a strong bond. What could be brought along and what must be left behind.

The Irish, the Germans and the Czechs who settled Scott County, all seem to have brought very similar possessions. The men no doubt had to consider the tools that would be needed to clear the land or secure employment or perhaps start a business. Woodcutting implements, carpenter's tools and the like no doubt went into the bottom of the trunk.

The needs of the children had to be met on a possibly long voyage. A few essential cooking utensils probably went in next in addition to wooden plates and knives and forks and drinking mugs. Their food on the boat would be provided but plans had to be made for the first weeks and possibly months in the new land. Bedding and towels and clothes for the family. In addition to the trunk, a food basket had to be prepared for those first weeks. But almost all of the emigrants found room in their trunks for some dried meat or fish, a pound of coffee, salt and sometimes sugar and a few favorite spices that might not be available in the new land.

After they arrived in America, the sturdy trunks continued to provide a method of keeping their possessions safe while traveling inland and doubled as a piece of furniture to sit on in their pioneer cabins.



Carver County Historical Society - Immigrant Trunks

THANK YOU!

In 2008 SCHS received a generous donation from Cargill in support of its Greatest Generation Oral History Project. These funds are being used to collect and preserve stories from Scott County residents from 1930 to 1950. Recently SCHS was awarded a Minnesota Grant-in-Aid to digitize this collection. Each oral history will be converted to a digital format. Sections of selected stories will be available on our website next year. We thank Cargill and the State of Minnesota for their generous support of this project. For more information please contact Kathy at 952-445-0378



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Kids' Kraft *May Days*. Saturday, May 30 10:30am. We will read "What's Good for a 5 Year Old?" by William Cole and then decorate jars for collecting. Registrations required. FREE

Walking tour of Valley Cemetery. Saturday, June 6 at 10am. Register for this program through Shakopee Community Education. Receive walking tour booklet with fee \$5.

Family tree making for kids. Tuesday, June 9, Wednesday, June 10, and Tuesday, June 16 at 10:30am and 1pm. Check your local library for dates, times, and locations. FREE

Quilting demos and Potluck in Stans Garden. Thursday, June 25 from 1-8pm. FREE

Kids' Kraft *Happy Birthday, America!* Saturday, June 27 at 10:30am. We will read "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire" by Diane deGroat and make star whirlers. Registrations required. FREE

Downtown Jordan Walking Tour. Wednesday, July 8 at 8pm. Register by calling us at 952-445-0378 or e-mailing info@scottcountyhistory.org. Receive walking tour booklet with fee \$5.

Scott County Fair. Wednesday through Sunday, July 22-26.

Kids' Kraft *Summer Nights*. Saturday, July 25 at 10:30am. We will read "Nocturne" by Jane Yolen and then make a paper luminary. Registrations required. FREE

Antique Flea Market - Derby Days. Friday & Sunday, July 31 - August 1.

Downtown Belle Plaine Walking Tour. Saturday, August 15 at 9am. Register by calling

952-445-0378 or info@scottcountyhistory.org. Receive walking tour booklet with fee \$5.

Quilting demos and Potluck in the Stans Garden. Thursday, August 27, 1-8pm. FREE

Kids' Kraft *This Rocks!* Saturday, August 29 at 10:30am. We will read "If You Find a Rock" by Peggy Christian and the make painted rock creatures. Registration required. FREE

Downtown New Prague Walking Tour. Wednesday, September 2 at 7pm. Register for this program through New Prague Community Education. Receive walking tour booklet with fee \$5.

SCHS WISH LIST

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| * Conference table | * Scanner |
| * LCD Projector | * Copy paper |
| * HP Photo paper | * Cleaning supplies |
| * Step Ladder | |

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.

No Summer Meetings - Returns in the Fall
(Fourth Thursday of each month 6:00-8:00p.m.)

See Event list for upcoming Quilting Activities.

Special Quilt Appraisal event October 17.
Jean Carlton, AQS Certified Quilt Appraiser will be at SCHS - call to reserve your time 763-420-7229



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 www.scottcountyhistory.org



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

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

Your Membership and Donation dollars at work!



Author Talk, May 09



Girl Scout Tour, Winter 09



From the Hill to the Valley Exhibit



Gingerbread House, Winter 09

SCHS Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

YES! I would like to support SCHS at the following level (please check one).

- Individual Member.....\$ 15
- Household Member.....\$ 25
- Sponsor Member.....\$ 50
- Business Member.....\$100
- Advocate Donor.....\$100-\$249
- Sponsor Donor.....\$250-\$499
- Patron Donor.....\$500-\$999
- Leader Donor.....\$1,000 +

Mail to: Scott County Historical Society,
 235 Fuller Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379

Please make checks out to:
 Scott County Historical Society

