

Wanted: Holiday Tree Ornaments

Before you throw out that old tree ornament or pack it away for good, consider donating it to the Scott County Historical Society. The way we celebrate holidays and the traditions we share are an important part of our history.

Ornaments from 20 to 120 years old are especially welcome and will be hung on the tree at the museum. Not only will the ornaments themselves be preserved but also the associated memories and stories.

Help SCHS preserve the holiday spirit forever. Donate a tree ornament. Call Megan at 445-0378 for more information.

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St. Benedict Baseball Fans Attend Exhibit Opening

For the past year Tom Melchior has been researching Scott County baseball. As he conducted interviews, he discovered wonderful photographs and artifacts that were an integral part of the story. The Scott County Historical Society joined with Melchior to develop an exhibit to tell the baseball stories in three dimensions.

With so much information out there, it was decided to concentrate on just one area for this first exhibit: St. Benedict. Gradually trophies, uniforms, jackets, baseballs, gloves, scorebooks, and photographs were collected.

On November 8 over 175 people visited the museum to see the exhibit and share baseball stories. Sipping from bottles of Coke, old friends and adversaries came together once again to relive St. Benedict baseball.



Marv Hartman in front of his photograph and trophies at the opening.



Author Tom Melchior with St. Benedict baseball fan Verena Deutsch.

Speaking to a standing room only crowd, Melchior told of local baseball legends Tony Deutsch and Roger Lambrecht. Gordy Eischens, who started pitching St. Benedict baseball in 1953, recounted the tale of Marv Hartman's trick knee stopping a game until Harry Eischens could pop it back into place. Verena Deutsch, wife of St. Benedict player and manager Tony Deutsch, shared stories about traveling to games and sparring with umpires.

Other St. Benedict legends in attendance included Virgil Hoffman, Myron Eichens, Meinrad Busch, Leonard Eischens, Roger Hartman, and Marv Hartman.

The exhibit will be open through the end of February during regular museum hours. Look for the next baseball exhibit in a year.

New Year Brings New Adult Programming to Historical Society

The Scott County Historical Society has had success in the past by forming partnerships. The partnerships improve our programs and increase attendance. We have worked with the Scott County Libraries, Extension Service, DNR, Chamber of Commerce, public and private schools, city festivals, and other county historical societies. We have planned programs with Shakopee Community Education before but now we will be doing even more. SCHS is working with Cathy Isles, the adult program coordinator. Cathy lives in Jordan and is a SCHS board member.

The first program of the new year will be the Lunch Box Lecture Series. The program will be held on the third Wednesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. at the museum. Visitors bring their own lunch to eat while learning about local history. There is no fee for the program. The first lecture is January 16 on the history of Prior Lake with Gene Simpkins. Programs are planned through May of 2002.

Another new on-going program is the Minnesota Book Club. The club will meet on the first Thursday of every other month. The first meeting will be held at the museum from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on February 7th. Following meetings will be held at the 1908 Stans house next to the museum.

Back by popular demand is the Valentine Tea on February 14 at the Stans house, 128 2nd Ave. W. from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.. Guests are encouraged to bring a favorite Valentine and a favorite tea cup. Everyone will be able to share their stories about these items. Typical tea refreshments will be served. Hats and gloves for women are encouraged but certainly not a requirement. Men are welcome, too. Program fee is \$5.

Please note: Everyone is welcome but please register with the community education office before attending these programs even if there is no admission charge at 952-496-5029.

Collecting Our History: Recent Donations to the Historical Society

- Jack Mracek: Genealogies of the Douda, Sticha, Schenbauer, Duban, and Mracek families.
- Sister Joann Kelzer: Schmiegl family history.
- Scott County Threshers Association: Book, *Stepping Back In Time*.
- Mary McKenna: *The Book of Minnesota*, 1903.
- Leo Albrecht: Porky's Place tokens, six Belle Plaine photographs.
- Constance Notermann Johnson: Corn sheller, pick axe, husking glove, silage rake, St. Mark's diploma, Knights of Columbus certificates, Catholic Convention souvenir, gas station patch, baptismal certificate, confirmation ribbon, course certificate, all owned by Alphonse Notermann.
- Minnesota Historical Society: Book, *Caring for Your Family Treasures by Heritage Preservation*.
- Don Casey: 1928 wedding dress and raccoon coat owned by Laura Wermerskirchen Casey.
- Diana Norman: Two Jacob Ries bottles.
- Lone Theis: 1939 sheet music for "God Bless America."
- Joe Cade: 1992 official Canterbury Downs program and ball point pen.
- Meinrad Busch: 1937 baseball glove from St. Benedict.
- SCHS Acquisitions: Jordan Hub Valley Days buttons, Rock Spring ginger ale bottle.



Digging Up History Along the River: Richard Murphy and His Landing

A team of naturalists, historians, and interested citizens has been working to update the original plan for the Minnesota Valley Trail from Fort Snelling to Le Sueur. Archaeologists explored the area around Murphy's Landing on Highway 101 in Shakopee this fall to ensure that the trail does not negatively impact the historical and archaeological record along the river. Among many discoveries, the archeologists have uncovered a stone foundation near the former site of Murphy's Inn.

Richard Murphy was born in Tennessee on January 4, 1804. Elected to the first territorial legislature, he was the first president of the Senate and served until Minnesota became a state in 1858. Half owner of the riverboat "Time and Tide," he settled in Eagle Creek in 1853. On July 3 of that year, Murphy obtained a license to operate a ferry across the Minnesota River below his home. An enterprising businessman, he is said to have stopped mid-stream to collect fares from passengers.

The house, conveniently located near the south end of the ferry crossing where the Mendota-Mankato stage route passed, also served as Murphy's Inn. A T-shaped structure, it was built of locally quarried limestone. Apparently, Murphy also thought the proposed Minnesota Valley railroad and the Hastings and Dakota railroad would junction at Eagle Creek.

Information in the 1860 census implies that Murphy was cash crop farming, growing wheat and rye for market. The recorded value of Richard Murphy's farm (160 acres of improved land and 600 acres of unimproved land) was \$13,000. The census also lists four horses, two milk cows, four working oxen, six other cattle, and 12 swine. The numbers of Murphy's livestock were not significantly different than that of his neighbors. His crops, however, tell a different story.

While the bushels of oats, beans, corn, potatoes, pounds of butter, and tons of hay were similar to that of his neighbors, Murphy had substantially more wheat and rye (800 and 400 bushels respectively). Also, Murphy did not have the significant amounts of oats and hay one might expect to find at a stage-coach stop.

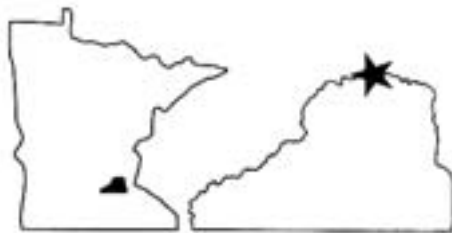
Richard Murphy died in 1875. Used through the mid-twentieth-century, the house burned down in 1963. But what about the new-found foundation? Perhaps an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* from July 18, 1954 provides the answer. "Murphy, a year or two earlier to 1857, built his two-story inn, a wharf and a huge barn for the products from the 900 acres he farmed in Eagle Creek."

Thanks to New Business Members

- Valley Sports, Shakopee
- Xcel Energy, Edina
- Rahr Malting, Shakopee
- Dr. Roger Hallgren, Belle Plaine
- Jerry Young, Counselor Realty, Savage
- French Pizza Inc., Prior Lake
- Prior Lake State Bank, Prior Lake
- Keup Motors, Belle Plaine
- Target, Shakopee
- Prime Security Bank, Shakopee
- Citizens State Bank, Shakopee
- Cavanaugh-McNearney Funeral Home, Shakopee
- Cedar Summit Farm, New Prague
- Wolf Motors, Jordan



**SCOTT COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
searching, saving and sharing the history of Scott County



235 Fuller Street South
Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 952-445-0378
Fax: 952-445-4154
Email: histor@co.scott.mn.us

Hours:
Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00–4:00
Thurs. 9:00–8:00
Sat. 10:00–3:00
Sun., Mon. closed

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CO.SCOTT.MN.US/HISTORY/HISTORIC.HTML

Ward Off Cabin Fever: Join Us at These Historical Society Events

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| Jan. 16 | Lunch Box Lunch: Prior Lake
Bring your lunch to the history museum and learn while you eat. From noon to 1:00 p.m. Gene Simpkins will share the history of Prior Lake. Free. | | and Stans Museum. Enjoy tea and scones in the dining room of the 1908 Stans house. Bring your favorite valentine and tea cup. \$5 per person. Register with Shakopee Community Education at 496-5029. |
| Jan. 26 | A History Happening
Its family day this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Join us as we learn a craft and play games. What else is there to do in winter? Free. | Feb. 20 | Lunch Box Lunch: Shakopee
Pick up lunch at Berens or bring it from home and join local historian Jay Whiting as he shares the history of Shakopee. Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the museum. Free. |
| Feb. 7 | Minnesota Book Club
Come to the first meeting of our new book club and help decide what topics we'll read about. The bi-monthly group will meet the first Thursday of every other month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. | Mar. 7 | Sunbonnet Sue Quilt Exhibit Opening
Help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of the only original Minnesota quilt pattern, Sunbonnet Sue. Try your hand at quilting at our quilt frame. Exhibit includes Sunbonnet Sue quilts from around the county. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free. |
| Feb. 14 | Valentine Tea
Spend a relaxing afternoon with a tour of the Scott County Historical Society | | |
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