

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
 Sand Creek Township
 Spring Lake Township
 St. Lawrence Township

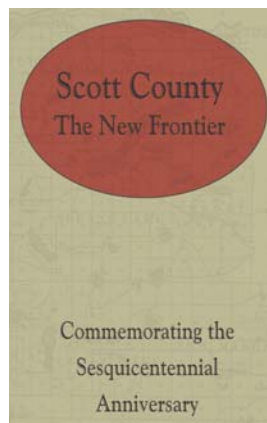
150th Celebratory Video Unveiled at Museum

In celebration of Scott County's 150th anniversary, the Scott County Historical Society partnered with the County to produce the video *Scott County: The New Frontier*. Created through the vision and dedication of Ossian Or, the final product is now complete and available for sale to the public.

What started out as a 20-minute production now runs more than four times as long. The video sets out to familiarize viewers with the historical foundation of the county and provide glimpses of the many stories that make Scott County the place it is today.

Stories in the video include early set-

tlers Samuel Pond and Oliver Faribault, area attractions like Grainwood resort and Elko Speedway, information on area cemeteries, and much, much more. Personal interviews with prominent "history keepers" and hundreds of photographs make the history of the county come alive.



Join us on January 14 and 15 to view this special video. Copies, available in DVD and VHS format, are currently for sale for just \$9.99 at the Stans Museum and at our website,

www.scottcountyhistory.org at the on-line gift shop. Perfect as holiday gifts or an addition to your own video library, for more information on *The New Frontier* call the museum at 445-0378.

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New Exhibit Shares Stories of Scott Co. Places

Visitors to the museum may be long-time residents who come to remember the area's history, or new residents and visitors looking to learn about the county. The new exhibit at the Stans Museum provides an opportunity for both.

The exhibit, *You Are Here: Scott County*, introduces visitors to the area through the video *Scott County: The New Frontier*, shown on an interactive monitor. Through the video visitors learn about the establishment of Scott County, and the area's first settlers.

From Helena to Credit River, the small communities that often revolved

around a local church, railroad station, or important business are introduced on a wall-size county map; town maps and photographs show the location of each place.

The second half of the exhibit includes each of the six major cities: Shakopee, New Prague, Savage, Prior Lake, Jordan, and Belle Plaine. Just a portion of each town's history is told. Over time the highlighted aspects will change, giving the exhibit a fresh look every time you visit the museum. Wondering why something isn't there? It may be because SCHS doesn't have any photos or objects of the subject. Donations make this possible.

Thanks to Generous Donors More History Saved, Preserved, Shared

- **Leo Albrecht:** 115 Belle Plaine photographs.
- **Helen Zweber:** Photograph of Charlie Kopp wedding, two photographs of NYA camp along Minnesota River, prayer card for Father Sava.
- **Claude Sinnen:** Photographs of Shakopee between Holmes Street and First and Second Aves.
- **Rolland Pstulka:** Apothecary Jar used at Strunk Pharmacy in Shakopee
- **Doris Wermerskirchen:** Five woman's hats and two identical hat boxes; four milk bottles.
- **George Milkiska:** Three pairs of baby shoes, four sewing patterns, crochet thread and box, program for St. Wenceslaus activity center and school anniversary.
- **Dorothy Breimhorst:** Three spice tins.
- **Kathryn Marshall McCune:** Horse Hair Cutter blanket made by John Cameron, Savage.
- **Benjamin Bartusek:** Family history, *Tupys of Czech Country Minnesota: The Descendants of Vitek Tupy and Veronika Vach.*



Cast of *The Bank Cashier*, Belle Plaine, 1913

- **Stan Mach:** Teaching certificates, contracts, report cards, and scrap book of Mary Ann Benes.
- **Larry Hafeman:** Lydia School District 21 treasurer's documents, 1950-1958.
- **Elizabeth De Baut:** Rock Spring bottles in original case, 1924.
- **Staff Collected:** St. Marks school desk and chair, metal electric fan, alarm clock, iron.

From the Director: Ice Fishing

As winter sets in, it's time to go ice fishing. Once we get them in the door, they're hooked. The best bait: word of mouth.

All too frequently we hear people say; "This is great! I've never been to the museum before" or "I cannot believe I haven't been coming to these programs all along."

The Scott County Historical Society offers an array of exhibits and programs to meet the needs and interests of all county residents, regardless of age or length of residency. The constant dilemma: how to get the news out about all of the good things happening at the museum? Through trial and error, marketing and advertising, by far the most successful strategy is by word of mouth.

This winter, go ice fishing, share the news of the growing activities and exhibits at the Museum. Come to visit us during the holiday season and bring your friends and relatives. Share your interest in local history and invite them to view a new exhibit or attend one of the many regularly held programs.

Hats Off to Women's History

Remember when you always wore a hat to church on Sunday? Did you have a special Easter bonnet? Do certain hats remind you of a specific time? In past years, the Scott County Historical Society has honored women in exhibits of quilts and aprons, sharing the stories of the items, their design, and their fabrics. This year's exhibit will feature women's hats.

The hat exhibit in honor of Women's History Month will open March 1, 2004 and continue through May 1. We are looking for people from around the county to donate or loan women's hats that represent every decade of the county's history to the exhibit. As always, we hope you also share the stories that make the hat special to you or to the original owner. Photographs showing the hat to include in the exhibit are especially welcome.

Hats may be delivered to the museum from February 2 through February 16. Please limit the hats you bring to a special few. Due to limited space, not every item may be displayed. All items must be picked up between May 4 and May 14. For more information, call the Stans Museum at 445-0378.

In Celebration of the 150th Anniversary: The County Seat Story

Scott County was established and organized by an Act passed in the Territorial Legislature on March 5, 1853. Scott County was named for General Winfield Scott. Scott was an officer of the War of 1812, Commander of the United States Army during the Mexican War, and an unsuccessful Whig candidate for president in 1852. General Scott never visited the area, which was to be named for him, but in 1824, he did make an official inspection of Fort Snelling.



General Winfield Scott

The county seat was established in Shakopee in 1854. D.L. Fuller and Thomas Holmes donated block 56 in Shakopee to the county for public buildings. Before a county building was erected, county proceedings occurred at various locations, often in rented rooms above stores. In 1860, Comfort Barnes, who had been awarded the contract, completed the construction of the first courthouse in Shakopee after pressure was felt from Jordan and St. Lawrence for its relocation to their sites. The county seat has since remained in Shakopee, although several attempts have been made to move it.



Thomas Holmes

The first series of five actual struggles for the county

seat began in 1872 when a bill was introduced for the removal of the county seat from Shakopee to Jordan. The vote went to the people and resulted in 969 votes in favor of Jordan and 1,061 votes for Shakopee. In 1876 and again in 1878, Jordan politicians sought introduction of bills in the Minnesota Legislature unsuccessfully. In 1889, Jordan petitioned the County Board of Commissioners but the court upheld its decision to reject it.

Both Jordan and Lydia sought the county seat in 1927, resulting in a battle over the validity of their petitions. A disheartened Lydia withdrew and Jordan forged ahead. After extensive campaigning, the special election in 1929 resulted in 4,428 votes in favor of Shakopee and 2,533 for Jordan. That was the last battle over the county seat.



Scott County Courthouse, 1963

The courthouse building has changed over the years. The original, built in 1860, was remodeled in 1927. After several other remodels, a new building was constructed in 1976. Today, the campus is a combination of a courthouse and justice center connected by a link, built in 1998. The county jail will move across Fourth Street with the completion of a new building in 2005.



Historic Landscape: Land, Water, Roads Affected Early Settlement

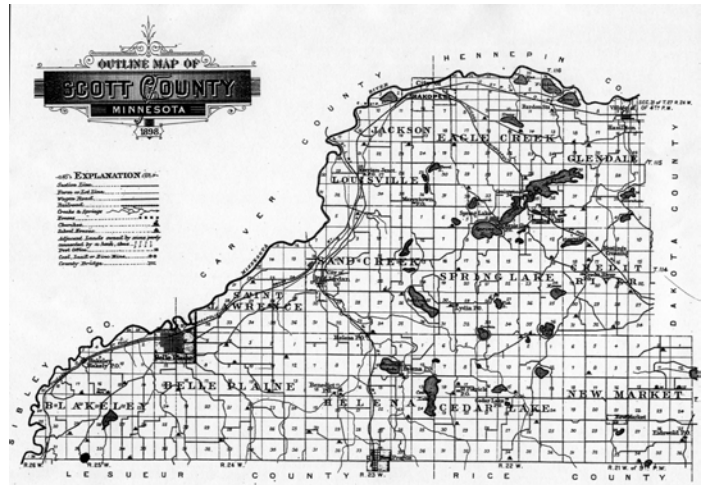
The following is an excerpt from Edward Neill's *History of the Minnesota River Valley* printed in 1882. The book continues to serve as a major source for the early history of the area. In 1994, the Scott County Historical Society reprinted the Scott County chapter, available for sale at the museum or on-line.

A prairie half a mile wide extended from Eagle Creek to Belle Plaine parallel with the river. Heavy timber extended through Credit River, Spring Lake, Sand Creek, Belle Plaine, and Blakeley. Patches of prairie and timber existed in Helena and St. Lawrence. Brush land openings, marshes, with patches of timber, characterized Cedar Lake, New Market, and Credit River. Glendale and Eagle Creek embraced both timber and prairie.

Three Indian bands had permanent villages in the county, the Shakopee, Eagle Head, and Sand Creek bands.

Two circumstances need to be taken into account as having an important influence on the settlement of Scott County, and to a greater or less extent, other counties in the valley of the Minnesota. First, the country was covered with timber which, intercepted the view in all directions and rendered the search for eligible sites for farms a difficult matter. The smoke from one claim cabin could not be seen from another, and neighbors could not so readily become acquainted, when separated by timber as if living on the prairie. Another fact was the existence of several Indian villages, and the fact that the valley was marked by their trails, which not only followed the river, serving as the great highway of travel between the Red River country of the north and Prairie du Chein, but by branching at various points in the country, furnished paths to the finest lakes and openings, thus conducting settlers to the most eligible points for locating farms.

Of course the river itself was the important and natural way of travel, but settlers found steam boats so irregular in making their trips, that after waiting several days for a boat which was advertised to leave St. Paul in a few hours, they would start on foot. By this travel the trails were kept open, and it was found that they were well directed by the instinct of the Indian, affording the most direct and feasible routes. The enlargement of



these trails to roads was an easy matter, and the rude Red River carts with one ox harnessed between the shafts passed up and down between the upper country and lower by these trails without difficulty. It should be added that these original trails have to a large measure become the highways of the county.

Starting from St. Paul, two routes or trails offered the traveler his option. He could cross the river to Mendota and follow the trail leading through Black Dog, an Indian village, to the trading post at the camp of the Kaposia band, Chief Eagle Head, sometimes called Eagle band, kept in 1852 by Louis Roberts and William Murray at Hamilton. At this point a branching trail followed up the creek, now dignified by the name of Credit River, through Scott County south and southwest to Cedar Lake. By this branch the Irish settlers of Glendale, Credit River, and parts of Cedar Lake and Spring Lake, found and located their claims.

Another principal trail was up the river, crossing at Bloomington ferry, proceeding by the village of the Eagle Band, thence to Shakopee, continuing on up the river. A little east of Shakopee, a branching trail ran south about five miles when it forked, one trail leading south-east, between Spring and Long Lakes, and the other continued south to the west end of Spring Lake and Cedar Lake. Near Belle Plaine another branch from the principal trail led in a southerly direction.

At the time settlement in Scott County began the nearest railroad station was Warren, twenty-eight miles from Galena, Illinois.

From the Research Library with Betty Dols: Census Research Part II

If one has New England ancestry, there are some clues in the early census, but not as many as after 1850. From 1790 to 1840, only the heads of household were named but approximate ages of other household members were included. In the 1840 census, the name and exact age of any Revolutionary War Pensioner, including widows receiving a pension, was reported. This clue would lead one to the National Archives Pension files and additional family information.

Most census years after 1850 reported the name and age of each individual in the household; it was not always exact but within a two-year range. Also, after 1850, most census asked where each individual was born. If foreign born, the answer accepted was usually the country of birth i.e. Ireland or Germany. In the 1870 census, the question asks the state of birth and if foreign born, the foreign state i.e. Irish county or German state such as Bavaria, Rhineland, or Pommern. In the 1920 census, it asks the city of ones birth. Each of these clues narrows the scope of ones research.

Since Scott County, Minnesota was not opened to set-

tlement until after 1851, many European immigrants of the 1830s and 1840s lived several years in other states, usually Illinois, Wisconsin, or Iowa. One can often follow them across country by the birthplaces of their children along the way.

The 1900 census reports the name, relationship to family head, month and year of birth, marital status, number of years married, birthplace of individual and parents, occupation, months not employed, school attendance, literacy, whether on a farm, home owned or rented and if owned whether mortgaged, and for women the number of children born and number still living. Probably the most important question for descendants of European immigrants is the year of immigration because this is important information for accessing the passenger lists. These are just some of the important clues to be found in the census schedules.

Today, with the availability of studying the census schedules on the internet, one can utilize this tool from the comforts of home. —By Betty Dols

In the Volunteer Spotlight

Some volunteers can walk to the museum; for others, it's a bike ride; then there is Ethel Jacobson who drives from New Prague in all kinds of weather, day or night. Besides serving as a member of the SCHS Board of Directors, Ethel is also one of a few special volunteers who work Saturdays allowing the museum to be open on the weekend.

Ethel has a special interest in her Czech heritage and has been an active genealogist and historian for many years. She brings that interest and enthusiasm to the museum. It is not unusual for visitors to comment on how helpful, friendly, and interested she was in their research.

Ethel is also a regular volunteer at special events like the Scott County Fair and Dozinky Day, the fall festival in New Prague. Many may remember her laughter and energy as she taught fairgoers to quilt at a large frame at the SCHS booth in 2002. We are lucky to have Ethel and her many talents that she gracefully and willingly shares with the Scott County Historical Society.

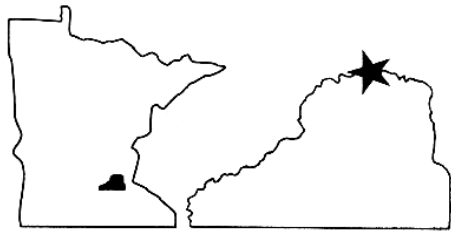
Welcome New Board Member

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the Scott County Historical Society Board of Directors. Appointed to fill a vacant position, Rich Williams comes to the board with an incredible depth of historical knowledge as well as historic interpretation experience.

A longtime resident of Savage, Rich may already be familiar to members from his presentations on heirloom plant varieties at the Stans Museum. His interest in horticulture is evidenced by his large home garden and careful seed collecting. Visitors to Murphy's Landing may have seen Rich and his wife, Brenda, at the Berger farm working in the garden there as well. With a passion for territorial Minnesota history, the couple also works at Historic Fort Snelling, a restored military outpost in St. Paul, interpreting the 1820s.

Rich's history and museum knowledge is truly an asset to the Scott County Historical Society. As with all board members, Rich willingly contributes his time to assist SCHS in pursuing its mission to save history.

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



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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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Gene Simpkins
Ted Stans
Rich Williams

Staff:
John Gutteter, Director
Judith Hentges, Educator
Megan Schaack, Curator



Keep Those Gray Cells Working With These Programs at the Museum

Dec. 11

Celebrating One Last Time

Join us one last time to celebrate 150 years of Scott County History as we see all eight 2003 time capsules from around the county. 6:30 p.m. FREE

Jan. 14

Lunchbox Lecture: New Frontier

See the completed video sharing the stories of Scott County's history in celebration of the past 150 years. Video runs 90-minutes. Noon.

Jan. 15

Coffee Talk: New Frontier

In case you missed it at noon, the special commemorative video will be shown again. Video runs 90-minutes and sells for only \$9.99. 6:30 pm.

Feb. 11

Lunchbox Lecture: Local Poetry

Jordan author and poet, Jesse Coghill will share his musings and poems from his book, *Voices Are Calling*. Noon.

Feb. 12

Coffee Talk: Belle Plaine History

Take this opportunity to learn about Belle Plaine history as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Leo "Sonny" Albrecht will share stories he compiled for his *new* history book. 6:30 pm.

March 10

Lunchbox Lecture: Natural History

Kathy Dummer will talk about Three Rivers Parks and Murphy's Landing. Noon.

March 25

Coffee Talk: Heirloom Seeds

Rich Williams is back by popular demand to share his plant knowledge. 6:30 p.m.

Please note: Beginning in January the Dessert and Coffee Series will be replaced with **Coffee Talk**. No reservations are necessary. Admission, like the Lunchbox Lectures, is free to members and \$2.00 for adults, \$1 for students.
