

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

Inside Connections

Donations to SCHS	2
SCHS Updates	2
Map Land Fundraiser	2
Belle Plaine Baseball	3
Volunteer Spotlight	3
Events Calendar	4

“For the Good of the Women” Tells Facility’s Story

Isabel Higbee was a leader in the fight for a women’s reformatory, a place with “fresh air, God’s glorious sunshine, and as much freedom as is consistent with discipline.” After testifying at a legislative hearing on the matter on March 4, 1915, Isabel fell back in her chair and died. Her effort made all the difference and a women’s reformatory was approved.



Superintendent Florence Monahan with women. Circa 1920. Minnesota Historical Society photograph.

The opening of the Minnesota State Reformatory for Women in 1920 signaled the beginning of a new era. No longer held in the men’s prison at Stillwater, women had their own facility on 167 acres of land in Shakopee. The facility continues to serve today as the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Shakopee.

Tom Daly served as a teacher and educational administrator for the Minnesota Department of Corrections for 27 years. Daly interviewed former employees including SCHS member and volunteer Irene Powers. Irene worked at the facility from 1964 until her retirement in 1984. As a house parent, she was on duty 24-hours a day. In the book, Irene recalls the regimented life of the women down to the one cigarette after each meal and one at the end of the day allowed each inmate.

Do you know fact from fiction? Over the years misconceptions about the Correctional Facility have grown. Test your knowledge of the women’s facility.

1. Gangster Ma Barker was an inmate at the Shakopee women’s facility.
False. She was never at Shakopee.
2. The prison building had gun turrets.
False. In fact, the prison has never had a wall or fence around it either.
3. The facility once raised chickens.
True. The prison farm included pigs, chickens, and cows.
4. Prisoners wore gray uniforms.
False. In the 1920s, women wore plaid gingham dresses.
5. Inmates transcribed braille.
True. Reading material was transcribed from 1956 to 1970 and 1991 to 2001.



Reformatory, 1937. Minnesota Historical Society photograph.

Tom will speak at the Stans Museum on September 29 at noon and again on September 30 at 6:30 p.m. The book, *For the Good of the Women, A Short History of the Minnesota Correctional Facility, Shakopee*, is now available at the Stans Museum for \$10.00.

Thanks to Generous Donors More History Saved, Preserved, Shared

- **Eleen Wagner:** 97 family photographs from New Prague and Jordan areas.
- **Cameron Stewart:** Two volumes, *Genealogical Classification by Family Group Coding for Descent from Common Ancestors*.
- **Mike Worrester:** Postcard of Minnesota River bridge at Belle Plaine, 1909.
- **Elizabeth Moe:** Belle Plaine High School commencement program, 1910.
- **Roger Martin:** Belle Plaine Tigers baseball uniform, c. 1960.
- **Noel Allard:** Elko auto racing poster, Tri-Circuit Stock Car Racing pennant.
- **Don Beuch:** Minnesota Valley Breeders Co-Op Sire Service booklet.
- **Claude Sinnen:** Photographs of St. Mary's (Shakopee) nativity scene, Northridge Court construction, and house demolition on First Ave.
- **Marjorie Henderson:** Hard hat and shovel from groundbreaking ceremony in New Prague.
- **Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Sloux Community:** Two videos, *Young Native Pride 2002* and *2003*.
- **University of Minnesota Extension Service:** *Scott County Minnesota Economic Resource Profile*, 1992.
- **Ione Thels:** Blue denim hat, Black fur hat.
- **Blue Earth County Historical Society Transfer:** Book, *Robinson's New Elementary Algetry*, 1875 from Miss Bertha Olsen, Jordan, Minn. 1884.
- **SCHS Collected:** Scott County Naturalization Records, postcard of Mertz Tap Room in Jordan, Peterson Forage Seed Division booklet.



SCHS Updates: Meeting, Fees

Annual Meeting:

The Scott County Historical Society Annual Meeting will be the evening of Thursday, October 14 at the Stans Museum at 7:30 p.m. Sister Zacchaes Ryan will discuss Irish in Scott County. A Dominican nun, Sister Zacchaes was born in Scott County and has traveled to Ireland eight times.

Fee Changes:

The Board of Directors voted to update the SCHS fee schedule. As of August 1, the following fees apply:

Research Requests	\$15.00 per hour		
Adult Admission	\$4.00	Student Admission	\$2.00
All copies	\$0.25	Oversized copies	\$0.50

Annual membership rates remain the same:

Individual	\$15.00	Household	\$25.00
Sponsor	\$50.00	Business	\$100.00

**The Stans Museum will be
CLOSED
November 25 and 26
for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

Support SCHS: "Buy" 1880 Land

Show your support of the Scott County Historical Society by taking part in the *1880 Map Land Fundraiser* today. Proceeds benefit the Scott County Historical Society and enable the purchase of needed equipment such as a special collections vacuum.

The 1880 Scott County plat map shows the names of property owners in Scott County in 1880. Donors "buy" an area on the 1880 map. Areas of map "land" are available in 40-acre sections at ten cents per acre. Only the area on the map, not the actual land is for sale as part of the fundraiser.

Each donor chooses what area on the map he would like to "own". A "land certificate" indicates the exact section and township on the map where your name will appear.

An entire section, 640 acres, costs only \$64. Map "land" may also be purchased in \$4, \$8, \$16, and \$32 increments. To contribute to the fundraiser, visit the museum or call SCHS at 952-445-0378 for more information. As always, copies of the original 1880 map are available for \$10.00. Your support of the Scott County Historical Society is always appreciated!

Melchior's Belle Plaine Baseball Book Packed Full of Sport's History

Local author Tom Melchior has been researching and writing about Scott County baseball for four years. His work appears in the *Scott County Scene* newspaper.

have included the Red Stockings, Sandbur Bruisers, White Lilies, Clippers, Invincibles, Governors, Athletics, and Tigers, among others.

Melchior recently published the book, *Belle Plaine Baseball 1884-1960*. The book includes summaries and box scores from games against rivals Jordan, New Prague, Shakopee, and others. Newspaper headlines like "NOTHING TO IT, St. Paul Joins Procession of Belle Plaine Ball Victims" tell the story of each game. The book also includes information on the 1991 Class C Runners-up team and 1994 Class C Champions.



1937 Belle Plaine High School District 13 Champions

Belle Plaine baseball legends highlighted in the book include Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Famers Fred Keup, Sr., Joe Hahn, and Jerome "Omy" Hahn. Gene O'Brien, Marty Donovan, and Robert "Minnow" Meyer are among the other remarkable players included in the book.

Nearly 400 pages long, the book, *Belle Plaine Baseball 1884-1960* is available for purchase at the Stans Museum or directly from Tom Melchior for \$22.00. If you

Organized baseball began in Belle Plaine with the Belle Plaine Red Caps in 1884. A second team, the Blue Caps, organized the same year. Other teams

have Scott County baseball stories, information, or memorabilia you would like to share, contact Melchior at 952-445-4109.

Volunteer Spotlight: The Green Thumb of Melissa Whiting

Melissa Whiting has volunteered in the Stans Garden Park caring for the lawn and tending the garden since 1997. She loves working in the garden for others enjoyment.

Melissa graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in horticulture in 1986. A trained arborist, she is growing and studying a species of maple that she hopes to introduce as a new cultivar. She also has a wonderful vegetable and flower garden at her home in Shakopee.

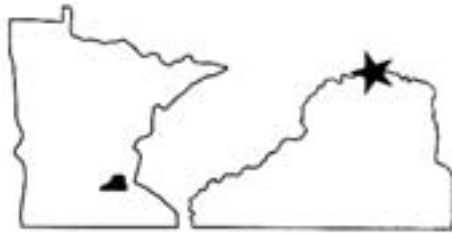
Melissa is a charter member and treasurer of the Shakopee Heritage Society in addition to being a member of the Scott County Historical Society. She enjoys learning new tidbits of local history and the friends she has made in both organizations.



Melissa has a passion for everything outdoors and loves photography, fishing, camping, hiking, biking, and picking wild berries. Before most of us are even awake, Melissa likes to take long morning walks, mostly for exercise, but also to admire the neighborhood's well maintained yards and gardens around her historic lower town Shakopee home. This is where she developed the idea for this year's Derby Days "Most Inviting Landscape" contest for which she was committee chair and judge.

When not outdoors, Melissa spends time baking, especially Christmas cookies with her nieces. Her husband, Jay, loves her pie making skills. A talented musician, she is a percussionist in the Minnesota Valley Concert Band and plays drum set and congas at her church.

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



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Thurs. 9:00—8:00
Sat. 10:00—3:00
Sun., Mon. closed

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Fall is Full with Programs at the Scott County Historical Society

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|-----------------|---|----------------|--|
| Sept. 18 | Dozinky Day, New Prague
Visit the SCHS booth at the festival. | Oct. 14 | Annual Meeting
Join us for the Annual Meeting and a talk on the Irish in Scott County at the Stans Museum. 7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 25 | City to Country Tour
Visit four locations on the 6th Annual tour. See insert for details. FREE. | Oct. 28 | Coffee Talk: Ghost Stories
Join us for a spooky evening of ghost stories. 6:30 p.m. Admission. |
| Sept. 29 | Lunchbox Lecture: Women's Facility
Join author Tom Daly to discuss the history of the Minnesota Women's Correctional Facility in Shakopee. Noon. Admission. | Nov. 10 | Lunchbox Lecture: Dan Patch
Will Williams of the Dan Patch Historical Society will share the history of the famous race horse Dan Patch. Noon. Admission. |
| Sept. 30 | Coffee Talk: Women's Facility
If you can't make the lunchbox lecture, learn about the facility on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Admission. | Nov. 11 | Coffee Talk: Iraqi National Museum
Celebrate Veteran's Day with former SCHS curator Cori Wegener as she shares stories from her work with the Army Reserve at the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad. 6:30 p.m. Admission. |
| Oct. 13 | Lunchbox Lecture: Cemetery Walk
Join genealogist Betty Dols for a walking tour of Shakopee Valley Cemetery. Meet at the cemetery. Noon. Admission. | | |

Museum Admission: Members Free, Adults \$4, Students \$2

For Information, call (952) 445-0378

6th Annual City to Country Tour



**Saturday, September 25, 2004
Noon to 4 p.m.**



**Free, drive-yourself tour open to everyone!
Begin your tour at any site at any time.**

Rahr Malting

800 West First Avenue, Shakopee



Rahr Malting Co. has been a landmark in Shakopee since 1935. Today, this facility is the world's largest single site malt production plant in the world. Visitors at Rahr will have the opportunity to review displays on the history of Rahr Malting and current plant production. Tours of two of the production facilities will be available on a limited basis. Refreshments and pork burgers will be available from the Shakopee Super Seekers 4-H Club. Visitors should enter from Third Avenue.

Lenzmeier Dairy Farm

14376 Old Brickyard Road, Shakopee

The Lenzmeier Farm is a 140-acre dairy farm operated by Leo, Helen, and Bill Lenzmeier. They raise dairy cattle, sheep, corn, alfalfa, and soybeans. The farm has been in the family for at least 80 years. Visitors will see a tie stall barn where cows are milked as well as a loafing shed resting area for cows and young calves being raised in individual and group pens. Farm equipment used on the farm will be on display. Children can have their picture taken with a calf or near a real farm tractor. Dairy products and refreshments will be available from the Youth Development and Youth Teaching Programs.



Sailer's Greenhouse

1610 170th Street East, Spring Lake Township



Sailer's Greenhouse has taken pride in growing a variety of unique bedding plants and perennials. Visit the greenhouse, shop, and enjoy buying directly from the grower. Owner's Peggy and Mark Sailer also grow and supply all the plants for their location at Marschall's Farm Market in Eden Prairie. The tour will showcase a variety of fall color with an abundant selection of garden mums, fall asters, straw bales, corn shocks, and pumpkins. The Carver/Scott Master Gardeners will be there giving horticultural demonstrations. Refreshments will be available from the Credit River Comets 4-H Club.

Scott County Historical Society and Stans House

235 South Fuller Street, Shakopee

Visit the Scott County Historical Society and 1908 Stans House in Shakopee and enjoy guided tours of the exhibits and historic house. This is your last chance to see the exhibit "*Ladies & Gentlemen: The Albright Circus*". Sonny and Gloria Albright will share stories about their lives in the Belle Plaine family circus. Discover the history of Scott County through engaging exhibits and an informative video. Find out about Shakopee native Maurice Stans and his work for President Nixon. See the only zebra and lion in Scott County in the Africa exhibit. Learn how to trace family histories in our research library. In the 1908 house, experience what life was like for a family in early twentieth century Minnesota. Relax and enjoy hotdogs and beverages in the Garden Park.



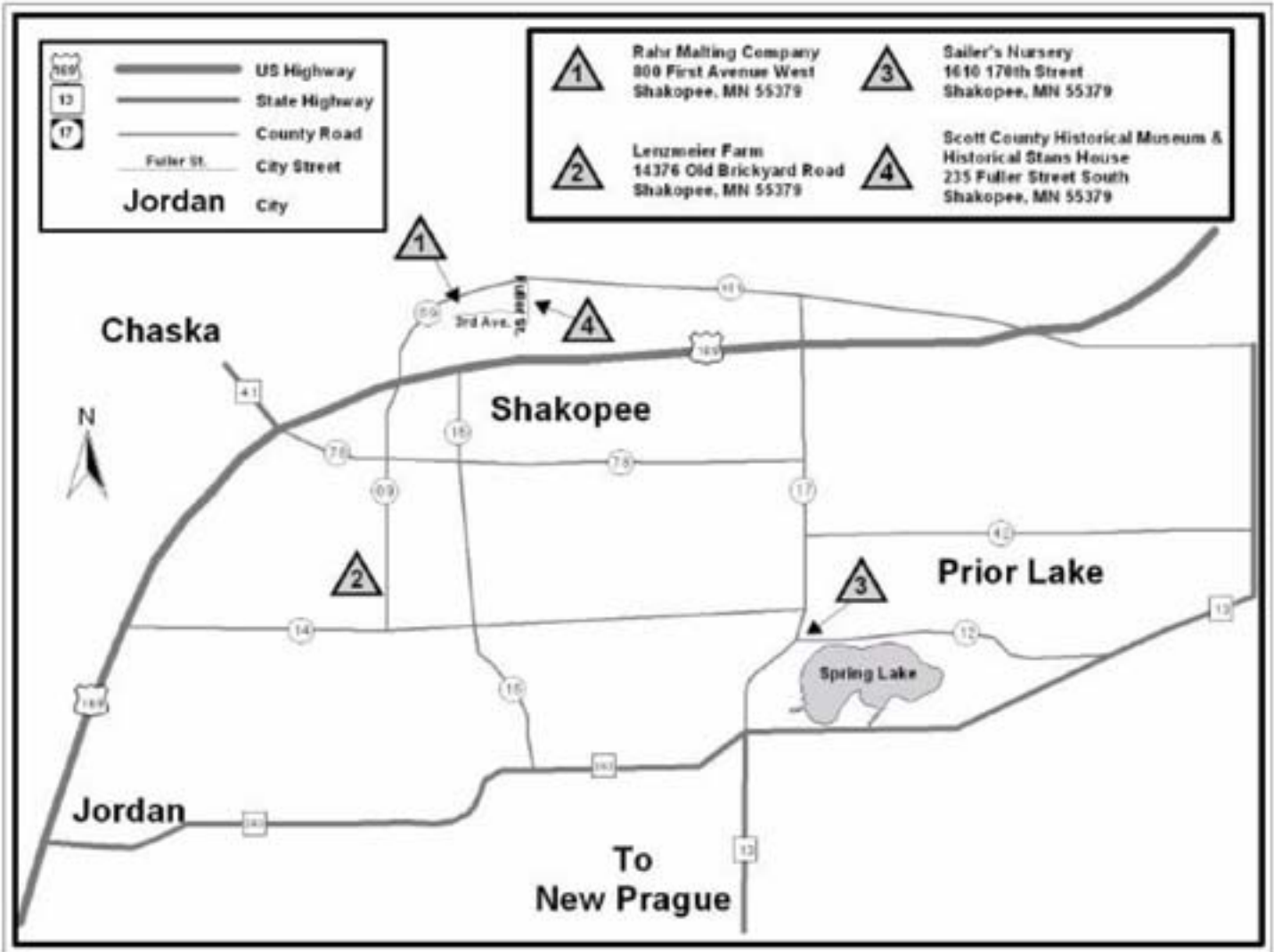
City to Country Tour

Hosted by:

Extension Service & SCHS

Call 492-5410 for information.





Thank you to the City to Country sponsors for making this event possible:

 Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative	 DAIRY PROFITABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM 609 West First Street Waconia, MN 55387 952.442.4406 Fax 952.442.4497	 Associated Milk Producers, Inc. Kevin Rausch
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 Simon Implement, Inc. 10035 Old Hwy 169 Blvd Belle Plaine, MN 56011 Http://jddealer.deere.com/	 Lloyd Friske Area Program Consultant 2905 E. 190th Street Prior Lake, MN 55372	 Scott County Pork Producers
 Ruck's Meat Market & Processing Center, Inc. 121 Willow Street Belle Plaine, MN 56011	 Koup Motors 139 E. Main St. Belle Plaine, MN	 SUZIE ROBB Home Mortgage Specialist 1921 Premier Drive Mankato, MN 56002
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To request disability accommodations, please contact the Scott County Extension Office at 952-492-5410 by Wednesday, September 22, 2004.