



CONNECTIONS

Spring - 2007

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

Scott County's Greatest Generation Oral History Project

The SCHS, in partnership with the Scott County Library System and Veteran's Services, and the Minnesota Historical Society, is undertaking a multi-year oral history project. The purpose of the project is to gather, transcribe and make available stories of Scott County life from the 1930s through 1950s, as well as create exhibits.

The project goals are to...

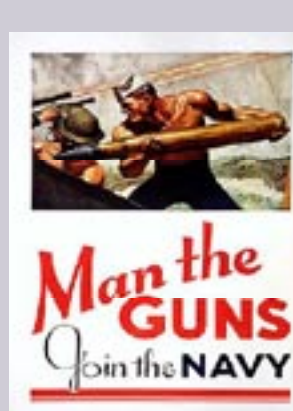
- Increase the understanding of life in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s throughout Scott County
- Increase participation in a historical project from a new audience
- Gather stories from a disappearing population
- Gather a variety of veterans experiences
- Relate veterans experiences in conflict with experiences on the home front
- Understand veterans experiences in returning home from conflict
- Gather a variety of family experiences on the home front
- Create an understanding of life after the war – the beginning of the Boom generations
- Provide a venue for independent education
- Offer a forum for open, in-depth discussions

If you, or someone you know, are interested in sharing your stories, or if you are interested in helping to collect stories, please contact the Scott County Historical Society (SCHS) – training is provided in conducting interviews - 952-445-0378 or kklehr@scottcountyhistory.org.

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HELP SAVE A GENERATION OF HISTORY!



From the Director's Chair

by Kathleen Klehr

The past few months have been busy and full of changes at SCHS. On the program front, we continued our Christmas and Valentine Teas, which were wonderful successes. Expanding on this success, we have scheduled three more; Mother's Day tea in the Stan's House, and two June teas in the beautiful Stan's Garden. In addition, we scheduled community education classes on *Etiquette*, a special *Shakopee House Detective* class for its sesquicentennial, a fun *cemetery tour*, and we're currently booking school field-trips. On the collection and exhibit front, movement has been a bit slow. We extended the run of the popular LeRoy Lebens photography exhibit, and taken in some wonderful donations for accession.

In order for us to offer great programs, create exciting exhibits, and manage the collection we need professional staff. However, we've been

working without a Curator or Program Manager since the end of November. While this has been a challenge, it has also helped us define our staffing needs. After an intensive search we filled the positions. On March 5th we welcomed Courtney Wyant as Curator, and Andy Timmer as Program Manager/Volunteer Coordinator.

Both Courtney and Andy have impressive educational backgrounds. In addition, Courtney has wonderful experience in collection management and exhibit development, and Andy has quite extensive experience in programming and historical interpretation. Their expertise and enthusiasm are wonderful assets to SCHS. Once they have had a chance to settle in, we will begin mapping out our future programs and exhibits.

Please stop by and welcome them to SCHS!

KITCHEN STORIES & RECIPES of SCOTT COUNTY, MN



The SCHS's *Kitchen Stories of Scott County* Cookbook is available NOW! This unique story-filled cookbook contains recipes for *kolaches*, dumplings, *jaternice*, pickles, *booya*, old-fashioned holiday fruitcake, Salvadorian *pupusas* and much more.

Stop by SCHS and pick up your copy of the Cookbook for yourself and a friend!
ONLY \$12.95 + tax.
Sales of the cookbook benefit SCHS.

WISH LIST

Thank you SCHS member Larry Vossen for donating a Sony Digital camera and printer to SCHS. The camera will be used to document events, historic buildings, artifacts, update our collection database, and more.

The following items are badly needed. Please contact us to make a donation at 952-445-0378 or info@scottcountyhistory.org, or stop by!

- * Laptop Computer for Volunteer use
- * Puppet show theater
- * Subscription to Ancestry Library.com
- * Quality microphone for oral histories
- * LCD Projector

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

Here are just a few recent acquisitions:

- * Two Mother-of-the-Bride dresses (c1970s), donated by Mary Ellen Walsh
- * Microfilm of Henry Hinds book - c18?? record of dances Henry attended, donated by Jay Whiting
- * Roller skates (c1930s) - roller blade style, donated by Robert ?

Curator Corner

Recently I spent some time in our collections developing two off-site exhibits, when I noticed a few areas where our collection is slim.

- 1) Prior Lake - resorts and recent history (1950's forward)
- 2) Savage and Elko/New Market
- 3) 1940s to present

We need your help to fill in the gaps. Items need not be extremely old, or of great historical significance to benefit the collection. In fact, we need everyday items - items that tell the story

of businesses, family life, farming, small towns, transportation, entertainment, sports, rites of passage (marriage, funerals, anniversaries...), school days, holiday's, celebrations, political items, commemorative items... We are also very interested in items for education programs - such as a record or 8-track player, dress-up clothes & gloves, teacups, Items that may not fit in the collection will be great for hands-on use.

So, when cleaning out the closet, garage, or grandma's house, PLEASE consider donating to SCHS before pitching items. What you think is trash, might be our treasure!

NEWS FLASH!

We are excited to announce that the city of Prior Lake requested the SCHS to develop city specific exhibits for a special display area in their new City Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for SCHS to bring history to life for Prior Lake residents, widen our exposure in the county, and develop a close relationship with Prior Lake residents and city administrators. Look for the new exhibit on Prior Lake's historic resort industry in the near future.

NEW TEAS

This year you can enjoy two new Teas!

Mother's Day Tea, Saturday, May 12, and
Garden Teas, Saturday June 16, &
Thursday evening June 21 - Solstice!

Teas fill up early so book your spot soon.
To Register, call 952-445-0378 or email
info@scottcountyhistory.org.

Anyone interested in volunteering at a tea please contact SCHS at the phone or email listed above.



2006 Christmas Tea

LeRoy Lebens: A Life in Pictures

In September we opened an exhibit on the photographs and paintings of LeRoy Lebens. The exhibit has been such a hit that we're extending it through May 2007. Bring a friend and enjoy the talents of a wonderful local photographer.

WELCOME New and Renewing MEMBERS!

Sandi Andersen	Ken Koppes
Mike & Mary Armstrong	Bill Kunst
Cathi Boegeman	Lori Lesinski
Theresa Boettcher	Bill Loughmiller
Ed & Gayle Bowler	Kurk Marston
Ken Brooks	Pat McLaughlin
Bill Colehour	Mike & Nicole Murray
Betty Dols	Dave Nicolay
Emilie Duffy	Eugene Pexa
David Egler	Irene & Greg Powers
Mary Elhers	Sandra Schubert
Gordon Eischens	Kristin Sindelar
Judy Emry	Marlene Trapp
Gayle Gerber	Bonnie Von Buskirk
Jordan Agency Inc.	Doris & Jim
Fred Keup	Wermerskirchen
June Knuth	Mary Wichmann



HOUSE DETECTIVE!

Shakopee celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. To help residents search out the stories behind their homes, SCHS is offering a special class May 17. Learn how to dig out your house history, the resources available, and much more. Register through Shakopee Comm. Ed.

ETIQUETTE, SCHM-ETIQUETTE, WHO CARES?



Etiquette has dictated how to live "properly" throughout history. Which fork to use? The white glove treatment. What to wear? When to turn off the cell phone? We will explore proper etiquette and manners from Emily Post to Ms. Manners. Join a lively discussion about proper manners from the 1880s to today, including entertaining, clothing, social niceties and much more. *White gloves optional.*

SCHS offers these presentations through Community Education throughout the county this spring. To register contact the following Community Education offices.

March 20, 6:35pm, Burnsville Comm. Ed.
 April 12, 6:30 pm., Shakopee Comm. Ed.
 April 21, 9:30 a.m., New Prague Comm. Ed.
 May 3, Burnsville Comm. Ed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have some time to spare? Interested in making a difference? Love history? Enjoy being a "history detective? Then look no further! SCHS has any number of volunteer opportunities to fit your interests and skills.

Oral history transcription - Subject, Artifact, Exhibit research - Staff an SCHS event - Data entry - Photography - Database updates - Gather supplementary information for SCHS book club - Lead tours - Exhibit building - Writer - Newsletter editor - Mailings,...

Tell us what you are interested in! Volunteering at SCHS is fun, informative, and a great way to make a lasting contribution to your community. Call Today! 952-445-0378, or stop in for a visit.

“Minnesota Genealogist” Article, Submitted February 15, 2006

St. Nicholas Catholic Cemetery Project, New Market, MN

By Ronald J. Zweber

It is difficult enough doing genealogical research on your own family lines but what would lead a person to research several hundred people where no relationship to the researcher exists?

For me the reason was to complete an expansive cemetery publication for my hometown cemetery where I knew the family backgrounds of approximately 80% of the people buried there but I didn't know the remaining 20%. With approximately 1,000 burials, this amounted to doing research on almost 200 people.

Let me start at the beginning. Around 1989 I saw a notice in the Minnesota Genealogist about MGS' statewide Cemetery Project. I promptly wrote a note to the person heading up this MGS initiative suggesting to her that MGS transcribe my hometown cemetery in New Market, MN (Scott County). I received a short note back from her saying I had a wonderful idea, and an appropriate response from a volunteer run organization, that I should head-up this project! In April 1990, with the assistance of the German Interest Group, (n.k.a. Germanic Genealogical Society) we did the initial gravestone transcription.

This transcription information was typed up, but the finished product was not circulated beyond a small group of people because of my desire to expand the project into something more expansive. My vision for this publication was to make it more informative than the standard cemetery transcription where gravestone information is sometimes supplemented from cemetery records.

Neither New Market nor Scott County has a comprehensive history listing the early settlers and their descendants. I wanted this cemetery publication to fulfill two missions; one to provide

a summary of who was buried in this cemetery and secondly to make it more historical and genealogical in nature so we would have a comprehensive listing of the early settlers and their descendants. I wanted people to know who these people were and where they came from.

From twenty-five years of collecting genealogical information on my paternal family lines and other local families lines I had a fairly comprehensive base of information on close to 80% of the people in the cemetery. St. Nicholas Cemetery in New Market is typical of the many ethnic Minnesota cemeteries in smaller communities. Most people buried in the cemetery tie to others buried in the cemetery and often they are related [to] many others. Of the close to 1,000 burials, less than 15 people could not be traced to at least one other person in the cemetery.

To fulfill my desire for a more historical and genealogical work, I created a template for a typical entry. I sometimes modified the template by adding additional information but for the most part I followed the template so there would be consistency throughout the document.

A standard entry would typically start with the gravestone information and then the supplemental historical and genealogical information was added within brackets. I wanted full dates for birth and death, places of birth and death, names of parents, information on immigration, if born outside the U.S. I would also note discrepancies if the dates on the gravestones conflicted with other information. Also, it was important to note the relationships of the people buried in a family plot, as multiple spouses, children, grandchildren and siblings

are often buried in the same family plot with or without the same surname.

Below is a sample entry from the publication.

John & Mary Helena are my great- grandparents:

ZWEBER

John, b. 6 Nov 1850; d. 3 Oct 1928, Father
Mary H., b 28 March 1862; d. 24 Oct 1907,

Mother

(3 footstones)

Herman B., Apr 19, 1891-Dec 5, 1920

Valentine, Mar 26, 1880-Jan 18, 1903

Michael A., Aug 1, 1896-Apr 22, 1897

[John Zweber was the son of Valentine Zweber and Anna Eischens. He was born in Bornhof (near Arzfeld) Germany and came to the U.S. around 1871 by himself. His parents and five siblings joined him in 1873. Mary Helena Pollart was the daughter of Cornelius Pollart and Beatrice Tholen.

Mary was born near Echt, Holland and came to the U.S. as a young child with her parents. Both John and Mary Helena died in New Market. Herman, Valentine and Michael were sons of John and Mary. They were all born and died in New Market.]

During this process of trying to expand the original transcription I brought my 2nd cousin, Patrick Mahowald, in as a partner in this project. Pat contributed several important skill sets to complete this project. In addition to having a strong interest in history and genealogy of the New Market families, he had experience in publishing and he would handle the layout and publishing. Even though publication was always the goal, I had no publishing skills. My passion was genealogy and history of the New Market community. Pat's addition to this project allowed me to stay focused on the genealogical and

historical aspect of the project while he focused on how to create an attractive and user-friendly publication for our readers and researchers.

In addition to his publishing skills Pat is part of the Mahowald family, which is the most common name in the cemetery. He and other Mahowald researchers he was connected to added substantial value to getting this information correct. Last, Pat and his son John were able to get the early draft on the Internet and then the final publication on the Internet as well.

In June 2005, fifteen years after the original communication to MGS, Pat and I, published a 103-page manuscript on the approximately 1,000 people buried at St. Nicholas.

What did we learn? Here are several suggestions for someone wanting to complete a similar work:

- 1) Start with a vision of the finished product. You need to have a good sense of what the scope of the project should be and try and be consistent throughout the document. We made some changes to the base of information but we felt that consistency in style and information for each entry was important. It also created an equity situation where we tried to provide the same information on everyone.
- 2) Work with the Church Leadership (assuming the church is still active). I have seen a number of cemetery publications that seem to have little input from the parish that operates the cemetery. We brought the parish council up to date on the project and to made it a point to have them endorse the project.
- 3) Pick a good partner(s). Like with so many things in life the end product can be improved if the right skill sets are involved. My skills were having an

extensive data base from 20 years of research on the major families as well as being able to research people where we had limited information. Pat was helpful on genealogical and historical issues, but his expertise in the actual layout of the manuscript was essential. He enhanced the look by scanning in funeral cards and it became a very attractive publication.

- 4) Line up a number of interested people to help proof. We had one person who proofed a number of drafts, but as we got toward the end we had approximately 15 people proof the entire draft document, knowing that each of them would find small errors. This was especially helpful in discovering errors in our source documents.
- 5) Sometimes you get lucky. In this German cemetery there was a gravestone for a "Michel King, died 26 March 1862" King is not a German name or a local name. Because it was one of the earliest burials in the cemetery and pre-dating any death records, I thought I would never know who this child or adult was. Out of the blue I received a call from the head of the Cemetery Board saying that a woman had called him requesting information on this burial and could I follow up with her. She was able to give me important information on this young man who was her g.g.grandfather.
- 6) Sometimes it takes forever to find the answers. I am very close to offering a reward for the death date of Peter Fischer, who was born around 1822. He last appears in the 1900 census but I can't find any reference to his death. Yet he has a number of descendants also buried in the cemetery.
- 7) You do not need to list the cause of death. Although some people would value the information related to cause of death, I wanted the publication to be more genealogically focused and seldom listed the cause of death.

The exceptions were identifying the victims of small pox outbreak in 1882 and a diphtheria epidemic in 1895.

- 8) Focus as much on people without grave markers as those with markers. An important goal of this project was to recognize and document the lives of everyone from the community who were buried in the cemetery. Many burials without markers had wood markers that have since deteriorated and have not been replaced.
- 9) We added funeral/memorial cards into the publication. They made the layout more interesting as we chose many interesting and artistic funeral cards.
- 10) It helps to live near the MN History Center! I live less than a mile away from the History Center in St. Paul and would often run over there on a Saturday for 1 to 2 hours to do research.

The Transcription of Church of St. Nicholas Catholic Cemetery, New Market, MN compiled by Ronald J. Zweber and Patrick J. Mahowald, can be viewed on-line at www.Mahowald.Info/StNicholas or purchased by contacting the parish at 952-461-2403.

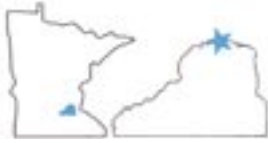




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Hours:

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
Courtney Wyant, Curator
Andy Timmer, Program Manager

What's Ahead at the Scott County Historical Society

March 15: All Things MN Book club Meeting

March 20: *Etiquette, Schm-Etiquette, Who Cares?*
Burnsville Comm. Ed.

March 22: Crazy Quilters Meeting

March 27: Shakopee Showcase

April 12: *Etiquette, Schm-Etiquette, Who Cares?*,
Shakopee Comm. Ed.

April 18: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

April 19: All Things MN Book club Meeting

April 21: *Etiquette, Schm-Etiquette, Who Cares?*,
New Prague Comm. Ed.

April 26: Crazy Quilters Meeting

May 3: *Etiquette, Schm-Etiquette, Who Cares?*,
Burnsville Comm. Ed.

May 12: ****NEW**** Mother's Day Tea

May 17: All Things MN Book club Meeting

May 17: *House Detectives*, Shakopee Comm. Ed.

May 19: ****NEW**** American Girl Tea

May 24: Crazy Quilters Meeting

May 31: Cemetery Walk

June 16: ****NEW**** Garden Tea

June 21: ****NEW**** Garden Tea (Summer Solstice)

SHAKOPEE

Where the Rail Meets the River



SHAKOPEE TURNS 150

Join us in celebrating Shakopee's 150th Birthday with a party in Huber Park, June 30th. Games, food, guided *History of Shakopee* tours... Watch the Shakopee Valley News for more information.

