



CONNECTIONS

Winter 2008

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

Why should I go to the SCHS /Stans Museum?

Museums are boring, dusty, creepy places where you can't touch anything and have to be really quiet. Right? **WRONG!**

We are anything but boring, dusty or creepy (*except at Halloween*).

Want to find out how your street got its name? **We can help.**



Our research library is packed with cool fun facts.

Don't have a clue what that item is hanging up in the back of the garage? **We can help.**

Museum staff can usually identify those odd items, or we know someone who can.

Who were the past queen candidates in my town or school? **We can help.**

One of our volunteers recently compiled a list of Scott County city festival queen candidates and we have the list!



Want to know what the headline was on the date you were born?

We can help.

County newspapers on microfilm are in our library & we have readers & printers to print out the headline!



SHHHHhhhh! Quiet in the museum. **Not really.**

Listen to excerpts from speeches, and watch video clips of past presidential campaigns. Laugh out loud at political cartoons and more in the *Hill to the Valley* exhibit!

Need to know how to store your wedding dress or Gran's cool hats?

We can help.

Museum staff can assist you on how to store your precious items so they'll last.



It's Saturday and you promised the kids a fun day out. Where to go?

We can help.

Kids Kraft combines a hands-on craft with wonderful children's storybooks for great family fun. **FREE!** Kids Kraft takes place the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m., beginning January 31.

On top of all this, we have excellent exhibits, fun workshops and much more. **Check us out!**

MUSEUM STORE SPECIAL

10% Discount on ALL Store Items, Nov 25-Dec 24 ONLY (Members = 20%!)

Inside Connections

From the Director	2
Member / Donor List	3
Programs	4
Collections	5
Research Library	6-7
Events Calendar	8

From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

In the past few newsletters I outlined the changes taking place in our exhibit galleries. Now that the work is done, I invite you to stop in for a first-hand look at the exciting changes this year has brought. Not only do the exhibits look fantastic, this process also gave us the opportunity to create some great templates to help us develop future exhibits and programs.

If we could get some templates on how to get the word out about us - that would be icing on the cake! At recent events and programs, I've heard people say "This is great, I've never been to the museum before," "I didn't know this [the museum] was here." or "I cannot believe I haven't been coming to these programs all along!" Unfortunately, these comments are heard all too frequently.

We work hard to offer a variety of exhibits and programs to meet the interests and needs of residents, and to further our mission. The difficult part is figuring out how to get the word out about all the great things happening at the museum. We've tried a variety of ways, but the most successful is **Word of Mouth!**

So, visit us during the upcoming holiday season, then share your experiences with friends and family. Better yet - invite them to join you in a visit to view an exhibit or attend a program.

You are our best ambassadors. We do not want to be a "best kept secret". Share your interest in local history and help spread the word about the wonderful work the Scott County Historical Society does & how much fun we are!

Welcome new Board Member Tom Nesvig!

Please join me in welcoming our newest board member Tom Nesvig. Tom has a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in economics from South Dakota State University, and a BS degree in accounting from Minnesota State University-Mankato. He lives in Gaylord with his wife and children, and runs his own accounting firm (Nesvig Accounting), in Shakopee. Please join me in welcoming Tom to our board of directors. His financial skills will be a wonderful asset to the Society. **WELCOME TOM!**

Your Financial Support is Needed!

The Scott County Historical Society relies on your financial support. In these difficult financial times, your support is needed now more than ever.

Please respond generously to our request. Your financial support allows SCHS to continue providing high quality outreach and education programming, engaging exhibits, an extensive research library, as well as maintain collection items for future generations. Help us to continue these worthwhile efforts through a financial gift. Consider your donation an investment in your long-term memory.

THANK YOU!



January - Carver County Historical Society
February - The Landing (formerly Murphy's Landing)

March - Scott County Historical Society
Talk & book signing "Wood, Concrete, Stone & Steel; MN's Historic Bridges" by Denis Gardner

**Mark your calendars for these
Round Table Events**

(The 3rd Saturday of the month at 1pm)

**THANK YOU New and Renewing MEMBERS!
(August 31 through November 14, 2008)**

Business:

Bill Wermerskirchen/Bill's Toggery

Sponsor

Joe and Lorri Helkamp

Ronald Zweber

Household:

Geri and Neil Gillis

Ellen Hennessy

Tom and Sue Melchior

Mike and Paulette Rislund

Jack and Laurie Trimbo

Doris and Jim Wermerskirchen

Jay and Melissa Whiting

Richard and Donald Zaun

Individual:

Shirley Anderson

Ben Bartusek

Jeanette Deutsch

Marge Duffy

Mary Fury

Lauri Glenn

Judith Hentges

Jerome Hoffman

Linda Jacques.

Cheryl Johnson

Gary Kerkow

Kathy Klehr

Brian Leikan

Renee Loesch

Ken Marschall

Dan O'Brien

Elda O'Connell

Fr. William Paron

Dr. Joe Pekarna

Harriet Pink

Sharon Ritchart

Therese Scherer

Kathy Schroeder

Dorothy Sifferath

Ione Theis

Phyllis Thiel

Lois Wendt

Laura Wermerskirchen

Don Wruck

Carrie Zeman



Girl Scout tour Nov 08

**THANK YOU to Our
Donors for Their
Generous Support.**

Leader:

Rahr Malting

Patron:

Sponsor:

Advocate:

Rolland Pistulka

Booster:

Dorothy Sifferath

Other:

Kathy Klehr

In-Kind:

Therese Scherer

Treasure Chest Antiques

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.

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

- * Join a committee
- * Staff events (Kids Kraft)
- * Lead school tours
- * Data entry
- * Participate in exhibit development

**Volunteering Benefits at
SCHS**

It's great fun

*Meet with your friends & make
new ones*

Share your expertise

Learn a new skill

Contribute to your community

*Support an organization you
believe in*

Become a Time Philanthropist

You can donate your time on a regular or occasional basis. Contact SCHS and let us know how you want to be involved. 952-445-0378, or info@scottcountyhistory.org

ARE YOU A COLLECTOR?

We have a dedicated display case set aside to showcase Scott County resident collections. Show off your collection! Call to schedule your display! 952-445-0378

From the Programs Desk

The holidays are right around the corner so make sure you don't miss out on the historical society's Christmas Teas. Enjoy tours, treats, and traditional Victorian crafts against the backdrop of the Stans House, beautifully



Making ornaments at December 2007 Girl's Christmas Tea

decorated for Christmas. The tea for adults is Thursday, December 11 at 6:30pm and the girls' teas are Saturday, December 13 at 1pm and Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm. Registrations are required.

Beginning in 2009, the Scott County Historical Society will host FREE family fun days! Held the last Saturday of every month from January - November, each day will feature a Kids' Kraft program. Designed to engage children through pictures and hands-on activities, Kids' Krafts consist of a story and craft activity for children 4-8 years old. The museum and research library are also free to the public those days. Registrations required for Kids' Kraft. These events are FREE, so come have some fun!

Calendar of Events:

-Adult Christmas Tea. Thursday, December 11 at 6:30pm. Registrations required, \$15 for members/\$20 for non-members.

-Girl's Christmas Tea. Saturday, December 13 at 1:00pm. Registrations required, \$10 for adults/\$7 for children

-Girl's Christmas Tea. Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm. Registrations required, \$10 for adults/\$7 for children.

-Kids' Kraft = "Be Mine" Saturday, January 31 at 10:30am. We will read "If You'll Be My Valentine" by Cynthia Rylant and then make boxes for collecting valentines at school and at home. Registrations required. FREE!

-Intro to Genealogy Betty Dols instructor. Saturday, January 24, 9am - Noon. Registrations required - \$5 fee.

-Kids' Kraft = "Winter Warm-Up." Saturday, February 28 at 10:30am. We will read "There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow" by Lucille Colandro and then decorate snowmen and snowflakes. Registrations required. FREE!

-Crazy Quilting: A Stitch in Time Exhibit Opening, Saturday, March 7.

-Kids' Kraft = "Makin' Music" Saturday, March 28 (at Stans House). We will read "Big Bear Ball" by Joanne Ryder and then make a paper plate tambourine. FREE!

-All Day Crazy Quilting Saturday April 4 (10am-3pm) with Master Quilter, Sandi Andersen.

Want to help out, but unable to volunteer your time?

Consider sponsoring an education program! Please contact us for information on sponsoring...

- * Buses for school field trips (\$1,000)
- * Mileage for outreach (\$800)
- * Craft supplies (\$150)

Your support helps further our mission to share Scott County History!

Curator Corner

OFF-SITE EXHIBITS

The SCHS will be unveiling four new off-site exhibits in January. *What's Cooking?* will be installed at the Scott County Courthouse and will feature cookbooks and cookbook history. *In Business; Commerce and Trade in Prior Lake* tells the story of Prior Lake businesses and will be on display at the Prior Lake City Hall. Resort history will be featured in *Retreating to Prior Lake*, on display at the Prior Lake Public Library. Finally, *School Days* will highlight items from Shakopee High School and will be on display at the Shakopee Public Library. We encourage everyone to check out these snapshots of Scott County's diverse history.

ON SITE EXHIBITS

Continuing through July 2008: *From the Hill to the Valley: A Landscape in History*

Opening March 7 – *Crazy Quilting: A Stitch in Time* highlights the craft, artistry and skill of crazy quilting. The Scott/Carver Crazy Quilters worked with us to create this fascinating exhibit. Stay tuned for announcements of special events “stitched” into the exhibit run.

With the opening of *From the Hill to the Valley: A Landscape in Politics*, we have been able to get back to work cataloguing current and past donations to the collections. Numerous treasures relating to families across Scott County have been unearthed and updated in our database, PastPerfect. Special thanks to volunteers Diane and Shirley for helping pack and house a variety of different artifacts, and for helping to organize the historical society's registration files.

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

- Several cookbooks from the 1950s through the late 1990s (donated by Betty Dols).
- An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota, 1874 and a program from Lander Opera House (donated by Don Hamilton).
- Two t-shirts from Jordan public schools (donated by Kurk Marston).
- Minnesota centennial cookbook (donated by Laurie Trimbo).
- Political sign for Joe Helkamp (donated by Joe Helkamp).
- 1956 Shakopee City Festival queen candidate dress and matching shawl (donated by Laura Egan Radermacher).
- Several Scott County public school textbooks from the 1920s and 1930s (donated by Ruth Fahrenkamp).



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*

As the economy in Scott County has recently felt the stress of the rest of the country it recalls the similar financial crisis of the 1930's. Called "The Great Depression" there were no government programs in place to mitigate the severity as there is today. As families became destitute, many men traveled across country looking for work and often begging for food.

In January of 1934, the Shakopee Tribune published an article stating that effective Jan. 1, the railroads would enforce all restrictions on transients hitch hiking from town to town on the trains. The article also stated the federal government was planning camps where these men would be given housing but would be required to work six hours per day for six days a week in return for room and board and medical care. They will be allowed to work an additional three hours per week at \$.30 per hour, but never in excess of 48 hours a week. In February of 1934 there were articles about a National Employment Service for both men and women.

The Shakopee Argus of June 7, 1934 reported on meetings conducted by four Emergency Relief Administration officials concerning plans for development of the river bottoms between Shakopee and Mendota. Part of the plan was already initiated with funds from the federal government through the E.R.A.

At the first camp under construction at Savage, 200 transients ranging in age from 18 to 34 were at work with 600 more expected the following week.

The Minn. Highway Department purchased four farms comprising 520 acres of farmland adjacent to Shakopee in the Minn. River Valley for \$46,000.00. One of these farms was the Donovan farm east of Shakopee where the old Murphy house on the site was already under renovation. This site known as Camp #5 was to be the headquarters, the largest and best equipped of the five. Eight buildings were to be built at the

Murphy site, sufficient in size to house 200 to 250 men.

It was to have medical and dental wards under the supervision of a doctor and 2 dentists. Every man is assigned to some camp duty such as messenger, first aid, gardening, landscaping, carpentry, kitchen or many other occupations. They raised their own vegetables and canned some for the winter.

The rather elaborate warming house at the ice skating rink north of First Avenue was constructed by the transients in October of 1935.

Construction of the permanent camp at Savage was reported to be well under way with 65 of the transients union carpenters.

In August of 1935 there were articles appearing about the cessation of work relief projects under the ERA due to reduction in federal funds. The new programs were to be under the federal Works Progress Administration. Towards the end of 1935 there were rumors that the camps were closing and locals wondered what would become of the elaborate buildings.

In 1936 the news was that the camps at Savage and Shakopee would continue but would no longer be called transient camps but camps for homeless men and house only local men with funding coming from the county rather than the federal government. Many of the older men were now eligible for the new state old age pension and therefore self supporting.

The preceding is the story of how the buildings came to be and they built well because they were put to several uses during the next 20 years.

In March of 1938 a new federal project called the National Youth Administration took over the buildings east of Shakopee for a work-study program similar to the CCC but non military. Young men between the ages of 18 and 25 would work half days and study half days. Enrollees earned \$10.00 per month, plus room and board. They could study agriculture, cooking, auto mechanics, carpentry, forestry, welding and activities related to a camp site

of 2700 acres of wooded land. Many young men learned a trade there. In the first year 301 boys completed the program.

In September of 1939 the federal government allocated another \$200,000 to add ground mechanics for the aviation industry to the curriculum. In 1940 construction of sea plane bases were added. In 1941 and 1942 the young men were taught welding, machine shop and radio to prepare them for work in defense plants.

During WWII, most of the buildings at Savage became Camp Savage where young men of Japanese descent born in this country were learning Japanese at the Military Intelligence Service Language School. This continued through 1944.

With the end of WWII in 1945, some of the buildings with shop equipment were leased to private industry. Some of the barracks were rented to war veterans and their families to ease the housing shortage. In 1947 the City of Shakopee paid the State of Minnesota \$7500.00 for the buildings and part of the acreage which would become Memorial Park.

And finally, some time in the 1950's, the buildings were sold to be removed from the site. Several were converted to private residences. Most of the buildings in Savage were auctioned off in 1945.

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!

- * LCD Projector
- * Snow shovel
- * Rid-Ice, salt
- * HP Photo paper
- * Multi-colored construction paper

The *Main Street to Statehood*, MN 150th exhibit ends its run at the Scott County Courthouse in December. **Thank You**



to the Libraries for hosting the exhibit, and to Fabcon Inc., Steve Blake, & Linnihan Foy for their support.

Crazy Quilters

Come & join us as we stitch! Learn how to crazy quilt or bring any hand-stitching project to work on (quilt-ing, 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.

2008/9 Meeting Dates

No mtgs November	December 4 (potluck)
January 22	February 26
March 26	April 23

(Fourth Thursday of each month 6:00-8:00p.m.)

HELP SAVE A GENERATION OF HISTORY!

The Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), continues to collect stories from Scott County residents in an effort to preserve community history from 1930 to early 1950.

We need help in the JORDAN and ELKO/NEWMARKET areas.

If you, or someone you know is interested in sharing stories, or helping to collect stories, please contact Kathy Klehr at the Historical Society (952-445-0378, or kklehr@scottcountyhistory.org).





235 Fuller Street South
Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 952-445-0378
Fax: 952-445-4154
info@scottcountyhistory.org
www.scottcountyhistory.org



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

Board of Directors

John Diers, Secretary
Sheila Helmick (Stans Foundation
Representative)
Jerry Hennen
Tom Nesvig - Treasurer
Therese Scherer, President
Jeff Williamson, Vice President

Staff

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

What's Ahead at the Scott County Historical Society

ON-GOING

Christmas Teas: (Reservations Required)

Adult Tea: December 11

Girl's Tea: December 13 & December 18

Closed December 25 & January 1 Christmas &
New Year Holidays

Kids Kraft: (FREE!)

January 31 - "Be Mine" Valentine crafts

February 28 - "Winter Warm Up" Snowman
craft

March 28 - "Makin' Music" Tambourine craft

April 25 - Garden Pinwheels

Closed January 19 MLK Jr. Holiday

Intro to Genealogy Betty Dols instructor.
Saturday, January 24, 9am - Noon. \$5 Fee.

Closed February 16 President's Day Holiday

Exhibit Opening! (FREE!)

Crazy Quilts: A Stitch in Time opens Saturday,
March 7

Talk & Book Signing

March 21 - "Wood, Concrete, Stone & Steel;
MN's Historic Bridges" by Denis Gardner.
A MN River Valley History Round Table
presentation

All Day Crazy Quilting

Saturday April 4 (10am-3pm), with Master
Quilter Sandi Andersen.

All Things Minnesota Book Club – meets at
6:30pm in the Stans House on the third Thursday
of each month.

Scott County Crazy Quilters – meets at 6:30pm
in the museum on the fourth Thursday of each
month. ** Knit or Crochet? Welcome Too!

