



CONNECTIONS

Winter 2010/2011

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



*Book Release
and Signing
Party*

*Saturday,
December 18,
2010
2 - 5 p.m.*

Never Forgotten

Stories by Scott County, Minnesota, WW II Veterans
by
Tom Melchior
in collaboration with the
Scott County Historical Society

The publication of this book has been a long time coming. The Society began its *Scott County Greatest Generation Oral History Project* in 2006 with the goal of collecting resident's stories from the 1930-1950s. With financial help from Cargill and dedicated volunteers, we collected and transcribed over 160 individual interviews. Turns out, a majority of those interviews were with Scott County veterans. To make the stories accessible, we received a MN Grant-in-Aid to digitize the audio tapes, which we are now working to upload to our website for greater access. Additionally, we received a MN Arts and Cultural Heritage - Legacy Grant to create a manuscript from the veteran's stories. We contracted with local author Tom Melchior to undertake this project - the perfect person to complete this book. He had already recorded most of the veteran's oral histories, and from his research was well acquainted with the particular parts of the war that involved our guys. Tom also has the necessary skills to create an impressive manuscript that is faithful to the veteran's voices.

Many thanks to all the people that contributed to the completion of this project. Help us celebrate at a book release & signing party on December 18 from 2-5pm. Pre-sales of the book are accepted at SCHS, books are \$30 plus tax. SCHS members receive a 10% discount.

Inside Connections

From the Director	2
Member/Donor List	3
Curator	4
Collections	5
Event News	6
Events Calendar	7

From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

I've had a busy fall attending city festivals, planning and successfully pulling off our first Hangar Dance fundraiser, planning a year's worth of programs with our curator, and... It's been loads of fun, very stressful and full of learning experiences. Nice to know that as we grow older there is still so much more to learn and experience.

One thing I do know is that our funding will be cut this year - by how much we just don't know. So I urge you to seriously consider responding generously to our annual appeal letter that you should receive this month. (Check us out on GiveMN.org) Help us to continue searching, saving and sharing our common history for a long time to come.

I am excited to work with our board to revisit and create a new strategic plan to consciously move SCHS forward over the next few years. We may call on you from time to time to help us develop this plan and ensure that we are meeting your needs. Watch for more information in the next few newsletters.

Thank you for your continued membership support. Please share this newsletter with friends and family and encourage them to join the SCHS family!

Welcome New Board members...

Paul N. Youngs: Financial advisor for Edward Jones, and from 2000-2004 he was an airline pilot for Northwest Regional. Paul has a BS from the University of North Dakota, and is board chairman for Community Education Advisory Council. He also serves on the boards of the Shakopee Downtown Partnership, Economic Development Advisory Council and the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce.

Rachel Simmons: Employed at Shakopee Lowes. She and her family live in Jordan. Rachel is a past SCHS summer intern and is currently working toward a masters degree at St. Thomas University.

Will Williams: Retired math teacher. Will currently serves on the boards of the School District 191 Foundation and the Dan Patch Historical Society. He is also a member of the Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable, the "Voice of the DPHS" as he does TV and radio programs, and is the speaker for school programs, narrated tours and programs to service groups.

The Stans Foundation donated \$1,000 in memory of Marge Henderson. Please help us choose how to honor Marge by sending us your vote by March 1, 2011.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plaque on new bench in Stans Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a tree in Stans Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestion: _____ _____
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Special Thank You to Cargill, Inc. for their generous in-kind donation of chairs, desks, conference table and file cabinets, including delivery and set-up. Stop in and check out the cool ergonomic chairs in the research library.

Scott County facilities staff were very kind to remove the older (very heavy) desks and chairs being replaced. We took the opportunity to paint our offices before the new furniture arrived.



Out with the old...



...in with the new!



(August 20 through November 4, 2010)

***THANK YOU* New and
Renewing MEMBERS
Business - \$100**

Sponsor - \$50

Household - \$25

Lisa Goemer
Jack and Mary Hennen
Ellen and Stanley Hennessy
Joseph and Carolyn Kinney
Ken Marshall
Dick and Regina McCarthy-
Tom and Sue Melchior
Dick and Pat Mertz
Sharon and John Murray
Ellen and Dale Sorenson

Individual - \$15

Mathias Baden
Ben Bartusek
Theresa Boettcher
Betty Cain
Jeanette Deutsch
Charlotte Green
William Heiland
Judith Hentges
Elizabeth Heston
Jerry Hoffman
Cheryl Johnson
Coralyn Kabes
Lizbeth Lundin
Joyanne Newgard
Lucille Nickolay
Elda O'Connell
Judy Orlando
Tammy Palmer
Judi Putnam
Lora Sanford
Linda Solheim
Ione Theis
Lois Wendt
Carrie Zeman

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

Leader - \$1,000 +

Keiran O'Brien
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

Patron - \$500-\$999

Lion's Tap

Sponsor - \$250 - \$499

Prior Lake Lions Club
Mark Theis (Ameriprise Financial)

Advocate - \$100 - \$249

Darwin Fosse
Tom and Sue Melchior
MN Plumbing and Heating Inc.

Booster - \$50 - \$99

Anonymous

Other

Theresa and Roger Boettcher
Gail Ring
Cindy Torfin

In-Kind

Michael Beard
Canterbury Park
Curious Works Creative - Sharon Meyer
The Guthrie Theater
Manny's Restaurant
Mystic Lake Casino
Stems & Vines
Wagner Press & Graphics

The Society is looking for financial sponsorship for the following:

- **K-6 Field Trips for 2011 School Year**
- **Author Talks/ Presentations**
- **Kids Kraft Supplies**
- **"SUDS" Brewing in Scott County exhibit**

If you are interested in any of the above sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kathy at 952-445-0378.

Sponsors are recognized in marketing materials, at the specific event or exhibit, and in our newsletter and annual report.

SCHS WISH LIST

The following items would make wonderful in-kind donations! Contact SCHS at 952-445-0378, info@scottcountyhistory.org, or stop by!

- * two saw horses
- * LCD Projector
- * Copy paper
- * Table saw

Special THANKS to Cargill, Inc. who responded to our request for a new conference table. They went way beyond - see article on page 2.

THANK YOU!

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.

It would be great if every member of the Society would recruit a new member in 2011. Not only would it help the Society, but it would introduce the fascinating history of Scott County to more people.

Curator Corner

The United Service Organization

The United Service Organization (USO) is a private, non-profit group dedicated to providing entertainment and recreation to American service members around the world. It was established in February 1941 in response to President Franklin Roosevelt's belief that "on-leave" recreation for military personnel would be best handled by a private group.

Six American social clubs combined to form the USO: The Salvation Army, the YMCA, the YWCA, the National Catholic Community Services, the National Traveler's Aid Association, and the National Jewish Welfare Board. Their goal was to serve as a "Home Away from Home" for military personnel.

During World War II, the USO operated offices in more than 6,000 communities. They provided everything from recreational facilities for soldiers to childcare for military wives. However, the USO's main attraction quickly became its "Camp Shows." Entertainers like Marlene Dietrich, Bing Crosby, Humphrey Bogart, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, and, most famously, Bob Hope, drew huge crowds and raised millions of dollars for the organization.

From 1941 to 1947, the USO staged a staggering 428,521 camp performances, and in 1945, offered an average of 700 shows per day. By the end of the war, more than 1.5 million volunteers offered their services to the USO, including over 7,000 entertainers. It is estimated that more than 161 million servicemen and women were entertained by the USO during the war years of 1941 to 1945.

Since its founding in 1941, the USO has continued to entertain American troops around the world. In speaking about the USO, Vietnam War historian James Westheider wrote "It was not just the entertainment; it meant that they (military personnel) were not forgotten that far away from home."



Learn more about World War II and the Scott County connection by touring the "Heroes Among Us" exhibit at the Stans Museum. Guided tours of the exhibit may be scheduled by calling 952-445-0378 and speaking with Theresa.



Jeff Jasper (middle of 2nd row), of Eagle Creek Township served with the USO.



Exhibit Opening, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 6, 2011 "Picture This: Then & Now". A collaboration between SCHS and the Shakopee High School. Admission FREE for SCHS members, \$4 Adults, \$2 Students, children under 5 yrs old free.

From the Collections Desk

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

- Woven basket from the 1921 Scott County Agricultural Fair from James and Janice Thornton.
- Architectural drawing of Heinrich Herder's building in Jordan from Barbara and Warren Will.
- Political yard sign from Gary Laurent.
- School books from St. Mark's School/Shakopee Area Catholic Schools from Tom Melchior.
- Businesses papers for converting the Stage Coach Museum into a shopping and tourist district from Bernadette Wilson.
- Anonymous donation of photographs showing the ground breaking, construction and dedication of St. Francis Hospital, 1951-1953.
- Family photographs from Art Mason.
- Windowpane and transom window pole from the Scott County Government Center's annex building from the Scott County Community Development.
- CD of approximately 486 color images showing the demolition of the Scott County Government Center's annex building in 2006 from Robin Pollard.
- USGS topographical maps of Belle Plaine and New Prague transferred from the Carver County Historical Society.



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 (will return soon)

1940s Hangar Dance A Success!

It was a hopping night on September 25 at the Flying Cloud Airport! We couldn't have had better weather - good thing because the band was rocking! Over 100 people attended the first ever SCHS hangar dance, and many entered the best 1940s costume contest. Congratulations to Sharon Meyer who won with her fabulous dress and hep hairdo. Tom and Tony manned the grills for most of the evening serving up mouth watering chicken and steak (we even had to make a run to get more steak!). The cash bar was busy all night serving up refreshments, and the live auction was a hit. Thanks to everyone that volunteered and supported this new fundraising event. We hope to make this an annual event. Look for information on next year's theme in the spring issue. Here's a sample of the fun.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS - EVENTS

"Heroes Among Us: Scott County World War II Veterans" Exhibit runs through August 2011. Listen to stories told by local WWII veterans, watch WWII video, and gain an understanding of the experiences these young men and women endured during a pivotal period in our country's history. This exhibit makes the connections between Scott County and the world at war - from the home-front to the battleground. Regular admission, free for members..

"GREAT SCOTT! Mysteries of Scott County" Exhibit runs through April 20, 2010. Through stories, photographs, artifacts, and hands-on interactives we delve into the questions of where Dan Patch is buried, why holes were being dug on farms in Belle Plaine during the 1950s, whether an earthquake struck New Prague in 1860, and just how many ghosts, goblins, and other spooky folks are roaming around the county!

Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration at Stans House This time of year children and young-at-heart adults begin to remember that "Santa Claus is comin' to town." Soak up the holiday mood and relax in the warm glow of an old fashioned Christmas. Step back in time at the Stans House Museum of the Scott County Historical Society to 1910. Bring your children, memories and dreams of the Christmas season. Come and visit friends and neighbors on December 11, from 2 to 5 pm. Meet St. Nicholas, also known as Santa Claus, in German - "der Weihnachtsmann". Share your Christmas wishes and participate in the festivities of the holiday season, 1910 style. Tour the Stans House, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, visit with Santa, take part in a holiday themed scavenger hunt, and more. The event is free and includes admission to the Stans Museum.

Book Release Party and Signing Help us celebrate the publication of "Never Forgotten: Scott County World War II Veterans" on Saturday, December 18 from 2- 5 p.m. It's been a long time coming - from the first interview in 2006 to un-boxing the books; now we're ready to celebrate!

For additional information call 952-445-0378 or email info@scottcountyhistory.org

Author Tom Melchior will be on-hand to sign books. Free - refreshments provided. Pre-sales available now at SCHS, \$30 plus tax (shipping fees extra).

SCHS is CLOSED Friday & Saturday, December 24 & 25 for Christmas, and December 31 and January 1 for New Year's.

“Picture This: Then & Now” Exhibit opening

Thursday, January 6 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Marvel at the artistic talents of Shakopee high school students in this “photo” exhibit with a twist. We provided the students with photos of historic sites and they recreated the images with an artistic flair. Limited run through April 2, 2011.

Photo Preservation Program Thursday January 20, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Do you have lots of photographs at home to take care of? This program will help you identify different photographic processes from the invention of photography to the present. You'll learn about photo handling and storage techniques, and what to avoid in order to properly preserve your images. Participants are encouraged to bring photos to the program for preservation advice. Register through Shakopee Community Education. Small fee applies.

Kids Kraft Saturday, January 29, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Grab the kids and head to the Stans Museum for some Saturday morning family fun, including a rousing good story and craft. **FREE, registration required (Note: No Kids Kraft in December)**

All Things Minnesota Book Club – meets at 6:30 p.m., the third Thursday of each month at SCHS.

Scott County Crazy Quilters Crochet/Knitters Welcome Too! Meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Bring your needles, yarn, fabric and trim for a fun evening of needlecraft. Beginners through Masters Welcome! All Handcrafters welcome!

Unless otherwise noted, events take place at the Scott County Historical Society. Fees may be charged for some events. Call 952-445-0378 or email info@scottcountyhistory.org for more information.

Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration at the Stans House

The holidays are just around the corner. Children and young-at-heart adults begin to remember that “Santa Claus is comin’ to town.” Soak up the holiday mood and relax in the warm glow of an old-fashioned Christmas. Step back in time at the Stans House Museum of the Scott County Historical Society to 1910. Bring your children, memories and dreams of the season.



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Crazy Quilters

The Scott County Crazy Quilters welcomes all handcrafters. Mark your calendar to join in the stitching (knitting, crocheting...) fun on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6pm.

WRITE FOR SCHS

If you are interested in submitting an article for *Connections*, please contact Kathy at 952-445-0378 or info@scottcountyhistory.org. Articles should be approximately 400 words, relate to Scott County History, and if possible, include a photo or two.



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 /Treasurer
 Sheila Helmick (Stans Foundation
 Representative)
 Jerry Hennen
 Rachel Simmons
 Will Williams
 Jeff Williamson, Vice President
 Paul N. Youngs

Staff

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

Your Membership and Donation dollars at work!



"CLUE" Tournament



Guided tour



"Heroes Among Us" Opening

SCHS Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Mail to: Scott County Historical Society,
 235 Fuller Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379

YES! I would like to support SCHS at the following level (please check one).

- _____ Individual Member.....\$ 15
- _____ Household Member.....\$ 25
- _____ Sponsor Member.....\$ 50
- _____ Business Member.....\$100
- _____ Booster Donor.....\$50-\$99
- _____ Advocate Donor.....\$100-\$249
- _____ Sponsor Donor.....\$250-\$499
- _____ Patron Donor.....\$500-\$999
- _____ Leader Donor.....\$1,000 +

Please make checks out to: Scott County Historical Society