"History is full of really good stories. That's the main reason I got into this racket: I want to make the argument that history is interesting."
~ Sarah Vowell

We have so many interesting stories to tell in Nicollet County. Find them in our exhibits, sites, publications, collections, and places. Help us preserve them by sharing your family history, photographs, and heirlooms.

Photo: Courtland Baseball Team, Courtesy of Becky Briggs
The mission of the Nicollet County Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Nicollet County and the State of Minnesota.

Volunteer and Special Thank You

The NCHS Board and staff want to specially thank our core group of dedicated volunteers. We are amazed and humbled by the amount of time and energy you dedicate to the Society.

Board members, especially like Herb Poncin, dedicate significant chunks of themselves to ensure things run smoothly around here.

We couldn’t get by at Harkin and Ridgely without our program and event volunteers.

The Cox House Committee works so hard decorating, organizing, and cleaning the Cox House for events throughout the year. The plant and antique sales were huge successes in 2010. Mariah’s Garden Club does amazing work on the Cox House grounds. Thank you so much Steve Baxa, Ed Wetherill, Bev Wetherill, Susan Stenson, ReVae Nygard, Barb Olmanson, Marilyn Robertz, Judy Scholl, Janet Hoffmann, Jennifer Baxa and everyone else who made these things possible.

Our dedicated Treaty Site volunteers are amazing. Dick Muesing spends over 20 hours a week entering records into our collection software. Loren Sundboom and Joyce Gillen come every week to greet visitors, answer phones, and help out. Mike Bidelman, Marty and Carol Sterner, and Nita Aasen come regularly and put in long hours researching and compiling information for the archives. Others like Mel Craig help us keep the grounds looking nice.

Thanks to all of you who contributed time, money, and boosterism to NCHS in 2010. We owe each of you a great deal. There’s no way we could do the thing we do, and do them as well, without you.

About 140,000 people were served by the Nicollet County Historical Society in 2010. The society relies on county appropriations, memberships, grants, admissions, donations, and sales revenues to serve the residents and visitors of Nicollet County.

Memberships cont...

Loren Lindsay
Linnea Loberg
Maria Lokensgard
Mary Long
Dolores Lueck
Gayla Matson
Edward McLean
Ronald McMillin
Joyce Merino
Craig Nelson
Evie Nelson
Sylvia Nesheim
Rochelle Nord
Ralph Novotny
Ray Olson
Wade Olson
Bruce Osborn
Judith Penhiter
Marshall Peterson
Janet Prehn
John Quist
Donna Resner
Sharon Robinson
JoAnn Schmidt
Dorothy Schultz
Karen Smithers
Florence Spomberg
Jennifer St. Julien Powers
Agnes Stensby
Neil Stevermer
Bernadine Thompson
Bob Vogel
John Vogel
Linda Vogel
Wood Lake Battlefield Pres.
Assoc.
Gertrude Wright

Life Member
Carl Aanonsen
Ken & Janet Albrecht
Mildred Anderson
Lois Annexstad
Phyllis Annexstad
Marshall & Janet Anthony
Willis & Rachel Anthony
Marion Babcock
Paul & Helen Baumgartner
Gloria Benson
Lavinia Bloomquist
John & Rosemary Braun
Donald & Marilla Burch
Alyce Bussman
Napoleon Chagnon
Stanley Davis
Dr. & Mrs. William Dobbs
C.W. Dowling
Lila Faust

Mr. T.R. Fritsche
Mrs. George Gatchell
Bruce & Sue Gray
Fred & Judy Hanson
Charles Hendricksen
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hilding
Janet Hoffmann
Eunice Holz
Carl & Susan Johnson
Gene Kind
Elaine Kirby
Mrs. Harry Kramer
John Kvamme
Mrs. William Lager
Carol & Arne Langsjoen
Eunice Larson
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Larson
Mrs. Elgene Lund
Wayne Lyttin
Malcolm Mackenzie
Eugene Majrowicz
Beatrice Martinson
Mr. & Mrs. J.L. McClellan
Mr. & Mrs. C.N. McRostie
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Menk
A.W. Meyer
Robert Moline
Cliff & Theresa Mollert

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Monke
Barb & Don Olmanson
Dr. & Mrs. Vern Olmanson
Lorraine & Harold Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ostrom
Dennis Paschke
Albert Peichel
Ellery & Carol Peterson
Marion Peterson
Olive Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pettis
Herbert & Louise Poncin
Bill & Marilyn Roberts
Warren & Marilyn Rodning
Arlene Sandeen
Wayne Schmidt
Judy Scholl
Cora Sjostrom
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Svedberg
Roger & Linda Swenson
Olive Thomas
Henry Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Veith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Volk
Merton & Margaret Wenner
Ed & Bev Wetherill
Pearl Wilkinson
Val Youngblom
President's Report by Gary Schmidt

My message today consists of two parts - looking back and looking forward.

Looking back at 2010, I have nothing to offer but praise and thanks to all who made the year successful. Our staff, board of directors, committee members and volunteer members did a remarkable job of planning and successfully carrying out a multitude of events and activities as well as performing the routine daily work of managing and operating NCHS’s five sites. Especially appreciated is the guidance offered to the board of directors from past presidents and board members as well as current members. This guidance enabled us to make better informed decisions related to long-term direction of NCHS. Also, special mention and thanks goes to Richard Tostenson and the Cox house committee and volunteers for the great progress that has been made at the Cox House in planning its future direction. Finally, it was a year of floods that nearly inundated our facility. Hopefully, we will continue to be spared in the future.

Looking ahead, I can say with confidence that 2011 will be a year filled with wonderful and important events at all NCHS sites - Harkin Store always offers a wonderful venue throughout its season. Thanks for a super job, Ruth Grewe and Ann Koehl! Fort Ridgely state park will observe the 100th Anniversary of its founding. Fort Ridgely site manager, Nancy Zempel, and Friends of Fort Ridgely and volunteers promise to observe this anniversary year with a series of special events. Watch for details. As already noted, the Cox House will continue to be a site of much activity. Finally, as usual, Traverse de Sioux Treaty Site and NCHS are always open with all their opportunities for discovery, reflection, enjoyment, research and study.

I feel our quarterly newsletter, THE CROSSING, is your best source for staying informed of all NCHS news, activities and events. Ben, his staff and volunteers do a commendable job of communicating through this newsletter. Also, I encourage you to use our web site, www.nchsmn.org, to stay informed. It features vast amounts of information on NCHS—events, newsletters, annual reports, financials, hours, contact info, NCHS mission, facilities, staff, board, archives, services, membership and many down links.

Thanks for your membership, interest and support. Let’s make 2011 NCHS’s best year ever!

Message from the Director, Ben Leonard

Though my tenure is relatively short, I think we can say that 2010 was one of the best years the Society has ever had. I think the reasons for that are too numerous to list here, but forgive me for trying. Gary Schmidt has served the Society extremely well. I can’t, and don’t, thank him enough for his energy, insight and leadership. It’s easy to see that we’re way better off for it.

Most of our staff has worked for NCHS longer than I have. We’re lucky to have longstanding employees, but more importantly, their excitement, ingenuity, and willingness to try new things is what makes the biggest difference. We’re so very indebted to our volunteers. Thank you so much. NCHS members and donors really stepped up this year. In the midst of tough economic times you were so generous. We sincerely appreciate it. Special thanks to Nicollet County, whose support allows us to provide services and leverage our resources.

Our attendance at sites and numbers served continues to grow. Clearly the public is interested in our shared heritage. The challenge is to continually introduce new audiences and engage them in NCHS’s mission. Whether it’s young families, school children, or new immigrants, we can do better job making Nicollet County history relevant to them.

Thank you so much for a wonderful year. We don’t have too much time to reflect, because 2011 is going to be even busier. I’m proud of our accomplishments, but more excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Eunice Armos
Verda Beatty
Shirley Bishop
Janet Boese
Loren Boutin
Ruth Brandel
Paul Brennan
Carolyn Brethorst
Eric Carlson
Helen Christianson
JoAnne Cochran
Margie Cooney
Eleanor Depuydt
Opal Dewartz
Maria Erling
Ruth Estesen Fels
Jackie Feldman
Michael Frederick
Colleen Freitag
Joyce Gillen
Linda Gish
Paula Goblish
Susan Gravelin
Mike Hauser
William Harvey
Elaine & Carol
Hermannson
Scott Hermanson
Gerry Hildebrandt
Dale Himmelman
Jan Holte
Eileen Holz
John Iverson
Renee Jackson
Carol Jackson
Charles Johnson
Helen Johnson
Marjorie Johnson
Victoria Johnson
Patricia Judd
Marlyn Kleinert
Mary Klinger
Gretchen Koehler
Donna Kowal
Rita Kramer Joerg
Lori Lablum
Robert Lambert
Ruth Larson
Stanley Lindquist
Willie Linquist
NCHS in 2010 At A Glance

The charts, graphs, and highlights found in our At A Glance sections provide quick access to society information. Reading further will provide additional details and information.

NCHS as a Whole in 2010

Revenue
- Admissions: $28,973.84
- Merchandise Sales: $17,423.41
- Annual Support: $119,214.93
- MHS Operations Grants: $50,500.00
- Grants: $39,626.40
- Donations: $19,808.75
- Other: $19,133.04

Expense
- Staff: $157,002.09
- Advertising: $1,726.81
- Store Merchandise: $9,746.63
- Supplies: $19,585.91
- Programs/Exhibits: $25,281.75
- Building: $60,166.19

Memorials

In Memory of
- Dayton Martinson
Given by
- Lorraine & Harold Olson

In Memory of
- Dick Larson
Given by
- Marlin Peterson

In Memory of
- Ilene Nelson-Wettergren
Given by
- Janet Anthony
- Steve & Kimberly Halvorson

In Memory of
- Robert Smith
Given by
- Judy Scholl

In Memory of
- Joanie Moses
Given by
- Marjorie Halvorson

In Memory of
- Whilma Smith
Given by
- Judy Scholl

2010 Collections Donors

- Joy Lutz
- Lorene M. Gardner
- Collin Harris & Barb Harris
- Allen Hildebrandt
- Donna Goettl
- Donald Webster
- Olive Peterson
- Robert J. Sandeen
- The Annexstad Family Foundation
- Diane Stenson
- Kimberly Dorn

NCHS has welcomed visitors from 46 states and 19 countries this year
projects. Ben thanked the agencies that have given us continued support.

VII. President’s Report:

President Gary Schmidt focused on the importance of fund raising and the need to achieve gifts and endowments. We need to convince the greater Nicollet County population and citizens beyond county borders the value and worthiness of our organization. Help is needed in all ways to achieve these goals. President Schmidt stated the Board will work closely with the Cox House this year to increase attendance and improve the Cox House potential. He also stressed the importance of utilizing the NCHS web site – www.nchsmn.org.

VIII. Committees:

The committee memberships are listed on page 7 along with the committee reports on pages 8 – 12 in the 2009 Annual Report. Ben recognized the staff, committee members and Board of Directors that were present. Members gave a round of applause for their commitment and hard work.

IX. Nominating Committee:

The following people were nominated for the Nicollet County Historical Society Board of Directors:

First Three Year term - Rachel Larson, St. Peter, Patti Kelly, Norseland and Alma Forst, St. George.

Second Three Year term – Gary Schmidt, North Mankato.

There being no further nominations from the floor, a motion to accept the slate of Board of Directors as presented by the nominating committee. M/S LaVonne Craig / Marilyn Robertz. Motion carried.

The following people were nominated for the 2010 Nicollet County Historical Society Executive Committee for a One Year term:

President Gary Schmidt
Vice President Jeremy Freeman
Treasurer Herb Poncin
Secretary Tami Skinner
Historian Diane Stenson

Motion to accept the Executive Committee for 2010 as presented by the nominating committee. M/S Don Gustafson / Paul Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Ben thanked the officers that were willing to accept these positions and welcomed the new Board members.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the business meeting. M/S Garfield Eckberg / Owen Swenson. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m and was followed by the very interesting program, Experiences of Swedish Immigrants Coming to America, presented by Dr. Byron Nordstrom, GAC Professor Emeritus in History and Scandinavian Studies.

Secretary Pro Tem,
Evie Swenson

The Society would like to thank its employees, board of directors, and committee members for working so hard to make the Nicollet County Historical Society one of the top institutions of its kind in Minnesota. That goal would be impossible without you.

Board of Directors

Gary Schmidt, North Mankato
President (2nd term ending 2012)
Jeremy Freeman, St. Peter
Vice President (1st term ending 2010)
Tami Skinner, St. Peter
Secretary (1st term ending 2010)
Herb Poncin, Nicollet
Treasurer (2nd term ending 2011)
Diane Stenson, St. Peter
Historian (2nd term ending 2011)

Bernadotte Township
Sally Webster (1st term ending 2010)

Nicollet
Thorild Nelson (2nd term ending 2011)

North Mankato
Chris Corley (1st term ending 2010)
Lori Lahlum (1st term ending 2011)

St. Peter
Steve Baxa (1st term ending 2011)
Patti Kelly (1st term ending 2012)

Emilie Lokensgard (1st term ending 2010)

West Newton Township
Alma Forst (1st term ending 2012)

Staff

Ben Leonard
Executive Director
ben@nchsmn.org

Bob Sandeen
Research Coordinator
bob@nchsmn.org

Jessica Brockberg
Office Manager
jessica@nchsmn.org

Allen McBride, Jessica Becker, Joyce Gillen,
Loren Sundboom

Museum Assistant

Wayne Passon
Maintenance Coordinator

Richard Tostenson
Cox House Manager
cox@nchsmn.org

Ruth Grewe
Harkin Store Site Manager
harkin@nchsmn.org

Ann Koch, Karen Rogotzke, Rose Alsleben
Harkin Store Guide

Nancy Zempel
Fort Ridgely Site Manager
ridgely@nchsmn.org

Dorothy Polesky, Ashley Hamre, Char Nack,
Melinda Sommer, Karen Rogotzke
Fort Ridgely Site Guides
Support

The Society has received very generous support in 2010 from the county, individuals, organizations, and foundations. Support comes in many forms – monetary donations, volunteerism, grants, membership, and the very museum collections we rely on. To all of you who supported we offer our deepest thanks – we truly cannot do this without you.

Grants/Allocations

| Nicotet County | Minnesota Historical Society |
| City of St. Peter | St. Peter Area United Way |
| Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation | Legacy Funds |

Gifts

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<th>Sally Webster</th>
<th>Herb Poncin</th>
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<td>Neil Stevermer</td>
<td>Lois Annexstad</td>
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<td>Bernard &amp; Pam Bidelman</td>
<td>Christy Martin</td>
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<td>Roland &amp; Edi Thorstensson</td>
<td>Cox House Antique Sale</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Russell</td>
<td>Ellery &amp; Carol Peterson</td>
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<td>Kurt &amp; Maren Leonard</td>
<td>Duane &amp; Brenda DeBlieck</td>
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<td>Martin Peterson</td>
<td>Sara &amp; John McKay</td>
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<td>Larry &amp; Joan Zambino</td>
<td>Emilie Lokensgard</td>
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The Gift of Time

The board and staff of the society would like to thank the more than 100 volunteers who have contributed over 3,000 hours of time in 2010. Thank you!

Treaty Site History Center: over 50 volunteers and over 2,000 hours
Harkin Store: 75 volunteers and 600 hours
Cox House: over 25 volunteers and 500 hours

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, January 24, 2010

The Nicollet County Historical Society membership convened for its annual meeting at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN on Sunday, January 24, 2010, 1 p.m.

President Gary Schmidt welcomed the group and called on Herb Poncein for the Invocation. A delicious meal was served by the Gustavus dining staff.

I. Call to Order:
President Gary Schmidt called the annual business meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The President thanked the Gustavus staff for their work.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:
The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:
The President called for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the agenda. M/S Janet Anthony / LaVonne Craig. Motion carried.

IV. Secretary’s Report:
The 2009 annual meeting minutes were presented as printed on pages 15 – 16 in the 2009 Annual Report. There being no additions or corrections, the President called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. M/S Tory Nelson / Judy Hanson. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer’s Report:
Treasurer Herb Poncin presented the Financial Report as printed on pages 13 – 14 in the 2009 Annual Report. Herb stated NCHS is paid $50,000 from the MN State Historical Society to manage the Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely Historic Site and the Treaty Site Park. The Endowment Fund is currently at $115,000.00. Due to the economic times, the interest rates along with the donations to the Society have declined. The staff has done a good job with no unnecessary expenses and Herb complimented the staff on their good workmanship. In the 2010 budget there is no wage increases for the staff. Herb encouraged the members to pay their dues, shop in the gift shops and give support to the Society wherever needed. A motion was called to accept the Treasurer’s Report. M/S Don Gustfason / Helen Baumgartner. Motion carried.

V. Secretary’s Report:
Treasurer Herb Poncin presented the Financial Report as printed on pages 13-14 in the 2009 Annual Report. Herb stated NCHS is paid $50,000 from the MN State Historical Society to manage the Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely Historic Site and the Treaty Site Park. The Endowment Fund is currently at $115,000.00. Due to the economic times, the interest rates along with the donations to the Society have declined. The staff has done a good job with no unnecessary expenses and Herb complimented the staff on their good workmanship. In the 2010 budget there is no wage increases for the staff. Herb encouraged the members to pay their dues, shop in the gift shops and give support to the Society wherever needed. A motion was called to accept the Treasurer’s Report. M/S Don Gustfason / Helen Baumgartner. Motion carried.

VI. Director’s Report:
Executive Director Ben Leonard recognized and thanked the retiring Board members, Arden DeBoer, Julie Gilbert and Evie Swenson. Ben stated “we needed to think like a business”. The Society uses the Quick Books system with staff person, Jessica Brockerg doing the daily bookwork and Johnson & Hoehn, the Society’s auditing firm. The required 2008 audit was completed with no problems. This year our Society has served 135,000 people with the cost of delivering these services at eighty cents each. The Minnesota Historical Society cost per person served is about $5.00 each. We try to be good stewards of our tax dollar. We cannot expect more government funding and we need to be efficient as possible with the many fixed costs we incur. The economic times force us to collaborate or partner with other entities such as renting office space and partnering on various
### Income

**NCHS as a Whole, 2010**

- Admissions: $28,973.84
- Merchandise Sales: $17,423.41
- Annual Support: $119,214.93
- MHS Operations Grants: $50,500.00
- Grants: $39,626.40
- Donations: $19,808.75
- Other: $21,814.29

**Total Income:** $297,361.62

- Merchandise Sales: $25,281.75
- Admissions: $60,166.19
- Other: $273,509.38

### Expenses

**NCHS as a Whole, 2010**

- Staff: $157,002.09
- Advertising: $1,726.81
- Store Merchandise: $9,746.63
- Supplies: $19,585.91
- Programs/Exhibits: $25,281.75
- Building: $60,166.19

**Total Expenses:** $273,509.38

### Treaty Site, 2010

- Admissions: $7,759.07
- Merchandise Sales: $3,791.62
- Donations: $2,632.91
- Grants: $3,201.43
- Other: $17,385.03

**Total Expenses:** $39,345.33

### Harkin, 2010

- Admissions: $12,129.00
- Merchandise Sales: $9,527.64
- Donations: $1,187.00
- MHS Operations Grant: $16,500.00
- Other: $1,69

**Total Expenses:** $24,383.58

### Cox House, 2010

- Admissions: $2,285.37
- Merchandise Sales: $9,445.64
- Donations: $3,512.01
- Grants: $8,796.87
- Other: $5,558.48

**Total Expenses:** $24,094.99

### Fort Ridgely, 2010

- Admissions: $4,019.00
- Merchandise Sales: $4,104.15
- Donations: $344.24
- MHS Operations Grant: $30,000.00
- Other: $182.00

**Total Expenses:** $37,843.36

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The museum has been more or less in a state of renovation since 2006. That kind of activity will slow down, but there is much more to do. Thanks to a $6,900 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grant from the Legacy Amendment’s Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the archive was able to complete its shelving renovation plan. The purchases of another track shelving unit along with an additional flat file and acid free storage materials have transformed the space into an organized well preserved space with room to grow in the future.

The Society is currently wrapping up production for the Treaty Site virtual tour. The tour, created by teachers for teachers and students provides state standards-based curriculum and 360 degree visuals deliverable on Smartboards or computers right in their classrooms. DVDs will be available for schools to purchase soon for the 2011-12 academic year.

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The Traverse des Sioux prairie was burned in the fall by the St. Peter Fire Department. NCHS also purchased a riding lawnmower to better care for grounds and trails.

We will continue our lighting improvement plan in the North and South galleries in 2011. A new exterior sign outside the Treaty Site is a top priority when funding becomes available. Also look for two exciting NCHS publications in 2011. Adult non-member admission rates rise slightly in 2011, but the Treaty Site is now open 7 days a week: M-Sat 10am-4pm, and Sun 1-4pm.

The Cox House Committee held the Annual Heritage Plant Sale on May 15th. The sale of high quality plants brought in $1,618.50. These funds go towards the maintenance and events for the Cox House. The Strawberry Moon festival was celebrated on June 15th. Judge Cox and his family greeted the quests. Paul McDaniel, Katha Chamberlain, and Avis McDaniel entertained the visitors in the parlor with Victorian music and a sing along. Strawberry shortcake and strawberry lemonade was served.

A Quilt Trunk Show was given by Sherry Johnson on July 31st. Quilting kits were available for those quests interested in practicing their stitches. Many beautiful ‘Crazy Quilts’ were shown. On September 17th and 18th an ‘Antique & Collectible Yard Sale’ was held which this year included a bake sale. The income was $1,180.51 plus matching Thrivent funds, resulting in total earnings of $1,780.51. NCHS membership is encouraged to set aside unwanted antiques and collectibles to contribute for sale at next years event.

Two weekends in October the house was bedecked in black for the séance Mariah Cox held for her deceased husband. All the costumed interpreters were dressed in black as were some of the guest mourners. Mr. & Mrs. E. St. Julien Cox cordially invited the public to attend Christmas at the Cox House Open House on December 4th & 5th and December 11th & 12th. Richard and the St. Peter Minnehaha Questers Chapter transformed the house into a Victorian home decorated for the festive holiday. Costumed interpreters portrayed the Cox Family. Local musicians played music appropriate to the season. Warm Wassail and short bread were served. The visitors enjoyed the Victorian decor and visiting with Mr. & Mrs. Cox and their family.

---

**E. St. Julien Cox House**

500 N. Washington Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082

(507) 934-4309

**Hours:** June - August

**Thurs. - Sat. 10:00 am - 4:30 pm**

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[Image 614x442 to 892x574]
The Harkin Store was an interesting place this year with all the activities that were going on there. We still had some construction that was being done. We also had lots of interesting people that came to the store from 19 different countries and 46 states. People came to the store for many reasons but most like to look at the "Old Stuff" we have. Some come just for the programs that we have on Sunday afternoons. We try and have many diverse subjects for the programs; they range from displays, demonstrations and different styles for music.

We are going to try and have lots of different types of programs again this year. We will have lots of new items in our gift shop, also.

If you haven't been to Harkin, yet, try and come to see what's up at the Harkin Store. See you on April 30th, our first day.
Ruth Grewe
Harkin Store Site Manager

The 2010 season was successful at Historic Fort Ridgely and plans are being finalized for the upcoming 2011 season. The visitation at the site was good and programs well attended. All age groups enjoyed the outdoor events and relaxed in the air-conditioned classroom during the extra warm weekend events. The battlefield tours and the military demonstrations kept visitors interested and the question and answer period enhanced each event. Both programs will be repeated in the summer of 2011. The School Day event was attended by over 400 students and is held in cooperation with the Friends of Fort Ridgely at the historic site grounds. The 2011 School Day event will be on Thursday May 19.

The year 2011 is the 100th anniversary of Fort Ridgely State Park. Events are being planned for programs at the park and also at the historic site to honor and remember the forward thinking men and women who felt the historic area needed a special status in the state of Minnesota. Historical, nature and musical events will be some of the categories of programs for the 100th year celebration. The staff would like to thank the Nicollet County Historical Society for their continued support of Historic Fort Ridgely. We look forward to having you visit the site this upcoming season and participate in the fun and educational events.
Nancy Zempel
Fort Ridgely Site Manager