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.

71,565* Served in 2014

As an historical society that cares for six historic sites, we encourage our members and the public to visit these sites and attend special programming. However, aside from visiting us, we are available to the public in many other ways. Our website was visited by over 15,000 people this year, our collections are available anywhere in the world through the Minnesota Digital Library, and the NCHS page on ExploreMN website had over 17,000 hits.

While the construction on Highway 169 dramatically decreased visitor numbers at the Treaty Site and Traverse des Sioux trails, our other historic sites had a substantial amount of visitors this year; totals at the Cox House, Harkin Store, Fort Ridgely and the Mayo House reached over 13,000. Use of our archives went up dramatically this year, too.

This year was akin to 2012, a year that had almost two million people exposed to the work NCHS was doing remembering the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. 2014 was similar in that the award-winning Commemorating Controversy exhibit was seen by over 350,000 visitors to the National Museum of the American Indian in New York. While this outreach is not included in our number served, this was another year with a huge asterisk!

Our mission is to discover, preserve and disseminate the history of Nicollet County. I think the last few years have shown that one doesn’t just have to visit our historic sites to be affected by the work we are doing.
Director’s Report

Many historical societies have evolved into community-engagement facilitators, along with their traditional roles of maintaining collections and research material, teaching the public about the history of the area, and operating historic sites. We are working hard to increase this coming year’s community programming and outreach, and we worked hard in 2014 to do the same.

However, this past year we spent a large portion of our time maintaining our buildings and repairing damaged parts of those buildings. Despite the cost, these repairs were necessary; without our buildings we wouldn’t be able to host programs like the Documentary Film Series or the Christmas at the Cox House event. The structures in which we work allow us to continue to create programs and events to teach our visitors about Nicollet County’s history. While our main focus is our collections, exhibits, and programming, we have to make sure the buildings in which these things occur are taken care of.

This year we asked for a lot from you—our members and our supporters. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity during the major repairs at the Cox House and the Treaty Site. I cannot thank you enough for your words of encouragement during the Minnesota River flood and the construction on Highway 169.

We are here to serve our members and the public, but in return, you give us a reason to do the work we do. You are excited by the History on Tap series we’re starting, you’re willing to volunteer your time at our Winterfest activities, and your support makes coming to the office each day a pleasure.

2014 was a great year and I hope 2015 will be even better. Thank you for joining us.

Alyssa Auten
Director
Nicollet County Historical Society

Memorial to Mary Ann Zins

The Nicollet County Historical Society was saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member, volunteer and researcher, Mary Ann Zins.

Mary Ann Loretta Zins was born on May 5, 1945 in New Ulm. She graduated from Nicollet High School and attended Mankato State University. Mary Ann had worked at Pinks clothing store in New Ulm and at 3M in New Ulm before retiring in 2002.

Some of the projects she completed for NCHS were documenting the names on markers in all the rural cemeteries in Nicollet County, which have been converted into memorial pages on findagrave.com. She also clipped out all obituaries and marriages from the early years of the Nicollet Leader, which are now on an electronic database. Mary Ann also collected all the obituaries from local veterans of World War I, she thought it important each one was memorialized. Her latest project was making a book of obituaries for all those interred at the Swan Lake Catholic Church.

Her hobbies of genealogy became a passion, tracking her family history back to the 1500s. Mary Ann was thrilled to find the actual interment sites of her Zins ancestors in the Swan Lake Cemetery after pouring over the original cemetery maps.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is forever grateful for Mary Ann’s research and hard work. She was a treasured part of NCHS and will be very dearly missed.

“\nWe feel so lucky to live in a community that has such great programs like the Treaty Center.\n”

~ Montana Rasmussen and Sam Haseltine

Mary Ann Zins
Below top: Second Story Comedy Facility rental continued throughout 2014, bringing over 800 visitors to the Treaty Site.

Left: After much anticipation the exterior landscaping project was completed in the fall of 2014. A grand opening event is being planned for spring of this year!

Center: St. Peter’s youth Volunteers in the Park helping with the gardens at the Cox House.

Right: Special directions and a map were given to the public to help them find the Treaty Site History Center during the summer’s Highway 169 detour.

Bottom left: NCHS participated in the Arts Center of St. Peter’s first annual “Tablescapes Competition” during the Holiday Fare at the St. Peter Community Center. The table was created with a theme of winter hiking on the two trail systems adjacent to the Treaty Site History Center.

Bottom center: Harpist Koleesa Amundson plays wonderful period Christmas Music in the Mayo House parlor during the Annual Candlelight Christmas Tours of the Mayo House.

Bottom right: Volunteers gather to rescue an injured pelican along the Traverse des Sioux trails.

“We have witnessed the dramatic change over the years and feel proud of our Society.”

– Marilyn Robertz
It’s been said that a board of directors can make or break an organization. NCHS is extremely lucky to have a board of directors who, despite their varying backgrounds, work together to ensure this society is doing its job and serving the public well. A huge thank you is in order for the board members who are finishing their terms, those who are just joining us, and those who are continuing to dedicate their time to NCHS.

**Officer**

Steve Baxa, Saint Peter
President (2nd term ending 2014)

Scott Hermanson, Saint Peter
Vice President (1st term ending 2014)

Marie Dranttel, Saint Peter
Treasurer (1st term ending 2014)

Pam Morson, Lafayette
Secretary (2nd term ending 2016)

Alma Forst, West Newton Township
Historian (2nd term ending 2015)

**Directors**

Eileen Holz, Saint Peter
(1st term ending 2016)

Nita Aasen, Saint Peter
(1st term ending 2016)

Michael Callahan, Oshawa Township
(1st term ending 2016)

Bob Schabert, Courtland
(2nd term ending 2016)

Maria Lokensgard, Norseland
(1st term ending 2016)

Joe Urban, Saint Peter
(1st term ending 2016)

Lori Lahlum, North Mankato
(2nd term ending 2014)

Abbi Carleton, Nicollet
(1st term ending 2015)

Matthew Horak, Saint Peter
(resigned 2014, 1st term ending 2015)

JoAnn Gieseke, Nicollet County
(1st term ending 2016)

Tami Skinner, Saint Peter
(outgoing President 2014)

We owe every bit of our success to the talented staff members and large group of dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours working for us. Spread out over 50 miles, these staff members work hard to make NCHS the well-reputed organization it is. Whether it’s giving a tour to a group of school children, shoveling sidewalks during the winter months or planning next month’s program, our appreciation cannot be expressed enough.

Rose Alsleben, Harkin Store Site Guide

Alyssa Auten
*Executive Director, alyssa@nchsmn.org*

Jessica Becker, Museum Assistant

Amber Bentler
*Fort Ridgely Site Manager, ridgely@nchsmn.org*

Jack Buser, Museum Assistant, Volunteer

Susie Carlin
*Treaty Site Manager, susie@nchsmn.org*

Sarah Cooper, Museum Assistant

Marian Determan, Museum Assistant

Annaliese Endorf, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Sadie Fraudendienst, Mayo House Site Guide

Jeremy Freeman
*Office Manager, jeremy@nchsmn.org*

Robin Grewe, Harkin Store Site Guide

Ruth Grewe
*Harkin Store Site Manager, harkin@nchsmn.org*

Maia Haggerty, Museum Assistant

Steve Hogberg, Tour Guide, Volunteer

Amanda Johnson, Mayo House Site Guide

Katelyn Juni, Museum Assistant

Donald LaVold, Mayo House Site Guide

Mitch Lawson, Museum Assistant

Kristina LeClerc, Office Manager

Rachel Montpetit, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Charlotte Nack, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Wayne Passon, Maintenance Coordinator

Dorothy Polesky, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Becky Pollack
*Mayo House Site Manager, mayhouse.bp@gmail.com*

Karen Rogotzke, Harkin Store Site Guide

Bob Sandeen
*Research Coordinator, bob@nchsmn.org*

Teresa Saum, Museum Assistant, Volunteer

Rebecca Schueler, Fort Ridgely Site Guide

Victoria Steinhaus, Research Assistant

Glenn Stryker, Harkin Store Site Guide

Loren Sundboom, Museum Assistant, Volunteer

Richard Tostenson
*Cox House Manager, cox@nchsmn.org*

Nancy Zempel, Fort Ridgely Site Guide
2014 was a year of many necessary building repairs and challenges that made access to the Treaty Site difficult. When water was dripping into the Treaty Site lobby from seven different locations, we knew we had to fix our skylights. When water was pouring into the parlor at the Cox House, we knew we had to replace both the tin and cedar roofs. Highway 169 was under massive construction during most of the summer, dramatically hindering access to the Treaty Site. The Minnesota River also flooded again in June, closing the Treaty Site for a week.

Fortunately, we have terrific supporters who pitched in, either with grant money or by donations. We were able to repair both of our buildings and we hope these repairs will last for decades, allowing us to put our focus on more important work.

While the major repair projects set our financial stability back, an increase in programming and facility rentals helped relieve that burden. The staff and volunteers at NCHS work very hard to ensure we are serving the public and are cognizant of doing it in a fiscally-responsible way. The Society functions on a lean operating budget and because of that we are so grateful for the financial support from Nicollet County and its residents.

Detailed financial statements are available upon request.

### 2014 NCHS Financials & Balance Sheet

#### ASSETS

**Current Assets:**
- CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS: $122,694.30
- PLEDGES/DONATIONS RECEIVABLE: $4,685.45
- MERCHANDISE INVENTORY: $14,474.17

Total Current Assets: $141,853.92

**Fixed Assets**
- BUILDING & IMPROVEMENTS: $2,110,724.20
- OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE: $79,595.72

Total Fixed Assets: $2,190,319.92

**Net Fixed Assets:** $1,380,283.48

**Total Assets:** $1,580,283.48

#### LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES

**Current Liabilities:**
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: $3,421.05
- PAYROLL TAXES PAYABLE: $2,514.86
- SALES & USE TAX PAYABLE: $935.00
- NOTE PAYABLE - NCB: $22,510.60

Total Current Liabilities: $29,381.51

**Total Liabilities:** $29,381.51

**Fund Balances:**
- RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE: $97,561.00
- UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE: $1,253,339.97

Total Fund Balances: $1,350,901.97

**Total Liabilities & Fund Balances:** $1,380,283.48
The Society is extremely grateful for the monetary and non-monetary support we receive from our members, patrons and supporters. We would not be able to operate our buildings, create exhibits or offer programming without it. We are so appreciative of your help in 2014 with the repair fund, the exterior redesign project, the prairie restoration project, and for the general donations that came in. Thank you to all of you, we cannot express our gratitude enough.

### 2014 Monetary Donors

- Mark & Frani Anderson
- Lois Annexstad
- Anonymous Donors
- Robert Bartholdi
- Paul & Helen Baumgartner
- Richard Beran
- Genevieve Brand
- Mel Craig
- Creative Landscape, Inc.
- Dani DeVere
- Marie Dranttel
- Ecumen Prairie Hill
- Lisa Gault
- Bruce & Sue Gray
- Fred Hanson Jr.
- Scott Hermanson
- Eileen Holz
- Eunice Holz
- Clark & April Johnson
- Ellis Jones
- Donna Kowal
- Kurt & Maren Leonard
- Ben & Amy Leonard
- Sandy Lerner
- Lions Club, District 5M2
- Christy Martin
- Beatrice Martinson
- Edward McLean
- Martin & Carol Menk
- Cindy & Larry Mohr
- Robert & Kay Moline
- Thomas Morgan
- Barb & Don Olmanson
- Marlin Peterson

- The Marlin Peterson Family
- Herb & Louise Poncin
- Marie Renneke
- William & Marilyn Robertz
- Marilyn Rodning
- Elizabeth Russell
- Schwickert’s Tecta America
- Karen & Jon Smithers
- Beverly Sohm
- Loren & Roxane Sundboom
- Linda Swenson
- Roland & Edi Thorstensson
- Mary Vinquist
- Sally Webster
- Larry & Joan Zambino

### Donations - Designated for

- **NCHS Exterior Redesign Project**
  - Eileen Holz
  - Gretchen Koehler
  - Loren & Roxane Sundboom
  - Larry & Joan Zambino

- **NCHS Site Repair Fund**
  - Anonymous Donors
  - Paul & Helen Baumgartner
  - Mike & Pam Bidelman
  - Steven & Becky Briggs
  - Eric Carlson
  - Jacquelyn Feldman
  - eholz graphix
  - Fred Hanson Jr.
  - Dolores Holteen
  - Eileen Holz
  - Marlin Peterson
  - Bill & Marilyn Robertz
  - Mary Ann Scharf
  - Loren & Roxane Sundboom

- **Prairie Restoration**
  - Anonymous Donors

- **Cox House Restoration Project**
  - NCHS Quilters
    - Janet Boese
    - Onie Isenberg
    - Marolyn Kleinert
    - Dorothy Paulson
    - Dorothy Schultz
    - Bev Wetherill
    - Barb & Don Olmanson
    - Bill & Marilyn Robertz

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**2014 Support**

![NCHS Quilters](logo.png)  
![Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation](logo.png)  
![McGraw-Hill](logo.png)
## 2014 Memorials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Memory of</th>
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<td><strong>Agnes Akland</strong></td>
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<td>Eunice Holz</td>
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Below: Civil War Reenactors stand by the original and new grave marker for Captain Asgrim K. Skaro during a rededication program sponsored by the Governor’s Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and NCHS in July.
2014 Collection Donors

Lois Annexstad
Robert Bartholdi
Liz Zurek Beaudry
Kathy Blank
Gregory Carlson
City of St. Peter
Crossview Covenant Church
in North Mankato
Garfield Eckberg,
representing the
Friends of District 6
Craig A. Ferkenstad
Michael Frederick
Diane Hansen
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William Lindberg
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Stan Muellerlelle
Andy Nelson
Dean Otto
Brian Oviatt
Marlin Peterson
Jean Potter
Gladys Rasmussen,
in memory of butter maker
Holger Rasmussen
Molly Regan
Marilyn Robertz
Richard Runck
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St. Peter Lions Club
St. Peter Tourism Bureau
Saint Peter High School
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Owen & Evie Swenson
Oren L. Thorson
Chester R. Tollefson
Rick Tuomala
United States Army Corps
of Engineers
Jodee Vogel
Waseca County Historical Society

Other donation photos on page 8.
A listing of the items donated are
detailed in quarterly issues of The
Crossing, the Society’s newsletter.

2014 Activities & Programs

This past year NCHS collaborated and
partnered with a large number of
community organizations. Some of
these included Gustavus Adolphus
College, Mankato State University, Saint
Peter School District, St. Peter Food Co-
op, Arts Center of St. Peter, Prairie
Enthusiasts, Blues Fest, Women
Celebrating Women, the St. Peter
Chamber, St. Peter Reads and many
others. Visitors and audiences
experienced battlefield and trail tours,
documentary films, a monument
rededication, and many other exciting
events and programs.

Above right: NCHS Director Alyssa Auten and Treaty
Site Manager Susie Carlin gave a program on St.
Peter during the depression and played Nicollet
County trivia at Ecumen Prairie Hill.

Left: About 100 aprons were displayed at the
Harkin Store during their “Mother’s Day” program.

Right: Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka gives a trail
tour about native prairies.

“Thank you
so much
for the
wonderful
presentation.
It was
interesting
and very
informative,
the residents
LOVED it!”

~ Lisa,
Ecumen Prairie Hill
Thank you so much for all your help at the Treaty Site. Thank you, thank you for everything you have done to make our project great!

~ Students in Gustavus Communication Class who worked with NCHS on Cox House Short Films.

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$1000 Crossing Circle
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Robert Bartholdi
Steven & Becky Briggs
Verlin Carlson
Mel Craig
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davis
Marie Danttel
Garfield & Marjorie Eckberg
Julie & Sam Gault
Lisa Gault
Delores Holteen
Emilie Lokensgard
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Arlene Sandeen
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schmidt
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Business Members
Nicollet Conservation Club

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Marilyn Rodning
Wayne Schmidt
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Richard Beran
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Michael Callahan & Dr. Erin Westfall
Abbi & Daniel Carleton
Peggy & Gil Carlson
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Victoria Clark
Sarah Cooper
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Peter & Phyllis Dishner
Bob & Judy Douglas
Paul & Connie Eckberg
Charles & Carol Eggert
Tom & Char Elling
Annaliese Endorf
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling
Pastor & Mrs. Ferkenstad
Alma & Jerome Forst
Jeremy & Michel Freeman
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Ruth Grewe
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Bruce & Elizabeth Hawkins
Matt & Kathleen Horak
Nathan Huber
Susan Ihnen
Lisa Isenberg & Philip Friedlund
J ohn Iverson
Ray & Liz Jacobson
A manda Johnson
J. A ngie & Lars Johnson
W alter & Maurine Johnson
Myron Kaduce
Ian Karel
Mary K lingler
C andace & Jeff Latourelle
Donald Lavold
K ristina LeC lerc
M ike & Maryetta McCarty
J ohn & Sara McKay
C arolyn Meyer
Carolyn & Neil Miller
C indy & Larry Mohr
R achel Montpetit
S teve & Pam Morson
D ale & Kay Mowbray
D ick Muesing
C harlotte Nack
D avid Nelson
R ogger & Barbara Nelson
Th orid & Ardith Nelson
A rnold & Joan Nimps
J anet & Byron Nordstrom
D ouglas & Re Vae Nygard
C orrie Odland
W ayne Passon
D orothy Polesky
B ecky & Nicholas Pollack
Molly & Joe Reinemann
H arold & Louise Rodning
K aren Rogotzke
K en & Patsy Rossow
D ave & Helen Schauer
M yrna & Roger Schoeb
S teve & Maureen Scholl
S ue & Lee Schott
R ebecca Schueler
D oug & Judy Schultz
A nna Schuster
J eff & Tami Skinner
K aren & Jon Smithers
V ictoria Steinhaus
J ames & Diane Stenson
G lenn Stryker
O wen & Evie Swenson
R ichard Tostenson
T raverse des Sioux
G enealogical Society
B uster & Nina West
R ichard & Janet Wettergren
J eff Wettergren
& M elanie Lynard
L arry & J oan Zambino
N ancy & G erald Zempel

I ndividual Members

J osephine A miot
E unice A mos
S arah A uten
V erda B eatty
R oy Bennett
M arie B enson
D uane B iebi
P eg B indner
J anet Boese
Ruth Brandel
D avid Breitung
C arolyn Brethorst
H erbert Brunner
L oren Burkel
H elen C hristianson
J oAnne C ochran
B onnie C ompart
E lsa C ornell
Eleanor D epuydt
O pal D ewanz
M arty Dunc an
M aria Erling
J ackie Feldman
G erald Floren
C arol Forbes
M ichael Frederick
J oAnn Gieseke
J oyce Gillen
P aula Goblirsch
J erry Gulden
M mike Haeuser
E laine Hermanson
S cott Hermanson
D ale Himmelman
M ollie H oben
E ilen H olz
C harles Johnson
C onnie Johnson
M arjorie Johnson
V ictoria Johnson
P atricia J udd
K atharine K amakahi
M arolyn Kleinert
G retchen Koehler
D onna Kowal
B oyd Kramer
L ucin da K rosch
R obert Lambert
M arjorie Larson
R uth Larson
W illie Lindquist
L oren Lindsay
M aria Lokensgard
M ary Long
G layla Lueck Mattson
H arriet Mason
P hyl lis Maxwell
E dward McLean
R oland McMillin
J oe Metzen
L inda Miller
E vie Nelson
S ylvia Nesheim
B ruce Osborn
B rian Ov latt
J udith Penhiler
A nn Pesavento
M arshall Peterson
J im Pitmon
J anet P rehn
T im Pulls
D onna Resner
R onald Roselli
B ob Schabert
M ary Ann Scharf
D orothy Schultz
B everly Sohm
J ennifer St. Julien Powers
A gnes Stensby
N eil Stevermer
B ernadine Thompson
M ark Ulman
J oseph Urban
L ois Weber
W ood Lake Battlefield
Preservation Association
G ertrude Wright

District 6 school, being restored by Friends of District 6.
Autograph book that contains many autographs and writings by well-known St. Peter residents, donated by Marilyn Robertz.

Company K, Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment badge that was worn by John A. Johnson (not the Governor; but rather the John A. Johnson who later became the Sheriff of Nicollet County) donated by Pell Johnson.

Old Railroad Hotel on the northeast corner of Fifth and Pine in St. Peter, donated by Pam Seaser.