

Shakopee
Heritage
Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 57

Summer 2015

This edition:

- *Notes from the editor, page 2*
- *Colored Picture page, page 3*
- *Guest Speaker for July is us. See notes from the editor page 2.*
- *Meet our Members starts page 3.*
- *Daniel Storer, page 5*
- *A ghostly presence. Anyone know about this question on page 6?*

Please join us and bring a friend, if any of the following interests you.

- Sharing stories of Shakopee's past.
- Listening to stories of Shakopee's past
- Finding the answers to the questions you have.
- Reminiscing and telling stories of your past.
- Meeting new people or making a new friend.

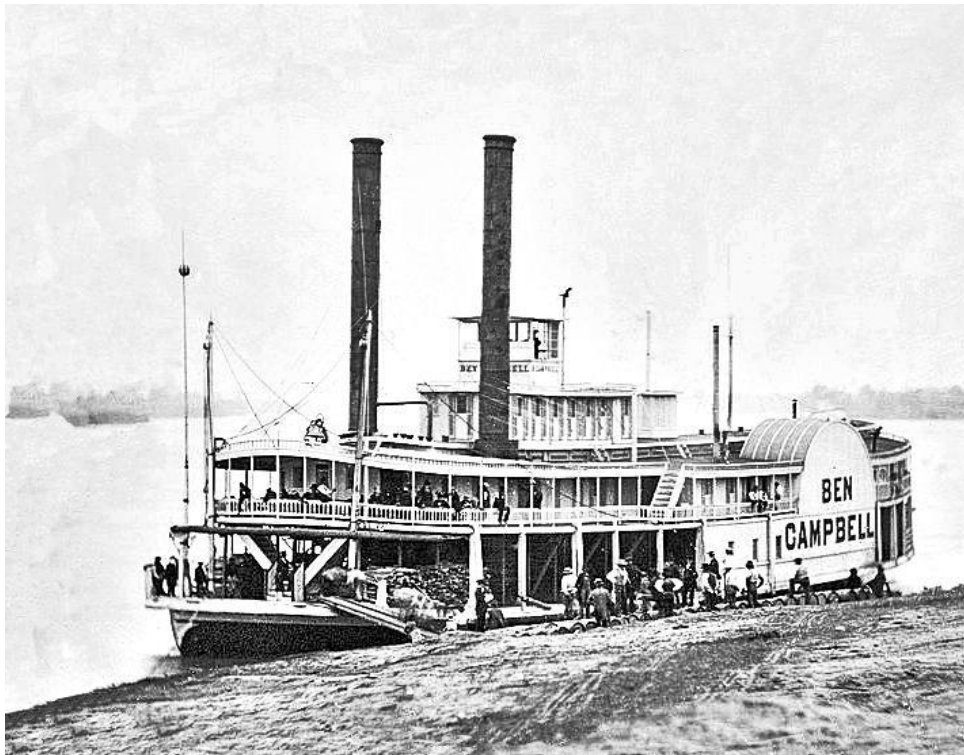
***The Shakopee
Heritage Society's
Summer Membership
Meeting and Pot Luck
Will be
Held Saturday July 8th at
6:00 PM
at the
Whiting's Home
520 3rd Avenue East
We hope to see you there.***

Editors Notes

By Don Wagner

- 1. We still have a few members who need to pay their dues for this year. Anyone not paid up; this will be their last newsletter. Get dues to Pat Ploumen, Pats address is 805 East Seventh Avenue, Shakopee MN 55379, or pay at the meeting.*
- 2. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the SHS and or becoming a member please ask for a brochure from a Board member to give to them.*
- 3. We remind you again that you are welcome to bring a friend to our meetings and also that we are anxious for any hints from our members on how to improve the newsletter or what topics our speakers might cover for you.*
- 4. The City and County are still working on the trail and the area around and under the bridge near the Mill pond. The Shakopee Heritage Society had pledged money to build a kiosk in that area a few years ago. Joe Collins, our president, who is heavily involved in this project will update us on any new progress.*
- 6. There is no speaker at the July pot luck. Instead we ask you to bring photos or stories or things to ask questions about.*
- 7. Please remember the July Pot Luck is on July 8th at 6:00 PM at the Whiting's home, 520 3rd Avenue East. There will be plates, napkins, and eating utensils as well as water, lemonade, and coffee. You may bring other things to drink if you wish. Members coming to the event should bring a dish to share which is what makes up those great meals we enjoy each year.*
- 8. Members should be aware that we have two Silver Club Memberships. Lions Tap and Stonebridge Bank.*

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Please remember to look for any pictures or letters or references to the Steam Boat traffic on the Minnesota River, especially as it relates to Shakopee. We have heard nothing from any of our members so far.



At our last membership meeting in April **David Schleper** was our guest speaker. David gave us information on the Native Americans from this area and also on Shakopee's Founder Thomas Holmes. His knowledge on both subjects is more in depth than our information at SHS. David has a very well received Facebook page called growing up in Shakopee. Anyone interested in Shakopee history and events should see his Facebook page.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Gerrie McGovern Heiland

Article by Eileen Schmitz

<< Picture of Gerrie to left

The year was 1933. The United States was in the middle of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt became our 32nd president, prohibition was law; Hitler was gaining power in Germany, Author Erle Stanley Gardner introduced his character Perry Mason in his novel, earthquakes hit Long Beach, California and the Japanese Island of Honshu killing many people, the movie KING KONG premiered in New York City. These are just a few past events of that year, but most important was the event that took place right here in Shakopee, MN ---- Edward and Florence Buesgens McGovern welcomed their

first born child to the world, a daughter, Geraldine Ann McGovern, known to us as "Gerrie." Gerrie was born at the home of her parents at 330 E. Fourth Ave. At the time of her birth her parents were renting the house and when the owner passed away around 1945 they bought the house and lived there the rest of their lives. Four years later Gerrie's sister Aggie was born.

Her father Edward who was a carpenter was one of six sons. He and his brothers Leo, Frank, William, James and Harry were born to John and Catherine Rohe McGovern and were raised on the family farm in Jackson Township, Section 10, Shakopee, MN. The farm was located west of old Highway 169 (now #69) west of the railroad tracks. Her great grandfather John McGovern was the original owner of the farm.

John McGovern Sr. was born in 1816 in County Leitrim, Ireland. He came to America around 1843 settling in the state of Rhode Island. He married there and was employed in the roller mills. In 1857-58 he and his wife and four children moved west to Minnesota where his wife, Margaret Heslan, had two sisters living in Hennepin County, Mrs. Matt Riley and Mrs. Patrick Riley. They settled in Shakopee, MN and lived in the city until around 1868 when he purchased a farm three miles south west of Shakopee in Jackson Township. At the time of his death her great grandfather John McGovern had the distinction of being the oldest member of the Shakopee community dying one month before his 97th birthday.

His son John McGovern Jr (Gerrie's grandfather) married in 1890 to Catherine Rohe and settled on the farm until 1926 when they retired from farming and moved to Shakopee. Catherine Rohe was the daughter of Lambert Rohe, also one of Shakopee's early pioneers.

Gerrie's mother Florence Buesgens was from a family of six children. She was the daughter of Henry and Anna Meyer Buesgens. As a child she and her family lived for some time on the Buesgens farm in Chaska, MN later moving back to Shakopee.

Growing up Gerrie says there weren't many children in her neighborhood to play with. There were several empty lots in the block where she lived and in later years new houses were built on these lots.

The Leo Hirscher family lived across the street, the north side of 4th Ave. and was the only other family with children in the block. She and Bob Hirscher were great playmates. Other neighbors were the Butz Pass family, the Petsch family and a Mrs. Hennen, a widow and her daughter. Further east on 4th Ave. lived the Wermerskirchen's, Judge Connolly, Stockers, Duffy, an older lady by the name of Pass, the Bill Marschall family. These are only a few of the neighbors.

The McGovern family attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee and that's where Gerrie started her education, first grade through eighth grade at St. Mary's Catholic School. When Gerrie attended grade school the building had four classrooms, two classes in each room. She remembers her 7th and 8th grade teacher, Sister Nicolette very well. The nuns were the Notre Dame order.

She graduated from eighth grade in 1947, went on to attend Shakopee High School which at that time was located on 5th Ave. I think it is an elementary school now.

After graduating from high school in 1951 she obtained her first job with the telephone company in Shakopee. After two years of working nights she decided that the night hours were not for her and resigned. She next found employment at Continental Tool in Savage. Tiring of this job she went on to find employment in Minneapolis at the Sears Store on Lake Street. She and her friend rented rooms in an older home on Elliot Ave. and were able to walk to their jobs. Some years later she came back to Shakopee and worked for Page & Hill, then on to her last job outside of the home in Hopkins, MN.

Gerrie and Andy Heiland were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church on September 14, 1957. Andy was a Shakopee boy and was born and raised in Shakopee. The two of them knew each other for some years before dating and eventually marrying. Andy was in the construction trade and later worked at the Shakopee Senior High School in maintenance. He retired in 1996 dying two years later in August of 1998.

After Gerrie and Andy were married they rented several apartments in Shakopee. In 1960 they built their home in the Notermann Edition on the west side of Shakopee, where Gerrie still makes her home.

She and Andy were blessed with seven children, Dale, Lisa, Keith who died in infancy, Cheryl, Renee, Craig and Kurt.

Gerrie keeps busy with her family and friends, volunteers and is active in her church, working at Loaves and Fishes, Mobile Meals, belonged to the Quilt Club, served on the St. Mark's Church's Funeral committee for about 22 years, is a volunteer at The Scott County Historical Society, enjoys trips with the senior citizen's group, is an avid Minnesota Twins fan and "works out" at the Shakopee Community Club.

A valued member of our Society, Gerrie is willing to work when and where she is needed. Always willing to lend a helping hand where it is needed. Her infectious laughter and bubbling personality is contagious and makes for joyful times.

From all of us, The Shakopee Heritage Society, we "Thank you, Gerrie" for your contributions and sharing your delightful self.

From Daniel Storer, his writings for July 1865.

July 1st to 5th. Hot and showery. Went over to G. H. Brown's in Eden Prairie the 4th. Had a great time with music. Did not come home till the 5th.

6th. Warm. Thieves are getting very bold here now. Several houses have been broken open by them lately.

7th. Mrs. Koons died two days ago and was buried today. Mr. Pond preached the funeral sermon and while the family's were away from the house, a boy that has been living with him lately broke open a chest and stole over \$500 in money and started off down the river in a canoe. He did not get far when he was overtaken and all he had recovered, and Cressey took him to jail.

8th to 11th. Cool. The 11th is my birthday, 37 years old.

12th to 31st. Cool and hot and a good deal of rain. The grain is awfully lodged and I am afraid the wheat will rust badly. Was out to Dan Apgar's the 22nd, Sunday.

End of July 1865 entries.

Continued from page 2.

9. We have a request from a writer to our web page saying:

A friend took the attached picture at the St Francis Regional Medical Center recently and you may notice a figure of a woman behind the bed...maybe a ghost who looks like a nurse dressed in uniform from maybe early 1900's? Can any of you tell me if there are any stories from the hospital that would be about ghosts being seen there or tragedy like a fire or something where people died unexpectedly back in the maybe the early 1900's or so?

Can any of our members shed any light on this subject for the writer? Ask around with your friends and neighbors before the meeting. Maybe our president Joe Collins will be able to bring a copy of the picture to the meeting.

10. We are a bit late getting this issue out. We like to get the newsletter in your hands about two weeks before the meeting so everyone has adequate warning. **Be warned that the meeting is July 8th at 6:00 PM at the Whiting's home and not at the library.**

11. Enjoy your summer but watch out for the heat. Take your time doing any chores around the home whether inside or out and keep well hydrated. Shut windows and pull down the shades when it is hotter outside. If it's safe, open them for ventilation when it is cooler. Stay tuned to the weather forecast on the radio or TV.

- Shut windows and pull down the shades when it is hotter outside. If it's safe, open them for ventilation when it is cooler.
- Avoid the heat: stay out of the sun and don't go out between 11am and 3pm (the hottest part of the day) if you're vulnerable to the effects of heat.
- Keep rooms cool by using shades or reflective material outside the windows. If this isn't possible, use light-colored curtains and keep them closed (metallic blinds and dark curtains can make the room hotter).
- Have cool baths or showers, and splash yourself with cool water.
- Drink cold drinks regularly, such as water and fruit juice. **Avoid tea, coffee and alcohol.**
- Plan ahead to make sure you have enough supplies, such as food, water and any medications you need.
- Wear loose, cool clothing and a hat if you go outdoors.
- Check up on friends, relatives and neighbors who may be less able to look after themselves.

Shakopee Heritage Society
519 First Avenue East
Shakopee MN 55379



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