



*Shakopee*  
Heritage  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 48

Spring 2013

*This edition:*

- *Notes from the editor page 2*
- *Colored Picture Page's 3 and 4*
- *There is a field trip, see on page 2 in the Editors comments.*
- *Our Speaker for April Is Mona Strunk on the old Drug Store*
- *More Pictures this issue.*

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 Spring  
Membership Meeting  
Will be held April 20th  
1:00 PM***

***In the downstairs  
meeting room  
Of the Shakopee library***

***We hope to see you there.***

## Editors Notes

By Don Wagner

1. *Welcome to the spring season. It always seems like such a long winter, just like this one, but then suddenly we are looking at spring again. The weather will catch up soon now.*
2. *The SHS is having a field trip on Saturday June 8, 2013 starting with a tour of the old H. B. Straight home at 314 Scott Street South, from Greg and Dixie Duffy, the current owners of the home. After the tour of the house the group will go to Wampach's for lunch. There will be more information available at the meeting.*
3. *Our speaker for April is Mona Strunk; Mona will give us some of the history of the Strunk Drug store in Shakopee. To most of the old timers it was known as the " Old Drug Store "*
4. *Pat Ploumen is still looking for some help with the committee for our next house showing.*
5. *Don't forget that we have a Website [WWW.shakopeeheritage.org](http://WWW.shakopeeheritage.org). There are many things to see there, among them the newsletters. If you want copies of an article from our newsletter, or copies of the whole newsletter, go to our website and find it there. You, or your friends, can print out just one page or the whole newsletter. You will find other useful articles and subjects of interest on the pages of your website.*
6. *If you have not paid your dues yet this year see Pat Ploumen at the meeting or mail it to her or to Shakopee Heritage Society, 519 First Avenue East, Shakopee MN 55379*
7. *The next membership meeting will be the Annual Pot Luck Picnic, which will be held at Jay and Melissa Whiting's home.*
8. *This will be the last Newsletter for those who have not renewed their membership, except of course the lifetime or Comp members. Check and be sure you are paid up.*



Mr. H. H. Strunk is second from the left in this picture. The Drug Store was opened in 1871, the oldest Drugstore in Shakopee



The Huber's, left to right; Pat and Mike, gave us some insight on the effort and history needed in the preparations for the printing of the **Shakopee Scrapbook**. That story probably would make a small book itself.

If any of you would like to get copies of the book for yourself or your relatives you might want to do it now. There are a number of copies left right now and it may not be republished again later, so now is the time to pick up some copies.



This group will wind up being historic just on the basis of their longevity in the positions they hold. From Left to Right Secretary Eileen Schmitz, President Joe Collins, Director Don McNeil, Treasurer Pat Ploumen.

Newly elected Director Melissa Whiting, Vice president Lois Wendt, and director Don Wagner are not pictured here but are all long term members of the society also.



The Duffy homestead in 1984.

See more pictures in the article on the Duffy Homestead in the next two pages.



This house located at the southwest corner at the junction of County Road 83 and Eagle Creek Blvd. Shakopee, MN was once the home of Peter F. Duffy. The property had been in the Duffy family for over a hundred years.

Back in 1827 Peter, who was born in 1809, West Meath Ireland left his home in Ireland and came to America. He stayed in Philadelphia for several years, staying with his brother who was a priest. Sometime in the early 1840's he made his way to New Orleans and found employment with a hardware firm. From there he changed careers and became a police officer in New Orleans. He remained on the police force for six or seven years and then decided to come north. In 1853 he traveled up the Mississippi with his wife, Margaret and son Timothy, first stopping in St. Paul, and then to Shakopee. In June of 1853 he made a claim of 160 acres at the edge of the timber line in Eagle Creek and settled on it as a preemption claimant. He sold this property in 1866 and bought the farm on the prairie where this house is located. Peter Duffy died in 1979.

His funeral was from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee and burial at the Calvary Cemetery



in Eagle Creek

The farmstead stood on a ridge of the prairie, looking down on prairie lands to the north and to the south. The farmstead has been slowly dismantled for further development. At present it is surrounded by cityscapes: a pharmacy, restaurants, banks, motels, medical facilities, manufacturing business, home improvement business, office buildings and a horse racing establishment.

At one time this was a stately farm house surrounded with native trees, prairie grasses and shrubbery with multiple outbuildings consisting of a huge dairy barn, granary, chicken coop and garage.

The first floor consisted of a kitchen with a huge pantry off of the kitchen, a dining room, living room and a formal parlor. Off of the dining room there was a staircase that led to a bedroom for hired hands. The second floor contained four large bedrooms and the third floor contained the attic, big enough to house more bedrooms if needed. And of course the sanitary facilities were housed outdoors.

After Peter's death his son, Timothy Duffy, who was born in Louisiana in 1846 took over the farm. Timothy came to Minnesota from Louisiana with his parents in 1851. The Duffy's settled on one hundred sixty acres as previously stated, located in the southeastern part of Eagle Creek Township, Scott County MN. Later moving to this location where the house in the picture stands.

In 1863 Timothy served as a Private in Company L, Second Regiment MN Cavalry volunteers. He married Caroline Stemmer in 1867. Caroline was born in 1850 in Ontario, Canada. She was the daughter of Francis and Mary Ann Beisang. At the age of two she came to Minnesota with her parents. They also settled in Eagle Creek Township.

Together Timothy and Caroline had eleven children. Andrew died as a young man, their son Wm. F. Duffy taught in the rural schools of Scott County. In 1925 William became the owner and publisher of The Shakopee Argus newspaper in Shakopee, MN. He also served as clerk of district court and was the secretary-treasurer and manager of the Shakopee Telephone Company.

In 1926 he purchased the Shakopee Tribune and consolidated that publication with the Shakopee Argus-Tribune until 1945 when he sold it to Mr. James Hall and Frank Strunk.

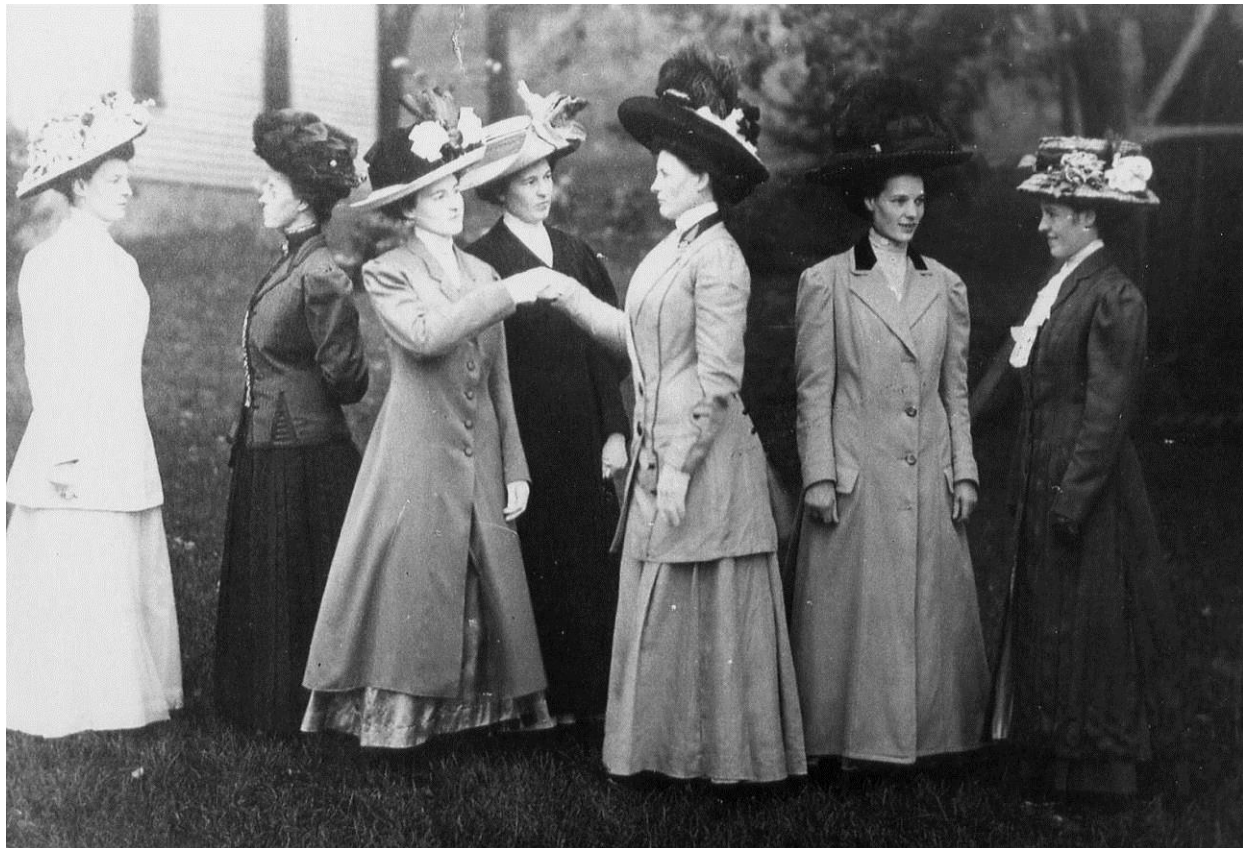
Another son was Judge T.E. J. Duffy of Prineville, Oregon. Timothy's son Walter took over the operation of the farm after Timothy died.

Three daughters were married; Mary Kinghorn, Margaret Huber, Florence Feldmann, Anna, Gertrude, Helen and Katherine lived at home with their parents.

Timothy farmed and owned approximately 500 hundred acres of farm land in Eagle Township. Some of the land was located on the north end of Deans Lake. Besides farming his son Walter dealt in livestock and maintained stud draft horses that supplied many farmers in the surrounding area with their work horses. His daughter Margaret married into the Huber family who also were big land owners in Eagle Township. Mr. Timothy Duffy was instrumental in the beginnings of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee, and was active in public affairs, associated with the schools and township government, serving as county commissioner for the third District of Scott County for several terms. He died in 1917. His funeral was from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee, MN burial at Calvary Catholic Cemetery on Eagle Creek Blvd. His wife Caroline died in 1919. Her funeral was from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee, MN burial at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

Descendants of Peter Duffy and his children live in Carver County, MN the state of Oregon and Indiana.

It is with mixed emotions when we see the fading of our past. Make way for progress but yet keep the past in mind.



**The seven daughters of Timothy Duffy**



## Strunk's Drugs The Old Drug Store

On the north side of First Avenue, in Shakopee, since approximately 1871.

Learn more at the meeting from Mona Strunk who will give us some history on the Strunk and sons Drug Store

See enlargement of Mr. Strunk and the other three gentlemen on page 2

**Shakopee Heritage Society**  
**519 East First Avenue**  
**Shakopee MN 55379**