

Shakopee
Heritage
Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 55

Winter 2015

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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
Winter Membership
Meeting Will be
Held Saturday January
17th at 1:00 PM
in the
Shakopee Library
Downstairs Meeting
Room*

We hope to see you there.

Editors Notes

By Don Wagner

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.

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.

The City and County are still working on the trail and the area around and under the bridge at 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, will update us on its progress.

Paul Darfle, a new resident of Shakopee, donated some awards to the SHS that belonged to former Sherriff Rip Schroeder. He found the items in the attic of the house he bought in Shakopee, Rips old house. These are plaques presented to him at various meets around the US for raising and competing with his homing pigeons

Our guest speaker for the January 2015 meeting will be Delores Klehr speaking about her memories of growing up in Shakopee.

The SHS is looking for any mementos or pictures or letters or tales or other things that in any way are connected to the Minnesota River steamboat trade. Particularly those related to Shakopee. Almost all of the steamboats running the Minnesota trade stopped at Shakopee. Between all of us and our neighbors we must have records notes pictures cards etc. from all those stops in Shakopee from the 1850's to 1910. There were even a few later trips. These are items that if they still exist should be brought to light and saved before it is too late. Spend some time this year asking everyone you know for any items referencing this critical part of Shakopee's History. Then get any information brought to the attention of the SHS. In 10 years of asking I have come up with very little on this subject from Shakopee. Hang this page on your refrigerator as a reminder. We can copy or picture almost anything so the owner may keep it and still pass it on to future generations. Let any board member know if you come across anything.

Don Wagner Editor

To contact the Shakopee Main Street Coordinator, *Laura Pecaut call; Office: 952-445-1660, or her Cell phone; 641-390-0866*

The Shakopee Heritage Society will be holding elections at the January Membership meeting. Half of the board gets elected to a two year term this year and the other half next year. Please consider joining the SHS board of directors or volunteer for some special projects. We will be asking at the meeting for any nominations to the board so think over your availability and what kind of commitment you may wish to make.

These positions are for 2 years and need to be voted on this year. The other half of board gets elected nest year.

Pat Ploumen	_____	Treasurer
Don McNeil	_____	Director
Don Wagner	_____	Director
Open	_____	Director



Laura Pecaut, Main Street Coordinator, was our guest speaker in October. She gave us an overview of the Shakopee program as it is being developed and in particular the Downtown Mural project.



President Joe Collins filled us in on the progress of the trail and park and the Kiosk that the heritage society has committed funds to. There will be an update at the Meeting



Laura seems right at home delivering her Presentation.

Thanks Laura.

If you contact Laura she will get you on a list to receive emails with progress reports on the mural. Call 952-445-1660 during business hours or her *Cell: 641-390-0866*

There are many volunteer positions available for non-artists in the mural project also.



Verna Rein

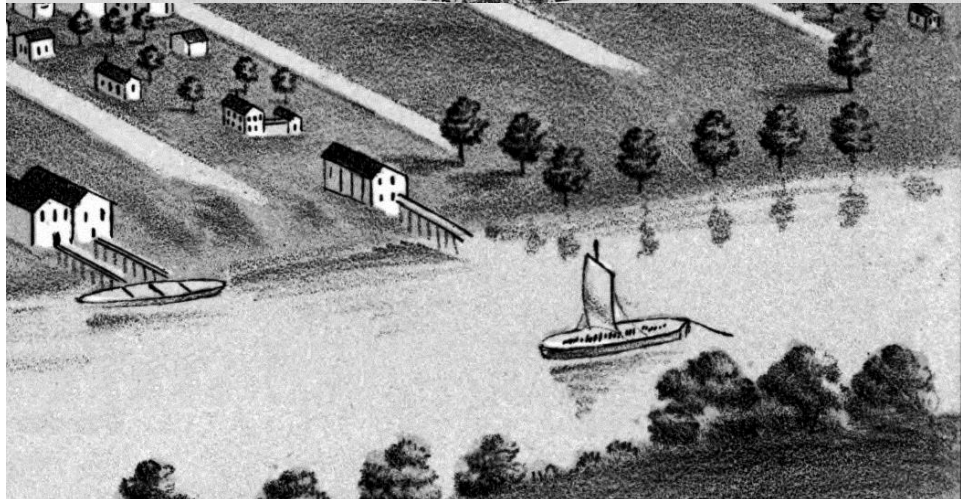
entered eternal life October 23rd 2014. Verna was a loving mom, Grandmother, Great grandmother Sister in law, Aunt and a dear friend. A friend to many of our members also. She will be missed.



An excursion steamboat named **Flora Clark** which made a number of excursion trips to Shakopee sometimes pulling a barge named the **Louise** which had a large dance floor on its deck. An excursion on Sunday July 25th 1895 had ticket costs of 75 cents for adults and 50 cents for children. It left Shakopee at 10:00 am and returned at 11:00 pm making for a 13 hour trip.



The **Hiawatha** At Shakopee in the late 1800's just below the old swing bridge. This trip was also an excursion by the looks of the heavy load of people.



Believed to be Thomas Holmes boat the Wild Paddy

As pictured in the 1863 map of Shakopee. The hull is believed to be buried below the waters of the Minnesota River above the Carver Rapids.

These newspaper advertisements from 1857 are typical of those run for a number of years in the local towns along the Minnesota River.

THE DAILY MAIL PACKET, ANTELOPE

will leave every day for Chaska and intermediate points, as follows; Leaving St. Paul at 2 o'clock pm. Leaves Chaska at 6 o'clock am. For freight or passage apply on board.

G. HOUUGHTON, Master.

George Houghton and his brother James of Carver were both heavily involved in shipbuilding piloting and river trade. Of their many steam boats and barges the Antelope (1857 to 1863) was the most familiar and well used river steamer in this area. It also carried the mail to these towns for a number of years.

MINNESOTA RIVER Accommodation Packet EQUATOR.

CHAS. E. SENCERBOX, Master.

The proprietors of this truly Minnesota River Boat, take this opportunity of tendering their sincere thanks for the *very* liberal patronage they received during the last season, and now have the pleasure of announcing to the shippers of St. Paul and the inhabitants of the Minnesota Valley, that they are refitting and refurnishing the steamer Equator in a superior manner, and will be in readiness upon the opening of navigation, to resume her regular trips to the Minnesota River.

The steamer Equator owned exclusively by citizens of Minnesota, and will be kept running for the accommodation of the public in the dull season as well as in the more business part. Her earnings are spent among the people from whom it is received, instead of being taken away by transient boats at the commencement of the dull season; with the consoling assurance that they have taken the cream of the business, and the inhabitants of Minnesota may then do the best they can. There are no *Pittsburg* interests in the Equator to divert her from the trade, and the proprietors would respectfully solicit a continuance of the patronage heretofore enjoyed. The proprietors of the steamer Equator, will have a boat in readiness at the commencement' of the low water season, that will only require a heavy *dew* to enable her to run.

Saint Paul, February 20, 1857.

Charles E. Sencerbox was a Shakopee citizen and captain of the steamboat Equator and of the steamboat Medora, both on the Minnesota River and over the years the steamboat Tidal Wave, and the Alex Mitchel, the Arkansas, and the steamboat Minnesota on the Mississippi River. A friend of Daniel Storer we hear about Charles from time to time in the pages of Daniels Diary.

1857 April 12th. Sunday. The S. B. Equator from St. Paul got here at night, the first boat of the season. They had a brass band aboard.

1865 June 18th. The 18th there was an awful shower and hurricane. It blowed both of Capt. Sencerbox's barns down and came near killing his son Ed.

1892 February 11th. Cool. We had a little party in the eve. A nice time. There is considerable sickness around now, with mostly the grip. Captain Sencerbox is sick and I was down to see him.

1892 February 18th. Cold. Wife went to Minneapolis. I was down to see Captain Sencerbox in the afternoon. The Mite Society was at Mrs. Southworth's in the eve.

1892 April 3rd. Church in the forenoon. Went down to see Captain Sencerbox. Went to Dr. Smith's in the afternoon. He is not able to be out any yet, and I am afraid he never will be. William Hull has got into trouble about obscene literature and is indicted by the U. S. Grand Jury and is in jail waiting trial.

1896 11th. Saturday. A little snow fell today. Mrs. Sherrard was buried today. I was one of the pall bearers. Trade is very dull. Captain J. W. Sencerbox died today. The Old Settlers are dropping off fast.

1896 14th. Captain Sencerbox was buried today from the house with Masonic Honors. There were a good many out but it was a cold job being out so long.

With the hundreds of boats running St. Paul to Mankato and beyond, and most of those stopping at Shakopee it seems we should have a good bit of history to dig up and save. Please give a try at coming up with some of it. Ask friends, neighbors, relatives.

Don Wagner Editor.

You can see from the brief description of a couple of people above and the boats they were connected to, that there is the possibility of much more history that could be lying in wait, just out of sight, here in Shakopee.

**Shakopee Heritage Society
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