



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 60

Summer 2016

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- *More history from David Schleper Page 5*

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 pot luck
Membership Meeting
Will be held
July 13th at 6:00 PM
at the Home of
Jay / Melissa Whiting
520 3^d Avenue East***

We hope to see you there.

Editors Notes

By Don Wagner

1. **Remember that April was the last newsletter for anyone who has not paid their dues for this year. If it slipped your mind and you still want a membership mail dues to: Patricia Ploumen, 805 7th Avenue East, Shakopee, MN 55379. Tell a friend if they are not getting this newsletter.**
2. *Joe Collins accepted a job out of the state so he will be unable to fill his responsibilities as President. Vice President Lois Wendt will fill the president's spot starting last month.*
3. *Lois Wendt will be looking for someone to appoint to the position of Vice President for the SHS.*
4. *Joe Collins took a job in Florida and will be selling his home here in Shakopee and buying one in Florida. He will have his work cut out for him for a while as he will be back here a few times selling the Shakopee home and working at buying one in Florida, getting his children in school and ETC. We all wish him the very best and will miss his input and work on all the projects he was involved in.*
5. *David Schleper is filling in for Joe Collins at the History Park and providing a valiant effort to keep us involved. He was kind of drafted and is working hard at it. Thanks David.*
6. *David Schleper has a great deal of experience at digging out facts and stories on past events. He writes many items for the "Growing up in Shakopee" part of Facebook and is responsible for much of its success. His stories are collecting some younger folks also which we really need in order to have Shakopee History passed on. I intend to use more of his writings in the future. See an article in this newsletter which will be continued in the October newsletter.*
7. *This year there was an additional downtown event called "Open Streets" during which the SHS set up a booth and made the presence of the SHS better known. There was a \$25 dollar cost for the booth but \$70.00 was taken in through sales of books and other items. A lot of interest was shown for the Pathways of Shakopee History project. A box was set up for donations to the project and \$31.00 was taken in specifically for this project. Thanks to Melissa Whiting, Ken M., Lois Wendt, and Pat Ploumen for all their help and of course David Schleper for his work on preparing the handout.*
8. *As usual Pat Ploumen had arranged for some treats for the people who stopped by. I understand that the kids liked the candy. Who would have guessed? As is usual for many of these events there was a downpour and according to Pat nothing was damaged and everyone survived. Thank you to all for all the work setting up and working in the booth and tearing it down again. Unless you have been part of one of these events this is more effort than most people realize.*
9. *Since I was not at the meeting we need to thank Pat Ploumen for the pictures in this newsletter, a great job again Pat.*
10. *We will be getting us set up with a Twitter account. For those who don't know what Twitter is I won't attempt to explain it here. Maybe at the meeting, if time permits, someone can explain Twitter.*
11. *Over the years we have had some very committed and talented Board members and they make the SHS what it is. Thank them when you get the chance as there is no pay or rewards other than the satisfaction of an excellent job. Have a wonderful summer.*



Left: Betty Dols delivering her very interesting information on Shakopee's past. Betty has a library of information in her head about Shakopee and even though I was not there to hear it I know from comments made that it was well received and enjoyed. The picture below is our new president Lois Wendt working the booth at the Open Streets event in downtown Shakopee.



SHS President, Joe Collins at the April General membership meeting and some members of the audience.

We will miss Joe and his enthusiasm and huge effort and talents.

Again we wish him great success at his new job and venture in Florida as well as his wife and kids with a new start there.



Pat Ploumen at the Open Streets booth working with Lois went to keep our name out there in the public eye.

Pat and Lois are pressed pretty hard to keep all these events up and running.

This year with no Derby Days event they will get a small break but new tasks like the Open Streets event requires a lot of work also.

You will get a report at the meeting on the Open Streets event. Also see Editor's Notes.



A longtime member of the SHS, Margaret Sarazin passed away since our last meeting. We used the information from her Obituary for this article.

A devoted resident of Shakopee, MN, Margaret Ann (Sarazin) Elftmann passed away peacefully in the presence of her family, at her home on the morning of Monday, May 2, 2016. All of Margaret's service will be held at Ballard-Sunder Funeral and Cremation, 833 South Marschall Road, Shakopee, MN. The family will greet family and friends on Friday, May 6, from 4-7 pm and on Saturday, May 7 one hour prior to the Celebration of Life Service, at 11 am, led by Deacon Jim Pufahl. She will be laid to rest with her husband at the Shakopee Catholic Cemetery.

On January 5, 1939, teenage sisters, Lorraine and Catherine arrived home from school and found baby Margaret Ann... a secret their parents, John and Genevieve (Scharf) Sarazin had been keeping from them for months. Born and raised in Shakopee, the Sarazin family grew up on a farm currently where the car wash and the Ballard-Sunder Funeral Home is located. Margaret attended school through the eighth grade before returning home to help her parents on the farm. Later in years, the Sarazin family was honored to have a street in Shakopee named after them.

Through the years, Margaret ventured down many career paths. She waitressed at several restaurants was a factory line inspector and worked at Mystic

Lake Casino. But she took her caring and loving personality and assisted the elderly at Friendship Manor Nursing Home, drove school bus for the handicap and provided day care for children in the community and grandchildren. Margaret was most proud of dedicating her life to be a wife, mother, grandma and great-grandma.

Margaret married Glen Trebesch in the late 1950's. From this union, she was blessed with five precious children, Deb, Ronnie, Scott, LeNita and Janelle. Unfortunately, Margaret and Glen parted ways. Her life was once again enriched with love meeting Dennis Elftmann. On August 24, 1985 in the flower gardens of Eagan, MN, Margaret and he were married. She opened up her arms to Dennis' four wonderful children, Jan, Sandra, Daniel and David. Through the years, Margaret's life was greatly blessed with 14 grandchildren and soon to be 11 great-grandchildren. The family will always be her greatest pride and passion.

In Margaret's spare time, she enjoyed cranking up polka music, watching the polka program at noon and most of all polka dancing. An avid Minnesota Twins fan, Margaret also enjoyed, playing cards, sending greeting cards for every occasion, enjoying the activities at the cabin in Palisade, MN and traveling in the PT Cruiser. She was known for her delicious pumpkin bread, the countless hours on genealogy research and the love for her animals. Margaret will be best remembered as a major icon in the racing profession. For decades, she supported and participated in the racing business at Raceway Park in Shakopee, MN. Margaret was a permanent fixture at the track and everyone loved her. In more recent years, Margaret finished the second volume of the race track's history.

A faithful woman, Margaret had a great memory and knew everyone by name. She was a woman of forgiveness and always looked past your faults or disappointments. Margaret had a spirited personality of sassiness, awesomeness and a strong temperament.

Margaret's legacy will live on in her beloved family that will truly miss her deeply, especially the children, Deb (Randy) Lowe, Ronnie (Jovi) Trebesch, Scott Trebesch, LeNita (Michael) Johnson, Janelle (Harm) Alken, Jan (Dave Lewis) Elftmann, Sandra Elftmann, Daniel (Chel) Elftmann, David (Greta) Elftmann; grandchildren, Olivia (Sam), Toni, Kristy (Dustin), Kasey (Lindsey), Marty, Alex, Nikki, Kevin (Lindsay), Justin (Hailey), Ashlee (Bryan), Lindsay, Travis, Jacob, Kaylyn; great-grandchildren, Maison, Madeline, Arista, Laney, Gage, Kenzington, Adriannah, Kali, Xander, Katalaya-Mae and a baby due in August; sisters, Lorraine Schleicher, Catherine Henry; dog Charlie; cat, Rascal; many loving relatives and devoted friends. There to welcome Margaret home in heaven was her husband, Dennis "Bullet" and parents.

Oliver Faribault and Wakanyankewin 1844
Compiled and Written by David R. Schleper

Oliver Faribault was born at Prairie du Chien, now in Wisconsin. His father was Jean-Baptiste Faribault, a well-known French-Canadian fur trader with the Northwest and American Fur Companies. His mother was Elizabeth Pelagie Kinzie Haines. (Her name is spelled differently in various documents.) Pelagie was the daughter of a French voyageur and Mdewakanton mother, so Oliver was at least 1/4 Dakota.

Oliver's older siblings were Alexander and Lucie-Anne. Her younger siblings were David-Frederick (David), Emilie (Emily), Marie-Louise (Mary Louise), Philippe (Philip) and Frederick-Daniel (Daniel). Among them, only Philip didn't grow up to adulthood.

In 1804-1805, not far upstream on the Minnesota River from present day Carver, the Little Rapids trading post was established. It was first operated by Jean-Baptiste Faribault of the Machilimackinac Fur Company and the Northwest Fur Company and visited by fur traders, Dakota Indians, and Christian missionaries over the next 45 years. The early map indicated that this Indian village was associated with Dakota leader Mazomani.

Jean-Baptiste Faribault lived among the Wahpeton community for a few months each year with his Dakota wife, Pelagie. The villagers brought their tanned furs and their maple sugar to the Trading Post. Faribault would give them glass beads, silver ornaments, tin kettles, iron knives, awl tips, axes, hatchets, and hoes for their summer work. Faribault was there for many years, and he probably enjoyed amicable relations with the community. According to Janet D. Spector, "Faribault probably strengthened his connection to Little Rapids by his marriage to Pelagie Hanse, the twenty-two-year-old widow of a former superintendent of Indian affairs and the mixed-heritage daughter of trader Francois Kinnie." She and Faribault had several children, including Oliver Faribault, and through her, Jean-Baptiste Faribault would acquire knowledge about Dakota language and culture, further enhancing his role as cultural middleman at Little Rapids.

In 1819, the Faribault family settled on Pike Island near a new fort, Fort Snelling, at the mouth of the Minnesota River. They were invited to do this by Colonel Henry Leavenworth, who knew that Jean-Baptiste understood the Dakota who lived in the area and could help develop the fur trade in Minnesota. The Dakota were also more likely to trust people who were related to members of their tribe. The family built a log house and farmed. Oliver and his siblings also helped their father with his fur trade business.

In 1826, the family moved off the island and built a home on the river bank in what was to become Mendota, Minnesota and traded with the Dakota.

Although he was friends with the Dakota, pioneer life on the frontier was dangerous. When he was only 14 years of age, Oliver had to defend his father's life when he was attacked by a Dakota:

On one occasion for a trivial matter an Indian plunged a knife into [Jean Baptiste] Faribault's back, but his vigorous constitution and temperate habits carried him through. The Indian, however, was summarily shot by one of Faribault's sons, Oliver, a boy of fourteen.

Jean-Baptiste Faribault also purchased a female slave, even though slavery had been outlawed in the region for well over a decade by the Missouri Compromise of early 1800s. That slave had a child, Joseph Godfrey, who was also a slave who ended up in Shakopee, as a slave to Oliver and Wakanyankewin (Harriet) Faribault.

Working for the American Fur Company, Oliver was busy doing almost every job that could be done on the new frontier. He was not only a trader, but also a clerk for the Fur Company. This meant he helped manage the fur trade business. Oliver and his brothers also earned money as whiskey smugglers in the 1830s. Fur traders could do this well because they were always traveling from place to place.

Oliver Faribault married Wakanyankewin, or Harriet Menary in a civil/Indian ceremony in 1837. Wakanyankewin was a close relative of Chief Sakpe.

Oliver worked with the government and the Dakota in establishing land treaties. The government trusted Oliver and other mixed-blood interpreters because they spoke English and often dressed like other whites. The Dakota trusted them because they spoke their language and because they considered them part of their family. He worked with Alexander, who traveled to Washington in 1837 to help with a treaty in which the Dakota signed away their lands east of the Mississippi.

As part of the settlement, each Mdewakanton Dakota village were to receive an assigned farmer to teach them the benefits and techniques of "modern agriculture." Oliver was assigned to Shakopee's village in the spring of 1839. Oliver and Jean-Baptiste were licensed to trade at Mendota, and David Faribault was licensed for trade at Little Rapids. In Taliaferro Journal, June 11, 1839: Under terms of the treaty of 1837, each Mdewakanton village was to receive an assigned farmer to teach them modern farming. Oliver's close relationship with Little Six (Shakopee), led to his being assigned to that position in the spring of 1839.

In Taliaferro Journal, June 17, 1839 and August 13, 1839: Exactly where he located the farm or whether he became a permanent resident has not been determined. Taliaferro recorded that Oliver had nine oxen, four cows, three horses, one bull, one cart, one wagon, two yokes, and bows, two single plows and two double plows.

It was during this period that the Little Six Village moved from the left bank to the right bank of the Minnesota River. Exact year of the village removal has not been determined.

Oliver probably served as government farmer for only a few years. Samuel Pond recorded that the first farmers for many villages were not very good and were replaced. In the book, Two Volunteer Missionaries, Samuel Pond, p. 166, "The first famers for the Shakopee band got along several years without doing anything for the Indians except that now and then he gave a present to the chief. He used their wagons and carts for his own business and let their cattle starve to death, and some of the other farmers did not do much better."

In 1842, Oliver was probably back at Little Prairie. Fr. Augustin Ravoux wrote in 1842: "A few days later, I was induced by the Faribault families, but most especially by that old and respectable gentleman, Jean-Baptiste Faribault, to spend the winter with him and two of his sons, Oliver and David, both married, at Caska (Little Prairie). He had a trading post there for the Indians of Shakopee and also for the Sioux of another village at Carver (Little Rapids). I was most pleased to be with them, for they loved the Indians and were deeply interested in the success of my mission. They spoke equally well the French, English and Sioux languages. They were good interpreters and very useful to me in translating my book into the Sioux language." (The Labors of Mgr. A. Ravoux, page 3.)

The Catholic mission "Sioux Mission of St. Francois Xavier" was constructed in June 1843 and operated until the spring of 1844. Fr. Ravoux, on his return to the Little Prairie mission in 1845, found no Indians because Oliver had moved to Sakpe's village the previous year.

Oliver Faribault built a tamarack log cabin and trading post by Faribault Springs, in Tinta Otonwe. The cabin and adjacent warehouse was built, probably with help from Joseph Godfrey, in order to trade with the Dakota Indians. It was built on the west side of Faribault Springs, using tamarack logs which were obtained from a swamp nearby.

To be continued in our October newsletter.

Shakopee Heritage Society
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