



Shakopee Heritage Society Newsletter

Volume XVII, Issue IV

Fall 2018

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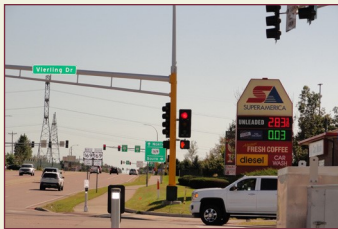
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Read about the Vierling Cigar Shop in Streets of Shakopee, on page 4.



Replicas of Pathways of Shakopee History signs on display at the fundraiser. Recap on page 2.

Next Membership Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018, 1 p.m

Shakopee Public Library
235 Lewis St. S.

“So Jazzy: Shakopee in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s”
by David R. Schleper following the meeting.

Bring a friend!

The Machine Room at the Pullman Club (1940s)

By David R. Schleper

The Pullman Club on First Avenue in Shakopee had a special room in the 1940s. Walk to the back of the Pullman Club. Go to where the restrooms are. Across from the restrooms was a room which was full of slot machines. The kids in Shakopee called this the Machine Room.

The place was accessible to teenagers, who would check the machines to see if they had any money. They checked the coin returns, or around the floor next to the machines to see if they could find some money.

Sometimes the teenagers would find a machine that was broken, and could be played without putting money in it. By walking up to each machine and pulling the handle, without inserting a coin, you could find one where the handle moved more than a few degrees on it. It would work without coins! The guys would line up and pull on the handle as rapidly as possible until they emptied the machine of all of the money. The spoils were split between the guys. Rarely was the money put back into the slots.

There were no locks on the Machine Room. There was no guard watching. It was open to everybody, and at times there was no one in the room to watch what was going on. The Machine Room was perfect for teenagers looking for a little bit of money!

(Some information from Scott County History files, Stans Museum.)



The Pullman Café in 1935.

Out and About with Shakopee Heritage Society

Summer historically (no pun intended) tends to be our “busy season” in terms of community events the Shakopee Heritage Society participates in. This year was no exception.

Among the events the SHS participated in were the Taste of Shakopee on Sunday, July 15; the Shakopee Diversity Alliance International Festival on Friday, Aug. 3, and the Rhythm on the Rails concert series.

Each event offered the opportunity to meet community members, share information about the Shakopee Heritage Society and many of our activities, and also served as a venue to sell Shakopee history-related books. We held a couple prize drawings for free one-year individual memberships. Sean Vander Veen won at the Taste of Shakopee, and Sue Westegaard won at the International Festival.

While our “event season” has slowed down, we will have a booth at the Scott County Senior Expo on Friday, Oct. 19, at the Shakopee West Middle School. Active older adults interested in attending can register for this through Shakopee Parks and Recreation.



President Lois Wendt discusses the Pathways of Shakopee History project with an International Festival patron.

Editors' Notes

- Welcome to our new members: David Christopher, John and Jane DuBois, Chris Fischer/Funkiphino, Sean Vander Veen, and Sue Westegaard! Sean won a one-year free individual membership from our prize drawing at the Taste of Shakopee, and Sue won a one-year free individual membership from our prize drawing at the International Festival.
- Our next membership meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. at the Shakopee Public Library. David R. Schleper will be presenting "So Jazzy! Shakopee in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s" following the meeting.
- For future newsletters, we invite members to write a short narrative of some of their memories growing up/living in Shakopee. Each issue, we'll try to select at least one member to feature their memories in Members' Corner. Memories may be emailed to newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org, or sent via postal mail to: Shakopee Heritage Society, Attn: Members' Corner, 2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379.
- To receive future issues of the Shakopee Heritage Society newsletter in color via email, instead of receiving a black and white paper copy, please send your name and email address to newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org.
- If there's anything in particular you'd like to see included in future newsletters, please let a board member know or send an email to newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org. We would love to hear from you!

Pathways of Shakopee History Happenings

On Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, a large crowd participated in the second annual Pathways of Shakopee History fundraiser at Turtle's 1890 Social Centre.

The fundraiser included a social hour, a wonderful dinner, a silent and live auction, and a presentation about four interesting people from the past, including James Griffin, Marilyn Laddusaw Lang, John Shoto, and Jane Lamont Titus.

Starting with a quote by J.K. Rowling, "There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place," David R. Schleper talked about a Navy veteran, who was enslaved but freed, and helped build a steamboat that ended up in Shakopee, and a white house that was in front of what is now Dangerfields, which was "the biggest gambling house around!" Another story was about John Shoto, who like all Dakota, used the phrase *mitakuye-owasin* (mee-tah-ku-ay oh-wah-seen), which means "all my relatives," and who took care of others (and how he was smarter than an uppity woman in Shakopee who was not so kind), and a story about the part-Dakota woman who didn't learn English until she was 13, but was smart enough to use her brains to buy land here in Shakopee.

After discussing the 10 trail signs now established in Memorial Park, the presentation covered the work to come, including the kiosk signs, the introductory signs on the south and north sides of Memorial Park, and the future new signs in Downtown Shakopee.

Money raised from the event will be used for the Pathways of Shakopee History project.

If you were unable to attend and would still like to donate monetarily to the Pathways of Shakopee History project, contact Lois Wendt at 952-233-8923, David Schleper at 952-693-3865, email us at info@shakopeeheritage.org, or donate online at shakopeeheritage.org/history-park/donate/.

At the time of newsletter printing, three of the trail signs have been installed, three are in production, and we anticipate having the rest of the 10 installed by this fall.

Flaherty and Lies in 1880

By David R. Schleper

On the northwest corner of First Street and Lewis Street in Shakopee, a framed store was erected in 1854. The owner of this town site was Thomas A. Holmes, who conveyed the lot to D.L. Fuller. Fuller sold it to William D. Phillips. William D. Phillips conducted a dry goods business therein for four years.

The next two years, a meat market was conducted by Henry Nebergall. Then, during the next two years, the building became vacant until L.C. Hathaway and W.G. Briggs started a general merchandise and saloon business, which continued until 1877. Later, Hathaway sold his part to Briggs, and he continued to build and expand the building on the north end. In the fall of



Patrons enjoy dinner at the POSH fundraiser.



A few of the auction items on display.

1877, Briggs decided to sell his stock and moved to Watertown, South Dakota. The building once again was empty for the next three years.

Dennis Flaherty and John Lies opened a dry goods and grocery store at this location starting in September of 1880. When Dennis Flaherty died in 1894, the store was transferred to Mary and then Jennie Flaherty.

In 1899, Flaherty and Lies tore down their frame store at the northwest corner of First and Lewis Street and erected a modern two-story brick building with a full basement. The structure which was built in 1854, though old, was yet found to be sound and substantial, but its capacity was for some time past wholly inadequate for the large stock required to be kept on hand to accommodate the great and steadily increasing trade.

According to an article in the *Scott County Argus* in 1899, the pick and crowbar struck the store on First and Lewis Street, and before long, there was nothing left except piles of old lumber and yawning cellars. For the first time since 1854, the riverbank above the bridge was in view from McMullen's corner. One old resident noted "I was married upstairs in that building," while another said, "What good times we used to have over there in the early days."

Architect Fritz Rohlf designed the new building, which was 40 x 80 in size, and built of red bricks with white stone trimmings. A basement eight feet tall was made, and a handsome tower surrounded the corner entrance and reached 40 feet. Three entrances to the store, all artistically cut under the upper story, were built. On First Street was an opening diagonally into the store, and directly upon a stairway leading upstairs to one office room and two anterooms which were for rent. The main entrance was on the corner. At the north end of Lewis Street was the third entrance, similar to the one on First Street, with a stairway leading to the family residence. The entire first floor was for the Flaherty & Lies department store, while the upper area included 10 rooms.

Along the alley and facing Lewis Street the old part became a feed store, and a woodshed and stable were built along the alley.

In October of 1919, the general merchandise store of Flaherty & Lies was sold to W.F. Davy. The store had always been a popular place of trade, and had prospered steadily from the days it was first open. Luckily, the new owner had been a general manager of the store for the last seven years, and had largely controlled its policy. W.F. Davy was a capable business person and a progressive merchant.

Of course, W.F. Davy was capable, and progressive. But as the Depression started, the store did not last. The W.F. Davy & Company's store, one of the community's largest general stores, was closed for good in the beginning of 1928.

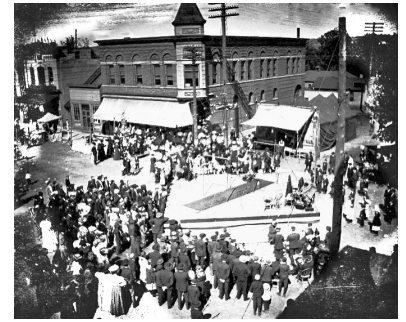
References: Collier, Julius, II. The Shakopee Story. Shakopee Heritage Society, 2009, pp. 131, 192, 319; Scott County Argus, 23 Feb. 1899; Shakopee Tribune, 24 Feb. 1899; "Mercantile Firm Sold to Manager," Shakopee Tribune, 24 Oct. 1919.

Have you heard the Voices of Shakopee?

Earlier this summer, Senior Research Chair and Vice-President David Schleper posted an article about the Drees hog farm on Facebook. One of the comments received on the article was from Billy Wermerskirchen, who mentioned that he knew Hilary Drees, Jr., who had tons of stories, and that Hilary should be recorded. Wes Reinke mentioned that he had a video camera, and we should get him on camera. Through this exchange, it was arranged to video-record an interview with Hilary and Irene Drees. And so, Voices of Shakopee was born.

Voices of Shakopee is a series that David and Wes are teaming up on to video-record some of our older residents' memories of growing up, living, and working in Shakopee, for the Shakopee Heritage Society. Shakopee's diverse voices each makes up a part of this town's rich history. David leads the interviews with Wes serving as technical assistant. From these interviews, which cover many topics, we will create mini-videos that will be posted to our website. With the Pathways of Shakopee History Auction wrapping up, we anticipate to have videos on the website in the fairly near future.

So far, we have interviewed Hilary and Irene Drees, Betty Dols, and Mary Hart, and are compiling a list of individuals who we could interview. If you or somebody you know would be willing (or could be convinced) to talk on camera about your memories, we would like to include you as part of this series. If you, or somebody you know is interested, contact David at 952-693-3865 or either of us at voicesofshakopee@shakopeeheritage.org.



1908 street fair scene, with Flaherty and Lies seen in the background.



Hilary and Irene Drees, the first individuals interviewed for Voices of Shakopee.

Streets of Shakopee: Vierling Drive

Vierling Cigar Shop

By David R. Schleper

Henry George Vierling built a home in Shakopee after moving from Eagle Creek in 1862. It was built on Third Street, just east of St. Mark's school.

Several years later, Mr. Vierling added the Vierling Cigar Shop in the rear of the home. It was also a shoe shop for a short time. Louis Winters, a cigar maker, helped set up the cigar business with Mr. Vierling.

One of the most famous brands was the "Diamond-S" cigars. The cigars were advertised by a bit of home scenery, christened after a famous home brand of flour, and appreciated in Shakopee. The Vierling cigars were of such a uniformly good quality that they advertise themselves, and the factory had a flourishing trade not only in Shakopee, but in neighboring towns and in the Twin Cities. Mr. Vierling used the best fillers in the different grades, and returned to the factory all trimmings and other waste rather than use them to his profit and to the deterioration of his goods. Careful buying of stock, having workmen who were experts in the goods, and skilled management of the business brought a fair measure of reward.

John Velz and Joseph Collier served as apprenticeships at the cigar making trade, though they did not follow the business. Henry's two sons, John and George Vierling, continued to manufacture the C.O.F. and White Lily cigars.

When John Vierling died, the old shop was abandoned as a cigar factory, but the house portion continued to be used as a residence. In February of 1935, the house and business were torn down, destroying the landmark.

References: Scott County Argus, 7 Oct. 1897; Shakopee Argus Tribune, 21 Feb. 1935.

Thomas A. Holmes's Wives

During the last year, the Shakopee Heritage Society newsletter talked about the wives of Thomas A. Holmes. The articles discussed Ursula L. Kennedy Holmes, Witch-e-aim, Helen M. Taisey Holmes, and in this article, the final wife, Harriet Richards Woodbury Holmes.

Harriet Richards Woodbury: The Fourth Wife of Thomas A. Holmes

By David R. Schleper

Harriet Richards Woodbury married Thomas A. Holmes at the Episcopal Church in Shakopee on Sept. 2, 1858. Harriet was 30 years old, and Thomas was 54 years old. The wedding happened five months after the divorce of Thomas's third wife, Helen M. Taisey.

Harriet was born in New Boston, New Hampshire in 1828, the third youngest in a family of seven daughters and four sons. Her parents were Benjamin Smith Woodbury and Sally Burns Jones.

Harriet was a beautiful, golden-haired, dark-eyed woman. At the age of 30, Harriet moved to Shakopee and married Thomas, who was reported to be a millionaire. While he was too much of a pioneer to take much of the fruits of his enterprises, he prospered enough to live in comfort, as did Harriet.

Harriet was an upright Christian with many deeds of kindness. Although Harriet and Thomas did not have any children, Harriet found happiness in the exercise of a rarely gifted mind and memory. She was an inveterate reader, of brilliant intellect, and possessed of a memory that was a constant source of wonder to those about her. Until her failing eyesight confined her much to her home, she was a chief factor in the life of the community in which she lived.

After Thomas died in Cullman, Alabama on July 2, 1888, Harriet returned to Shakopee, where she lived close to St. Mary's Church. She grew old gracefully. Twenty-three years later, on July 2, 1911, the house in Shakopee caught fire, and was burned completely. From 1912, Harriet lived with her two nieces, Mrs. Ora Peck and Mrs. Eva Dame.

Harriet died on Oct. 6, 1916 of arterial sclerosis at the home of her niece, Eva Dame, in Albert Lea, Minnesota at age 88. Harriet was a Universalist, and the funeral was held at the Presbyterian Church in Shakopee. Rev. T.S. Thompson, the local pastor, along with Rev. Funk, provided the church services. Interment was at the Valley Cemetery in Shakopee, Minnesota.

References: Bunnell, Lafayette Houghton. Winona (We-No-Nah) and Its Environs on the Mississippi in Ancient and Modern Days. Jones & Kroeger, 1897; Kiester, J.A. The History of Faribault County, Minnesota: from its first settlement to the close of the year 1879: in three parts: first part, the annals of the county; second part, historical sketches of the several townships; third part, historical sketch of the government of the county, and of the several county offices; the story of the pioneers. Harrison & Smith, 1896; "Obituary of Mrs. Harriet Holmes." Shakopee Tribune, 13 Oct. 1916.



Vierling Drive, looking west from Marschall Rd. RE/MAX and Cub Foods are in the background.



Thomas A. Holmes

A Shivaree in Shakopee on June 2, 1863

By David R. Schleper

On June 2, 1863, a shivaree happened in Shakopee. The celebration happened after the wedding of Peter Geyerman and Emelia Berreau in downtown Shakopee. Peter and Emilia operated Geyerman's General Store between First and Second avenues and Lewis Street in downtown Shakopee, which included groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, hats and caps, dress goods, clothing, and crockery. The store opened in 1857.

Peter Geyerman was mayor of Shakopee in 1873-75, and in 1878.

Shivaree, also called charivari, or rough music, was the term for a French folk custom in which the community gave a noisy, discordant mock serenade, along with pounding on pots and pans, at the home of the newlyweds.

Charivari is the original French word, and in Canada it is used by both English and French speakers. *Chivaree* became the common spelling in Ontario, Canada. In the United States, the term *shivaree* is more common.

The custom has been documented back to the Middle Ages but it is likely that it was traditional before that.

Shivaree had been practiced in much of the United States, but it was most frequent on the frontier, where communities were small, such as in the town of Shakopee in the late 1800s.

All in fun – it was just a shivaree, you know, and nobody got mad about it. At least not very mad.

In some communities the ritual served as a gentle spook of the newlyweds, intended to disrupt for a while any sexual activities that might be under way. Shivarees were the wildest and noisiest party around, and they often lasted until nearly daylight. The music was hideous and unearthly beyond description.

On June 3, 1863, Daniel M. Storer noted in his diary, "Peter Geyerman was married last night, and the Dutch made right hideous with their noise."

Storer wasn't aware of the custom. If he knew that it was just a shivaree, I am sure he would know that it was just a gentle spook to the newlyweds, and the hideous noise would just make him laugh!

References: The Diary of Daniel M. Storer from 1849 to 1905: A Pioneer Builder and Merchant in Shakopee, Minnesota. Shakopee Heritage Society, 2003, p. 132.

Donations

We welcome donations of both memorabilia and photos pertaining to the people, places, businesses, and events of Shakopee.

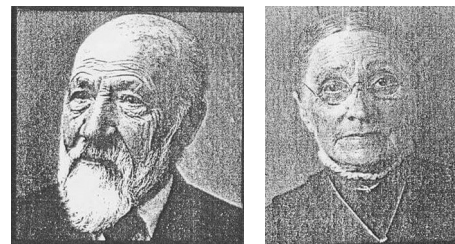
If you have something that may be historic (or aren't sure if it's historic or could ever become historic) that you're looking to get rid of, contact us and we'd be happy to determine if it's something that we would be interested in.

Don't forget that photos from even five years ago are history. We can scan and return photos, slides, or negatives, as well.

Please contact us if you wish to donate to the Shakopee Heritage Society.

Here are a few recent donations:

- **John DuBois's Baseball Glove:** John DuBois has donated his baseball glove, which he used in the early 1950s while playing baseball as a youth in Shakopee.
- **David Schleper Collection:** David Schleper has recently purchased some historic Shakopee-related photos, and has donated a copy to the Shakopee Heritage Society.
- **Ray Marschall Collection:** Ray Marschall donated various Marschall family photos to the Shakopee Heritage Society, as well as memorabilia, such as a Mobil red horse sign, Minnesota Renaissance Festival goblets, and a couple historic Shakopee photos.



Peter and Emelia (Berreau) Geyerman



Photo of Shakopee Shops in 1963.



Goblet from the 1985 Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

Upcoming Presentations

Senior Research Chair and Vice-President David R. Schleper continues to present a free History of Shakopee series for Shakopee Parks and Recreation, one of our partners in the Pathways of Shakopee History project, at the Šakpe ti Senior Lounge located in the Shakopee Community Center. Attend as many of these sessions as you would like, but please be sure to sign up ahead of time at the Shakopee Community Center front desk or online at parksandrec.shakopeemn.gov.

Additionally, David also presents for the Shakopee Public Library on occasion; no pre-registration is required.

Upcoming presentations for both include:

It Happened Here in 1851 at Holmes's Landing

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1-2 p.m. | Shakopee Community Center Šakpe ti Senior Lounge

Please register for program CD 1009 by Thursday, Oct. 4

When Thomas A. Holmes and William Louis Quinn arrived in the area called Holmes's Landing (later called Shakopee), the area was called Tinjta-otoŋwe, a village of 600 Dakota Indians. Learn about the white people who moved to the area over the next few years, and the Indians who were already here for 175 years before the white people arrived.

Balls, Balls, Balls! Sports in Early Shakopee

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 1-2 p.m. | Shakopee Community Center Šakpe ti Senior Lounge

Please register for program CD 1113 by Thursday, Nov. 8

Learn about the sports in early Shakopee, including Ta-ka-psi-ca-pi, or lacrosse, that men and women of the Dakota played on the prairie in the 1840s, to baseball played at Riverside Park, to football and baseball played by companies and schools in Shakopee.

Home Sweet Home! Dwellings in Early Shakopee

Saturday, Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Shakopee Public Library

No pre-registration required

From the tipi tanka (bark lodges) of the Dakotas, to the Faribault Trading Post, to the Pond Mission House, to the beginning houses of early Shakopee, this presentation will describe some of the shanties, hewed log cabins to beginning houses with board floors and shingle roofs that formed the beginning of Sha K' Pay, Minnesota Territory.

Watpá Mnísota: The Minnesota River in Early Shakopee

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1-2 p.m. | Shakopee Community Center Šakpe ti Senior Lounge

Please register for program CD 1211 by Thursday, Dec. 6

The river flows through downtown Shakopee. Learn about the floods, the drownings, the steamboats, the ferries, and the bridges, and all that make Shakopee the place to live.

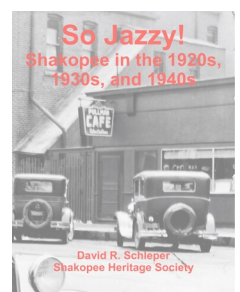
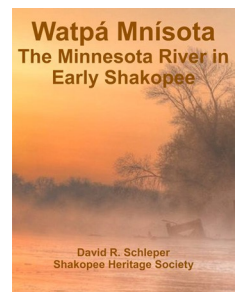
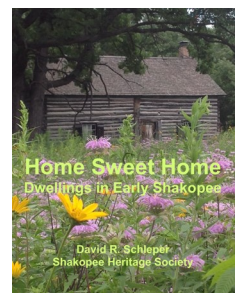
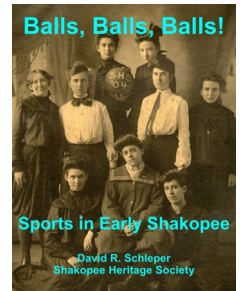
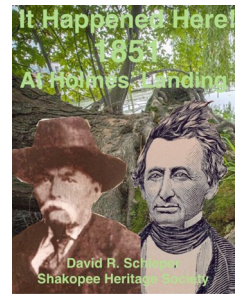
So Jazzy! Shakopee in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s

During Prohibition, Shakopee had a reputation as being a "Little Chicago."

Back by popular demand after a strong showing at the Šakpe ti Senior Lounge, Senior Research Chair and Vice-President David R. Schleper will present information on life in Shakopee in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s following the 1 p.m. Shakopee Heritage Society General Membership Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 20. For those who were able to attend this presentation at the Šakpe ti Lounge, you'll still want to attend, as a few new items have been added to this presentation.

This presentation will take place at the Shakopee Public Library, 235 Lewis St. S. Bring a friend to share this turbulent chapter of Shakopee's history with them.

We hope to see you there!



Shakopee Heritage Society visits Sibley Historic Site

On Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018, three cars full of Shakopee Heritage Society members went to Mendota to visit the Sibley and Faribault houses.

With a guide, the members visited some of Minnesota's oldest buildings and explored the early 1800s, when Mendota was a major center of the region's fur trade. The Sibley Historic Site includes four limestone and brick buildings that are among the oldest still standing structures in Minnesota. They include the Sibley House, the Faribault House, the DuPuis House and a cold store.

Among the buildings is the home of Henry Hastings Sibley, successful fur trader and first governor of Minnesota, and the house of Jean-Baptiste Faribault and Pelagie Kinie Ainsse (or Hanse), the daughter of a Frenchman and Wahpekute Dakota woman. Jean and Pelagie were the parents of Oliver Faribault, who lived in Prairie des Français (the French Prairie) on the Rivière Saint-Pierre with his wife, Wakan Yanke.

The Shakopee Heritage Society members enjoyed their trip!



SHS members learn about the Sibley and Faribault families.

Grasshopper Plague in Shakopee in 1876

By David R. Schleper

The Grasshopper Plague reached Shakopee in the summer of 1876.

On June 12, 1873, farmers in southwestern Minnesota saw what looked like a snowstorm coming towards their fields from the west. Then they heard a roar of beating wings and saw that what seemed to be snowflakes were in fact grasshoppers. In a matter of hours, knee-high fields of grass and wheat were eaten to the ground by hungry hoppers. For five years, from 1873 to 1877, grasshoppers destroyed wheat, oat, corn, and barley fields in Minnesota and surrounding states. In 1876 alone, grasshoppers visited forty Minnesota counties and destroyed 500,000 acres of crops.

In August of 1876, they invaded by new swarms greater than any assignable quality, and arrived in Shakopee. It was like an immense blizzard, or a dust tornado, or an ominous hail storm.

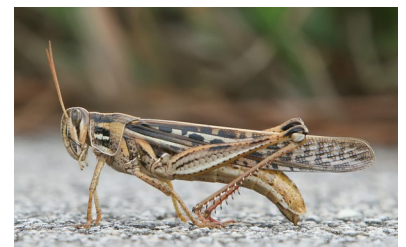
Vast clouds of animated specks glittered against the sun and then hid the sun from view. Circling in myriads, they invaded open doors and windows; leaped and hopped around people's feet, jumped into their clothing; and swarmed around buildings, covering the ground and people's shoes, to a depth of two or three inches, according to Julius Coller II. Trains were delayed until the grasshoppers could be shoveled from the tracks.

They made a sound like a roaring wind or a prairie fire. Leaves on the trees, shrubbery and grain disappeared in a twinkling. Even bark was gnawed from the trees by the pest. The only grain that was saved was the grain that had been harvested (*The Shakopee Story*, p. 114).

Minnesota farmers tried many things to get rid of the grasshoppers. They beat the grasshoppers with flails. They dragged heavy ropes through their fields, and plowed and burned their fields. They raised birds and chickens to eat the grasshoppers. They dug ditches that they hoped the grasshoppers would be unable to jump over. They filled these ditches with coal tar and set them on fire, thinking that the smoke might drive away the hoppers if the ditches did not. In later years, farmers made "hopper dozers," which consisted of sheet metal covered in coal tar or molasses. They dragged the hopper dozers through their fields, catching grasshoppers in pans and then emptying the pans into fires. None of these efforts were successful.

County governments instituted efforts to rid the state of grasshoppers and to help destitute farmers, but counties provided much less help than farmers needed. Rural counties were less prepared to provide help to the poor than cities were. Rural areas also lacked the private charitable organizations that assisted the urban poor. In addition, despite extensive damage to crops, some questioned whether farmers' crops had really been devastated and whether farmers were really in need.

Elected in 1876, John S. Pillsbury believed that poverty was a fact of life on the frontier and that providing relief would make farmers dependent on the state. Instead, Pillsbury focused on efforts to eradicate the grasshoppers. This included a controversial bounty measure that required every able-bodied man in affected counties to destroy grasshopper eggs for one



*Photo from
commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
File:American_Bird_Grasshopper.jpg*

Grasshopper Plague, continued on page 8

Grasshopper Plague

Continued from page 7

day a week, for five straight weeks.

It didn't work.

In the summer of 1877, the grasshoppers left just as quickly as they had arrived. Governor Pillsbury proclaimed April 26, 1877 a day of prayer. Some people believed the grasshoppers inflicted people because of the white's treatment of the Dakota Indians. Stores were closed for the day, and people prayed and fasted.

The next day at noon, the air was filled with the locusts as they rose from the ground. Higher and higher they went, glistening in the bright sun, and then they disappeared. That night the temperature fell, and sleet and snow fell. The grasshopper eggs were frozen. The few surviving grasshopper eggs hatched, but by August, the grasshoppers had flown away.

The grasshopper plagues of the 1870s left a mark on Minnesota culture, inspiring fiction like Laura Ingalls Wilder's *On the Banks of Plum Creek* and Ole Edvart Rølvaag's *Giants in the Earth*.

I (David R. Schleper) remember having Mrs. Spellacy read the book *On the Banks of Plum Creek* during my third grade reading time at St. Mary's School. And I always was so fascinated with the grasshopper plague!

Mary Kay Heller Menden also loved having Mrs. Spellacy read this book. "She always wore her glasses on a chain around her neck. For some reason, that fascinated me. She was so short, and had the thickest grey short hair."

So thanks to Mrs. Spellacy, and others who read to children, it made a lasting impression...and I still hate grasshoppers!

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