



# SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



### Tom's Story Journey Minding



Tom Melchior, a long-time member of the Shakopee Heritage Society, presented at the Shakopee Heritage Society meeting on April 9. Tom talked about some of the interesting stories from his 4 books, including ***They Called Me Teacher***, ***From Both Sides of the Desk***, ***The History of Baseball in Scott County***, and ***Never Forgotten: Stories by Scott County Minnesota WWII Veterans***. Tom talked about how he would sit down and talk to someone, to tell their story. "Do it!" One time, when he was near St. Boni to talk to a teacher, the woman said, "I've been waiting for you!" Tom always did the research, and the people talked and talked, and then tell would others, who also told their stories to Tom. The audience was wowed by his funny and serious stories. What a great author and presenter!

## Presentations Coming Up

### HISTORY OF SHAKOPEE SERIES

Presented David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society.  
Community Room, Community Center, 1255 Fuller St. S.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Code	
Tue.	Apr. 12	1-2 p.m.	Free	<b>A+ for Teachers: Educators in Early Shakopee:</b> The Shakopee Heritage Society will discuss some of the teachers from the past and other educators who make Shakopee a great place to live.	CD 412
	May 10			<b>Powerful Names</b> Discussion of the eight names for this town, along with eight people who lived in early Shakopee, including Sakpe II, Joseph Godfrey, Pelagie Eliza Faribault Manaiga, and others.	CD 510
	Jun. 14			<b>2,416 People and 27 Bars...I'll Drink to That! Shakopee in the 1930s</b> In the 1930s there were 2,416 people who lived in Shakopee. And in that same town, there were more than 27 bars! The names and locations of the various bars in Shakopee will be discussed along with some stories of the people who lived in Shakopee during Prohibition.	CD 614
	Jul. 12			<b>Weird and Wonderful in Early Shakopee</b> The barbershop that collapsed, the rats that invaded downtown, and the Japanese American young adults from the Gila River War Relocation project who arrived at the Shakopee NYA Center, along with visitors to Shakopee such as presidents, the famous flyer Charles Lindbergh, and the father of Red Wing Pottery will all be covered in this session.	CD 712
	Aug. 16			<b>Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Transportation in Early Shakopee</b> After the use of canoes, ships, and horses, the beginning of the 1900s was a transportation revolution. Planes were utilized, as well as trains, which switched the focus from the Minnesota River to the railroad tracks, and the cars began overtaking the roads over time. This presentation will discuss some of the stories about transportation in the 1900s.	CD 816

**Registration deadline: One week prior to event**

### SCOTT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATIONS

**PLAY BALL**  
Learn about the fascinating history of sports in Scott County, from horse-racing to baseball.  
Community Room, Community Center, 1255 Fuller St. S.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Code
Tue.	Apr. 20	2-3 p.m.	Free	CD 420

**SOUNDS OF HISTORY**  
Learn about the traditions and importance of music for Scott County residents, from brass bands to barn parties.  
Community Room, Community Center, 1255 Fuller St. S.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Code
Wed.	May 25	2-3 p.m.	Free	CD 525

**HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY**  
Learn about the Minnesota River Valley's origins, its importance as Dakota homeland for thousands of years, and its more recent history as the site of entry and industry for European-American immigrants.  
Community Room, Community Center, 1255 Fuller St. S.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Code
Wed.	Jun. 22	2-3 p.m.	Free	CD 622

**FUN AT THE FAIR**  
Learn a little history about the Scott County Fair, from its inaugural season in 1857 to today.  
Community Room, Community Center, 1255 Fuller St. S.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Code
Wed.	Jul. 27	2-3 p.m.	Free	CD 627

**MUDBADEN**  
A sulphur hot spring created the ideal setting for a health spa and mud bath in a building that still stands today.  
Community Room, Community Center, 1255 Fuller St. S.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Code
Wed.	Aug. 24	2-3 p.m.	Free	CD 824

**Registration deadline for all presentations: One week prior to event**  
Sponsored by All Saints Senior Living and Benedictine Living Community.



Here is the list (on left) of the History of Shakopee Series from David Schleper of the Shakopee Heritage Society. The monthly presentations are on a Tuesday, and are free. Usually about 40 people attended. For the last 3 years, the monthly meetings have been fun! If questions, contact Mary Feltmann at 952-233-9507. SHS is at shakopeeheritage.org.



This month, the Scott County Historical Society will also be presenting. Feel free to stop by to enjoy their presentations, also!

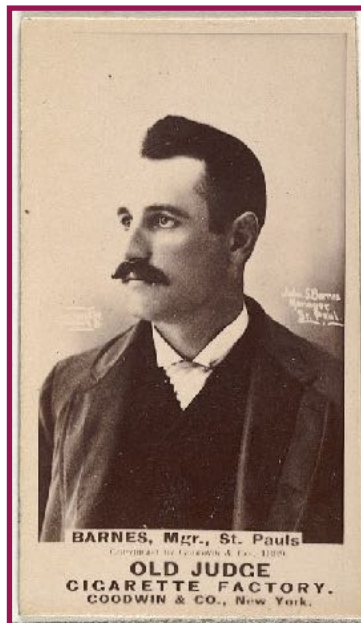
Other presentations in the area include:



Hocokata Ti's 3,805-square-foot public exhibit, called Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake, provides visitors with a cultural experience that enhances their knowledge and understanding of the Mdewakanton Dakota people and their history. Tours are offered to guests, where an assortment of Dakota Sioux artifacts can be viewed in the public gallery. Located at 2300 Tiwahe Circle in Shakopee. For info <https://hocokatati.org>.



The Pond Dakota Historical Society has two interesting programs coming up: Lakota Astronomy on May 8 with author and professor Mark Hollabaugh will explore astronomy of the Lakota culture; Dakota Storytelling on June 5 with Dr. Teresa Peterson, a Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota, will discuss her book **Voice from Pejuhutazizi: Dakota Stories and Story tellers**. For info <https://ponddakota.org>.



## William Horace Bill Barnes

William Horace Bill Barnes (April 13, 1858 - July 10, 1945) was born in Eagle Creek, in an area now named as Shakopee. He was a baseball player, and played center field for the St. Paul Saints.

Bill Barnes played starting in the end of the 1884 season. In 8 games as the Saints' starting center fielder Barnes batted .200 (6 for 30) with two runs scored. In the field he recorded eight putouts, three errors, and participated in one double play.

William Horace Bill Barnes' grandfather was Saint Paul Early Settler, 1799-1884 - James Thompson (1799-1884) who arrived at Fort Snelling enslaved in 1827. He married Marpiyawecasta Mary Wabashaw Hapah Cloud Man Thompson (1817-1884) and learned the Dakota language. In the 1830s, he was hired by missionary Alfred Brunson as an interpreter, and the mission purchased his freedom. Thompson became one of St. Paul's first settlers and a man of property. He eventually donated materials and money in the 1840s for the construction of St Paul's first Methodist church.

James and Marpiyawecasta moved to the less-settled area of Sha K' Pay in 1853, where they lived with the Barnes family in Eagle Creek (now Shakopee). From 1853 until 1860, Mary and James lived in Shakopee, along with their two children, George and Sarah. Sarah Thompson Barnes (1837-1875) was Bill Barnes mother. She married William J. Barnes. And Sarah and William's son was the baseball player, William Horace Bill Barnes!

Bill Barnes, whose heritage included African American, Dakota, and white ancestors, became the first professional baseball player who was born in Shakopee!





## Donna Miles Lane Memories



After WWII we moved back to

Shakopee which was my

Donna Miles's High School Photo

mother's hometown. My parents were Don & Florence (McCaffrey) Miles.

Because rental houses were in short supply they opened up the old NYA campground for returning vets. There were about 15 cabins there, our house was the one in the middle, shaped like a T. The other 2 units were rented by Bob & Betty Mertz and Cy & Millie Sames. We lived there for about 5 years until we could buy a new house of our own.

I remember fishing and playing on the river banks and digging up turtle eggs. I would bring them up by my house and bury them in the sand by a retaining wall and hoped to see them hatch, but it never happened that I caught that miracle of life.

There were many other kids living there so we played outside a great deal, I especially remember playing Red Rover a lot because the houses were small so we could throw the ball over them. My Dad bought one of the first TVs in the camp and I can still see the guys who came over on Saturday nights to watch wrestling--they loved it. I also remember starting to babysit when I was only 9 years old, it was like a "little town" there and we all knew each other so they must have trusted me at such a young age. My Dad was a Deputy Sheriff then and he would bring lots of fireworks home and we would have a pot-luck picnic on the 4th of July with lots of small fireworks, I especially remember the pinwheels that were nailed to a tree or lamp post.

I had a pet gopher, Buddy, that I nursed back to health. Dad helped me build him a cage that was very high so we could bury it halfway in the ground so he could dig a tunnel as he would have done in nature. We put this in the backyard in the summers and in winter we would bring the cage into the area between the 3 houses, that was not heated, so he could hibernate like he naturally would. Occasionally I would bring him in to warm up so I could play with him.



On Memorial Day the town had a parade and the girls would all march in it with a bouquet of flowers and then when we got to the bridge we would throw the flowers in the river. I remember that it was hard to find flowers so early in the year so we used lots of Lilacs, Lily of the Valley, and wild flowers, and I'm sure we added a few Dandelions too.

My Grandfather, Jack McCaffrey was a Fireman and he would take me to all the Firemen's picnics. My best memories of those were the good food and lots of races. We could win a silver dollar if we won and I won lots of silver dollars.



## Memories by Lizabeth Lundin

My memories of Shakopee only start about 23 years ago as that is when I moved to Shakopee.

I was born and raised in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. While I was still living in Burnsville, I had to come to St Francis. I drove past all these corn fields and seriously thought I had been given bad directions but suddenly there it was. Little did I know that in a few more years I would be living across the street from the hospital!

Now the corn fields are gone and pretty much all the land around me has been developed.

I remember going downtown to see how high the water was when it flooded. That was interesting but sitting on 169 when only one bridge was still open more than tested my patience.



I remember taking my grandson and his friends to Sever's Corn Maze year after year as it always fell right around his birthday. The first year it was a good thing Jake's friend could figure out the maze or Jake and I would probably still be there.

The post office made me crazy as the lines were short but everybody talked to the people behind the counter forever so going there took way too much time in my mind. However, it didn't take long until I was talking their arms off too.

I didn't really like living in Shakopee when I first came here but now they would have to get a truck to tow me out of here. This is my home!



### Lois Marschall Wendt's Memories

Driving through East Shakopee (where I live) and seeing some homes, I am reminded of my days of having a paper route.



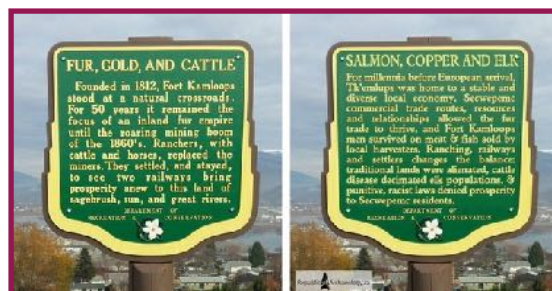
It was the late 40's and Shakopee was divided into four quadrants. I delivered the north eastern section.

In those days you didn't just deliver the paper, you had to collect from your customers also. I can remember very cold winter mornings. I can still remember who lived in some of the houses. Some of the houses look better today than they did then.

I hated when the Hauer family farm would take the paper, as it meant I had to walk many additional blocks.

Mayor Czaia would tease me mercilessly especially when I had to collect.

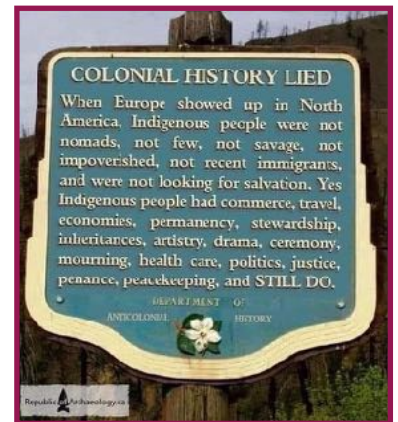
I only delivered papers for about a year. I then became old enough to babysit for 25 cents an hour!



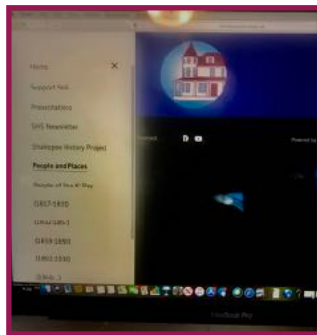
At <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/archaeologist-decolonizes-b-c-s-road-signs-via-photoshop-1.3981211>

## Finding and Printing the SHS Brochures

Go to [google.com](http://google.com). Put in [shakopeeheritage.org](http://shakopeeheritage.org).



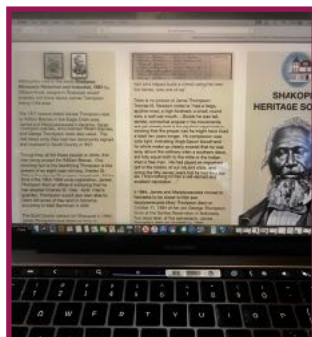
You will find the site. On the left side, on the top, press this area.



On the left is a place called **People and Places**. Below that is **People of Sha K' Pay**. In this area, the years are listed. Pick one.



From here, you can pick any of the 152 people now on the site. For example, pick **James Thompson (ca. 1799-1884)**. Download this.



And then you will find the brochure. You can read it, or print it. With the help of Jack Schleper, the SHS will be slowly adding more brochures.

**Shakopee Heritage Society**  
2109 Boulder Pointe  
Shakopee, MN 55379

**President:** David R. Schleper

**Past-President:** Lois Wendt    **Vice-President:**

**Treasurer:** Melissa Whiting

**Secretary:** Donna Lane    **Trustees:** Liz Lundin, Joanne Musick & Sandy Olson

### Talk to Us!

Facebook: **shakopeeheritage**

Web: **shakopeeheritage.org**

Email: **newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org**

Phone: **952-693-3865**

Joanne Hammond has started an online campaign to rewrite 'stops of interest' signs that dot B.C.'s highways to include pre-colonial and Indigenous history. The signs exclude the perspective of Indigenous British Columbians and often privilege one version of history over another. At <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/archaeologist-decolonizes-b-c-s-road-signs-via-photoshop-1.3981211>