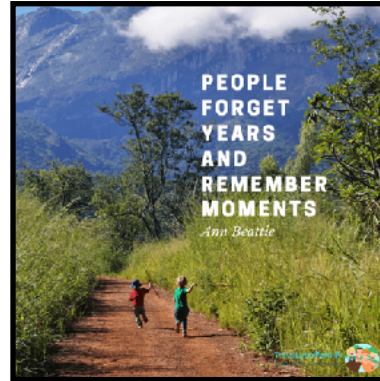


# SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



### John Albert Metcalf and the WPA Mural



The Federal Art Project (1935–1943) was a New Deal program to fund the visual arts in the United States. It was created not as a cultural activity but as a relief measure to employ artists and artisans to create murals, easel paintings, sculpture, graphic art, posters, photography, theatre scenic design, and arts and crafts. One of the WPA Murals was painted in Shakopee 84 years ago.

In 1938, John Albert Metcalf (1904-1975), Superintendent of the Shakopee Public Schools, contacted the director of the Federal Art Project in an attempt to have a W.P.A. artist do a mural for the school library depicting the history of Shakopee.

John Albert Metcalf was born in Wisconsin. He married Ina Mae DeMarce (1907-1975) and they lived across the street from the school (now unoccupied but was the Central Family Center). The mural is in the library at the school. They had 3 girls, including Nancy Metcalf Schmit, a member of the Shakopee Heritage Society.

John was a superintendent in Burnsville and Shakopee. He was also a state legislator. John also ran the Metcalf Chrysler in downtown Shakopee.

Muralist Harmon Arndt, a graduate of the Minneapolis School of Art, was employed to do the work. Harmon Arndt met with several of the town's leading citizens, the school board, high school students and John Metcalf. After many meetings to discuss both the type of art work and the subjects and people to be portrayed in the mural, the work began. Three other artists assisted Arndt who supervised the work. Classes of 1938, 1939 and 1940 donated funds to pay for the mural project.

John Albert Metcalf died on December 26, 1975.

See more about the mural, a Shakopee masterpiece, on page 4!



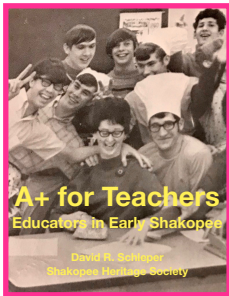
## What's Been Happening?



### Valley Cemetery Tour

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Had 20 people at the Valley Cemetery Tour on Saturday, June 4th. Was fun and interesting!



Tuesday, April 12, 2022

### A+ for Teachers



Tuesday, May 10, 2022

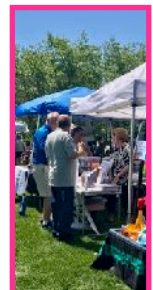
### Powerful Names



Tuesday, June 14, 2022

### 2,416 People & 27 Bars

The monthly presentation at the Shakopee Community Center has been fun. We had 35 people, 30 people, and 32 people at the presentations, which are held every month from 1 to 2 pm. For more information, contact Mary Feltman at the Shakopee Community Center.



Saturday, June 18, 2022.

### Taste of Big Fun

Met lots of people and shared about the Shakopee Heritage Society (and lollipops) at the Taste of Big Fun on Saturday, June 18.



## Coming Up...

### 2022 WACIPI

August 19, 20 & 21

<https://www.smscwacipi.org/experience/>

Wacipi—or powwow—is a traditional Native American gathering, a celebration of life, pride, and honor. Meaning “they all dance” in the Dakota language, today’s Wacipi brings together people from all over the country for three days of celebrating in a good way. Each day’s contests and activities, including a ceremonious entrance, led by a Native American veteran color guard, visiting dignitaries, and tribal royalty, followed by hundreds of dancers of all ages. Native American artists and crafters display traditional beadwork, jewelry, and handmade goods, while food vendors offer a variety of tasty, authentic meals and treats.

The SMSC’s Wacipi attracts thousands of visitors each year to honor the history of a strong group of people. We invite you to be a part of this celebration at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) over the weekend of August 19-21, 2022.



### Shakopee Catholic Cemetery Tour

Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 10 am to Noon

830 10th Ave W, Shakopee

*Make sure to bring a folding chair!*



### Calvary Catholic Cemetery Tour

September 18, 2022 from 10 to 12 Noon

4200 Eagle Creek Blvd, Shakopee

*Make sure to bring a folding chair!*



### Hočokata Ti [ho-cho-kah-tah-tee] Public Exhibit *Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake*

Shakopee Heritage Society will tour the exhibit with a guide. It will be in November 2022. Contact Lois Wendt to add to the list. Cost is \$5 each. Contact Lois at 952-233-8923.

2300 Towahe Circle

Shakopee, MN 952-233-9151

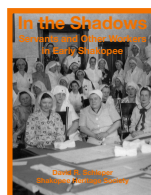


### Presentations

Shakopee Community Center 1-2 pm monthly



August 9, 2022, 1-2 pm  
*Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Transportation in Early Shakopee*



September 13, 2022, 1-2 pm  
*In the Shadows: Servants and Other Workers in Early Shakopee*



October 11, 2022, 1-2 pm  
*Indians and Immigrants: Dakota People and Settlers-Colonists in Early Shakopee*



November 8, 2022, 1-2 pm  
*Old Town, New Town: Shakopee in the Last 50 Years*



## The WPA Mural in Shakopee



The first panel depicts Rev. Samuel Pond teaching a group of Dakota the Christian word for God and the arts of white culture and civilization. He and his brother, Gideon, came to Minnesota as missionaries from Connecticut in 1834, and in the fall of 1847, Samuel Pond came to the village of Tínta Oturŋwe. Kinship formed the basis for traditional Dakota social structure. Ella Deloria wrote in 1944: "The Ultimate aim of a Dakota life, stripped of accessories, was quite simple: One must obey kinship rules; one must be a good relative." The Dakota were a deeply spiritual people who honored *Wakanŋtaŋka*, the Great Spirit, in their lives.



Also in the first panel, the first steamboat to churn the muddy waters of the Minnesota River in 1842 bears a party of pleasure seekers to Tínta Oturŋwe. Tínta means prairie, and Oturŋwe means village, and so Rev. Pond called the place Prairieville.



The second panel represents the laying out of the town site. In the background is the 1844 tamarack log house of Oliver Faribault and his wife, Wakan Yanŋke Wiŋ. The house is now in the Landing here in Shakopee.



On the page before, Thomas A. Holmes holds a scroll which is a plan of the future town; and David L. Fuller looks through his surveyor's transit. In the spring of 1851, Holmes, with the help of William Bill Quinn, who was part mixed-blood Christeneauz (Cree) Indian, took a canoe journey up the Minnesota River, stopping at a hollow near Tinta Otunwe, where they cooked a meal. A log trading house was built on the river bank. This area later became Shakopee.



The third panel shows the coming of the settlers-colonists in their covered wagons. In the background are the tipi of the Mdewakanton Dakota people who resided in villages near the banks of the lower Minnesota River, and who was forced to move to a reservation. The white population in 1852 consisted of about 20 families; the Dakota had more than 600 people living here in bark long houses. The Dakota still live here and more info is at *Hočokata Ti*, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's (SMSC) cultural center and gathering space.



The fourth panel pictures the buildings of early Shakopee. The grey building to the left is the Methodist Episcopal Church, erected in 1867. In the background the red building is the City Hall and Fire Department, erected in 1883. The brown building is the Union School located between Holmes and Lewis Streets on the south side of Fifth Avenue, which opened on January 4, 1882. In 1908 the name Union was changed to Independent School District No. 1, and in 1957 District No. 1 was changed to District No. 720 and remains that today. Farther along the panel is a 1908 dock scene of the wharf on the Minnesota River. The boats would dock at the shore or the levee and throw out a gang plank. A swinging bridge was built and the bridge swung around on its center pier.

Though the mural does not show it, African Americans arrived here in 1844; Asian American arrived here by 1898; and Dakota and other Indians were here and are still here today. White people also arrived, and some married Dakota women in the late 1700s, while other arrived from the east. Later, German-Americans, Irish Americans, Hispanic Americans, and others arrived. People spoke Dakota, French, and then English, and then other languages over the years. Today more than 40 languages are spoken in the schools here in Shakopee.



The fifth panel shows a Shakopee soldier leaving for the Civil War. This panel also shows the first railroad train puffing into Shakopee on November 11, 1865. Shortly after, a combination engine and passenger car named *The Shakopee* made regular trips between Shakopee and Mendota.



The firemen in this panel are shown fighting Shakopee's first great fire which occurred in 1872, destroying the frame railroad shops of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad along with all the equipment and five locomotives.



H. H. Strunk and Sons Drug Store and John Berens' Grocery Store are represented in the sixth panel. White-bearded H. H. Strunk is standing at the left of the panel. Also in this same panel, seated in one of the earlier cars of the period, are Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Reiter. Dr. H. O. Smith, standing beside the car, is accepting one of the first telephones from Dr. H. W. Reiter. Dr. H. P. Fischer, wearing a brown tie, is standing on the other side of the car. John Berens is shown in the white apron. His son, Arthur, is carrying groceries.

Gertrude Siebenaler Roepke and Marian Heinen Caron documented the mural and the people here.





The seventh panel represent the 1909 Street Fair at which James J. Hill delivered an address. In the panel from left to right: Theodore Jaspers (the man with a hand in his pocket, a blacksmith by trade); Mrs. William F. Duffy (woman in the blue dress, active in women's organizations such as Book Lovers' Club and League of Women Voters); Mrs. Leo Siebenaler (woman in brown dress) representing Motherhood holds the hand of her daughter, Martha, mother of 16 children; Henry Hinds (man in gold suit, brown tie, with full beard, attorney and former owner of the *Argus Tribune*, worked hard to get a school built and realized his dream when the Union School opened in 1882); Horace B. Strait (profile, man with full brown beard and navy blue suit, bank president and Mayor at one time); David L. How (man with glasses and white beard, organized the bank of Shakopee in 1865); Theodore Weiland (man with a full beard and blue suit, former bank president and chairman of the school board); Major McGrade (tall man in blue uniform, father of Mrs. Duffy); H.C. Schroeder (man with mustache and gold suit, former Mayor of Shakopee and owner of Schroeder Brick Yards); Jacob Ries (with the newspaper in his hand, founder of Rock Spring Bottling Works); Rev. Dean Mathias Savs (clean shaven, pastor of St. Mark's Catholic Church); Julius A. Coller II (little boy with ice cream cone, and now a prominent attorney in Shakopee); Julius A. Coller I (clean shaven man talking to Mr. Hill, was former City Attorney and bank president, played an important role in getting the Women's Reformatory located in Shakopee); Elizabeth Ries (woman in green dress, was Mayor and postmistress of Shakopee, daughter of Jacob Ries); Colonel G.L. Nye (white bearded man in gold suit, also worked to get the Women's Reformatory located in Shakopee and headed foundry); James J. Hill (standing on the steps, full white beard, railroad builder and financier); H.J. Peck (man in gold suit and white beard, attorney); John P. Ring (sitting on the porch, brown suit, mustache, operated cafe); and Eli Southworth shaking hands, sitting on the porch. In the background is the Davy Building.



The eighth panel represents modern Shakopee in 1938-39, including the water tower, Rock Spring Bottling Works, St. Mark's Church, the foundry, and Rahr Malting Plant. The new baseball stadium is also shown. The children include Mary Ellen Metcalf wears an orange sweater; Charles Bowdish has red hair and wears a green shirt; Edward Pond wears a blue shirt and is the great grandson of Gideon Pond; Joan Garvey holds a rose; and Dennis Dahlgren holds a softball. Standing by the tree is Arthur Lemmer, who was killed in World War I. The three men standing by the car are Edward J. Sweeney, Superintendent from 1923-36; Donald Childs, Scott County Engineer; and Ed Huber, cashier of the First National Bank. The girls in band uniforms are Dorothy Schroeder and Carol Schumacher. Marion Heinen is the girl in the blue sweater on the bicycle talking to Warren Stemmer, who is wearing a baseball uniform. Behind them is Rev. H.W. Schroeder, John Metcalf, Superintendent of Schools (father of Mary Ellen. The graduates are Ruth Huber and Joseph Schaefer. Behind is Fr McRaith, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Joseph Strunk, a druggist, is wearing a brown suit and has his head turned to the side. He is a grandson of H.H. Strunk. Paul Ries is wearing a white suit. He is a grandson of Jacob Ries. John Cavanaugh, Mayor of Shakopee at the time, has his back to us. John Kline is taking a picture of the graduates.





**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

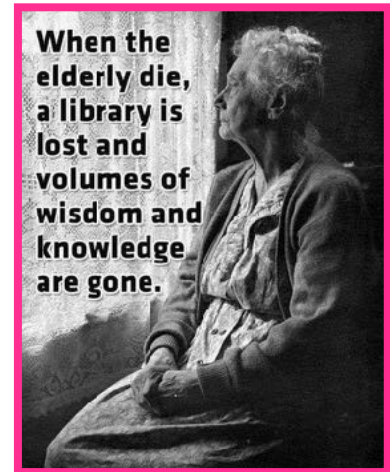
**Talk to Us!**

Facebook: **shakopeeheritage**

Web: **shakopeeheritage.org**

Email: **newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org**

Phone: **952-693-3865**



**The Shakopee Heritage Society needs a storage area for storing materials from Shakopee's past. The SHS would love it to find a free place for the storage. If you have an area, contact the SHS at 952-693-3865. Thanks!**