



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Shakopee Heritage Society Meeting with David Regan

The Shakopee Heritage Society's meeting on **Saturday April 22, 2023**, David Regan talked about the **Scott County Drug Store**, which was located on First and Holmes Street in Shakopee.

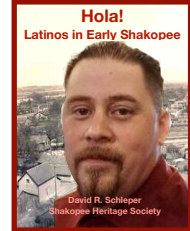
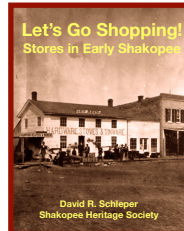
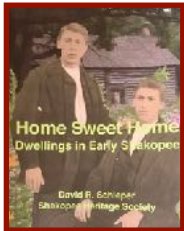


A large crowd, many who went to the Scott County Drug Store for years, enjoyed the presentation and appreciated the time to share their stories. What a great presentation! Thanks, David Regan!!



Presentations Coming Up

Here is the list 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 5 years, the monthly meetings have been fun! If questions, contact Mary Feltmann at 952-233-9507. SHS is at shakopeeheritage.org or at David at 952-693-3865. Presentations (free) are at the Shakopee Community Center. Presentations are at 1 to 2 pm.



- June 13: Home Sweet Home: Dwellings in Early Shakopee
- July 11: Let's Go Shopping: Stores in Early Shakopee
- August 8: Stay Strong, Stand Up. Have a Voice: Clever Women in Early Shakopee
- Sept. 12: Hola! Latinos/Latinas/Hispanics in. Early Shakopee

Cemetery Tours

Catholic Cemetery Tour: Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 10 am to Noon.

Calvary Cemetery Tour: Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 10 am to Noon.

Valley Cemetery Tour: Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 10 am to Noon.

Marystown Cemetery Tour: Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 10 am to Noon



Brochures are at The. Shakopee Heritage Society site at People of Sha K' Pay at <http://shakopeeheritage.org/people-of-sha-k-pay/>!



Loving Books

In Shakopee, there was no public library, and the school library was inadequate. On October 1903 Ona Peck got together with a few other women in Shakopee and decided to organize the Shakopee Book Lover’s Club. Each woman contributed \$1.00 to buy books.

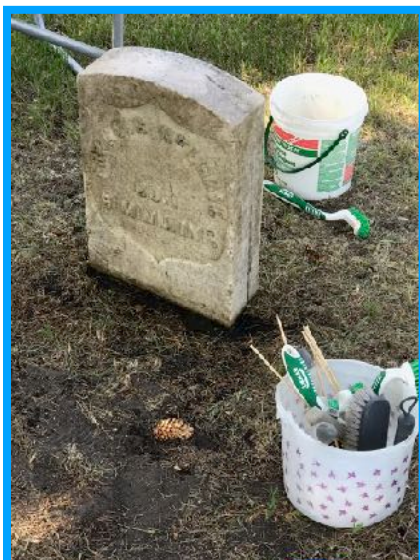
The Shakopee Book Lover’s Club has been meeting ever since. In fact, this year is the 120 years of the book club...a record, for sure.

This year, for the first time, a man joined the group! David Schleper, president of the Shakopee Heritage Society, was asked to join, and over the last few months he has been reading, sharing, and having food!

David actually picked on of the books, and the group met ton discuss the book. It was **The Seed Keeper** by Diane Wilson, a Dakota writer. Great book, and if you are interested, the book is available at the bookstore at Hočokata Ti, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s (SMSC) cultural center and gathering space at 2300 Tiwahe Circle, Shakopee, MN 55379. (952) 233-9151.

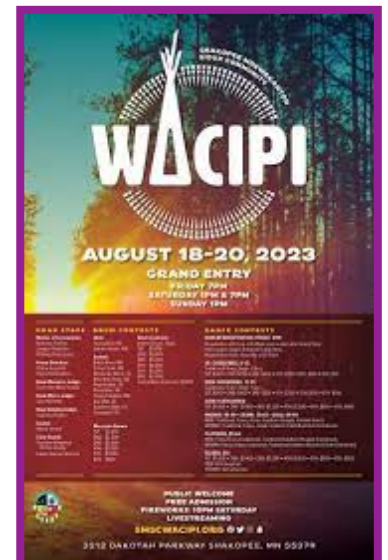


David also joined the Scott County Historical Society Book Club, and am reading (again!) **Daybreak Woman: An Anglo-Dakota Life** by by Jane Lamm Carroll. In fact, David listened to her speak at the Pond-Dakota Historic Society in Bloomington. The bookclub will happen on June 15.



Every second and fourth Thursday at 9:30 at Valley Cemetery, members of The Daughters of the American Revolution Keywaydin Chapter helped clean tombstones. It’s fun, and anyone is welcome to attend!

And remember that the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Wacipi is on August 18-20, 2023. Worth visiting, and it’s free!



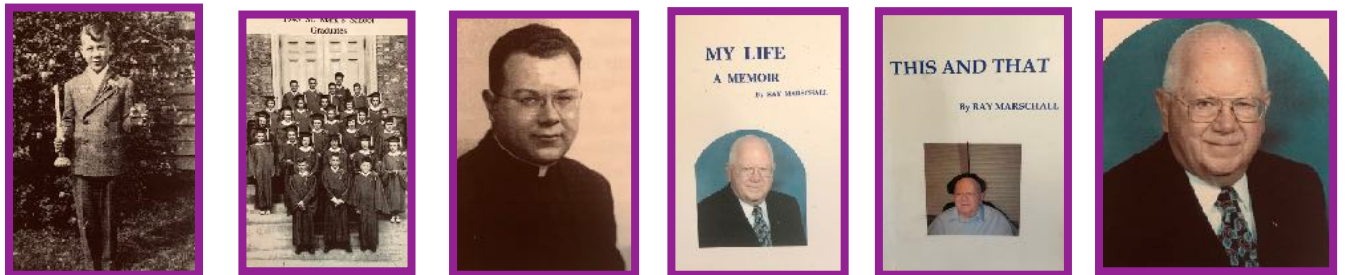
Raymond William Marschall, *The Oaks*, and the Romanian Immigrants 1940s

Raymond William Marschall was born on January 22, 1929 at the Eagle Creek township (now part of Shakopee,) son of Laura and William Marschall. He became a priest in 1955 until 1977. Ray married Elizabeth Beth White in 1990. He wrote about his experience in a book, *My Life: A Memoir* in 2014.

Ray Marschall remembered going to The Oaks when he was in high school. “The Oaks was our hangout. It was a restaurant/tavern located about three miles south of Shakopee on highway 169. Mel and Rene Vanderlinden owned it. Rene was a relative of mine on my mother’s side of the family,” said in a book he wrote, *This and That* in 2015.

“When I was home on vacation from school, you could find me at The Oaks several times a week. Some of my friends were generally on hand. A card came that. Was very popular. Around Shakopee at the time was Plume. You could get a game going almost any time, The states were small, dime and quarter stuff.

Ray Marschall remember it was a popular game, and “during the winter months a game was in progress daily in the back of my dad’s shop. Anyway who stopped in could join the game. One afternoon I sat in a game with the county sheriff, Jack Wermerskirchen, and the county treasurer, Leo Hirscher.”



“The Oaks had a juke box with all the popular songs of the day. Mel would often set the machine to play for us, without putting in any money.”

One summer, in the late 1940s, some Romanian immigrants stopped at The Oaks and asked Mel, the owner, if they could camp on his property. Ray recalled that Mel “decided to take a chance on letting them stay on his property. He saw that would not only pay him rent but would be customers in for his business. They wanted electricity for their campers, so Mel sold hot to them with the proviso that it would be turned off between midnight and 5:00 a.m.”

Roma (called Gypsies, but that is not longer a polite name for them) originated in the Punjab region of northern India as a nomadic people and entered Europe between the eighth and tenth centuries C.E. They were called Gypsies because Europeans mistakenly believed they came from Egypt. This minority is made up of distinct groups called tribes or nations.

In Minnesota, the first wave of Romanian immigrants who came to Minnesota in the 1900s and established a community in St. Paul and South St. Paul. The second wave of Romanian immigrants, who escaped the oppressive Communist regime arrived following World War II.

The latest — and largest — wave of Romanian immigrants, came to Minnesota in the early 1990s, when the Soviet Union collapsed, in search of economic opportunities, according to <https://www.startribune.com/romanian-immigrants-are-creating-a-renaissance-in-minnesota/228421751/>.

Until the Great Depression of the 1930s many Gypsies traveled throughout the year, weather permitting. A large number of Gypsies left the United States just prior to and during the Depression in order to survive. Those that stayed in the United States found it increasingly difficult to move around the country because of less money and fewer jobs. Many began to settle more permanently in or near large cities, although sometimes moving frequently within that area, according to <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3355&context=etd-project>.



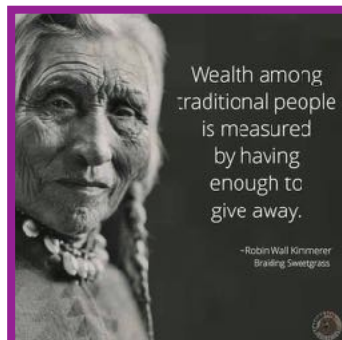
The first wave of Romanian immigrants arrived in Minnesota a century ago with a plan: to make exactly \$1,000 and then go back to buy properties in their homeland. In the end, however, few followed through on that plan. The rest ended up settling in the Twin Cities metro area, and especially in St. Paul and South St. Paul — then a destination for unskilled immigrants seeking job opportunities in the meatpacking and railroad industries. Eventually, many members of the community managed to purchase homes, build churches and start small businesses. Two Romanian churches, St. Mary’s Romanian Orthodox of St. Paul and St. Stefan’s Romanian Orthodox of South St. Paul, had also served as a place to socialize and exchange information for the immigrant community.

Ray recalled that “Every morning the men would go off to work. It was known that some band of gypsies (Romanian immigrants) would go around and sell home repairs, collect the money, and do inferior works and materials. No one was sure exactly what these gypsies did but there were no complaints about them.”

“When they first came, they asked Mel about a good store in Shakopee in which to shop. He mentioned one, but the owners of that store was prejudiced and charged them higher prices, so they lost their business, which was considerable, and another store was the beneficiary.”

The Romanian immigrants came back for a number of summers and camped at The Oaks.

“The Oaks continued to be a popular until the DOT took it by eminent domain for highway 169 expansion.”





Sophia de Levie 1919-1943

Sophia de Levie was born on May 17, 1919 in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Sophia's father was Samuel Benjamin de Levie (1879-1943) and her mother was Frouwkje Frieda Simons de Levie (1883-1957.)

Sophia de Levie's parents, Samuel and Frieda lived in Oude Pekela, Pekela Municipality, Gröningen, Netherlands. Gröningen is the northeasternmost province of the Netherlands. It borders on Friesland to the west, Drenthe to the south, the German state of Lower Saxony to the east, and the Wadden Sea to the north. It was a farming area.

After Samuel and Frieda married on March 2, 1904 in Sappemeer, Hoogezand-Sappemeer, Groningen, Netherlands, they moved to Oude Pekela, Pekela Municipality, Gröningen, Netherlands. Gröningen, where their first two girls, Ettie, or Stella, and Helena Lena de Levie were born. Then their first son, Nathan, was born on May 21, 1909, but died on December 30, 1909.

Two years later, Samuel and Frieda, along with Stella and Lena, moved to America.

The family moved to Marion Township, in Linn County, Iowa. The U.S. Census said that the area was agricultural, just like the area in Gröningen, the Netherlands, with about 725 people there. During the time in Iowa, Samuel and Frieda had two more children, Mary, who was born on December 1, 1913, and David, who was born on October 27, 1915.

Not long after, the family moved to Shakopee, Minnesota. And on May 17, 1919, Sophie de Levie was born. The U.S. Census for Shakopee, Minnesota in 1920, which had 1,988 people, lists the family, including Benjamin, Sophie's father, was was 40 years old and a livestock broker; Frieda, his wife, who was 37 years old; Stella, who was 13; Lena, who was 11 years old, and both born in the Netherlands, and Mary, age 6, who was born in Iowa, and David, age 3 years old, who also was born in Iowa. And finally, the U.S. Census noted Sophia de Levie, who was 8 months old, and who was born in Shakopee. The family was Jewish.

About a year later, the family moved back to the Netherlands. Maybe the family missed the relatives who lived there. Or maybe they found that the United States was not that welcoming for them. Or it could be many other reasons. But it was clear that on May 11, 1921, a son, Simon de Levie, was born in Hoogeveen, Hoogeveen, Drenthe, Netherlands.

The family lived in the Netherlands without many problems until Adolf Hitler (1889– 1945) an Austrian-born German politician rose to power as the leader of the Nazi Party, where he became the Führer in 1934. During his dictatorship, he initiated World War II in Europe by invading Poland on 1939. He was closely involved in military operations throughout the war and was central to the perpetration of the Holocaust: the genocide of about six million Jews and millions of other victims. The Netherlands entered World War II on May 10, 1940, when invading German forces quickly overran the country.

After the German occupation of the Netherlands in 1940, it became a transit camp for Jews who were being deported to the Nazi concentration camps in Middle and Eastern Europe, and later to extermination camps.

Deportations of Jews from the Netherlands to German-occupied Poland and Germany began on June 15, 1942 and ended on September 13, 1944. Ultimately some 101,000 Jews were deported in 98 transports from Westerbork to Auschwitz (57,800; 65 transports), Sobibor (34,313; 19 transports), Bergen-Belsen (3,724; 8 transports) and Theresienstadt (4,466; 6 transports), where most of them were murdered, according to <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-netherlands>.

Deportations of Jews from the Netherlands to German-occupied Poland and Germany began on June 15, 1942 and ended on September 13, 1944. Ultimately some 101,000 Jews were deported in 98 transports from Westerbork to Auschwitz (57,800; 65 transports), Sobibor (34,313; 19 transports), Bergen-Belsen (3,724; 8 transports) and Theresienstadt (4,466; 6 transports), where most of them were murdered, according to <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-netherlands>.

Johann Baptist Albin Rauter (1895–1949) sent progress letters to Himmler informing him that "In all of Holland some 120,000 Jews are being readied for departure. These "departures" that Rauter spoke of were the deportations of Dutch Jews to concentration and extermination camps.

The de Levie family, like most Jewish people in the Netherlands, were force into concentration and extermination camps in Poland, including the Jewish girl who was born in Shakopee.

Simon de Levie, Sophia's youngest brother, died on September 30, 1942 at Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Sophia de Levie died on January 21, 1943 at age 23 years old. She died at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Oświęcim, Powiat oświęcimski, Małopolskie, Poland. On the same day, her older brother, who was born in Iowa, David de Levie, died at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Sophia's father, Samuel Benjamin de Levie, died at the Sobibór Concentration Camp on May 28, 1943 in Sobibór, Lubelskie, Poland. Sophia's sister, Helena Lena de Levie, died on June 4, 1943 at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, and another sister, Ettie, or Stella, died there on June 4, 1943. And the final sister, Mary, who was born in Iowa, died on January 28, 1944, also at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Oświęcim, Powiat oświęcimski, Małopolskie, Poland.

And so Samuel Benjamin de Levie, and his six children all died in the Holocaust, including the one child who was born in Shakopee, Minnesota, Sophia de Levie.



Sophia and her three sisters and two brothers all died at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.



Sophia's father, Benjamin de Levie was killed at the Sobibor Concentration Camp in Sobibór, Powiat włodawski, Lubelskie, Poland.



Jews incarcerated in camps were marked with two yellow triangles forming a Star of David. Made of fabric, these were sewn onto camp clothing. Other categories of prisoners were identified by the red triangle (political prisoners), green (criminals), black (asocials), brown (Sinti-Roma, originally black), pink (gays), among others.

Shakopee Heritage Society
2109 Boulder Pointe
Shakopee, MN 55379

President: David R. Schleper

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

Treasurer: Liz Lundin

Secretary: Donna Lane **Trustees:** Sandy Olson, Dave Regan

Talk to Us!

Facebook: **shakopeeheritage**

Web: **shakopeeheritage.org**

Email: **newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org**

Phone: **952-693-3865**



Willow Abrahamson

Some of us dance to forget, some of us dance to remember, some of us dance to heal, but whatever your reason-- just dance with your heart and your spirit---we see it shine when you dance

Want the newsletter? Cost is \$20 a year for the newsletter, 96 brochures, and more! Send check to SHS at 2109 Boulder Point, Shakopee

