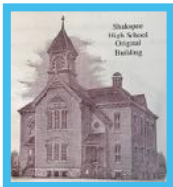


SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Union School by Chris Kiecker

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, the Shakopee Heritage Society had a preservation by Chris Kiecker, a member of the Shakopee Heritage Society and a graduate of Shakopee Public Schools.

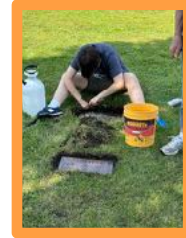
In July 1881, Shakopee consolidated school District One and Two, and built the Union School. It was located one block south of old District One, and west of St. Mary's Church.

Most recently, it was the Central Family Center, at 505 Holmes Street South. It was torn down last year.

Chris gave a fascinating presentation about how the school was built, the various additions that added to Union School, and what is happening to the site now. Lots of pictures, lots of memories...it was a great presentation (and hopefully in the future a book about Union School in Shakopee.)

Thanks, Chris!





Coming Up...

Cleaning the Tombstones at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee

Bring a lawnchair. People from the Daughters of American Revolution and the Shakopee Heritage Society will be there and will have supplies. Great for learning the correct way to clean the cemetery stones! For more info 952-693-3865.

July 11, 2024 9-Noon

July 25, 2024 9-Noon

August 8, 2024 9 to Noon

August 22, 2024 9 to Noon



Coming Up...

Cemetery Tours

- **Shakopee Calvary Cemetery:** Saturday, July 13, 2024, 10 am to Noon
- **Shakopee Valley Cemetery:** Saturday, August 17, 2024, 10 am to Noon
- **Marystown Cemetery:** Saturday, September 14, 2024, 10 am to Noon
- **Catholic Cemetery:** Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10 am to Noon (rescheduled)

Please bring a lawnchair!



Coming Up...

August 13 1-2 pm: For the Good of the Women: The Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee

September 10 1-2 pm: Astute, Adept, and Adroit! Amazing Women in Early Shakopee

October 15 1-2 pm: Hospitals, Doctors and Patients: Healthcare in Early Shakopee

November 12. 1-2 pm: So Groovy! Shakopee in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s

Four small historical photographs are arranged on the right side of the orange background. The top one is titled "For the Good of the Women" and shows a group of people. The second is a portrait of a woman. The third is titled "Hospitals, Doctors, and Patients" and shows a building. The fourth is titled "So Groovy!" and shows a man's face.

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

-John Wesley
(1703-1791)



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY

In 2022, the Keewaydin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Shakopee Heritage Society have been working in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

Every two weeks, members of both organizations work from 9 a.m. until noon on Thursday, cleaning the tombstones, then spraying it with a special spray used to clean the stones. And it works!

Soiling and staining of cemetery gravestones, monuments, markers, and statuary can result from soil splashing, pollution, rusting bolts or other metal features, bird deposits, and berries or sap dropping onto the stone. Biological growth, such as algae, lichen, or moss, can cover the surface, cause the stone to decay, and make reading the stone difficult, according to <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/cemetery-preservation-course-cleaning-grave-markers.htm>.

Take some time to look at the tombstones at Valley Cemetery, and at Calvary Cemetery, at Catholic Cemetery in 10th Avenue, or at the cemetery in Marystown. See the rust? See the lichen? See the broken tombstones, many that can't be read?

The Keewaydin Chapter (in Minneapolis) and the Shakopee Heritage Society (in Shakopee) are helping clean the tombstones of people from the past.

Cleaning stones should be done with the gentlest means possible. It should never be the intent to make a grave marker look "new". Even with the most careful technique, cleaning may accelerate deterioration or cause loss of original material. Only use soft brushes and gentle cleaners, such as water or a non-ionic cleaner (neutral pH of 7). Never use wire brushes, power washers, or harsh cleaners, such as bleach.

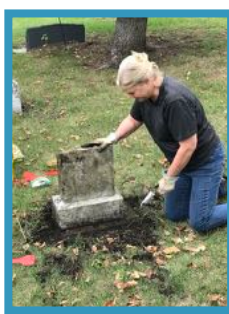
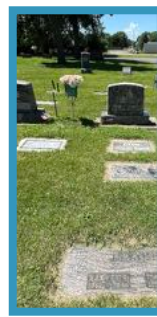
The U.S National Park Services noted that change can happen:

- Dirt, including soil and mud, often arises from transferring the topsoil to headstone surface. Dirt can lead to dark staining on the surface or an overall dingy appearance. Dirt can penetrate into the pores of the stone and be difficult to remove. Dirt can retain moisture after rainfall and lead to the growth of mold or mildew on the stone surface.
- Air pollution, including particles from vehicle exhaust, can deposit on the surface of marble.
- Biological organisms, such as bacteria, mold, mildew, algae, mosses, or lichen can adhere to the headstone and result in appearance changes. Fungi can penetrate the pore system of stone and carry bacteria further into the stone.
- Bird droppings or other animal secretions can stain the stone. The material may contain resins that are not easily dissolved in water. The sugars in the sap may attract insects or provide food for molds and mildews. Shrubs have falling berries that can stain surfaces.

Keewaydin Chapter and SHS have cleaned lots of stones, including people from the Civil War. Recently, a stone buried 8 inches below ground was brought to the service with the help of Ken Pass. And Connie Romo, a Shakopee Heritage Society member, has been working at Valley Cemetery, and since last year, with permission, got permission and cleaned her family tombstones in Marystown!

So cool! Please join us!

Cleaning the tombstones happen every other Thursday from 9 am to Noon. It is fun, and people leave knowing how to do this (and learned how to set it up in other cemeteries. Questions? Contact David Schleper at 952-659-3865.





Based on the feedback, next Spring/Summer the SHS will do 2 tours, this one, and another one about interesting people from downtown Shakopee!



Tour of Downtown Shakopee

May 11, 2024

Twenty-five people headed downtown on a Saturday to learn about some of the people who lived downtown. The two-hour tour talked about Ida Gertrude May Gjerdrum Buck (1883-1957); Paul Pablo Edward Schwaesdall (Pablo's Mexican Restaurant since 1986); Maximus Guido Max Wermerskirshen (1931-1959); Charles Augustus Lindbergh (1902-1974); Elizabeth K. Ries (1874-1949); Charles August Manaige (1847-1938); A Chinese American Man (In Shakopee 1892); Samuel Ferdman (1893-1966); Sophia de Levie (1919-1943); John Shoto (1798 - 1899); Mahala Conklin Shumway (1835-1909); Mary Brown Griffin (ca. 1825-1882); and Jane Lamont Titus (1827-1899.)



Shakopee High School Students Building Outdoor Smudging Space

By Mary McGuire
March 8, 2024

Equipped with hammers and saws, Shakopee High School students are in the midst of building something truly unique on campus.

Within a matter of weeks, the campus will be home to one of the first outdoor Native smudging spaces in the state. The Native American tradition uses the cleaning smoke of sage and other sacred herbs and holds special meaning for students like Chanta Brewer, who is Dakota.

“Smudging for us is a cultural practice that helps cleans you in a way,” said Brewer. “Having a building outside that we can get to easily and that we can connect with nature on is really important to us so we can stay connected to our roots.”

This was all made possible through a grant from the Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation. Long-time English teacher Katy Tabke helped lead the effort and wrote the grant application. “Seeing every culture, seeing every community is so important, and for a really long time, our Native students were not quite visible as they deserved to be,” said Tabke.

The practice has grown in popularity recently, with Saint Paul Public Schools approving a policy allowing smudging last year. Its significance in Shakopee cannot be overstated, a school district with more than 200 Native students from 28 tribal nations.

“We are getting to make our ancestors proud, and we get to do what our ancestors couldn’t do,” said Brewer.

Construction Management students are now making the idea a reality, and the project is expected to be complete by the end of the month.

“Seeing that we get to have this space brings a lot of joy, pride, and strength to the surface for a lot of Native students,” said Brewer.



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, Melissa Whiting

Talk to Us!

Facebook: **shakopeeheritage**

Web: **shakopeeheritage.org**

Email: **newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org**



Phone: **952-693-3865**