



# PDHS REVIEW

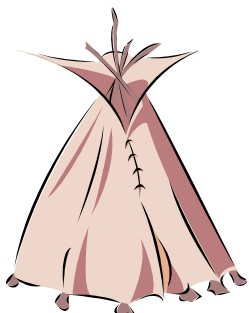
Newsletter of the  
Pond Dakota Heritage Society

Volume 6, Issue 3

**Bloomington,  
Minnesota  
October 2009**

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## Prairie Restoration Study has Begun

The City of Bloomington has started exploring the possibility of restoring about 4 acres of prairie in Pond Dakota Mission Park. The area to be restored has been roughly defined and preliminary talks have taken place with Great River Greening, a company that specializes in restoring native prairie.

When the Ponds built their first home on this spot in 1843, they saw open vistas of the river valley surrounded by prairie and dotted by stands of burr oak and cottonwood. But deep furrow plowing and grazing quickly changed the face of the land. The wooded areas found on the site today are a result of a halt in agricultural production in the 1960s and the continuing stewardship of the valley by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the City of Bloomington.

The proposed project would restore a portion of the oak savannah that originally covered the area, bringing back wild grasses, flowers and other native vegetation. The purpose of the restoration would be to provide an educational environment for school groups and park visitors to learn about and experience native prairie.

We invite you to become a part of this great undertaking!

- Attend the Prairie Restoration informational program at the Pond House on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m. (details inside)
- Roll up your sleeves, and help us bust some Buckthorn on Saturday, October 10th, 9 a.m. - noon. (details inside)
- Look for other volunteer opportunities for this project in up-coming issues of the PDHS Review.

### Dakota Language Camp Report

Our first annual Dakota Language Camp took place at the Gideon and Agnes Pond House Tuesday - Thursday, July 28 - 30. Twenty-six children, ages 4 to 12, participated in the camp, as well as some parents. Eight teachers led hands-on activity stations each day which included colors, numbers, animals, tasting, feeling, smelling, drum making, native plants, games, making placemats, nature walks, and tipi demonstrations. We received many positive comments from children and parents about the camp, which have encouraged us to host the camp again next year.

Our program information is on the web!

Visit us at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us). Keyword search : pond

## Events at Pond Dakota Mission Park

### OCTOBER

#### Proposed Prairie Restoration

**Sunday October 4, 2 pm**

Joe Walton, Conservation Ecologist with Great River Greening, will explain the proposed Prairie Restoration project at Pond Dakota Mission Park, and possible volunteer opportunities for those who would like to be part of this restoration. Weather permitting, we'll hike through the proposed project area to see first hand what areas would be restored, which trees and vegetation would be removed, and what native plants are already growing in the area. House tours at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

#### Buckthorn Bust **Saturday October 10, 9 am – Noon**

Join in to help clear buckthorn brush from Pond Dakota Mission Park. An invasive species that grows very quickly, buckthorn is choking out native trees, shrubs, and other plants. We will concentrate on the area that will be restored to native prairie. Wear sturdy shoes, jeans, and long sleeve shirts. Bring a bow saw, handsaw, lopping shears, or hand shears if you have them. Water will be provided.

#### Open House **Sunday October 11, 1:30 – 4 pm**

In the fall of 1839, Chief Cloudman moved his farming village from the fertile banks of Lake Calhoun to the Pond Dakota Mission Park site in Bloomington. Discover why he felt forced to make this move during house tours today.

#### U.S. / Dakota War of 1862 - **Sunday October 18, 2 pm**

Back by popular demand, Stephen Osman will present his acclaimed U.S./Dakota War of 1862 presentation. Stephen is a Civil War and U.S. Dakota War expert. He recently retired from the Minnesota Historical Society, having managed Fort Snelling for many years. Please note: This joint presentation by the Pond Dakota Heritage Society and Bloomington Historical Society will be held at Old Town Hall, 10200 Penn Ave S., Bloomington

#### Open House **Sunday October 25, 1:30 – 4 pm**

Celebrate the 172<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary of Gideon Pond and Sarah Poage with cake and hot cider. Follow their adventures from Lac Qui Parle Mission in southwestern Minnesota to Lake Harriet, Camp Cold Water, and finally Bloomington.

### NOVEMBER

#### Make a Dream Catcher **Sunday November 1** **Drop-In program, 2 – 4 pm**

Make your own dream catcher with Native American artist Kim Hanks. Dream catchers are an authentic American Indian craft, made of sinew strands tied in a web around a small round frame that is wrapped in leather. Hung as a charm to protect sleeping children from nightmares, the legend is that the bad dreams will get caught in the web. Materials fee is \$3. Advance registration recommended at 952-563-8693.

#### Open House **Sunday November 8, 1:30 – 4 pm**

During house tours today, hear the story of Baptist minister Rev. Palmer, who paid a visit to Gideon Pond in November 1871 to announce a Baptist meeting that evening. Discover Gideon's lack of ecumenicalism!

#### Sarah Jane Sibley **Sunday November 15, 2 pm**

David Grabitske will present his new book, *Six Miles From St. Paul: The Family and Society of Sarah Jane Sibley*. Sarah was the wife of Henry Hastings Sibley, the first Governor of Minnesota. David is the Manager of Outreach Services at the Minnesota Historical Society. The book, which won the AASLH Award, will be available for purchase and signing.

#### Photographs from the 1862 U.S. / Dakota War **Sunday November 22, 2 pm**

Curtis Dahlin will give a presentation of his new book *A Pictorial History of the Dakota Uprising*. An independent historian, Curt specializes in the U.S. / Dakota War of 1862. Many wonderful rare photographs are included, as well as interesting stories for each one. His books will be available for purchase and signing.

#### Open House **Sunday November 29, 1:30 – 4 pm**

On November 27th 1850, Gideon traveled to St. Paul to pick up the first edition of *The Dakota Friend*, the bilingual newspaper that he published for two years in English and Dakota. During tours today, see an original copy of the newspaper, find out why it was published and why it was discontinued.

**DECEMBER**

**Survival at Crow Creek Sunday December 6, 2 pm**  
 Dr. Colette Hyman will present her article, *Survival at Crow Creek 1863—1866*, which appeared in the Winter 2008/2009 issue of the Minnesota History Quarterly. Dr. Hyman writes about a timely subject that needs to be discussed as we approach the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. / Dakota War of 1862. Dr. Hyman is a history professor at Winona State University.

**Open House Sunday December 13, 1:30 – 4 pm**  
 Warm up by the fireplace while Jeff Williamson, a descendant of Gideon Pond, shares stories of friendships with Indians and frustrations with fur traders.

**Christmas Celebration Sunday December 20 Drop-In Program 2 -4 pm**  
 Sing carols around the pump organ in the parlor, and hear Gideon Pond read excerpts from one of his Christmas sermons. Holiday refreshments will be served.

**Open House Sunday December 27, 1:30 – 4 pm**  
 Gideon and Sarah's third daughter, Mary Margaret Poage Pond, was just 3 days old on this date in 1845. See the Pond family's crib, high chair and other baby items during house tours today.

**Of Interest Elsewhere**

**Lincoln's Impact and Legacy in Minnesota Tuesday October 20, 7 pm, Free Minnesota History Center, St Paul**  
 Explore Abraham Lincoln's impact on Minnesota's African-American and Dakota communities with historian and Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent Bill Green, Dakota educator and elder David Larson, and University of Minnesota historian Hy Berman.

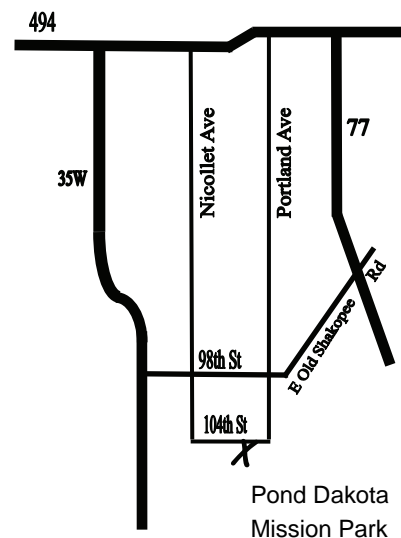
**Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull Saturday November 7, 2 pm, Reservations Required Minnesota History Center, St Paul**  
 Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull inspired their people to resist U.S. government tyranny and defied America to live up to its promises of sovereignty and freedom for all. With Dan Fixico, Native scholar, historical advisor to the recent PBS series *We Shall Remain*, and Distinguished Foundation Professor of History at Arizona State University.

**2009 PDHS Officers**

President - Jay Ludwig  
 Vice-President - Larry Granger  
 Secretary - Candy Williamson  
 Treasurer - Lisa Ferguson  
 Program Director - Jeff Williamson  
 Publicity Director - Mark Morrison  
 Newsletter - Patricia Mees

**Pond Dakota Mission Park**

401 East 104th Street  
 Bloomington, MN 55420



**Join the Pond Dakota Heritage Society!**

Support the mission of the PDHS by becoming a member, or renew your membership today. Membership makes our lecture programs possible, and includes free admission to all programs at the Pond House and voting privileges at PDHS business meetings. Individual Membership \$20, Household Membership \$30. Mail membership dues to: Jay Ludwig, Pond Dakota Heritage Society, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431.

**Thank you for your support!**

Pond Dakota Heritage Society  
Bloomington Civic Plaza  
1800 W. Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431

### Contact Us

To receive this newsletter by U.S. Mail or E-mail, or for info about the Pond Dakota Heritage Society, contact Jay Ludwig, 952-484-0477, or [jludwig@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jludwig@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

For information about programming and private tours of the Gideon and Agnes Pond House, contact Mark Morrison, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, 952-563-8693, or [mmorrison@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:mmorrison@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

On the web at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), then search using keyword "pond".

### Highlights from Dakota Language Camp

