



# THE POND DAKOTA QUARTERLY



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## Pond Dakota Winter History Festival

**Sunday January 28, Noon – 4 pm**

**Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 E. 104th St, Bloomington**

If you enjoyed River Rendezvous in September, don't miss this chance to experience beautiful Pond Dakota Mission Park in the winter season!

Discover the adventure of winter hiking on guided snowshoe walks led by Wilderness Inquiry at 1 and 3 pm. Snowshoes are provided, or bring your own. Group size is limited, so sign up that day is on a first-come first-served basis. Play the traditional Dakota games of Snow Snakes and Lacrosse as well as outdoor frontier games. Then warm up indoors by the fireplace with cocoa and cookies. See demonstrations and displays and try your hand using a variety of 19th century tools. Hear Reverend Pond tell harrowing and hilarious stories of winter life on the early Minnesota frontier. All activities are free.

Limited parking is available in the Pond Dakota Mission Park parking lot. *Please do not park along the driveway.* Additional free parking is available at Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church or in the Kelly Playfield lot.

*Organized and sponsored by Bloomington Parks and Recreation.  
For more information, call 952-563-8693.*



## Events at Pond Dakota Mission Park

The Pond House is open year round on Sundays from 1:30 – 4 p.m. Admission to programs and tours is free for Pond Dakota Heritage Society members and youth through high school. Suggested donation of \$2 for non-member adults.

### JANUARY

#### Furs, Tracks & Traps

**Sunday, January 7 Drop-In program, 2 – 4 pm**

Learn to pair up woodland animals with their tracks while playing a rousing game of Animal Track Bingo – and win prizes! Handle a variety of real furs and see traps that were used on the frontier. Warm up by the fireplace with tea, cocoa and cookies. House tour at 1:30 pm.

**Open House Sunday, January 14, 1:30-4 pm**

While touring the Pond House, discover how Rev. Gideon Pond nearly drowned after breaking through the ice on Lake Harriet in the winter of 1835!

**Open House Sunday, January 21, 1:30-4 pm**

Learn what was said by the Dakota Indians after Rev. Gideon Pond's death in January 1878, and see the room where his body was laid in state, while touring the historic Pond House.

#### Pond Dakota Winter History Festival

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### FEBRUARY

#### Scavenger Hunt Tours

**Sunday, February 4, 1:30-4 pm**

Calling all history detectives! Explore “every nook and cranny” of the historic Pond House on a scavenger hunt tour. Successful detectives will receive a frontier toy prize to take home.

**Open House Sunday, February 11, 1:30-4 pm**

Tour guests at the house today will learn about the nearly 300 Dakota men who, on February 1, 1863, asked to be baptized by Rev. Gideon Pond and Dr. Thomas Williamson while awaiting their fate in the Mankato prison.

#### Fort Snelling at Bdote: Towards a New

**Interpretation Sunday, February 18, 2 pm**

As the Minnesota Historical Society continues its effort to revitalize Historic Fort Snelling, the interpretation of the site's history is changing in order to connect with an increasingly diverse Minnesota and America. Come learn from Peter DeCarlo, local history author and MHS employee, how community engagement, sharing authority, pursuing “truth”, and historical methodology are influencing the new interpretation of the site. Copies of his book, *Fort Snelling at Bdote* will be for sale.

#### Open House

**Sunday, February 25, 1:30-4 pm**

Tours of the Pond House will highlight Eli Pettijohn, who helped Gideon Pond build the Oak Grove mission house in Bloomington in 1843 before going on to become a leader in the milling industry.

## MARCH

### Open House Sunday, March 4, 1:30-4 pm

House tours will include the story of Gideon's appointment to the 1<sup>st</sup> Territorial Legislature in March 1849 despite his protests – which gave him the opportunity to campaign for civil rights for American Indians and freed slaves.

### Maple Sugaring

#### Drop-in Program Sunday, March 11, 2-4 pm

Native Americans produced maple sugar for centuries and passed on their knowledge to frontier settlers. Now you can experience maple sugaring for yourself! Outdoors, learn about choosing trees to tap, collecting the sap, and boiling it down to make syrup. Inside the house, watch syrup transform into sugar and sample maple candy. House tours 1:30 to 4:00 pm.

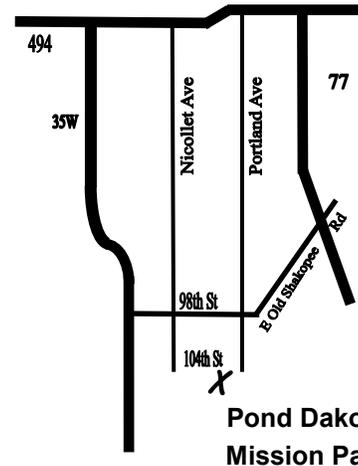
### Frontier Friends: Sitting Bull and John P. Williamson. Sunday, March 18, 2 pm

Pond Dakota Heritage Society President Jeff Williamson will describe how Sitting Bull and John Williamson, missionary to the Dakota, first met at Crow Creek in 1863. Learn about their friendship over the years, culminating in John's advocacy for Sitting Bull which was instrumental in his release from prison in 1883. Jeff Williamson has done extensive historical research of his ancestors in the Pond and Williamson families who were missionaries to the Dakota.

### Open House & Agnes' Sewing Circle Sunday, March 25, 1:30-4 pm

Join Agnes Hopkins Pond (portrayed by a costumed re-enactor) for a tour of the historic Pond House and after your tour enjoy cookies and conversation in the parlor. If you have knitting, crocheting, darning, or other small projects, bring them along! All ages are welcome.

**Pond Dakota Mission Park**  
401 East 104th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55420



Interpretive signs describing the history of the Dakota in the Minnesota River Valley, and Gideon and Samuel Pond, missionaries who arrived in 1834, are located along the walking trails in the park. The 1856 Gideon and Agnes Pond House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park is open daily until 10 pm.

For more information about Pond Dakota Mission Park or private tours of the Gideon and Agnes Pond House, contact Mark Morrison, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, 952-563-8693, or [mmorrison@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:mmorrison@BloomingtonMN.gov). More about the Pond House at [www.BloomingtonMN.gov](http://www.BloomingtonMN.gov).

Follow us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/GideonAgnesPondHouse](http://www.facebook.com/GideonAgnesPondHouse)



**The Pond Dakota Heritage Society** hosts speakers at the Pond House. The society's mission is to preserve the rich history of the Dakota and their relationship with early Minnesota settlers and Christian Missionaries, and to explore contrasting cultural and religious viewpoints. Annual Membership: Individual \$20, Household \$30, Sustaining \$100-\$499, Benefactor \$500 or more. Renew or join today! Go to [www.ponddakota.org](http://www.ponddakota.org). or learn more at [facebook.com/PondDakota](http://facebook.com/PondDakota). Email [ponddakota@gmail.com](mailto:ponddakota@gmail.com). or send mail to PDHS, P.O. Box 20511, Bloomington, MN 55420.

**City of Bloomington  
Parks and Recreation  
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.  
Bloomington, MN 55431**

**Return Service Requested**

**Can you find these historical markers in Minneapolis?**

**The Pond Brothers' Cabin**



**Along the walking path on the east side  
of Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun)**

**Cloud Man's Village**



**Under a tree near where 36<sup>th</sup> St.  
intersects East Calhoun Parkway**