# 2006

Minnesota Historical Society Annual Report

Exciting projects are waiting in the wings at the Minnesota Historical Society. A new exhibition at Mill City Museum highlights Minneapolis' vital history in the engaging film, "Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat." Historic Fort Snelling stands ready as plans for new exhibition space are explored. The 150th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood gleams on the horizon. Don't miss a moment in Minnesota history – begin your journey here.

David Koch, President, Minnesota Historical Society

At the Minnesota Historical Society, history is alive and taking flight. Early architectural sketches for the History Center imagined an airplane hanging in its rotunda. Now, 14 years since we opened our doors, we have our own Jenny airplane – a replica of a Curtiss Model JN-4 World War I trainer plane, which was built by our friends at Minnesota's Air Guard Museum.

History also takes flight through the connections we make between the past, present and future. More than 50,000 visitors came to see "Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs" during its 12-week run at the History Center. Minnesotans continue to visit the History Center's "Open House," a new exhibition focused on the immigrant families who have lived in the home that still stands on St. Paul's East Side. Even more people connected to Minnesota's past by visiting Mill City Museum and our historic sites or by using our web site and expanded library services.

This year, all of us at the Society have joined an invigorating journey to safeguard the story of Minnesota's Greatest Generation. Workshops are being held across the state to encourage people to collect and care for materials from the 1930s, '40s and '50s. The Society also is conducting oral histories, publishing books, preparing curriculum for schools, encouraging and providing opportunities for documentary filmmakers, working on a major new exhibition, sharing stories on our web site – all part of our effort to tell the story of this remarkable period in our state and national history.

Looking forward, the Society has a great opportunity to expand its program at Historic Fort Snelling with the re-use of the 1904 barracks buildings located adjacent to the 1820s fort as a museum and education center. This year, the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated money to pay for design and we look forward to continued support for this project in the years ahead.

Such generous support from our elected leaders ensures that the Society will continue to soar to new heights. Our members, volunteers and staff continue their deep commitment to making the past a vital part of our state's life. The words of Sigurd Olson inscribed under the sky wall mural in the History Center say it better than I ever could:

"If we can move into an open horizon where we can live in our modern world with the ancient dreams that have always stirred us, then our work will have been done."

Neria Archabal

Nina Archabal, Director

## 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIETY REACHES MILLIONS AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD	The Society continued to expand its reach in Minnesota, across the country and around the world – proving once again that history does indeed matter. Overall web site visits climbed to a phenomenal 6,658,433. The e-commerce sites proved a valuable source of income. The death certificate index alone – invaluable as a source of genealogical research – brought in nearly \$110,000. But the Internet didn't stop people from visiting us in person. The combined total of visitors at the History Center, Mill City Museum and historic sites was nearly 900,000, including 236,000 schoolchildren. The History Center alone welcomed more than 50,000 schoolchildren and 10,000 chaperones from nearly 900 schools across the state.
MINNESOTA'S GREATEST GENERATION PROJECT OFF TO BIG START	The Society's ambitious, ongoing effort to document Minnesota's Greatest Generation – individuals who were raised in the 1930s, fought in World War II and participated in the postwar boom – got off to a rousing start on Aug. 14, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. The day of memories, music and celebration included comments by the project's honorary chairman and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Vessey. The project continues to grow. By the end of the fiscal year, the "Share Your Story" page on the Society's Minnesota's Greatest Generation web site had 173 entries that were read by 14,637 users. More than 30 professional and amateur filmmakers registered to enter the "Moving Pictures" film festival showcasing short documentaries related to the topic. And more than 700 people attended 23 "Preserving Your Family History: Minnesota's Greatest Generation" workshops around the state.
IMPORTANT ACQUISITIONS ADDED TO COLLECTIONS	Nearly 1,500 items were acquired for the Society's collections, including a pre-Civil War daguerrotype portrait of Joel E. Whitney, Minnesota's premier pioneer photographer, who is nationally recognized as one of America's foremost early photographic artists; rare and long out-of-print books, such as "A Trip to St. Paul" published by the Diamond Jo Line in 1908; and four pamphlets in a 1944 boxed set titled "The Case for Socialism, as Presented at the Famous Minneapolis Labor Trial." The Society's impressive art collection was featured in several exhibitions, both at the History Center and the James J. Hill House. "Seth Eastman: Artist on the Frontier," featured nearly 100 art works and objects, including "View of Mendota, 1848," a gift from the Zimmermann family in memory of Mary P. and Harry B. Zimmermann. More than 15,000 people visited the exhibition, "Jerome Hill: Beyond the Frame," a celebration of this multi-faceted artist and grandson of railroad baron James J. Hill that was presented – appropriately – in the Hill House's restored art gallery.

#### NEW, CHANGING EXHIBITS ATTRACT RECORD-BREAKING CROWDS

"Open House: If These Walls Could Talk" opened at the History Center in January to rave reviews and an opening weekend audience of nearly 5,000 visitors. The unique, interactive exhibit, set in a recreation of an actual house on St. Paul's East Side, tells the story of the waves of immigrants – from the Germans who built the house to the Swedes, Italians and Hmong who followed them – that made the house a home for more than a century. Traveling exhibits added new perspectives and audiences. "Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs" brought record-breaking crowds to the History Center. Two exhibits from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum took a closer look at this painful, but important, facet of our history in "The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936" and "Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust." And "Red Wing Retro: Extraordinary Objects, Everyday Life" focused on this signature Minnesota business, featuring hundreds of artifacts – from the familiar crocks to dinnerware to decorative items and artware.

#### JENNY BI-PLANE TAKES FLIGHT IN HISTORY A replic CENTER ROTUNDA installed

A replica of a Curtiss Model JN-4 airplane, better known as a "Jenny," was installed in the rotunda of the History Center in June. The fly-worthy bi-plane was built to original specifications by Minnesota Air Guard Museum volunteers to commemorate the Jennies used in the 1920s by the Minnesota National Guard, 109th Observation Squadron. The instant icon recalls the thrilling barnstormers who introduced the country to the wonders of flight in a simpler era – including Charles Lindbergh who took his first solo flight in a Jenny four years before his historic transatlantic journey in 1927.

#### HISTORIC SITES OFFER DIVERSE EXPERIENCES

Thanks to strong community support and legislative action, the Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site, closed due to legislative funding cuts in 2004, re-opened to the public on Memorial Day weekend. This important site explores Dakota life before the reservation era, examines the underlying causes of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, and shares the history of how Dakota people struggled to survive and preserve their culture. In an innovative, cooperative initiative, the Society partnered with Twin Cities Public Television on the production of a 30-minute video on the life of James J. Hill that aired on public television stations around the state. The video, "James J. Hill: Empire Builder," was nominated for a regional Emmy award in the historical documentary category. At the Sibley Historic Site, visitors enjoyed elegant teas reminiscent of those held there from the 1920s through the 1970s by the Daughters of the American Revolution. And Split Rock Lighthouse continued to be a popular destination for Minnesotans and people from around the world with more than 100,000 visitors.

### 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

MHS PRESS SALES JUMP 22 PERCENT	The publication of a wide variety of books on a multitude of topics – including "Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson," "Minnesota Weather Almanac" and "Christmas in Minnesota" – helped MHS Press achieve sales figures 22 percent above those for fiscal year 2005. Books by the region's best and brightest authors – from Pulitzer Prize-nominated historian Joan Jensen's "Calling this Place Home: Women on the Wisconsin Frontier," to longtime Star Tribune columnist Kim Ode's "Baking with the St. Paul Bread Club," to literary greats such as Jon Hassler, who co-authored "Churches of Minnesota" with photographer Doug Ohman – garnered numerous accolades, including Minnesota Book Awards for "A Northern Front: New and Selected Essays" and "Wanda Gág: Storybook Artist."
THRIVING MINNEAPOLIS RIVERFRONT ADDS TO MILL CITY MUSEUM'S APPEAL	This year, the pioneering Mill City Museum was joined on the Minneapolis riverfront by the stunning new Guthrie Theater, bringing a whole new audience to the museum. The Society welcomed its new neighbor with a display on the more than 43-year history of the world-renowned theater and comments by Society Director Nina Archabal and Guthrie Artistic Director Joe Dowling. Mill City Live, the museum's hugely popular outdoor music series, doubled its attendance over the previous year with an average of 750 people – many of whom experienced the museum for the first time – at its Thursday evening concerts.
NEW LIBRARY SERVICES CAUSE USE TO SOAR	The library continued to offer a growing array of services to researchers from around the world. The Veterans Graves Registration online index debuted in November. Subscription to Ancestry Library Edition – a tremendous resource for researchers and staff alike – also became available to researchers in the library. Dakota people from Minnesota and throughout the Upper Midwest have been assisted in their family research by "Researching Dakota Family History at the Minnesota Historical Society" – available as a booklet or in a lengthier version online – produced by the library staff. A valuable new digital resource, Hubert Humphrey's 1948 civil rights speech, also has been made available. At the time, Humphrey was a little-known Minneapolis mayor, but his fiery eight-minute speech to the Democratic National Convention roused delegates to vote in support a civil rights platform. Along with the audio excerpt, researchers can see a hand-annotated draft of Humphrey's speech and a film clip from the convention.

#### SOCIETY LISTS 10 PROPERTIES TO NATIONAL REGISTER, AWARDS THOUSANDS IN GRANTS

Ten properties were added to the National Register: New Ulm Commercial Historic District, New Ulm; Milwaukee Elevator, Preston; Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Minneapolis; Sears, Roebuck and Company Mail-Order Warehouse and Retail Store, Minneapolis; Isabella Ranger Station, Isabella Township; Canadian National Railways Depot, Baudette; Our Lady of Angels Academy, Little Falls; 4-H Club Building, Murray County Fairgrounds, Slayton; Little Falls and Dakota Depot, Starbuck; Duluth Commercial Historic District, Duluth. The Rabideau CCC Camp in Chippewa National Forest was designated a National Historic Landmark. Nineteen State Grants-in-Aid were awarded a total of \$58,000; 30 projects were awarded \$1,012,000 in Capital Grants-in-Aid; and \$68,080 in Federal Certified Local Government Grants was awarded to nine projects. The 26th annual statewide historic preservation conference was held in Duluth. The conference, which included the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's annual awards at Glensheen, enjoyed a second year of recordbreaking attendance.

#### HISTORIC FORT SNELLING RESTORATION, EXPANSION ON TRACK

On May 21, the Minnesota Legislature completed its legislative session, with good news for the Society – the passage of a capital budget including funds set aside for the restoration of buildings at Historic Fort Snelling, one of the state's most treasured historic sites. Work has begun on restoring porches, replacing roofs and moving the flagpole to its historically accurate location on the parade ground. The legislature also appropriated \$1,100,000 for the design of an exciting new Historic Fort Snelling Museum. With these funds, the Society can begin the process of the construction of a modern museum and visitor center at the fort in currently unused historic buildings that are a part of the Fort Snelling National Historic Landmark

#### SOCIETY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENT VOLUNTEERS, CONTINUES DOMINANCE AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

The Society's Student Volunteer Scholarship Program recognizes the volunteer contributions that high school students make to the Society by awarding two graduating seniors \$1,000 scholarships. This year's winners were Caitlin Loehr, a graduate of Eagan High School who is attending George Washington University, and Andrew Rizzardi, a graduate of White Bear Lake High School who is attending the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Students from Minnesota were honored with first-place, second-place and Outstanding Women's History prizes at the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in June. Several others placed in the top 15 in their categories. In all, 53 young Minnesota historians were among 2,000 finalists in the competition. National History Day in Minnesota is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota Department of History.

#### **Fiscal Year 2006 Financial Highlights**

The Society received \$22.8 million in operating support from the State of Minnesota in fiscal year 2006. This represents an increase of \$1.2 million from the prior fiscal year.

In 2006, the Legislature returned to its twoyear cycle of providing capital appropriation support for historic site asset preservation projects, Historic Fort Snelling revitalization and county and local Historic Preservation Grants, providing \$5.7 million in funding.

Contributions from the Society's members, friends, corporations and foundations totaled \$4.8 million, up \$1.2 million from fiscal year 2005. This increase is a result of contributions in support of Minnesota's Greatest Generation project.

Total non-investment operating revenues increased an average of 6.4% over the previous fiscal year, with increases in every category of revenue, except for admissions and auxiliary services, which were down slightly.

Fiscal year 2006 was the first full year of the Society charging an admission fee at the History Center, which resulted in approximately \$319,000 in admission revenue and \$101,000 of membership revenue for 1,710 memberships.

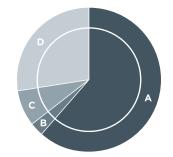
Investment return for fiscal year 2006 is down \$1 million from the prior year and is due primarily to the downturn in the market prior to the end of the fiscal year. This decrease is reflected in the change in unrealized gain (loss) on investment from \$8.3 million at June 30, 2005, to \$7.5 million at June 30, 2006.

Total expenses for fiscal year 2006 were \$40.6 million, up \$1.3 million from the prior year and related to purchased services and buildings and improvements. A total of 51.8% (\$21 million) of the Society's expenses for the fiscal year was for salaries and benefits, compared to 53.2% (\$20.9 million) for fiscal year 2005.

More than 1,500 volunteers contributed a record 47,000 plus volunteer hours across the state.

The Society's investments, at market value, increased 8.1% to \$31.4 million during fiscal year 2006. This increase reflects the net of new endowment gifts and investment return.

In June 2005, the Society deaccessioned the Le Duc House to the City of Hastings. As part of the deaccession agreement, the Society transferred \$604,000 of net assets held for endowment and repairs and maintenance of the Le Duc House. In fiscal year 2006 the Society transferred the residual endowment balance of \$2,819 to the City of Hastings.



#### Sources of Support and Revenue

Α	State	Appropriations	61.4%

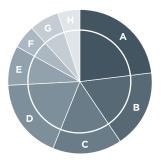
27%

в	Federal,	Stato	and
D	reuerai,	State	anu

County	Grants	

C Support from Individuals,	
Corporations	
and Foundations	10.4%

D	Earned Income	25.5%



#### Percentage of Expenses by Program Area

A Historic Sites	23.5%
B Library, Collections and Archival Services	17.9%
<b>C</b> Museum Operations	15.2%
D Administration, Developmen Support and Technology	t, 17.7%
E History Center	8.1%
F Outreach and Preservation	5.1%
G Mill City Museum	7.4%
H Publications and Research	5.1%

Condensed Balance Sheet Year ended June 30, 2006 (000's omitted) With summarized information as of June 30, 2005

	Undesignated	Unrestricted	Board		y restricted	Permanently restricted	То	tal
	Unrestricted Funds	Plant fund	designated endowment	State appropriations	Other		2006	2005
Cash and investments Receivables Museum shop inventories Property and equipment net	\$2,805 2,442 989	\$89,860	\$13,465	\$3,662 11,568	\$ 7,534 1,439	\$16,622 2,066	\$44,088 17,515 989 89,860	\$ 40,866 12,207 888 90,345
Total assets	\$6,236	\$89,860	\$13,465	\$15,230	\$8,973	\$18,688	\$152,452	\$144,306
Payables and accrued liabilities Net assets: Unrestricted Temporarily restricted Permanently restricted	\$ 953 5,283	\$89,860	\$51 13,414	\$ 3,080 12,150	\$ 760 8,213	\$ 374	\$5,218 108,557 20,363 18,314	\$ 2,764 108,209 16,956 16,377
Total net assets	5,283	89,860	13,414	12,150	8,213	18,314	147,234	141,542
Total liabilities and net assets	\$6,236	\$89,860	\$13,465	\$15,230	\$8,973	\$18,688	\$152,452	\$144,306

These statements are excerpts from the Society's audited financial statements, which are available upon request.

	Undesignated	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted		Permanently restricted	Total		
	Unrestricted Funds	Plant fund	designated endowment	State appropriations	Other		2006	200
Support and revenue:								
Support:								
Private contributions	\$ 1,188				\$ 2,047	\$ 1,591	\$ 4,826	\$ 3,597
Federal grants					1,242 1		1,242	1,290
County and other grants State operating appropriations				\$22,845	1		1 22,845	156 21,556
State capital appropriation				5,572			5,572	5,928
Total support	1,188	0	0	28,417	3,290	1,591	34,486	32,527
Revenue:								
Admission fees	1,977						1,977	1,984
Museum store sales	1,770						1,770	1,705
Membership	904						904	842
Publication sales Program fees	1,743 492						1,743 492	1,508 385
Contract service fees	492 860						860	819
Digital product fees	412						412	384
Investment return	1,099		472		605	346	2,522	3,466
Auxiliary services	780						780	830
Other sales and fees Total revenue	362 10,399	0	472	0	605	346	362 11,822	283 12,206
Total support and revenue	10,399	0	472	28,417	3,895	1,937	46,308	44,733
			472	20,417		1,337	+0,500	44,750
Net assets released from program restrictions	27,931	\$ 971		(23,524)	(5,378)			
Total support, revenue and net assets released from program restrictions	39,518	971	472	4,893	(1,483)	1,937	46,308	44,733
Expenses:								
Program services:								
Library collections and archival services	7,059	224					7,283	6,932
Publications	2,064	9					2,073	1,936
Museum operations, exhibits and education Historic sites	5,994 9,250	176 274					6,170 9,524	6,043 9,108
Outreach and preservation	2,076	6					2.082	2,11
Mill City Museum	2,504	486					2,989	2,596
History Center	3,023	267					3,290	3,418
Total program services	31,970	1,441	0	0	0	0	33,411	32,144
Supporting services:								
Management and general Development and membership	6,213 974	14					6,227 975	6,352 831
Total supporting services	7,187	15	0	0	0	0	7,202	7,183
Total program services	39,157	1,456	0	0	0	0	40,613	39,327
Increase (decrease) in								
net assets before reclassification and transfers	361	(485)	472	4,893	(1,483)	1,937	5,695	5,406
Reclassification of net assets	(1,000)		1,000					
Transfers Total reclassification and transfers	(1,000)		1,000		(3) (3)		(3) (3)	(604 (604
Changes in net assets			=				]	
Jnrestricted	(639)	(485)	1,472	4 007	(1.400)		348	62
Temporarily Restricted Permanently Restricted				4,893	(1,486)	1,937	3,407 1,937	2,012 2,165
Net change in net assets	(639)	(485)	1,472	4,893	(1,486)	1,937	5,692	4,80
Net assets at beginning of year	5,922	90,345	11,942	7,257	9,699	16,377	141,542	136,740
Net assets at end of year	\$ 5,283	\$89,860	\$13,414	\$ 12,150	\$8,213	\$18,314	\$147,234	\$141,54

#### DONORS

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the people of Minnesota who, through appropriations made by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, have supported the Society in its mission. The special support of our members and friends named in the following lists is critical to maintaining excellence in our programs and services, and we use this opportunity to give special recognition and thanks to all who have contributed. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed, please contact the Development Office at 651-205-4047 or 1-888-293-4440.

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The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the leadership support of the following North Star Circle members who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. Thanks to the commitment and generosity of these donors, the Society continues to offer quality programs and services that engage the public and offer new perspectives on Minnesota history. For information on the North Star Circle, please contact Jackie Maas at 651-284-4801 or jackie.maas@mnhs.org.

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