

In 1849, a group of history enthusiasts were working to create an organization to preserve the story of their changing times – and they were rewarded when the Minnesota Territorial Legislature granted an organizational charter to the Minnesota Historical Society – nine years before Minnesota became a state. As the state of Minnesota celebrates its 150th birthday, we honor the legacy of our founders who believed that their dreams for Minnesota’s future depended on preserving the knowledge of Minnesota’s past. Over the course of the Society’s history, an ever-broadening audience of Minnesotans has joined in recording and preserving their history. Collectively, we draw strength and knowledge from their stories. Together, we have built a strong Minnesota Historical Society that stands ready to serve the people of our state for the next 150 years and beyond.

Edward Stringer, President, Minnesota Historical Society

As Minnesotans look forward to celebrating the state's Sesquicentennial, we at the Society can look back over more than 158 years of serving the state – and ahead to the promise of fulfilling our mission on a wider scale than ever imagined.

The Society's impact is expanding – owing in part to the once unimaginable reach of the Internet. Millions of people at home and around the world have benefited from the ability to explore history in depth in new and exciting ways. Yet, our day-to-day personal interaction with visitors in the real places where history happened has also grown. The awareness of our programs, educational opportunities, historic sites, collections and exhibitions has increased.

This year, our Minnesota's Greatest Generation project reached new heights, with the Society continuing its commitment to gather and preserve the stories and treasures of the generation that experienced the Great Depression and World War II and went on to create the world as we know it today. The project's web site received nearly 200,000 visitors interested in personal stories, oral histories, diaries, photographs and artifacts relating to the era. For those who came to the History Center to attend our programs – from the Moving Pictures Film Festival to the exciting "RetroRama" – there was something for everyone.

Building on the power of the Internet, the Society began work supported by a grant of nearly a million dollars from The Bush Foundation, which will enable the Society to provide greatly expanded access to our programs and collections. When fully developed, this initiative will provide access to collections not only held by the Society, but also by Minnesota's county and local historical organizations, the historical societies of North and South Dakota, and even repositories in Canada.

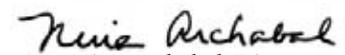
The Society's reach to new audiences is also evident in the work of the Minnesota Historical Society Press. This year the press published 29 new titles and sold 142,000 books, more than ever before in our history.

The Society is actively engaged in the commemoration of Minnesota's 150th birthday in 2008. The innovative "MN150" exhibit, created from nominations from people around the state, identifies the 150 people, places and things that shaped Minnesota. The exhibit promises to be one of the largest and most imaginative Sesquicentennial projects. The Society is also supporting the work of the state's Sesquicentennial Commission, comprised of legislative and gubernatorial appointees charged in statute "to plan for activities relating to Minnesota's 150th anniversary of statehood."

Looking forward, the Society is committed to expanding its services and program at Historic Fort Snelling, the state's preeminent historic site and first National Historic Landmark. The effort will broaden the stories told at the fort to extend from the presence of native people in the area long before the fort was established in 1825, to the end of World War II when it was decommissioned. We shall look to our state's elected leaders and to you, our members, to help us to realize an exciting new program at Historic Fort Snelling.

The Society's work preserving and caring for our state's history creates a complex and wonderful picture of Minnesota that is broadly inclusive, including the newest arrivals to Minnesota, as well as those whose ancestors have lived here for centuries. There is room for all in the story of our Minnesota.

We thank you for your support and look forward to providing ever better service and programs for our members and friends – in Minnesota and everywhere in the world.


Nina Archabal, Director

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

**'BASEBALL AS AMERICA' KNOCKS ONE
OUT OF THE PARK!**

"Baseball As America," an exhibit from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., attracted a record audience of more than 60,000 visitors to the History Center in just over a three-month stay. The exhibit included more than 500 artifacts, historic photographs and other memorabilia. It was accompanied by an exhibition of baseball photos from the Star Tribune and a display of baseball artifacts from the Society's own collection. Hundreds of Society members and other baseball fans attended an opening party featuring Hall of Famers Harmon Killebrew, Ryne Sandberg and Paul Molitor as well as other former Twins greats.

**HILL SAPPHIRE MAKES HISTORY;
FAMILIES' GIFTS SUPPORT ENDOWMENT,
PROGRAM**

Proceeds from the record-breaking sale of a 22.66-carat sapphire for \$3.064 million at Christie's New York in April supported an endowment fund for the Society's historic James J. Hill House in St. Paul. The sapphire – originally part of a sapphire and diamond necklace given by "Empire Builder" James J. Hill to his wife, Mary, in 1886 – was given to the Society at the bequest of a descendant of the Hills. The donation is among the largest received by the Society. The Hill House also received a special gift from the descendants of Lena Peterson, a Swedish immigrant who served as the Hills' head cook and is featured prominently in the historic site's annual "Hill House Holidays" tours, and Herman Olson, a worker on the construction of the nearby Cathedral of St. Paul. The gift will help keep the stories of all the house's residents – both "upstairs" and "downstairs" – alive for future generations.

**SOCIETY'S AUDIENCES CONTINUE
TO GROW AT HOME AND AROUND
THE WORLD**

Visits to the Society's web site continued to grow by leaps and bounds, this year reaching an incredible 8.6 million – a 33-percent increase over the previous year. The library continued to meet the burgeoning demand for online services providing 11,717 death certificates, 4,256 birth certificates and 9,945 photo orders. While use of the Internet continued to be a growing part of everyday life, the authentic experiences provided by the Society's museums, historic sites and library attracted nearly a million people, including nearly 250,000 schoolchildren, a 11-percent increase over 2006. Sales increased more than 14 percent at the History Center's Museum Stores. Revenues from all these sources was nearly \$400,000, almost 15 percent more than the previous year. And membership grew to an all-time high of 19,272 households. In August, the Society received a grant of \$999,709 from the Bush Foundation to increase public access to the area's cultural heritage resources and upgrade its technology infrastructure. Over three years, the grant will transform the management of the Society's collections and delivery of this content to users across Minnesota, the Upper Midwest and around the world through our web site.

**'CAMERA OJIBWE' OFFERS UNIQUE
GLIMPSE INTO AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE
AND CULTURE; CHANGING EXHIBITS
DRAW DIVERSE AUDIENCES**

“Camera Ojibwe: Photos of Ojibwe Life” gave visitors a new perspective on Minnesota’s American Indian history. Images of leaders wearing headdresses and holding pipes, birch bark canoes, wild ricing and maple sugaring in postcards, stereographs and “carte de visites” provided clues to stories of survival and endurance by Indian people from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. The exhibit, based on the MHS Press book “We Are At Home: Pictures of the Ojibwe People,” by Bruce White, was just one of the changing exhibits that brought new audiences to the History Center, including “Red Wing Retro: Extraordinary Pottery, Everyday Life,” a fascinating look at a signature Minnesota company that was once the largest pottery manufacturer in the country, and “Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust,” the remarkable stories of the Nazis’ most vulnerable victims – Jewish children – and the individuals who risked their lives trying to save them. The exhibit was the second of two traveling exhibitions, sponsored by Target, to come to the History Center from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

**MINNESOTA'S GREATEST GENERATION
FILM FESTIVAL, WEB PRESENCE AND
PUBLIC PROGRAMS KEEP IMPORTANT
PROJECT FRONT AND CENTER**

Minneapolis filmmaker and teacher Freya Schirmacher and her film “A Satisfied Life: The Legacy of Ted Wryk” won best film honors at the Society’s Moving Pictures Film Festival, held at the History Center in October. Thirty short films that explored the lives and legacies of Minnesota’s Greatest Generation were entered in the competition and screened at the festival, attended by more than 500 people. The Share Your Story section of the project’s web site, which won a DotOrg award from the Minnesota Council for Nonprofits for “Best Storytelling for the Ages,” has logged 560 stories and 117,500 readers since its debut in 2005. The Society also launched “RetroRama,” a continuing series that featured an unconventional look at the music, culture, fashions and foibles of the post-war economic boom years. “Preserving Family History” workshops, helping people protect and preserve treasured personal items, were offered in 22 locations around the state.

**KEVIN KLING FILM TAKES MILL CITY MUSEUM
VISITORS ON A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF
'MINNEAPOLIS IN 19 MINUTES FLAT'**

Humorist and playwright Kevin Kling’s look at his hometown is a quirky, informative history of the city, from the fateful arrival of Father Louis Hennepin more than three centuries ago, through the rise of St. Anthony as a lumbering and flour milling center, to Minneapolis’ current status as a vibrant, modern city. The film is shown in Mill City Museum’s renovated West Engine House, a theater space with a state-of-the-art projection and sound system. “Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat” was an instant hit, attracting full houses and providing another signature experience for visitors.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

OUTREACH PROGRAMS REACH DIVERSE AUDIENCES

As part of a long-range plan to strengthen relationships with nearby neighborhoods and to increase access to its resources for St. Paul schools, the Society launched the East Side Neighborhood Access Initiative which gives fourth-grade students from the neighborhood featured in the “Open House” exhibit an opportunity to visit the History Center and participate in museum programs designed specifically for them. In another unique program, the Society created “Minnesota’s Greatest Girls,” a filmmaking collaboration between young filmmakers and senior women that allowed the participants to explore the stages of their lives through conversation and shared activities. And, “Generations: A Summer Camp” brought together Hmong students and members of Minnesota’s Greatest Generation to foster intergenerational and intercultural dialogue creating artwork reflecting their shared experiences.

HUGGINS PAPERS TOP A BIG YEAR FOR COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS

Due to the generosity of more than 40 donors, the Society acquired a rare collection of items created from the 1830s to the 1860s by missionary Alexander Huggins and his family. In 1835, Huggins and Thomas Williamson organized the Dakota mission at Lac qui Parle. A diary kept by Huggins, one of the items in the collection, offers a glimpse into lives of the Dakota. Also included are a diary kept by Huggins’ son Amos; his daughter Mary’s autograph book; three “carte de visite” albums; and 12 daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes of the missionaries’ families. Other notable acquisitions among the 1,752 items added to the collections include a set of six sketches for the “Battle of Missionary Ridge” painting in the Governor’s Reception Room, by Douglas Volk; “Flight,” a 1980 sculpture by noted Minnesota artist Paul Granlund, a gift of Rev. Richard Hillstrom; and a portrait of Mary T. Hill that originally hung over a fireplace at the Hill House, a gift of the Ffolliott family in memory of Gertrude Hill Boeckmann Ffolliott.

MHS PRESS HAS ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

MHS Press continued to expand the variety of its offerings with a record 28 titles ranging from books about Minnesota’s lakes and cabins to memoirs to books on the state’s literature, climate, sports and cuisine. Titles include “Where One Voice Ends Another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry,” the first comprehensive survey of Minnesota poetry; “Sweet Land,” a collection of short stories by Will Weaver that inspired an award-winning motion picture; and “The AIA Guide to the Twin Cities: The Essential Source of the Architecture of Minneapolis and St. Paul,” by Larry Millett, which details scores of neighborhoods and more than 2,000 buildings. The year’s bestseller was “Hot Dish Heaven” by Ann Burckhardt.

**EXPANDED MARKETING RESOURCES
INCREASE ATTENDANCE AND AWARENESS**

A new marketing committee, including community leaders in the field and representatives from the Society's board, provided increased funding for marketing initiatives, resulting in heightened attendance and awareness. The popular, family-friendly "Ticket to History" program brought hundreds of new visitors to historic sites, many purchasing family memberships. Increased advertising, backed by strong media sponsorships and unprecedented news coverage, also helped drive attendance. A new Mill City Museum advertising campaign positioning the venue as the "Most Explosive Museum in the World" helped increase attendance by 35 percent. Split Rock Lighthouse, Oliver Kelley Farm, Alexander Ramsey House and the History Center also saw strong increases spurred by marketing and programming. Seven sites offered free admission through the Museum Adventure Pass, sponsored by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency and Macy's, which introduced the Society to many first-time visitors.

**HISTORIC FORT SNELLING AND
OLIVER KELLEY FARM PLAN FOR FUTURE**

The State Legislature will consider a funding request of \$24.8 million from the Society during the 2008 session for the planned restoration and revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling, the first National Historic Landmark designated in Minnesota in 1960. Plans include a new visitor center designed by award-winning architect Joan Soranno, the preservation of historic buildings, the creation of classrooms and restrooms within the walls of the fort in order to better serve schoolchildren, and an expansion of the site's interpretive program. The site's rich history will be told through new and familiar stories, ranging from topics related to the Dakota prior to the 1800s, through the Territorial period, the Civil War, the U.S.-Dakota War, World War II and beyond. The Society also engaged in creating a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the Oliver Kelley Farm, involving stakeholders from several communities. Aimed at enhancing the visitor's experience at the farm, plans include designing a new, modern visitor center and expanded programming relevant to today's audiences.

**SOCIETY NAMES 11 PROPERTIES TO
NATIONAL REGISTER, AWARDS \$946,472
IN GRANTS**

Eleven Minnesota properties were added to the National Register: Henry C. Oldenburg House, Carlton; Holz Family Farmstead, Eagan; Hagel Family Farm, Hassan Township; Willmar Tribune Building, Willmar; Commerce Building, St. Paul; Payne Avenue State Bank, St. Paul; Walnut Grove Cooperative Creamery, Walnut Grove; Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District, Breitung Township; Hewitt Public School, Hewitt; Dr. George R. Christie House, Long Prairie; and Strangers Refugee Lodge, New Richland. Twenty-three State Grants-in-Aid were awarded for a total of \$58,000; 40 State Capital Grants-in-Aid were awarded for a total of \$822,499; and five cities were awarded \$66,973 for project grants.

Fiscal Year 2007 Financial Highlights

The Society received \$22.9 million in operating support from the State of Minnesota in fiscal year 2007, substantially unchanged from fiscal year 2006. In 2006, the Legislature returned to its two-year cycle of providing capital appropriation support for historic site asset preservation projects and the Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization, providing \$5.7 million in funding. Fiscal year 2007 was a non-funding year for capital appropriation.

Contributions from members, friends, corporations and foundations totaled \$8.6 million, up \$3.8 million from fiscal year 2006. This increase is a result of continued contributions in support of the Minnesota's Greatest Generation project and MN150, as well as proceeds from the sale of a sapphire in support of the James J. Hill House.

Total non-investment operating revenues increased an average of 5.3% over the previous fiscal year, with increases in almost every category of revenue. The "Baseball As America" exhibit was a driving force in many of the revenue categories in fiscal 2007.

Fiscal year 2007 was the second full year of the Society charging for admission at the History Center, which resulted in approximately \$339,000 in admission fees, up \$20,000 over 2006, and \$101,000 in membership revenue for 1,782 memberships.

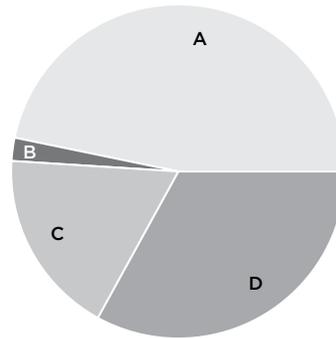
Investment return for fiscal year 2007, of \$6.6 million, is up \$4.1 million from the prior year due primarily to increased endowment gifts and improved investment results. The return for fiscal year 2007 was approximately 17.5%.

Total expenses for fiscal year 2007 were \$44.7 million, up \$4.1 million from the prior year and related primarily to repairs to historic sites (\$1.0 million), professional and technical services (\$1.0 million), equipment (\$0.3 million), and grants to cities & counties (\$0.3 million).

Salaries and benefits increased 4.9% in fiscal 2007 and comprised 49.3% (\$22.0 million) of the Society's total expenses for the year, compared to 51.8% (\$21.0 million) for fiscal 2006.

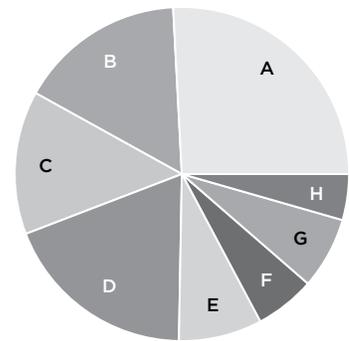
The Society's investments, at market value, increased 25%, or \$7.9 million, to \$39.4 million during fiscal year 2007. This increase reflects \$4.0 million in new endowment gifts and improved investment return.

1,742 volunteers contributed more than 40,460 volunteer hours across the state.



Sources of Support and Revenue:

- A State Appropriations 46.8%
- B Federal, State & County Grants 2.2%
- C Support from Individuals, Corporations and Foundations 17.6%
- D Earned Income 33.5%
- E History Center 0.9%



Percentage of Expenses by Program Area:

- A Historic Sites 26.1%
- B Library Collections and Archival Services 16.3%
- C Museum Operations 14.1%
- D Administration, Development, Support and Technology 18.9%
- E History Center 18.9%
- F Outreach and Preservation 5.6%
- G Mill City Museum 6.5%
- H Publications and Research 4.9%

Condensed Balance Sheet Year ended June 30, 2007

(000's) omitted With summarized information as of June 30, 2006

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated unrestricted funds	Plant fund	Board designated endowment	State appropriation	Other		2007	2006
Cash and investments	\$ 3,903		\$ 15,976	\$ 2,929	\$ 10,815	\$ 19,993	\$ 53,616	\$ 44,088
Receivables	2,272			7,208	1,543	1,664	12,687	17,515
Museum shop inventories	959						959	989
Property and equipment net		\$ 89,546					89,546	89,860
Total assets	\$ 7,134	\$ 89,546	\$ 15,976	\$ 10,137	\$ 12,358	\$ 21,657	\$ 156,808	\$ 152,452
Payables and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,630		\$ 79	\$ 2,756	\$ 434	\$ 385	\$ 5,284	\$ 5,218
Net assets:								
Unrestricted	5,504	\$ 89,546	15,897				110,947	108,557
Temporarily restricted				7,381	11,924		19,305	20,363
Permanently restricted						21,272	21,272	18,314
Total net assets	5,504	89,546	15,897	7,381	11,924	21,272	151,524	147,234
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 7,134	\$ 89,546	\$ 15,976	\$ 10,137	\$ 12,358	\$ 21,657	\$ 156,808	\$ 152,452

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

Statement of Activity Year ended June 30, 2007

(000's) omitted With summarized information as of June 30, 2006

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated unrestricted funds	Plant fund	Board designated endowment	State appropriation	Other		2007	2006
SUPPORT AND REVENUE								
Support:								
Private contributions	\$ 1,062				\$ 6,493	\$ 1,044	\$ 8,599	\$ 4,826
Federal grants					549		549	1,242
County and other grants					511		511	1
State operating appropriation				\$ 22,904			22,904	22,845
State capital appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,572
Total support	\$ 1,062	-	-	\$ 22,904	\$ 7,553	\$ 1,044	\$ 32,563	\$ 34,486
Revenue:								
Admissions fees	\$ 2,111						\$ 2,111	\$ 1,977
Museum Store sales	1,952						1,952	1,770
Membership	950						950	904
Publication sales	1,717						1,717	1,743
Program fees	648						648	492
Contract service fees	764						764	860
Digital product fees	427						427	412
Investment return	1,233		\$ 2,503		\$ 993	\$ 1,894	6,623	2,522
Auxiliary services	866						866	780
Other sales and fees	356	-	-	-	-	-	356	362
Total revenue	\$ 11,024	-	\$ 2,503	-	\$ 993	\$ 1,894	\$ 16,414	\$ 11,822
Total support and revenue	\$ 12,086	-	\$ 2,503	\$ 22,904	\$ 8,546	\$ 2,938	\$ 48,977	\$ 46,308
Net assets released from program restrictions	31,401	\$ 1,107	-	(27,673)	(4,835)	-	-	-
Total support, revenue and net assets released from program restrictions	\$ 43,487	\$ 1,107	\$ 2,503	\$ (4,769)	\$ 3,711	\$ 2,938	\$ 48,977	\$ 46,308
EXPENSES:								
Program services:								
Library collections & archival services	\$ 7,080	\$ 193					\$ 7,273	\$ 7,283
Publications	2,184	8					2,192	2,073
Museum operations, exhibits & education	6,163	152					6,315	6,170
Historic sites	11,383	273					11,656	9,524
Outreach and preservation	2,484	5					2,489	2,082
Mill City Museum	2,388	496					2,884	2,989
History Center	3,155	281	-	-	-	-	3,436	3,290
Total program services	\$ 34,837	\$ 1,408	-	-	-	-	\$ 36,245	\$ 33,411
Supporting Services:								
Management and general	\$ 7,256	\$ 12	-	-	-	-	\$ 7,268	\$ 6,227
Development	1,173	1	-	-	-	-	1,174	975
Total supporting services	\$ 8,429	\$ 13	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,442	\$ 7,202
Total program services	\$ 43,266	\$ 1,421	-	-	-	-	\$ 44,687	\$ 40,613
Increase (decrease) in net assets before reclassifications and transfers	221	(314)	2,503	(4,769)	3,711	2,938	4,290	5,406
Reclassifications and transfers	-	-	(20)	-	-	20	-	(3)
Total reclassifications and transfers	-	-	\$ (20)	-	-	\$ 20	-	\$ (3)
Changes in net assets:								
Unrestricted	\$ 221	\$ (314)	\$ 2,483				\$ 2,390	\$ 348
Temporarily restricted				\$ (4,769)	\$ 3,711		(1,058)	3,407
Permanently restricted						\$ 2,958	2,958	1,937
Net changes in net assets	221	(314)	2,483	(4,769)	3,711	2,958	4,290	5,692
Net assets at beginning of year	5,283	89,860	13,414	12,150	8,213	18,314	147,234	141,542
Net assets at end of year	\$ 5,504	\$ 89,546	\$ 15,897	\$ 7,381	\$ 11,924	\$ 21,272	\$ 151,524	\$ 147,234

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. The Society is grateful to everyone who has given their financial support, and we use this opportunity to give special recognition and thanks to those who have contributed \$250 or more.



NORTH STAR CIRCLE

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.

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*The Society has undertaken a \$6 million initiative to collect, preserve, and tell the stories of the men and women who experienced the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-war Boom years. This multi-faceted project will culminate with a major exhibition *Our Lives; Our Stories: Minnesota's Greatest Generation* opening in 2009. We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their generous support of this project:*

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