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stepping stones

bridging the distance

between then and now

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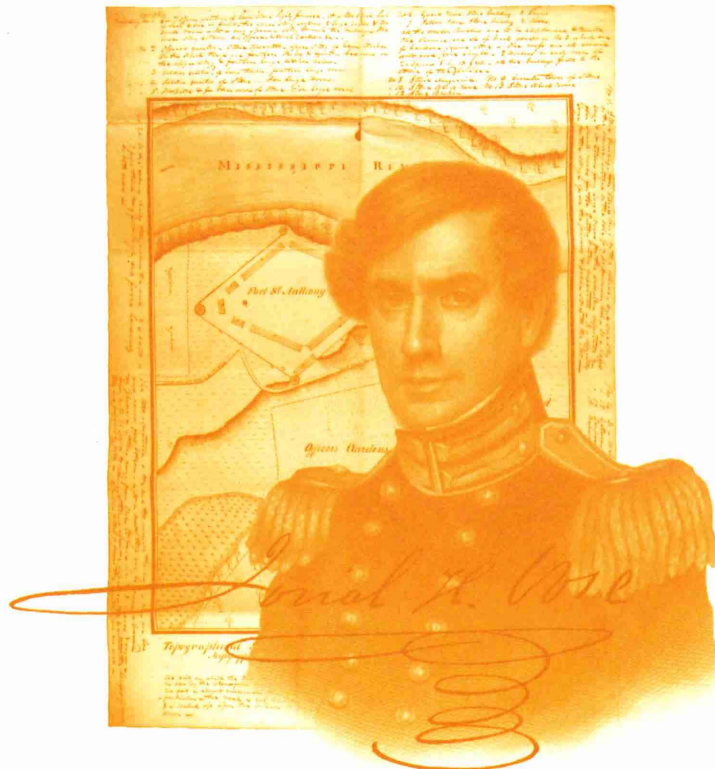
Minnesota Historical Society 1997 Annual Report



like stepping stones across time...

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Stories are the heart of Minnesota's history. They are the enduring memories that call the past to life, bridging the distance between then and now.... As Minnesota's institution of memory, the Minnesota Historical Society cares for the stories of the past, making them available to people now and in the years to come.



MAP FACT

Back in 1823, before Minnesota was a state, Major Josiah H. Vose asked Sergeant Joseph E. Heckle to draw a map of Fort St. Anthony (now Fort Snelling). Vose then penned extensive notes in the margins, detailing the fort and surrounding area.

Home is a place where families and friends are welcomed to gather, take comfort, and listen to stories that become their common voyage of discovery and give them a sense of the human perspective of history. I have found that these stories often inspire and challenge, become a source of strength, and celebrate the passage of time.

The Minnesota Historical Society is like a gathering at the homeplace of history where it happened. At our 23 sites throughout the state, and at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, the Minnesota family gathers to rest, reflect, hear the stories and tell some, too, and celebrate the whole community of our state.

There are many stories to be told by the Minnesota Historical Society's family this year, to be sure. As your President, I say thank you — to our members for their continuing support; to our donors who brought extraordinary gifts for our educational efforts, for our collections and for the long-term work of the Society; and to the volunteers who gave the gift of their time.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the excellent staff of the Society who, in addition to working with more than one million visitors, helped develop rescue efforts for people affected by the floods of 1997 — people who would otherwise have lost their personal history as well as community history.

My story of gratitude extends to the members of the Executive Council for their thoughtful guidance and devotion to governing the Society; to Governor Arne Carlson and the members and leadership of the Minnesota Legislature for their ongoing support of the Society's work around the state; and to Nina Archabal, our Executive Director, whose ten years of superb leadership at the Minnesota Historical Society will be a remarkable story for generations to come.



Karen Humphrey, President

Karen A. Humphrey

Stories are the heart of Minnesota's history. They are the enduring memories that call the past to life, bridging the distance between then and now. The stories of human life in Minnesota "form stepping stones across...the river of time," declared territorial governor Alexander Ramsey, first president of the Minnesota Historical Society. Founded in 1849 to save and pass on the stories of Minnesota's people, the Society performs its mission today through wide-ranging educational programs

extending to the borders of our state and beyond. The Society's work itself is a story of ever-broadening relationships with the people and communities we serve, and with organizations across the state.



Nina M. Archabal, Director

In 1997, more than 1.5 million people explored and enjoyed Minnesota history at the Society's History Center and historic sites, and through its programs in local communities and schools. Unprecedented numbers of people learned about our organization and its services through access to the Minnesota Historical Society's home page on the World Wide Web. Our 1997 annual report recounts the year's top stories in the major areas of our work — the History Center museum, collections, historic sites, publications and statewide programs. Thanks to the outstanding dedication and support of the Society's family of Executive Council members, staff, volunteers, interns and our more than 14,000 members, the year has been a story of success.

Underlying all of our efforts to engage people in history during the past year was the conviction that Minnesota's history belongs to Minnesota's people. To further public participation in history, the Society in 1997 adopted a new five-year plan

designed to guide our work into the next century. Our major goals are to reach more people across the state, expand our service to Minnesota's schools, and strengthen our statewide historic sites network. These efforts should provide greater opportunities for all Minnesotans to develop a sense of ownership in their history.

The Society's activities this past year tell a story of working with others. In the following pages you will learn about our many cooperative efforts to preserve and further the cause of history in communities throughout the state. Our thanks and appreciation go out to all of the valued friends who worked with us during the year — donors, legislators, colleagues from historical and educational organizations, and many others. Certainly, a stirring example of partnership came about in response to the year's devastating floods, as the Society joined forces with local historical organizations and the media to bring much-needed information and assistance to flood victims as they salvaged treasured family heirlooms, photographs, letters and other items that connected their lives to the past.

As Minnesota's institution of memory, the Minnesota Historical Society cares for the stories of the past, making them available to people now and in the years to come. In looking ahead, the Society pledges its continuing efforts to be a creative and dynamic institution, working with Minnesota's people to preserve and tell the stories that move us from the past to the world of the imagination where we can envision the future. History's stepping stones across time — our Minnesota memories — will be our guide along the way.

Nina M. Archabal



MAP FACT

In 1997, almost two centuries later, a Connecticut document dealer phoned Society members John and Lee Driscoll of St. Paul about the map found in Major Vose's family papers. The Driscolls knew the map was important to Minnesota's history, and they donated funds to the Society to purchase the map for its collections.

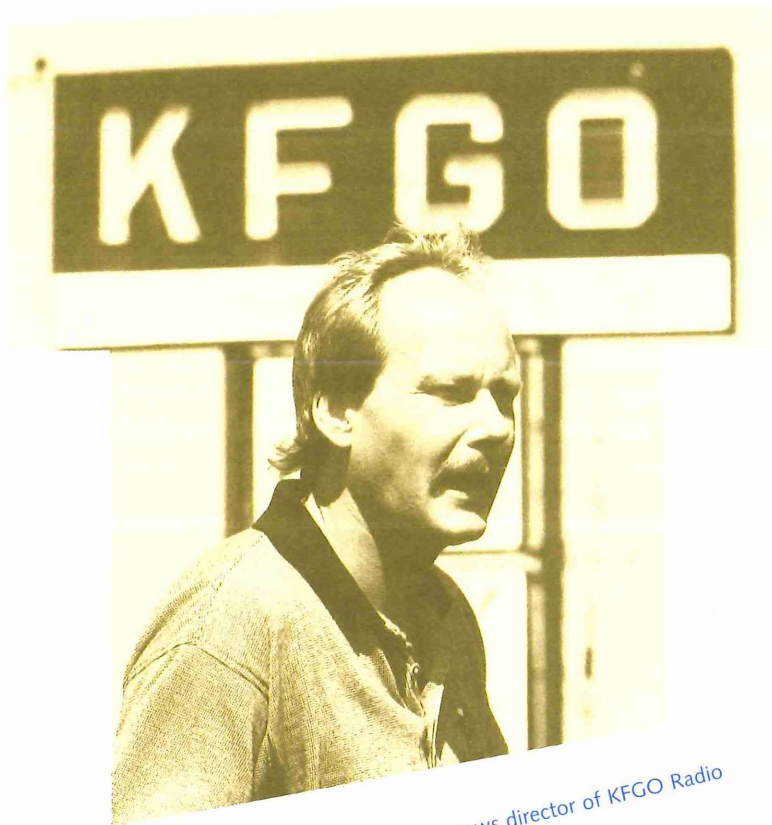
History is happening every day, and the Red River Valley Flood of 1997 was an extraordinary event in the lives of Upper Midwesterners. The tragedy was only matched by the tenacity and optimism of the residents and volunteers who fought to control the rising waters. The stories of those people are essential to the story of the great flood, and the Minnesota Historical Society and the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center at Moorhead State University have collaborated in starting an oral history project to capture these perspectives.

Oral histories provide a valuable look at everyday life, beyond the news reports and official statistics. For example, most historical information about the Red River Valley Flood a century ago came from recorded statistics, with just a few surviving letters and diaries to provide individual perspectives.

As part of this project, Terry Shoptaugh, director of the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center at Moorhead State University, interviewed Paul Jurgens, news director of KFGO Radio in Fargo. During the flood, Paul and his staff worked literally around-the-clock, gathering and reporting news and information, all the while worrying about their own homes and families. "At the time, it didn't cross my mind that history was happening," Paul said of his consuming task to report the news. "Until it got to the point where...the old-timers said it was the worst they'd ever seen."

In addition to chronicling the schedules and procedures of the radio station, Terry talked with Paul about his personal memories. "In a general way, we collect stories [for broadcast] and I'm used to being on the other side, asking questions," said Paul. "After I talked to Terry, I thought of more things to mention. Each memory triggers another."

The Society also mobilized other resources to help flood victims. Through the Internet, a toll-free hot line, publications and media contacts, the Society supplied information and resources about preserving and conserving flood-damaged artifacts, collections and records for government and historical agencies, as well as personal heirlooms, photographs, papers, jewelry, dishes and everyday objects for residents. Society experts also visited historic sites to offer advice, and assisted with finding temporary warehouse space for local museum collections.



Paul Jurgens, news director of KFGO Radio



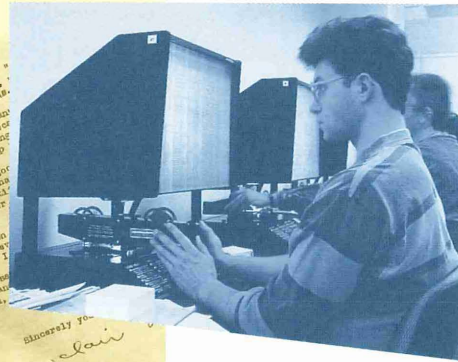
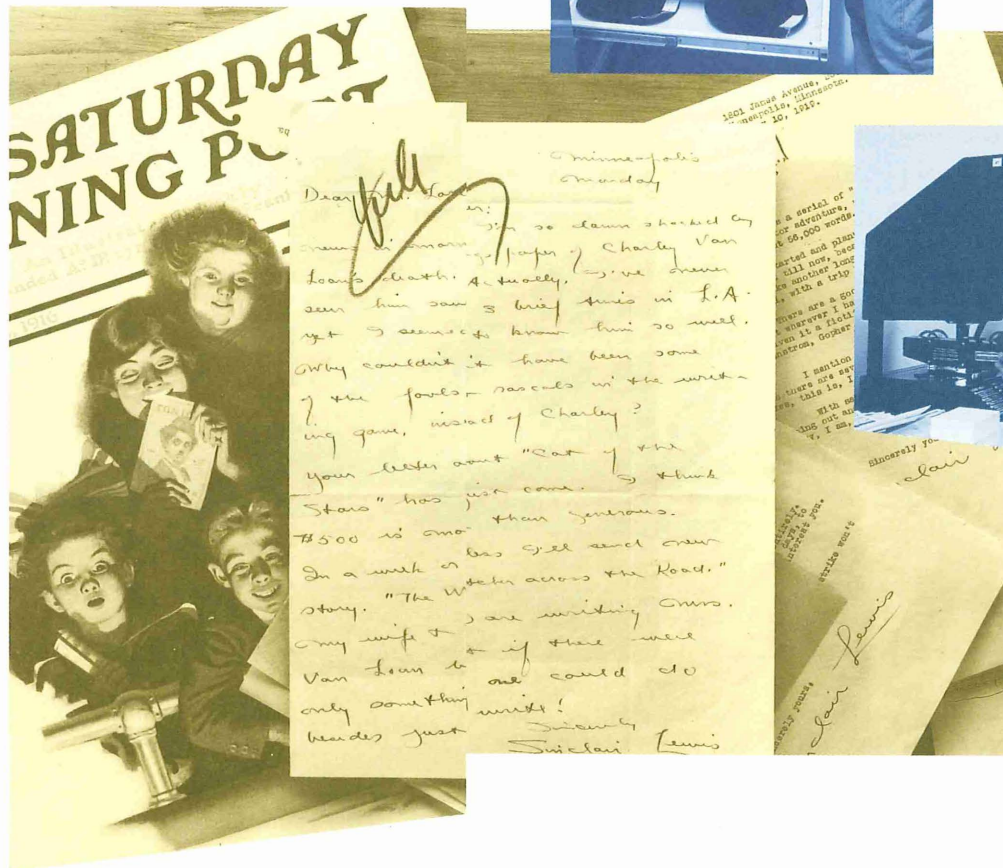
MAP FACT

After conservation treatment, the map was photo-documented and stored in a special polyester film envelope. Exposure to light will be strictly controlled.

The extensive collections of the Society come from and belong to the people of Minnesota, who have given and continue to give the Society the materials of the stories of their lives. These materials come in various forms, such as family histories, diaries, letters, personal belongings, oral history interviews and photographs. They augment the Society's vast collections of maps, books, photographs, newspapers, manuscripts, art works, three-dimensional artifacts and archaeological objects, all of which are available to the public through the Research Center. Government documents are also given to the Society for safekeeping and management; they tell the stories of interactions between individuals and families and government agencies and services. To make sure the collections are as accessible as possible, Society staff members catalog and organize them and create the keys that will help unlock the doors to the information that the public needs.

collections

- A total of 72,542 persons were served at the Research Center last year: 40,636 in person; 25,852 by telephone; and 3,009 by letter. 3,045 people participated in classes about family history, house history, census records and research methods.
- The Society launched *The Red River Floods of 1997: An Oral History* to document the stories of survival and recovery from the floods that ravaged northwestern Minnesota.
- The Society assisted TIES (Technology & Information Educational Services) in its "Discover Minnesota" Internet curriculum project for grades four through eight. The Society provided a selection of three-dimensional objects for the successful "whatchamacallit" series, which challenged students to guess the function of some uncommon objects used in the past. Students were also invited, via TIES, to provide museum collections staff with ideas on what to collect to best document Minnesota children in 1997.
- Society acquisitions included a Soap Box Derby racer and helmet from 1938, Red Wing dinnerware and art pottery, a baseball bat used by Kirby Puckett and donated by the Minnesota Twins, and, from Spring Valley, Ada, Browerville and Fairmount, several additions to the banknote collection.
- Newly cataloged collections of personal papers, reminiscences and diaries include the stories of Coya Knutson, Minnesota's first female member of Congress; Ruben Soruco, Bolivian-born immigrant to Minneapolis and educator and promoter of Spanish language and culture; Bill Brust, Minnesota Trotskyite and Carleton College scholar; Doris Kirschner, whose papers document Jewish family life, holidays and cookery and Thom Higgins, political activist, advertising copywriter, nurse and early member of the Minneapolis gay community.
- *India/Minnesota: The Next Generation* is the second oral history collaboration between the Society and the India Association of Minnesota. It tells stories of growing up in Minnesota and the United States as seen by the children of many of the narrators from the first phase of the project, which was completed last year.
- The little-known relationship between two literary titans from Minnesota, Sinclair Lewis and F. Scott Fitzgerald, was illuminated by two acquisitions last year: a 1925 letter from Lewis to Fitzgerald, thanking him for a copy of *The Great Gatsby*, and a copy of Lewis's *Arrowsmith*, sent to Fitzgerald shortly thereafter, with an inscription in which Lewis says, " 'Gatsby'— a masterpiece!"
- The state archives added 108 units of government records, comprising 600 cubic feet of paper records, 471 reels of microfilm and 40 reels of film. The new records include those of the Metropolitan Sports Commission, which recount the story of professional sports in the state.
- The Society acquired a Hmong story cloth, donated by the organizers of the Third World Jubilee. The cloth was made in a refugee camp in Thailand, and tells the story of the Hmong village, Ban Long Chieng, and the Hmong involvement with U.S. forces in Laos.
- The Society produced "Welcome to the Research Center," a video to introduce visitors to the Research Center. The video was funded by the F. R. Bigelow Foundation and St. Paul Companies, and won the Society of American Archivists' Hamer-Kegan Award, which recognizes institutions who have increased public awareness of manuscripts and archives collections in a creative and engaging manner.



highlights

When Dorothy Smith volunteered to help out with the early stages of the Minnesota History Center exhibit, “Unpacking on the Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest,” her excitement spilled over into everyday conversations with her daughter, Maureen Sultan. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and soon Maureen was wondering how she could get involved.

“I was so impressed...with what they had been working on,” says Maureen of her mother’s stories about the exhibit development process. “The subject matter was so interesting because...being a Jewish woman is so much a part of who I am.”

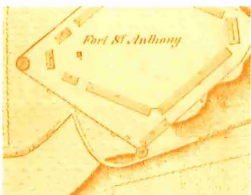
Before the exhibit opened in October 1996, Maureen attended a volunteer meeting, and together mother and daughter began to train as volunteer interpreters for the exhibit. As museum interpreters, they answered questions and staffed the exhibit’s History à la Cart station, where visitors could see, touch and learn about objects related to Jewish culture.

Dorothy and Maureen note that the exhibit prompts both Jewish and non-Jewish visitors to recall stories from their own past, and many have seen familiar faces and places in the displays and photographs. “Many people have seen themselves or a sister or a friend in a picture and get excited,” said Dorothy.

While talking with visitors, Maureen found that the exhibit struck a common chord. “It doesn’t matter who I was talking to — a man or woman, young or old, Christian, Muslim or Jew — you would find someone you knew or something you shared in common,” says Maureen. “That was a remarkable experience.”



Dorothy Smith with her daughter, Maureen Sultan



MAP FACT

Hand-drawn in carbon black ink on watermarked paper, the map is barely yellowed and in near-perfect condition. It is stored at the History Center, where it will be shown periodically. Researchers will use the map to learn more about Fort Snelling’s earliest days.

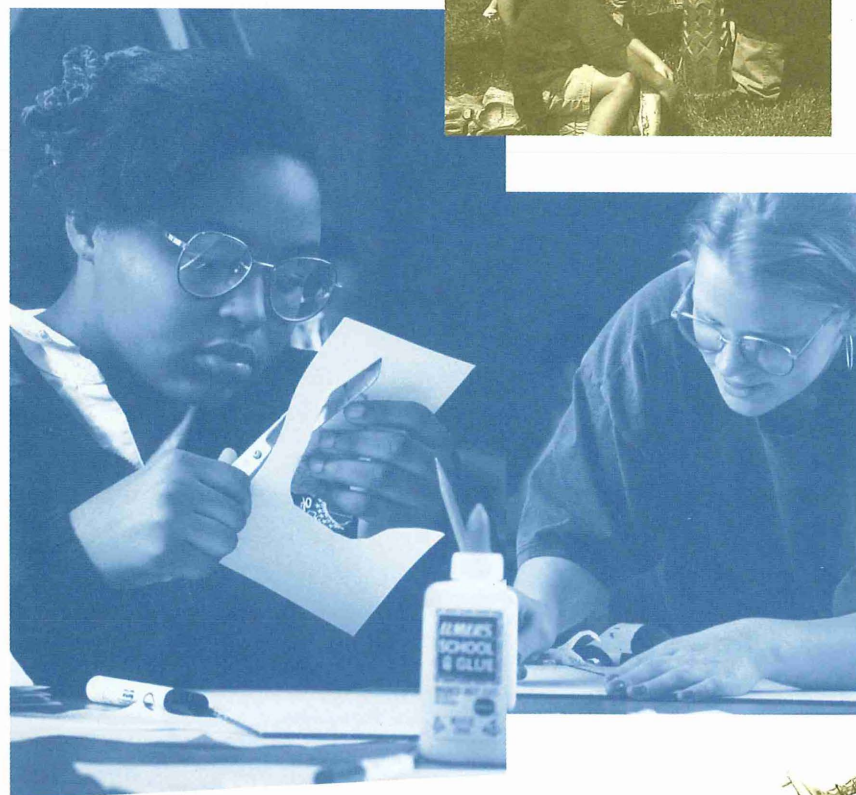
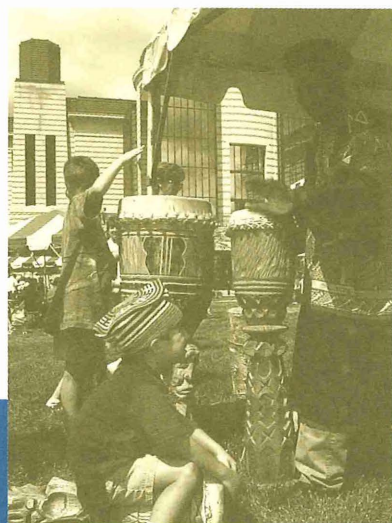
The History Center speaks to the present by telling many stories from Minnesota's past. People come from the length and breadth of the nation — even around the world — to enjoy the many ways Minnesota's story is told in a spectacular setting.

In the galleries, which house 45,000 square feet of exhibition space, visitors explore interactive exhibits, experience multi-media theater, and watch — and sometimes participate in — dramatic performances by costumed interpreters and "History Players."

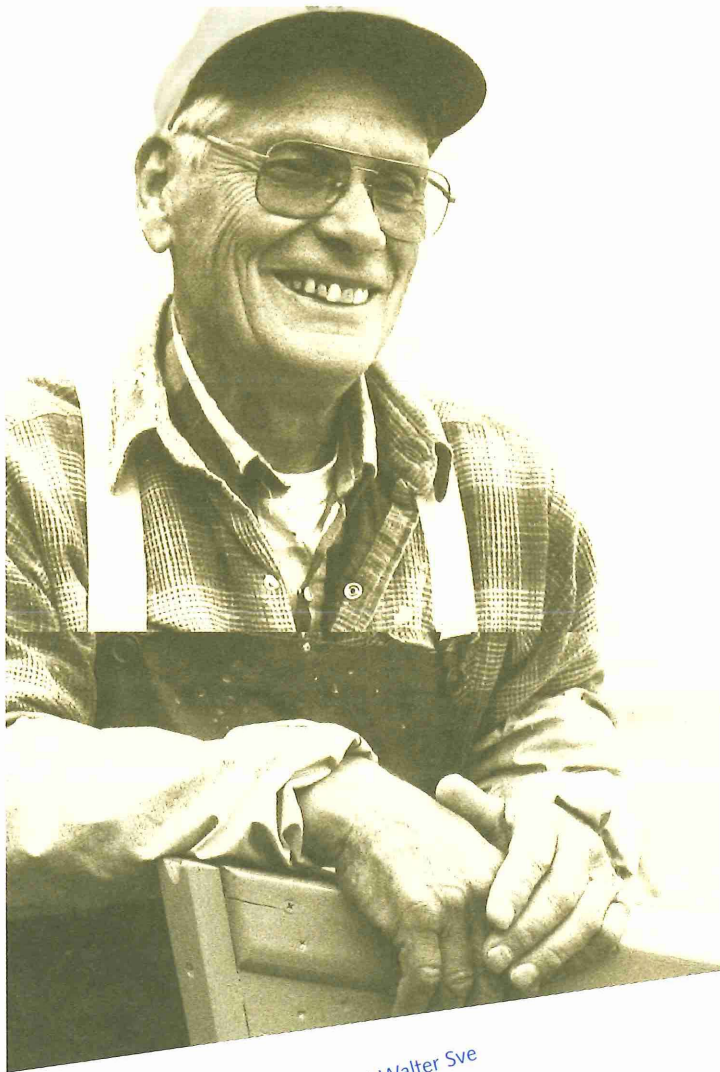
The 314-seat 3M Auditorium is a popular place for public lectures, panel discussions and films, and the six classrooms in the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Education Center are used extensively and intensively for school programs, conferences and family activities. The entire facility, including the plazas and courtyard, is truly a public place — a forum where people can meet and link their own experiences with the stories of the past.

museum

- More than 312,000 people visited the History Center museum galleries, including the exhibits *Home Place Minnesota*, *Manoominikewin: Stories of Wild Ricing*, *Families*, *Minnesota Communities*, *Almanac*, *Help Wanted*, *Minnesota A to Z*, *Boxcar 137356*, *Field to Table*, *Grainland* and *On the Campaign Trail*.
- Unpacking on the Prairie: Jewish Women's Experiences in the Upper Midwest*, which opened at the History Center in October 1996, tells the stories of immigrant women who retained elements of their traditional culture while adapting to life in a new land. The exhibit was developed through a partnership with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest. Almost 30 members of the Jewish community joined a new volunteer program and served as museum assistants for the exhibit.
- One of the components of the *Unpacking on the Prairie* exhibit, a five-minute video, won first place in the history category of the eighth annual Muse Award competition sponsored by the American Association of Museums.
- A total of 108,140 (an increase of more than 30,000) students from more than 400 towns and cities in Minnesota and other states, including Illinois, attended history lessons, participated in the Explore! program and toured the exhibits. Some 97 percent of participating teachers gave their highest approval to the history lessons they attended with their classes.
- Among the story-oriented topics at History Hilinx, the Society's successful Sunday afternoon family program, were American Sign Language stories, "memory maps," a "Burma-Shave" program with members of the founding family and a performance and program about Martin Luther King Jr.
- Family festivals, held quarterly on Sunday afternoons, attracted more than 12,000 visitors of all ages. Topics this year were "They Chose Minnesota," "Winter Adventure" and "Creative Expressions."
- A new museum theater program, *Lifting as We Climb: African-American Women Working for Change*, brought the stories of three Minnesota African-American women to life in three short plays performed in the *Families* exhibit gallery.
- In November and December, *Manoomin Stories: A Wild Ricing Puppet Show* was staged in the *Manoominikewin: Stories of Wild Ricing* exhibit, using puppets from the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater in Minneapolis, and featuring Ojibwe actor/playwright Chris Warren.
- More than 30 of Minnesota's greatest folk artists, musicians, dancers and cooks performed at "Minnesota Folk 96," attended by more than 5,200 visitors of all ages. In recorded interviews, artists told visitors their stories about folk art traditions.
- Speakers at History Center public lectures included Minnesota writer Paul Gruchow, University of California professor George Lipsitz and Anishinabe scholar and writer Gerald Vizenor.
- Nearly 30,000 people attended special events at the History Center, ranging from family reunions and weddings to corporate functions.



highlights



North Shore resident Walter Sve

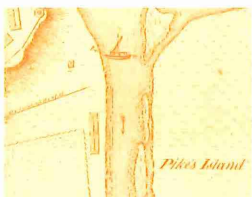
Telling the stories of Minnesota's past is an ongoing endeavor, and part of that process is revising and bringing new information to existing exhibits at Society historic sites. One such exhibit, "Split Rock: The Light, the Place, the People," at Split Rock Lighthouse in Two Harbors, tells the stories of the lighthouse, economic and cultural transitions on Minnesota's North Shore, and the life and times of the region's people — Native Americans, loggers, fishermen and tourists.

When the lighthouse was built in 1910, commercial fishing was a booming industry. Over the decades, commercial fishing declined but tourism and sport fishing began to transform life along the North Shore.

One of the local people who helped tell this story is Walter Sve, whose family ran a commercial fishing operation, tourist cabins and later a sport-fishing guide service. As the herring industry declined, the Sve family built more cabins and offered sport fishing trips for their guests.

"We called it deep-sea fishing to attract tourists," recalls Walter. "After the war, people had money and they could get cars and gas, and they really flocked up here. Commercial fishermen got into sport fishing during the summer months to help out financially. The herring run, from October to January, was good up until the mid-1950s when there was the biggest drop in herring due to taconite tailings in the lake. Then the lamprey [eels] cleaned out all the lake trout. If it wasn't for the cabins that my folks started way back in the 1930s for extra income, I don't know...."

Walter supplied plenty of stories for the exhibit, and donated sport-fishing artifacts for display. Today, as lake trout and herring have returned to the great lake, Walter is back commercial fishing. He is retired, but he still runs his family's cabins and manages to take a few day trips around the North Shore himself. "Recently I went on a trip to Bayfield [Wisconsin] and toured the Apostle Islands," he said. "That's something I've never done before, even though I've been on the lake almost every day of my life."



MAP FACT

The map provides remarkable new information about Fort Snelling that will be used in the interpretation of the site. It is the oldest map of the fort yet found. In May, the map was unveiled at the Minnesota State Capitol and later displayed at Historic Fort Snelling.

Visitors to any one of the Society's 23 historic sites see and hear many stories about the people who once lived and worked there. From turn-of-the-century lumberjacks at the Forest History Center, or an early 1800s Ojibwe woman at the North West Company Fur Post whose life was changed by the fur trade, to the shopkeeper in the Meighen Store at Historic Forestville, the Society's historic sites present history in ways that are educational and entertaining. Through re-enactments of historic events, living history programs presented by historic characters, exhibits, programs and tours, the Society's historic sites connect the people of today with the people of the past.

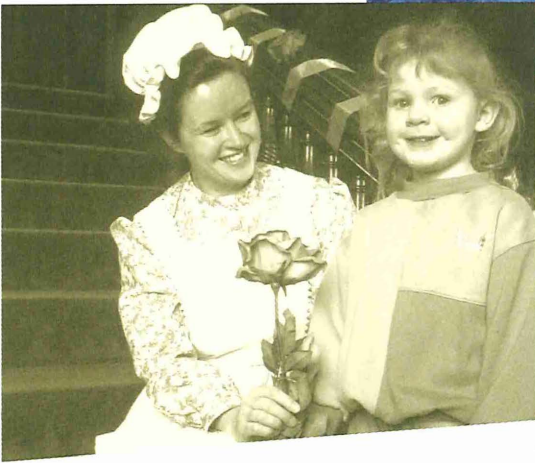
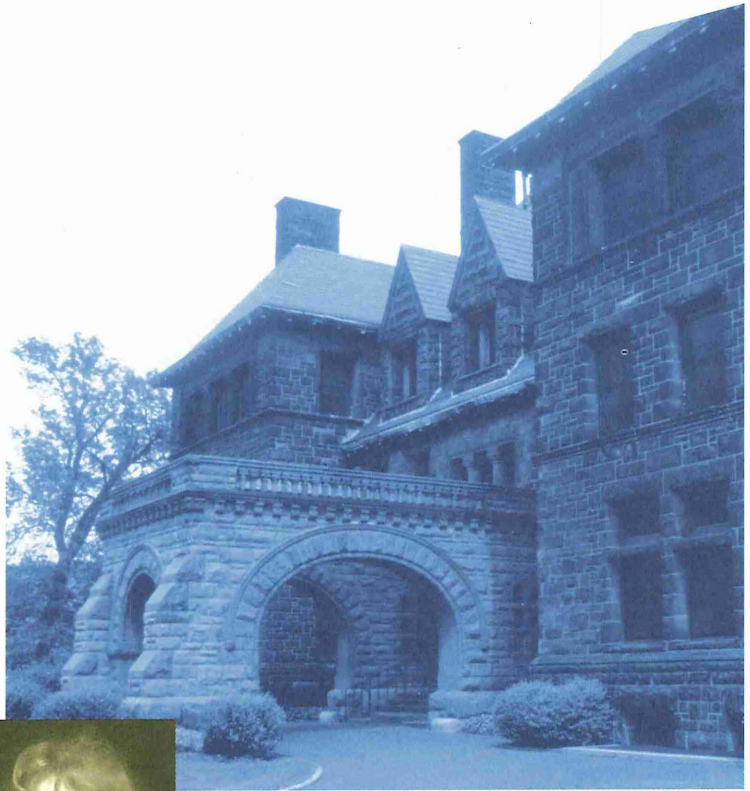
Historic Sites

Comstock House
Folsom House
Forest History Center
Historic Forestville
Fort Ridgely
Historic Fort Snelling
Grand Mound
Harkin Store
Hill House
Jeffers Petroglyphs
Kelley Farm
Lac qui Parle Mission

Lindbergh House
Lower Sioux Agency
Mayo House
Mille Lacs Indian Museum
and Trading Post
Minnehaha Depot
Minnesota State Capitol
North West Company Fur Post
Ramsey House
Saint Anthony Falls Historic District
Sibley House
Split Rock Lighthouse

historic sites





682,282 people, including 151,741 students, visited the Society's 23 historic sites in the last year.

Split Rock Lighthouse completed a major revision of its exhibits, which tell the story of the famous lighthouse through new media and interactive experiences.

Fort Snelling created a new archaeology program for children. Using a simulated dig site, children worked with a professional archaeologist to discover and record objects. Other new children's offerings include an intensive 19th-century school day program at Historic Fort Snelling and cooking and dressing activities at the Ramsey House.

At the Lower Sioux Agency, work began on the restoration of the original stone warehouse, and at the State Capitol, Society staff contributed to planning the restoration of the Supreme Court Chamber, the dome lantern and decorative painting.

Historic Forestville added agriculture to its living history program by expanding the vegetable garden, planting a one-acre cornfield and acquiring barnyard fowl.

The Forest History Center expanded its telling of the 1930s chapter of the forest story by restoring its 100-foot-tall fire tower.

The Hill House welcomed home important pieces of furniture and family items, including the original drawing room table.

With support from the State Legislature through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) and the federal

Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA), new trails and almost 150 markers were completed at the Lower Sioux Agency, North West Company Fur Post, Kelley Farm and the Lac qui Parle Mission. The markers expand visitors' understanding of the sites by drawing their attention to natural and historical features of the landscape.

The partially restored Mille Lacs Trading Post opened a new exhibit on the tourist business of proprietors Harry and Jeanette Ayer. A tourist cabin was furnished and restored to its 1940s appearance, and trail markers were erected to interpret outbuildings from the Ayer era.

Society staff recovered and documented more than 75 pieces of milling machine components from a subterranean storage facility beneath the Washburn "A" Mill in the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone in downtown Minneapolis. The tunnel and its contents were discovered by Society archaeologists while researching the area with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The research anticipates the construction of Mill Ruins Park, an educational and recreational facility that will feature interpretive programs about the history of milling. The artifacts and documentation from this new find will help interpret the operations of this important milling site.

Archaeology work was completed at the Sibley House in preparation for a major restoration project. Staff uncovered an extensive drainage system that implies riverside life was ~~very~~ difficult then as well as now, along with artifacts and pottery fragments, some dating back more than 2,000 years.



highlights

High school students from suburban, urban and rural Minnesota gain both hands-on work skills and academic challenges through the Youth Internship Program at the Minnesota Historical Society. High school teachers around the state nominated nearly a dozen students — from Grand Rapids, Ramsey, Spring Valley and other towns — to participate in the program as part of the national School-to-Work initiative. The program is aimed at students who in the past two years have shown academic growth, extracurricular involvement, or a demonstrated dedication to their studies.

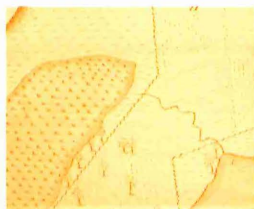
Mai See Thao, 17, worked at the St. Anthony Falls Historic District last summer. She gained real-world experience at its interpretive center, assisting people with their visit to the site and promoting Minneapolis and Minnesota as tourist destinations. “I gave out information to tourists, assisted the tour guides and talked with visitors on the area and its history,” says Mai. “I learned a lot about Minneapolis history.” Mai also helped survey people traversing the district’s Stone Arch Bridge to find out how and why people use the area and its trails.

In addition to gaining work experience, the program also required each student to complete a research project related to both the work experience and the student’s individual interest. “I did a display on the Hmong people and how they came to Minnesota,” says Mai. In the project, she outlined the Hmong people’s original history in China, migration to Laos, and finally political asylum in the United States, where many have chosen the Minneapolis/St. Paul area to plant new roots.

Mai, who plans a career in medicine, said that she gained valuable communication skills while providing information to visitors each day. “It was amazing to see the tour guides at work and their memory skills,” she says. “Working and learning was a fun combination.”



Mai See Thao, St. Anthony Falls Historic District intern



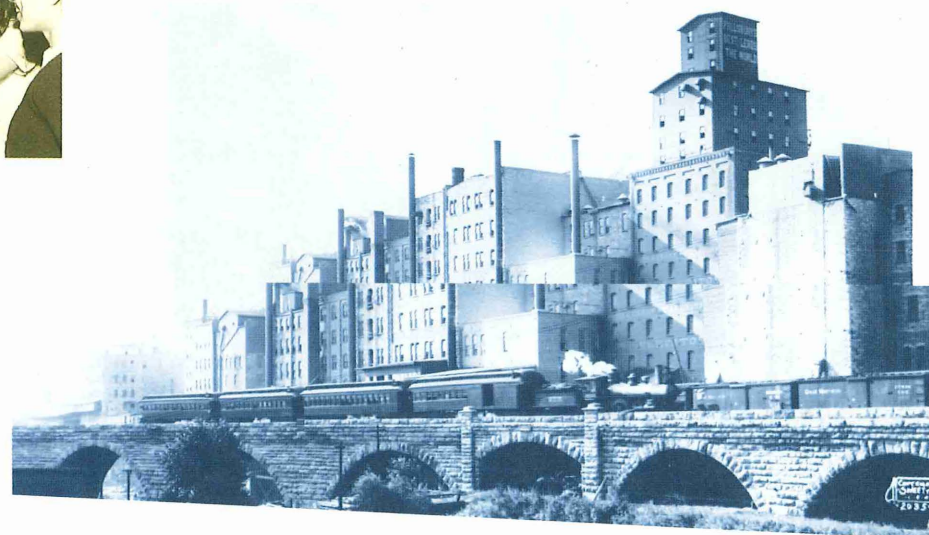
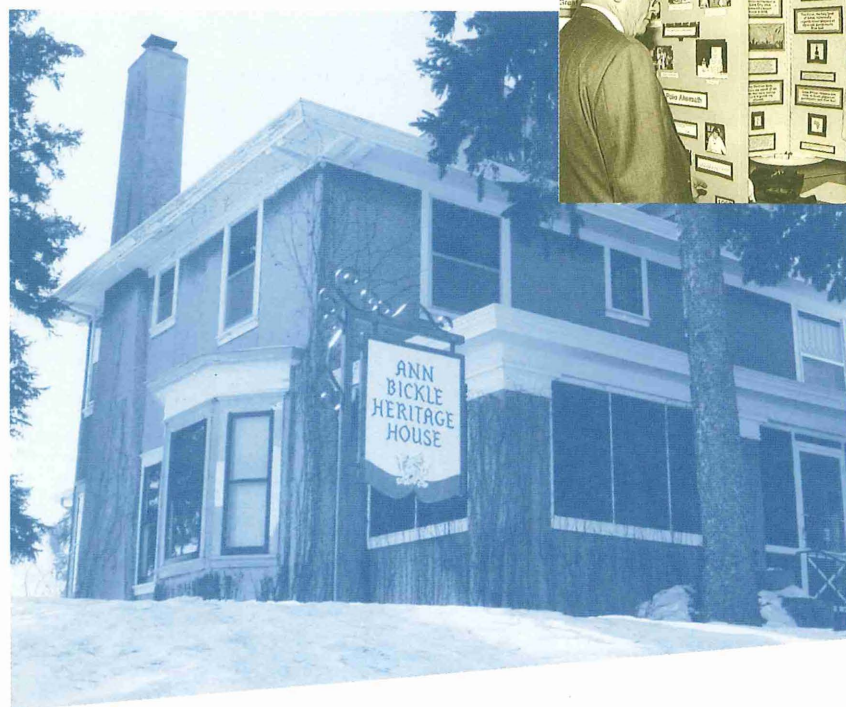
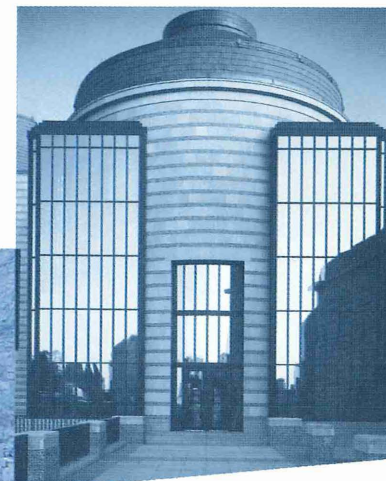
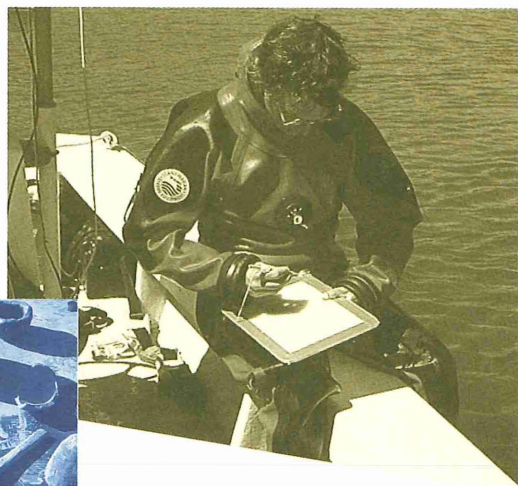
MAP FACT

Web surfers from around the state and beyond can learn about the map from the reproduction and information included on the Society’s home page [www.mnhs.org].

Last year it was more apparent than ever: the stories about the past that are Minnesota's history are still being told in every locale of the state. The Society collaborates with individuals and organizations to collect and care for these stories — to be Minnesota's institution of memory — demonstrating that the Society is an interactive organization. As a clearinghouse of expertise and valuable information about preservation and programming, conservation and collecting, the Society serves historical organizations, local, state and federal agencies and schools and individuals around the state and beyond. Staff visits and workshops, grant administration and assistance, traveling exhibits, National History Day, and archaeological research are among the many ways the Society carries out its mission — communicating in publications and over the Internet and offering programs and services at the History Center, historic sites and throughout the state.

statewide programs

- With its 14,633 members, the Society has the largest membership of any statewide historical organization in the country.
- Approximately 74,000 people used the Society's web site [www.mnhs.org] this year, including approximately 3,400 from international sources.
- Almost 20,000 Minnesota students participated in National History Day. They developed papers, table-top exhibits, media presentations and performances related to the theme, "Triumph and Tragedy in History."
- Society staff helped relieve the effects of the 1997 Red River flooding in several ways. They worked with Society colleagues, North Dakota archivists and local officials to ensure the survival of historical records and documents; made flood recovery materials available to historical organizations in the flooded areas and to a wider audience via the Internet and the Society's web page; and visited two hard-hit county historical societies — Norman in Ada and Yellow Medicine in Granite Falls — to assess flood damage.
- The Society's "Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes" conference in Duluth, held in conjunction with the "Gales of November" conference, drew a record attendance of almost 200 sport divers, archaeologists, historians and members of the public.
- Among the 17 new properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places were the St. Croix Recreation Demonstration Area in St. Croix State Park in Pine County and the Ann Bickle Heritage House in Pope County.
- A total of \$48,000 in state grants-in-aid funds was awarded to 21 applicants for historic properties, museum environments and artifact collections projects.
- The Society awarded \$64,480 in federal matching grants to 13 certified local governments for projects in historic preservation surveys and planning. A total of \$318,074 in state bond-funded County and Local Preservation Project Grants was awarded.
- Society services staff assisted in the formation of three new historical organizations. The Society now works with more than 450 local and county historical organizations and made more than 160 on-site visits during the year.
- Nearly 250 representatives of county and local historical organizations attended the annual meeting of historical organizations in St. Paul and regional field workshops in Austin, Fairmont and Brainerd.
- The Society joined with Minnesota Archaeology Week planners, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Minnesota Landmarks to present back-to-back celebrations of Archaeology Week and Historic Preservation Week. Nearly 2,000 people attended family programs, tours and lectures.
- Volunteers participated in nearly every department throughout the Society. Approximately 1,300 volunteers contributed more than 34,000 hours. In addition, 34 interns contributed 4,570 hours.
- Corporations, foundations, friends and members of the Society contributed more than \$2 million to support Society programs.



highlights

The Minnesota Historical Society Press book by Bonnie Watkins and Nina Rothchild, *"In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement,"* captures the 20th-century women's movement through the individual experiences and ideas of 83 women, ages 21 to 93.

Their accounts reach beyond the realm of personal stories. They range from the stories of working women who hid their pregnancies so as not to lose their jobs, to the first Hmong person to be elected to public office in the United States. The authors draw on the tradition of Studs Terkel's oral histories to create a narrative quilt about the personal and the political, where the whole picture starts to emerge only when the individual stories are brought together.

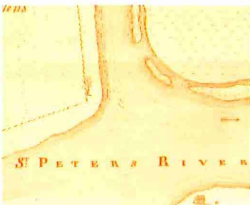
One of the women interviewed in the book, Laura Waterman Wittstock, is a Native American activist, writer and president of Migizi Communications, a Twin Cities media production company. She says that the book is about much more than just names, dates and events: It goes "beyond the mold of other histories of the women's movement."

"A lot of books look at people around a certain occupation, interest, or historical or cultural area," says Laura. "I've been fortunate enough to have been in a few books, and some of them just want the personal story. With *"In the Company of Women,"* there was an attempt to look at our world views and have us reflect on some areas. In reading about some of the other women I found information not just about who they are or what they had as an experience, but what they thought about things."

Laura believes that such oral histories are an important resource for future generations. "When a book is written and tries to include a lot of women with different backgrounds and points of view, you have the real chance at seeing the real picture," she says. "This broader view...examined by people in the future, will do a great service to remember what women of today did."



Native American activist and writer Laura Waterman Wittstock



MAP FACT

The Minnesota Historical Society Press has reproduced the map, and plans to publish a book that contains the margin notes and tells the story of the map's creation.

The Society's Research and Publications program provides avenues for the stories of the past and contemporary society to be uncovered and told. From awarding a grant for research into the lives of residents of a small North Shore town to publishing a book about people who lived thousands of years ago in what is now Minnesota, the Society records and presents the state's history. The Society Press has published more than 200 publications, including books, maps, posters, videotapes and audiocassettes. Other publications that serve the interests of Minnesotans include the quarterly journal *Minnesota History*, and the newsletters *Member News*, *The Minnesota History Interpreter*, *The Minnesota Preservation Planner* and *The Research Center Gazette*.

publications

New books published by the MHS Press:

— In *Frogtown: Photographs and Conversations in an Urban Neighborhood*, Wing Young Huie presents powerful pictures and words of people in an ethnically mixed neighborhood of St. Paul.

— Larry Millett's *Twin Cities Then and Now* tells stories of the continually changing urban landscape through matching photographs and brief essays.

— Four generations of Jewish women relate their stories in "*And Prairie Dogs Weren't Kosher*": *Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest Since 1855*, by Linda Mack Schloff. The book is a companion to the History Center exhibit, *Unpacking on the Prairie*.

— *In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement*, by Bonnie Watkins and Nina Rothchild, is a collection of compelling and humorous personal stories recounted by 83 women, who describe how they became feminists and how the women's movement changed their lives.

— *Southwestern Minnesota Archaeology: 12,000 Years in the Prairie Lake Region*, by Scott F. Anfinson, describes the culture of people who lived in this region before the arrival of Europeans.

— The *Consolidated Index to Minnesota History, Volumes 41-50 (1968-87)* will help researchers use this valuable resource.

MHS Press sold 89,515 copies of its products, which included books, *Northern Lights* textbooks, music tapes, videos, art reproductions and magazines.

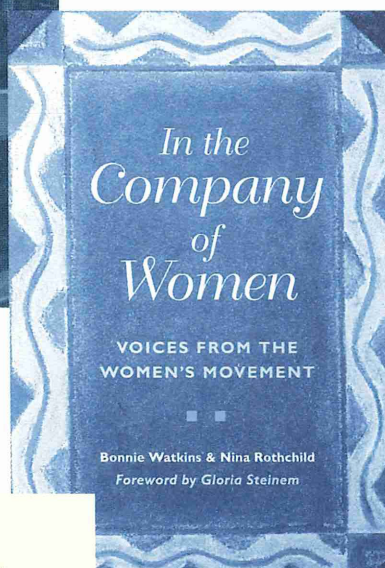
Two highly successful publications were reformatted for new audiences. Ignatia Broker's *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative* was produced as an audiocassette read by Debra Smith, and *Ojibway Music from Minnesota: A Century of Song for Voice and Drum* is now available on compact disc.

Minnesota History continued to find and tell the stories of Minnesota's heritage to more than 15,000 readers in Minnesota and throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia. Highlights: "Race and Segregation in St. Paul's Public Schools, 1846-69," by William D. Green won the Society's annual Solon J. Buck Award for the best article published in *Minnesota History*. Steven Hoffbeck reconstructed the life and career of a pioneer African-American lawyer in "Victories Yet to Win: Charles W. Scrutchin, Bemidji's Black Activist Attorney." Archaeologist Scott F. Anfinson's article about the remains of a ship on Duluth's Minnesota point, "The Wreck of the USS Essex," won the Theodore C. Blegen Award for the best article by a Society staff member.

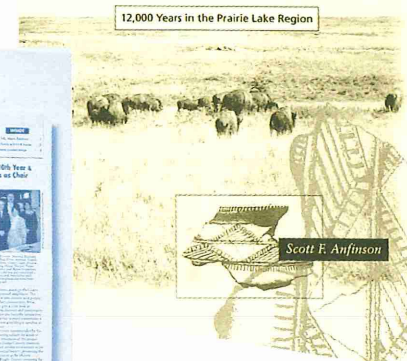
A new category in the Research Grants Program offers mini-grants of \$500 or less to support smaller-scale research projects. Grants were awarded to 11 researchers, and 15 grants were awarded in the categories of visiting scholar, article and major projects. Research projects include a focus on people (Minnesota nurses in the Civil War, a Swedish-American colony in Cuba), places (St. Paul's East Side, a small house in Taylors Falls, logging camps), events (African-American migration to the Twin Cities), sources (War of 1812 manuscripts in Society collections), ethnicity (Mexican-American music and St. Paul's West Side), and politics (the history of the American Indian Movement, and the roots of anti-treatyrights activism in Minnesota).

The Minnesota History Interpreter, with its quarterly companion, *The Minnesota Preservation Planner*, was distributed to nearly 2,500 county and local historical societies, heritage preservation commissions and libraries.

Member News, the Society's bimonthly newsletter, reached more than 14,000 individuals and families.



Southwestern Minnesota Archaeology



highlights

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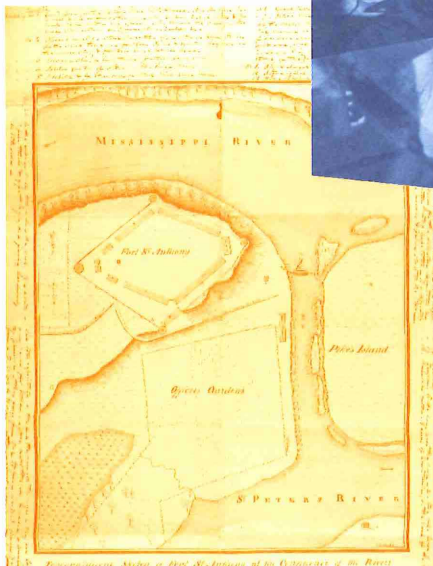
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the future

In looking ahead, the Society pledges its continuing efforts to be a creative and dynamic institution, working with Minnesota's people to preserve and tell the stories that move us from the past to the world of the imagination where we can envision the future.



MAP FACT

Under the Society's care, the map will be safely preserved and made available to the public for years to come. Society Director Nina Archabal calls the map "one of the most significant acquisitions ever made by the Society."

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET

Year ended June 30, 1997 (000s omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1996)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1997	1996
Cash and investments	\$ 1,539	\$ -	\$ 7,084	\$ 1,794	\$ 5,017	\$ 5,223	\$ 20,657	\$ 16,874
Receivables	238	-	-	7,635	1,859	-	9,732	8,979
Museum Shop Inventories	700	-	-	-	-	-	700	610
Property and equipment, net	-	64,756	-	-	-	-	64,756	65,202
	<u>-</u>	<u>64,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,756</u>	<u>65,202</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 2,477</u>	<u>\$ 64,756</u>	<u>\$ 7,084</u>	<u>\$ 9,429</u>	<u>\$ 6,876</u>	<u>\$ 5,223</u>	<u>\$ 95,845</u>	<u>\$ 91,665</u>
Payables and accrued liabilities	484	-	14	1,071	344	45	1,958	3,120
Net assets:								
Unrestricted	1,993	64,756	7,070	-	-	-	73,819	72,306
Temporarily restricted	-	-	-	8,358	6,532	-	14,890	11,948
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	-	-	5,178	5,178	4,291
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,178</u>	<u>5,178</u>	<u>4,291</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 1,993</u>	<u>\$ 64,756</u>	<u>\$ 7,070</u>	<u>\$ 8,358</u>	<u>\$ 6,532</u>	<u>\$ 5,178</u>	<u>\$ 93,887</u>	<u>\$ 88,545</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 2,477</u>	<u>\$ 64,756</u>	<u>\$ 7,084</u>	<u>\$ 9,429</u>	<u>\$ 6,876</u>	<u>\$ 5,223</u>	<u>\$ 95,845</u>	<u>\$ 91,665</u>

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

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended June 30, 1997 (000s omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1996)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1997	1996
Support and Revenue								
Support:								
Private contributions	\$ 478	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 904	\$ 737	\$ 2,119	\$ 1,698
Federal grants	-	-	-	-	1,287	-	1,287	1,155
State agency grants	-	-	-	-	204	-	204	31
County and other grants	-	-	-	-	123	-	123	93
State appropriations	-	-	-	24,161	-	-	24,161	19,584
Total support	478	0	0	24,161	2,518	737	27,894	22,561
Revenue:								
History Center auxiliary services	992	-	-	-	-	-	992	1,016
Historic sites admissions	890	-	-	-	-	-	890	818
Historic sites store sales	723	-	-	-	-	-	723	621
Membership	489	-	-	-	-	-	489	410
Publication sales	652	-	-	-	-	-	652	709
Management fees	50	-	-	-	-	-	50	44
Museum program fees	167	-	-	-	-	-	167	153
Other sales and fees	716	-	5	-	4	-	725	750
Investment earnings	1,318	-	1,360	-	517	150	3,345	1,848
Total revenue	5,997	0	1,365	0	521	150	8,033	6,369
Total support and revenue	6,475	0	1,365	24,161	3,039	887	35,927	28,930
Net assets released from program restrictions	23,656	601	-	(21,004)	(3,253)	0	0	0
Total support, revenue, and net assets released from program restrictions	30,131	601	1,365	3,157	(214)	887	35,927	28,930

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended June 30, 1997 (000s omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1996)

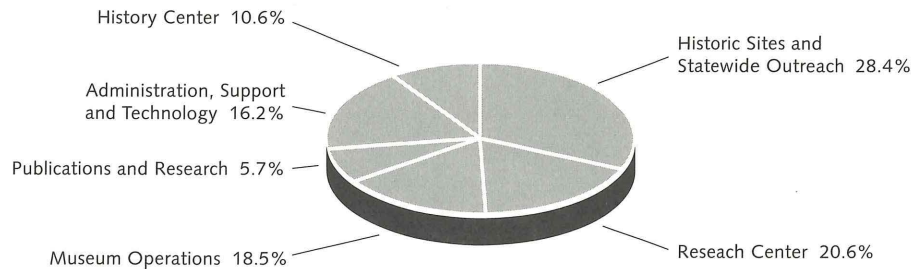
	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1997	1996
Expenses								
Program services:								
Library collections, archival services	\$ 5,991	\$ 308	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,299	\$ 6,181
Publications and research	1,733	12	-	-	-	-	1,745	1,608
Museum operations, exhibits, education	5,413	238	-	-	-	-	5,651	5,636
Historic sites, field programs, State Historic Preservation Office	8,584	108	-	-	-	-	8,692	8,496
History Center	2,895	360	-	-	-	-	3,255	3,447
Total program services	24,616	1,026	0	0	0	0	25,642	25,368
Supporting services:								
Management and general	4,549	20	-	-	-	-	4,569	3,695
Development and membership	372	2	-	-	-	-	374	243
Total supporting services	4,921	22	0	0	0	0	4,943	3,938
Total expenses	29,537	1,048	0	0	0	0	30,585	29,306
Increase (decrease) in net assets	594	(447)	1,365	3,157	(214)	887	5,342	(376)
Transfers of net assets	(3,552)	-	3,552	-	-	-	0	0
Change in net assets	(2,958)	(447)	4,917	3,157	(214)	887	5,342	(376)
Net assets at beginning of year	4,952	65,203	2,153	5,201	6,747	4,291	88,547	88,923
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,994	\$ 64,756	\$ 7,070	\$ 8,358	\$ 6,533	\$ 5,178	\$ 93,889	\$ 88,547

YEAR END HIGHLIGHTS

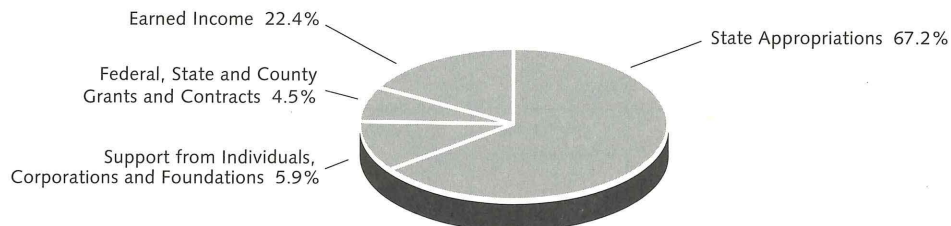
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1997

- The Society's members, friends, corporations and foundations provided \$2.6 million in funding for the Society's programs, up from \$2.1 million in 1996.
- During Fiscal Year 1997, the Society generated 22.4 percent of its income from revenue-producing activities.
 - Historic Sites admissions and stores sales were up 12 percent
 - Membership revenue was up 19 percent
- Investment earnings were 81 percent higher in 1997 than 1996.
- Society membership, at over 14,000, continues to make the Minnesota Historical Society the largest state historical society in the country.
- Nearly 1,400 volunteers contributed more than 40,000 hours of service to the Society - an equivalent of 19 full-time positions.
- A \$4.6 million increase in state appropriations over 1996 reflects new capital projects approved by the 1997 legislature.
- Fifty-one percent of the Society's operating budget is for salaries and benefits.

• Percentage of Expenses by Program Area



• Sources of Support and Revenue





MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

345 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.mnhs.org