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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Looking Forward

Perspectives on the past for future generations

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1998

1998 Annual Report

1997 Minn. Laws Chap. 332
Sec. 4



A Message from the Director

The future was very much on the minds of the Minnesota Historical Society's founders when, in 1849, they created an institution to preserve and pass on the stories of Minnesota's people. The Society's first president, territorial governor Alexander Ramsey, called for the preservation of "materials for the composition of [Minnesota's] history, when a future time shall require it to be written." Today, nearly one hundred and fifty years later, we are looking forward to a new century of service, working with Minnesota's people, communities and organizations to multiply and enrich opportunities for all our citizens to participate in their history.

In 1998 the Society's work was inspired and guided by the major goals of its institution-wide long-range plan, adopted in December 1996. These initiatives, presented on the facing page, are designed to increase and strengthen our service to larger numbers of people everywhere in the state. It is thanks to the remarkable dedication and support of the Society's many friends — legislators and Governor Carlson, our donors, historical and

educational organizations, our Executive Council members, staff, volunteers, interns and our membership — that we can look forward to continuing the progress we have made in realizing our goals.

The Minnesota Historical Society looks after the past, caring for its stories, and providing opportunities for people to find their place in history. Today, as at the Society's beginning, our vision is on the future as we anticipate a new era of greater service to Minnesota's people. We invite you to join us in building an exciting future for our history in the next century.

Nina M. Archabal
Director

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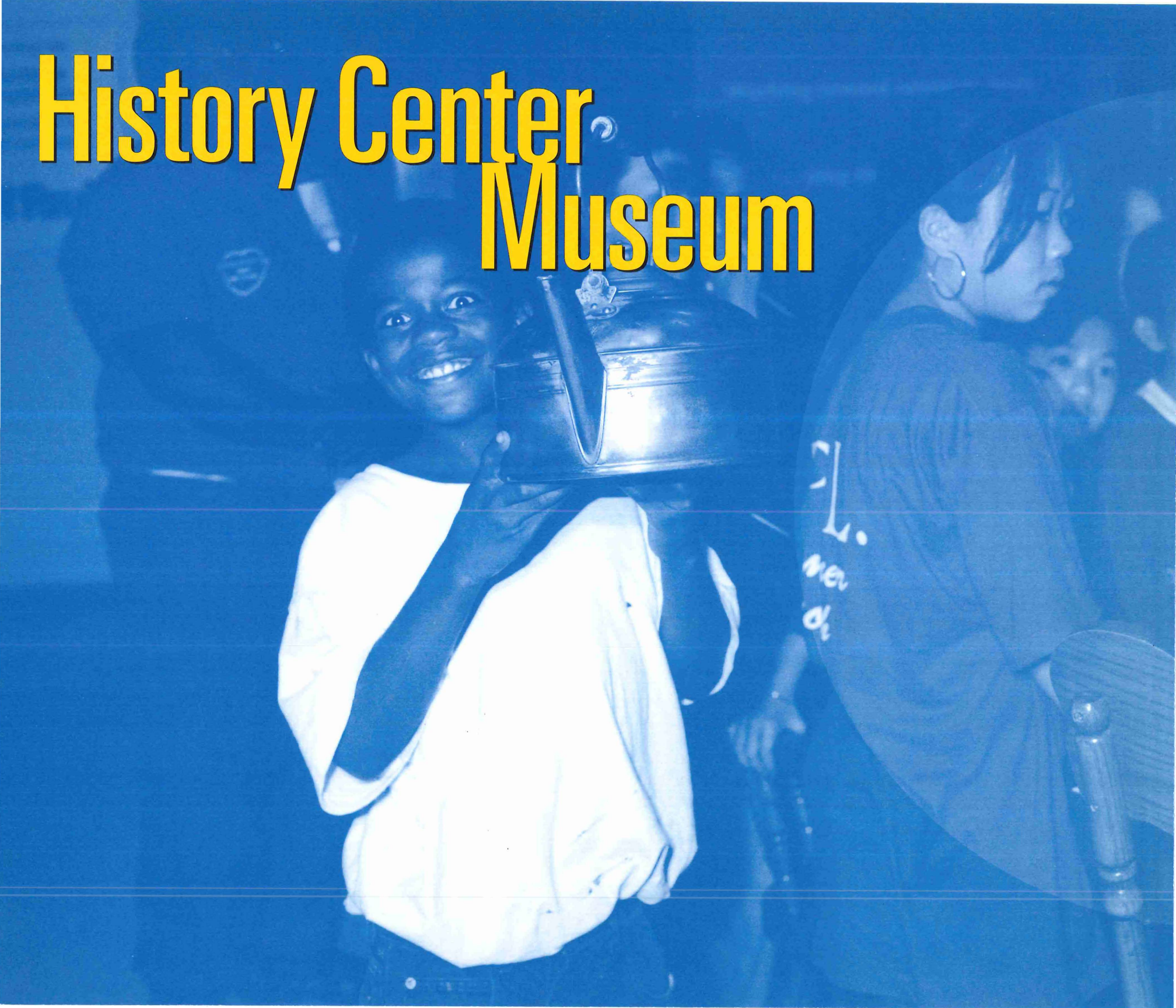
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Our vision is focused on four key goals:

- The Society will increase its services to people living beyond the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- The Society will serve larger audiences, especially families, senior citizens and school children, with programs and services of the highest quality.
- The Society will revitalize the state's historic sites network.
- The Society will expand its services to Minnesota's elementary and secondary schools.

History Center Museum



Almost 319,000 people visited the 45,000 square-foot exhibition space in the Minnesota History Center Museum last year, to view and participate in the museum's 11 innovative multi-media exhibits about Minnesota's people and places. The exhibits unite scholarship and high technology with costumed interpreters and theatrical presentations to educate and entertain audiences of diverse backgrounds, ages and interests. Creative performances, films, lectures and panel discussions are right at home in the 314-seat auditorium and in the courtyard and plaza. Classes, lively family programs and seminars are held year-round in the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Education Center. Programs in these spaces, like the History Center itself, stimulate visitors' thinking about the future as well as the past.



Nearly **319,000** people visited the History Center Museum in the last year. Since its 1992 opening, the Museum has attracted over **1.7** million visitors and the Center has welcomed **2.3** million visitors.

Accomplishments

- Nearly 319,000 people visited the History Center museum during the last year. New exhibits included:

Q Is for Quilts, which features quilts from around the state, is an addition to the popular *Minnesota A to Z* exhibit and is the result of a partnership with the Minnesota Quilt Project and Minnesota Quilters, Inc. In the "Great Saturday Quilting Bee" program, held twice each month near *Q Is for Quilts*, volunteers from quilting groups around the state lead visitors in stitching a giant quilt.

What's New? displays new acquisitions from each area of the Society's collections.

Our Gathering Places: African Americans in Minnesota, which evokes a center of community life, the neighborhood barbershop and beauty salon, encourages visitors to explore the last 100 years of Minnesota's African American history through topics such as migration, jobs, housing and civil rights.

Bridging the Pacific: Northwest Airlines Celebrates 50 Years of Service to Asia, commemorated the role of the Minnesota-based airline in pioneering commercial flights to Asia.

Newly formatted as a traveling exhibit, *Unpacking on the Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest*, is touring throughout the United States.

- More than 42,000 students in the "Explore!" program learned about seven of the museum's most popular exhibits through interpretive staff and self-guiding activity cards. Twenty-one percent of the students came to the History Center from outside of the Twin Cities metro area.
- The History Center's successful family programs included "Nine Nights of Family Fun," which featured a range of ethnic styles of music from Japanese drums to Irish Ceili dancing, and attracted more than 1,800 visitors. In "History HiJinx," a popular free family program every Sunday, participants examined artifacts and documents and created related projects to take home. Family festivals, held quarterly, drew more than 14,700 people to activities related to photography, winter adventuring and the environment. Minnesota Folk, co-sponsored by the Minnesota State Arts Board, drew a record 6,500 people, who experienced many aspects of Minnesota's folk arts and musical heritage.

Almost 110,000 students participated in the Society's school programs and toured the exhibits. History Lessons attracted 35,552 students, an increase of 11 percent over 1997.

- More than 2,400 visitors celebrated the History Center's Fifth Birthday on Oct. 19, 1997, which featured behind-the-scenes tours, a "Five-Ingredient Hot Dish for History" contest, a birthday cake, family activities and entertainment.
- The History Center was host to performing groups such as the "Dance Harvest" Ethnic Dance Theater, "The Christian Explainers" from Capetown, South Africa, and the Walker-West Music Academy of St. Paul, and continues to provide a forum for discussions of issues relevant to Minnesota today. About 350 people heard Jerome Liebling speak about his photography and sign copies of his book of Minnesota photographs, published by the Society's Press. More than 475 people heard a talk by renowned Minnesota potter Warren MacKenzie, co-sponsored by the Northern Clay Center. Guest lecturers included artist and photographer Gordon Parks, historian Michael Denning, sculptor Richard Bresnahan and labor historian David Montgomery.
- Several programs about African American history were presented throughout the year, including "A Celebration of History-making in the Black Community," co-sponsored by Model Cities of St. Paul; Lucille Williams's demonstration of soul food cooking; more than 20 "Lifting as We Climb: African American Women Working for Change," dramatic interpretations of three outstanding Minnesota women; and "African American History: Paradigms of Community," a four-part lecture series co-sponsored by The Loft, Coming of Kuumba Arts School, and the Givens Foundation for African American Literature.
- Approximately 1,200 people enjoyed the opening-night celebration for *Our Gathering Places: African Americans in Minnesota*, and more than 34,000 people attended 275 special events at the History Center such as weddings, corporate events and conferences. Nearly 94,000 people were served last year in Café Minnesota.

For months after the devastating tornadoes of March 1998, the historic city of St. Peter in southern Minnesota bustled with construction crews, bobcats and front loaders. New homes rose among the old neighborhoods, and scaffolding, dumpsters and piles of building material surrounded many stately old homes.

The optimism and hope for restoring homes and lives is evident throughout the community, and in the home of Adrian and Pei-loh Lo of St. Peter. Their home, a modest frame house built by Gov. John A. Johnson in 1905 — his first and only house, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It sustained considerable damage to the roof, windows, and enclosed porch as well as extensive water damage to the ceilings and interior.

“I hope to fulfill my dreams of carefully, lovingly restoring our home,” says Adrian Lo, orchestra director at Bethany Lutheran College.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Minnesota Historical Society has played an important role in restoring storm-damaged communities. SHPO advised residents and owners of historic properties, helped them obtain financial assistance for restoring their homes and buildings, and is administering \$1 million in state grants and deferred loans to repair the storm damage.

This is a good place for us to begin.

The Los have applied for tornado relief funding through SHPO, and hope to restore their home to the solid yet simple “foursquare” that it was years ago when Gov. Johnson built it. Converted into apartments in the late 1930s, the house was returned to a single-family dwelling before the Los purchased it 10 years ago. Renovation projects include restoring the front porch and main staircase, and returning the floor plan to as closely as possible to the original.

“It’s exciting to theorize about the house,” says Adrian Lo. “There are many mysteries that might remain forever uncertain. Some, however, we can comfortably solve. And there are some that might not be appropriate to restore even if we know how things used to be. This is a good place for us to begin, with the items we hope to restore.”

The tornado relief funds are restricted to properties at least 50 years old that have distinct characteristics or historical significance. Eligible property owners can secure funds after insurance and other sources have been exhausted, and for properties listed on the National Register, up to \$50,000 can be obtained for restoration work needed because of the disaster.

Goal

To increase our
services to people
living beyond
the Twin Cities
metropolitan area.



Library ^{and} Collections



The Society's collections, which represent donations and acquisitions from generous Minnesotans who participate in the Society's mission, contain many items of many different kinds — in their quantity and variety they speak to the vast dimensions of Minnesota's history. The following numbers reflect the range of the Society's types of collected items and the size and accessibility of the collections: 6,000 works of art; 400,000 books, pamphlets and periodicals; 35,000 cubic feet of manuscripts, including family documents, diaries and letters; 21,000 maps and atlases; 225,000 historic artifacts; 950,000 archaeological specimens; 1,300 oral histories; 500,000 photographs; 51,000 cubic feet of government records; millions of issues of 4,000 Minnesota newspapers; and 2,000 films, videos and sound recordings. Visitors gain access to the collections in the History Center's Library through easy-to-use methods such as the computerized Research Information System, and by taking special classes on how to use the collections.



With its **15,206** members, the Minnesota Historical Society continues to have the largest membership of any statewide historical organization in the country.

Accomplishments

- The Library attracted a wide variety of readers and researchers last year, from students to scholars, and from foreign visitors to family history researchers. A total of 64,678 persons were served: 39,493 in person; 22,122 by phone; and 3,063 by letter.
- The Society's "Red River Valley Floods of 1997" project completed its first year with 26 oral history interviews in which victims of the flood described the effects of the flood on their families and communities. The archive of more than 300 publications from the Sumac Press — the oldest continually operating private press in the nation — was also added, as was an African American-made film, *Hampton Alexander*, by Timothy McKinney, which features scenes from now-vanished St. Paul neighborhoods.
- Highlights of the 2,771 new artifact acquisitions include a late 19th-century Chinese altar purchased by Woo Ye Sing for his Minneapolis restaurant, John's Place, 1905-67; a sword presented to Brigadier General Henry Sibley in 1863; late 20th-century Fraternal Order of Elks regalia worn by an African American man from St. Paul; Northwest Airlines coveralls worn by a woman worker during World War II; a stoneware tea jug by Chuck Solberg, 1995; a sandbag from the Red River spring flood, 1997; and dinnerware from Ruttger's Bay Lake and Sherwood Forest Lodge, mid-20th century.
- The Library's classes continue to attract new researchers. The "House History" class was enhanced, separate "Census" and "Naturalization" classes were combined into one interactive workshop, and special classes were featured, including: "Church Records"; a Civil War class highlighting items from several of the Society's collections; and a clinic on preserving family photographs. In addition, junior and senior high school students were introduced to the Library in an expanded orientation class.
- The Society began a program that brings together government agencies interested in increasing access to their records with technology, and with the State Law Library, co-sponsored a conference of judicial and reference professionals to discuss the effects of electronic record-keeping on judicial documents.
- The Society continued to collect government records that document the lives of Minnesota's citizens. Notable acquisitions included the St. Louis County coroner's inquest certificates and files (1880s-1960s); court records from more than a dozen counties; city of Stillwater records, including city council minutes dating back to 1861; Winona school district records dating back to 1861; and records from St. Peter State Hospital.
- To introduce students to the archival profession, the Society conducted a summer internship in archival activities for three high school students. Their work was reported on the World Wide Web and at the 1997 State Fair. Internships for members of under-represented communities were also sponsored by the Society.
- In one of the initiatives designed to promote the Society's collections, replicas of Skywater Furniture — a table, chair and stool of exemplary modernist design — were manufactured for sale in the History Center's museum stores.
- Processing and cataloging improved patrons' access to new items in the collections, including books, photographs, films and videos, periodicals, sound recordings, microfilm reels, 413 cubic feet of new manuscript collections, and 1,680 cubic feet of new items for the State Archives.
- Staff members converted paper records of thousands of photographs, three-dimensional objects and books to electronic format and enhanced the PALS online catalog system to provide direct check-in of the Society's holdings of more than 1,500 periodical titles.
- The Society loaned 31 objects from its late 18th- and early 19th-century collection to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for its exhibit, *Hearth and Home: Inherited and Collected*.
- *Welcome to the Research Center*, the video for visitors to the Library, was awarded another prestigious prize: the Gold Hugo from the International Film and Video Competition.

A database of descriptions of the photograph collection was prepared for the Internet. The database includes descriptions of 35,000 photographs and approximately 7,000 scanned digital images.

The Society put out a call for volunteers for its *Our Gathering Places: African Americans in Minnesota* exhibit, and John and Leslie Garner of St. Paul were quick to help.

Active in social and civic clubs and as volunteers with other organizations, the Garners weren't shy about asking their friends and acquaintances to spread the word. "We made lists of friends, clubs, old-timers, various groups," said Leslie, a retired elementary school teacher. "We did the telephoning, and encouraged people to come to some of the meetings. People were very excited because it was the first time the History Center had focused so heavily upon the history of African Americans in the state — a whole exhibit dedicated to our day-to-day life, how we passed on housing, school or job information through community networks."

The exhibit features two settings that evoke community life — a barber shop and a beauty salon — and has engaged young and old African Americans as well as others. "The exhibit helped people understand African American culture when it came to the places they gathered or the social and community aspects," says John, a retired 3M executive, who along with Leslie continues to volunteer in the gallery as an interpreter.

An exhibit dedicated to our day-to-day life.

"People from out of town, groups from up north, Native Americans and others spend a long time looking at the exhibit," says Leslie. "Some visitors have said their mother or uncle used to live on Rondo Avenue, or their grandfather went to Central High, and they want to find out more about it. They are going back into their own lives."

One young woman who visited the exhibit told John that her grandfather had lived in St. Paul for some time. John asked the young woman her grandfather's name, and helped her to find him in one of the historic photos in the exhibit. "She was very excited," said John. "People can really identify with this exhibit."

The Garners were asked to serve on the exhibit team's "Front Four" by guest curator David Taylor, who is dean of General College at the University of Minnesota. Along with Dorothea Burns and Marjorie Tendle, the Garners advised the team on the exhibit's early development, assisted with prototype testing, and helped locate more than 30 volunteers to work in the gallery or at events associated with the exhibit.

Goal

To serve
larger audiences,
especially families,
senior citizens
and school children
with programs and
services of the
highest quality.





Historic Sites

Though each of the Society's 23 historic sites reveals the history of its place and people in unique ways, each site also can evoke the sensation of looking across time. Visitors take tours, watch films and exhibits, see historic events re-enacted, and watch and enjoy educational and entertaining living history programs presented by historic characters. When visitors walk the locales of conflict at the Lower Sioux Agency, on the riverbank at the Charles Lindbergh House, or stand at the base of the awe-inspiring Grand Mound, they are keenly aware of the gap between then and now. For staff and visitors, the historic sites network is a kind of laboratory for thinking about the future.

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



The Society's **23** open historic sites

continued to attract many visitors.

686,670 visited the sites in the past
year, including **154,044** students.

Accomplishments

- The Society's network of 23 open historic sites continued to attract many visitors. A total of 686,670 people, including 154,044 students, visited the sites in the last year.
- A new visitor center and the trail markers were completed at the Jeffers Petroglyphs site. New exhibits are due to open in the spring of 1999, and work continued on an environmental monitoring project funded through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR).
- With the help of the 1998 Minnesota Legislature's Capital Budget Bill and private funds, planning for a museum at the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Center in Minneapolis gained momentum. The bill also allocated funds for vital improvements at several sites, including a building addition at Split Rock Lighthouse, new exhibits and site development at the Lindbergh House, a visitor center at the North West Company Fur Post, and \$1.5 million for projects at other sites.
- The Mille Lacs Indian Museum received an honorable mention award from the Curators' Committee of the American Association of Museums, and the exhibit on the Ayers family business in the museum's trading post received an honorable mention award from the American Association for State and Local History. The Society's partnership with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe drew the praise of President Clinton when he awarded Society director Nina Archabal the National Humanities Medal at the White House in September.
- Society staff are reviewing and revitalizing the collections of historic artifacts at all the Society's historic sites. Last year, a new inventory of the collections at each site was completed, as was a conservation survey of every item in the collection at the Alexander Ramsey House.
- Several sites, including the Forest History Center, Split Rock Lighthouse and Historic Forestville, participated in an internship program that introduced young people to a workplace setting and to the work of historical interpretation in particular.
- Eighty volunteers from nearby community organizations planted more than 2,500 seedlings on Arbor Day at the Oliver H. Kelley Farm. The seedlings will help rejuvenate the farm's landscape, devastated by a storm in July 1997. The planting was co-sponsored by the Society and the Department of Natural Resources, the city of Ramsey, and the Sherburne County Tree Board.

A new multimedia exhibit on archaeology, *History Under the Floor Boards*, opened at Historic Fort Snelling. Using hands-on archaeology programs, the exhibit uses archaeological evidence and historical research to open an imaginative window into 1820s fort life.

- Archaeologists provided essential information about the St. Anthony Falls Historic District and about the site structures and the early inhabitants of the Sibley House and the Faribault House. They found new evidence about the indigenous people who had lived at the site for thousands of years before the two houses were built.
- Batiste Sam, an elder in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and a long-time Society staff member, died last year. Several months before her death, she worked with other Society staff to complete an important oral history documenting her life-long experiences with the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and the Mille Lacs Ojibwe community.
- Building on the successful volunteer program at the History Center, historic sites staff developed opportunities for volunteers to help with such tasks as open houses, birthday parties, greeting visitors and store inventories. A pilot program at several sites, including the Ramsey House, Historic Fort Snelling and Split Rock Lighthouse, will eventually be expanded to the entire network.
- Two years ago, Forest History Center staff assisted in the successful local efforts to designate Highway 38 in Itasca County as a National Scenic Byway. Last year, based on research and photos provided by Society staff, interpretive highway signs were installed and an auto-tour brochure was printed and distributed in response to an increasing number of travelers along the route.
- Society staff worked with the Minnesota Chapter of the Philippine Centennial Movement to create a display at the Minnesota State Capitol commemorating the centennial of the Philippine declaration of independence and the role played by Minnesotans in the Spanish-American War.

While the Society continually looks for ways to expand its activities into communities, the residents of those same communities often dream of how they can build bridges between historic preservation and their own development.

The Society, along with other members of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, are presently joining forces to rehabilitate an area of abandoned mills on the west side of the Mississippi, across from the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood. The Society will build a museum and visitor center, to rise from within the ruins of a landmark mill. Nearby, the Minneapolis Park Board is excavating in the area of the Mill Ruins Park and West River Parkway, both to be built upon archaeological remains of other mills. Simultaneously, two adjacent standing mills are being adapted as loft housing, with support from the City of Minneapolis and its Community Development Agency.

The Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association (MHNA), with assistance from the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program, intends to create a pedestrian-bicycle gateway that will connect Sixth Avenue to the riverfront heritage district. Residents of Marcy-Holmes are keenly interested in these plans. They dream of enhancing the walk from downtown Minneapolis, through the not-yet built Mill Ruins Park across the Stone Arch Bridge and into their neighborhood.

The Society has been a real asset.

Melissa Bean, who works for the MHNA, says that the revitalization of the West Side Milling District will be a good fit with their own community plans. "These projects will impact our goals in a positive way, bringing more people to the river, to the Stone Arch Bridge and to our neighborhood," says Melissa, who, with her husband Scott and other neighbors, is active in local affairs.

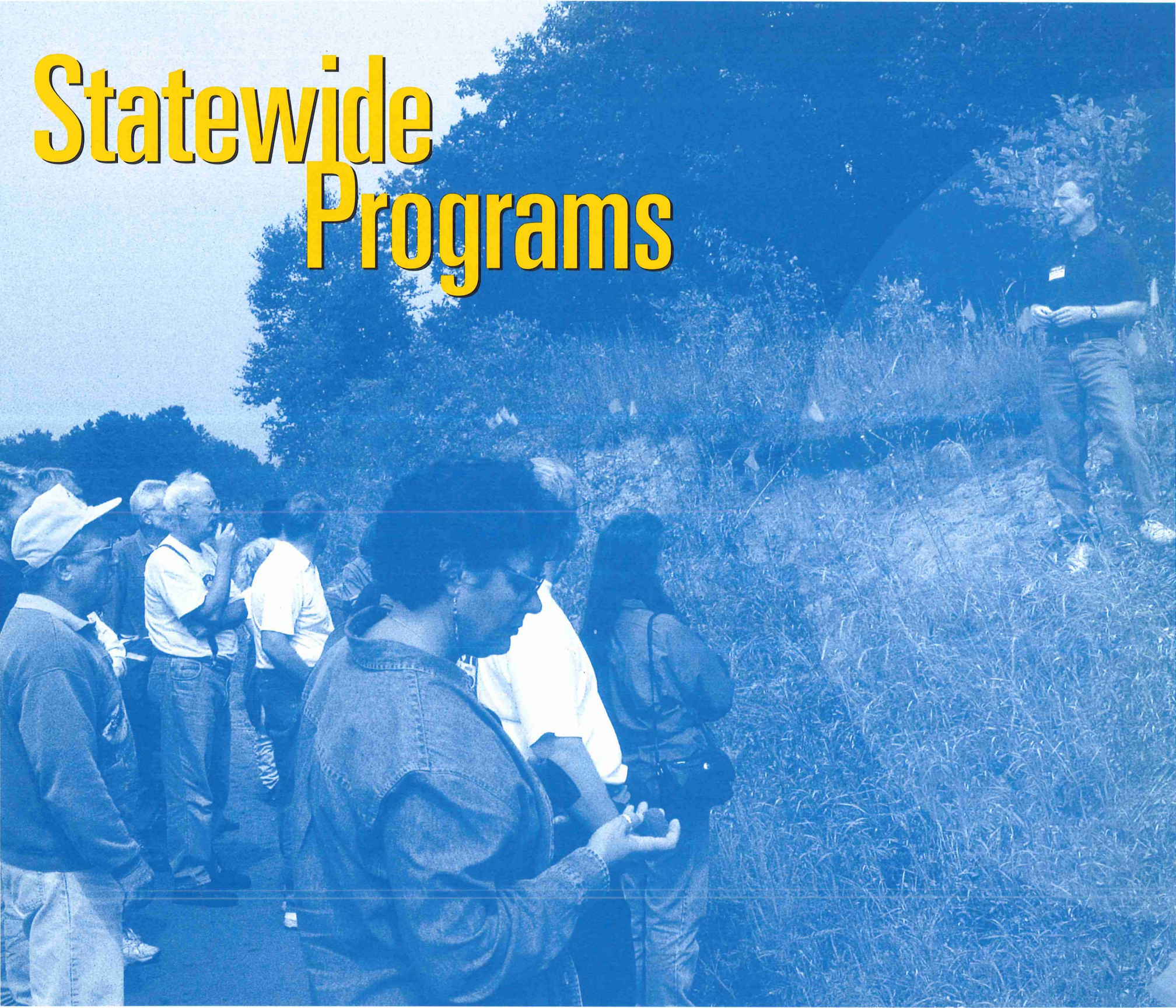
"The Minnesota Historical Society has been a real asset to the neighborhood because we have made historic preservation a priority in our community." Research shows that 17,000 people per week use the bridge during the summer. "We see people who live here out on the trails at 6:30 in the morning," says Melissa. "It's our version of the 'lakes.' People from outside the district are exploring the entire area as well. And where else can you see herons nesting and barges being towed by tugboats and still be just steps from downtown? There is always something to look at and wonder about, and that's why we love it here."

Goal

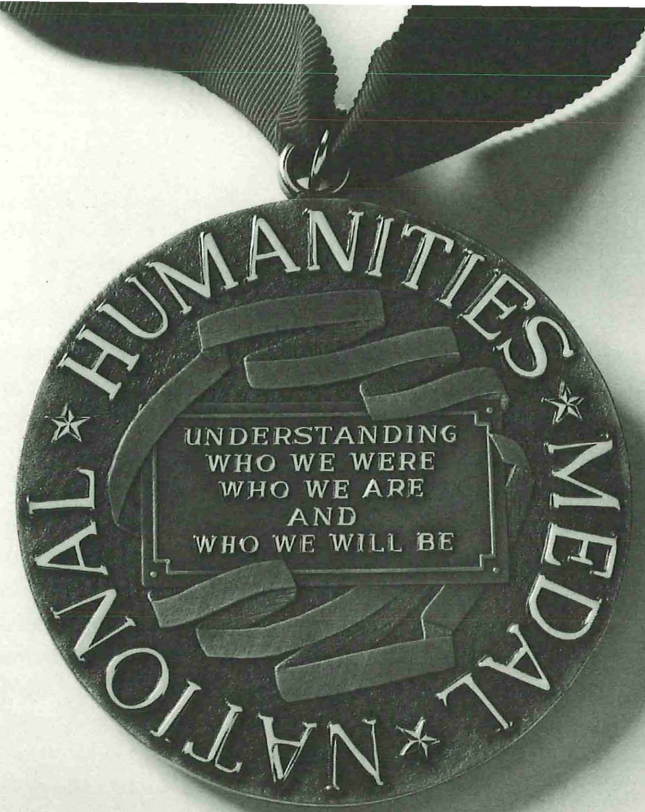
To revitalize
the state's historic
sites network.



Statewide Programs



Working with individuals and other organizations, the Society provided statewide services last year that exemplify how its services to people in greater Minnesota are being increased. These include traveling exhibits, archaeological research and educational programs such as National History Day. Throughout the year, staff members also offered liaison with federal and state agencies; provided workshops and technical information about conservation, preservation and collecting; and administered grants. The Society's outreach capabilities were tested in its response to the tornado of March 29, 1998 — which directly affected even more historically significant properties than did the 1997 flood — and provided urgently needed assistance to residents and municipalities alike.



In September of 1997 Society Director Nina Archabal was one of 10 individuals to receive the first annual National Humanities medal from President Clinton. The award recognizes individuals whose work has deepened the nation's understanding and engagement in the humanities.

Accomplishments

- With its 15,206 members, the Society continues to have the largest membership of any statewide historical organization in the country.
- When the tornado of March 29, 1998, swept through south-central Minnesota, it hit historic properties in St. Peter especially hard, and the Society was called into action. Working with the Governor's office and the legislature, the Society distributed preservation, conservation, curatorial and archival technical information. The Society's historical architects and some 35 volunteer architects recruited by Society staff advised more than 170 residents. Society staff worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that historic properties were properly assessed, held three workshops for nearly 200 people, and met with key people in damaged areas.
- The Society began major initiatives for Minnesota's schools. A pilot "Historian in the Classroom" program brought Society resources to classrooms in 14 communities for week-long lessons in historical inquiry. Society staff are revising *Northern Lights*, the Society's Minnesota history textbook and curriculum, collaborating with the Minneapolis Public Schools on a fourth-grade curriculum about African Americans in Minnesota, and working with TIES (Technology in Education Services) to reach school districts statewide to promote the Society's three-dimensional collections via its web site.
- Society archaeologists worked cooperatively with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to investigate sites in 20 state parks, in more than 70 water recreation sites and 28 state forest projects, and developed and presented training workshops for specialists at the DNR. Nine "Archaeology Week" programs were presented by Society staff.
- Nineteen new properties in Minnesota were listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the St. Croix Recreation Demonstration Area in St. Croix State Park, Pine County, was designated Minnesota's twenty-first National Historic Landmark.
- "Minnesota 2000," a two-year project that will produce a photographic record of our time for the millennium, was begun. Twelve jury-selected documentary photographers are recording a wide variety of subjects, such as snowbirds, Minnesota main streets and teenage life.
- Corporations, foundations, friends and members of the Society contributed more than \$3,600,000 to support Society programs.
- Minnesota History Day, co-sponsored by the Society and the University of Minnesota, continues to be a national model. More than 23,000 Minnesota students participated, many of whom did research at the Society. In the first year of a three-year grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation, History Day was extended to the northwest quadrant of Minnesota. At National History Day in June, 17 Minnesota students shared in eight awards, including one first-place award for a research paper. Also, the Society's History Day coordinator, Tim Hoogland, received the Outstanding History Educator award from National History Day and The History Channel.
- Society staff assisted in forming 11 new historical organizations, bringing the total to more than 470 around the state. More than 300 representatives of local and county historical organizations attended the annual meeting of historical organizations in St. Paul and three regional field workshops in Little Falls, Chisholm and Morton.
- More than 300 people attended the six lectures in the ARCHITALKS series about the history of library design in Minnesota, co-sponsored with the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library and the American Institute of Architects Minnesota. The Society joined with five co-sponsors to celebrate Historic Preservation Week through tours, lectures and a conference. In September 1997, the Society collaborated with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin to sponsor a conference at the History Center on historic architecture and landscapes.
- The Society awarded a total of \$689,804 to projects in the following categories: State bond-funded county and local preservation grants (18 projects); State grants-in-aid, (66 projects); and certified local government historic preservation survey and planning grants (11 cities). A special program of grants for projects related to the Minnesota sesquicentennial and the millennium was initiated last year.
- Volunteers and interns were again an invaluable presence throughout the Society. More than 1,400 volunteers contributed nearly 35,000 hours of service, and more than 40 college and graduate students worked for 6,000-plus hours.

The Society's web site recorded more than 204,000 visits, an increase of 180 percent over fiscal year 1997. The site is being redesigned to update its appearance and improve its accessibility.

In 1998, more than 450,000 students nationwide participated in History Day projects. 23,000 were from Minnesota, and two students from South High in Minneapolis have made History Day part of their high school tradition.

Emily Robinson, 19, and Brett Wilcox, 18, will continue their education at Northwestern University in Illinois, and the experience they gained in high school as historians will benefit them for years to come.

The pair went to national competitions in 1996 and 1998. Their projects included a video about the Honeywell Project, a group of Minnesotans who protested the company's production of weapons and military technology; a slide show about Michael Dowling, who, despite multiple limb amputations, became a Minnesota entrepreneur, banker and speaker of the state's House of Representatives; and a video about the Peace Corps.

While Emily and Brett say they are more "math and science" types, the skills they gained in historical research can translate to the sciences as well. "The research skills are something that I can use in my future, like research and development," says Emily, who will study engineering.

It's all here, all you have to do is look!

Indeed, participation in History Day can make events and people of the past accessible and relevant to life today. "History used to seem so far away, distant and much less connected to my life and the present," says Brett. "The fact that through History Day I was able to dig up old, unedited documentary footage of the Peace Corps in Bolivia, stand at Michael Dowling's grave on a cold winter day, and talk to the founder of a major Twin Cities protest movement is amazing. It's all right here; all you have to do is look."

The Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota have co-sponsored History Day since 1986, and provide a national model for collaborative administration of the program. Through participation in History Day, one of the fastest growing social studies enrichment programs in the nation's schools, students have the freedom to create media entries, exhibits, papers or performances — all related to an annual theme such as triumph and tragedy or taking a stand in history.

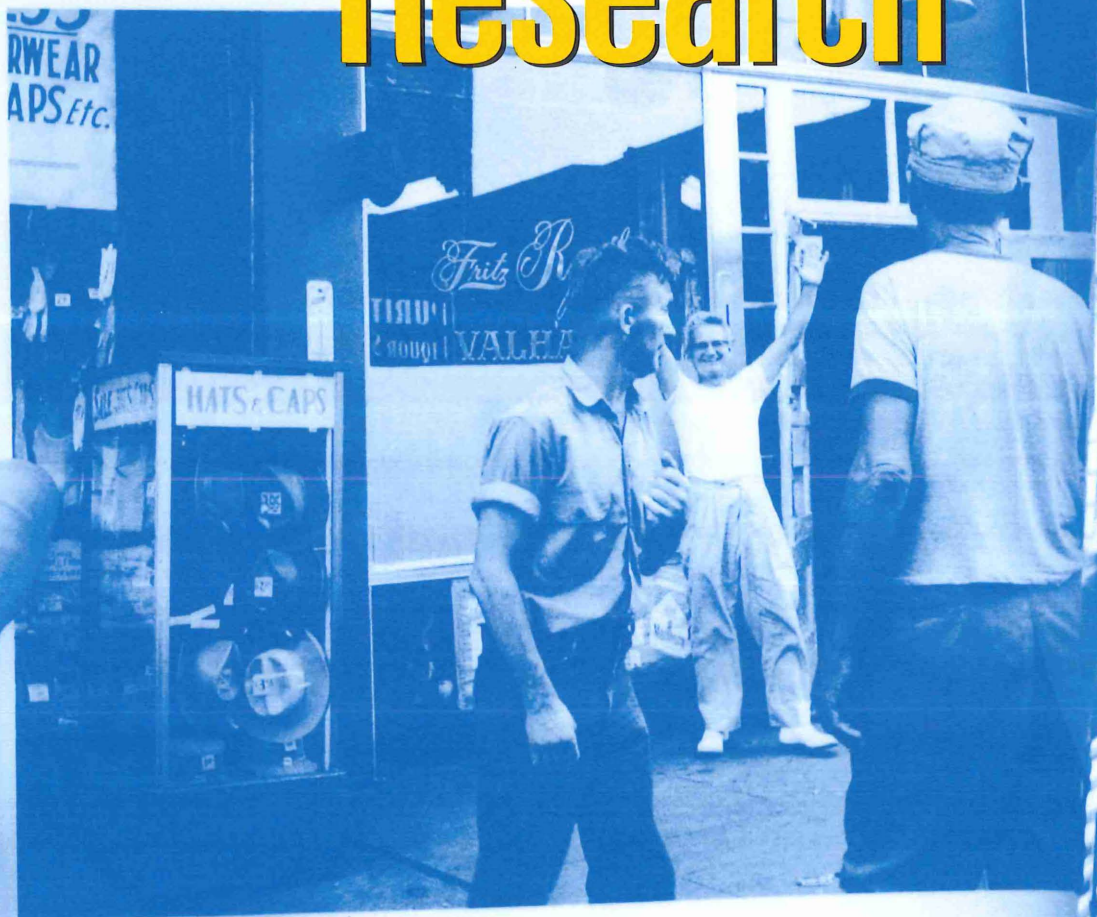
"History Day helps students understand the importance of history in new and exciting ways," says Tim Hoogland, Minnesota's History Day coordinator. "It's a great way for the Society to be a partner in the education reforms taking place in Minnesota's schools."

A black and white photograph of two young women sitting at a desk. The woman on the left is holding an open book, and the woman on the right is pointing at it. A large red circular callout bubble is on the left side of the image, containing the word 'Goal' and a description of the goal. In the foreground, a white computer keyboard is visible. The background shows a wall with many small drawers or lockers.

Goal

To expand
our services to
Minnesota's
elementary
and secondary
schools.

Publications and Research

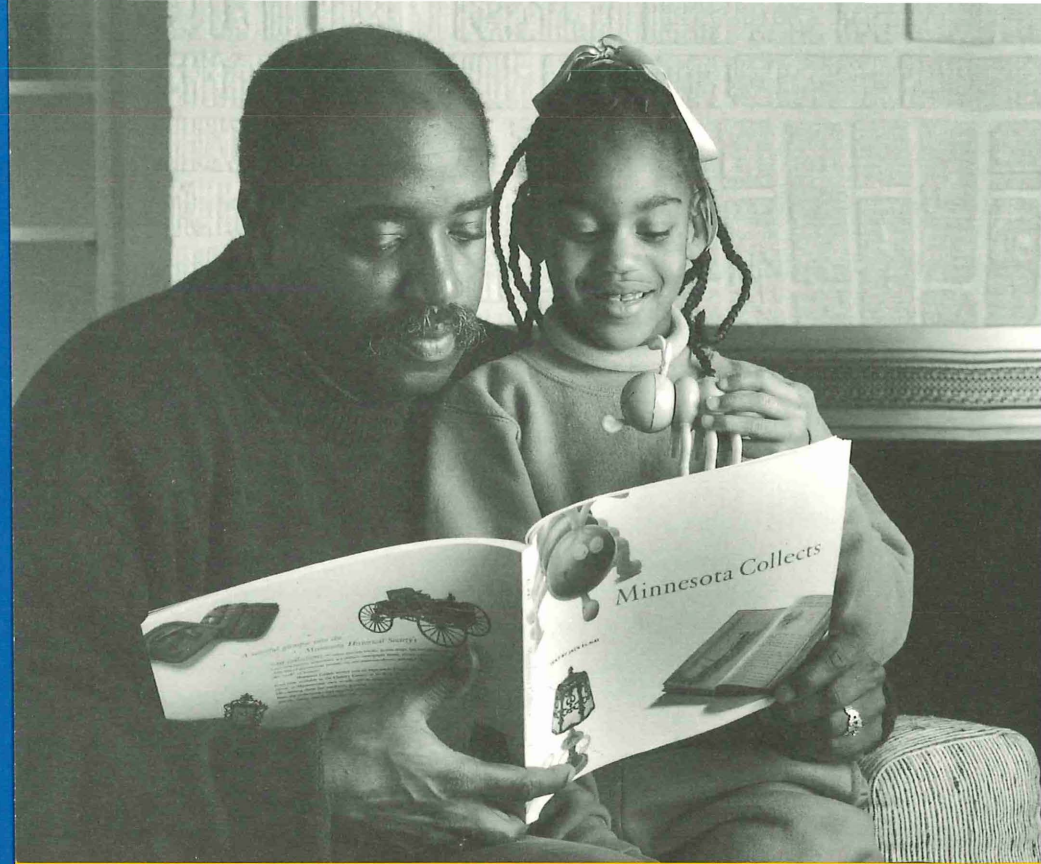


Washington Avenue, Minneapolis, 1958



Man in front of Minneapolis

The Society's research activities and publications typify its approach to achieving long-term goals. They increased in number, circulation and diversity of content and format, but maintained the Society's high standards of scholarship and production values. Subjects ranged from artists to gangsters to historic sites, and from individual memoirs to political movements; locales included the North Shore, Crane Island on Lake Minnetonka and the central Minnesota prairies. Publications such as the quarterly journal *Minnesota History* and newsletters such as *The Minnesota History Interpreter*, *The Minnesota Preservation Planner*, *Research Center Gazette* and *Member News* supplied information of interest to Society members, historians, history buffs, families and historical organizations.



The Minnesota Historical Society Press is the state's oldest publisher. In the last year the Press sold **77,756** books, booklets, music tapes, videos, art reproductions and *Northern Lights* textbooks for school children.

Accomplishments

- The Minnesota Historical Society Press published six new books and a compact disk:

Jerome Liebling: The Minnesota Photographs, 1949-1969 is a luminous depiction of commonplace human experience by a nationally known photographer. His images enhance our understanding of the places, the times and the people of Minnesota.

In *"Dear Poppa": The World War II Berman Family Letters*, compiler Ruth Berman and editor Judy Barrett Litoff describe the war from the perspective of three lively, loving children whose letters to their father tell of their joys and fears.

Charles E. Twining's *F. K. Weyerhaeuser: A Biography* tells the story of the man whose talents and dedication helped make the Weyerhaeuser name synonymous with the lumber industry and close-knit family life.

George Morrison and Margot Fortunato Galt collaborated to produce *Turning the Feather Around: My Life in Art*, a self-portrait of the abstract expressionist artist from Minnesota's North Shore who, as he puts it, "happens to be an Indian."

Two new Borealis Books inform readers about American Indians in Minnesota. Gary Clayton Anderson's *Kinsmen of Another Kind: Dakota-White Relations in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1650-1862* shows how the Dakota concept of kinship affected the tribe's relationships with whites. Inez Hilger's *Chippewa Families: A Social Study of White Earth Reservation, 1938* presents a valuable study of 20th-century reservation life in a time of difficult transition.

The Voyageurs and Their Songs, first published by the Society in 1966 as an LP record and long available as an audiocassette tape, has been digitally remastered and produced for its continuing new audiences as a compact disk.

- The projects of the 17 recipients of Society research grants will yield books, articles, oral histories and a video about a wide range of Minnesota's peoples and places. Topics include Red River Valley railroad towns, Minnesota ethnic church architecture, Japanese American war brides, St. Paul's tradition of African American radicalism, children's summer camps, Dakota mixed-blood people up to 1900, the state's role in U.S. imperialism in the Philippines, the Minnesota origins of the battered women's movement, and a family memoir about how and why a mixed-blood family became culturally white.

***Minnesota History* magazine, now available at Barnes and Noble and B. Dalton stores throughout Minnesota, reaches beyond its subscribers and the Society's more than 15,000 members, who live in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia.**

- William R. Douglas received the Society's annual Solon J. Buck award for the best article published in *Minnesota History* for "'The Germans Would Court-Martial Me, Too': St. Paul's World War I Socialist Draft Resisters." Among other notable works, Colleen J. Sheehy evoked the North Shore's special sense of place in "Making a Place for Art: 50 Years at the Grand Marais Art Colony." In "Hayloft Hoopsters: Legendary Lynd and the State High School Basketball Tournament," Steven R. Hoffbeck recounted a small-town team's bid for top honors when high school basketball was major-league entertainment.
- The monthly newsletter, *The Minnesota History Interpreter*, and its quarterly companion, *The Minnesota Preservation Planner*, were distributed to nearly 2,400 county and local historical societies, heritage preservation commissions and libraries around the state. *Member News*, the Society's bimonthly newsletter, was mailed to the Society's more than 15,000 members.
- The Society supported researchers through grants and the use of offices in the Publications and Research Department. Fifteen researchers addressed topics such as the Alexander Ramsey papers; the history of the town of Pipestone, Minnesota; the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee Records; the Bemidji area between 1890 and 1940 for a historical novel; and Norwegian American women's suffrage organizations in Minneapolis and New York City.
- Children's books about Historic Forestville, Split Rock Lighthouse, the Oliver Kelley Farm, and Historic Fort Snelling were published by Capstone Press of Mankato for use in elementary school classrooms throughout the U.S.

A Message from the President

The Minnesota Historical Society stands ready to celebrate its 150th anniversary with strength and vigor, a clear vision of its future, and a growing international reputation as a landmark educational institution in building community through history.

There are many, many people who have brought the Society to this point on the bridge to the next millennium — a bridge that can be crossed with great confidence and sure footing. I offer deep gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Council for their unfailing support and sound governance; to the staff for their outstanding work every day and especially for the ways they helped a town and its residents recover their life history after a devastating tornado; to the nearly 1,500 volunteers who so generously give their time and support; to Governor Arne Carlson and the Minnesota Legislature for their continued financial support; to the 15,206 members who have made the Minnesota Historical Society the largest state historical society in the United States; and to the donors who believe in the vision of the Society and have made so many things possible.

And thank you to Nina Archabal for her guiding leadership as executive director. Last fall, the national spotlight shone on the Society when Nina received the National Medal for the Humanities from the President and First Lady. The moment was both a celebration of accomplishment and the beginning of an era filled with new horizons for the Minnesota Historical Society. As she accepted the award, Nina praised the people of Minnesota who have cared about their history and supported the Society's work.

At this remarkable point in time, the Minnesota Historical Society is poised to look ahead as never before — to help all who call Minnesota home learn from their past to gain strength for the future. I know we all look forward to that endeavor.

Karen A. Humphrey

Karen A. Humphrey
President



Condensed Balance Sheet

Year ended June 30, 1998 (000's omitted)
(with summarized information as of June 30, 1997)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1998	1997
Cash and investments	\$ 2,022	\$ —	\$10,876	\$ 2,441	\$ 5,542	\$ 5,485	\$ 26,366	\$20,657
Receivables	385	—	—	5,822	3,199	150	9,556	9,732
Museum shop inventories	693	—	—	—	—	—	693	700
Property and equipment, net	—	65,009	—	—	—	—	65,009	64,756
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,100</u>	<u>\$65,009</u>	<u>\$10,876</u>	<u>\$ 8,263</u>	<u>\$ 8,741</u>	<u>\$ 5,635</u>	<u>\$101,624</u>	<u>\$95,845</u>
Payables and accrued liabilities	514	—	51	\$ 1,745	377	76	2,763	1,958
Net assets:								
Unrestricted	2,586	65,009	10,825	—	—	—	78,420	73,819
Temporarily restricted	—	—	—	6,518	8,364	—	14,882	14,890
Permanently restricted	—	—	—	—	—	5,559	5,559	5,178
Total net assets	<u>\$ 2,586</u>	<u>\$65,009</u>	<u>\$10,825</u>	<u>\$ 6,518</u>	<u>\$ 8,364</u>	<u>\$ 5,559</u>	<u>\$ 98,861</u>	<u>\$93,887</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 3,100</u>	<u>\$65,009</u>	<u>\$10,876</u>	<u>\$ 8,263</u>	<u>\$ 8,741</u>	<u>\$ 5,635</u>	<u>\$101,624</u>	<u>\$95,845</u>

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

Statement of Activities

Year ended June 30, 1998 (000's omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1997)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1998	1997
Support and revenue								
Support								
Private contributions	\$ 439	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,406	\$ 254	\$ 3,099	\$ 2,119
Federal grants	—	—	—	—	869	—	869	1,287
State agency grants	—	—	—	—	684	—	684	204
County and other grants	—	—	—	—	122	—	122	123
State appropriations	—	—	—	22,853	—	—	22,853	24,161
Total support	439	0	0	22,853	4,081	254	27,627	27,894
Revenue:								
History Center auxiliary services	1,118	—	—	—	—	—	1,118	992
Historic sites admissions	976	—	—	—	—	—	976	890
Historic sites store sales	798	—	—	—	—	—	798	723
Membership	532	—	—	—	—	—	532	489
Publication sales	580	—	—	—	—	—	580	652
Management fees	114	—	—	—	—	—	114	50
Museum program fees	193	—	—	—	—	—	193	167
Other sales and fees	769	—	8	—	5	—	782	725
Investment earnings	1,325	—	2,747	—	775	127	4,974	3,345
Total revenue	6,405	0	2,755	0	780	127	10,067	8,033
Total support and revenue	6,844	0	2,755	22,853	4,861	381	37,694	35,927
Net assets released from program restrictions	26,397	1,326	—	(24,693)	(3,030)	0	0	0
Total support, revenue and net assets released from program restrictions	33,241	1,326	2,755	(1,840)	1,831	381	37,694	35,927

(continued on following page)

Statement of Activities

Year ended June 30, 1998 (000's omitted)
(with summarized information as of June 30, 1997)

(continued from previous page)

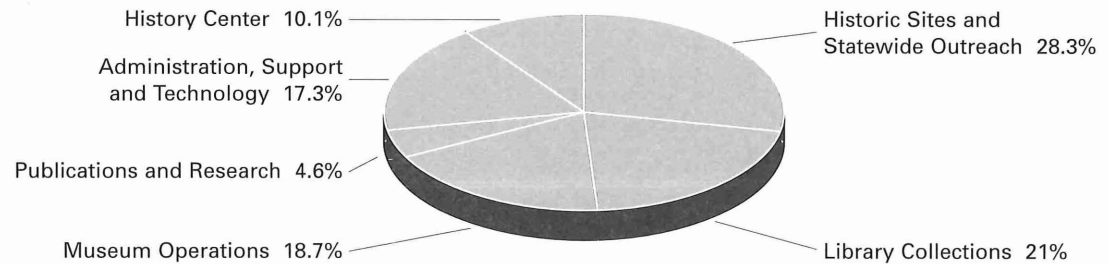
	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1998	1997
Expenses								
Program services:								
Library collections and archival services	\$ 6,610	\$ 267	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6,877	\$ 6,299
Publications and research	1,485	10	—	—	—	—	1,495	1,745
Museum operations, exhibits and education	5,825	273	—	—	—	—	6,098	5,651
Historic sites, field programs and State Historic Preservation Office	9,151	118	—	—	—	—	9,269	8,692
History Center	2,926	386	—	—	—	—	3,312	3,255
Total program services	25,997	1,054	0	0	0	0	27,051	25,642
Supporting services:								
Management and general	5,216	17	—	—	—	—	5,233	4,569
Development and membership	436	2	—	—	—	—	438	374
Total supporting services	5,652	19	0	0	0	0	5,671	4,943
Total expenses	31,649	1,073	0	0	0	0	32,722	30,585
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,592	253	2,755	(1,840)	1,831	381	4,972	5,342
Transfers of net assets	(1,000)	—	1,000	—	—	—	0	0
Change in net assets	592	253	3,755	(1,840)	1,831	381	4,972	5,342
Net assets at beginning of year	1,994	64,756	7,070	8,358	6,533	5,178	93,889	88,547
Net assets at end of year	\$ 2,586	\$65,009	\$10,825	\$ 6,518	\$ 8,364	\$ 5,559	\$98,861	\$93,889

Year End Highlights

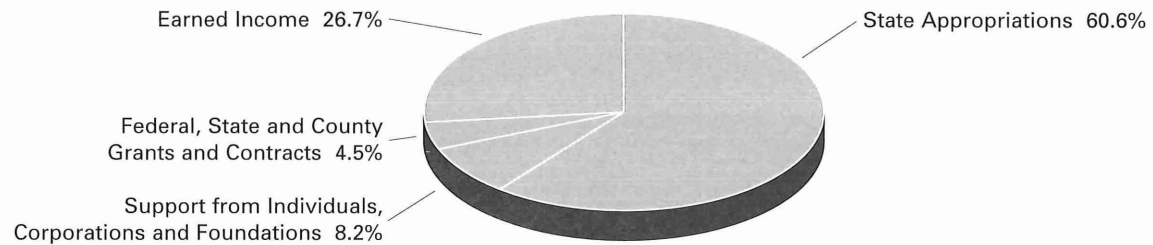
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998

- The Society's members, friends, corporations and foundations provided \$3.6 million in funding for the Society's programs, up from \$2.6 million in 1997.
- During Fiscal Year 1998, the Society generated 26.7 percent of its income from revenue-producing activities compared to 22.4 percent the prior year.
 - Historic Sites admissions and stores sales were up 9.6 percent
 - Membership revenue was up 8.8 percent
- Investment earnings were 49 percent higher in 1998 than 1997.
- Society membership, at 15,206, continues to make the Minnesota Historical Society the largest state historical society in the country.
- Nearly 1,300 volunteers contributed more than 34,000 hours of service to the Society.
- 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



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