



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1999 Annual Report



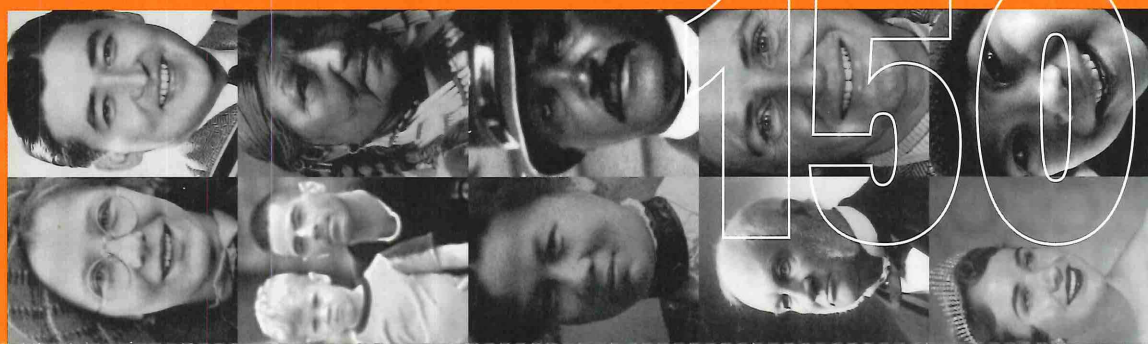
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PHONE: 651/296-6126

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CELEBRATE THE SOCIETY'S

150TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE



ATTACHED BOOKMARK

As Minnesota Territory was being created, so was the Minnesota Historical Society. Even before the territorial legislature met for the first time, a group of history enthusiasts was working to create an organization to preserve the story of their changing times. This group, which included Territorial Gov. Alexander Ramsey, believed that their dreams for Minnesota's future depended on preserving the knowledge of Minnesota's past. On Oct. 20, 1849, during its first session, the territorial legislature approved the formation of the Minnesota Historical Society. Just one month later, in a lamp-lit log building in the newly named capital of St. Paul, the Minnesota Historical Society was formally organized. It was the territory's first chartered organization.

Although it would be years before the Society would have its own quarters to house the collections that soon began to accumulate — and the resources to care for them — the founders were eager to begin the work of recording the story of Minnesota's past for future generations. Among their earliest accomplishments was the Society's first publication, a dictionary of the Dakota language, produced in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution. They also established a small library, beginning the contribution to research that we carry on today.

In observance of the Society's 150th year, this 1999 Annual Report highlights — alongside our many accomplishments — examples of pivotal work from our past. As we look back over the last 150 years, we are reminded that from the earliest days, the Society has measured its success by the quality of its service to the people of Minnesota. And as we approach the new millennium, we remember and celebrate 150 years of telling the Minnesota story.

Over the course of the Society's history, we have continued to invite an ever-broadening audience of Minnesotans to join in preserving their history. Just as the Society benefited in 1849 from the interest of Minnesota's territorial governor and legislature, we benefit today from the support of our governor and the legislature. The Society draws its strength from the people it serves. We are grateful to our members, donors, visitors and friends, who help us remember the legacy of our founders — to continue their dreams of preserving Minnesota's past to ensure its future.

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal

Director

A Message from the Director

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"When you volunteer at the History Center, you have the opportunity to learn more about all the different cultures in Minnesota."

Wally Nippolt, volunteer

history center mu



In the Society's first permanent home at 690 Cedar St. in St. Paul, the museum occupied most of the third floor. This photograph taken in 1918, the year the building opened, shows what probably was the first exhibit in the west gallery.

When the Society needs volunteers to help with a family festival, they know who to call: Wally and Gloria Nippolt. Wally, in turn, knows who he'll call. Wally is among the volunteer coordinators for the St. Paul Companies Retirement Volunteers Program, about 50 people who work on a range of projects from the Bloodmobile to Historic Fort Snelling. He's an organizer.

The Nippolts, who have been married for 50 years, come as a team, and they've worked at family festivals since the History Center opened seven years ago. While Wally works as a "floater" making sure that volunteer work runs smoothly and relieving those who need a break, Gloria helps parents and children at family "make it and take it" activity stations.

The Nippolts volunteer with a number of organizations, but they find the History Center's family programs exciting. "At the History Center," Wally says, "there is such a diversity of cultures. We've had Ojibwe people telling stories, people from the Hmong community doing dances, people from up north telling about the logging

industry, and they all tie into the Minnesota culture."

Wally began doing volunteer work decades before he retired in 1985 after 42 years with the St. Paul Companies. Gloria retired a few years later after working for 20 years with St. Paul children who had learning disabilities and other problems.

At the History Center, Wally and Gloria say their work brings together people not only across generations and across cultures, but also within families.

"You don't go to a lot of places where families have this opportunity to do things together," Gloria says. "Everything is available here to work with your children on an activity. Sometimes the children finish their activities first and wait for the parents to get done with their projects."

Like Wally, Gloria agrees that volunteering is important. "I volunteer because it's my way of contributing to the community we live in, and it's a way of reaching out to people. It is important to give a little of yourself, and all we're giving, really, is the time. It makes me feel good."



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History Center Museum



More than 106,000 students visited the
History Center last year, including 46,737
who participated in the Explore! program
and 34,983 in history lessons.

The Society's founders, who were also leaders in shaping the Minnesota Territory, offered their time and energy as volunteers to launch the Society. They handled the day-to-day details, including finding meeting places, keeping records, expanding the collections and managing the Society during its formative years. Volunteers have been critical to the Society ever since. In 1857, the Society paid

We Remember

one consultant, William H. Kelley, who was hired for two years to help reorganize the Society's collections after a fire in the State Capitol, but did not have a paid staff person again until 1869. In that year, J. Fletcher Williams, who had volunteered as Society secretary for two years, received a salary that enabled him to leave his job as a newspaper reporter and devote his full time to the Society until his death in 1893.



The History Center Museum was visited by 415,509 people last year — exploring 11 exhibits in the museum, attending a performance or lecture in the 3M Auditorium, or participating in a class or family program in the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Education Center. Its programs and activities make the History Center a lively and engaging place that encourages people of all ages to value memory and cherish its meaning.

Accomplishments

- Planning and development of several upcoming exhibits occupied much of last year. They include *Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858* (October 1999); *Minnesota 2000* (January 2000); an exhibit at the Lower Sioux Agency historic site (May 2000); and *Sounds Good to Me: Music in Minnesota* (October 2000).
- *EATING!*, a new exhibit, highlights the Society's diverse collections around the general theme of food and objects related to eating.
- *Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball* attracted crowds of visitors interested in both African American history and baseball.
- The traveling exhibit *Unpacking on the Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest* continues on a five-year tour that will take it throughout the United States and Canada.
- More than 30 members of the African American community volunteered in the exhibit *Our Gathering Places: African Americans in Minnesota*.

- The "Great Saturday Quilting Bee" program in the *Minnesota A to Z* exhibit attracted quilters from around the state and visitors from around the world.
- An Internet companion to the exhibit *Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858*, which opened at the History Center in October, was developed on the Society's web site (www.mnhs.org/territory).
- More than 5,500 people attended History HiJinx programs last year, and "Nine Nights of Family Fun" attracted more than 2,000 adults and children to summer musical programs held outside on the Laura Jane Musser Terrace.
- More than 8,000 people attended two Family Festivals — "Minnesota Collects" and "Winter Festival" — and "Minnesota Folk 1998," the annual folk arts and music festival.
- Many organizations sponsored volunteer groups for a wide variety of tasks throughout the Society. They include 3M, Dayton's, General Mills, H. B. Fuller, NSP, St. Paul Companies, Pillsbury, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Women's Organization of the Minnesota Historical Society.
- The Society collaborated with many community groups to bring several popular programs to the 3M Auditorium, including The Nimely Napla's Pan-African Dance Company and The Ethnic Dance Theatre.
- Among the well-attended public programs in the 3M Auditorium were the fourth annual David Noble lecture, the Stans Lecture and the Lindbergh Environmental Film Festival.
- More than 29,500 people attended the 237 after-hour special events at the History Center, and more than 95,500 people were served in Café Minnesota during regular hours.
- Roger Wells dedicated a \$1 million endowment fund to the Society's exhibits program in honor of his parents, George W. Wells Jr. and Mary Cobb Wells.



“After consulting with the Minnesota Historical Society, we have a much clearer sense of what we are going to be encountering as we develop our own database system, which will include 10,000 photographic images.”

Gregory A. Page, Dakota County Historical Society

library & col



This picture illustrates why the Society needed to develop its newspaper microfilm program. Curator Willoughby Babcock is shown in 1952 with a bound volume of copies of the St. Paul Pioneer Press from 1896.

Gregory A. Page, director of the Dakota County Historical Society, has a vision: Sit down at any computer, enter a name and discover everything the county libraries and historical society have about the subject. The information includes books, photographs, papers and manuscripts, three-dimensional objects, and obituaries and other newspaper articles. With another click, he could look at historical photographs or pictures of objects and manuscripts.

Greg, who hopes to make this vision a reality next year and used the Minnesota Historical Society's photographic database as a model, called the Society's collection department for advice. "They were very forthcoming, sharing their experience and telling us how ours would be different from theirs," he says. He worked with a Society consultant to write a plan for the county's historical database and web presence.

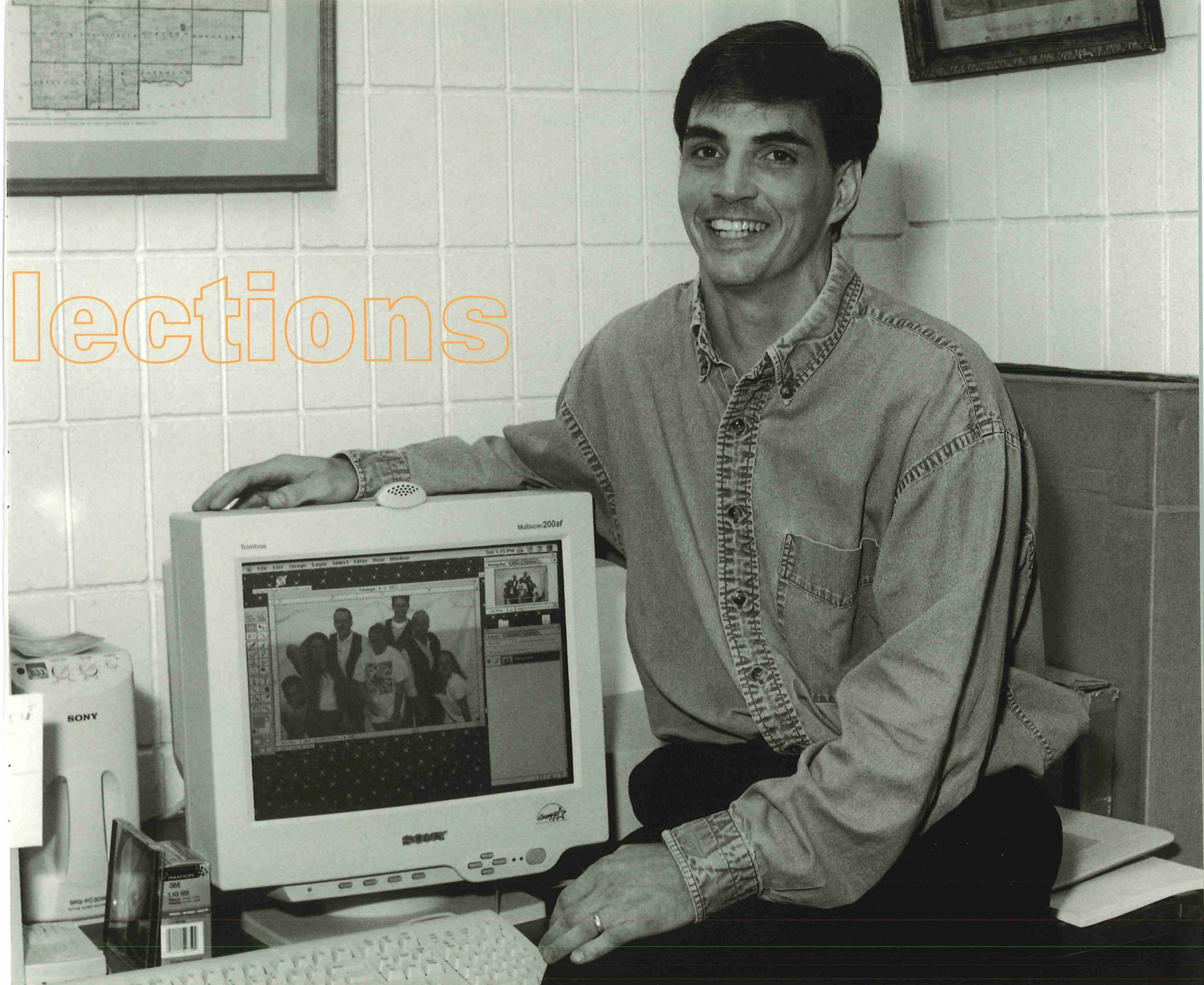
"This is just invaluable because we'd have to figure it out by trial and error without the plan. There are many big and little issues that we didn't think of at the begin-

ning," he says, such as how to track items being removed and returned, how to name and number them online, and how to manage the system with a small staff.

After involving the county library system, Greg wrote to other history groups in Dakota County and found 19 interested in participating in the online database. They range from the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, whose ancestors lived in Dakota county during the territorial era, to the Southern Minnesota Wing of the Confederate Air Force, which restores World War II planes. The list includes the Dakota County Genealogical Society, the Mendota Mdewakanton Community, the Serbian Ethnic Cultural Center, and city historical societies in Farmington, Lakeville, Eagan, Hastings, Rosemount, Mendota and South St. Paul.

Libraries and historical societies seem the opposite of what they were 30 years ago, Greg says. "Now instead of each one guarding its own little collection," he says, "the idea is 'Let's work together to get it all out there to the public.'"

lections



Library & Collections



Last year Society staff members assisted nearly 65,000 patrons. They aided researchers in the Library, answered requests via telephone, letter and e-mail, served at the Genealogy Help Desk, conducted tours of the Library and taught classes in genealogy and research methods.

In his first message to the Minnesota territorial legislature, Gov. Alexander Ramsey urged that every newspaper published in the territory be saved. Ramsey, the first president of the Society, called newspapers “the daybooks of history.” Since the Society’s organization on Nov. 15, 1849, members and staff have collected and cared for Minnesota’s newspapers. Before long, storage space became an issue. The Society used its first microfilm

We Remember

camera in 1948, but approximately 25,000 bound volumes had not been filmed by 1976, when the Society initiated the Minnesota Newspaper Microfilming Project. In 1987, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a grant to the Society for a three-year project to microfilm bound volumes, identify missing titles and catalog the Society’s newspaper collections. Today, Society patrons have access to one of the largest microfilm collections of Minnesota newspapers in the country.



The Library and collections are at the very heart of the Society. In its act incorporating the Society on Oct. 20, 1849, the first Legislative Assembly said, “the object of said Society shall be the collection and preservation of a Library, . . . and other matters and things connected with, and calculated to illustrate and perpetuate the history and settlement” of Minnesota Territory. Today, Society staff care for thousands of artifacts, books, maps, photographs, government records, newspapers and manuscripts, and make the collections ever more accessible to the public.

Accomplishments

- The Society completed its two-year oral history project on the Red River Valley Floods of 1997, which documented the floods and the stories of recovery.
- Notable objects acquired for the collections this year include a collection of Red Wing stoneware, materials from the Jesse Ventura campaign, objects associated with the Minnesota Black Music Awards, an early painting by famed Minnesota artist George Morrison and a 1917 first edition of Sinclair Lewis’ novel *The Job*.
- The Society’s online photograph database now includes descriptions of nearly 120,000 photographs with electronic images for more than 30,000 of them. It is being expanded to include images of the Society’s fine art, photograph and poster collections.

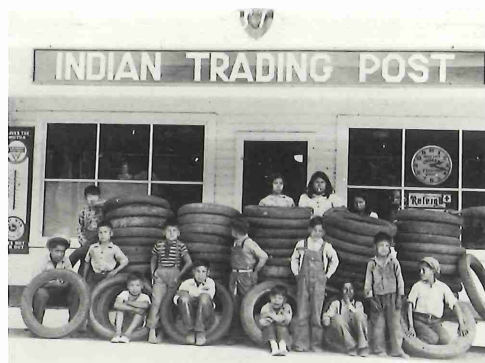
- Classes for patrons of the Society's Library continued to be very popular, and a special class featuring collections related to the Spanish-American War was offered in recognition of its 100th anniversary.
- A video history about John Jensen, a leading fish-decoy carver, was filmed as part of the Society's oral history series on Minnesota craftspeople and artists.
- Volunteers completed several very large cataloging projects, including updated listings of the Northern Pacific Railroad's personnel records for the Society's Library and re-housing 15,000 state prison records.
- The Society received a major award from the National Endowment for the Arts for preserving a valuable early film from the town of Cologne, Minn.
- The Society began collaboration with several major health organizations on care for more than 12,000 cubic feet of records from the historic tobacco litigation.
- Historically valuable environmental records from the 19th century are being digitized for use in geographic information systems.
- "AskRon," a database of the Society's collection of more than 70,000 newspaper microfilm reels and current issues available in the Society's Library and libraries across the country, was developed on the Society's web site.
- Society staff members completed more than 150 finding aids — supplemental guides and indexes to the collections — which are available on the Society's web site.
- More than 1,700 records and images were added to the 12,000 text records already in the online public catalog of the Society's museum collections.
- The archaeology holdings of the University of Minnesota, which number several hundred thousand objects, were transferred to the Society.



“To me, it is an honor to depict the past. For my part, what I shared with the Jeffers project is very important to me. There’s no ending. There are songs and stories that go on and on.”

Willard Malebear, Dakota teacher

historic



The Indian Trading Post, built in 1921 by Harry and Jeanette Ayer, is now part of the Society’s Mille Lacs Indian Museum historic site. This photograph from the early 1940s shows children in front of the Trading Post with old tires collected for the war effort.

Dakota tradition says the images and carvings on the rocks at the Society’s Jeffers Petroglyphs historic site were placed there both by nature and spiritual leaders. The leaders, says Dakota teacher Willard “Willie” Malebear, stood in lightning and thunder storms to hear nature’s messages which they recorded on the rocks along with images from their vision quests.

Vision quests are basic to Dakota culture and personal life, and Willie’s own personal vision at age 36 led him back to school to become a teacher. “I went on a vision quest to improve my lifestyle, to better myself, to do something very important that I can share,” he says. “I asked: ‘What will I do that I can help people?’” Now he teaches the Dakota language at the Four Winds School in Minneapolis.

Willie helped write, translate and narrate the multimedia presentation at the new visitors’ center at Jeffers Petroglyphs. The program supports his belief that, even though the Dakota language is complex and sacred, it can be taught with simple ideas and cultural concepts. Minneapolis

children who previewed the program understood its main ideas, even though the narration was in Dakota. In eight minutes, they learned the main themes: the making and meaning of rock images, the lives of Indians on the prairie, the events of a buffalo hunt and how nature speaks to people.

Jeffers Petroglyphs, located on a 250-yard-wide red rock ridge near Comfrey, Minn., has meaning to many native people, says Lance Foster, a member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. “This seems to have been a good place for rest, prayer and reflection on journeys between the Mississippi and Missouri, for trading of pipestone and the hunting of buffalo.”

The Society works to preserve the rocks and the human markings, some of which may be 5,000 years old, and to restore the natural prairie at the site. The new exhibits and visitors’ center opened in May 1999.

FOUR WINDS SCHOOL

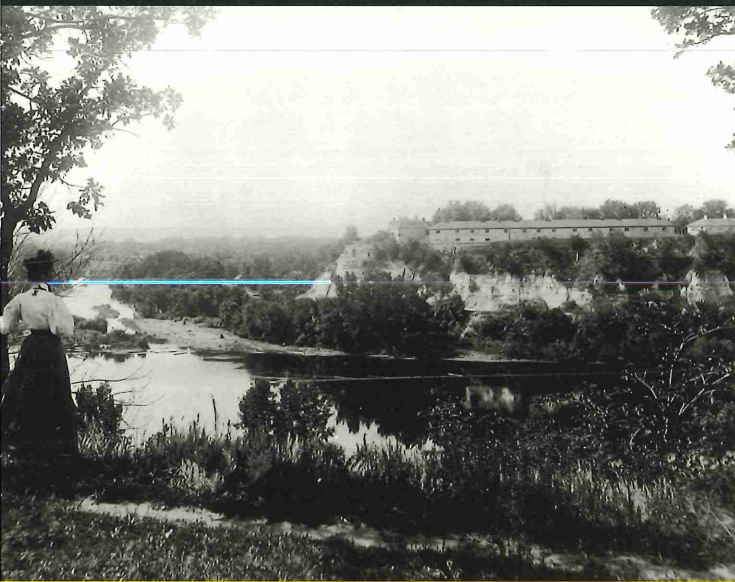
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5



Historic Sites



The Society's 24 historic sites give Minnesotans and visitors a wide range of opportunities for seeing the places where our history happened. The sites welcomed more than 750,000 people last year, an increase of nearly 10%, including more than 150,000 students.

We Remember

The soldiers and their families who lived and worked at Fort Snelling for more than 100 years didn't think of themselves as "historic." But as early as 1864, historians recognized the fort's significance and began the efforts to preserve it. In 1960, after an archaeological survey by the Society, the fort was designated the state's first National Historic Landmark. Five years later, the Society began a \$4.5 million restoration effort. Historic Fort Snelling opened to the public in 1970 with tours and re-enactment programs, and today it welcomes nearly 100,000 visitors each year.



The Society's 24 historic sites are the settings of some key milestones in Minnesota's history. When welcomed into these theaters of the past, visitors see vivid re-enactments of significant historical events and talk with costumed guides portraying people who lived and worked there. Through experiences like these and others, such as taking a walking tour across the Stone Arch Bridge, climbing the 100-foot-tall forest ranger's tower at the Forest History Center, or viewing the rock carvings at Jeffers Petroglyphs, visitors gain a deeper understanding of the force of historical change.

Accomplishments

- The Society's largest historic sites project is the planning and development of a new museum and visitor center on the Minneapolis riverfront at St. Anthony Falls. The \$24 million museum, to be located within the ruins of the fire-damaged Washburn Crosby A Mill, will open in 2002.
- A new visitor center with exhibits, a multimedia theater presentation and new interpretive programs, was opened at the Jeffers Petroglyphs historic site. The opening day was attended by 1,200 visitors.
- Eleven of the Society's historic sites participated in the Youth Internship Program, which brings high school juniors to the sites to develop useful work skills in a historical setting.
- The World War II History Roundtable and Air National Guard Museum lecture series at the Historic Fort Snelling visitor center drew a record 4,700 participants.

- Society staff members are among the experts working on restoring the cafeteria in the State Capitol basement, returning the space to its original 1905 design as a German "rathskeller."
- A self-guided trail of the site was created and public access improved at the Birch Coulee Battlefield historic site near Morton.
- Society staff worked with educators around the state to host workshops for teachers, give classroom presentations, and develop new worksheets and self-guided living history programs.
- Approximately 40,000 artifacts have been inventoried at the Society's historic sites. Society staff reviewed 15,000 items at the Hill House, the Comstock House, Fort Ridgely, Lac qui Parle, Lower Sioux and the Alexander Ramsey House.
- In a new volunteer project at Historic Fort Snelling, 15 special events volunteers contributed nearly 90 hours in helping to greet more than 14,000 visitors.
- Society staff and community members created a special display in the State Capitol about Minnesota's involvement in the Spanish-American War and Philippine Independence.
- More than \$12 million has been raised toward the \$24 million cost of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Center, including a \$2 million gift from John and Sage Cowles, and \$1 million commitments from Betty and Whitney MacMillan, David and Barbara Koch, and the James Ford Bell Foundation. In addition, a \$625,000 challenge grant was received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the project was designated a "Save America's Treasures" project by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the White House Millennium Council.

Historic Sites

Alexander Ramsey House
 Birch Coulee Battlefield
 Charles A. Lindbergh House
 Comstock House
 Folsom House
 Forest History Center
 Fort Ridgely
 Grand Mound
 Harkin Store

Historic Forestville
 Historic Fort Snelling
 James J. Hill House
 Jeffers Petroglyphs
 Lac qui Parle Mission
 Lower Sioux Agency
 Mille Lacs Indian Museum
 and Trading Post
 Minnehaha Depot
 Minnesota State Capitol

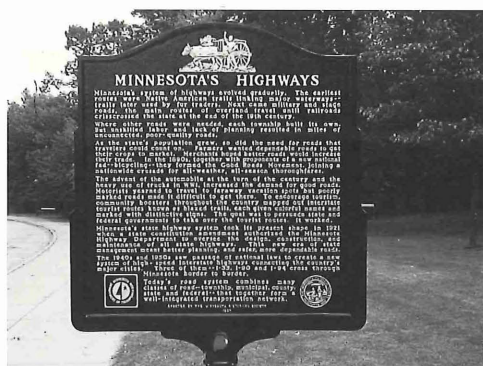
North West Company
 Fur Post
 Oliver H. Kelley Farm
 St. Anthony Falls Historic District
 Sibley Historic Site
 Split Rock Lighthouse
 W.W. Mayo House



“I think it’s important for people to understand the history of the state in which they’re living. Logging played a huge role in the state. It built our town, and I think it’s sad that there are a lot of people, especially younger people my age, who don’t know the history that they’re living in. One of the best ways to teach them is by re-enacting. It’s interactive. It’s hands-on. I know I learn better by being shown how something is done rather than just by reading about it.”

Collin Zaffke, youth intern at Forest History Center

statewide pro



The Society has placed more than 230 historic markers throughout the state since 1930. This 1997 marker, “Minnesota’s Highways,” was placed at a rest area on I-94 near St. Cloud. It calls visitors’ attention to the historic significance of Minnesota’s road system.

It’s 90 degrees and 90 percent humidity on a July day in 1999, but Grand Rapids high school student Collin Zaffke puts on a red and black flannel shirt, bib overalls and leather boots and goes to work portraying a character living in December 1900.

Collin heads back in time as a summer youth intern at the Forest History Center’s recreated winter logging camp. He is among 25 participants in the Society’s Youth Internship Program funded by a cooperative agreement with the Department of Children, Families and Learning using resources appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature.

As an interpreter, Collin portrays a Scottish immigrant named Cullain MacLeod, who sometimes wears a kilt and plays the bagpipes. Collin taught himself to play the pipes, and he takes requests from visitors, most often for “Amazing Grace.” His job in camp is to sharpen the loggers’ saws.

Collin says he did a lot of research for his work, beginning with a History Day project on Scotland several years ago. Scottish immigrants worked in the logging

camps, but Collin cannot say for sure whether any loggers had bagpipes with them. “We know there were so many immigrants who came over. I’m sure there was at least one piper somewhere.”

At the Forest History Center, living history completes the picture you get from reading, Collin says. “When you get to see how things were actually done, and you see how the camp was operated, it kind of pulls things together so people can see what it was really like to have some of those jobs. It makes it more interesting for people to really see what it was like.”



Statewide Programs



Society membership now exceeds 16,000, more than double the number in 1992, when the History Center opened. The Society continues to have the largest membership of any state historical organization in the country.

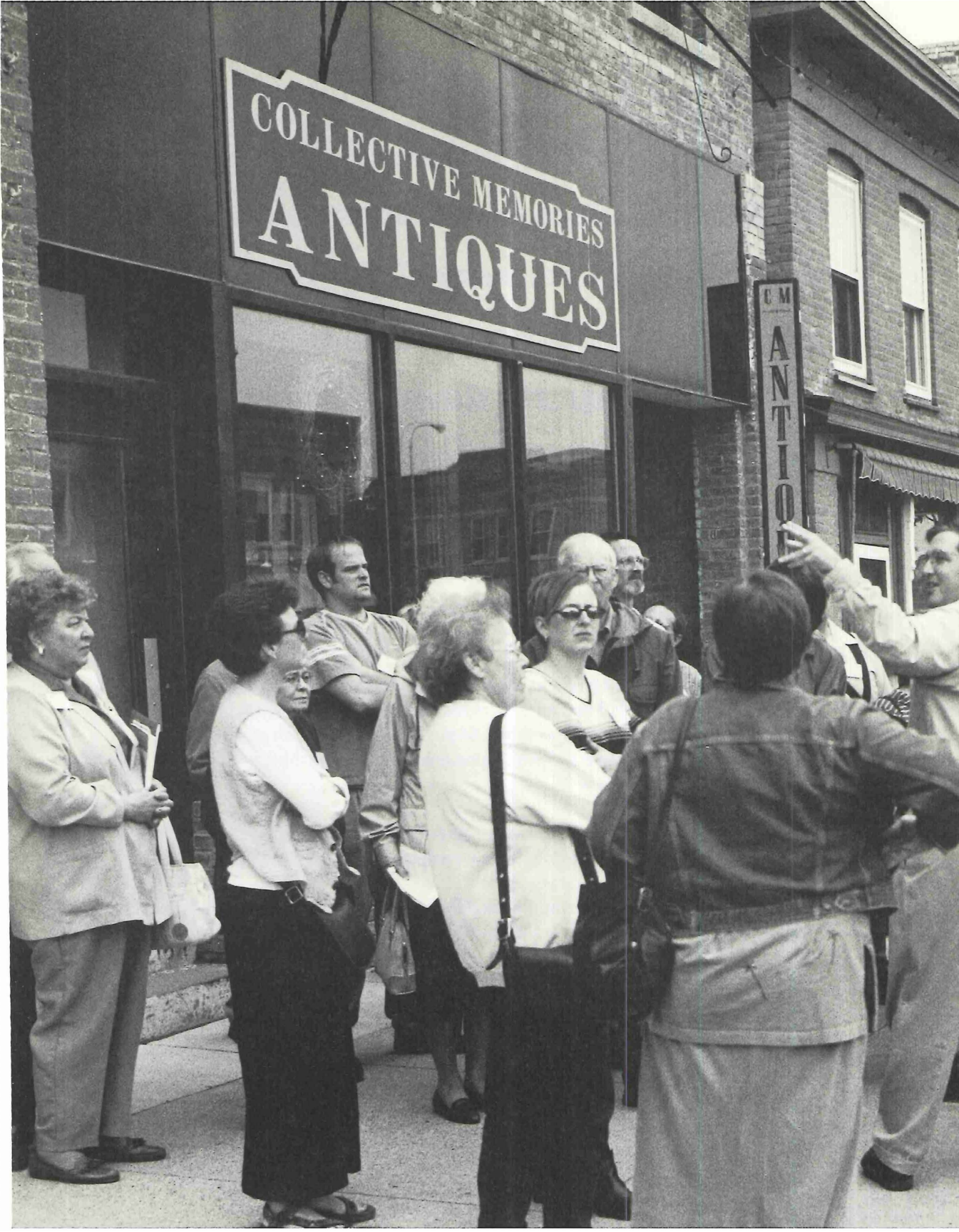
The Society extended its statewide services in the 1920s when it began holding conferences on local history and meetings throughout the state and urging Minnesotans to form more local historical societies. In 1948, a full-time staff position was created at the Society to aid these organizations, which now number more than 470, and Society staff members have traveled

We Remember

more than a million miles to offer technical assistance and guidance to them. Beginning in 1916, the Society conducted surveys of county archives, and in 1930, began placing historical markers throughout the state. Its grant program, which began in 1969 with \$25,000, last year awarded more than \$800,000 in funds appropriated by the Legislature for historic preservation and local history projects around the state.

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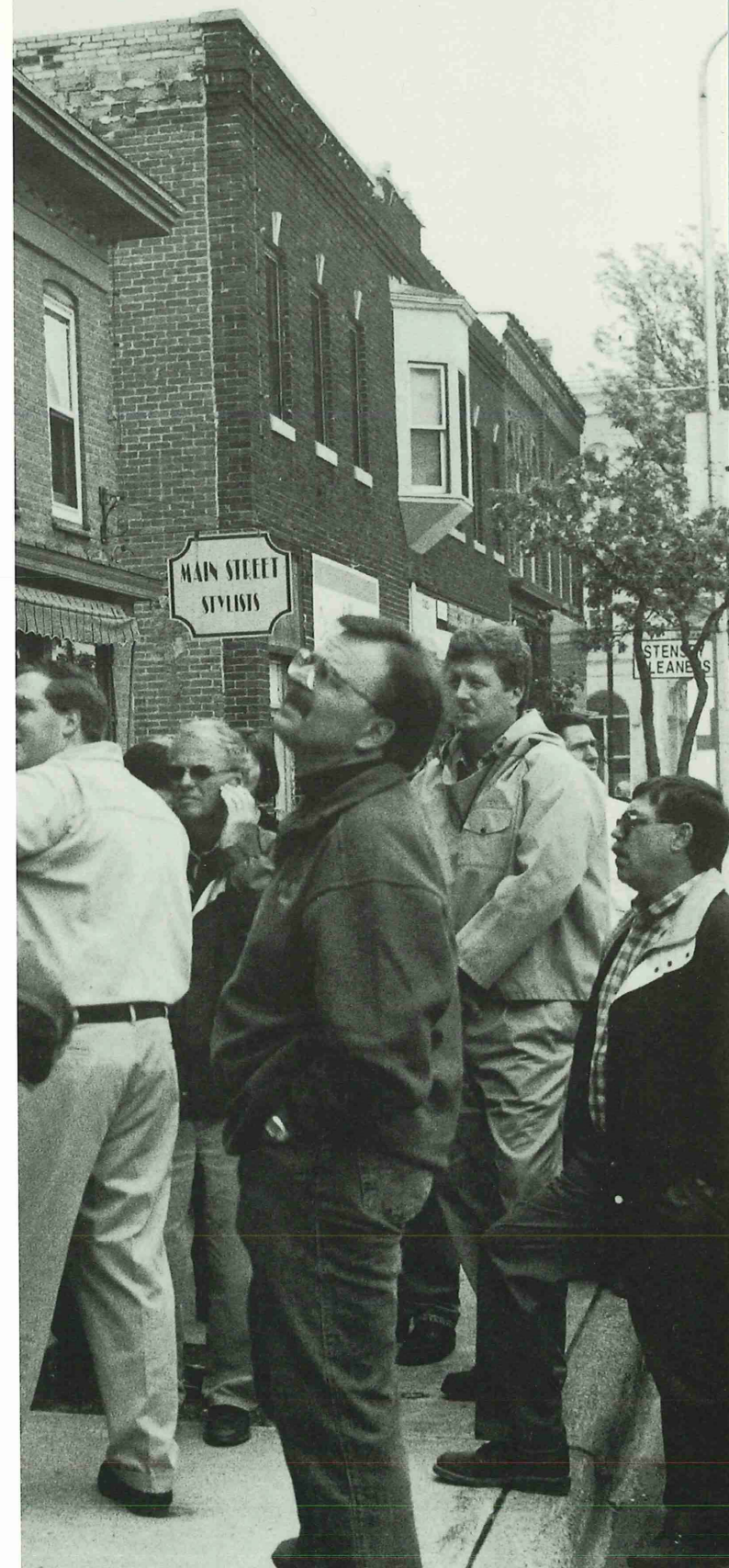


The Society's programs of service to individuals and organizations are truly statewide. They include continued assistance to owners of tornado-damaged historic property in St. Peter and conservation and field workshops in four cities around the state. History Day involves an increasing number of students throughout the state, and the Society's World Wide Web site is providing people everywhere new access to the Society's collections.

Accomplishments

- Society staff reviewed 43 preservation projects requesting funding assistance for recovery from the St. Peter tornado of March 1998; 32 were eligible for assistance. In October 1998, Gov. Arne Carlson announced that an additional \$350,000 would be available for historic preservation projects; the original appropriation was \$1 million.
- More than 180 St. Peter property owners received assistance through the Society, and work on 15 projects is largely completed.
- Ten properties were listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Stanchfield Logging Camp in Morrison County (1847).
- "Protecting Rural Historic Landscapes in Areas of High Development," a project funded by the Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources, was completed. The landscape in Goodhue County's Sogn Valley was documented to National Register standards and a statewide preservation plan formulated.

- More than \$800,000, an increase of more than 16 percent, was awarded in 115 grants to non-profit organizations and local governments for historic preservation or local history projects.
- The average number of daily visits to the Society's redesigned web site has more than doubled in the past year.
- Workshops for teachers were held at the History Center, Grand Rapids, Rochester, Alexandria, Duluth and Kimball.
- Society staff members assisted researchers and presented oral history, video history and conservation workshops to community organizations throughout Minnesota.
- Twelve years ago, the state History Day contest attracted 125 students, all from metro area schools. Last year, nearly 25,000 students from 325 schools participated, more than 700 students used the History Center for research, and 12 regional History Day events were held. Fifteen Minnesota students shared nine awards at National History Day in Washington, D.C. in June.
- A grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation made it possible for History Day in northwestern Minnesota to grow dramatically. At one school, participation increased from a small group to more than 450.
- In its second year, the "Historian in the Classroom" program provided week-long programs for 348 students in eight towns. Funding from the Hartz Foundation supported this program in Tosston, Goodridge, Thief River Falls and Warren.
- Last year 1,450 volunteers and interns contributed more than 39,000 hours in carrying out a wide variety of tasks at the History Center and the Society's historic sites.
- Individuals and organizations contributed nearly \$10 million to support the Society's ongoing programs, fund capital projects and build the endowment.
- The North Star Circle, which was created in the last year to honor donors who give \$1,000 or more to the Society's Annual Fund, now has 129 charter members. The first North Star Circle event, held at the James J. Hill House in June, featured Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



“We now have something physical that says this culture is important. A lot of people are very proud of it, and they feel that it’s theirs as much as it’s mine or the Minnesota Historical Society’s.”

Maya López-Santamaría on *Música de la Raza: Mexican and Chicano Music in Minnesota*

publications & re



The Society’s publishing program was successful even before the Minnesota Historical Society Press was formed in 1975. The editorial staff of 1965 is shown here, from left to right: Dorothy Perry, Ann Hage, Phyllis Sandstrom, Marjorie Kreidberg and June D. Holmquist, who later started the Press.

Maya López-Santamaría went to a job interview in 1996 that changed her life and helped preserve an important part of Minnesota’s musical heritage. At the time, the Society and the Minnesota State Arts Board were seeking someone to document music from Minnesota’s Mexican-American community, and she wanted to do research in cultural anthropology.

Maya took the job and spent the next three years studying Minnesota’s Mexican Americans and their music. The result is *Música de la Raza: Mexican and Chicano Music in Minnesota*, a compact disc and accompanying 76-page book released by the Minnesota Historical Society Press in May 1999. “For me personally, it was a process that grounded me in the community,” she said. “Although I had done field work in Chiapas, I hadn’t done research in my own community.”

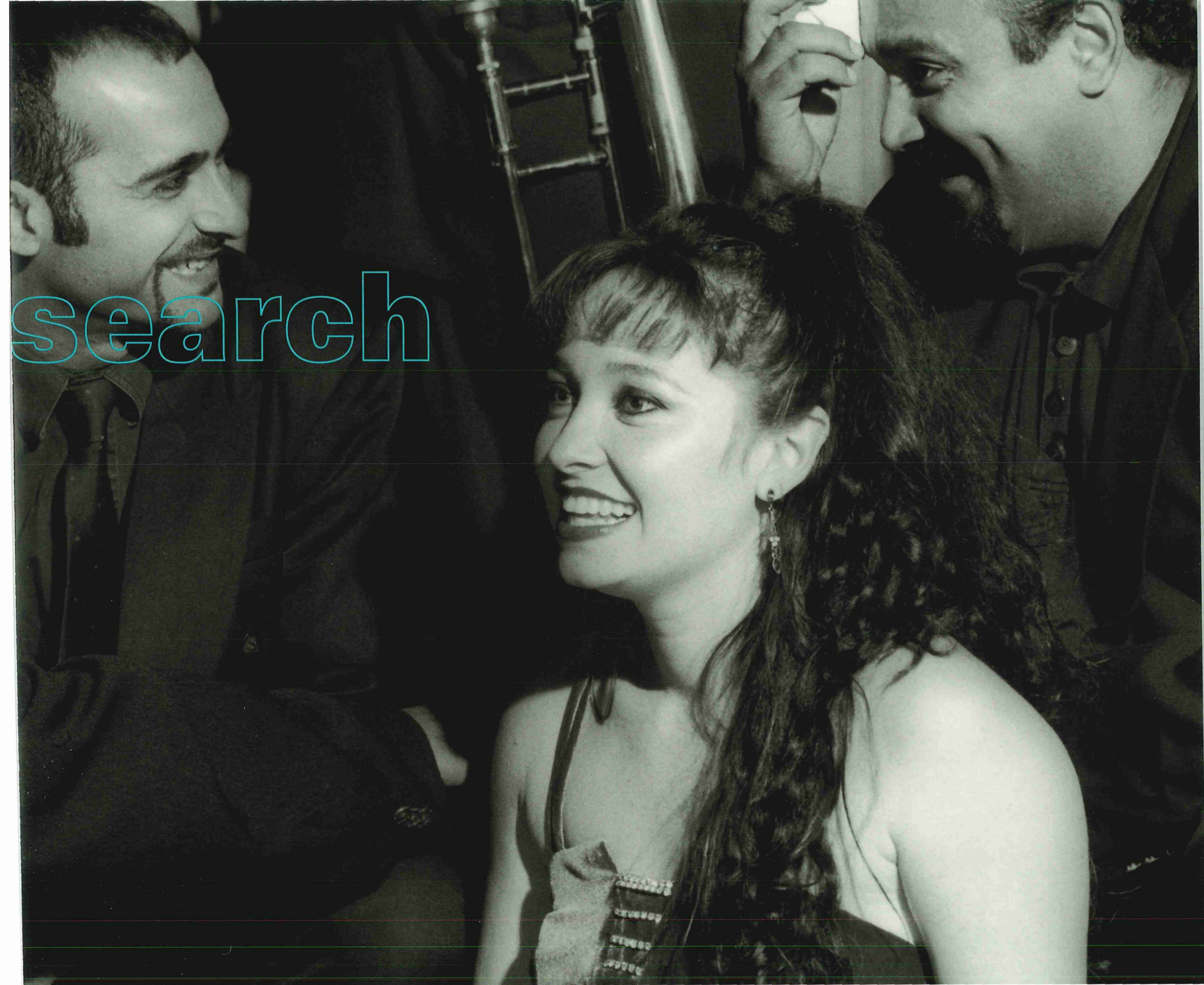
In the process, Maya also became a professional musician. She sings with Orquesta Sabor Tropical, a 13-piece Latin orchestra that performs regularly in the Twin Cities and is included on the

70-minute CD that features 19 recordings made between 1950 and 1998. Selections on the CD range from traditional religious music and love songs to modern rap containing Aztec references and language.

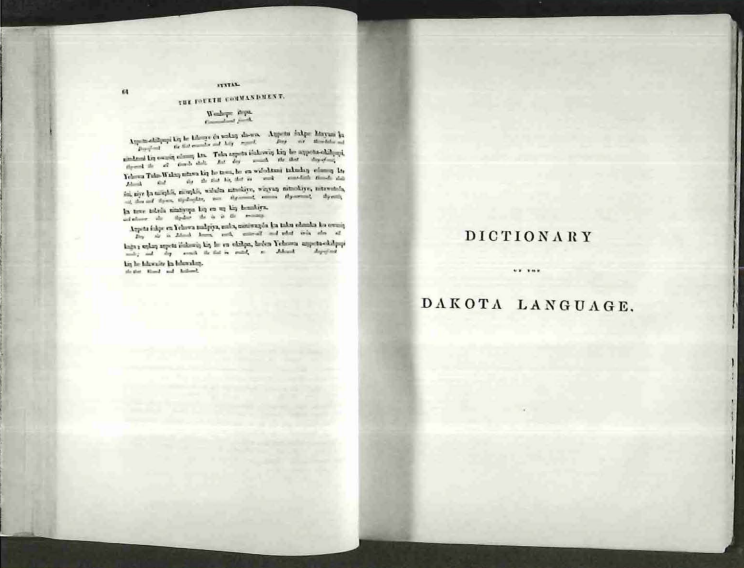
Music is basic to Mexican-American culture, but it often has not been preserved because many people, especially migrant workers and their descendants, lacked the money and recording equipment, Maya says.

Música de la Raza is the fifth compact disc/booklet combination in the Minnesota Musical Traditions series co-sponsored by the Society and the Arts Board. The series presents recordings of Minnesota musicians and interprets their work historically and culturally. Other volumes in the series focus on the music of the Ojibwe, African Americans, Norwegian Americans and Minnesota polka music.

search



Publications & Research



The Minnesota Historical Society Press sold 86,732 items this year, an increase of nearly 12 percent. The list of active titles includes 150 books, plus posters, maps, fine art prints, a textbook and non-print formats such as video-tapes, audiocassettes and music compact discs.

The Society has a publishing career as long and distinguished as the institution itself. It began with a speech by the Rev. E. D. Neill, later to be the Society's second secretary, which was published on Jan. 14, 1850. It was followed by the *Grammar and Dictionary of the Dakota Language*, published in 1851 in the Smithsonian Institution's *Contributions to Knowledge* series with funds

We Remember

raised by the Society. *Minnesota History*, the Society's quarterly,

began as the *Minnesota History Bulletin* in 1915, and later pioneered the use of photographs in historical publications. The Society published two magazines for youthful readers: the *Gopher Historian*, which ran from 1946 to 1972; and *Roots*, which ran from 1972 to 1993. By 1978, the Society was publishing an average of one book or pamphlet every month.



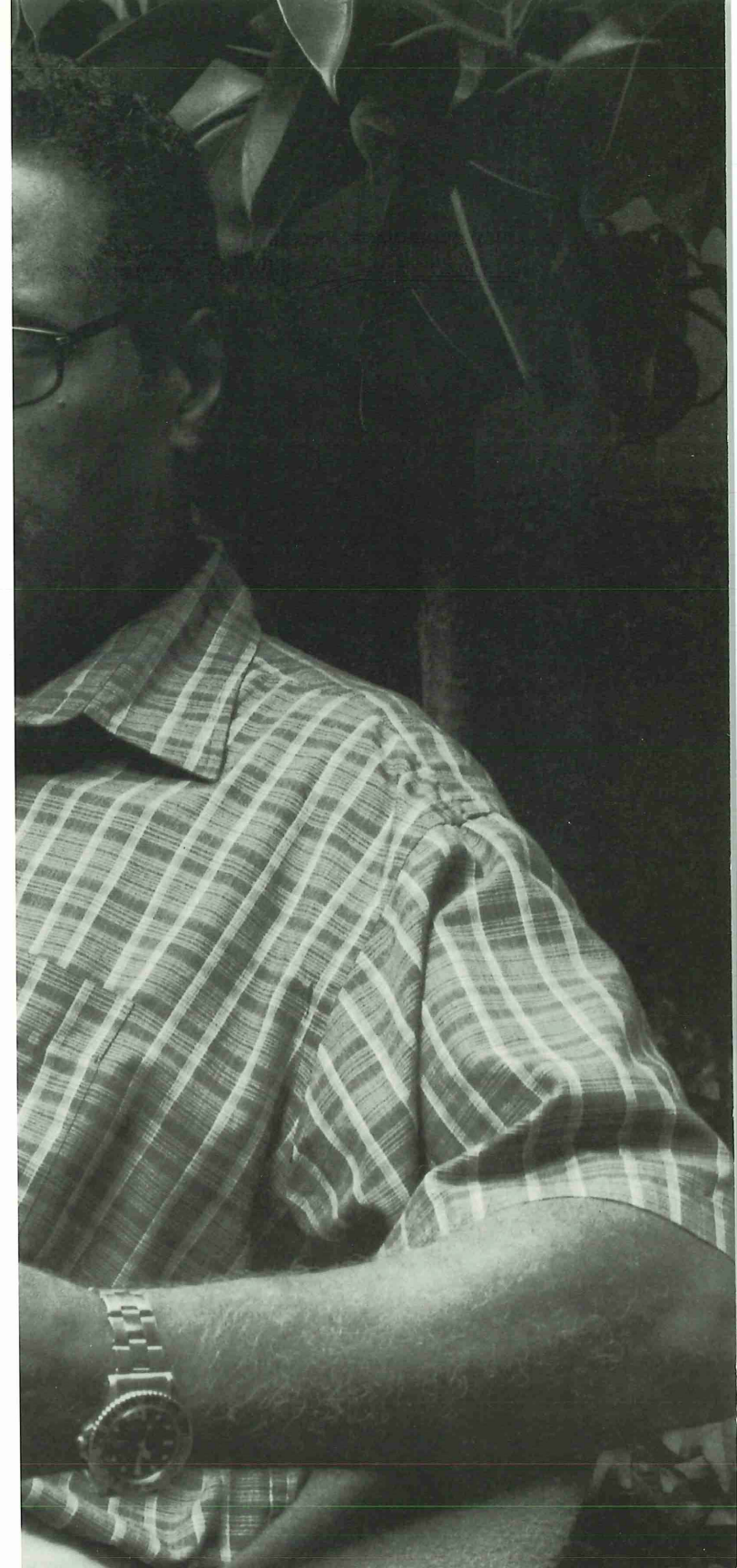
The Society's publishing program has grown in quality, variety and quantity since it began, shortly after the Society was founded. More than 190 items are now in print, along with *Minnesota History* magazine, video and audio tapes, music compact discs, posters and fine art prints. Publication and research program topics reflect the scope of subjects of interest to the Society, ranging from State Capitol murals to African American communities in the Twin Cities to the history of the territorial period.

Accomplishments

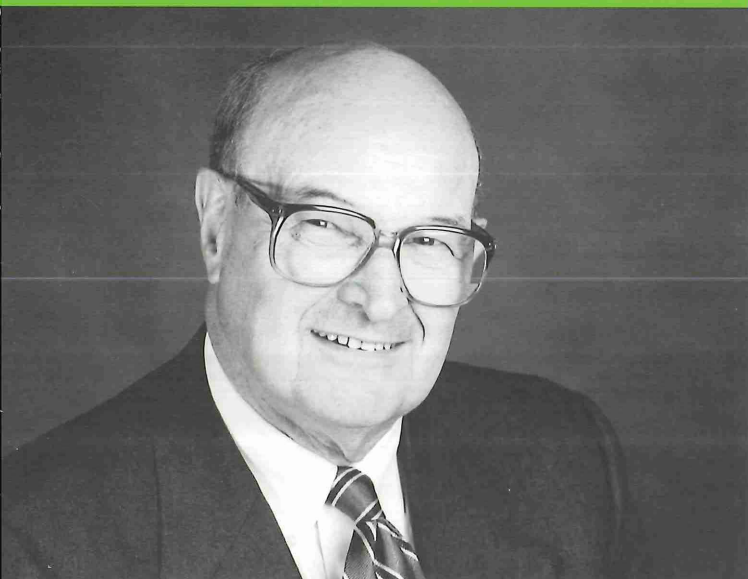
Among the Press's publications in the last year were:

- *Making Minnesota Territory, 1849-1858*, edited by Anne R. Kaplan and Marilyn Ziebarth; essays reassessing the events and meaning of Minnesota's territorial period.
- *Map of Minnesota Territory, 1850*; a 3 x 5-inch, 16-page facsimile of an immigrant guide and four-color map in the Society's collections, which was used to encourage settlers to come to Minnesota.
- *Música de la Raza: Mexican and Chicano Music in Minnesota*, by Maya López-Santamaría; a compact disc accompanied by a book about music in Minnesota's Mexican and Chicano communities.
- *Frederick Manfred: A Daughter Remembers*, by Freya Manfred; a daughter's memoir of the artistic life and last days of her father.

- *Building Community, Keeping the Faith: German Catholic Vernacular Architecture in a Rural Minnesota Parish*, by Fred W. Peterson, which won a prize in the history category of the Minnesota Center for the Book's 1999 Minnesota Book Awards.
- *Shaping My Feminist Life*, by Kathleen C. Ridder; a publication of the Midwest Reflections memoir series, which tells the strong and clear-voiced story of this prominent Minnesotan.
- *Women of Minnesota, Selected Biographical Essays* (revised edition), edited by Barbara Stuhler and Gretchen Kreuter; charts the accomplishments of prominent Minnesota women.
- *Barefoot on Crane Island*, by Marjorie Myers Douglas; a reminiscence of summers spent on Lake Minnetonka in the 1920s.
- *Minnesota History*, sent to the more than 16,000 members of the Society and nearly 600 subscribers, increased its newsstand distribution throughout Minnesota by 40 percent. Among its topics were Minnesota Swedes who founded an agricultural colony in Cuba and the Crispus Attucks Home, an orphanage and old-age home serving St. Paul's African American community.
- *Northern Lights*, the Society's sixth-grade curriculum and textbook, has been used in 60 percent of Minnesota school districts. It is being revised for a new generation of students.
- *African American Stories in Minnesota*, a fourth-grade curriculum kit about individual African American Minnesotans, will be available for classroom use during the school year 1999-2000.
- The monthly newsletter, *The Minnesota History Interpreter* and its quarterly companion, the *Minnesota Preservation Planner*, were distributed to 2,400 historical organizations and libraries.
- Eighteen research grants were awarded this year, including one to the History of Norwegians in the Twin Cities project, co-sponsored by the Norwegian-American Historical Association and the Society. Other recipients probed a range of subjects from railroad towns in the Red River Valley to the introduction of carp into Minnesota's waters.



A Message from the President



As we celebrate this, our sesquicentennial year, your Minnesota Historical Society is stronger and more vibrant than ever. It is widely recognized as the premier state historical society in the nation. Thanks to the foresight of our founders and the countless contributions of our citizens over the years, we have continued to grow and to bring the stories of Minnesota's past to life for people throughout the state and beyond.

As we look back over a century and a half of service and ahead to a hopeful new millennium, this is a moment to recognize the thousands of people who have contributed to the Society's success. As president, I am honored to serve with the dedicated members of the Executive Council, and grateful for the outstanding work of our dynamic director Nina Archabal and the Society's excellent staff.

On behalf of the Society, I say thank you to our more than 16,000 members for your continuing support, to the many generous

donors who make our work possible, and to Minnesota's governor and legislature for their ongoing support of our work. Together, we have built a strong Minnesota Historical Society that stands ready to serve the people of our state in the next century and for many generations to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard T. Murphy, Sr.' The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent 'R' and 'M'.

Richard T. Murphy, Sr.
President

Condensed Balance Sheet

Year ended June 30, 1999 (000's omitted)
(with summarized information as of June 30, 1998)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1999	1998
Cash and investments	\$ 2,597	\$ —	\$14,240	\$ 2,908	\$ 9,265	\$ 6,986	\$ 35,996	\$ 26,366
Receivables	300	—	—	14,820	4,562	160	19,842	9,556
Museum shop inventories	722	—	—	—	—	—	722	693
Property and equipment, net	—	64,066	—	—	—	—	64,066	65,009
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,619</u>	<u>\$64,066</u>	<u>\$14,240</u>	<u>\$17,728</u>	<u>\$13,827</u>	<u>\$ 7,146</u>	<u>\$120,626</u>	<u>\$101,624</u>
Payables and accrued liabilities	\$ 624	\$ —	\$ 93	\$ 1,939	\$ 328	\$ 188	\$ 3,172	\$ 2,763
Net assets:								
Unrestricted	2,995	64,066	\$14,147	—	—	—	81,208	78,420
Temporarily restricted	—	—	—	15,789	13,499	—	29,288	14,882
Permanently restricted	—	—	—	—	—	6,958	6,958	5,559
Total net assets	<u>2,995</u>	<u>64,066</u>	<u>14,147</u>	<u>15,789</u>	<u>13,499</u>	<u>6,958</u>	<u>117,454</u>	<u>98,861</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 3,619</u>	<u>\$64,066</u>	<u>\$14,240</u>	<u>\$17,728</u>	<u>\$13,827</u>	<u>\$ 7,146</u>	<u>\$120,626</u>	<u>\$101,624</u>

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

Statement of Activities

Year ended June 30, 1999 (000's omitted)
(with summarized information as of June 30, 1998)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1999	1998
Support and revenue								
Support								
Private contributions	\$ 474	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 5,612	\$ 1,241	\$ 7,327	\$ 3,099
Federal grants	—	—	—	—	1,003	—	1,003	869
State agency grants	—	—	—	—	543	—	543	684
County and other grants	—	—	—	—	96	—	96	122
State appropriations	—	—	—	35,204	—	—	35,204	22,853
Total support	474	0	0	35,204	7,254	1,241	44,173	27,627
Revenue:								
History Center auxiliary services	1,103	—	—	—	—	—	1,103	1,118
Historic sites admissions	1,175	—	—	—	—	—	1,175	976
Historic sites stores sales	837	—	—	—	—	—	837	798
Membership	540	—	—	—	—	—	540	532
Publication sales	639	—	—	—	—	—	639	580
Management fees	72	—	—	—	—	—	72	140
Museum program fees	233	—	—	—	—	—	233	193
Other sales and fees	797	—	14	—	—	—	811	756
Investment earnings	738	—	3,308	—	681	158	4,885	4,974
Total revenue	6,134	0	3,322	0	681	158	10,295	10,067
Total support and revenue	6,608	0	3,322	35,204	7,935	1,399	54,468	37,694
Net assets released from program restrictions	28,590	143	—	(25,933)	(2,800)	—	—	—
Total support, revenue and net assets released from program restrictions	35,198	143	3,322	9,271	5,135	1,399	54,468	37,694

(continued on following page)

Statement of Activities

Year ended June 30, 1999 (000's omitted)
(with summarized information as of June 30, 1998)

(continued from previous page)

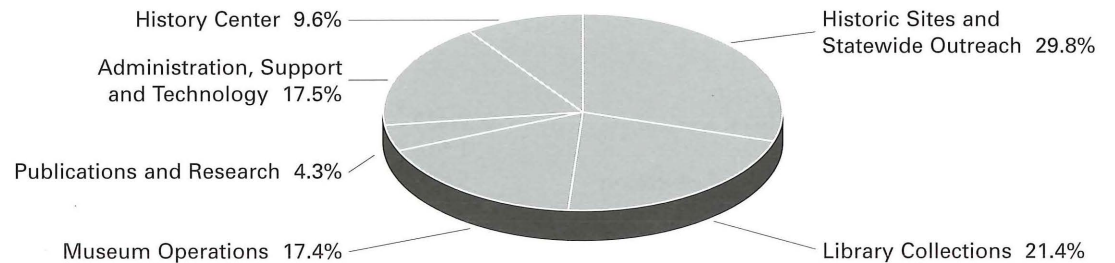
	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted		Permanently Restricted	Total	
	Undesignated	Plant Fund	Board Designated Endowment	State Appropriations	Other		1999	1998
Expenses								
Program services:								
Library collections and archival services	\$ 7,423	\$ 267	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 7,690	\$ 6,877
Publications and research	1,518	10	—	—	—	—	1,528	1,495
Museum operations, exhibits and education	5,963	274	—	—	—	—	6,237	6,098
Historic sites, field programs and State Historic Preservation Office	10,567	129	—	—	—	—	10,696	9,269
History Center	3,050	388	—	—	—	—	3,438	3,312
Total program services	28,521	1,068	0	0	0	0	29,589	27,051
Supporting services:								
Management and general	5,620	16	—	—	—	—	5,636	5,233
Development and membership	648	2	—	—	—	—	650	438
Total supporting services	6,268	18	0	0	0	0	6,286	5,671
Total expenses	34,789	1,086	0	0	0	0	35,875	32,722
Increase (decrease) in net assets	409	(943)	3,322	9,271	5,135	1,399	18,593	4,972
Net assets at beginning of year	2,586	65,009	10,825	6,518	8,364	5,559	98,861	93,889
Net assets at end of year	\$ 2,995	\$64,066	\$14,147	\$15,789	\$13,499	\$ 6,958	\$117,454	\$98,861

Year End Highlights

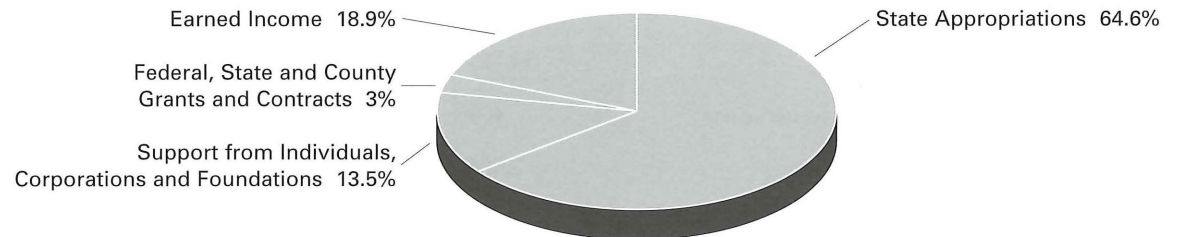
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

- The Society's members, friends, corporations and foundations provided \$7.8 million in funding for the Society's capital campaign and for on-going programs, up from \$3.6 million in 1998.
- During Fiscal Year 1999, the Society generated \$10.3 million of income from revenue-producing activities compared to \$10.1 million the prior year. Historic Sites admissions and stores sales were up 13 percent.
- Society membership, at over 16,000, continues to make the Minnesota Historical Society the largest state historical society in the country.
- Nearly 1,450 volunteers and interns contributed more than 39,000 hours of service to the Society.
- Fifty percent of the Society's Fiscal Year 1999 budget was for salaries and benefits.
- The technology appropriation enabled the Society to reach 500,000 'visitors' through our website, www.mmhs.org. This is up from 204,000 last year.
- The Society's permanently restricted endowment increased 25% from \$5.5 million to \$6.9 million.

● Percentage of Expenses by Program Area



● Sources of Support and Revenue



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The people of Minnesota generously support the Society through appropriations made by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. In addition to state support, we gratefully acknowledge the following donors who have generously supported our ongoing programs and special projects this year.

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NORTH STAR CIRCLE

The North Star Circle was established this year to recognize and celebrate donors making gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Society's Annual Fund. One hundred twenty nine charter members are counted among the group.

Benefits associated with North Star Circle membership include a complimentary membership in the Society, year-long public recognition, and invitations to special events. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was the featured guest at the first North Star Circle event at the James J. Hill House in June.

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