



2000 annual report

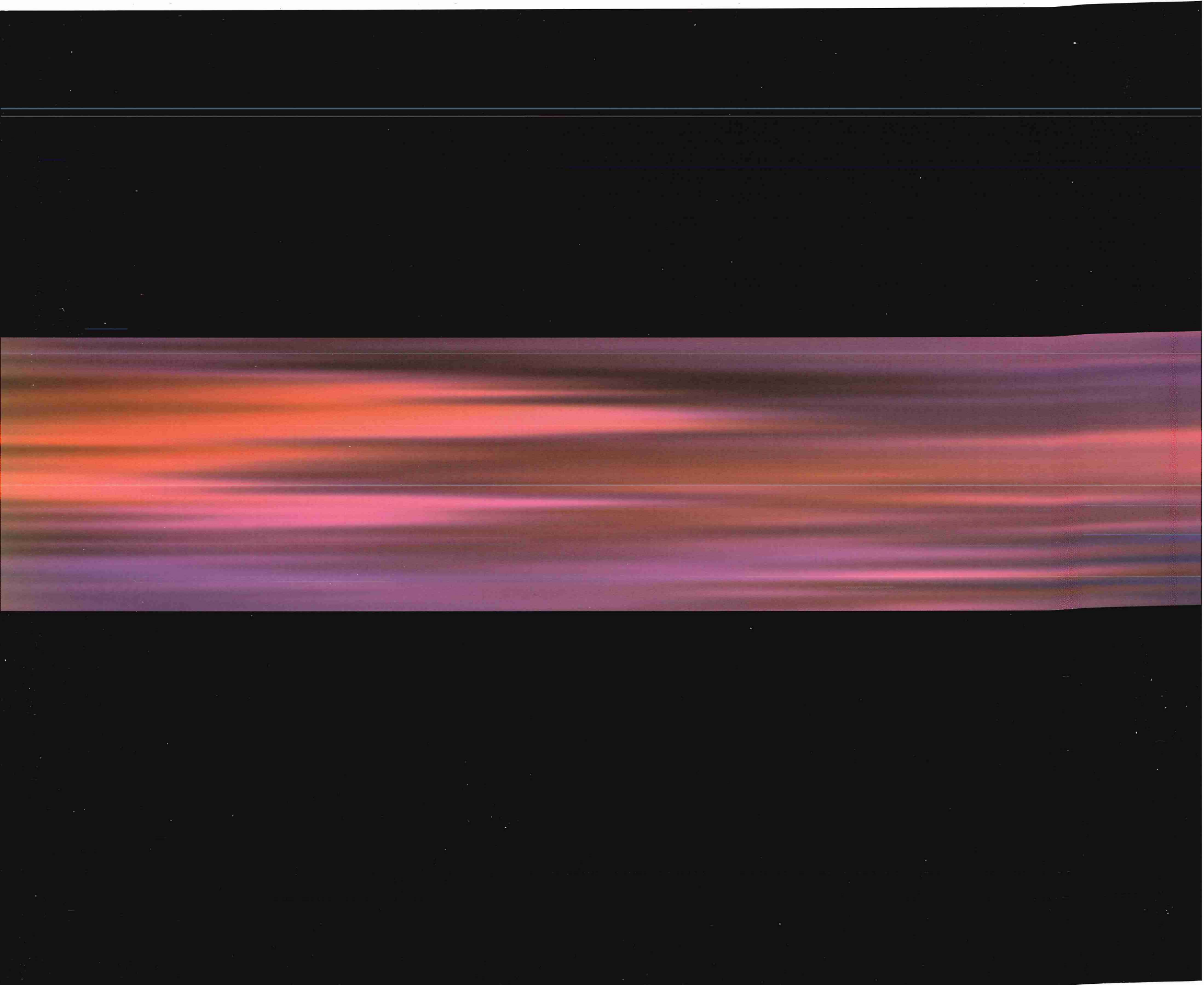
Exploring New Territories

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Exploring new territories

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pushing beyond familiar boundaries

capturing the human imagination

providing inspiration for telling the stories of adventures

into the unknown.

a message from the director

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Ruth M. Aschauer



Exploring new territories — pushing beyond familiar boundaries, whether physical, intellectual or technological — has always captured the human imagination and provided inspiration for telling the stories of adventures into the unknown. Just months after the creation of Minnesota Territory in 1849, a small group of citizens established the Minnesota Historical Society to save and pass on the unfolding stories of Minnesota's people for the benefit and enrichment of future generations. For over 150 years, the Society's mission of public service has guided its development into a comprehensive historical organization with broad-ranging statewide educational programs.

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Today, as in the beginning, the Minnesota Historical Society finds itself in new territory, facing the challenges and opportunities of a new century and millennium. Our annual report for 2000 reflects both continuity and new directions in the major areas of our work. The institution-wide goals we adopted in 1997, designed to increase our services to people everywhere in the state, continue to set the standard for our programs at the History Center and our historic sites, in schools and communities throughout Minnesota, in publications, and online through electronic access to the Society's resources and services. The past year's accomplishments were realized only with the close cooperation, tireless efforts and extraordinary support of many, many friends. To all of these — our governor and state legislators, donors, community leaders, colleagues in historical and educational organizations, and to the Society's members, staff and volunteers — we say thank you for helping us break new ground for history in 2000.

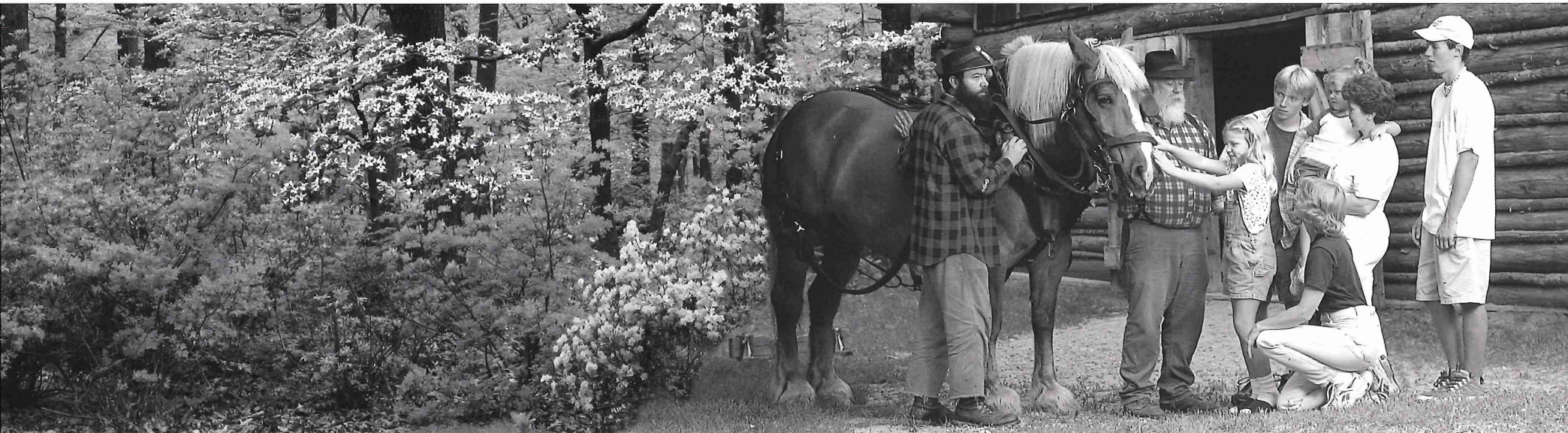
The last year brought increasing awareness that new ways of envisioning and achieving the Society's work are emerging. The revolution in information technology has truly led us into new territory, transforming our organization's outreach to include a burgeoning virtual audience from across the state, nation and beyond, who in 2000 navigated a world of history online, discovering ever-growing sources of information about our programs. Another major new initiative continued to take shape on the Mississippi riverfront — the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Center, where visitors will explore the history of Minneapolis' milling industry and learn how Minnesota gained its identity as the milling center of the world. To be completed in 2002, the Heritage Center represents part of a unique joint venture with several public and private entities to develop and preserve Minneapolis' historic milling district.

The Minnesota Historical Society brings to the 21st century a promise. As we embark on our journey into the unfamiliar territory of the future, the Society renews its historic pledge of service to our citizens and commitment to excellence in all that we do. We will work energetically and creatively with Minnesota's people to explore new and imaginative ways to keep our memories alive in the century ahead. Please join us in discovering history in the new century. The adventure is just beginning.

Nina M. Archabal, Director

Historic Sites

Visitors cross borders into different times when they enter one of the Society's 24 historic sites. Last year 662,705 people, including a record 155,634 students, visited these historically significant locations. They witnessed educational and entertaining re-enactments of key events, met historical characters, and participated in living history programs about the people who lived and worked at these historic places. From mansions in St. Paul, to a logging camp in Grand Rapids, to a museum reflecting contemporary Ojibwe culture in Onamia, the Society's historic sites offer riches to visitors from around the globe.



"This stuff was never taught in schools —
we learned about ourselves from our parents,
grandparents and family. **It is good that the Society has kept
track of some of the history...** The renovation at the Lower Sioux
Agency is letting the community members know their history."

Vernell Wabasha, Dakota Advisory Committee

In June 2000, the Society opened a new exhibit at the Lower Sioux Agency in Morton focusing on traditional Dakota life before the 1851 treaties, the resilience of the Dakota, and their continuing efforts to maintain their culture and identity. The Society has worked with Minnesota's four federally recognized Dakota communities to bring their voices to the site's new programming. The Dakota Advisory Committee, made up of members of these communities, has guided the development of the new exhibit and the planning for interpretation of the site's restored historic 1861 warehouse. Ernest and Vernell Wabasha, long-time advisors and friends to the Society, served on that committee. Ernest is a hereditary principal leader among the Eastern Dakota. They were closely involved in all phases of the project, including a special open house for the Dakota and activities for the exhibit opening.

- 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 House Historic Site
- Split Rock Lighthouse
- W.W. Mayo House

Historic Sites

Accomplishments



Visitors at the Lower Sioux Agency

The Society worked closely with the Dakota communities in Minnesota to redevelop the Lower Sioux Agency historic site. A new exhibit was created, walking trails were improved, and the 1861 stone warehouse was restored.

The Society helped restore the murals and German inscriptions of the Minnesota State Capitol's Rathskeller Café and produced an exhibit panel about the restoration process.

Society staff members developed new kinds of valuable experiences for school groups at historic sites, such as a hands-on interactive educational program at Jeffers Petroglyphs and a half-day training program for teachers at the State Capitol. To provide innovative programs at Historic Fort Snelling, the Society formed an important partnership with the Dred and Harriet Scott Institute at Hamline University.

Territorial life was depicted in an art exhibit, *Minnesota Territory, Recorded and Remembered*, which opened in the **James J. Hill House** art gallery in May 1999 and continued through March 2000.

The Society is collaborating with an eight-member Citizen Advisory Committee to determine the best use for the **William G. LeDuc House** in Hastings. Tasks will include assessing the conditions of the house and adjacent grounds, conducting a market study of the site and reporting on the historical significance of the house.

Work has begun at the **Charles A. Lindbergh House** in Little Falls to remodel the visitor center to accommodate new exhibits, retail spaces and innovative programs that will give visitors a deeper understanding of Lindbergh family life and the significance of the family's Minnesota home.

With the help of the Medicine Wheel Coalition, a group of American Indian spiritual leaders, the Society is developing a ceremonial use policy for the **Jeffers Petroglyphs** historic site.

In collaboration with the University of Minnesota-Duluth's Large Lakes Observatory, the Society installed a new weather station at **Split Rock Lighthouse** that allows real-time weather tracking on the Internet.

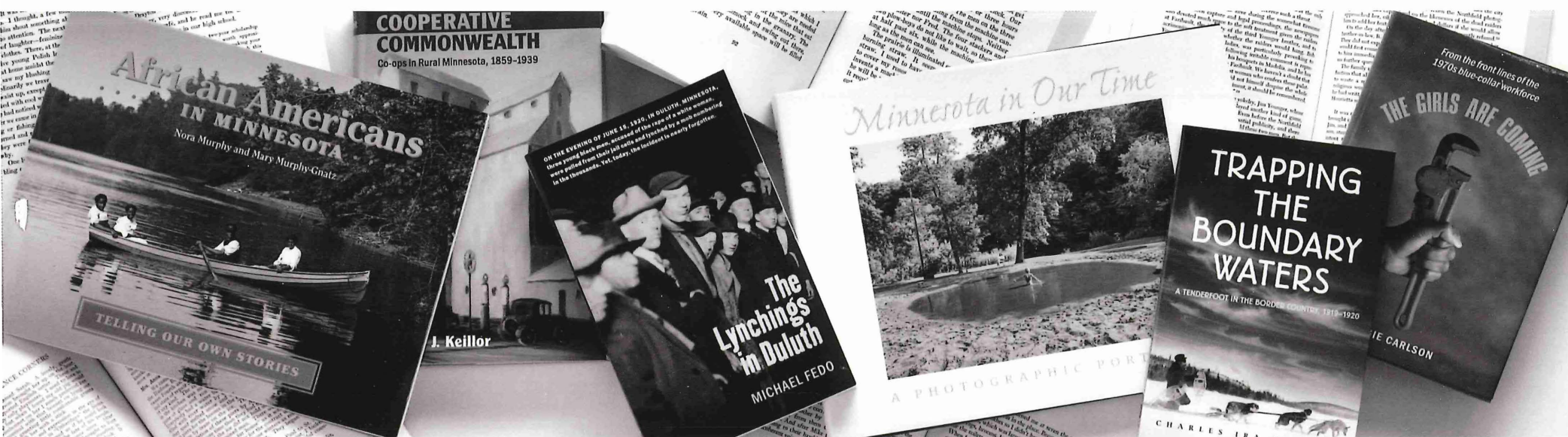
As part of the historic sites documentation project and the Alexander Ramsey House revitalization project, Society staff members reviewed more than **13,000 artifacts** at the site.

A collection of several hundred thousand **archaeological specimens**, including artifacts, maps, photographs and excavation notes, was transferred from the anthropology department at the University of Minnesota to the Society.

The Society, working with the Minnesota Department of Administration, continued conservation treatment of Capitol mall statuary. In addition, new portraits of Gov. Arne Carlson and Gov. Rudy Perpich and Lola Perpich became permanent features of **the State Capitol**.

Publications and Research

Three projects in the last year illustrate the new routes the Society is mapping for its publications and research programs. *The Lynchings in Duluth*, by Michael Fedo, brought renewed attention to this horrific 1920 tragedy. The special millennium issue of *Minnesota History* contained historian Annette Atkins' innovative approach to 100 years of Minnesota history. The article introduces a new direction for the magazine — along with traditional scholarly work, there will be articles written with a personal voice. Finally, a Society research grant allowed Nokomis Paiz, an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, to travel to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England. There she worked in the Ojibwe collections of English ethnographer Beatrice Blackwood.



"You have a story and you hope that children never lose that story. You have a book with a piece of your life in it; it's almost like you don't die then; it's a wonderful thing to pass on to your family. It's a bit of history. **Working with MHS Press was a wonderful experience from the beginning."**

Peggie Carlson, author of *The Girls Are Coming*

In her book, *The Girls Are Coming*, published last year by MHS Press, Peggie Carlson reports on her exploration of what was forbidding territory in the 1970s: a job in the all-male, nearly all-white utilities industry. As an African American and a woman, Carlson found extraordinary obstacles in her way on both counts. Her story of how she won her co-workers' support and eventually qualified as the first licensed female pipefitter in Minnesota history provides insight into the ways people can change when they meet racial and sexual stereotypes at work. In an appropriate honor, her book is also now a textbook: The Maine Public Works Division has purchased it for distribution to its employees.

The Girls Are Coming

Trapping the Boundary Waters

Frederick Manfred:
A Daughter Remembers

Cooperative Commonwealth

The Lynchings in Duluth

Minnesota in Our Time:
A Photographic Portrait

African American Stories
in Minnesota

African American Stories
in Minnesota:
Telling Our Own Stories

Northern Lights

Minnesota History

The Technology that
Launched a City

The Failed Watab Treaty of 1853

Biography of Little Crow

Eli Taylor Videotapes Interviews

Publications and Research

Accomplishments



From *Minnesota in Our Time: A Photographic Portrait*.
Photograph by Mark Jensen

Books published by MHS Press in the last year include:

Minnesota in Our Time: A Photographic Portrait, a companion book to the History Center exhibit Minnesota 2000, documents the people of Minnesota at the turn of the millennium.

Peggie Carlson's *The Girls Are Coming* is the memoir of an African American woman overcoming racial and sexual prejudice to become the first female licensed pipefitter in Minnesota.

Trapping the Boundary Waters, by World War I veteran Charles Ira Cook, Jr. relates the personal exploration that took him to the border country of Northern Minnesota.

Publication of Michael Fedo's *The Lynchings in Duluth* on the 80th anniversary of the tragedy, led to an extraordinarily wide response and analysis of the event.

Steven Keillor's *Cooperative Commonwealth: Co-ops in Rural Minnesota, 1859-1939* describes Minnesotans' use of the cooperative system to gain economic control of their lives.

In *Frederick Manfred: A Daughter Remembers*, Freya Manfred records the poignant life and death of the renowned Minnesota author from the perspective of those who knew him best.

African American Stories in Minnesota, a curriculum kit for use by elementary school teachers, was published by MHS Press in cooperation with the Society's education department. The kit of materials contains eight stories of African Americans, classroom activities and audiocassettes. It was developed in collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Schools and has been adopted for their fourth-grade social studies and language arts curriculum. *African Americans in Minnesota: Telling Our Own Stories* was later produced as a trade publication.

The pilot of the new edition of *Northern Lights*, the Society's textbook on Minnesota history, was tested in 20 classrooms in schools around the state. Completion is scheduled for early 2003.

With a circulation of more than 18,700, the Society's quarterly journal, *Minnesota History*, took a new step to encourage high school students to do serious historical research. Last year, the journal gave its first-ever publication prize for a senior-level History Day paper. "The Technology that Launched a City," by Alison Watts, a student at South High School in Minneapolis, was published in the summer 2000 issue.

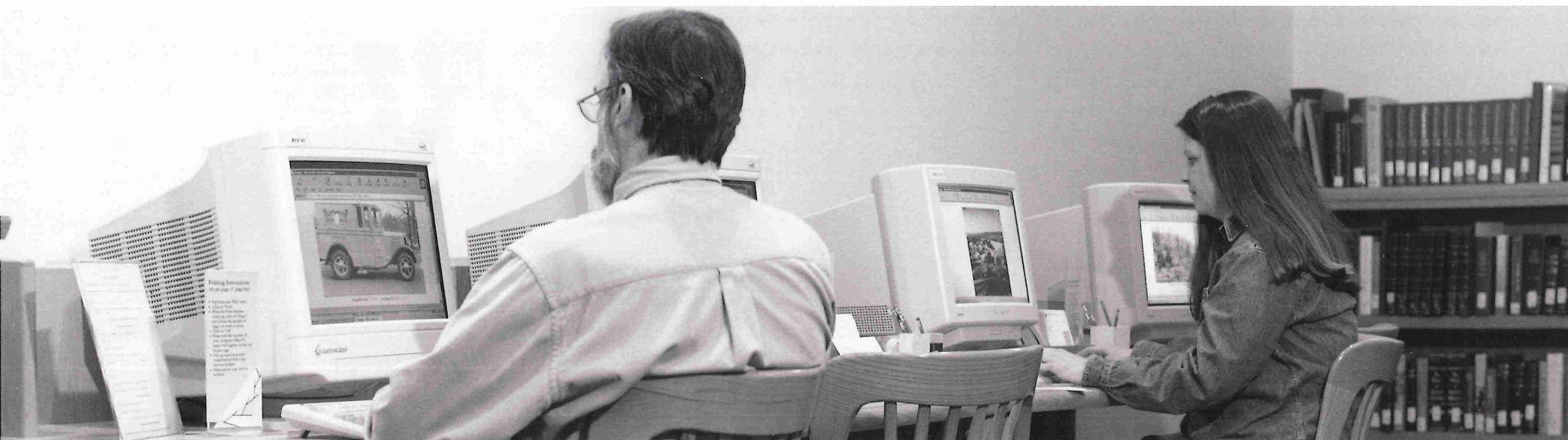
Edward Pluth's article on the Winnebago (Ho Chunk) in Minnesota, "The Failed Watab Treaty of 1853," an important work on a tribe about whom little has been published in the state, appeared in the spring 2000 issue of *Minnesota History*.

The Society supported research projects in the history of medicine in Minnesota and the eugenics movement during the Progressive era. For the first time, the Society gave research assistance to the author of a children's book, a biography of Little Crow.

A Society research grant awarded eight years ago to Upper Sioux Community member Angela Cavendar Wilson led to a set of videotaped interviews with Canadian Dakota elder Eli Taylor. Wilson completed her Ph.D. on the project and is now a professor at Arizona State University.

Library and Collections

The Society continued to augment, care for and make accessible its massive collections of every kind of historically valuable material, and also explored new ways to expand its web site to improve access to these collections for researchers in Minnesota and around the world. More than 38,000 people sought information in the History Center Library, including an ever-growing number of students from charter schools, alternative learning centers and home school groups. Descriptions of over 143,000 items from the Society's collection of more than a half-million photographs, art, posters and fine art photographs were entered into the Society's online Visual Resources Database, 40 percent of which were accompanied by digital images. Special databases of Ojibwe, Civil War and fur-trade objects and descriptive inventories for nearly 400 manuscripts collections are among the documents now available via the Society's web site.



“Change is not by any means new to rural Minnesota,
but up to now we have had a vacuum of historical awareness about
‘who’ has been affected, as well as ‘how’ and ‘why.’ **This Society**
project is an important step in understanding our realities and
knowing how to deal with them, and will determine ways to record
and monitor the significant changes endured by the citizens,
both on the farm and in the small towns.”

Jon Evert, Clay County farmer

The Society, seeking better ways to tell Minnesotans’ stories, joined with the North Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board in a major interstate project that focuses on changes in the lives of rural Red River Valley residents. Changes such as business decline, population loss and natural disasters over a long period of time are milestones in the state’s history, and the human story of those changes is the focus of the project called “Agriculture and Rural Life: Documenting Change.” By providing overall guidance to collecting efforts, it will improve the documentation of the history of the Valley. Jon Evert, a Clay County farmer and long-time adviser to the Society, has a key role in the project.

Library and Collections

Accomplishments



New acquisitions include medals commemorating Charles Lindberg's flight, fishing decoys, wearable art and the film, *Cologne*.

In the past year the Society added to its collection through a number of donations and purchases. In addition to a large collection of Red Wing dinnerware, the Society acquired a New Year's outfit worn by a Hmong man, several award-winning pieces of jewelry and wearable art from textile artist Laurie Schafer. The Society also purchased three 1940s fishing decoys and two medals commemorating Charles Lindberg's 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic.

An early amateur film about a Minnesota town, *Cologne*, which is in the Society's collection, was selected for preservation by the National Endowment for the Arts and honored as one of the "Treasures of American Film Archives" at the National Gallery of Art.

The Society's [oral history program](#) forged a new direction by creating a video record of a community education project in which students from St. Paul's Harding High School interacted with Hmong elders. The project preserves cultural and textile arts traditions and demonstrates ways the gap between generations can be bridged.

To document the activities of Gov. Jesse Ventura's historic administration, the Society worked closely with the governor's staff to write a first-ever comprehensive records management plan for the [Office of the Governor](#).

The Society assumed an important role in helping to organize the enormous number of records produced by successful [lawsuits against major tobacco companies](#). Supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and the American Medical Association, the Society worked with researchers and organizations from around the world to plan for the future of the repository, which is housed in Minneapolis.

The Society acquired 81 units of [state and local government records](#) that span the history of the state from 1861 to 1999. These include four series of photographs of the former Conservation Department (now the Department of Natural Resources) that document forestry, state parks, conservation and agriculture throughout the state from 1896 to 1955.

Significant records also were received from many state agencies, including the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Minnesota Lottery.

[Volunteers](#) once again played critical parts in the Society's library services. They assisted 1,147 people at the genealogy help desk, rehoused the Society's collection of Civil War muster rolls from the First Minnesota Regiment and the First Minnesota Battalion for inclusion in a database, and began work on refiling and creating an inventory of the Society's collection of uncataloged maps.

The Society extended its [documentation of gay and lesbian communities](#) through collaboration with numerous community organizations and acquisition of a variety of newsletters and publications.

The Society's popular [house history and genealogy classes](#) are now offered to outside groups. "Whose House Was It?" was brought to two different

Minneapolis Police Precinct buildings, where block club organizers work with police to strengthen and protect their neighborhoods.

The Society produced historically significant [oral history interviews](#) in cooperation with the Hmong Women's Action Team, India Association of Minnesota, and the Center for Rural Studies in Southwest Minnesota.

The Society processed the papers of former [Gov. Harold Stassen](#), which provide insights into his role in the organization of the United Nations and in shaping America's post-World War II foreign policy. In addition, records and videotapes from former [Gov. Arne Carlson's administration](#) were acquired.

Staff members in the Library replied to [4,152 requests by letter and e-mail](#), an increase of 14 percent over last year.

History Center Museum

Museum exhibits, classes, gallery and theater performances, films, lectures and conferences filled the History Center last year. More than 305,000 people visited the museum's exhibits, making their own personal connections to Minnesota's past. The 314-seat 3M auditorium was often filled to capacity, weddings and corporate receptions frequently filled all the corridors of the Great Hall, and meetings and classes kept the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Education Center busy all year around. The History Center continues to attract visitors of all ages.



“While I have been in many museums at many times,
I really didn’t know how difficult the whole process of making an exhibit is, that it is this long process. We had to go through many different ideas. We disagreed and then in the end we pretty much agreed with each other. **Actually, it made me think about going into designing exhibits.”**

Megan Hughes, junior at Woodbury High School.

For the first time, the Society invited a group of teenagers to play an active role in developing an exhibit. The exhibit team of *Sounds Good to Me: Music in Minnesota*, which opened in October 2000, wanted to include teen points of view. The team selected 11 high school students from metro-area high schools to be the first participants in the Society’s teen advisory program initiative. The students’ first job was to advise the team on the setting for an exhibit section about teens and music. Exhibit developers had considered using a teenager’s bedroom, but the young people suggested a school hallway, with lockers that tell stories of teenagers and music through photos and mementos. Students worked with Society staff to design their own lockers which are featured in the new exhibit.

Tales of the Territory: Minnesota
1849-1858

Minnesota 2000

History Players

Back to the Territory

School Programs

History Mystery!

Nine Nights of Family Fun

Guests in the Gallery

Our Gathering Places: African
Americans in Minnesota

Family Festivals

Jubileo

Lindbergh Lecture

Noble Lecture

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Vandringer: Norwegians in the
American Mosaic

Local and Global: Historical and
Contemporary Perspectives on
Rural Women

History Center Museum

Accomplishments



Jubileo, Latino culture celebration
at the History Center.

Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858, an exhibit commemorating the sesquicentennial of Minnesota Territory, opened in October 1999. Its central focus is on the broadly multicultural populations of early Minnesota, who are vividly recreated through live theatrical programs and innovative media presentations. The period is also richly illustrated through many rarely seen artifacts from the Society's collections and engaging hands-on activities.

School and family programs, including "It Goes with the Territory," the Society's summer program for children, and "Take a Trip to the Territory," last year's Youth Organization program, complemented *Tales of the Territory*. Overflow crowds watched the 80 performances of four new plays written for the exhibit's museum theater program.

For the exhibit *Minnesota 2000*, the Society commissioned 12 Minnesota documentary photographers to look at Minnesota at a singular moment in time: the close of the 20th century and the beginning of a new millennium. The exhibit contained 100 documentary fine art photographs about the state's people, rural landscapes, and small towns and urban life. When the exhibit closed, the photographs became

part of the Society's collections. MHS Press published a companion book to the exhibit, *Minnesota in Our Time: A Photographic Portrait*.

Nearly 3,000 people attended two family festivals held in conjunction with the openings of the Territory and Minnesota 2000 exhibits.

Three new "History Player" characters were created for the *Tales of the Territory* exhibit: Minnesota Pioneer publisher James Madison Goodhue (1810-1852), fur trader and politician Joseph Rolette Jr. (1820-1871), and homesteader and widowed mother Harriet Griswold (1822-1900).

Last year, 31,849 students participated in 1,376 history lessons, including a new lesson, "Back to the Territory," 51,865 students and adults took part in the "Explore!" and "History Mystery!" programs, and 25,890 visited the museum with their school groups. "History Mystery!" is a new museum-exploration program developed for students in grades 9-12, which sends students into the exhibits and the Library's microfilm room to find clues they can use to solve an actual 19th-century Minnesota murder mystery.

More than 2,300 people enjoyed the "Nine Nights of Family Fun" programs of musical traditions from Minnesota's territorial period, and 1,700 visitors saw 18 guests in the "Guests in the Gallery" program.

Eighteen members of the African-American community volunteered as museum assistants in the *Our Gathering Places: African Americans in Minnesota* exhibit.

The Society continued its partnerships with many groups, such as the Ethnic Dance Theatre, the Twin Cities Kwanzaa Committee, the Juneteenth Committee, the Red Lake Nation, the Japanese-American Citizen's League, and the Jewish Community Center of Minneapolis, through programs and presentations at the History Center.

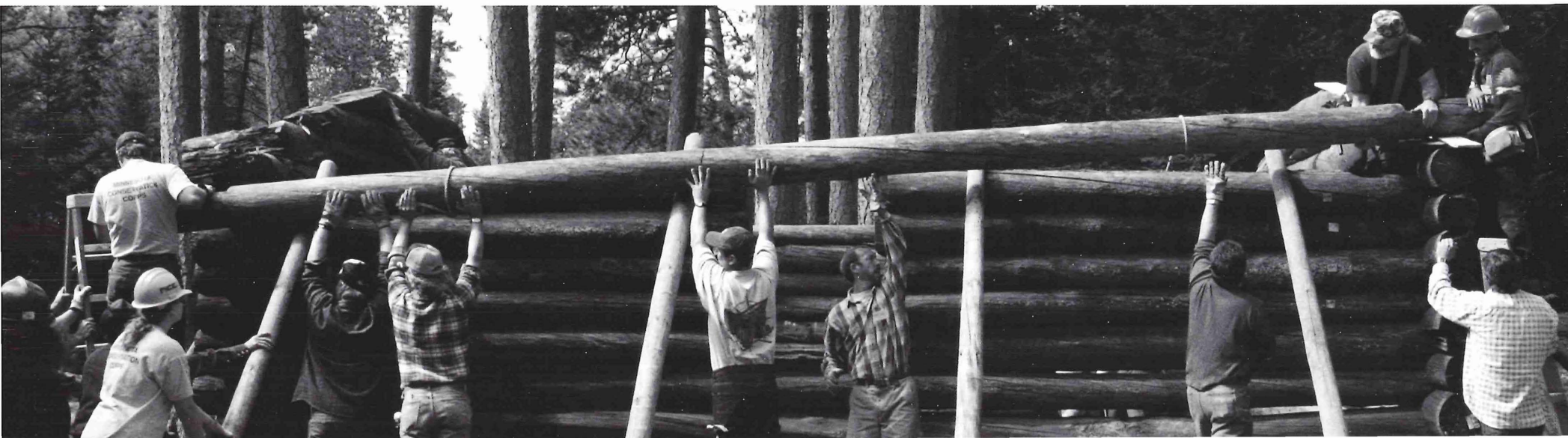
In February, over 1500 people attended "Jubileo," a celebration of Latino culture. The program included flamenco and Aztec dancing and the music of Orchestra Sabor Tropical.

Large audiences again attended lecture programs at the History Center. Industrial designer William Stumpf presented last year's Lindbergh Lecture, named in honor of aviator, scientist and environmentalist Charles Lindbergh Jr. Music historian Lewis Ehrenberg delivered the Noble Lecture, named for University of Minnesota historian David Noble. The fourth annual Brown Bag lecture series continued its tradition of showcasing research in Minnesota history.

The Society hosted two international conferences at the History Center. *Vandring: Norwegians in the American Mosaic*, a Norwegian and Norwegian-American history conference, was held in April 2000. The conference, co-sponsored by the Norwegian American Historical Association, drew scholars from across the United States and from the Scandinavian countries. The Rural Women's Studies conference, *Local and Global: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Rural Women*, drew participants from as far away as New Zealand, India, Laos, Ghana and the Netherlands. More than 300 people attended the conference, which examined contemporary and historical issues relating to rural women.

Statewide Programs

The Society continued to construct new pathways and maintained old ones to its audiences around the state. Through educational programs such as Historian in the Schools and National History Day; archaeological research; workshops on conservation, oral history and field services; preservation conferences; grants programs; and staff communication with the more than 470 historical organizations in Minnesota — the Society reaches every corner of the state. To these direct kinds of assistance, the Society regularly added services via the Internet. Each issue of *The Minnesota History Interpreter* and *The Minnesota Preservation Planner* is now posted online soon after printing, and 23 publications on conservation topics frequently requested by the public were posted on the Society's web site under "Preserving Your Own Treasures."



"The students' reaction to the Historian in the Classroom was really positive. They couldn't wait until he arrived. He had objects they could study by putting them in their hands. They had to do some trading and figure out their own bartering using the supplies and pelts the way fur traders did in the 1800s.
So there was some real thinking going on."

Judy Johnson, fourth-grade teacher, North Shore Elementary School, near Two Harbors

In an effort to provide expanded services and programs to greater Minnesota, the Society has developed the "Historian in the Classroom" program. In this educational service, a Society historian visits a school over a one-week period and conducts a number of classes on selected topics. The students learn how to use primary sources to do research on the history of their own communities, and in the process, learn how historians actually do their work. Last year, schools in Duluth, Wabasso, Brooklyn Center, Farmington, Heron Lake-Okabena and International Falls participated in the program. A grant from the Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust enabled the Society to provide a historian in the Fergus Falls School District for three weeks of classes that focused on the Civil War in Minnesota.

16,933 active members

Workshops on Preserving
Family Treasures

History Day 2000

Disaster Plan for Historic
Properties in Minnesota

Preservation Grant Projects

Markers Interpreting Regional
History

Minnesota Communities Online

Historian in the Classroom

The Minnesota History Interpreter

The Minnesota Preservation
Planner

38,000 Volunteer Hours

21 New National Register of
Historic Places

The North Star Circle

Society's Annual Fund

Statewide Programs

Accomplishments



Students in Wabasso, Minn., learned primary source research methods from the Society's "Historian in the Classroom" program.

The Society's programs were supported by **16,933 active members** — the largest membership of any state historical organization in the nation.

The Society held 16 workshops on **preserving family treasures** at 16 different locations around the state. Designed for the general public, these workshops were attended by 315 Minnesotans. The Society also conducted 11 community workshops on oral history across the state.

Nearly 30,000 Minnesota students participated in **History Day 2000** with research projects based on the theme, "Turning Points in History." More than 1,000 students participated in the **State History Day** at the University of Minnesota, and 25 of the 53 students representing Minnesota at National History Day in Washington, D.C. earned awards, including two first-place winners. Grants from the George W. Neilson Foundation and the Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust helped quadruple participation in History Day events in northwestern Minnesota over the past 7 years.

From experience gained during floods in 1993 and 1997 and tornadoes in 1998, the Society completed a "Disaster Plan for Historic Properties in Minnesota," and made it available on its web site and in print. The Society's administration of \$350,000 in state-funded assistance for tornado-related rehabilitation projects in St. Peter is nearing completion.

With funds appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature, the Society awarded a total of \$473,376 to 14 applicants in state capital county and local preservation project grants, \$188,255 to 56 applicants in state grants-in-aid, and \$66,950 in certified local government grants to ten cities.

In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Society completed erecting markers interpreting regional history at all 36 rest areas on Minnesota's interstate highways.

The *Minnesota Communities* online curriculum was launched in December 1999. Funded by a graduation rule resource grant from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, the site contains numerous primary sources and classroom teaching aids related to the communities of St. Anthony, Red Wing and Hibbing.

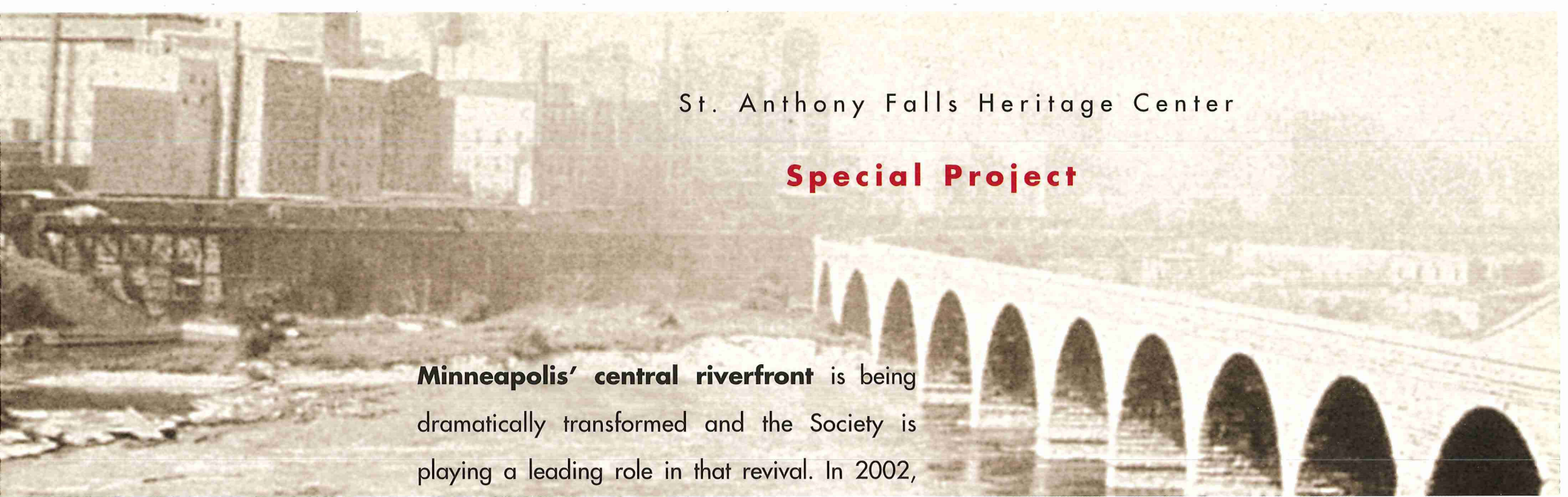
A new web page based on the History Center exhibit *Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858* is designed to engage general audiences, especially children, with a wide variety of learning activities.

The monthly newsletters, *The Minnesota History Interpreter* and *The Minnesota Preservation Planner*, were distributed to 2,400 individuals in historical organizations and libraries. The *Planner*, with a circulation of nearly 4,000, also was sent to all heritage preservation commissions.

The Society's 1,450 volunteers contributed more than 38,000 hours to the Society's programs throughout the state last year. From July 1999 through February 2000, 29 interns worked 2,700 hours.

Twenty-one new places, which include 143 contributing properties, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places last year.

Generous members and friends contributed more than \$10 million to support ongoing programs, special capital projects and to help build the Society's endowment. The North Star Circle welcomed 40 new members last year, bringing to 154 the total number of individuals and families who support the Society's Annual Fund with leadership gifts of \$1,000.



St. Anthony Falls Heritage Center

Special Project

Minneapolis' central riverfront is being dramatically transformed and the Society is playing a leading role in that revival. In 2002, the Society will open a dynamic museum and education center within the ruins of the Washburn-Crosby A Mill on the Minneapolis riverfront. The most ambitious Society effort since the opening of the Minnesota History Center, the 70,000-square-foot complex will tell the story of Minneapolis' industrial birthplace, an area of regional and national significance. Powered by the falls of St. Anthony, this area grew to become the flour milling capital of the world for more than 50 years. The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Center will serve as both a gateway and a destination for those who live, work and play on the riverfront.

Designs for the new museum were finalized in June 2000. Architect **Tom Meyer of Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle**, envisions a building utilizing many of the features of the original mill, including old flour bins, milling machinery, the old rail corridor and exterior mill ruin courtyard. Views of grain elevators, other mills and the falls on the Mississippi will complement the new structure.

Society staff members have been developing the plans for **new exhibits** that will feature unique laboratories and learning environments focusing on food testing and water-power activities, an open-air courtyard, an eight-story multimedia elevator ride and an observation deck overlooking the river. The stories of flour milling, immigration, lumbering, transportation and agriculture will be told through the memories of people who lived and worked in the milling district. Other exhibits will showcase Minneapolis-based products that have been seen on grocery shelves for nearly a century.

"The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Center will bring benefits to business, tourism, recreation and our whole quality of life.

All of us who love the river, who have worked and lived on its banks, who have benefited from it and seen it shape our cities and our region, will want to have this important story told."

David Koch, Chairman of the Board of Graco Inc., and lead volunteer fundraiser for the project

A major gift from the McKnight Foundation has solidified a partnership between the Society and the Minneapolis Public Schools. Together, the two organizations will develop specialized curriculum and create programs to engage young people. Classrooms will be carved out of the mill's former boiler rooms to create one-of-a-kind learning laboratories.

Numerous public-private partnerships are contributing to this ambitious project. The Minneapolis Community Development Agency has made the property available to the Society and Brighton Development will develop the upper floors of the new building for commercial use. Loft housing has attracted new residents to the area, the refurbished Milwaukee Depot will reopen in 2001 with hotel and entertainment amenities, and the Guthrie Theater is planning to build a three-theater complex near the new museum.

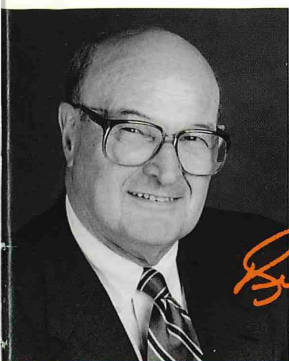
In perhaps the largest archaeological dig in the U.S. in the last year, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is excavating ruins and creating Mill Ruins Park, adjacent to the site of the heritage center and the Stone Arch Bridge. Within the next three years the ruins will become part of a 10-acre archaeological park that will include recreational paths, historical information and a new island in the river.

The project received national recognition when the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the former Washburn-Crosby A Mill a "Save America's Treasures" project and awarded the Society a grant of \$500,000 toward its preservation. One of 62 national treasures selected, including the Washington Monument and the Star Spangled Banner, the mill is recognized also as a National Historic Landmark.

The Society has raised nearly \$22 million toward the \$28 million goal which includes \$24 million for construction, equipment and exhibitions, and an additional \$4 million for endowment. Major contributors include the State of Minnesota, the National Endowment for the Humanities, a congressional appropriation for transportation history projects, and additional commitments from the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Private sector gifts of \$1 million or more have come from John and Sage Cowles, Betty and Whitney MacMillan, David and Barbara Koch, the McKnight Foundation, the Bush Foundation and the James Ford Bell Foundation.

a message
from the
president





Richard T. Murphy, Sr.

As we cross the threshold into a new century, the Minnesota Historical Society — almost 17,000 members strong — is a vital, creative institution. The Society's founding members could not have known in 1849 that the manuscripts and objects they were collecting would one day be available to people anywhere in the world by the click of a "mouse." But surely they would be gratified that today over 1.5 million people participate in the Society's programs — at 24 historic sites, at the Minnesota History Center, through programs in the schools and workshops around the state, through our books and other publications, and, increasingly at, www.mnhs.org.

Rooted in a tradition of quality programs based on impeccable scholarship, the Society today is energetically pursuing its mission to foster among people an awareness of Minnesota history so that they may draw strength and perspective from the past and find purpose for the future. The breadth of the Society's work is stunning. Whether it is collecting oral histories in an effort to learn about the changes affecting people's lives in the Red River Valley; working with Dakota people to develop a new exhibition at the Lower Sioux Agency historic site on the traditional life of the Dakota people and their resilience in the face of overwhelming change; or publishing its first children's book, *African Americans in Minnesota: Telling Our Own Stories*, the essence of the Society's work is to illuminate the lives of our state's people in ever better ways.

It is a privilege to serve as the 146th president of the Society. I enjoy the company of a dedicated and thoughtful governing board and an enormously creative staff ably led by talented director Nina Archabal. It is a great pleasure to say thank you to the people who generously support the Society in the fulfillment of its mission — our members, donors and volunteers. We also are deeply grateful for the support of the Minnesota Legislature and the Governor.

Although we can only imagine how the new century will unfold, we know that what we do today to preserve the past helps to shape the future. Thanks to all of you, the coming years are bright with promise.

Richard T. Murphy, Sr.

As we cross the threshold

into a new century

the Minnesota Historical Society

is a vital

creative institution.

Minnesota Historical Society 2000 Annual Report

Condensed Balance Sheet

Year ended June 30, 2000 (000s omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1999)

	Unrestricted			Temporarily restricted			Total	
	Undesignated funds	Plant fund	Board designated endowment	State appropriations	Other	Permanently restricted	2000	1999
Cash and investments	\$2,321	\$ 0	\$17,977	\$ 2,111	\$10,915	\$10,154	\$ 43,478	\$ 35,995
Receivables	259	0	0	12,364	7,850	146	20,619	19,843
Museum shop inventories	702	0	0	0	0	0	702	722
Property and equipment net	0	64,851	0	0	0	0	64,851	64,066
Total assets	\$3,282	\$64,851	\$17,977	\$14,475	\$18,765	\$10,300	\$129,650	\$120,626
Payables and accrued liabilities	\$ 484	\$ 0	\$ 128	\$ 1,593	\$ 508	\$ 228	\$ 2,941	\$ 3,347
Net assets:								
Unrestricted	2,798	64,851	17,849	0	0	0	85,498	81,208
Temporarily restricted	0	0	0	12,882	18,257	0	31,139	29,113
Permanently restricted	0	0	0	0	0	10,072	10,072	6,958
Total net assets	2,798	64,851	17,849	12,882	18,257	10,072	126,709	117,279
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,282	\$64,851	\$17,977	\$14,475	\$18,765	\$10,300	\$129,650	\$120,626

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

Minnesota Historical Society 2000 Annual Report

Statement of Activities

Year ended June 30, 2000 (000s omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1999)

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	Undesignated funds	Unrestricted Plant fund	Board designated endowment	Temporarily restricted State appropriations	Other	Permanently restricted	Total 2000	1999
Support and revenue								
Support:								
Private contributions	\$ 519				\$ 8,345	\$ 812	\$ 9,676	\$ 7,327
Federal grants					1,395		1,395	1,004
State agency grants					303		303	543
County and other grants					112		112	96
State appropriations				\$24,655			24,655	35,029
Total support	519	0	0	24,655	10,155	812	36,141	43,999
Revenue:								
History Center auxiliary services	1,100						1,100	1,103
Historic sites admissions	1,172						1,172	1,175
Historic sites stores sales	938						938	837
Membership	565						565	540
Publication sales	595						595	639
Management fees	95						95	72
Museum program fees	230						230	233
Other sales and fees	774						774	811
Investment earnings	1,107		2,638		462	266	4,473	4,886
Total revenue	6,576	0	2,638	0	462	266	9,942	10,296
Total support and revenue	7,095	0	2,638	24,655	10,617	1,078	46,083	54,295
Net assets released from program restrictions	29,354	1,892	(36)	(27,387)	(3,859)	36	0	0
Total support, revenue, and net assets released from program restrictions	36,449	1,892	2,602	(2,732)	6,758	1,114	46,083	54,295

Statement of Activities, continued

Year ended June 30, 2000 (000s omitted)

(with summarized information as of June 30, 1999)

	Undesignated funds	Unrestricted Plant fund	Board designated endowment	Temporarily restricted		Permanently restricted	Total	
				State appropriations	Other		2000	1999
Expenses								
Program services:								
Library collections and archival services	\$ 7,278	\$ 267					\$ 7,545	\$ 7,690
Publications and research	1,511	10					1,521	1,529
Museum operations, exhibits, and education	6,475	275					6,750	6,237
Historic sites, field programs, and State Historic Preservation Office	10,936	148					11,084	10,695
History Center	3,017	388					3,405	3,439
Total program services	29,217	1,088	0	0	0	0	30,305	29,590
Supporting services:								
Management and general	5,674	17					5,691	5,637
Development and membership	655	2					657	649
Total supporting services	6,329	19	0	0	0	0	6,348	6,286
Total expenses	35,546	1,107	0	0	0	0	36,653	35,876
Increase (decrease) in net assets	903	785	2,602	(2,732)	6,758	1,114	9,430	18,419
Transfer of Net Assets	(1,100)		1,100		(2,000)	2,000	0	0
Change in Net Assets	(197)	785	3,702	(2,732)	4,758	3,114	9,430	18,419
Net assets at beginning of year	2,995	64,066	14,147	15,614	13,499	6,958	117,279	98,860
Net assets at end of year	\$ 2,798	\$64,851	\$17,849	\$12,882	\$18,257	\$10,072	\$126,709	\$117,279

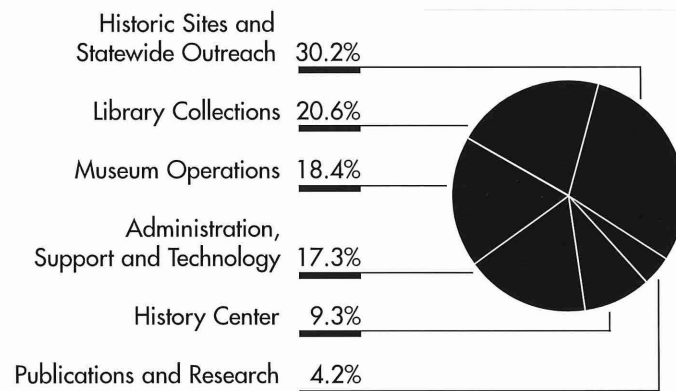
Year End Highlights

(for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000)

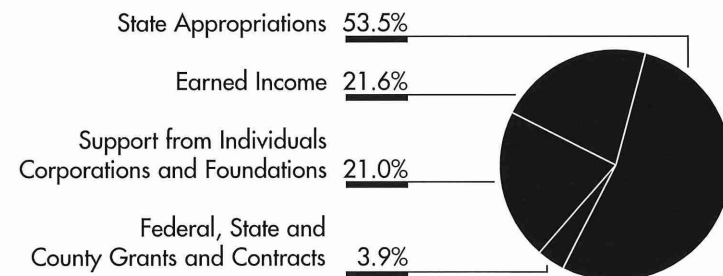
32

- The Society's members, friends, corporations and foundations provided \$9.7 million in funding for the Society's capital campaign and for on-going programs, up from \$7.3 million in 1999.
- During fiscal year 2000, the Society generated \$9.9 million of income from revenue-producing activities compared to \$10.3 million the prior year.
- Society membership, at almost 17,000, continues to make the Minnesota Historical Society the largest state historical society in the country.
- Nearly 1,450 volunteers and interns contributed more than 38,000 hours of service to the Society.
- Fifty-three percent of the Society's fiscal year 2000 budget was for salaries and benefits.
- In the past year, the Society reached 1.2 million people through its website, up from 400,000 visitors in fiscal year 1999.
- The Society's permanently restricted endowment increased 45% from \$6.9 million to \$10.1 million.

Percentage of Expenses by Program Area



Sources of Support and Revenue



Governing Board and Management Staff

Governing Board

As of June 30, 2000

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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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The North Star Circle recognizes and celebrates donors making gifts of \$1,000 and above to the Society's Annual Fund. One hundred fifty four charter members were counted among the group in 1999-2000.

Benefits associated with membership in the North Star Circle include year-long public recognition, a complimentary membership in the Society, and invitations to special events. North Star Circle members celebrated the opening of the major new exhibition, "Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858," at a North Star Circle Benefactors' Evening on Saturday, October 22, 1999.

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The following donors have generously supported special projects in fiscal year 1999.

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\$1,000 - 9,999

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The following donors have generously supported programs and projects in fiscal year 2000.

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