

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2008 Annual Report



**Barns of Carver County
The Generations Project**

2008

**Board
President**

**Michael
Fahey**

“Time Flies.” It seems somehow appropriate to use this very old expression to describe the last year at the Carver County Historical Society. My year as President fits that expression very well. The numerous projects kept life at CCHS interesting, challenging and active.

It serves as no surprise to anyone to find that the largest challenge the historical society faced this year was financial, both for 2008 and in planning for 2009. County budget cuts, lower annual fund donations, larger visitation and increased health care costs make balancing the budget extremely difficult to say the least. On the positive side, moral is high and the staff remain passionate and hopeful about the challenges of their jobs.

The Barns of Carver County-Generations project continues. This project headed by artist Ruth Tremblay has been very well received. The goal is to document the numerous barns in Carver County and the generations of families who live on the farm (and their stories) while we still have the opportunity to do so. Several of the barns she has photographed have been torn down within days of them being photographed. A large note of appreciation is expressed to the City of Chanhassen for notifying us of coming demolitions. We realize that it is not possible to save these historic structures but we can document them and maybe, just maybe save one or two for posterity. Ruth’s photographs can be seen at the Carver County Historical Society until the end of January and at www.barnsofcarvercounty.com. A 2009 barn calendar is also available for sale.

The CCHS building experienced some change this last year and will see more in 2009. The Veteran’s Administration office was expanded and the Vet’s Gallery began the long road of redesign. In 2009 you can expect to see and hear a lot about the Gallery redesign and fundraising for the project. The next time you are in stop and take a look at the vacant gallery and its progress. The Veteran’s collection has been packed away in preparation for a new Veteran’s Gallery that will focus on the stories of Carver County Veterans and their families. The gallery will be a tribute to those who served. The gallery opening is planned for November 11, 2009.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as CCHS President.

Michael Fahey
2008 CCHS President

**Executive
Director**

Wendy

When I write, my routine is to compose in my head first before putting things on paper. As I thought about the past year, many accomplishments and challenges come to mind. The question arises where does one start?

My job description lists, “being a loud voice for historic preservation.” While it is easy to be the loud voice, following up with action can be difficult for a number of reasons. The Peterson North barn is a good example. The roof is in imminent need of repair and the weight of items inside the barn threatens collapse of the structure. The Nordic Heritage Club/Friends of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead have been instrumental in the effort to keep the Peterson Farm in the minds of people. The most important part of saving this structure was accomplished by Ward Holasek. The barn had been previously divided in ownership. This year Ward was able to accomplish the task of sole ownership. Once this was done Mark Buechel, the state Historic Architect, visited the barn and provided recommendations to save the barn. Many people contributed to accomplishing the task of covering the roof with a tarp and removing items from the barn to reduce the weight on the structure. Much work is still to be done, but it is a wonderful start to saving a historic structure. Thank you Commissioners Workman and Maluchnik for your hard work!

The budget was also high on the list of concerns in 2008. It is no secret that the economy has forced cutbacks in all areas of our government. This includes our appropriation from Carver County. The cutback allows us to search for more efficient ways of doing business, fundraising opportunities and diversify our funding sources. I have every confidence we will weather this storm. Carver County continues to be a wonderful partner. They have given us many in-kind services that we would otherwise have to pay for, such as printing, the painting of the Veteran’s Gallery ceiling and many others. To our commissioner liaison, Randy Maluchnik, THANK YOU!

Ruth Tremblay’s work on the Barns of Carver County stands on its own merit. Her work is beautiful beyond belief and the historic value is immeasurable. I cannot say enough for the appreciation the Historical Society feels toward her.

The staff, volunteers and members of the Carver County Historical Society continue to be our greatest resource. Without YOU it would be impossible to accomplish our mission of, “collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Carver County.”

Wendy Biorn

Curator's Report, 2008

It seems that 2008 rushed past in a whirlwind of activity. Essential but often unnoticeable behind-the-scenes activities occupied much of my time, setting the stage for more visible projects in 2009.

Planning for the redesign of the Veterans Gallery drove much of my schedule, including my largest project of the year: preparing a full catalog of the books in the Veterans Library and removing most of the fiction from the stacks. In the process, I discovered that we have a very strong collection of military reference books. The catalog is not yet available online, but if you have an interest in military history I encourage you to explore this collection.

The full redevelopment of the Veterans Gallery will take place in 2009. In preparation, we have sorted and boxed much of the military collection and cleared the area for remodeling. A storage area will be added along one side of the gallery and mechanical equipment in another corner will be enclosed. The ceiling has been caulked, sealed and painted and we are currently taking bids for the construction aspects.

As in previous years, the museum collection continued to grow rapidly. Seventy donors contributed collections of artifacts, books, manuscripts and photographs. Some highlights include a large collection of New Germany memorabilia, a translation of the record books of Young America's Pioneer Männerchor, a selection from the late Susanna Thilquist's collection of reference books on Swedish history and genealogy, objects and photographs associated with the Borhardt family (the builders of the log granary now at the Carver County Fairgrounds), and a sorghum press from the Chanhasen area. This last object is immensely heavy; I am grateful that, in spite of a harrowingly close call, no staff or interns were damaged while unloading it from my truck.

More collections mean more cataloging and collections care. I've had the pleasure of working with a number of volunteers and Title V participants on collections related projects, including data entry, photograph and object cataloging, inventory, and collections storage. Special thanks to Joann Gorman, Lois Johnson, Lana Miller, James Mitchell, Damien Parsoud, Bret Pearson, Laura Ryan, Gordon Schwacke, Betty Tobin and Bob White.

With most of my energy focused on the Veterans Gallery, we produced only a couple of small exhibits in 2008. During the Carver County Fair we featured Ruth Tremblay's artwork and photographs in our log granary, and brought more of Ruth's work into the museum for a temporary exhibit from December 2008-January 2009. We also exhibited quilts and Christmas cards from the collection at museum events around the county..

Curator

Larry

Hutchings

Larry Hutchings, Curator

Education

Erin

Anderson

2008 was a banner year for the Historical Society's educational programs. In addition to exceeding attendance goals for existing programs, we were able to create and implement innovative eco-history programming that brought new families to the Historical Society and helped increase awareness of our organization across the county. Our biggest jump in attendance was in school programs – in 2008, approximately 1,000 more students visited the museum or saw a presentation in their classroom than in 2007. There was also a significant increase in the number of people who attended family programs, adult education opportunities, and outreach programs and presentations.

2008 was the first year for eco-history programming at the Historical Society. We received a grant from Community Partners on Waste Education and Reduction (POWER) that allowed us to develop curriculum for day camp, host teacher's workshops, and create five new school programs as well as interactive curricula. Because the program was offered in Waconia, Norwood-Young America, and Watertown, it helped us introduce Historical Society programs to many new families and teachers that had not previously used our services. It also provided an opportunity to educate students about a popular topic (the environment) in a new light (through history). Students learned about many things, including oral history, historic preservation, and heirloom gardening.

In December, we received a \$5,000 grant from the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education (MAEE) Environmental Learning in Minnesota (ELM) Grant Program to support summer eco-history camps. The grant program is designed to support opportunities for Minnesota citizens, particularly students, to engage in "real world environmental learning experiences," in an effort to achieve a sustained level of environmental literacy for all Minnesotans. This funding will enable the education department to offer a fourth eco-history camp in Chaska, hire a part-time summer intern, and host interactive teacher workshops and school programs.

This fall we began working with the Chaska Alternative High School on a new student exhibit entitled: "What Happened Here: Stories of Carver County People." The exhibit explores change over time in Carver County and will focus on four main groups: men, women, children, and veterans. The class has also partnered with a 4th grade class from Chaska Elementary to create an exhibit component. The exhibit will open in February.

There are big changes in store for the education department over the next year. In addition to revamping the current "One Room Schoolhouse" program, I also plan to develop a fall program utilizing the log granary on the Carver County Fairgrounds to help elementary school-aged students learn about pioneer life. I will also continue to recruit new volunteers for all areas of the museum and celebrate the achievements of current volunteers.

Finally, and on a sober note, I will be leaving the Carver County Historical Society at the end of August to return to graduate school. At this time, I am unsure of which school I will be attending, but I do know that it will not be in Minnesota. I am very grateful to everyone I have met over the past two years, including CCHS staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and members for making it a truly unique and educational experience.

2 0 0 9
B o a r d o f D i r e c t o r s

Mary Booth, Chaska President
Lori Lohman, Chaska, Secretary
David Porath, Chanhassen, Treasurer
Doug Hoese, Watertown,
Mike Fahey, Carver,
John Varone, Chaska
Mary Eklund, Watertown
Sarah MacKay, Watertown
Val Barlau, Waconia
Al Bongard, Cologne
Randy Maluchnik- County Liaison

2008-09 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

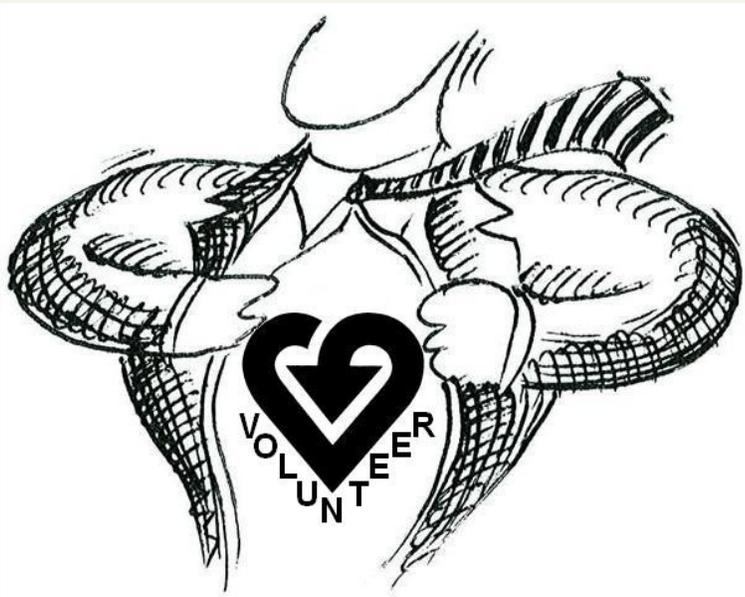
Mysteries in History—Kindergarten (Artifact Identification)
Putting Your Life in a Box—1st Grade (Historic Immigration to Carver County)
Down on the Farm—2nd Grade (Pioneer Farm Life)
Ghost Towns—3rd Grade (Lost Communities of Carver County)
Exploring the Great Northwest—4th Grade (Carver County and the Fur Trade)
Can You Dig It?—5th Grade (Archaeology and Native American Material Culture)
Marching Barefoot—6th Grade (Carver County in the Civil War)
Rosie the Riveter—6th Grade (Carver County in World War II)
Carver County's Log-Lost History—Grade TBD; Coming Fall 2009
One Room Schoolhouse—All grades; Updated program coming this spring

In Closing

2008 closes my second year at CCHS. Each day still brings a new and exciting opportunity, abet some more challenging than others. Despite the challenges we all face, the love and passion for the work we all do at CCHS is evident in person's report. Each report shines with commitment, individuality, personality and excitement.

From all of us at the CCHS, thank you for your support during that last year.

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



VOLUNTEER HOURS

EXHIBITS/COLLECTIONS...	468
FAIR...	90+
EDUCATION...	216
LIBRARY...	1294
TOTAL...	2068

THANKS!

1-26 HOURS

Dain Biorn, *Education*
 Kermit Dietrich, *Education*
 Daniel Doll, *Collections*
 Ken Groen, *Library*
 Lana Miller, *Collections*
 Gordon Schwacke, *Collections*
 Mary Lou Teubert, *Library*
 Betty Tobin, *Collections*

26-50 HOURS

Kaitlyn Andersen, *Education*
 Betty Cedarstrom, *Library*
 Christina Dumoulin, *Library*
 Joann Gorman, *Collections*
 Marlene Magnuson, *Library*
 Damien Parsoud, *Collections*

51-100 HOURS

Cole Altepeter, *Education*
 Tiffney Biorn, *Education*
 Marge Murphy, *Library*
 Bret Pearson, *Collections*
 Alice Siewart, *Library*

101+ HOURS

Kimberly Johnson, *Library*
 Lois Johnson, *Photo Collection*
 Mary Kaufhold, *Library*
 James Mitchell, *Collections*
 Barbara Saunders, *Library*
 Lois Schulstand, *Library*

**THANK YOU
 VOLUNTEERS!**

We couldn't do it without you!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2008 BOARD MEMBERS FOR ALL THEIR VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

Michael Fahey, *President*
 Mary Booth, *Vice President*
 Doug Hoese, *Treasurer*
 Dianne Strandberg, *Secretary*
 Val Barlau
 Allan Bongard
 Mary Eklund
 Lori Lohman
 Sarah MacKay
 David Porath

Randy Maluchnik-*Carver County
 Liaison*

**Front
Office**

**Linda
Nelson**

Since April of this year, there have been many changes in the front office area. We are always looking for better ways to be more productive in a faster and easier way for our members and it will free up some time to do more productive things for the society and allow better communications for employees and volunteers.

The Past Perfect database has been reviewed so as not to have duplicate names for mailings and name corrections are done on an ongoing basis. It has a large database and allows the museum and the historical society to track all members, volunteers, donors, and items in one area. We currently have 53 new memberships including the Chanhassen members who recently joined. Also, a new procedure was set up to make the renewal letters more consistent and timely.

QuickBooks was reviewed as well, and the Chart of Accounts was streamlined to coincide with the annual budget. Online banking for reconciling bank accounts is now up and running and more efficient. And we have added inventory onto QuickBooks's so as to better track our resale items.

A review of all the forms used in the office (i.e. Check request, vacation forms, etc) with some of them updated for better communication and ease of preparation.

The gift shop area is continuing to expand. We now have an item to represent each city in Carver County as well as some church books and other items of interest. We are always looking for new items that pertain to the County. Keep your eyes open! Café Press online has various items with our logo on for purchase as well. Ruth Tremblay has expanded her line of items from note cards, various size photos, Barns of Carver County t shirts and now calendars. The calendars will be on sale till the end of January. She also has items for sale on Café Press.

I look forward to 2009 and coming up with new ideas and ready to tackle any challenges to make the office run more efficiently and smoothly.

Linda Nelson

Research

Library

Marlene

Magnuson

The library has seen some wonderful improvements in 2008. Highlights include; successful genealogy gatherings, adding email capability on the printer reader, adding a book shelf, acquiring microfilm for Lester Prairie News/Herald Journal, addition of photos, research for a photo project of County Attorneys for Carver County and adding more family histories.

Early in 2008, we added email capability on one printer reader. This allows us to email requested information to people instead of printing and mailing. The cost savings for ink, paper, staff time and postage can be substantial. Patrons also appreciate having the digital image.

Library volunteer Lois Schulstad wrote and received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to purchase the Lester Prairie News/Herald Journal microfilm. This newspaper covers the Western portion of Carver County extending our research ability for patrons.

We were excited to recently receive photos of the grain elevator and general store in Hazelton on the Luce Line in Northern Hollywood Township. This is the only photo known to exist of the elevator!

Marlene has been actively researching a photo project of the history of Carver County Attorneys for the Carver County Attorneys office. This has been at times an exhausting project as some families no longer live in Carver County.

Genealogy Gatherings have been successful in 2008. This year's gatherings included an October trip to the History Center and several genealogy programs.

Finally quite a few new family histories have been donated by our patrons.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have spent so much time in the library! Without you we simply could not supply the service to the residents of Carver County.

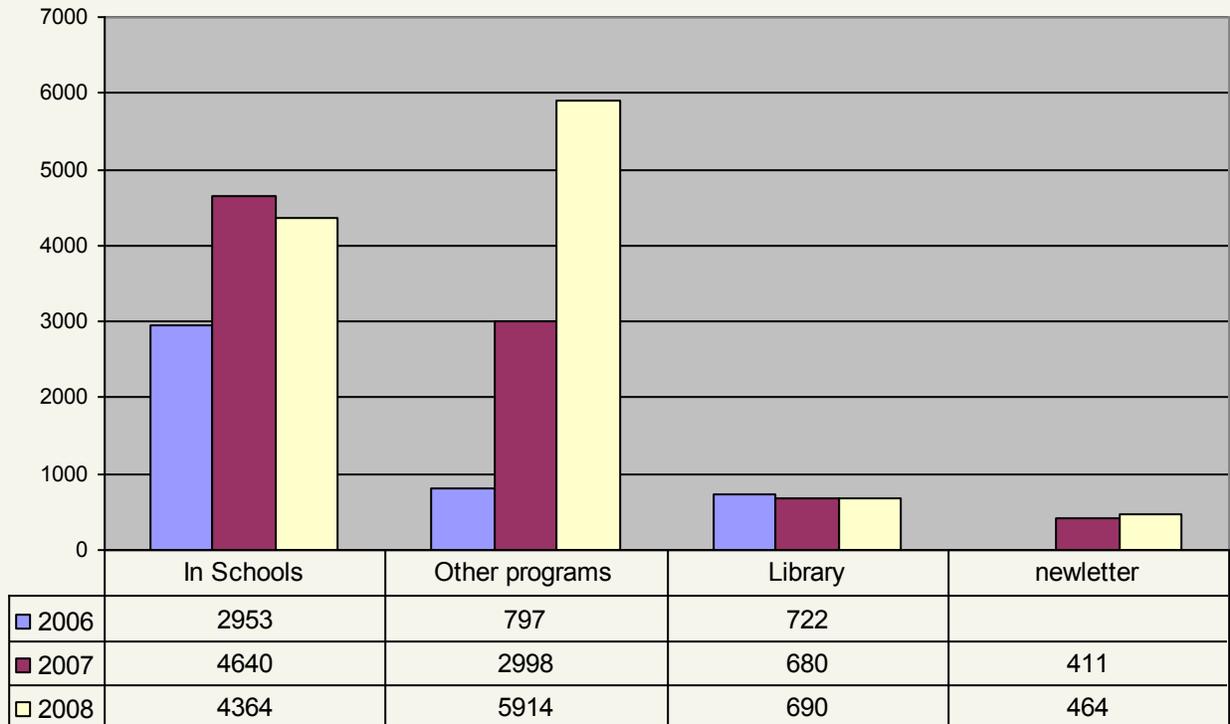
Written by Wendy Biorn, with notes supplied by Marlene Magnuson.

**Carver County Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 3008**

	Dec 31, 08
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · KleinBank	56,900.53
101 · Building Fund	7,900.75
10100 · Petty Cash	30.00
102 · Museum Collection Fund	9,286.89
103 · Schultz Fund	7,136.77
104 · Veteran's Fund	3,758.12
10470 · Schultz CD	69,919.77
10810 · Museum CD #27882	4,676.49
10820 · Museum CD #44751	9,334.13
Total Checking/Savings	168,943.45
Other Current Assets	
12100 · Inventory Asset	253.32
Total Other Current Assets	253.32
Total Current Assets	169,196.77
Fixed Assets	
15000 · Furniture and Equipment	43,202.17
15050 · Exhibits	19,789.50
15900 · Leasehold Improvements	21,018.26
17100 · Accumulated Depreciation	-65,844.00
Total Fixed Assets	18,165.93
Other Assets	
10110 · Paypal	-0.16
10900 · Enowment Fund Investment	137,205.60
Total Other Assets	137,205.44
TOTAL ASSETS	324,568.14
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
25500 · Sales Tax Payable	61.46
Total Other Current Liabilities	61.46
Total Current Liabilities	61.46
Total Liabilities	61.46
Equity	
30000 · Opening Bal Equity	253.32
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	282,900.78
Net Income	41,352.58
Total Equity	324,506.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	324,568.14

The above report is un-audited

CCHS 2006-2008 Contacts



	2006	2007	2008
Attendance Totals	4472	8729	11432

2008 was a year of growth with nontraditional programs leading the way. These programs included: the Minnesota Valley Round Table, Family Day, Eco-History Camp, adult programs and promotions at Canterbury Park, The Landing and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Promotional programs were responsible for increasing attendance by about 2000.

Our membership base grew by 13% or 53 memberships. The majority of new members came from our new affiliation with the Chanhassen Historical Society. The remaining new members were a direct result of the increased family and children's programs.