

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2009 Annual Report





**TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND INTERPRET
THE HISTORY OF CARVER COUNTY**

The Carver County Historical Society is a private not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization serving the residents of Carver County and beyond. We are located across the street from Bayview Elementary School in downtown Waconia. We have two affiliate groups: Chaska Historical Society and Chanhassen Historical Society.

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President's Report

I always enjoy watching the year-in-review shows at this time of year. It's nice to stroll down memory lane. Having said that, I hope *you* enjoy this stroll through the year with the Carver County Historical Society.

We made some huge strides organizationally as we have put in place finely tuned job descriptions and a comprehensive and very creative 2009-2010 Strategic Plan. Both of these were items that a recent MAP (Museum Assessment Program) report had suggested we accomplish. The Personnel Committee and the Planning Committee deserve special thanks for all of their work on these two projects.

We were blessed in the summer to have seven interns to help with everything from the County Fair to Eco-History Camp to the Veterans Gallery and many things in between. It was nice to have the fresh faces and new ideas and enthusiasm. Unfortunately we had to say good-bye to another fresh face, that of Erin Anderson, as she left to pursue graduate work. But we were fortunate to get Kyle Treddinick to take her place as Education Coordinator.

We have survived the recession much as I suspect all of you have by tightening our belts and doing without. I am proud that we did not have to lay off anyone. And hopeful that now that the economy is showing signs of coming back our donations will pick up and our county appropriations will remain stable. We still have a long ways to go with funding our renovated Veterans Gallery.

That brings me to the final stop on our stroll through 2009—the opening of the Veterans Gallery in November. What a wonderful event that was as more than 200 people filed through the very peaceful and serene landscape our curator, Larry Hutchings, created. I invite you all to come back in the spring to see the finishing touches he is now putting on the exhibit.

Overall, a good year to lead the CCHS and I have enjoyed it immensely.

Sincerely,

Mary Booth

President of the Board of Directors, 2009

Time Passages

Al Steward & Peter White

It was late in December, the sky turned to snow
All round the day was going down slow
Night like a river beginning to flow
I felt the beat of my mind go
Drifting into time passages
Years go falling in the fading light
Time passages
Buy me a ticket on the last train home tonight

It seems that as I get older, time passes faster. "Like a river beginning to flow" so does time. The past year at the Carver County Historical Society has seemed more like a torrential current at times than a slow meandering river. We have accomplished so much but not without the undercurrents of stresses caused by the economy.

The opening of the redesigned Veterans Gallery has been a dream for ten years. Its redesign could not have been accomplished without the help of many, many volunteers and donors. While we still have approximately \$10,000 to raise, it should be noted that we are thankful for every donation. People contributed as they were able. One twenty dollar donation arrived with a note stating that was all the donor could afford and they wished it could be more. The gallery is a tribute to our Carver County veterans. We had hoped to make it theirs and so it is. One person deserves a special thank you: Dan Steinhagen.

This summer we bid adieu to Erin Anderson, our Education Coordinator. After a long search, Kyle Tredinnick was hired to replace Erin. Kyle is a new Education graduate from St. Cloud State University. Due to budget cuts, we could only offer him 30 hours per week but with the new Legacy grant opportunities it is hoped that we will be able to bring his hours up to 40.

In September of 2008, Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. With a portion of these funds, the state legislature created the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund which is designated for history-related projects around the state. These Cultural Grants programs are seeded by a pool of \$6.75 million to be awarded in the 2010-11 biennium for "projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation." The Legacy fund is a state grant program administered by the Minnesota Historical Society (<http://www.mnhs.org/legacy/grants/overview2.htm>).

With the beginning of 2010, we say a sad goodbye to nine year board member Val Barlau who has reached her term limit. Val has been instrumental in all aspects of the CCHS. I will always be thankful for her ability to take a job and run with it. She most recently served on the Education and Personnel Committees.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our Carver County Commissioners for their stalwart support of the CCHS in these tough financial times. It is not possible to thank them for all their help. I hope a simple thank you will suffice.

Time continues to pass and the river will continue to run. It runs because of all our wonderful members. To all our members, thank you for your support. We couldn't do it without you.

Wendy Petersen Biorn
Executive Director

One project dominated my life last year: the redesign of the Veterans Gallery. Following the preliminary work of 2008, the first months of 2009 passed quickly with additional design and planning. Over the summer, four interns assisted with research for the exhibit. Kevin Hampton and Kelsey Shurson of St. Thomas University, Tim Krueger of Bethel Bible College, and Adam Smith of the University of Missouri, Rolla all contributed many hours of research and writing. Their work formed the backbone of the exhibit text – the story that the gallery tells.

A team of carpenters from the AFL/CIO contributed the labor to build a new storage area within the gallery, with materials provided by Carver County. These unexpected donations helped create a gallery with qualities rarely seen in small museums.

Many people contributed time and talent to the remaking of the exhibit. The exhibit would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers, but I particularly want to thank Wayne “Rocky” Bye, Al Bongard, Doug Hoese, Chuck Howard, Dave Lovaasen, and Bret Pearson for contributions above and beyond expectations. A couple of these guys now know that the museum can get pretty wild at 4:00 a.m. – even if it’s not quite like the movies!

In spite of our most valiant efforts (and eighteen-hour work days), the exhibit was not complete at the opening – but it opened to high praise from the hundreds of people who attended the opening. Work continues on the exhibit. Even if you have visited it already, come back regularly to see the new additions of objects and stories. It is an exhibit which will continue to grow.

Not surprisingly, the museum collection received many military objects in 2009, along with the more usual local history artifacts and photographs. Volunteers and temporary employees have been an immense help on collections related projects, including data entry, photograph and object cataloging, inventory, and collections storage. It has been my pleasure to work with Joann Gorman, Lois Johnson, Zach Kayser, James Mitchell, Damien Parsoud, Bret Pearson, Laura Ryan, Vaughan Shepherd, and Bob White.

Along with the energy expended on the exhibit, we managed to take part in the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP), a program of Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant-funded program allowed me to complete a self-study of our collections care, and then meet with two outside professionals for additional insight and evaluation. Conservator Paul Storch and architect Jeff Oertel both spent two days visiting our facilities. Their written reports will help guide us as we improve the way we store and care for our collections.

Larry Hutchings
Curator of Collections and Exhibitions

Researcher's Report

The Library experienced a terrific year in 2009. We were able to accomplish much with the help of our volunteers and county employees.

Entries to our database have exceeded over 264,000 items. All indexing of our local newspapers is current with the exception of the Norwood Times and the Herald Journal (Lester Prairie). We purchased microfilm of the Lester Prairie News (Herald Journal) for the years 1897—1991. We needed this because much of the information for the western communities in Carver County was covered by that paper. Some of the Carver County papers for that time frame are missing or information was not available .

Our research requests have grown; we have requests from nearly every state in the Union, also foreign countries such as Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and Canada.

Our Genealogy Gatherings have been very successful. We meet every second Tuesday evening during the summer months, and the second Saturday afternoon during the winter. I now send out the notices for the Gatherings via email and have asked members to help with the treats for coffee, thus saving the Historical Society nearly \$500.00 a year.

Our research has grown considerably with patrons availing themselves of the knowledgeable help of our research personnel.

New acquisitions in the library consist of family histories, several new church records and a sizable collection of Swedish Histories. We are working with several churches to copy church records for use by our staff.

Looking forward to 2010, we hope to finish all newspaper indexing, with the exception of the current ones (an ongoing task). Newspapers from communities surrounding Carver County would be another item for our wish list and, of course, more room for our staff and patrons to use.

All in all, it has been a wonderful year and I truly appreciate the support of the Historical Society Board, the members, donors, staff, volunteers, Carver County employees, the Carver County Board of Commissioners, and lastly, but not least, the researchers who use our facility.

A sincere Thank You to all,

Marlene Magnuson
Researcher

This is my first full year at the Historical Society, as I started in April of 2008.

Now I have seen a full year of activity the Historical Society has gone through and in 2010 will be able to project the expense and income coming in a little better.

Johnson, Mattson, Peterson, Matthias & Co. audited our 2008 QuickBooks and it went well with very few changes. Also, Pay Pal and Network for Good sites for credit card transactions for purchases or donations were set up.

The gift shop was busy throughout the last year and has sold out on various items. We stock an items from each city in Carver County and are branching out to area churches as they write their own history books. There are still items for sale on Café Press and we are always looking for new items for sale that pertain to Carver County and the surrounding cities. Forty-nine Barns of Carver County calendars were sold and are always a big hit. The inventory was recounted and recorded for end of 2009 to have an accurate count.

In 2009, 162 new Chanhassen members joined the Historical Society bringing their membership up to 210 in addition to 47 new CCHS members. That brings our membership base up to 753 members in 2010. New and renewing members get a membership card to carry in their purse or wallet that has all of our membership information on it. It gives them a sense of belonging to the CCHS and they can present it when purchasing an item in our gift shop for a member discount. The membership database is still maintained to keep accurate records of each member. In 2010, we will always look for opportunities to recruit new members.

A system was implemented last year regarding invoicing members their monthly dues by sending them past due letter and it has worked well. New reminder letters let members know that we need their support to keep the museum open for the general public and the schools to enjoy. So going forward in 2010, I plan to continue with reminder dues letters to track past due accounts.

I enjoyed going to the fundraisers the museum held including: Night with the Hysterical Society, wine tasting, the Carver County Fair and Nickle Dickle Day. Of course, the Veterans Gallery opening was such a grand event itself. The Annual Fund Drive was held in December and we were thrilled with the response we received from people donating especially with today's economy.

2010 will be a tough and challenging year, but we will review the income and expenses on a month to month basis and that will hopefully keep us within the budget.

Linda Nelson
Administrative Assistant

Barns of Carver County

Hello,

It has been a busy year for the Barns of Carver County project and the Generations of Carver County project. Since the end of 2007, I have photographed over 200 barns in the county.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. I estimate that over 300 are left to be photographed. I would like to share some of this years highlights in the below news page. I would like to thank all of you that have supported my project. Hopefully, I will see you in my travels around the county.

Ruth Tremblay
Photographer and Documentarian

The
Barns of Carver County™
Project

2009 IN REVIEW

By **Ruth Tremblay**
Photographer & Documentarian
January 2010



THE BARNs OF CARVER COUNTY™ 2010 CALENDAR was a great success this year. The photographs in this year's calendar were accompanied with a caption about the history of each barn. Calendars could be purchased at the CCHS and several area merchants.

**WCCO-TV's FINDING MINNESOTA:
The Barns of Carver County**
Aired – April 5, 2009

At the end of March I was contacted by Angela Davis, WCCO-TV anchor about The Barns of Carver County project being featured on the Finding Minnesota segment of their newscast. The interview took place on March 31, 2009 at the farmstead of Olvern Vinkemeir, a life-long resident of Carver County. Olvern is very proud of her centennial farm that her grandparents settled in the 1890's. Olvern, a CCHS member was a gracious hostess and did a fine job representing the citizens of Carver County.



2009 events

Nickel Dickle Day - The CCHS and The Barns of Carver County project tested the waters this year by sharing a space at the event. Scheduling problems led to a shortage of manpower but a special thank you goes out to **Linda Nelson and her family** for helping take down the tent and packing the contents after she finished her day at the museum. Another thank you to **Linda Cornwell** who joined me in the booth and **Janet Fahey** for volunteering to cover meal breaks. All in all the event was a great success and brought local attention to the CCHS and the Barns of Carver County project.

Carver County Fair - I was thrilled to have the opportunity to investigate the history of the round barn and prepare an exhibit to showcase the round barns of Carver County. The exhibit was inside the Franz Borchardt granary and featured a scale model of the Benjamin Lemke round barn which was generously loaned for the exhibit by **Fritz and Jane Widmer**, the current owners of the barn. The model's removable roof allowed attendants to view the interior of the barn. Carver County currently has the distinction of having the most round barns in Minnesota.

IN THE works

The Generations of Carver County – I began The Generations of Carver County project in 2008 after meeting so many interesting farm families that wanted to share their personal stories. I realized that like the barns vanishing from the landscape their stories and way of life would also fade away. That is when I decided to interview some of the long-time residents of the county, make digital audio recordings of their stories and scan their priceless family photos to share with future generations. After doing the first interview of Olvern Vinkemeir in 2008 and creating the DVD "The Barns of Carver County" I took a brief hiatus to focus more on my barn project. The DVD is now available at the Carver County and Hennepin County Library Systems. This year the project moves forward with the addition of Lois Schulstad. Lois and I completed our first interview last week of Gerald and Geraldine Poppler of Laketown township. The interview was conducted by Lois while I captured the event on HD Video. The Popplers allowed us to scan their vintage family photos. The project is off to a great start for 2010.

Education Coordinator's Report

The year has been a transition year for the Education Department at the Historical Society. Erin Anderson left in August to pursue her Master of Arts degree in Teaching in Museum Education at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Erin served as the Education Coordinator for the last 2-1/2 years and helped develop many of the programs, including the eco-history program. We wish her all the best in her pursuit of furthering her education.

I was hired in early September. It took some getting used to dealing with primarily elementary aged children, but I have loved every minute of it. My background is in Secondary Education, so I have had to adapt my teaching style a bit to better reach the elementary aged children. So far, I have really been amazed at how quickly the students catch on, and how eager they are to learn.

The Historical Society began charging for educator visits in 2009. Because of this, visits to schools have decreased somewhat compared to 2008. The programs still remain very popular in the schools all across Carver County and will continue to be as we look to 2010.

Most of my time was spent learning the school programs and preparing for the opening of the Veterans Gallery in November. Our curator, Larry Hutchings, has done a phenomenal job putting together the exhibit. Helping him was a handful of volunteers, who combined to contribute over 1400 hours of volunteer labor. The CCHS volunteers, Rocky Bye and Brett Pearson, both contributed over 400 hours of their time to help ensure the gallery would open on time.

I was brought in at the beginning of the school year and it did not take me long to encounter my first school group. So far it has been a lot of trial and error, as I am still trying to familiarize myself with the programs, and how to fit them together with my teaching style. Along with learning the programs I have had to spend a good amount of time learning about the history of Carver County. I am originally from Ramsey County and did not have a lot of previous knowledge of Carver County history. As the days go by and I get more experience I am becoming more and more comfortable teaching about the history of Carver County.

Kyle Treddinick
Education Coordinator

Balance Sheet

	<u>2009</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · KleinBank	51,140.07
101 · Building Fund	7,909.56
10100 · Petty Cash	30.00
102 · Museum Collection Fund	3,127.72
Veteran's fund	
103 · Schultz Fund	7,147.44
10470 · Schultz CD	73,074.78
10810 · Museum CD #27882	218.01
10820 · Museum CD #44751	9,674.83
10822 · Museum CD #7711148	10,950.88
Total Checking/Savings	<u>163,273.29</u>
Other Current Assets	
12100 · Inventory Asset	264.07
Total Other Current Assets	<u>264.07</u>
Total Current Assets	163,537.36
Fixed Assets	
15000 · Furniture and Equipment	43,202.17
15050 · Exhibits	19,789.50
15900 · Leasehold Improvements	21,018.26
17100 · Accumulated Depreciation	-67,142.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>16,867.93</u>
Other Assets	
10110 · Paypal	-0.16
10900 · Endowment Fund Investment	93,914.00
Total Other Assets	<u>93,913.84</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>274,319.13</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20100 · Accounts Payable	312.65
Total Accounts Payable	<u>312.65</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
24100 · Accrued Leave and Payroll	3,102.73
25500 · Sales Tax Payable	51.07
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>3,153.80</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,466.45</u>
Total Liabilities	3,466.45
Equity	
31300 · Perm. Restricted Net Assets	93,914.00
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	107,658.17
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	113,614.48
45200 · Unrealized Loss on Investments	-38,464.60
Net Income	-5,869.37
Total Equity	<u>270,852.68</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>274,319.13</u>

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volunteer Highlights

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2009 BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Booth, *President*
 John Varone, *Vice-President*
 David Porath, *Treasurer*
 Lori Lohman, *Secretary*
 Al Bongard
 Val Barlau
 Mike Fahey
 Doug Hoese
 Kari Myrold

2009 VOLUNTEER HOURS

EXHIBITS	387
EDUCATION	120
LIBRARY	1494
VET'S GALLERY	1353
TOTAL	3354
2008 total	2068

1-26 Hours

Altepeter, Cole - *Education*
 Barrett, Tyler - *Education*
 Clark, Andrew - *Collections*
 Cleckler, Erica - *Library*
 Dietrich, Kermit - *Education*
 Gillett, Erin - *Library*
 Gorman, Joann - *Collections*
 Gray, Spencer
 Kroll, Camille - *Collections*
 Lewandowski, Stacey - *Library*
 Miller, Lana - *Collections*
 Oberle, Angela - *Library*
 Pratt, Jenna - *Education*
 Ross, Alexandra - *Education*
 Schwacke, Gordon - *Collections*
 Shambour, Becca - *Education*
 Shelbourn, Brady - *Education*
 Shurson, Kelsey - *Vets Gallery*
 Tobin, Betty - *Collections*
 White, Kathe - *Education*

26-50 Hours

Andersen, Kaitlyn - *Education*
 Cedarstrom, Betty - *Library*
 Schulz, Marlene - *Library*
 Shepherd, Vaughn - *Collections*
 Teubert, Mary Lou - *Library*

51-100 Hours

Buettgen, Joanie - *Library*
 Dumoulin, Christina - *Library*
 Kayser, Zach - *Collections*
 Krueger, Tim - *Vets Gallery*
 Lenz, Dara - *Library*
 McCullum, Cassie - *Intern*
 Murphy, Marge - *Library*
 Parsoud, Damien - *Collections*
 Saunders, Barbara - *Library*
 Siewert, Alice - *Library*

101-200 Hours

Johnson, Lois - *Library*
 Lovaasen, Dave - *Collections*
 Smith, Adam - *Vets Gallery*

201-400 Hours

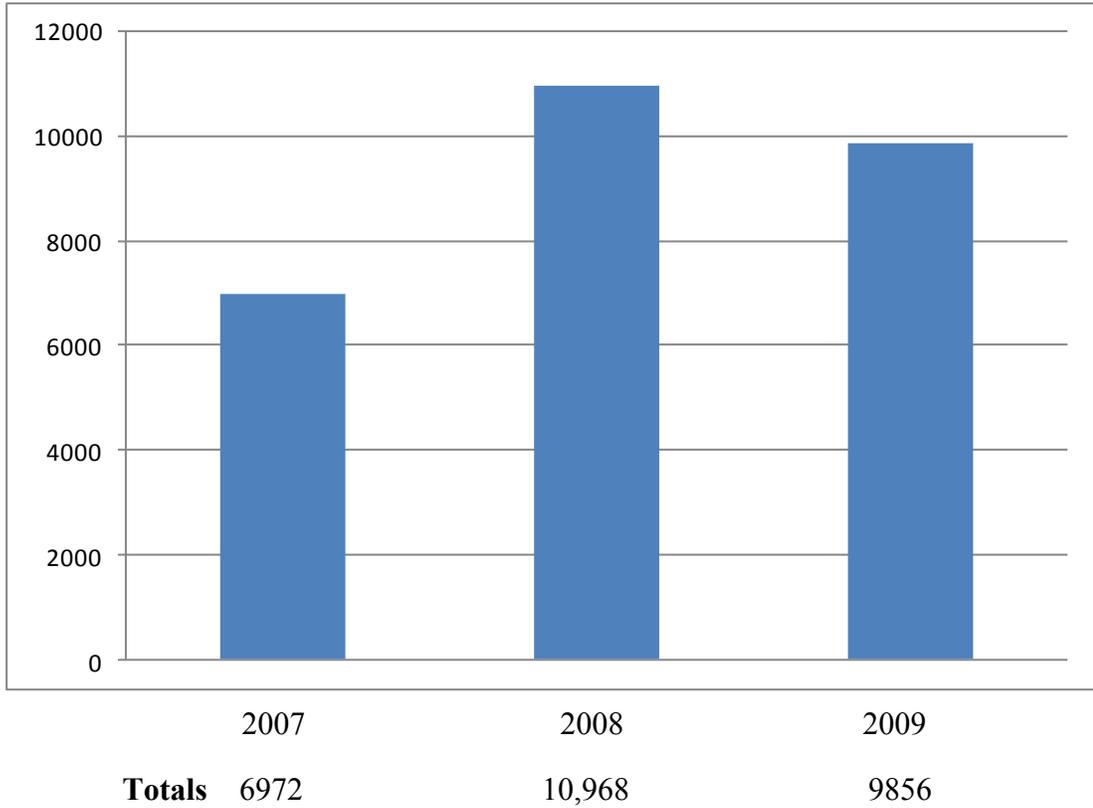
Johnson, Kim - *Library*
 Marshall, Lindsay - *Library*
 Mitchell, James - *Collections*

400+

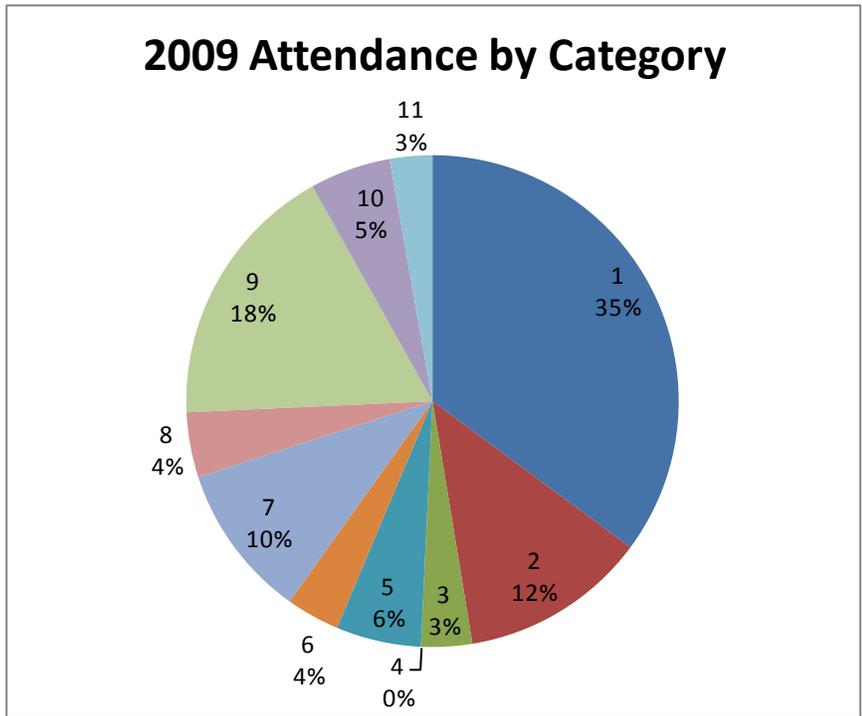
Bye, Wayne - *Collections*
 Kaufhold, Mary - *Library*
 Pearson, Brett - *Collections*
 Schulstand, Lois - *Library*
 Tremblay, Ruth - *Collections*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
 for helping us achieve our mission!

2007-2009 Attendance



At A Glance



- 1—Schools in classroom
- 2—School museum visits
- 3—Family Day
- 4—Field Trips
- 5—Library visitors
- 6—Library look-ups
- 7—Museum Walk-ins
- 8—Adult Education Programs
- 9—Presentations outside the museum
- 10—History Camps

Veterans Gallery Opening—The long awaited Veterans Gallery reopened to a large audience, November 11, 2009. Mary Loehrs and Mr. and Mrs. Myron Karki need to be singled out for their over and above effort to fundraise for the gallery. Their extra efforts included accompanying Randy Maluchnik and Wendy Petersen Biorn to veterans groups to seek financial support. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our gallery donors. With all the positives of the gallery, we still have approximately \$10,000 to raise.

Collection Assessment Program (CAP)—The Collection Assessment Program is a grant program that we were awarded in 2008. The purpose of the CAP is to have a professional assessment of the museum building and collections. After the review, a written recommendation was received with ideas for improvements. These professional recommendations are needed to write more substantial grant applications.

Education Coordinator—As Kyle mentioned in his report, he was hired last fall to replace Erin Anderson. Kyle is a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education with a history emphasis. He is no stranger to museums, having volunteered at the Stearns County Historical Society. He coaches the Elk River Boys' Lacrosse team and enjoys hockey in his free time.

Legacy Fund—When Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the state legislature created the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (H.F. 1231), a portion was appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society for history-related projects around the state. One of those new initiatives is the Statewide Historical and Cultural Grants program, seeded by a pool of \$6.75 million to be awarded in the 2010-11 biennium for "projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation." (<http://www.mnhs.org/legacy/grants/overview2.htm>)

Journey Stories—Journey Stories is a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute which will be visiting us December 2010 through January 2011. The exhibit tells tales of how we and our ancestors came to America and are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything – families and possessions – to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. (www.journeystories.org)

In Conclusion—This has been a productive year, even with the financial challenges of the economy. Our achievements could not have been accomplished without the efforts of so many wonderful volunteers, employees, and donors.

Thank you everyone!



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1/2010/WB