

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2010 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 Bay View Elementary School in downtown Waconia. We have two affiliate groups; Chaska Historical Society and Chanhassen Historical Society.

Contents

- 3 President's Report
- 4 Executive Director's Report
- 5 Curator's Report
- 6 Researcher's Report
- 7 Administrative Assistant's Report
- 8 Education Coordinator's Report
- 9 Statement of Financial Position
- 10 By the Number
- 11 Year End Highlights

President's Report

It has been an absolute pleasure serving as the President of the CCHS over the last year. It's easy to take over when the past president, Mary Booth, had done such a tremendous job. What I have discovered most of all, is that the Board of the CCHS is a truly gifted group of people with each one having a vast array of expertise. I thank them for making my job so much easier and fun.

The staff at the CCHS is truly a remarkable bunch and deserves so much credit for the many successes in 2010. Some of the highlights are 6 new grants written and won for a total of \$23,799. Add that to the Legacy Veterans Gallery educational grant that was won the previous year but worked on in 2010 and it makes for a busy year. We are very thankful as we are very aware that the competition for grants during 2010 was intense. A most generous bequest from the Grivelli Estate was also received. It allowed us to add a new microfilm scanner and increased the endowment fund along with help funding other much needed areas. We had wonderful events such as the Chanhassen Dinner Theater display, the "Having a Swell time" postcard book, fundraisers, the County Fair and the Smithsonian exhibit, *Journey Stories*.

None of this could have been accomplished without the staff and all the tremendous volunteers that give their all for the CCHS. We have also been fortunate to have a new hire, Heidi Gould, as our Education Coordinator. She brings great enthusiasm to the position. You can tell by just looking at the increase in school numbers, tours, discussions and the like that our visitors love her. I do not want to single out any one particular person, so I ask that all the members of the CCHS take a moment to thank each other and the staff.

Larry Hutchings, our curator. Marlene Magnuson, a tremendous researcher. Heidi Gould, Education. Linda Nelson, what doesn't she do? Wendy Petersen Biorn, our Executive Director, all the Board members and especially our County Commissioner liaison Randy Maluchnik. I have known Randy for many years and his dedication to the Carver County community and its veterans is unequalled. As a Viet Nam veteran myself I can tell you that Randy cares not just with words but by action.

Finally, I am proud to report that the CCHS is fiscally sound and in great shape for the New Year. The only way an organization like ours can work is for everyone to feel as they are part of a big family. Part of my heritage goes back to the Mic Mac Indians of Quebec and there is a saying with all tribes but in the native Dakota language of Minnesota it is "Mitakuye Oyas'in," we are all related.

Peace and blessings for a successful and fulfilling New Year.

John B. Varone, President Carver County Historical Society

Every year, at the February board meeting, we discuss goals and what we would like to see accomplished during the coming year. I remember so well, as if it were yesterday, saying my goal for 2010 was to get caught up. That lasted— maybe a month.

A historical society is a place that changes from day to day, depending on who or what donation walks in the door. This is not to mention turning on one's computer to find a list of emails which demand attention immediately. The North Peterson barn is an example of this. Late July, about a week before the fair, I received a call informing me the North Barn had almost collapsed following a storm and needed immediate attention. So much for what I had planned that day. Long story short, we received not one but two Legacy grants directed at the North Barn. The first was for emergency stabilization and the second for planning which will include bringing in engineers to determine the work needed and creating a draftman's drawing of the barn. Thank you so much to Hansen HomeTech for their assistance!

The week the Smithsonian Institution exhibit *Journey Stories* arrived, someone asked me if I was nervous. The planning for this event started a year and a half ago and nothing much fazes me anymore, so when a snowstorm stepped in to cancel the grand opening we sighed, froze the cookies, used them for another event and moved on. So much for planning. With the school budget cuts, we were lucky to acquire a Target Corporation grant in the amount of \$2,000 which provided free school bus transportation. Our highest visitor count one week was just over 600. Heidi was busy!

The next display, Minnesota Historical Society's, *Minnesota Home Front, World War II*, will be visiting us January 29th and will run through March 5th.

A bequest from Leona Grivelli arrived unexpectedly in September. A partial disbursement of \$50,000 was designated as follows: \$25,000 to the endowment fund, \$4,000 to provide for free school programs for the next two years, \$5,000 for collection shelving, \$6,000 to finish the Veterans Gallery and \$10,000 to purchase the ScanPro 2000, the newest in microfilm technology for the library. We were also asked to help the newly forming historical society in Norwood-Young America, Leona's home town.

We welcome the arrival of the Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood-Young America. The next Smithsonian Exhibit, *New Harmonies*, will be arriving at the old NYA library which just happens to be the location of the new NYA Heritage Center. NYA will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Stiftungsfest this August. *New Harmonies* will just by chance be at the new history center at the same time. Now how did that happen?

Speaking of anniversaries, the CCHS celebrated its 70th birthday in 2010. O. D. Sell of Mayer saw the need to start collecting Carver County history in 1940. From these humble beginnings the CCHS was formed.

September also was the culmination of a long return journey for the 1910 Chaska fire apparatus which was returned from Montana. The machine can be seen at the fire station in Chaska.

Finally, I want to take a brief moment to thank everyone for your help over the years. It is not possible to mention everyone. Members, volunteers, staff, Board members, county employees, and County Commissioners. It is only as a group, working as one that we succeed.

Wendy Petersen Biorn

I started 2010 still preoccupied by the Veterans Gallery. With additional funding from the Grivelli estate, work continued with the installation of murals and more text panels. We continue to get new photographs of Carver County servicemen and women for the photo gallery. This is an exhibit that will grow into the future.

We were fortunate to receive a Legacy grant for storage furniture for the parts of the military collection that are not currently exhibited. This grant provided shelving, wardrobes, and custom firearm cabinets. This project was a first step in implementing the suggestions given in our 2009 Conservation Assessment Program report.

An abrupt change of pace came early in the year when the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres offered costumes and stage props for a temporary exhibit at the museum. I had the pleasure of visiting their extensive behind-the-scenes areas and working with their staff to select items for the exhibit. I am grateful to Kris Howland for researching and writing text for the exhibit, which was a favorite with museum visitors.

The Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, Journey Stories, has gotten a lot of press. It was nice to open a new exhibit without the stress of researching, designing and creating it! Instead, the stressful part came in Winona, where volunteer Bret Pearson and I had traveled to pick up the exhibit from the prior venue, the Winona County Historical Society. After maneuvering a fourteen foot truck through the snowy hills and valleys of southeastern Minnesota, safely backing it up to the service door of the museum in a narrow, crowded alley with an unfortunately placed utility pole, we discovered that a fourteen foot truck was not quite big enough to hold the thirteen large crates containing the exhibit. We measured and rearranged, then rearranged and measured, but the recalcitrant exhibit still wouldn't fit. We pondered the possibility of making another trip to Winona, then took a deep breath and lifted two of the nearly 200 pound crates and stacked them on their sides. With a lot of straps, padding, and careful driving, we finally arrived back in Waconia late in the evening with gravity on our side as we unloaded. After that, setting up the exhibit was a breeze (especially because other people did most of the work!).

One of our projects that I find especially rewarding is the ongoing inventory of the museum's collections. For several years, I have been working with volunteers and temporary employees to reorganize and re-house our collections. Objects with similar functions have been gathered together, with storage areas organized according to the same system we use to classify objects in our database. This means that much of the collection has moved from place to place during the process. Now, as things are settling nicely into place, we are going through the storage areas shelf by shelf, box by box, to record their new locations. That means I no longer have to rely on my memory to locate objects when they are needed, and that's a good thing! Special thanks to Bob White for creating customized boxes and trays for objects and to Marina Kurochkina for braving the chilly temperatures in the storage area to document locations.

Larry Hutchings, Curator

Researcher's Report

The year 2010 has been a great one for our research library. Our employees and volunteers have increased the items in our newspaper database to 293,000 entries. We have completed the indexing of all Carver County newspapers through 2010, with the exception of the Norwood-Young America Times between 1914 and 1922 and the Lester Prairie Herald Journal between 1901 and 1989.

Our monthly genealogy gatherings consistently attracted between 15 and 20 genealogists per month.

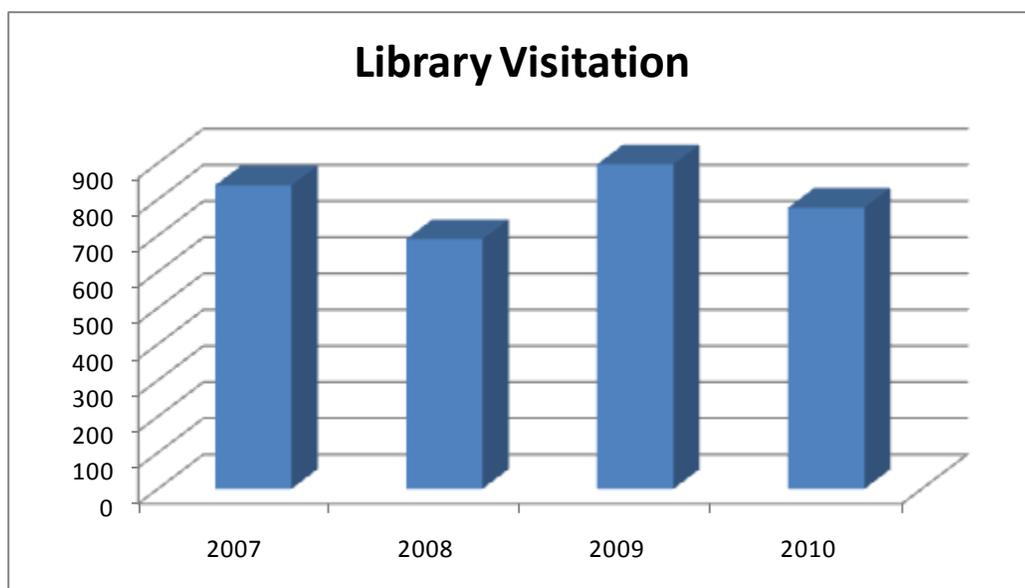
The bequest of \$10,000 from the Grivelli estate and \$500 donated from the East Union Lutheran Church enabled us to purchase a new state of the art Scan Pro 2000 microfilm machine. With this machine, we have the ability to scan both micro film and micro fiche, then email, print, or downloads to disc, flash drive or folder. It also has the capability to enhance and highlight articles to give a clearer more readable copy.

Library shelves have also been expanded to accommodate the addition of many new family histories and research materials, such as church records and the "Old Lutheran" books.

I would like to encourage anyone having family histories, high school annuals, church and cemetery records, scrapbooks and any other research materials to donate them to the library.

We are looking forward to a great 2011.

Marlene Magnuson



Another year has somehow come and gone. Let's welcome 2011 and wish for an exciting new year.

We've been seeing more people using our Pay Pal and Network for Good account for purchases and donations. It's been especially useful for our overseas & out of state members. We even participated in the Give to the Max Day November 16th, along with other historical societies in Minnesota.

The gift shop is selling some new items such as "True Cow Tales" by C.R. Lindemer, "The Sheriffs of Carver County" by John Von Walter, "Having a Swell Time!" by SouthWest Newspapers, and "Extra! Extra! The Orphan Trains and the Newsboys of New York" by Renee Wendinger. "Having a Swell Time!", a postcard book, was especially a big hit as a lot of members can remember several scenes in the book. We are proud to have something that pertains to each city in Carver County and continue to look for new items. The inventory was recounted and recorded for end of 2010 to ensure an accurate count.

In 2010, we added six new Chanhassen members and 29 new members of the CCHS. That brings our membership base to 766 in 2010. Everyone gets a membership card to carry in their purse or wallet with our membership information on it. It certainly has been a banner year for new memberships. Membership records are checked monthly for renewal, changes of address and updating dues. Members receive 3 notices of late status regarding dues and monthly reports help track past due accounts.

In April, we created a letter to welcome back members who had become inactive. We sent out the letter in July and several have rejoined. Welcome back!!!

A retention of files was done last summer. Now, we are working on a records retention and destruction policy. Once it is in place, we will be able to do a more thorough sorting.

Our Annual Fund Appeal letter was sent out a little earlier this year and we were overwhelmed with the result. Everyone was so generous this year. Our goal of \$5700 was exceeded by \$965.36. We truly appreciate each one of our members. Thank you!!

Young America Corp donated office supplies and I returned with several boxes which took care of our needs for a long time. Thank you, Dorothy & Janet.

My health wasn't the greatest last year, so I couldn't attend many of the functions the CCHS had last year including the two wine tastings, Carver County Fair and the annual picnic. So I'm looking forward to a fresh start with the New Year. Thank you to the Waconia Heritage Association who sold some of our items during Nickle Dickle Day. Thanks again, Mary!

The museum was busy this year with people visiting the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres display and now *Journey Stories*. It's nice to see kids return with their parents to show them the exhibit. See, history is fun! It shows we are getting through to the next generation.

Linda Nelson

Education:

Busy, busy, busy. The calendar has been solidly booked. Days have been well booked with school groups, both at the schools and at the museum. On average, I think I've had only 1.5-2 days a week not booked with school programs. The school programs booked have come from each grade, as well as a few schoolhouse programs and eco-history. Evaluations were distributed to teachers, and the ones I've received back have been positive, with only minor suggestions on additional info teachers would like to see highlighted.

For senior programs, I have had one to two programs each month, and all have been well-received. These programs have also covered the whole spectrum of programs offered.

In regards to bookings for *Journey Stories*, we booked one school group per day in 26 of the 28 available days. A Target grant for \$2000 covered the cost of bus transportation for many of the school groups. Anishinabe Academy in Minneapolis came the farthest with the closest schools within walking distance.

I presented one family day event, the llama farm trip, which went very well. If I do this again, an earlier start would help. I would also put more emphasis on the RSVP, as one family simply showed up the day of, which is fine but makes for tight quarters. The Green Gift Gala was done in conjunction with Carver County Parks "Santa in the Park" this year. The event went well. I would like to put more emphasis/focus on "green" Christmases in the future and would continue to do this event with the park. To reach a wider audience, we could also host a separate Green Gift Gala event at the museum.

I am currently planning a family day, "Home Front Saturday", February 19th in conjunction with the *Minnesota Home Front, World War II* display. Many summer camps are also in the works. Please check our web site for updates.

Volunteers:

I have had trouble getting the volunteers needed for certain projects, such as school visits and the work done on the North Petersen barn. I'm not sure if I'm just not reaching out to the right volunteers, if it's because I'm still new and learning the ropes, or if I simply need to recruit more volunteers who have the time available. The volunteers I have met and worked with are wonderful and dedicated, they volunteer because they love it, and it makes the events and projects they help out on go so much easier. A huge thanks!!

Heidi Gould, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>Dec 31, 10</u>	<u>Dec 31, 09</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
100 · KleinBank	79,253.19	52,307.00	26,946.19	51.52%
101 · Building Fund	7,915.11	7,909.56	5.55	0.07%
10100 · Petty Cash	30.00	30.00	0.00	0.0%
102 · Museum Collection Fund	3,032.38	3,127.72	-95.34	-3.05%
103 · Schultz Fund	7,154.43	7,147.44	6.99	0.1%
10470 · Schultz CD	75,084.78	75,084.78	0.00	0.0%
10810 · Museum CD #27882	218.01	218.01	0.00	0.0%
10820 · Museum CD #44751	9,674.83	9,674.83	0.00	0.0%
10822 · Museum CD #7711148	<u>10,950.88</u>	<u>10,950.88</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Checking/Savings	193,313.61	166,450.22	26,863.39	16.14%
Other Current Assets				
12100 · Inventory Asset	<u>130.96</u>	<u>130.56</u>	<u>0.40</u>	<u>0.31%</u>
Total Other Current Assets	130.96	130.56	0.40	0.31%
Total Current Assets	193,444.57	166,580.78	26,863.79	16.13%
Fixed Assets				
15000 · Furniture and Equipment				
15001 · ScanPro2000	10,604.34	0.00	10,604.34	100.0%
15000 · Furniture and Equipment - Other	<u>43,202.17</u>	<u>43,202.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total 15000 · Furniture and Equipment	53,806.51	43,202.17	10,604.34	24.55%
15050 · Exhibits	19,789.50	19,789.50	0.00	0.0%
15900 · Leasehold Improvements	21,018.26	21,018.26	0.00	0.0%
17100 · Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-67,683.00</u>	<u>-67,683.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Fixed Assets	26,931.27	16,326.93	10,604.34	64.95%
Other Assets				
10110 · Paypal	-0.16	-0.16	0.00	0.0%
10900 · Endowment Fund Investment	<u>131,729.00</u>	<u>101,729.00</u>	<u>30,000.00</u>	<u>29.49%</u>
Total Other Assets	131,728.84	101,728.84	30,000.00	29.49%
	<u>352,104.68</u>	<u>284,636.55</u>	<u>67,468.13</u>	<u>23.7%</u>
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
20100 · Accounts Payable	<u>242.00</u>	<u>242.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Accounts Payable	242.00	242.00	0.00	0.0%
Other Current Liabilities				
24100 · Accrued Leave and Payroll	4,391.82	3,102.73	1,289.09	41.55%
25500 · Sales Tax Payable	<u>104.87</u>	<u>51.07</u>	<u>53.80</u>	<u>105.35%</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	4,496.69	3,153.80	1,342.89	42.58%
Total Current Liabilities	4,738.69	3,395.80	1,342.89	39.55%
Total Liabilities	4,738.69	3,395.80	1,342.89	39.55%
Equity				
30000 · Opening Bal Equity	0.40	0.00	0.40	100.0%
31300 · Perm. Restricted Net Assets	93,914.00	93,914.00	0.00	0.0%
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	107,658.17	107,658.17	0.00	0.0%
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	118,133.18	113,614.48	4,518.70	3.98%
45200 · Unrealized Loss on Investments	<u>-38,464.60</u>	<u>-38,464.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Net Income	66,124.84	4,518.70	61,606.14	1,363.36%
Total Equity	347,365.99	281,240.75	66,125.24	23.51%
	<u>352,104.68</u>	<u>284,636.55</u>	<u>67,468.13</u>	<u>23.7%</u>

Education Coordinator—We once again found ourselves with a new education coordinator in 2010. Heidi Gould received her Masters in Museum Studies with a focus in museum education from Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis. She is a real go-getter and we have heard nothing but good things about her.

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 of which 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."¹

Grants— A total of \$23,799 was received in grant awards in 2010. The grants received were from the Legacy Fund: Veterans storage shelving, Veterans Gallery educational programming, Peterson North Barn emergency stabilization and Peterson North Barn planning and engineering examination. Other grants included: \$2000 Target Corporation grant for school bussing to *Journey Stories*, and the award of *New Harmonies*, the next Smithsonian Institution exhibit.

Major donations and bequests— The Leona Grivelli estate distributed a partial disbursement of \$50,000. An additional amount will be distributed at a future date. Mary Erhard donated \$5,000 in memory of Wilfred Schneider. This donation was designated to the endowment fund.

Journey Stories — *Journey Stories* is a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution which is visiting us until January 22, 2011. The exhibition opened in May 2009 in Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi, North Dakota and Oklahoma. The exhibition explores the mobile nature of Americans -- why we move, how we move, and what that says about us. In tours coordinated by state humanities councils, the exhibition will visit up to 30 states and 180 communities through 2015.²

New Harmonies— *New Harmonies* is also part of the Museums on Main Street program through the Smithsonian Institution and the Minnesota Humanities Council. The exhibit will be located at the new Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood-Young America. The scheduled opening date is mid August.

Interns— In 2010, we hosted four interns. Graham James worked cataloging artifacts in conjunction with the Chaska History Center. James Milne and Adam Smith worked at cataloging in Waconia. Kristi Fordyce worked with the CCHS and Lenny Klevan Schmitz of the Carver County Parks system to design signs which [will be installed on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in Mayer](#).

A Fond Farewell—We lost long term board member and supporter, Emmy Therres in 2010. Her gentle manner and wisdom will be sorely missed. Volunteer Franklin Bahr will also be missed. Franklin was a photography pilot in WWII and spent many an hour working with Erin Anderson and school groups.

In Conclusion—This has been another busy, productive year. Our achievements could not have been accomplished without the efforts of so many wonderful volunteers, employees, and donors. Thank you everyone!

¹ <http://www.mnhs.org/legacy/grants/overview2.htm>

² www.journeystories.org



555 West First Street Waconia, MN 55387 952-442-4234

1/2111/WPB