

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2014 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 four affiliate groups: Chaska Historical Society, Chanhassen Historical Society, Willkommen Heritage and Preservation society of Norwood Young America, and Watertown Area Historical Society.

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Celebrating 75 Years

1940-2015



Dear Members,

I am proud to say that 2014 was a banner year for the Carver County Historical Society. We saw substantial growth in attendance and membership, continued solid financial management, exciting exhibitions, and completion of several important projects. Here are just a few highlights of the great things accomplished this year by our exceptional Executive Director and Staff:

Education and Exhibition We successfully launched new school programs in 2014. In accordance with new Minnesota State Education standards released in 2013, we revised the topics and the increased emphasis on STEM education, the CCHS re-vamped its education offerings. Twenty-two new programs were added to those programs already offered.

Thanks to a grant won in 2013, the Storyland exhibition from the Saint Paul Children's museum traveled to Carver County in 2014 and was a HUGE success, with over 1100 visitors during its 4 month stay with us. Overall, we served more than 11,482 visitors, an increase of 3,319 from last year.

But it's not just about serving visitors at our physical location. In late 2014, we launched a brand new – and greatly improved – website to serve the online community in Carver County and beyond. This includes online access to our enormous collection of historical photos, enabling researchers, genealogists and members to browse the full collection from anywhere in the world.

Membership and Fundraising We added 65 new members in 2014, bringing our total active membership to 773. Thank you to all our members for your continued support of the CCHS and its mission.

Also, thanks to the tireless work of our Executive Director and Staff, grants received in 2014 totaled \$50,090. In addition, the annual fund drive was very successful raising more than \$5,959 to help ensure the mission of the Carver County Historical Society will continue for years to come.

Publication We published our first book, *Two Wars on the Frontier*, now in its 2nd printing and available in the gift shop and on Amazon. This effort brought an important story with invaluable – and local – historical perspective to the public.

Staff Tremendous thanks and congratulations are due to our Director and Staff for a successful 2014. A special word of thanks to Marlene Magnuson, who retired after 16+ years of service to the CCHS. We'll miss you, Marlene.

Looking forward to 2015 and beyond, I anticipate we will have many more exciting developments to share with you. Whether through our newsletter, on the new website, or in person when you visit us, we look forward to keeping you informed and involved. And please don't hesitate to share your thoughts, questions or ideas regarding any way we can improve our ability to serve our members and our community now and in the future.

From myself and from the entire Board, thank you for your continued support of our mission to preserve the history of Carver County. From keeping our education programs free of charge to making important exhibitions available to local audiences, nothing we do would be possible without you.

Sincerely,

Michael Owen Hill



In all my 27+ years in the history field, I have never had a year like this one, and I hope I never have another. It has been a year of firsts. The fact that I am still sane is a tribute to my resilience and more importantly to my passion, belief, and commitment to the CCHS mission.

Donations are important. No matter how large or small they are, they are all treated as the most treasured gift we can receive. This was the case with Ward Holasek's gift of 51+ acres of farm land. He had met twice with the board and stated he wanted us to use the gift for public good. He trusted us to follow those directions and 2014 tested our ability to do so. After he died, in December of 2013, his will was contested. An agreement was made in November, 2014. At the time of this writing, we are waiting attorneys to agree on the language in the document before it can be signed. Once signed, a press release will be sent out and we will be free to discuss things in more detail.

Dewey Thorbeck is working on the long range strategic plan for the farm. The steering committee is comprised of Richard Scott, Peter Gustafson, Burt Johnson, Wendy Petersen Biorn, and Eve Weipert. The Committee is aware that part of the planning involves looking for ways to produce income for the maintenance of the property. Apple trees will be planted by our Swedish friends when they visit. As the plan develops, we will do all we can to keep you, our members, informed and receive your input.

We launched a new website with the guidance of Creature Works. This website has wonderful new features for researchers. Included are plat maps and the ability for members to research photos on line. This is culmination of two years of surveys, sent to members in renewal letters.

Storyland: A Trip Through Childhood Favorites was a wildly successful traveling exhibit, designed for ages 0 through 8 years. This brain child of Heidi Gould resulted in attendance that at times reached over 100 children in less than an hour. Heidi also rewrote most of her educational programming to reflect the new STEM state education standards and the changing focus of each grade's lessons. The total increase for visitation for these two projects reflected in an increase in attendance of 3107 people. This computes to a 38% increase. A job well done Heidi.

Long time researcher Marlene Magnuson retired last spring. We had often talked about her retirement so that she could spend time with her husband, Dale. Unfortunately, Dale passed away several months after her retirement.

Marilyn Braun joined our staff, as researcher, following Marlene retirement. She has been a wonderful addition.

Darlene Fasching and I edited the CCHS's first self-published book, *Two Wars on the Frontier*. The book is composed of AJ Carlson's US/Dakota War and Civil War journals. The first printing sold out in 4 months. The second printing arrived shortly before Christmas.

The 75th anniversary of the Carver County Historical Society occurs in 2015. With the farm negotiations behind us, it is quite exciting to think what the next few years will bring. I have to wonder what OD Sell would think if he saw us today.

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Curator's Report



Wow, what a year! You, our members, are to be thanked for much of what I was able to accomplish. Since starting here, I have heard that you want greater access to the photo collection. Thanks to a lot of volunteer and staff hours, our photo collection is now accessible from our website. Over 13,000 photos are available and more will be added over time. I welcome feedback about what you like, don't like, and how user friendly it is.

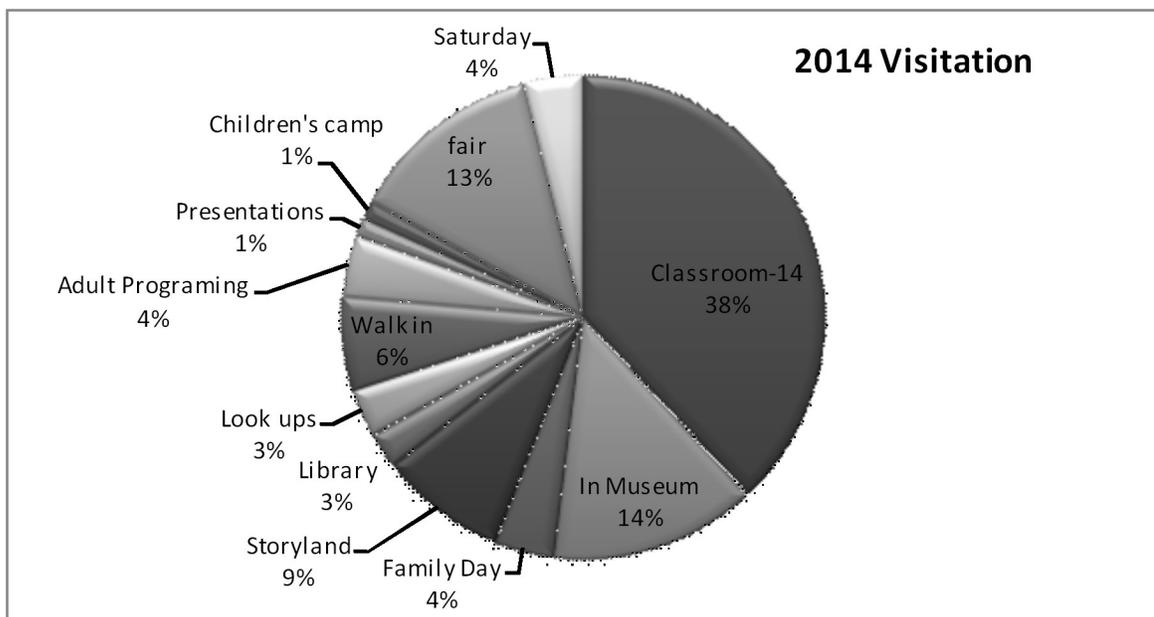
Thanks to the help of interns and volunteers, we expanded the permanent exhibit about our farming roots. *Minnesota Made* highlights the many experiments of early settlers to grow crops in this harsh environment. Not only did Carver residents grow alfalfa, sorghum, apples and grapes but Carver County residents also won international awards for butter making. This exhibit was personal for me because the county is losing farmland to new developments. One of these new developments is at the corner of Hwy 5 and Galpin Road. This area is where the Lyman farm stood. Lyman was instrumental in bringing Grimm alfalfa to the world's attention.

Not only have exhibits changed, rotated, and expanded, but the collections continue to grow. We received a large donation of materials from the creamery in Waconia. The building went into receivership and the Carver County Historical Society was given first access to anything in the building. The records for the Waconia Implement Company and Wagoner Well Drilling are now safely stored and available to researchers. The Historical Society accepted records from the City of Cologne and Laketown Township which are available in the Research Library. Among other donations, the Historical Society accepted seven military uniforms covering all branches, from WW II through Vietnam. Overall, we had 73 donations ranging from stock certificates of local creameries, to stuffed animals made in Chanhassen, to a metal postal stamp from the Waconia Post Office.

A Legacy grant was won to send the German Reading Society banner, an early acquisition of O.D. Sell, to a conservator for restoration. It should be back in time for Stiftungsfest next summer.

2014 was a busy year, but with the help of volunteers and staff, we continue to tell and collect the stories of the county.

Eve Weipert



Researcher's Report



My position of library researcher began on May 19, 2014. Some of our volunteers have been serving our CCHS library a long time and I can't thank these people enough for making my transition much easier. Their help identifying areas we could improve has been greatly appreciated.

In 2014, we completed an audit of the 2013 library inventory, prior to putting the list onto our new website. The website now allows members access to our photo collection, something visitors and members both had been asking for. With this addition, we expect our numbers to continue to increase and anticipate welcoming a growing clientele in 2015.

Together as a team, our volunteers and I have worked on compiling procedures for every task undertaken within the Library. Each process needed to be tweaked several times. This has already brought about greater task consistency and cut down on training times for new volunteers.

MANY... have been working since July on organizing the newspaper index card file drawers. This will be a long term task due to the time required to sort the cards and condensing all "like" info from many multiple cards onto only ONE card, whenever possible. The result is more room in the drawers and a great time savings for our clients when seeking specific info regarding their research subject.

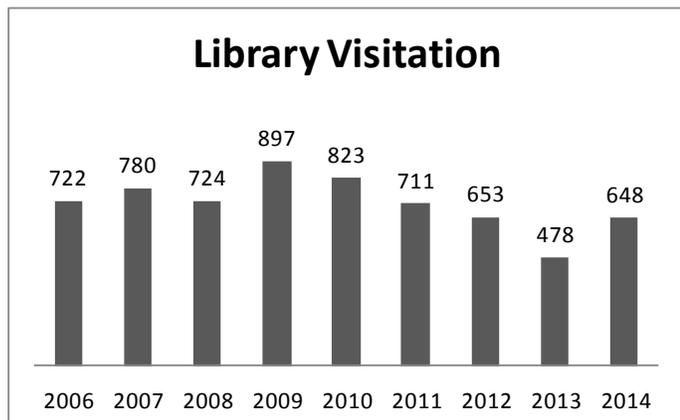
In August, every department pulled together to provide our Carver County Fair goers with an over the top display in the CCHS granary. Our focus for 2014 was schools... the buildings, one room school houses, districts and more.

In the past, there were times when a person would visit the library and discover there was no one available to help them. This problem has been solved by having all volunteers, who spend 'regular' time in the Research Library, be cross trained to assist with most tasks and visitor requests. Since implementing this process, our cross training has provided coverage for "every" shift- - directly within the Library.

In 2014, the Research Library served 273 walk-in clients and received 375 research requests- - from all across the nation and Sweden. It has been a joy working with those previously known and meeting others that I hadn't had the privilege of getting to know over the years. I greatly appreciate all who so faithfully show up to volunteer in our Research Library. We have a wonderful group of women and men, each sharing their individual top-notch skills, talents, knowledge & time with us. We have some who are teachers or snowbirds that help out in the summer and others who help out more often during other times of the year. This makes for year round coverage but we are always looking for new and additional volunteers. Each is an invaluable asset; we could not accomplish what we do without them!

We continue to receive new donations on a fairly regular basis. Come in and see what's new to assist you with your research- - in genealogy or with a subject focused project.

Marilyn A. Braun



Administrative Assistant's Report



I have been here 6 ½ years already and have seen the Carver County Historical Society grow immensely. The New Year always starts with the annual reports such as the Minnesota sales tax, reviewing the insurance policies, reviewing the Federal & State Labor Law posters, and filling out the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust payroll audit and estimate, EDP and Risk Assessment reports and the PERA Annual Exclusion report. Also, I clear out last year's accounts payable files in prep for the New Year.

Our new website is up and running with our online gift shop and membership forms available to print and fill out to send back. You also have the option to pay right there via Square (a credit card service) or send a check in the mail. We have our first book, *Two Wars on the Frontier*, on Amazon for purchase. Many of our patrons call to order or come in to visit and purchase items on site. I've been making many trips to the post office lately to mail out orders.

The gift shop area is expanding with the addition of the Andrew Peterson booklet, *Two Wars on the Frontier*, Chaska Alphabet, *Shadows of Time*, and *Waconia Paradise of the Northwest: The Town and its People*. Hopefully, the new gift shop case will be built in 2015. It should provide more room for the current books and items, and have enough room for future items.

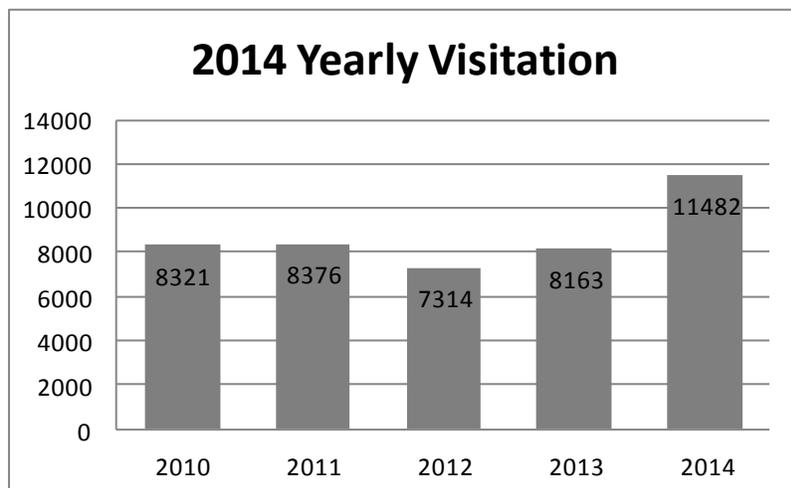
During 2014, Chaska Historical added 6 new members giving them a total of 121 members, Chanhassen Historical added 5 new members for a total of 163 members, Willkommen NYA added 12 new members for a total of 70 members, and Watertown Historical added 6 new members for a total of 28 members. The CCHS added 65 new members for a total of 391. That's 773 total members. Welcome all!!!

In January of 2015, we are looking into sending renewal letters via email to members who have provided email addresses. Then, they can pay by credit card, or check if they wish. This will cut down on postage costs in the future. Also, with our photo collection coming online, members are able to use the passcode they receive to access our photo database. The passcodes were sent out in mid-January. Thereafter, when renewing, the new year's code will be found on your renewal membership card.

We participated in the Give to the Max Day, which was on November 13th. That date corresponded with our Annual Fund drive. We received \$5959 in Annual Fund drive donations with an additional \$805 designated for the Endowment Fund. This is the most successful fund drive we have ever had.

Carver County Historical Society will celebrate its 75th year in 2015, and it will be exciting to help celebrate the occasion. I'm sure O.D. Sell would be proud.

Linda Nelson



Education Coordinator's Report



Whew! What a busy year. Attendance numbers are way up with all the new school programs, including some schools and grades that have not used our resources in the past. We are still getting feedback as these programs occur, revising and editing as needed, but for the most part, the programs were well received. With the creation of new school programs out of the way, I am now focusing my efforts on adding educational components to exhibits and creating vibrant new adult programming options. I am already hard at work planning family days and summer camps for 2015- watch for the Family Events Brochure in the new year with all of this year's exciting new offerings!

The new CCHS website is live, and there have been great comments on the new website features such as the plat map overlay viewer. Our thanks go out to the staff at Creature Works for all their time and expertise in creating our wonderful new site. Also, a big thank-you to Chris Sanko and Drew Dent for their help writing and all the researching for the history articles. They are a wonderful glimpse into our counties unique and storied past!

This past summer, the CCHS was lucky enough to host *Storyland*, with joint programming offered through the Carver County Library system. This display brought in over 1100 young children and families, an audience that we struggle to reach on a regular basis. With the success of this display, and those families now aware of what we offer, the question we get asked is, what next? My hope is that we may be able to get Grossology, but the price is prohibitive. A major sponsor would be needed. Who knows what the future holds?

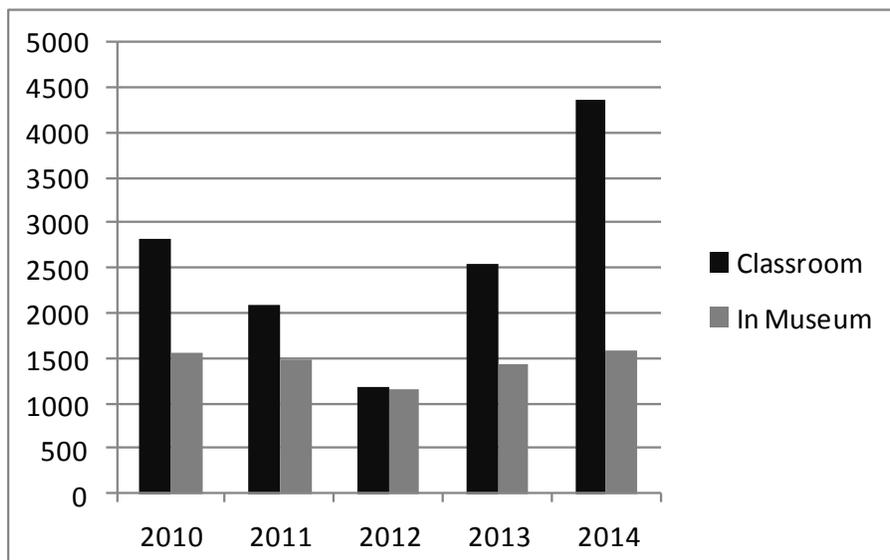
There will be many more joint programs offered in the coming months between the CCHS and outside organizations. With each group offering its resources towards that programs theme, making for more unique and complete learning experiences for attendees, we hope to have a successful run of programs.

This past September, I also attended the American Association of State and Local History conference, held in St. Paul. A wonderful opportunity to network and trade ideas- I came away with lots of inspiration and ideas I hope to implement in the coming months.

With a busy year behind me, and a busy year ahead, the Education department will continue to grow and expand, and remain innovative and useful to all our local students, teachers, Scouts, and homeschool groups.

Heidi Gould

Thank You



Statement of Financial Position - unaudited

Carver County Historical Society
Statement of Financial Position
 As of December 31, 2014

Accrual Basis

	Dec 31, 14	Dec 31, 13	% Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
100 - KleinBank	68,164.79	95,864.15	-28.9%
101 - Building Fund	90,103.11	12,148.31	641.7%
10100 - Petty Cash	42.36	42.36	0.0%
102 - Museum Collection Fund	3,760.72	3,558.02	5.7%
10470 - Schultz CD #517052	0.00	77,797.92	-100.0%
10820 - Museum CD #1300044751	0.00	9,924.96	-100.0%
10822 - Museum CD #7711148	11,795.89	11,756.29	0.3%
Total Checking/Savings	173,866.87	211,092.01	-17.6%
Other Current Assets			
12100 - Inventory Asset	130.96	130.96	0.0%
Total Other Current Assets	130.96	130.96	0.0%
Total Current Assets	173,997.83	211,222.97	-17.6%
Fixed Assets			
14000 - Peterson Farm	916,700.00	916,700.00	0.0%
15000 - Furniture and Equipment			
15001 - ScanPro2000	10,604.34	10,604.34	0.0%
15000 - Furniture and Equipment - Other	40,202.17	40,202.17	0.0%
Total 15000 - Furniture and Equipment	50,806.51	50,806.51	0.0%
15050 - Exhibits	19,789.50	19,789.50	0.0%
15900 - Leasehold Improvements	21,018.26	21,018.26	0.0%
17100 - Accumulated Depreciation	-75,068.92	-75,068.92	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	933,245.35	933,245.35	0.0%
Other Assets			
10110 - Paypal	-0.16	-0.16	0.0%
10900 - Endowment Fund Investment	162,030.00	162,030.00	0.0%
10905 - Gain (Loss) on Endowment Fund	-22,650.00	-22,650.00	0.0%
Total Other Assets	139,379.84	139,379.84	0.0%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,246,623.02	1,283,848.16	-2.9%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
24100 - Accrued Leave and Payroll	3,278.15	3,063.42	7.0%
24200 - Accrued Expenses	4,934.87	4,934.87	0.0%
24300 - Security State Bank			
89900 - Interest Expense Security Bank	-134.16	-134.16	0.0%
24300 - Security State Bank - Other	51,134.16	66,134.16	-22.7%
Total 24300 - Security State Bank	51,000.00	66,000.00	-22.7%
25500 - Sales Tax Payable	247.61	75.43	228.3%
Total Other Current Liabilities	59,460.63	74,073.72	-19.7%
Total Current Liabilities	59,460.63	74,073.72	-19.7%
Total Liabilities	59,460.63	74,073.72	-19.7%
Equity			
30000 - Opening Bal Equity	-3.78	-3.78	0.0%
31300 - Perm. Restricted Net Assets	144,491.00	144,491.00	0.0%
31500 - Temp. Restricted Net Assets	114,908.00	114,908.00	0.0%
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	950,379.22	121,174.00	684.3%
Net Income	-22,612.05	829,205.22	-102.7%
Total Equity	1,187,162.39	1,209,774.44	-1.9%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,246,623.02	1,283,848.16	-2.9%

Our Volunteers Rock!

By the Numbers

2014 VOL- UNTEER HOURS

Exhibits.	622.75
Collections	382.7
Education.....	131.25
Library	1142
2014 Total	2278.7

1-50 Hours

Lindsay Marshall, 1.5-Research
 Drew Dent, 47-Research
 Gretchen Burau, 27-Exhibits
 Ron and Harriet Holtmeier, 4- Education
 Allyn Johnson, 17- Library
 Susan McAllister, 7- Library
 Sue Nesland, 18.5- Library
 Judy Rademacher, 8.25- Library
 Brenda Reister, 3.25- Library
 Lois Schulstad, 34- Library
 Arne Braun, 13- Library

51-100 Hours

Judy Aarness, 55- Library
 Joann Gorman, 65.25- Collections
 Jim Johnston, 71.25- Collections
 Bridgette Jackson, 61.5- Library
 Corrina Von Haften, 61.5- Library
 Chris Sanko, 80.25- Education
 Jayne Oddan, 54-Collections



SPECIAL

THANKS TO THE 2014 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Michael Owen Hill , *President*
 Dan Lund, *Vice-President*
 Richard S. Scott, *Treasurer*
 Peter Gustafson, *Secretary*
 Al Bongard
 Lynette Bledsaw
 Mike Coleman
 Mike Fahey
 Burton Johnson
 Darlene Fasching

101-199 Hours

Danielle Forner, 126.5 Exhibits
 Lois Johnson, 128.25-Collections/photos
 Kim Johnson, 109-Library
 Dave Kopperl, 117.95-Collections
 Orville Mackenthun, 120.5- Library
 Mary Lou Teubert, 110- Library

400-500 Hours

Rocky Bye, 469.25- Exhibits/Workshop
 Bruce Gustafson, 488- Library/Workshop

THANKS YOU 2014 FAIR VOLUNTEERS:

Ron and Harriet Holtmeier, Mary Lou Teubert,
 Corinna Van Haften, Laura Ryan, Patty Zellman,
 Allan Kruger, Diane Ittel, Darlene Fasching, Val
 Barlau, Dale Hilk, Lee Erhard, Lee Tobin, Cary
 Smith, Susan McAllister, Carol Anderson, Al
 Bongard, Burt and Nancy Johnson, Lynette Bledsaw,
 Helen Nicklaus, Jim Johnston, Glenda Noble, Mike
 Fahey, Kim Johnson, Chris Sanko, John Von Walter,
 John Varone, Judy Aarness, Mike Coleman, Arne
 Braun, Richard Scott, and Gretchen Burau.

Grants Received in 2014

- * A \$28,500 long range planning grant for the Peterson Farm was awarded in December of 2014, but the work has just started. The grant must be completed by the end of March, 2015.
- * A grant to develop a new website was awarded for \$9,850. This project was completed the middle of November. The change is immense and includes the ability to research photos, plat maps and access to a variety of history resources. This project was initiated by surveys sent out to members over a two year period, asking what they would like to see us focus on. Members will receive or have already received a postcard with their passcode in the mail. This passcode will allow members to research our photo database. A project a long time in the making. Photos can be researched without a membership at Carver County Libraries and our research Library.
- * The 1878 German Reading Society banner is being restored thanks to a \$8155 grant. The Society was located in the city of Carver. Plans are to unveil the newly restored banner in September, in the city of Carver in partnership with the Carver Libraries.
- * A \$3,000 MNopedia grant was received to add articles to the Minnesota Historical Society MNopedia website. Lindsay Marshall is working on this project
- * During the fall of 2014, the American Association of State and Local History held its 2014 national conference in St. Paul. We received \$585 to send Eve Weipert and Heidi Gould to the conference. Wendy Petersen Biorn also attend as co-chair of the conference's Marketing and Public Relations committee.



- * A \$9825 Legacy grant was submitted in January of 2015, to replace one of the old microfilm readers which had decided to retire itself. The much needed new microfilm machine should arrive in February.

In 1856, Frederick Greiner, Sr. ,left, became the first Chair of the Carver Commissioners. He also served as the county's Register of Deeds.



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1/15/15/WPB