

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2015 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, Chanhasen Historical Society, Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America, and Watertown Area Historical Society. In 2015, it celebrated its 75th anniversary. That same year, it added the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead to its collection.

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It has been my honor and privilege to serve as president of the Carver County Historical Society Board of Directors for the past two years. It is an amazing organization with a dedicated and highly accomplished staff, passionate and knowledgeable board, and engaged and supportive – and growing – membership. Collectively, we accomplished many great things in 2015, just a few of which are highlighted below:

State and National Recognition

The CCSH received no fewer than FIVE prestigious awards in 2015. Our first book, *Two Wars on the Frontier: Diaries of a Soldier*, received two awards, one each from the American Association for State and Local History, and the Minnesota Alliance of Local History. Our redesigned website received three awards: the competitive Dot.org award for Excellence in Technology from the Minnesota Council of Non-profits, the American Association for State and Local History Excellence in History award and an Award of Excellence from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History.

Grants

We received \$21,110 in grants in 2015, enabling a wide array of preservation and education activities, including the restoration of the wonderful Carver German Reading Society banner and the addition of a new microfilm machine. Additionally, we received notice that our application for a grant to restore the North Barn at the Andrew Peterson farm was successful, to the tune of \$182,223 that will ensure this historic structure is preserved for generations to come.

Andrew Peterson Farm

The CCHS now has title to the roughly 12-acre Andrew Peterson farm and associated historic buildings. Thanks to all of you who expressed your support throughout the process. Starting this spring, the farm will be open to the public on Sundays and by appointment during the rest of the week. We are also proud to welcome T.J. Malaskee, an employee of the Minnesota Historical Society, who is now serving as caretaker of the Andrew Peterson House.

More programming will come as we finalize and begin to execute on our long-term vision to preserve and interpret the Andrew Peterson property through the lens of Minnesota's rich immigrant and agricultural history, so that future generations can understand how the past shapes the present – and the future.

Special Thanks

The CCHS staff, led by our exceptional Executive Director, continues to astound me with their commitment, creativity and professionalism. Thank you, Wendy, Heidi, Linda, Marilyn and Erika, for your outstanding contributions in 2015.

Retiring from the board this year are Lynette Bledsaw of Edina and John Varone of Chaska. Lynette's keen eye for detail and unfailingly wise counsel helped the CCHS maintain forward progress in complex and challenging times. John's encyclopedic knowledge of – and irrepressible passion for – local history has helped us maintain focus at all times on our primary mission and our duty to the community we serve. Lynette and John, we will miss you!

Michael Owen Hill

Executive Director's Report



It has been a year for the record books. Maybe it would be more appropriate to say it has been a year for the history books. So much has been accomplished, awarded, and completed that I wonder how we could possibly improve next year.

This year we had a wonderful year with grants. While we received a total of \$21,110 in grant money, we ended the year with a monster award. Just before Christmas we were notified that we had won a grant for \$182,223 to finish the restoration of the north Peterson Barn. The work on the barn will begin in early 2016. One grant, for \$9,825, was used to purchase a new microfilm machine to replace one that had literally burned out.

Several grants awarded in 2014 did not see the work done until 2015. The grant work to restore the German Reading Society banner was completed the end of August. It then became the centerpiece of the joint volunteer appreciation breakfast with the County Libraries and the CCHS. It was unveiled just blocks from the original location of the Society in Carver and can now be viewed near the legal library at the County.

A grant to complete the Concept Master Plan for the Peterson Farm sat stagnant for almost a year, until we closed on the farm. Dewey Thorbeck, Heidi Gould, Leanne Brown and myself worked diligently to finish the project before the funds would be recalled due to the State mandated deadline. This Concept Plan will be a guide for interpretation and site development. While it may be a very long time before we see a new interpretive center, we will be able to use the property for tours starting in the spring of 2016.

Speaking of Andrew Peterson, 2015 also saw the close on the Peterson Farm. The title to the front part of the property is now safely in our security deposit box. A complicated agreement had been made in November, 2014 that resulted in the CCHS owning 12.17 acres of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. The land included all the historic buildings and acreage around it. The property is boarded on Highway 5 to the south, Parley Lake Road to the east, 45 feet north of the north barn and 45 feet west of the house. Just before Christmas, caretaker T. J. Malaskee moved into the AP house.

The job descriptions for the Educator and Curator were changed in 2015. With the addition of the AP farm, the Curator's position expanded momentarily. To allow the Curator to spend the needed time at the farm, the exhibits and displays responsibilities were moved to the Educator. This makes Educator Heidi Gould our Curator of Education and Exhibits and Erika Hildreth our Curator in charge of collections— including 12.17 acres and six very old buildings.

In 2015, we were awarded five, count them, FIVE awards of excellence, two from the American Association for State and Local History, two from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History, and the Dot.org award for Excellence in Technology from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits for our new website.

Speaking of our website, the site has been a marvelous success. We have known for some time that we needed a new site, but it was only when we nearly lost the site, that we pushed hard to replace it. I can't thank Creature Works enough for their above and beyond efforts to help us when others had just walked away.

There is so much more to report on. But, while we are small we are a team that celebrates together. With that in mind, I ask you to take the time to read the staff reports from each department so everyone can tell you what they feel are their departmental highlights for the year.

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Curator's Report



Although I only started this job in September, I can say that we made quite a few accomplishments in the last few months. With the goal of finding and finishing the process of making ALL the CCHS photos accessible to the public, we started a room by room search of the museum to find any wayward photographs. While searching my office and the office above the Education room, we found over 250+ photographs that had not been inventoried! Luckily, most could be identified, entered into our data base, and correctly stored.

Over 100+ photographs have been discovered to be duplicates, or having no ties to Carver County. Two boxes of photographs have yet to be assessed, and more photographs sporadically appear. Putting them away is most definitely still a work in progress. So far, we have successfully placed an excess of 14,000+ photo on line, which can be searched by members. I keep thinking we are done, but then another box shows up!

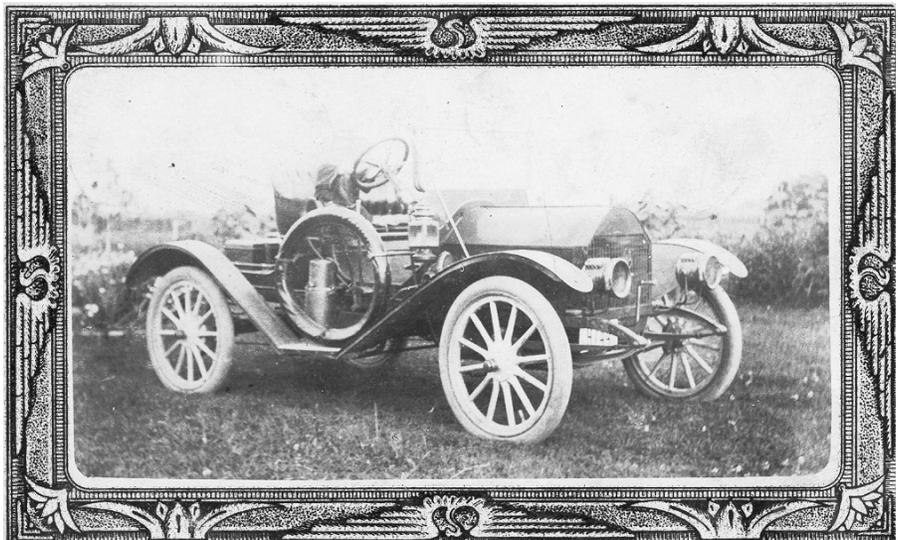
Imagine walking into your new office and it is filled with boxes. I had no idea where to start. With the help of Diane Ittel, we sorted 10+ boxes of collections which needed numbering, labeling, proper storage and data entry.

Loose photograph inventory sheets, which had previously been entered into the Past Perfect data base have now been placed in binders and organized by inventory (accession) number. There are a total of 10 binders, with one last large pile of white sheets to be organized. They will require an additional 3+ binders, before we are completely finished.

Progress has been made at the Andrew Peterson Farm. Structural surveys have been conducted on the house and the 1917 barn by an architectural class from the U of M, as part of the Resilient Communities Project. The inside of the farmhouse was cleaned out, the living room and bedroom painted, the furnace repaired, and finally the lower level is a home once again, just in time for our caretaker, T.J. Malaskee to move in.

I look forward to the progress that will be made in 2016 – it will be very satisfying to continue working to get the collections updated. Alongside the progress of the museum, the progress of the Andrew Peterson Farm will be very exciting to watch.

Of course, none of this organization could have been possible without the help of our volunteers and staff. Thank you all very much. Onward to 2016!



Erika Hildreth,

Curator of Collections

Ed Beneke and Halladay

Researcher's Report



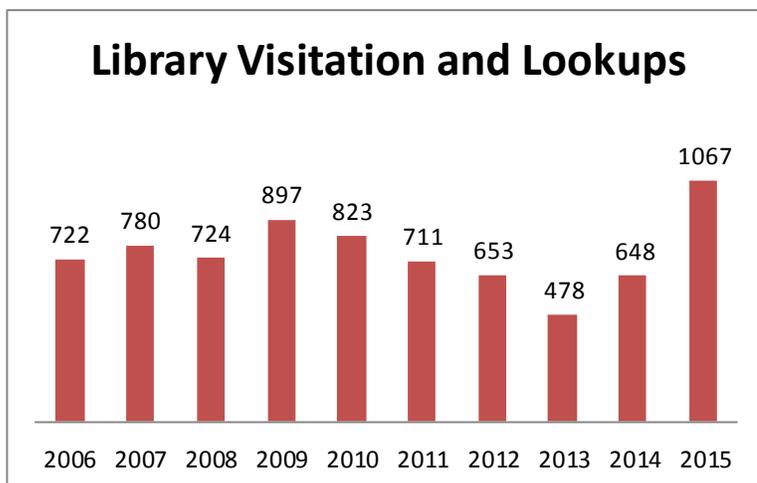
It seems that every year we say we have been busier than the last year. The truth is every year we do more with the same amount of paid staff time. There is only one way we are able to accomplish this feat. Credit to accomplishing what we do, must be given to each of our 12 dedicated individual volunteers who make all that we accomplish - possible. Together, we maintain 6 day coverage in our Department.

Some of our volunteers' particular talents include; research by a Genealogist living in Sweden, a local (Chaska) woman who does German translations for the library and museum plus for members of our Genealogy Group, a local (Chanhassen) woman who is experienced in both German and general Carver County research, she has taught several classes for the Genealogy Group, and 2 "lifetime" county residents that provide us with much knowledge for their specific areas. And last but not least, my knowledge is in local Swedish history, with my Carver County ancestry going back 5 generations.

A year in review could not be complete without listing our accomplishments. The Carver County Indexes for Birth, Marriage and Death Record books were placed into new 3 ring binders. Each binder was then color coded by subject. We continue with the task of sorting through all card-file drawers and boxes to eliminate duplicates and rewrite others to clarify information for improved researching. Almost all boxes containing subject cards: Businesses; Churches; City and Townships; Government; Organizations plus School and Sports card-files, have been sorted with duplicates removed, Township books are being sorted by township and date. Those containing birth or death information are being indexed, placed in card-files and entered into our online index. This too will be a long term project.

Last spring we were honored to have 3 Genealogists from SwedGen of Sweden visited us. I assisted them with obtaining the earliest records from our oldest Swedish churches in Carver County. The records will be internationally available when individual indexing is completed. The information is already available for our researchers. For further information on this subject, go to www.swedgen.se or visit the CCHS library. The index of ALL Carver County Churches is being updated, including "new", current and previous churches. This project is near completion.

A new Microfilm reader was acquired thanks to a Legacy grant. It was installed on 13 April. We chose to have the older style of machine added, as people seem to prefer this type over the Scan Pro.



The list of readily available items in our library was updated to share with persons "new" to Genealogy or wishing to be updated. A copy is yours for the asking, it is also available on our website.

You are invited to visit us in 2016. We'll do our best to answer your questions and fill your requests.

Marilyn A. Braun

Office Manager's Report



I can't believe another year has come and gone again. Each year seems to get busier and busier.

It always starts with the prep work of reviewing the insurance policies, Federal and State Labor Law posters, paying the annual Minnesota Sales Tax, filing the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) Payroll Audit Estimate, Electronic Data Processing and Risk Assessment reports and counting the inventory for the year. Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) needs an annual report called an Annual Exclusion. Also, the accounts payable files are cleared out for a new year, as well, as all the regular working files in my desk.

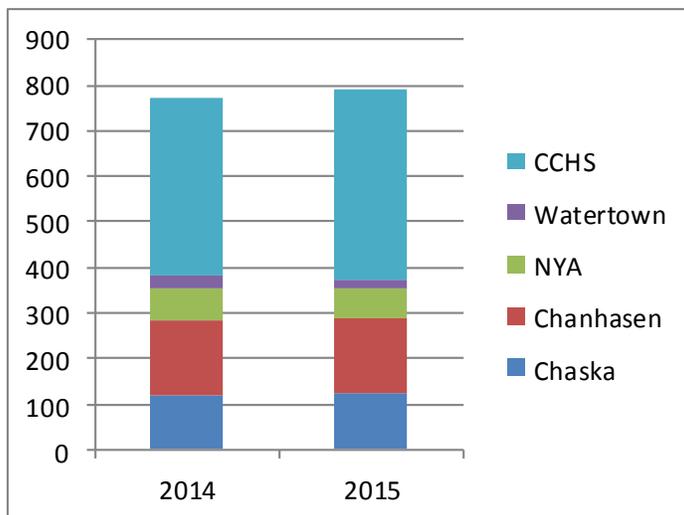
Our members are using our website to pay their annual dues and ordering any items from our gift shop. We still get payments by check, but increasingly people call in to pay by credit card. I send renewal letters and renewal coupons to members with emails to cut down on postage costs. Then review the monthly square reports (credit card service) for orders and payments and either send letters or orders out. Once a member pays their dues, they will receive a letter with their membership card with the new website photo passcode which is good for one year. Some members come in to pay their membership dues or purchase items directly.

Last September, Jan Hermelin from the Andrew Peterson Society in Sweden published a new book called, *Andrew and Elsa Peterson: The True Pioneers*. It is a book about Andrew and Elsa and how they came to America from Sweden. The book is in both Swedish and English and includes a CD of music from the Andrew Peterson musical. The gift shop, also, has added *Barn Quilts of Carver County* and the *Zoar Church Diary* books.

During 2015, Carver County Historical Society has grown by 124 new members. In April thru December alone, we received 99 new members, for a total of 414 members. The Chaska History Center has 125 members, Chanhassen Historical Society has 165 members, Willkommen NYA has 65 members and Watertown Historical Society has 20 members. All of our affiliate members are automatically a member of the CCHS, which gives us a grand total of 789 members.

We participated in Give to the Max Day, which was on November 12th this year, along with our 2 Fund Drives. Our 75th Anniversary Fund Drive was mailed in May and our Annual Fund Drive was mailed in November. We received \$3716.87 for our 75th Fund Drive and \$4272.53 for our Annual Fund Drive. Thank you so much!!!

Membership Breakdown



It has been two years since we implemented the use of credit cards and the online gift shop. The number one sale item in the on line gift shop was memberships. Total credit card net sales \$3,966.76. It is hard to keep up with technology, but the above number proves that it is worthwhile to do so.

It was a very eventful 75th year for the Carver County Historical Society with the huge number of new members and the addition of the Andrew Peterson Farm. New adventures await!!

Linda Nelson



Big things are starting at the CCHS. With the addition of the Andrew Peterson Farmstead and final documents signed, major work is ahead of us to get the farm ready for the public. One big change as a result of the farm involves staff positions. As the Farm is considered a collections piece and will require work from the Curator in the coming years, exhibit creation has fallen to me. My position is now that of Curator of Education and Exhibits. My first large scale exhibit will be “Let’s Play!”, all about games, to open in early 2016. We also have a traveling exhibit scheduled to open in 2017 about the Fur Trade.

Over this past summer, we had two hardworking interns, Erika Hildreth and Megan Flannery, work with Collections. They handled donations, prepared paperwork, worked with the Peterson farm, and designed this year’s fair blacksmith display. They left when summer ended, but Erika came back as our full-time Curator of Collections, so welcome to the team, Erika!

My school year remains busy visiting the many schools around the county. Numbers continue to rise.

This past summer, the CCHS teamed with Waconia City Parks and Recreation, Carver County Parks, and the Carver County Libraries- Waconia branch, to create a joint summer camp visiting the parks, the libraries and the museum. This camp was 9-4:30, Monday-Friday, for one week in July. It was a resounding success, and we are already hard at work planning next year’s joint camp. As always, I have many camp opportunities in mind - keep us in mind this summer for your kids and grandkids. Check the website in early 2016 for camp themes and dates!

I am working on a number of grants for upcoming CCHS projects, such as microfilming our backlog of newspapers. All newspapers are done through 2008, so the grant is for the 4 years between 2009 and 2013. We will also be microfilming the Susie Hanson and Lillian Trittabaugh scrapbooks, so the researchers can access those rather than the original books. This will ensure the continued safety and condition of the originals. So, watch for new microfilm rolls in the coming year. We just learned that the Minnesota Historical Society will be microfilming newspapers again, starting with 2014. It will be about a year before we see the microfilm.

Our volunteers have been amazing in 2015, donating over 1700 hours of the time and expertise. A special thank you goes to all who choose to volunteer with us, for all your hard work and dedication over the previous year. Thank you from the staff of CCHS!

As always, a warm thank you to all volunteers, Board and members for your continued support!

Heidi Gould, Curator of Education and Exhibits



Statement of Financial Position - unaudited

	<u>Dec 31, 15</u>	<u>Dec 31, 14</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
100 · KleinBank	100,603.83	68,270.20	32,333.63	47.36%
101 · Building Fund	12,148.31	90,103.11	-77,954.80	-86.52%
10100 · Petty Cash	37.86	42.36	-4.50	-10.62%
102 · Museum Collection Fund	3,520.63	3,760.82	-240.19	-6.39%
10822 · Museum CD #7711148	<u>11,795.89</u>	<u>11,795.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Checking/Savings	128,106.52	173,972.38	-45,865.86	-26.36%
Other Current Assets				
12100 · Inventory Asset	<u>130.96</u>	<u>130.96</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>130.96</u>	<u>130.96</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Current Assets	128,237.48	174,103.34	-45,865.86	-26.34%
Fixed Assets				
14000 · Peterson Farm	300,000.00	916,700.00	-616,700.00	-67.27%
15000 · Furniture and Equipment				
15001 · ScanPro2000	10,604.34	10,604.34	0.00	0.0%
15000 · Furniture and Equipment - Other	<u>40,202.17</u>	<u>40,202.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total 15000 · Furniture and Equipment	50,806.51	50,806.51	0.00	0.0%
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>-75,068.92</u>	<u>-75,068.92</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Fixed Assets	316,545.35	933,245.35	-616,700.00	-66.08%
Other Assets				
10110 · Paypal	-0.16	-0.16	0.00	0.0%
1021 · Acquisitions	316.25	0.00	316.25	100.0%
10900 · Endowment Fund Investment	162,030.00	162,030.00	0.00	0.0%
10905 · Gain (Loss) on Endowment Fund	-22,650.00	-22,650.00	0.00	0.0%
18600 · Other Assets	-22,392.00	0.00	-22,392.00	-100.0%
18700 · Security Deposits Asset	<u>18,750.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>18,750.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>136,054.09</u>	<u>139,379.84</u>	<u>-3,325.75</u>	<u>-2.39%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>580,836.92</u>	<u>1,246,728.53</u>	<u>-665,891.61</u>	<u>-53.41%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Current Liabilities				
24100 · Accrued Leave and Payroll	2,573.68	3,278.15	-704.47	-21.49%
24200 · Accrued Expenses	4,934.87	4,934.87	0.00	0.0%
24300 · Security State Bank				
89900 · Interest Exp Security Bank		-134.16	134.16	100.0%
24300 · Security State Bank -Farm		<u>51,134.16</u>	<u>-51,134.16</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
Total 24300 · Security State Bank	0.00	51,000.00	-51,000.00	-100.0%
25500 · Sales Tax Payable	<u>98.95</u>	<u>253.70</u>	<u>-154.75</u>	<u>-61.0%</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>7,607.50</u>	<u>59,466.72</u>	<u>-51,859.22</u>	<u>-87.21%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>7,607.50</u>	<u>59,466.72</u>	<u>-51,859.22</u>	<u>-87.21%</u>
Total Liabilities	7,607.50	59,466.72	-51,859.22	-87.21%
Equity				
30000 · Opening Bal Equity	-3.78	-3.78	0.00	0.0%
31300 · Perm. Restricted Net Assets	144,491.00	144,491.00	0.00	0.0%
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	114,908.00	114,908.00	0.00	0.0%
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	927,866.59	950,379.22	-22,512.63	-2.37%
Net Income	<u>-46,274.24</u>	<u>-22,512.63</u>	<u>-23,761.61</u>	<u>-105.55%</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,140,987.57</u>	<u>1,187,261.81</u>	<u>-46,274.24</u>	<u>-3.9%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,148,595.07</u>	<u>1,246,728.53</u>	<u>-98,133.46</u>	<u>-7.87%</u>

Our Volunteers Rock!

By the Numbers

2015 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Exhibits.	833.75
Collections	206.25
Education.....	.0
Library	943.45

2015 Total 1983.45

2014 Total: 2278.70

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2015

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
 John Varone

1-50 Hours

Arne Braun, 10.5– Library
 Cheyenne Braun, 6–Library
 Joann Gorman, 16.75– Collections
 Adrian Braswell, 30.75–Library
 Danielle Forner, 14.5–Exhibits
 Joan Felt, 2–Collections
 Bryce Johnson, 40–Library
 Lois Johnson, 13–Collections/photos
 Michael Koehler, 27.25–Collections
 John Moravec, 20–Collections

101-199 Hours

Orville Mackenthun, 194– Library
 Mary Lou Teubert, 116.75– Library
 Laurel Means, 130.25– Library
 Elaine Wischnack, 127– Library

200+ Hours

Rocky Bye, 587.75– Exhibits/Workshop
 Todd Sasse, 231.5– Library/Workshop

51-100 Hours

Judy Aarness, 60– Library
 Jim Johnston, 74.25– Collections
 Corrina Von Haften, 75.5– Library
 Lois Schulstad, 54.5– Library
 Kim Johnson, 98.2–Library
 Dave Kopperl, 53–Collections

***A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO THE
 SUMMER 2015 CURATORIAL AND
 COLLECTIONS INTERNS
 FOR THEIR HELP WITH THE FARM,
 DONATIONS, AND EXHIBITS FROM
 APRIL THROUGH AUGUST:***

***MEGHAN FLANNERY
 ERIKA HILDRETH***

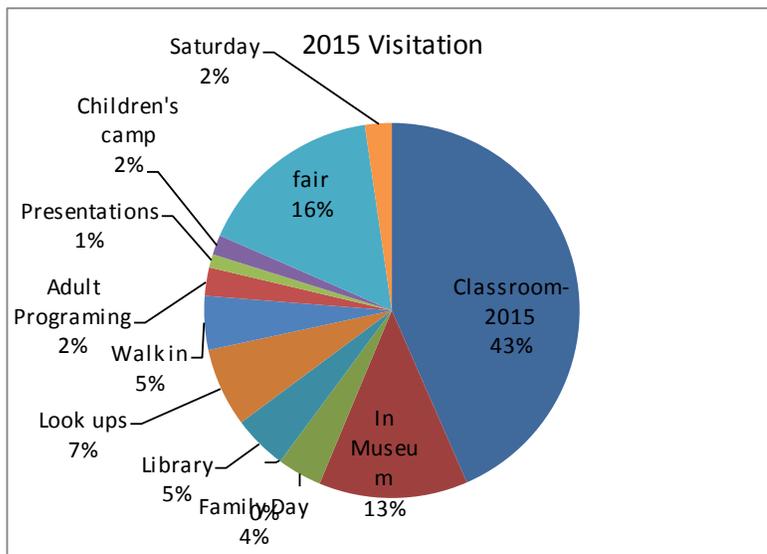
***YOUR HELP WAS GREATLY
 APPRECIATED!***



Highlights

In September, Executive Director Wendy Petersen Biorn and Board Member Darlene Fasching traveled to Kentucky to receive two awards for Excellence in History from the American Association for State and Local History. One was for the book *Two Wars on the Frontier* and the award was for rework of our website.

In addition to the AASLH awards, we received two Minnesota Alliance of Local History awards and one award from the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits.



The largest part of our contacts, 43%, continue to come from school programs presented in the schools. The fair contacts are a distant second place with visitors in the museum a close second. Most counted visitors in the museum are school students and their teachers. We did not have a traveling exhibit this year, but did have a wonderful display at the fair about blacksmithing. This display included demonstrations by the Minnesota Metal Workers Guild.

In Loving Memory



When I started at the CCHS nine years ago, one of the first people I met was Ward Holasek. We were at the annual Christmas party held by the Nordic Group, in his party room. It was cold, all of us were dressed in layers of clothing. I, following everyone else went outside to find Ward sitting in a sleigh, which was hitched to two of his beloved draft horses. The cold snow crunched under our weight, and the frozen moisture from our breath froze in clouds, before being blown away into the dark, by the gentle breeze. Ward was at his best when he was giving a hay ride. He loved the sleighs, the horses and most importantly the history of the farm. Over the years, he made it clear what he wanted for the farm, after he was gone. Throughout all the legal battles following his death, the CCHS strove to follow Ward's wishes to the best of its ability. I am confident he would be happy with the end result. It is our hope his gift will be used not only now, but forever as he wanted, by the community he so loved. I will miss Ward every time I look at this photo, but I finally feel he is looking down smiling, knowing we fought and won to protect the property he so dearly loved.

Wendy Petersen Biorn



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

1/15/15/WPB