ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Washington County Historical Society
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Staff
Executive Director
Brent T. Peterson

Historic Sites Supervisor:
Kirsta Benson
Hay Lake Museum Manager,
Rachel Abbott

Washington County Historical Society Board of Directors

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Monica Fogg, Afton

Vice President,
Hank Sampson, Oak Park Heights

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Nancy Goodman, Stillwater

Recording Secretary,
Janet Link, Stillwater

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Matt Thueson, St. Paul
Duane Thein, White Bear Lake
Phil Eastwood, Stillwater

David Williamson, Forest Lake Corresponding Secretary Chuck Irrgang, Stillwater
Angie Noyes, Scandia

What Is the Washington County Historical Society?

Introduction

The Washington County Historical Society serves as a historical umbrella for the county's history organizations and acts as a community resource for individuals and organizations seeking historical information. The Society:

- **operates two interpretive museums** showcasing county heritage,
- **provides educational programs** to schools and to the public,
- **assists researchers** to document their own, county and state history,
- **provides expertise** to help community groups conserve collections and produce exhibits,
- **investigates and publishes** county history,
- **collects and preserves** cultural artifacts and documents for future generations, and
- **showcases county history** through exhibits and displays throughout the county.

Strategic Direction

Long-term Goals and Objectives are:

- To enhance the Society's capacity to provide educational programs and exhibits that incorporate the cultural history of the entire county;
- To increase awareness among the public and the Society's key constituents of the high quality programs and services the Society provides; and
- To operate at the highest level of efficiency, professionalism and fiscal responsibility through developing and stabilizing funding sources.

General Goals Adopted for FY2008. In the next twelve months, the board of directors will focus on:

- Developing a plan for raising additional revenue through current and new sources;
- Increasing membership through and aggressive recruitment plan;
- Determining the scope and budget for a new Washington County History book;
- Completing documentation of our collections;
- Developing more effective partnerships with schools, local governments and community agencies;
- Determining and prioritizing the need for additional staff and a plan for funding same.

Our Vision

The Washington County Historical Society is committed to becoming an integral part of our communities' education and culture, recognized for its leadership in helping people learn from the past, developing a sense of place for the community, and providing information and innovative programs on county history.

Our Mission

The Washington County Historical Society promotes and preserves Washington County's history for county residents and visitors in the belief that a historical perspective enhances our understanding of community and sense of place.

Our Motto—Gateway to Minnesota History

The Washington County Historical Society is uniquely situated to document early Minnesota history and tells the story of immigrants from the eastern US and Europe who settled the region in the mid-nineteenth century. The county's geographic connections to the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers are key to the establishment of the state.

Consistent with its mission, the Washington County Historical Society attempts to increase community access to Society programs and collections through developing off-site programs and exhibits (in temporary and permanent locations), publishing information (electronic and print), and other outreach activities. In 2008 the staff, volunteers and board of directors of the Historical Society participated in the following activities, organizations and projects.

Two WCHS membership meeting with programs by Annette Atkins & Robert Goodman

Staff interviewed several times on Stan Turner's Radio Show, KLBB, Stillwater

Warden's House participated in Chocolate March

Staff attended several Fairview Cemetery Board meetings in Stillwater

WCHS Celebrated the Minnesota Sesquicentennial over the course of the year

WCHS presented the Big Top Chautauqua – "Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star"

WCHS held the "Minnesota Statehood Celebration" at the Historic Courthouse

WCHS Board members & Staff attended Washington County History Network meetings

Staff & WCHS Volunteers appeared on local Washington County cable TV show

Executive Director named Distinguished Alumni for Stillwater Area High School

WCHS Staff spoke at Lion's Club meeting

WCHS attended the Big Marine Park Reserve Opening

WCHS presented author of *Land of Amber Waters* book and held beer tasting at Hay Lake Complex

WCHS had a booth at the Washington County Fair

WCHS participated in Lumberjack Days treasure hunt and produced Lumberjack Days buttons

WCHS Vintage Base Ball Club organized the MN Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Festival

Staff attended meeting with other MN county historical society Executive Directors

WCHS published two books –

"*A History of Washington County: Gateway to Minnesota History*" by Robert Goodman

"*Garage Sounds: Bringing Down the House*" by Scott Schell

Held author talk & book signing at the Bayport Library for *Dime Novel Desperados*

Held author talk & book signing at the Forest Lake Library with Cathy Wurzer and *Tales of the Road*

Author Robert Goodman book signing at Stillwater Cub Foods for *A History of Washington County.*

Author Robert Goodman talk and book signing at Oak Meadows senior complex in Oakdale and for classes at the Southwest Junior High in Forest Lake

Executive Director emceed at Art St. Croix Event at Boutwell's Landing, Oak Park Heights

Executive Director elected to the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums Board of Directors

Staff attended meetings on the Legacy amendment to MN Constitution.

WCHS Vintage Base Ball Club played in Stillwater, Afton & Denmark Township.

Organizational Information

History

The Washington County Historical Society, founded in 1934, is a private, nonprofit educational institution with about 700 individual, family and business members. The Warden's House Museum in Stillwater was given to the Society in 1941 by the state and is one of the state's oldest buildings as well as its oldest continuously operating house museum. The Society leased the Hay Lake School for a museum in 1972 and purchased it from the school district in 1978. The school's neighbor, the Johannes Erickson Log House, was donated to the Society in the early 1980s, moved to the site and restored. All three buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic family-owned Boutwell Cemetery west of Stillwater was purchased in 1974.

In 1996 the Society reconstructed the Carriage House that originally stood behind the Warden's House. In 2000-2001 climate control was added and the textile collection and archives were moved into the new facility

In 2002 the WCHS opened a museum in Boutwell's Landing in Oak Park Heights. Changing displays and exhibits were there until September 2008 when Boutwell's took over the museum site for construction.

Board of Directors

Staff

The Society has three paid positions: An Executive Director, Historic Sites Supervisor and Hay Lake School Mgr.

The Executive Director position was created at the beginning of 2003 so that more organization for the Society could be made. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors and oversees the daily operation of the Historical Society.

The Historic Sites Supervisor is hired by the Executive Director to oversee the management of both historic sites operated by the WCHS. This includes volunteers, interns, interpretation and displays.

The Hay Lake School site manager is hired by the Executive Director and Historic Sites Supervisor to oversee the daily operations of the Hay Lake School and Johannes Erickson museums, give tours, handle volunteers, makes up daily tally sheets, and book outside groups to tour the museums, including school groups and senior groups from across Washington County and Minnesota.

Interns

The Society has built a partnership with the DeLonais Foundation to fund a summer internship program. For the seventh year, three students with quite different goals and backgrounds were hired to assist the Site Managers on a part-time basis over the summer. In addition to learning museum management and curatorial techniques, the interns this year were highly involved in projects that leaned toward their development in museum management and to further the mission of the Washington County Historical Society.

Volunteers

Volunteers do most of the work of the Society. Volunteers serve as tour guides, teachers, cashiers, cleaners, research assistants, editors and re-enactors. They work maintaining the collections, repairing and maintaining the buildings, caring for garden and grounds, and helping with workshops.

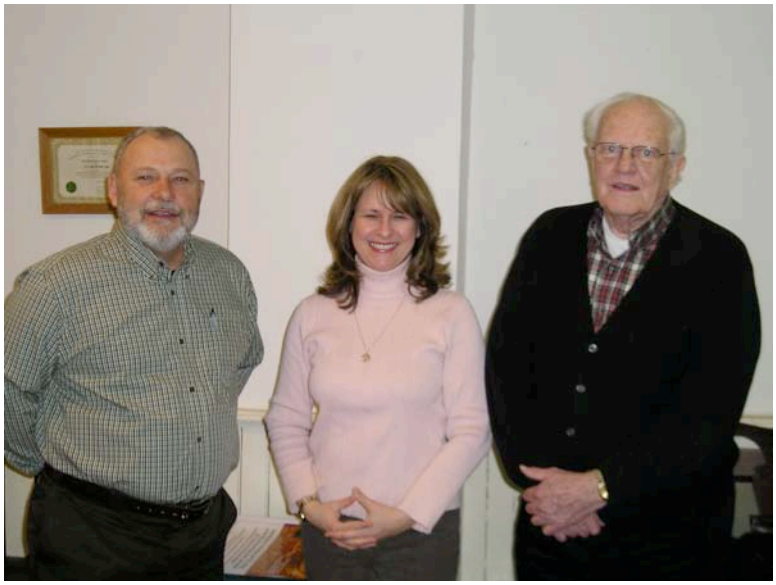
Volunteers serve on committees, such as membership, publicity, fundraising, collections. They assist with research, write historical articles, give talks and demonstrations, index, wirte and edit manuscripts for publication, and enter collection records into the computer database. More than 3,500 volunteer hours went into Society activities and museums last year.

Currently there are volunteers that care for the gardens near the Wardens House, index vital records in the WCHS collections and are on call for such events as book signings, open houses and mailings to the WCHS memberships.

Staff and Board Development

The Washington County Historical Society held two workshops in 2005 to develop strategic goals for the next several years.

The Washington County Historical Society also continues to keep updated on recent activities of preservation and historical organizations throughout the state by being members of the Minnesota Historical Society, Washington County History Network, The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, and the American Association of State and Local History.



Upper Left: Monica Fogg, new WCHS President of the Board of Directors; U
Link and Hank Sampson – newly elected WCHS Board Members; Lower Rig
congratulates Chuck Irrgang as being appointed at Chairperson of the Capita
Committee; and Lower Left: Duane Thein who was appointed to fill out the
in April, 2008.

WCHS Museums

Warden's House Museum

The Warden's House, one of the state's oldest residences, was built in 1853 to house the wardens of the Minnesota Territorial Prison. It is the only government building remaining from Minnesota Territory. Today the house is dedicated to displaying pioneer and lumberjack life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and houses an extensive prison collection.

In 2008 the Warden's House Museum participated in the Chocolate March and the Stillwater Historic Homes Tour in September. In April the Stillwater BPW held an open house at the museum in. The museum also hosted several community organizations for meetings including the Big Lakers 4-H club.

Over the past several years the Warden's House has seen attendance rise by a margin of 5-10% and revenues have also increased by the same margin during that time period. The increase in attendance has made it very important that the Warden's House have a strong volunteer base, which it has.

Other events held at the Warden's House include book signings by author Denis P. Gardner on his book, *Wood, Concrete, Stone, Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges* as well as a local author book signing event that included nine local authors and was also the kick-off for the book, *Garage Sounds: Bringing Down the House*, by local author Scott Schell.

Hay Lake School Complex

This museum near Scandia is open only in warm weather as the buildings are unheated. On the site are the Hay Lake School and the Johannes Erickson Log House. The 1896 one-room brick school was originally Washington County Rural School District #2, and then became a part of the Forest Lake School District as rural schools were consolidated into larger districts. The Hay Lake School was slated for demolition when the Historical Society obtained a lease in 1974 and in 1978 purchased the building. The living museum provides a full day pioneer school experience in a one-room schoolhouse for grade school children from all over. The two-story Johannes Erickson Log House, built in 1868, showcases pioneer Scandinavian life.

Again this year the Hay Lake School sponsored "Hay Lake Day" with many people attending the one-day outdoor event. This year many of the past students attended the event and helped put some of the school's history into perspective for the historical society.

The Scandia Elementary School held classes at the museum for five days in the spring, and schools from the Stillwater area also came through the museum. Two groups from Sweden visited the site over the summer, as well as many alumni and their families came through the museum and log house.

A new event was held at the school in 2008. Author Doug Hoverson made a presentation about his book, *Land of Amber Waters*, which describes the brewing industry in Minnesota, and after the presentation a beer tasting was held for all those of legal age with three different breweries supplying product for the event. It was such a success that another beer tasting event is planned for 2009.

Boutwell's Landing

The Society developed a new exhibit space in the Boutwell's Landing senior living community development in Oak Park Heights in 2002. This space has been a showcase for rotating exhibits that describe the history of Washington County.

In September of 2008, the Boutwell's Landing site was closed as the facility needed space for their own expansion. The WCHS still has artifacts on display in their café and in one of the display rooms in the Town Hall area. Other areas will be developed for exhibition space in the coming years.

Tour Groups that visited the WCHS Museums in 2008

Castle Elementary; Afton-Lakeland, Lake Elmo, Lily Lake, Marine, Oak Park, Rutherford, Scandia, Stonebridge, and Withrow Elementary Schools; Hope Christian Academy; Rutherford Elementary Cub Scouts; Big Lakers 4H Club; Learner's Edge Tour; St. Andrew's Church Senior Group; Chocolate March; Lily Lake Cub Scouts; Secret Scenic Tours; Oak Haven Church Group; 3 Swedish Tours; Boutwell's Landing Senior Group

At Left, Hay Lake School Site Manager Rachel Abbott shows students how to write with a quill pen.

At Right, Historic Sites Supervisor Kirsta Benson shows Cub Scouts the music box at the Warden's House Museum

Above author Doug Hoverson speaks about the heyday of the brewing industry in Minnesota at Hay Lake School. At right, Caroline Waskow demonstrates the art of spinning at the BPW Open house at the Warden's House Museum in April.

Research Center in Carriage House

Research Center: A Place to Find Family

Elementary and secondary school students and well as college students do research projects using primary sources use the WCHS Research Center extensively. Other researchers come to do genealogy, house history and to research local history topics. Students are not charged.

In 2008 there were many donations, listed below, that helped supply the WCHS research center with more information in family history. Over 300 people either wrote in via regular mail or email or stopped into the center to do research of one kind or another. The most popular is genealogy, looking for one's ancestors. Although the WCHS center does not carry census records or microfilm of newspapers, there is a wide variety of information to search, and most come away with something they have never known before about their family.

Getting the Word Out: County History News

The quarterly newsletter, *Historical Whisperings*, is distributed to members, libraries, sponsoring businesses, key constituents and other historical societies and museums. Issues include information on membership, upcoming events and museum activities as well as events from other historical and heritage organizations throughout Washington County.

The Washington County Historical Society web site [www.wchsmn.org] has had more content added to help get the history of the county and its communities to the outside world. The community histories of all local municipalities in Washington County have been completed and have been some of the most viewed sections of the web page.

The WCHS also produces an e-newsletter called the "Historical Messenger," that is sent out to nearly 500 people free of charge. The newsletter contains upcoming events, a weekly historical photo as well as an article relating to the history of Washington County.

WCHS Donation Highlights:

Part of the mission of the Washington County Historical Society is to collect and preserve the history of Washington County, Minnesota. Through that we rely on donations of artifacts and information to help keep the heritage of the county from being lost.

Below are some highlights of the items donated to the collections of the WCHS and available to future researchers who will be using the WCHS collections:

- World War Two uniform of Herman F. Dornfeld of Baytown Township – donated by Marcia Dornfeld of Hugo
- Photographs and documents from Peter and Victor Ryhn Family of Stillwater – donated by Arnold Johnson of Stillwater
- Hoehne Grocery Kittenball team photo from 1931 – donated by Dorothy Reevs of Houlton, WI
- "Lincoln Log" yearbooks from Mahtomedi High School – donated by Robert Laudon, Mpls.
- A collection of films from John Runk – donated by Jim Runk of Lindstrom, MN. [Kirsta Benson shown at right with the reels of film]
- Photograph negatives from the South Washington County Bulletin – Cottage Grove, MN
- Spinning Wheel from the Erickson family in Scandia – donated by John Christgau of Belmont, CA

Education Programs Draw Children and Adults into Discovering History

Historical Reenactments

VINTAGE BASE BALL. The Society's vintage base ball team, the St. Croixs, wears 1860s uniforms and plays by 1860s rules written by Henry Chadwick. They are unique in bringing a piece of the past to the present for people to view.

The St. Croix's played 14 matches around Washington County, the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Club played in Afton, Denmark Township, Baytown Township and Stillwater. Also played in the Minnesota communities of Pipestone, Gaylord, Arlington, St. Peter, White Bear Lake, and Northfield and in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

The St. Croixs, along with several other vintage base ball clubs, organized the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Festival that was held for two days in June at the Washington County Fairgrounds. This event received a Minnesota Sesquicentennial Grant.

Over the course of the season the Club played before several thousand spectators and was highlighted in more than a dozen county and statewide newspapers and appeared on a segment of "***Life to the Max***" starring Mike Max.

Upper Right: St. Croixs Umpire Duane Thein is interviewed by Mike Max in Gaylord, MN; Above: the St. Croixs bench at the Denmark Township match; Left: St. Croix Dan Cagley waits on a pitch during the MN 150 Festival at the county fairgrounds.

Pu

The Society holds two meetings for the membership each year, which are open to the public as well.

In March the WCHS held its annual membership dinner meeting at Boutwell's Landing in Oak Park Heights with Annette Atkins talking about her recent book, *Creating Minnesota*. The fall dinner meeting, also held at Boutwell's Landing, had WCHS bookkeeper Robert Goodman presenting a program about the recent history of Washington County that he researched and wrote for the Washington County Historical Society.

Exhibits and Displays

The Washington County Historical Society has displays at it's respective museums in Stillwater and Scandia as well as the museum space at Boutwell's Landing Senior complex in Oak Park Heights. The WCHS also has a display case at the Cottage Grove City Hall and had been given a set of four connecting display cases in the new Norris Square development which is also located in Cottage Grove.

The Society continues to rotate displays around the county. This past year the Washington County Historical Society focused on displays that dealt with the Minnesota Sesquicentennial. Among items that were displayed in the WCHS museums as well as other locations included documents from the Minnesota Constitutional Convention, photographs of the first Minnesota Governor, first Minnesota Lt. Governor, first Minnesota Territorial Governor, and other items that were used during the period of Minnesota's statehood.

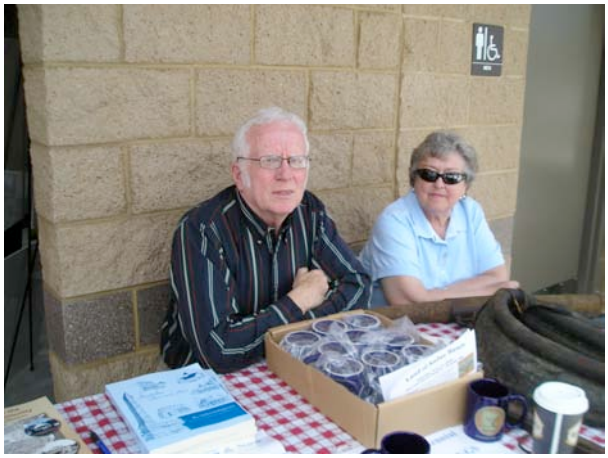
The WCHS worked with the Washington County Libraries in providing an exhibit to go along with the "Valley Reads" program. This program explored several different book titles dealing with the immigration to this area. The WCHS created an exhibit that asked the question, "If you only had one suitcase to bring with you, what would you bring?" This was exhibited at Boutwell's Landing in Oak Park Heights, Cottage Grove City Hall and the Norris Square development in Cottage Grove.

Special Events

The Washington County Historical Society attends many community special events. The WCHS has been a regular at the Washington County Fair for more than a decade, providing a glimpse into our counties heritage while also providing the opportunity for the general public to look at and purchase community history books from across the county.

The WCHS also attended the events in Stillwater, the Washington County Historic Courthouse, Denmark Township, Afton, Scandia and other areas of the county. With more volunteers and staff, WCHS should be able to be a part of more community festivities in the future.

In the photo above, right, shows WCHS intern Aaron Osland manning the WCHS booth at the Stillwater Lumberjack Days kick-off event at the Washington County Historic Courthouse. Below, right, Dick and Ginny Johnson are shown at the booth for the WCHS at the opening of the Big Marine Lake Park Reserve. Dick Johnson was one of the two authors of the book, *Pioneers of the Big Lake Community* published by the Washington County Historical Society.



Scholarship Program

Again this year the Washington County Historical Society was able to present $2,000 worth of scholarships to

graduating seniors from Washington County high schools who have shown interest in going into a history related field. The DeLonais Foundation funds the WCHS scholarship.

The WCHS awarded the 2008 scholarships to two Washington County students:

*Laura Nelson, of Bayport, attends the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul and is majoring in history and mathematics. Her areas of study have been American and Western European History and she hopes to pursue a career in government or education.

*Alyson Murray, of Stillwater, plans on attending Macalester College with a major focus in American History.

At right, Alyson Murray with Kathy DeLonais of the DeLonais Foundation

WCHS Artifacts on Long-Term Loan

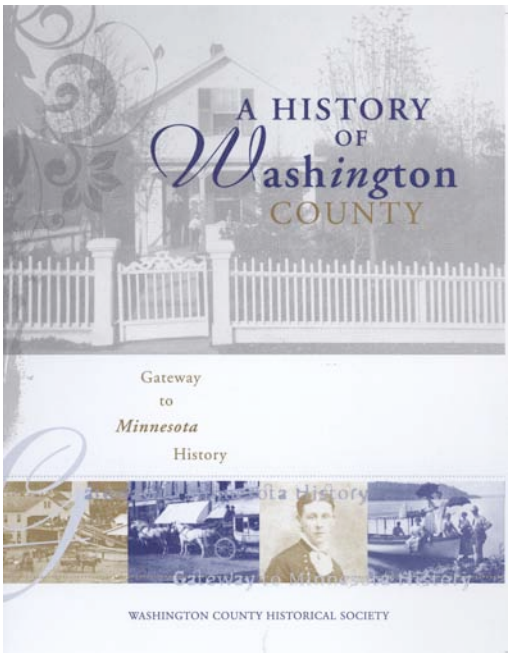
Several unusual WCHS artifacts are on display off-site, including: an inlaid table made by a prisoner (at the Historic Courthouse), a bateau (at the Minnesota Zephyr depot), and a delivery wagon and sleigh (at Aamodt's Orchard). Many lumbering and general historic artifacts are at Boutwell's Landing senior complex in Oak Park Heights.

Above is the E.O. Johnson delivery sleigh on display at the Aamodt's Apple Orchard in Stillwater. At right is the inlaid conference table on display at the Washington County Historic Courthouse.

Publications

The Washington County Historical Society has had a long history of producing fine historical publications. In 2008 the WCHS published two major books that explore the heritage of the county and its people.

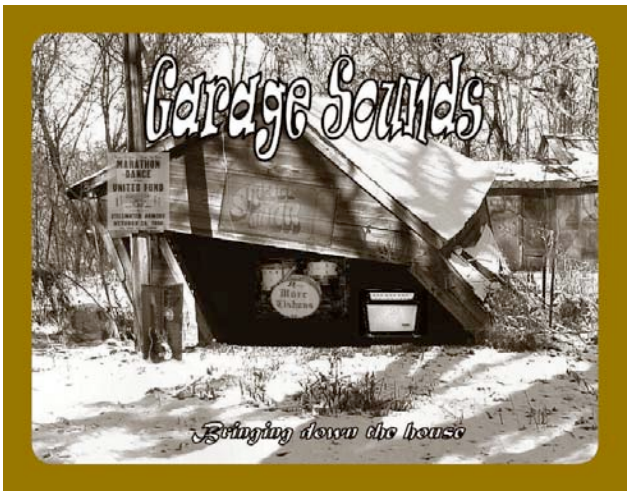
The first county history book to be published in more than 30 years was completed in September, *A History of Washington County: Gateway to Minnesota History*, with WCHS member Robert Goodman being the lead author. Marc Hugunin provided some extra material for the book in the final chapter regarding the suburbanization of Washington County.



The book, *Garage Sounds: Bringing Down the House*, was written by Stillwater resident and WCHS member Scott Schell. The book chronicles the era of the "garage bands" that swept the Nation in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The book is filled with photographs, posters and stories of the more than 50 local bands and the venues that they played.

Each book was edited by WCHS board member Nancy Goodman with some help from Don Empson, Anita Buck and Brent Peterson. The WCHS then obtained International Standard Book Numbers [ISBN] for the books as well as Library of Congress Card Numbers [LCCN].

For the Minnesota Sesquicentennial the WCHS designed and produced mugs and medallions that commemorated the event. These were sold throughout the county with help from Cub Foods, Inc.



Above right shows the cover of the book, *A History of Washington County: Gateway to Minnesota History*, written by Robert Goodman. Below right is the cover of *Garage Sounds: Bringing Down the House*, written by Scott Schell. At left show the medallions and mugs produced to celebrate Minnesota's 150th anniversary of statehood.

Education Projects Now Under Way

School Curricula

Hometown History is a joint project of WCHS and Arcola Mills in cooperation with local historians and

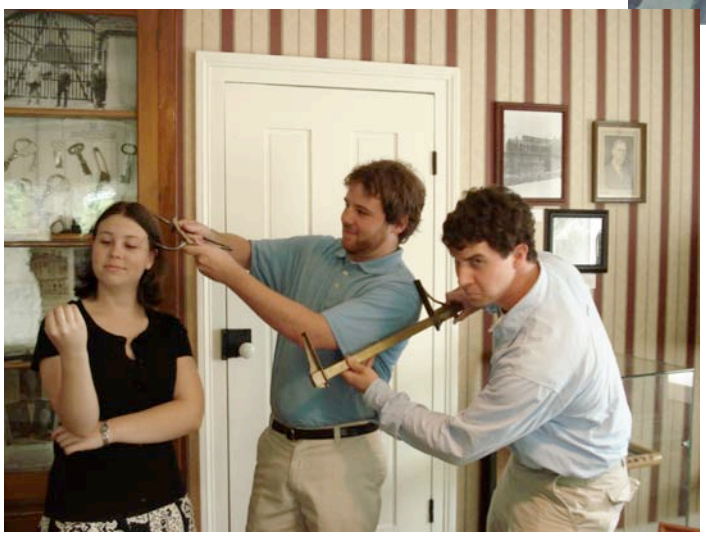
teachers from District 834. The curriculum features the greater Stillwater area history and historic sites.

Teachers have been asking for these curriculum materials for teaching local history.

The first units, Lumber in the St. Croix Valley and Stillwater Interactive Biography Profiles have been well received and are being used by several Afton and Stillwater fourth grade teachers to help teach local history.

Traveling trunks with artifacts and activities have been developed for more "hands-on" history. The material is also available on the website at www.wchsmn.org/education.

Steamboats and their influence on settlement is a possible new curriculum the committee is considering. Plans are also being made to expand the curriculum to be useful to other school districts.



Internship Program

For the past seven years the Washington County Historical Society has been able to hire three college interns to work at the Society for the summer months from a grant from the DeLonais Foundation.

This year Aaron Oslund, of Stillwater; Jake Haugen, Hutchinson, MN; and Allison Drtina, of Woodbury, were hired to receive hands on training in museum studies and historical research. Each intern had an assigned project as well as to learn the day to day operation of a local museum.

Above – right: Author Robert Goodman sits among students of Forest Lake Junior High; Above: WCHS interns Allison Drtina, Jake Haugen and Aaron Oslund investigate Minnesota correctional history. At right: Intern Jake Haugen stands with a World War II veteran and his purple heart received during the war.

Funding Still a Problem

This is the second year that the Washington County Historical Society received no funding or assistance from the county. To meet this challenge, we are endeavoring to expand our membership base, and are actively looking at creative ways to enhance revenues, such as a yearly fundraising event that will become associated with the Society. One of our best strategies for enhancing revenue has been through publication of historical books and other sales ventures.

The WCHS board is working to work to establish a stable funding base that will enable us to preserve our collections and historic buildings, hire professional administrative help, and develop and strengthen our education programs. The board is also still focused on maintaining our museums and collections in top condition through preventive maintenance and capital investment in buildings and equipment.

Capital Needs

In late 2004 the WCHS staff produced a Capital Needs Report for consideration by the board of directors.

Warden's House needs:

- Replace screen doors on both entrances.
- Implement landscaping plan produced by our University of Minnesota intern, is estimated at $100,000, about 4/5 of which is hardscape and drainage correction.

Other needs: replace or repair 15 windows, estimated cost $15,000; and install HVAC system to better control the humidity the artifacts are exposed to. Estimate for new furnaces and humidity control, $20,000.

Hay Lake Museum needs:

- Paint bell tower, estimate $750.
- Repair school interior, estimate $2,600.
- Repair or replace 12 windows in school, estimate $12,000.
- Install moisture barrier in log house, estimate with donated labor, $500.

Other needs: redo plumbing in school; replace logs on west side of log house; no estimates yet. There are also some pests in the log house that need to be removed including boring insects and bats.

Endowment Fund

Memorials and other gifts donated to the Washington County Historical Society are placed directly into the Endowment Fund. The principal is not used. Only the interest is available to the Board of Directors. The fund is now valued at $330,160 with about $72,375 of that as interest available to the WCHS board. In 2008 $8,365 was given by individuals, most as memorials for deceased WCHS members Hank Sampson, Tom Gerson, and Ed Conrad.

The Society also has $22,000 invested in the St. Croix Valley Community Fund, of which about $1,000 is available yearly.

Current policy is to invest in bank certificates of deposit, preferably of banks located in Washington County, and in short-term U.S. government securities. All funds are now in certificates of deposit and insured money market accounts. The average interest rate is four

percent.

A separate committee of five manages the endowment and is charged with investing the funds as safely as possible. The board of directors appoints members of the committee and they serve three-year terms. One member of the WCHS Board of Directors also sits on the Endowment Fund Committee.

The WCHS Board of Directors is continuing to solicit donations to the Endowment Fund in order to produce interest income that can be used for operations, programs or emergencies.

Operating Needs

The Historical Society still needs on-going dollars for general operating support. Our desired annual operating budget requirement of $145,000 is lower than other comparable organizations.

Having temporary part-time staff for the summer months has placed a great burden on our Executive Director, who is responsible for hiring and training as well as program management and budgeting. While we are hoping to be able to hire staff who can work with us year-round and from year to year, it is not feasible to do so at present. Playing catch-up by hiring temporary office help for one year may be one answer.

The cost of maintaining the museums has risen sharply and will continue to rise. Fuel costs are increasing exponentially, but turning off the heat has the potential to damage irreplaceable artifacts as well as the building itself. Reanalyzing our insurance coverage resulted in a substantial increase. Building and utility costs, unavoidable administrative expenses, and collections maintenance now consume over $23,000 yearly.

Operating Budget

The Historical Society had more than $167,000 in expenditures for 2008. The largest expenditure for the Society is wages/taxes/employee expenses which amounted to 55% of the annual budget. Sesquicentennial expenses for the Society amounted to just over 6%. Utilities, maintenance, telephone and security of the Washington County Historical Society facilities came to 13% of the expenditures.

The receipts for the historical Society were over $166,000 for 2008. The Foundation and Sesquicentennial grants to the Historical Society combined for 45% of the organizations income. Admissions to the museums and sales from books and other retail items amounted to 20%. Membership dues and membership meetings contributed 5% of the 2007 income.

The increase in the retail sales is directly due to the publication of two history books by the society. The History of *Washington County: Gateway to Minnesota History* was release in September and *Garage Sounds: Bringing Down the House* was release in December. These increased the sales numbers from a year ago.

Bank balance Jan. 1, 2008	$13,457.79
Receipts:	

Foundation grants	$75,509.00	
Sesquicentennial grants	$10,600.00	
Other gifts & donations	$19,442.21	
Sales and tax	$25,669.40	
Fundraisers	$1,529.53	
Dinner meetings	$3,331.00	
Membership dues	$5,720.00	
Admissions & fees	$7,066.00	
Interest	$7,080.85	
Transfers from savings	$10,173.56	
Total receipts		$166,121.55
Available for disbursements		$179,579.34
Operating expenditures		
Wages, taxes, employee expenses	$92,924.72	
Utilities	$6,552.95	
Waste management fees	$0.00	
Repairs & maintenance	$4,139.47	
Telephone & voicemail	$2,316.54	
Security systems	$928.83	
Insurance	$8,970.01	
Office supplies/copier service	$2,401.75	
Postage	$2,501.20	
Whisperings/website	$2,902.24	
Dinner meeting expense	$3,719.31	
Sales tax paid	$241.00	
Inventory/fundraiser expense	$2,853.00	
Scholarships/education programs	$2,000.00	
Baseball/programs	$4,827.30	
Sesquicentennial expense	$10,742.14	
Professional services	$1,300.00	
Dues and subs	$652.00	
Collections/preservation	$395.05	
Promotion and exhibits	$602.67	
Donations/memorials	$106.99	
Miscellaneous	$1,283.41	
Capital expenses	$5,349.00	
Transfers to book account	$10,200.00	
Transfers to endowment	$0.00	
Total operating expenditures		$167,909.58
Bank balance Dec. 31, 2008		$11,669.76