

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## News Release

For Interviews: Brent Peterson, WCHS Executive Director

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### **The Past Comes Alive For the *Minnesota Statehood Celebration* May 10<sup>th</sup> at Historic Stillwater Courthouse**

**Celebrate Minnesota's sesquicentennial in the state's first county**

**“An Evening To Remember.”**

Stillwater, Minn. – The Washington County Historical Society will host its’ **Minnesota Statehood Celebration** Saturday May 10, 2008, from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m., at the historic Washington County Courthouse located at 101 West Pine Street in Stillwater. Space is limited. Reservations by April 25<sup>th</sup> please.

“This will be an evening to remember. A once-in-a-lifetime event,” says WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson. “We invite everyone, including our neighbors in surrounding counties, to join us and celebrate our statehood.”

Invited guests include Governor and Mrs. Pawlenty, and a very special appearance by Minnesota's first Governor 197-year-old Henry Hastings Sibley and his wife Sarah. Governor Sibley is expected to explain to the assembled guests why he rejected *Itasca* as the territorial name in favor of *Minnesota*, which means “Cloudy Water” in the Dakota language.

The food, from the Lake Elmo Inn, will have a decidedly Minnesota flair, including *SPAM Sushi Rolls*, *Stuffed Wild Morels* (state mushroom), *Boundary Waters Walleye*, and a delightful mix of other goodies to please the discriminating northern palate.

The special evening also will include a silent auction of fine products and services donated by Washington County businesses. Music will be provided by ensembles from the Mahtomedi, Stillwater and Woodbury high schools.

Proceeds support the Washington County Historical Society. \$85.00 per person, \$150 per couple. For more information and to make reservations, please call 651-439-5956. Business casual attire.

**Visit [www.wchsmn.org](http://www.wchsmn.org) to purchase sesquicentennial coins and mugs**

*Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships and earned income, and government and foundation grants. For more information, please visit [www.wchsmn.org](http://www.wchsmn.org).*