

Area Students Awarded Washington County Historical Society Scholarships

The Washington County Historical Society has awarded three academic scholarships to Washington County students.

Josh Melvin, of Stillwater, is a sophomore at Hamline University majoring in History. He was the keynote speaker at his high school graduation in 2007 and after earning his undergraduate degree hopes to complete his masters and PhD and his goal is to teach world history.

Parker Foss, of Mahtomedi, has a deep interest in the American Revolutionary War and the Civil War. He has been an active member and volunteer at the Minnesota Historical Society as well as the Washington County Historical Society. He plans on attending Bethel University and will major in History with minors in Ancient Classics and Music.

Katie Gilles, of Woodbury, will graduate from the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury this year. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and majoring in History and secondary education. "History, to me," Gilles wrote, "is like reading a really long story about the world." She hopes to teach that story someday to our next generation of citizens.

"All three scholarship winners are going into some facet of history which, in the future, will help preserve our heritage for generations to come," said Brent T. Peterson, Executive Director of the Washington County Historical Society.

The Washington County Historical Society presents scholarships to graduating seniors of Washington County schools or Washington County students attending higher education in history or related fields.

The scholarships, awarded annually since 2001, are funded by grants from the DeLonais Foundation.

The Washington County Historical Society is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2009.

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