

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## News Release

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### **Students Selected for Washington County Historical Society Summer Internship Program**

Stillwater, Minn. – The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) has hired three college students for the Society’s summer internship program.

The internship program is a mixture of training and hands-on experience. The intern will learn about the day-to-day operations of a small history museum, including exhibit display and design, collections care, and preservation of artifacts. The interns will also be able to attend board meetings, participate in fundraising activities, and assist with Society sponsored events.

All three 2009 summer interns desire careers in the field of history.

**Peter DeCarlo, a Stillwater resident,** attends the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire where he is majoring in History and English. During the school year he works with the special collections and archives at the McIntyre Library on the UWEC campus. This summer DeCarlo will be researching correspondence between two Stillwater men during the civil war, so that he will be able to learn more about the life of a soldier before, during, and after the war.

**Anna Kirchner, a resident of St. Paul,** just graduated from the College of St. Catherine with degrees in History and French. She has worked as an interpreter at The Landing in Shakopee, Minnesota and has served as the President of the College of St. Catherine History Club since 2007. Kirchner has been on the Dean’s List and is involved with the Antonian Scholars Honors Program. This summer Kirchner will be working on compiling a list and writing a brief history of Washington County cemeteries. By the end of the internship program, the information will be available in the new WCHS online research database.

**Erica Whalen, a Woodbury resident,** attends the University of Minnesota - Duluth where she is majoring in History and German. She has worked as a tour guide at the Glensheen Estate in Duluth and on the University campus, and enjoys conducting tours of the Warden's House Museum. Whalen has also worked as an intern at the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth. She was awarded the Washburn Award for Excellence in History in 2009 and has been on the Dean's List for Academic Excellence each semester she has been enrolled at UMD. This summer Whalen will be researching the Last Buddies Bully Beef Club, an organization started by surviving members of a Minnesota regiment after World War I.

“The internships enable students to gain first-hand knowledge of the workings of an established historical society, by giving guided tours of National Register properties, conducting historical research, and planning and working at WCHS summer events,” said Kirsta Benson, WCHS Historic Sites Supervisor. “If you are passing through Stillwater or Scandia, stop by the Warden's House Museum or Hay Lake School Museum Complex and visit with one of the new interns. They will be eager to show you around.”

The internships are made possible by an annual grant donated by the DeLonais Foundation.

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*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, membership fees, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit [www.wchsmn.org](http://www.wchsmn.org).*

WCHS is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2009.