

“Past and to come, seems best; things present, worse.” ~William Shakespeare, *Henry IV*

Economic times like these place renewed importance on our sense of history and shared experiences. The Nicollet County Historical Society will continue to serve our communities, residents, and visitors as strenuously, efficiently, and thoughtfully as we possibly can in 2010. Tell us how - it's our mission to serve you.

# NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

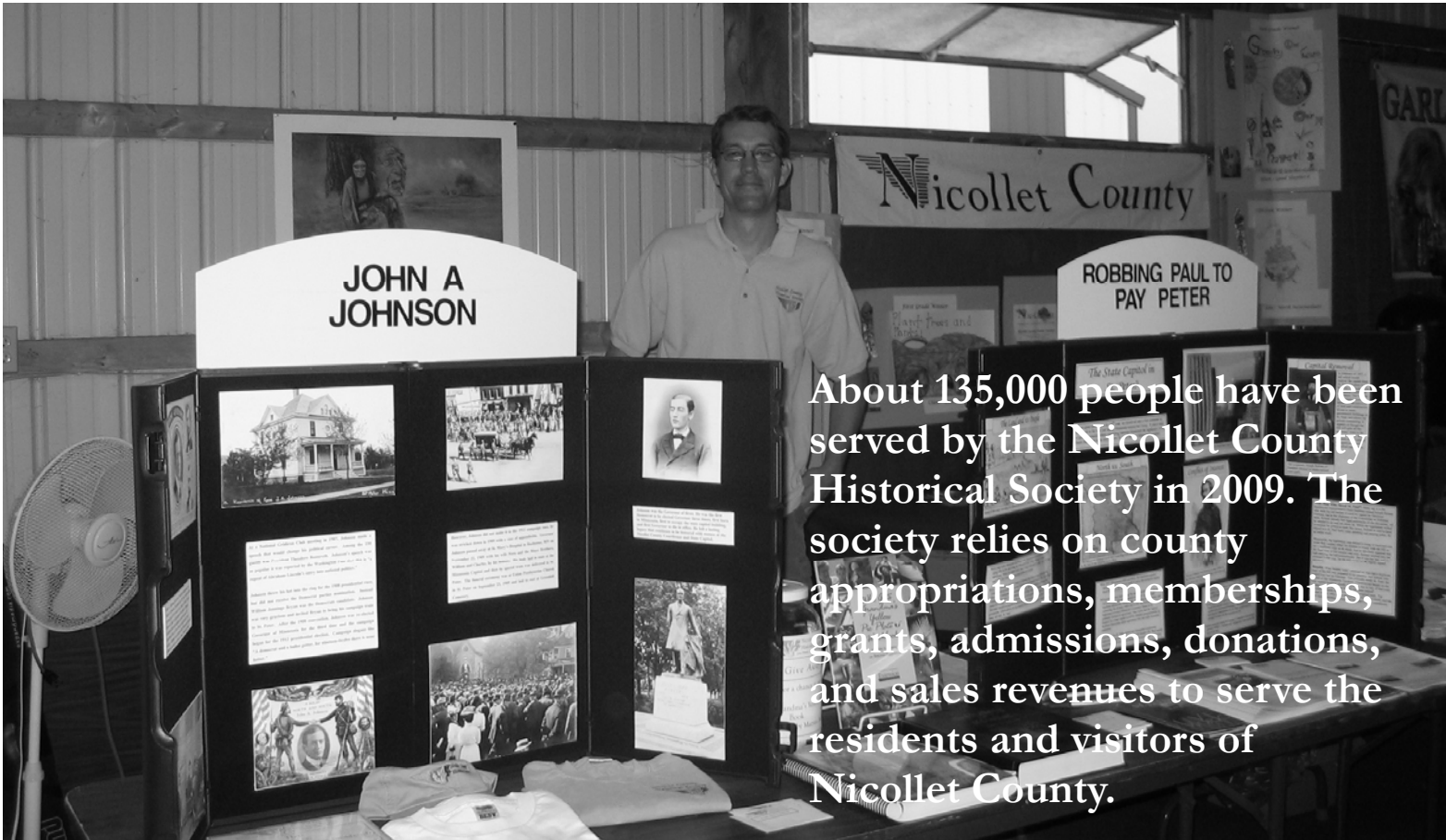
2009 Annual Report

*The mission of the Nicollet County Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Nicollet County and the State of Minnesota.*



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About 135,000 people have been served by the Nicollet County Historical Society in 2009. The society relies on county appropriations, memberships, grants, admissions, donations, and sales revenues to serve the residents and visitors of Nicollet County.

**Memberships cont...**

Terry & Sandy Gappa	<b>\$30 Individual</b>	Gayla Mattson	Janet Hoffmann
Richard & Joyce Gardner	Eunice Amos	Ronald McMillin	Eunice Holz
Don & Beverly Gustafson	Verda Beatty	Craig Nelson	Carl & Susan Johnson
Stanley & Marjorie Halvorson	Myrna Bennett	Evie Nelson	Gene Kind
Stuart & Mary Ann Hanson	Duane Bieber	Rochelle Nord	Elaine Kirby
Elaine & Carroll Hermanson	Shirley Bishop	Ray Olson	Mrs. Harry Kramer
Richard Hulseberg	Janet Boese	Judith Penhiter	John Kvamme
Lisa & Philip Isenberg	Loren Boutin	Janet Prehn	Mrs. William Lager
John Iverson	Paul Bresnahan	John Quist	Carol & Arne Langsjoen
Ray & Liz Jacobson	Carolyn Brethorst	Donna Resner	Eunice Larson
Gerald & Hazel Johnson	Eric Carlson	Sharon Robinson	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Larson
Ellis & Janet Jones	Helen Christianson	Dorothy Schultz	Mrs. Elgene Lund
Tim Lokensgard	JoAnne Cochran	Karen Smithers	Wayne Lynn
Ardis & Earl Lund	Margie Cooney	Florence Sponberg	Malcolm Mackenzie
Phyllis Maxwell	Jennifer deFiebre	Jennifer St. Julien Powers	Eugene Majerowicz
Betty & Tom McGraw-Hynes	Eleanor Depuydt	Agnes Stensby	Beatrice Martinson
John & Sara McKay	Opal Dewanz	Neil Stevermer	Mr. & Mrs. J.L. McClellan
Janice & Robert Meyer	Jackie Feldman	Bernadine Thompson	Mr. & Mrs. C.N. McRostie
Terry Morrow	Michael Frederick	Bob Vogel	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Menk
Dale & Kay Mowbray	Colleen Freitag	John Vogel	A.W. Meyer
Roger & Barb Nelson	Linda Gish	Linda Vogel	Robert Moline
Thorild & Ardith Nelson	Paula Goblirsch	Sally Webster	Cliff & Theresa Mollert
Arnold Nimps	Susan Gravelin	Wood Lake Battlefield Pres. Assoc.	Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Monke
Janet & Byron Nordstrom	Mike Haeuser	Gertrude Wright	Barb & Don Olmanson
Douglas & ReVae Nygard	William Harvey		Dr. & Mrs. Vern Olmanson
Dan & Lori Oachs	Scott Hermanson		Lorraine & Harold Olson
Jerry Oscarson	Gerry Hildebrandt	<b>Life Member</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ostrom
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Palmer	Jan Holte	Carl Aanonsen	Dennis Paschke
Sujay & April Rao	Eileen Holz	Ken & Janet Albrecht	Albert Peichel
Marjorie & Earl Rennekee	Conrad Irrgang	Mildred Anderson	Ellery & Carol Peterson
Gordon & Jackie Rodning	Renee Jackson	Carl & Lois Annexstad	Marion Peterson
Ken & Patsy Rossow	Carol Jackson	Phyllis Annexstad	Olive Peterson
Myrna Schoeb	Bette Johnson	Marshall & Janet Anthony	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pettis
Sue & Lee Schott	Charles Johnson	Willis & Rachel Anthony	Herbert & Louise Poncin
Douglas & Judy Schultz	Donley Johnson	Marion Babcock	Bill & Marilyn Robertz
Jeff & Tami Skinner	Helen Johnson	Paul & Helen Baumgartner	Warren & Marilyn Rodning
James & Diane Stenson	Marjorie Johnson	Gloria Benson	Arlene Sandeen
Tom & Susan Stenson	Vickie Johnson	Lavinia Bloomquist	Wayne Schmidt
Marty & Carol Sterner	Marolyn Kleinert	John & Rosemary Braun	Judy Scholl
Herman & Nel Swanson	Mary Klinger	Donald & Marilla Burch	Cora Sjostrom
Howard & Jane Swenson	Gretchen Koehler	Arlyce Bussman	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swedberg
Owen & Evie Swenson	Donna Kowal	Napoleon Chagnon	Roger & Linda Swenson
Bradford & Jane Thompson	Rita Kramer Joerg	Stanley Davis	Olive Thomas
Traverse des Sioux Genealogical Soc.	Lori Lahlum	Dr. & Mrs. William Dobbs	Henry Thompson
Buster & Nina West	Robert Lambert	C.W. Dowling	Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Veith
Richard & Janet Wettergren	Ruth Larson	Lila Faust	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Volk
Larry & Joan Zambino	Stanley Lindquist	Mrs. T.R. Fritsche	Merton & Margaret Wenner
	Willie Lindquist	Mrs. George Gatchell	Ed & Bev Wetherill
	Loren Lindsay	Bruce & Sue Gray	Robert Wettergren
	Maria Lokensgard	Fred & Judy Hanson	Pearl Wilkinson
	Mary Long	Charles Hendrickson	Val Youngbloom
		Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hilding	



<i><u>Memorials</u></i>			
In Memory of <b>Carl Annexstad</b>	Given by <b>Ed &amp; Bev Wetherill</b>	In Memory of <b>Bill Pell</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>
Given by <b>Herb &amp; Louise Poncin</b>	In Memory of <b>Carol Langsjoen</b>	Given By <b>Carol &amp; Martin Menk</b>	In Memory of <b>Carol Tostenson</b>
<b>Bev &amp; Ed Wetherill</b>	Given by <b>Marian Babcock</b>	In Memory of <b>Rev. Ralph Polzin</b>	Given By <b>Richard &amp; Dwight Tostenson</b>
In Memory of <b>Irene Bell</b>	In Memory of <b>Beulah Martens</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>	In Memory of <b>Larry Voeltz</b>
Given By <b>Marilyn &amp; Bill Robertz</b>	Given By <b>Carol Jackson</b>	In Memory of <b>Ronald Purrier</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>
In Memory of <b>Don Burch</b>	In Memory of <b>Dr. Ken Mills</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>	In Memory of <b>Jerry Wilking</b>
Given By <b>Carol &amp; Martin Menk</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>	In Memory of <b>Evelyn Ricci</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>
<b>Marilyn &amp; Bill Robertz</b>	In Memory of <b>Earl Nelson</b>	Given By <b>Dolores Holteen</b>	In Memory of <b>Donald Wills</b>
<b>Ed &amp; Bev Wetherill</b>	Given by <b>Judy Scholl</b>	In Memory of <b>Gerald “Jerry” Rodning</b>	Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>
In Memory of <b>Dave Bussmann</b>	<b>Evelyth Nelson &amp; Corrinne Ely</b>	Given by <b>Harold &amp; Lorraine Olson</b>	In Memory of <b>Clarry Veith</b>
Given By <b>Marilyn &amp; Bill Robertz</b>	In Memory of <b>Gene Nelson</b>	In Memory of <b>Leonard Rudenick</b>	Given by <b>Judy Scholl</b>
In Memory of <b>Gerald Compart</b>	Given By <b>Marilyn &amp; Bill Robertz</b>		
Given by <b>Gary &amp; Geraldine Schmidt</b>			
In Memory of <b>Larry Haugen</b>			

<i><u>Memberships</u></i>			
<b><u>\$1,000 Champion Business</u></b>	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davis	Ranae & Robert Peterson	Richard Beran
Gustavus Adolphus	Julie & Sam Gault	Riverside Dental Care	Marilyn & Bill Bessler
<b><u>\$200 Business/Supporting</u></b>	Lisa Gault	Bob Sandeen	Bernard & Pam Bidelman
Arts Center of St. Peter	Delores Holteen	Loren Sundboom	Dan Bock
Aveyron Homes	Emilie Lokensgard	West Newton Township	David & Bernice Breitung
BENCO Electric	James McPherson	Stephen & Barbara Wilkinson	Peggy & Gil Carlson
Brighton Township	Violet Moline	<b><u>\$75 Sustaining</u></b>	Richard & Bonnie Compart
Culligan Mayer	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schmidt	Milton & Elaine Brostrom	Chris & Patty Conlin
First National Bank	David & Linda Witte	Steven & Kathleen Burnett	Kathy Corey
Goodrich Construction	<b><u>\$100 Patron</u></b>	Julie & Chris Gilbert	Roger & Lois Currier
Hickory Tech	Red Men Club, Inc.	Robert & Leona Isenberg	Duane & Brenda DeBlieck
Kurt & Maren Leonard	Grant & Karen Annexstad	Joy Lutzi	Arden & Marilyn DeBoer
Nelson Printing	Larry & Judy Biederman	St. Peter Chamber of	Dwight & Geni DeBoer
New Sweden Mutual	Ruth Brandel	Commerce	Peter & Phyllis Disher
Nicollet County Bank	Chris & Jolly Corley	Roland & Edi Thorstensson	Larry & Karen Duden
St. Peter Herald	Marie Dranttel	<b><u>\$45 Family</u></b>	Garfield & Marjorie Eckberg
<b><u>\$1000 Crossings Circle Life Members</u></b>	Stephen & Elizabeth Hogberg	John Allerson	Paul & Connie Eckberg
Marian Anderson	Nicollet Chamber of	Frani & Mark Anderson	Charles & Carol Eggert
Steven & Becky Briggs	Commerce	Eric Annexstad	Bernhard & Marilyn Erling
Verlin Carlson	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Palmer	Steve & Jen Baxa	Lona Falenczykowski
Mel & LaVonne Craig	Marlin Peterson	Bruce & Deb Beatty	Jeremy & Michel Freeman
	Marshall Peterson	Stan & Marie Benson	Brand Frentz

### President’s Report by Gary Schmidt

In spite of these difficult economic times, the staff and volunteers of the Nicollet County Historical Society continue to do an outstanding job of delivering services and programs at all of our sites. It is truly amazing to observe the professionalism, dedication and pride that all take in their work. A huge THANK YOU to Ben, staff and volunteers.



For the NCHS Board of Directors it has been a fulfilling year but also a year of considerable anxiety over the challenge of keeping NCHS fiscally sound and viable. Many of our funding sources dealt with extreme budget challenges and there was always the fear that we may face considerable cut-backs in our funding. To date this has not happened and for that we are very thankful.

Looking ahead, it has become clear to me and board members that to solve the never-ending challenge of properly funding NCHS operations we must embark on a program of fund raising. This effort needs to address not only immediate needs of operations but more importantly the need to build substantial endowments. We can only achieve this goal by convincing the greater Nicollet County population and citizens beyond county borders of the value and worthiness of our organization, its mission and services. It is only then that we can expect to see substantial gains in membership, annual giving and legacy gifting of estates, trusts, grants, etc. To this we must dedicate a substantial portion of our efforts in 2010 and future years.

NCHS possesses or manages 5 sites—the Treaty Site History Center, E. St. Julien Cox House, Harkin Store, Traverse des Sioux and Fort Ridgely - all ‘historic gems’. But, it is fitting that the cover photo for this annual report feature the Cox house.. For 2010 the Board has taken on the challenge of studying every facet of its operations to come up with a long range plan for maximizing the Cox Houses' potential.. Hopefully this effort will bear fruit for the 2011 year of operation.

Finally, please utilize the NCHS web site ([www.nchsmn.org](http://www.nchsmn.org)) throughout the year. It provides easy access to NCHS events, programs, research, membership, tours, newsletters, annual reports, services, etc.

Thanks to all members, staff and volunteers for your efforts and support of NCHS.

### Message from the Director, Ben Leonard

I would like to sincerely thank all of the individuals, organizations, and entities that have supported us over the years, especially over the last twelve months. It is extremely humbling to have so many good people believe in what we have done, what we can do, and how we do it. We will try to honor your gifts of financial support, time, experience, and participation in the coming year.



Evie Swenson, Julie Gilbert, and Arden DeBoer have been wonderful board members. We will miss their insight and thoughtfulness the third Tuesday of every month, but know we will continue our friendship. Thank you so much. This year marks a milestone for me personally. Evie is the last remaining board member who was serving when I was hired. I feel lucky to have spent almost six full years under her guidance. As we say goodbye to Evie, Julie, Arden, we will welcome three new members to our group of fifteen. I could not be happier with the board we have, and the contemplative monthly discussions.

Special thanks to Nicollet County, the City of St. Peter, Brighton and West Newton Township. It can’t be an easy decision to fund the Society in today’s economic climate. The fact that they do says a lot about their commitment to our shared heritage and quality of life. I can honestly say that I believe the Society is a better steward of taxpayer dollars today than we have ever been.

We are more financially accountable with solid record-keeping practices and an independently audited 2008 financial statement. Though we rely heavily on these dollars to operate, government allocations are a smaller percentage of our overall budget than they were 5 years ago. Local taxpayers fund the Society less than 75 cents for each person we serve. The Minnesota Historical Society costs state taxpayers more than \$3.50 since each. We will continue to find ways to most efficiently allocate our resources and more creative ways to generate revenue.

The past year we’ve done just that. We have leased an office at the Treaty Site History Center to the Minnesota Literacy Council. The partnership fits nicely into our mission and financially contributes to our bottom line. The Society is currently working on a curriculum partnership with the St. Peter School District. State standards based interactive lessons on Traverse des Sioux, the Treaty, and Fort Ridgely will be available to teachers and students through the internet.

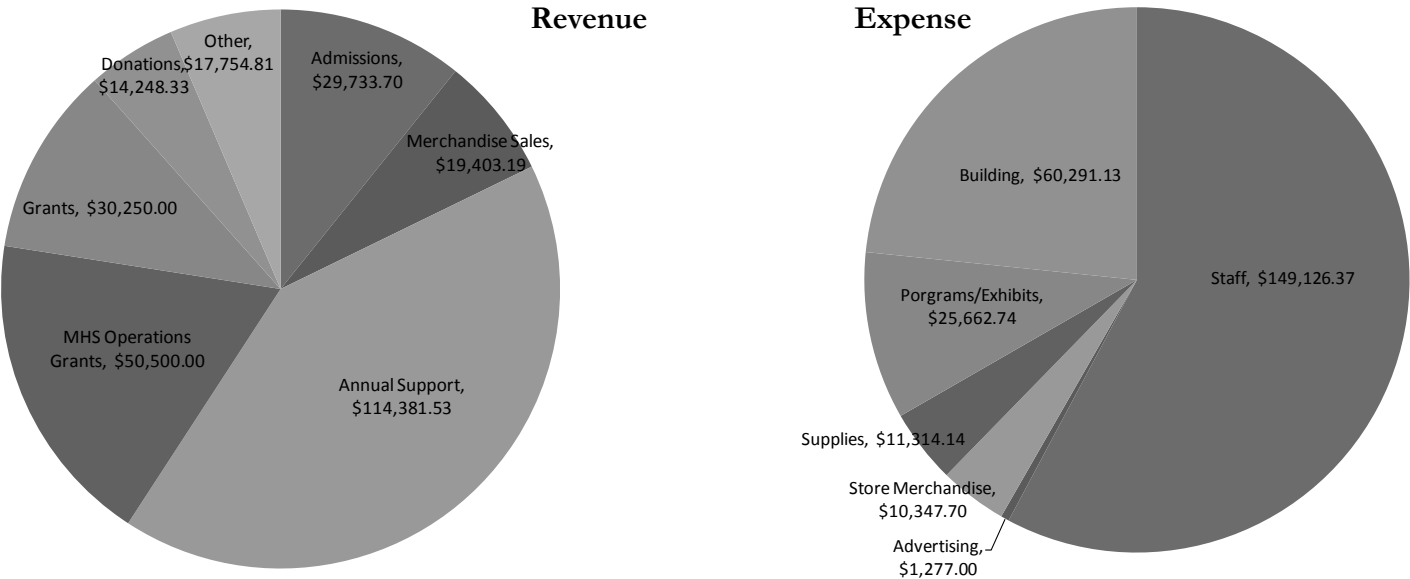
NCHS received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History in August for the Treaty Site History Center’s central exhibit renovation.

We continue to be blessed with wonderful volunteers. From the Cox House to the Archives, to Harkin Store, volunteers have helped us stretch a little an awfully long way. Heartfelt thanks to Society staff. They do amazing work and make it fun to come to work each and every day.

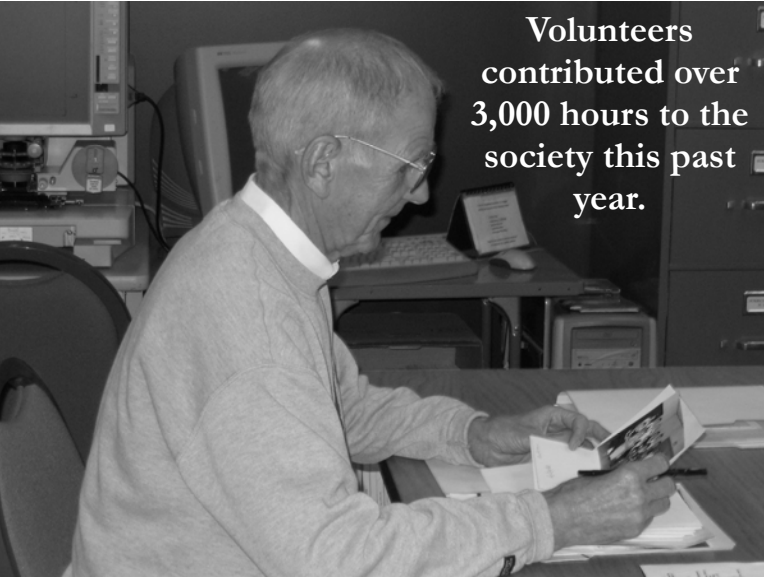
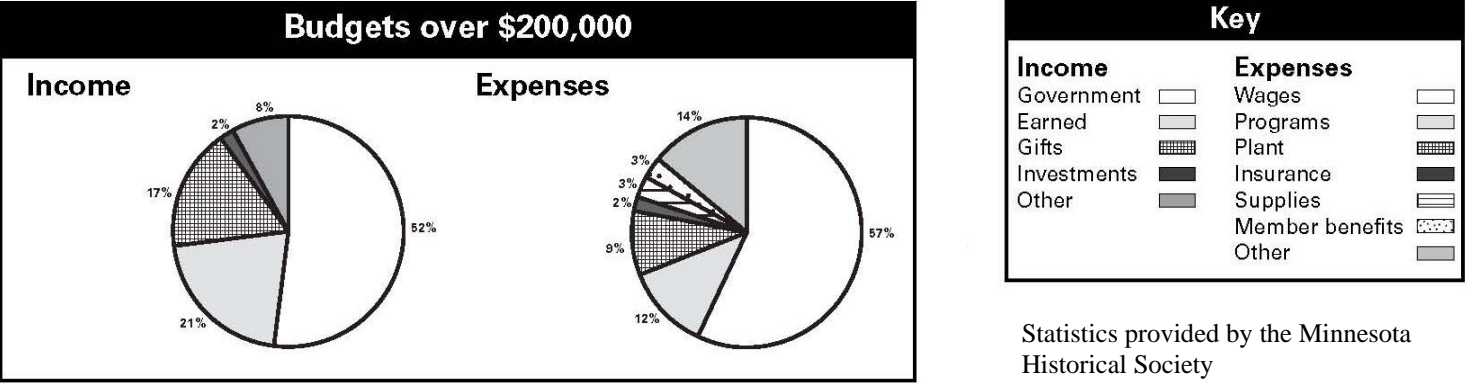
NCHS in 2009 At A Glance

The charts, graphs, and highlights found in our *At A Glance* sections provide quick access to society information. Reading further will provide additional details and information.

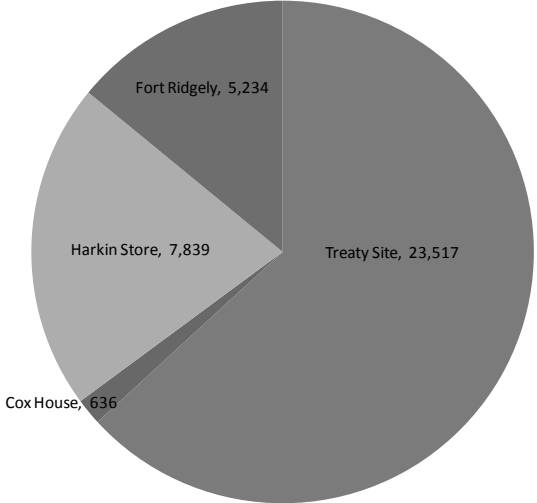
NCHS as a Whole in 2009



Average Minnesota County Historical Society Revenue and Expense in 2005 (last year available)



Volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours to the society this past year.



37,227 served by NCHS in 2009.

Support

The Society has received very generous support in 2009 from the county, individuals, organizations, and foundations. Support comes in many forms – monetary donations, volunteerism, grants, membership, and the very museum collections we rely on. To all of you who supported we offer our deepest thanks – we truly cannot do this without you.

Grants/Allocations

- Nicollet County  
City of St. Peter  
St. Peter Tourism and Visitors Bureau  
Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Community Alliance Pipeline,  
Minnesota Historical Society  
St. Peter Area United Way

Gifts

- 3M  
Lyle Gilbertson  
Malcolm MacKenzie  
Herb Poncin  
Sally Webster  
Emilie Lokensgard
- Neil Stevermer  
Marlin Peterson  
Bernard & Pamela Bidelman  
Doug & Judy Schultz  
Ellis & Janet Jones  
Kurt & Maren Leonard
- Elizabeth Russell  
Marlys McLean  
Maryann Zins  
Roland & Edi Thorstensson  
Ken & Patsy Rossow  
Fred & Judy Hanson

The Gift of Time

The board and staff of the society would like to thank the more than 100 volunteers who have contributed over 3,000 hours of time in 2009. Thank you!

- Treaty Site History Center: over 50 volunteers and over 2,000 hours

Harkin Store: 75 volunteers and 600 hours

Cox House: over 25 volunteers and 500 hours

2009 Collections Donors

- Doris M. Weber  
Robert J. Sandeen  
Martin Menk, Jr.  
LaVonne Craig  
Owen & Evie Swenson  
Ruth Klossner  
Ed Wetherill  
Roger Nelson  
Terry Goettl  
Marlin Peterson  
Ryan Wendelschefer  
Michael Frederick  
Myrna Schoeb  
Judith K. Kadidlo  
Karen Anderson  
Neal Browender  
Chris Harris  
Joann Gorman
- Carol Sterner  
Pell Johnson  
Denise Bartels  
Norseland 150th Anniversary Committee  
Margaret Anton Marschel  
Emilie Lokensgard  
George Glotzbach  
Marion Wardell  
Gerry (Reed) Hildebrandt  
Oren Quist  
Mary Fischer  
Fred Danner  
Lisa Bachman  
Barbara De Zuani  
Benton County Historical Society  
Lafayette Ledger
- John W. Quist  
J. Patsy Regan  
Marilyn Robertz  
Merrill Frydendall  
Richard E. Tostenson  
Janet Hoffmann  
St. Peter High School  
St. Peter Chamber of Commerce  
Keith Olmanson  
Mike Zins  
Elizabeth Koenig  
Norseland Lutheran Church  
Arthur W. Glass  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Judith Penhiter  
Gustavus Adolphus College Archives  
Marlin Peterson



including work being done at the Regional Treatment Center. LaVonne also announced the creation of the Ted Moline scholarship. Students in Nicollet County will be eligible to apply for a \$1,000 college scholarship; application for the scholarship will involve creating a history project that will be evaluated by a panel of judges at a spring event. Tickets will be sold to the event. That first scholarship competition will be this spring.

LaVonne encouraged members to recruit friends, family and acquaintances to become members of the Society.

VII. Committees

Committee membership is listed on page 7 of the 2008 Annual Report. Ben reported some of the highlights and program activities the committees achieved during the year. Members gave a round of applause for the committees.

VIII. Nominating Committee

The following people were nominated for a second Three-Year term on the Board:

Sujay Rao, Tory Nelson, Diane Stenson, and Herb Poncin.  
Motion to cast a unanimous ballot. M/S Helen Baumgartner/Jan Prehn. Motion carried.  
The following people were nominated to a first Three-Year term on the Board:

Lori Lahlum and Steve Baxa.  
Motion to cast a unanimous ballot. M/S Jim Stenson/Bev Wetherill. Motion carried.  
The following people were nominated to a one-year term on the Executive Committee:

President: Gary Schmidt  
Vice President: Julie Gilbert,  
Treasurer: Herb Poncin  
Secretary: Jeremy Freeman  
Historian: Evie Swenson  
Motion to cast a unanimous ballot. M/S Don Gustafson/Ed Wetherill. Motion carried.

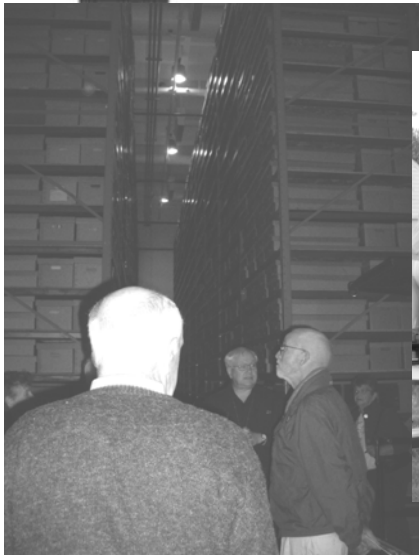
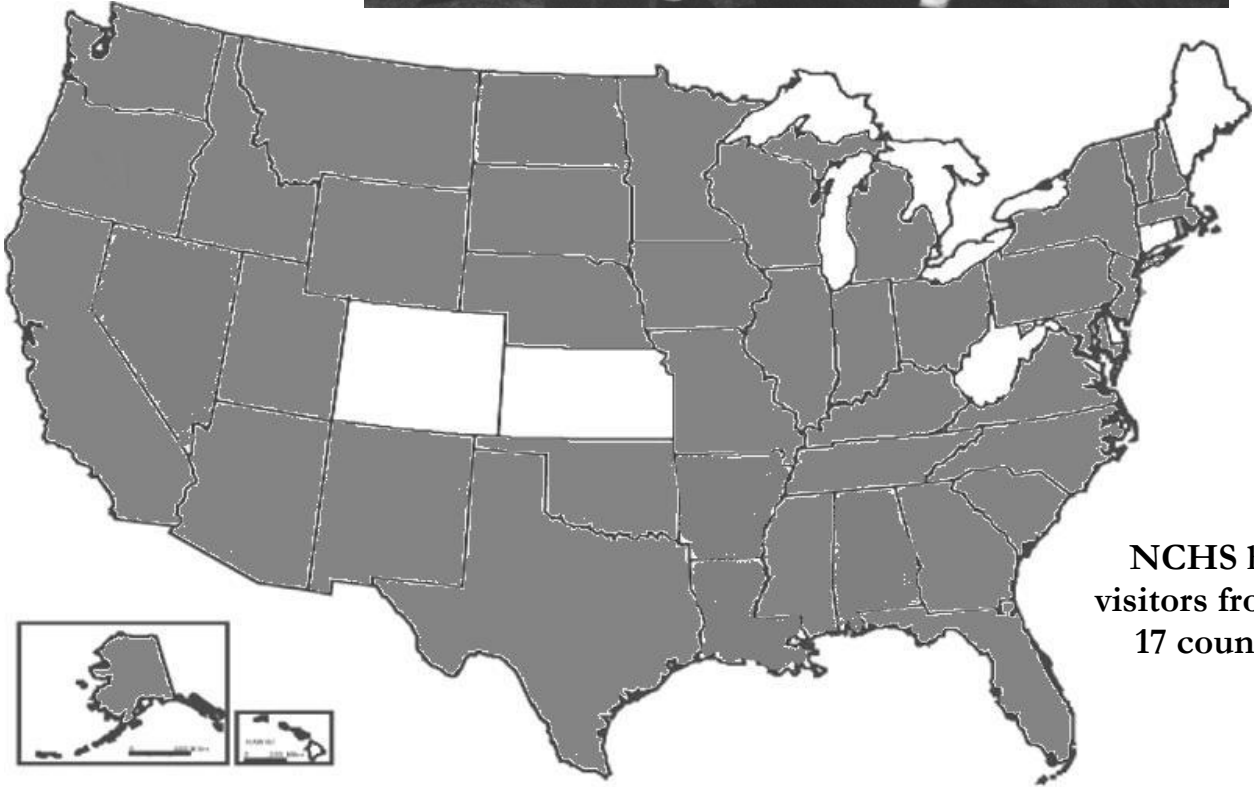
Newly-elected President Gary Schmidt thanked the membership, Board, staff and volunteers and stated that we will move forward this year to make the organization thrive and flourish. He echoed LaVonne Craig’s call to build membership.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm and followed by the program.

*Mankato Free Press* photographer John Cross and news reported Tim Krohn shared stories and images from their eleven day canoe trip down the Minnesota River.

Secretary,  
Julie Gilbert



The Society would like to thank its employees, board of directors, and committee members for working so hard to make the Nicollet County Historical Society one of the top institutions of its kind in Minnesota. That goal would be impossible without you.

Board of Directors

- Gary Schmidt**, North Mankato  
**President** (2nd term ending 2012)  
**Julie Gilbert**, St. Peter  
**Vice President** (1st term ending 2009)  
**Jeremy Freeman**, St. Peter  
**Secretary** (1st term ending 2010)  
**Herb Poncin**, Nicollet  
**Treasurer** (2nd term ending 2011)  
**Evie Swenson**, Nicollet  
**Historian** (2nd term ending 2009)

**Lafayette**  
**Arden DeBoer** (1st term ending 2009)  
**Nicollet**  
**Thorild Nelson** (1st term ending 2008)  
**North Mankato**  
**Chris Corley** (1st term ending 2010)  
**Lori Lahlum** (1st term ending 2011)  
**St. Peter**  
**Steve Baxa** (1st term ending 2011)  
**Emilie Lokensgard** (1st term ending 2010)  
**Sujay Rao** (1st term ending 2008)  
**Tammy Skinner** (1st term ending 2010)  
**Diane Stenson** (1st term ending 2008)
- Bernadotte Township**  
**Sally Webster** (1st term ending 2010)

Staff

- Ben Leonard**  
***Executive Director***  
ben@nchsmn.org  
**Bob Sandeen**  
***Research Coordinator***  
bob@nchsmn.org  
**Jessica Brockberg**  
***Office Manager***  
jessica@nchsmn.org  
**Allen McBride, Hannah Skinner, Jessica Becker**  
***Museum Assistant***  
**Amy Jahnke**  
***Intern***  
**Wayne Passon**  
***Maintenance Coordinator***

**Maggie Gleason**  
***Cox House Intern***  
cox@nchsmn.org  
**Ruth Grewe**  
***Harkin Store Site Manager***  
harkin@nchsmn.org  
**Ross Gersten**  
***Harkin Store Assistant Site Manager***  
**Ann Koch**  
***Harkin Store Site Guide***  
**Nancy Zempel**  
***Fort Ridgely Site Manager***  
ridgely@nchsmn.org  
**Dorothy Polesky, Ashley Hamre, Char Nack, Melinda Sommer, John Taylor**  
***Fort Ridgely Site Guides***

NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
Sunday, January 18, 2009

- The Nicollet County Historical Society membership convened for its annual meeting at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 1 pm.
- President LaVonne Craig welcomed the group and called Herb Poncin for the Invocation. Members then enjoyed a delicious meal served by the Gustavus dining staff.
- I. Call to Order
- President LaVonne Craig called the annual business meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The President thanked the dining service staff for their work.
- II. Board and Staff Introductions
- President Craig invited Executive Director Ben Leonard to introduce the staff and Board of Directors. Ben thanked President Craig and Board member Ed Wetherill, both outgoing, for their years of service to the Board.
- III. Secretary’s Report
- The 2008 annual meeting minutes were presented as printed on pages 15 & 16 of the 2008 Annual Report. There being no additions or corrections, the President called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. M/S Don Gustafson/Marilyn Roberts. Motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report
- Treasurer Herb Poncin reported on the water problems that plagued the Treaty Site this year. Repairs to the building cost \$17,000. The Society borrowed money to pay for the repairs, using a \$25,000 CD at First National Bank as collateral. Another CD maturing in the fall was intended to pay off the loan but the Society cold only pay off \$10,000 on the loan and extend \$15,000 for the following year.
- The Endowment Fund is down approximately \$58,000 from last year and currently is at \$100,000. Herb reported that we do not want it to get any lower. Staff have streamlined operations as much as possible, including involving current staff in doing more of the financial and building maintenance work, which will help keep costs down.
- A motion was called to accept the Treasurer’s Report. M/S Evie Swenson/Diane Stenson. Motion carried.
- V. Director’s Report
- Executive Director Ben Leonard directed everyone’s attention to the financial data presented in the 2008 Annual Report for a more detailed look at the Society’s finances.
- Ben thanked the staff and Board for their work.
- Ben reviewed the Director’s Report on page 3 of the 2008 Annual Report. Highlights include the renovation of the main gallery, renovations at Harkin and the planned construction of new trails at Fort Ridgely, slated to begin this spring. Ten thousand photographs are searchable on the NCHS website and many images are also available at the Minnesota Digital Reflections website as well, meaning the Society is serving people online as well as in person.
- VI. President’s Report
- President LaVonne Craig highlighted many of the activities related to local history occurring in the area,

Income		Expenses	
NCHS as a Whole, 2009		NCHS as a Whole, 2009	
Admissions	\$ 29,733.70	Staff	\$ 149,126.37
Merchandise Sales	\$ 19,403.19	Advertising	\$ 1,277.00
Annual Support	\$ 114,381.53	Store Merchandise	\$ 10,347.70
MHS Operations Grants	\$ 50,500.00	Supplies	\$ 11,314.14
Grants	\$ 30,250.00	Programs/Exhibits	\$ 25,662.74
Donations	\$ 14,248.33	Building	\$ 60,291.13
Other	\$ 17,754.81		
	\$ 276,271.56		\$ 258,019.08
Treaty Site, 2009		Treaty Site, 2009	
Admissions	\$ 10,562.83	Staff	\$ 110,585.34
Merchandise Sales	\$ 4,431.50	Advertising	\$ 1,103.61
Donations	\$ 1,634.68	Store Merchandise	\$ 1,736.24
Grants	\$ 4,687.50	Supplies	\$ 1,692.44
Other	\$ 7,087.67	Program/Exhibits	\$ 21,558.79
	\$ 28,404.18	Building	\$ 42,481.86
			\$ 179,158.28
Harkin, 2009		Harkin, 2009	
Admissions	\$ 12,891.00	Staff	\$ 22,535.93
Merchandise Sales	\$ 10,091.83	Advertising	\$ -
Donations	\$ 1,229.00	Store Merchandise	\$ 5,024.66
MHS Operations Grant	\$ 16,500.00	Supplies	\$ 429.64
Other	\$ 1.80	Programs	\$ 916.76
	\$ 40,713.63	Building	\$ 2,163.92
			\$ 31,070.91
Cox House, 2009		Cox House, 2009	
Admissions	\$ 736.01	Staff	\$ 106.15
Merchandise Sales	\$ -	Advertising	\$ 173.39
Donations	\$ 2,026.60	Store Merchandise	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	Supplies	\$ 166.44
Other	\$ -	Programs	\$ 157.40
	\$ 2,762.61	Building	\$ 5,858.65
			\$ 6,462.03
Fort Ridgely, 2009		Fort Ridgely, 2009	
Admissions	\$ 3,839.00	Staff	\$ 13,193.28
Merchandise Sales	\$ 4,879.86	Advertising	\$ -
Donations	\$ 102.30	Store Merchandise	\$ 3,133.10
MHS Operations Grant	\$ 30,000.00	Supplies	\$ 141.68
Other	\$ -	Programs	\$ 576.28
	\$ 38,821.16	Building	\$ 9,741.70
			\$ 26,786.04

Committees			
<u>Executive Committee</u>		<u>Exhibits Committee</u>	
Gary Schmidt	Evie Swenson	Eileen Holz	Judy Scholl
Herb Poncin	Julie Gilbert	Bob Sandeen (Collections Manager)	
Jeremy Freeman		Ben Leonard (Director)	
		Jessica Hollerich (Office Manager)	
<u>Archives/Collections</u>		<u>Mariah's Garden Club</u>	
Arlyce Bussman	Barb Olmanson	Mary Everett	Barb Olmanson
Edi Thorstensson	Jeff Jenson	Marilyn Robertz	Susan Stenson
Julie Gilbert	Sujay Rao	Bev Wetherill	Marlys Burch
Bob Sandeen (Collections Manager)		Jennifer Baxa	Stan Linquist
<u>E. St. Julien Cox House</u>		Don Olmanson	Ed Wetherill
Jan Hoffman	Ed Wetherill (Chair)	VIP (Volunteers)	
ReVae Nygard	Bev Wetherill		
Barb Olmanson	Judy Scholl		
Marilyn Robertz	Susan Stenson		
Jennifer Baxa	Steve Baxa		
<u>Program Committee</u>		<u>Quilters</u>	
Tami Skinner	Diane Stenson	Janet Hoffmann	Leona Isenberg
Chris Corley	Emilie Lokensgard	Marolyn Klienert	Dorothy Schultz
Sally Webster		Bev Wetherill	Ruth Adams
Ben Leonard (Director)		Janet Boise	Joann Pedersen
Jessica Hollerich (Office Manager)		Dorothy Paulson	
<u>Log Cabin</u>		<u>Nominating Committee</u>	
Garfield Eckberg	Mel Craig	Garfield Eckberg	LaVonne Craig
Ed Wetherill	Herb Poncin	Gary Schmidt	
Loren Lindsay	Tory Nelson		
Dale Mowbray	Bob Douglas		
<u>Building &amp; Grounds</u>		<u>Membership Committee</u>	
Herb Poncin (Chair)	Mel Craig	Garfield Eckberg	LaVonne Craig
Ron Goodrich	Tory Nelson	Gary Schmidt	Arden DeBoer
Dale Haack			



# Treaty Site History Center

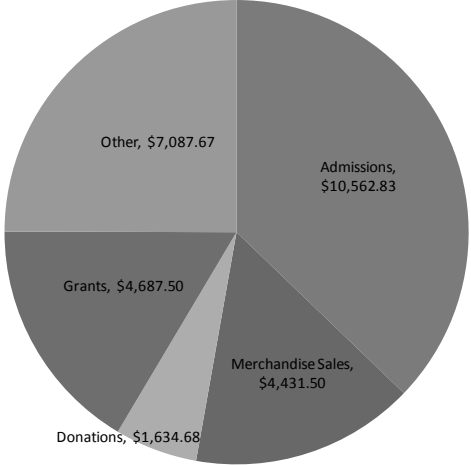
1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082  
(507) 934-2160 \* FAX (507) 934-0172  
museum@nchsmn.org

Hours: Tues. - Sat. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

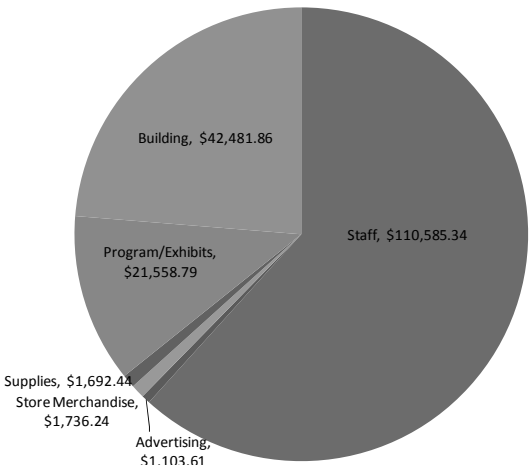
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Archives: Tues. - Fri. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Revenue



Expense



The Society proudly accepted a national Award of Merit from the Association for State and Local History for the Central Exhibit renovation project. We also acquired the “Territories” exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society and installed it in the north gallery. Plans continue for biking and walking trails, as well as a city dog park, adjacent to the building and state historic site.

Legacy Funds through the recently passed constitutional amendment are now available. We hope they will bring NCHS more resources for staff, visitors, and researchers. The Treaty Site History Center has really transformed itself over the last few years. New exhibits, archival resources, better meeting spaces, different merchandising, and outdoor opportunities have made it a regional destination. NCHS is dedicated to work equally hard over the next few years to engage more St. Peter residents and visitors. Diverse programs, partnerships, and publicity are a few of the things that will help us get there with your continued support. Thank you.

# Financials

## NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2009

	Dec 31, 09
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · CHECKING - GENERAL	6,025.17
101 · PETTY CASH - RIDGELY	81.02
102 · CHECKING - HARKIN STORE	509.81
103 · PETTY CASH	0.32
105 · CHECKING - RIDGELY	3.64
107 · MONEY MARKET - EDWARD JONES	27,500.10
108 · INVESTMENTS	
109 · CASH - CD- PROGROWTH BANK	20,000.00
111 · CASH - CD - FIRST NATIONAL	25,000.00
112 · CASH - INVEST - MAIRS AND POWER	45,405.29
114 · CASH - CD - EDWARD JONES	719.52
Total 108 · INVESTMENTS	91,124.81
Total Checking/Savings	125,244.87
Other Current Assets	
130 · MERCHANDISE INVENTORY	7,749.17
132 · MERCH INV. - DONATED	2,500.00
134 · MERCHANDISE INV. - HARKIN	2,095.31
136 · MERCHANDISE INV. - RIDGELY	5,315.24
Total Other Current Assets	17,659.72
Total Current Assets	142,904.59
Fixed Assets	
200 · BUILDING & IMPROVEMENTS	1,950,303.00
202 · OFFICE EQUIP & FURN.	46,747.62
220 · ACCUM. DEP. - BUILDING	-668,019.55
Total Fixed Assets	1,329,031.07
TOTAL ASSETS	1,471,935.66
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
300 · ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	4,136.26
Total Accounts Payable	4,136.26
Other Current Liabilities	
305 · PAYROLL TAXES - FWH & FICA	-0.08
318 · SALES TAX PAYABLE	146.85
362 · SHORT TERM LOAN FROM FNB 2008	5,930.15
Total Other Current Liabilities	6,076.92
Total Current Liabilities	10,213.18
Total Liabilities	10,213.18
Equity	
390 · UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	1,481,018.47
395 · RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	18,032.31
399 · RETAINED EARNINGS	-53,461.94
Net Income	16,133.64
Total Equity	1,461,722.48
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,471,935.66





# Committee Reports

## Mariah's Garden Club by Barb Olmanson

This group continued to meet on Thursday mornings. They are in the process of putting in a new flower bed to replace an old bed that became too shady for the plants that were there. Children from the VIP (Volunteers in Park) were a big help. They came an hour on Thursday mornings and worked hard during that hour. Volunteers are always welcome.

## Nicollet County Historical Society Quilters by Bev Wetherill

The Nicollet County Historical Society Quilters completed one major quilt project in the spring of 2009, having worked on the assembly and quilting beginning in the Fall of 2008. Beth Daas, granddaughter of Alice Hinnenthal, a former quilter, was pleased to hang a king size quilt in her home representing the needlework skills of family and friends in the form of exotic birds.

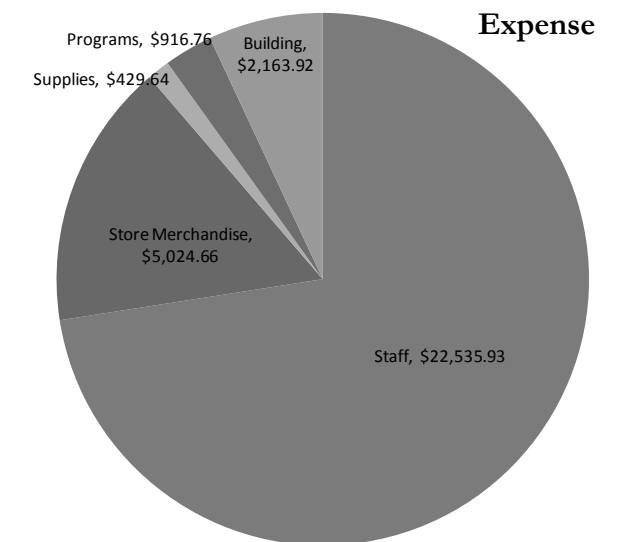
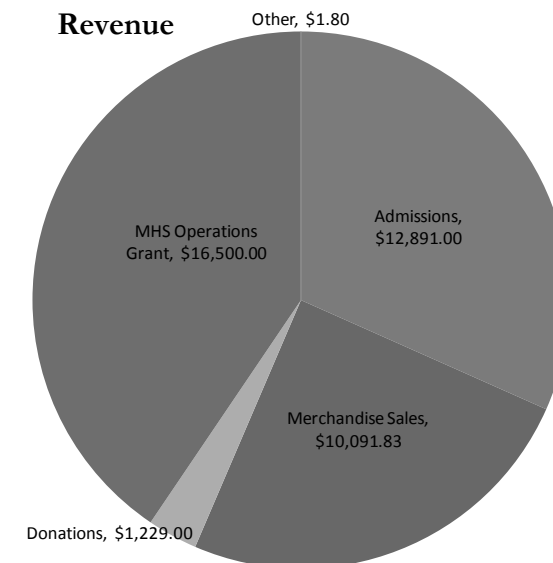
In addition, the Hearts and Flowers Quilt completed in 2008 sold to Malcolm McKenzie in May of 2009. The contributions for 2009 total \$880, bringing the all-time total to \$6,850.

We do not presently have a quilt project and are meeting monthly to complete small projects to sell in the museum shop or Harkin Store. If you have a quilt top to be hand quilted, please contact us through Jessica Brockberg at the museum.



## Harkin Store

### At a Glance



Our year at the Harkin Store was very good. The weather was great on almost every Sunday for our programs. We have special programs for ladies and for men and for children along with varied interests as well. Music is very popular and also is diverse. We try to repeat some of the most popular programs but we also try different ideas.

The gift shop is also a popular place to stop after visiting the store. We have area artists and consigners put there goods in and they have been selling very well. The shop carries a large variety of items, souvenirs, books on history, rivers, and nature and lots of children's items. Some of our visitors even start their Christmas shopping early.

If you haven't been one of the 7,802 visitors from 41 states or 17 countries in 2009, please try to make a stop at the store for a visit. We will be glad to give you a tour and tell you about the store.

If you have an old type of talent that would be of interest to others or would like to volunteer at the store, please let me know.

Ruth Grewe, Harkin Store Site Manager

PO Box 112, New Ulm, MN 56073  
8 miles northwest of New Ulm on Co. Hwy. 21  
(507) 354-8666  
harkin@nchsmn.org

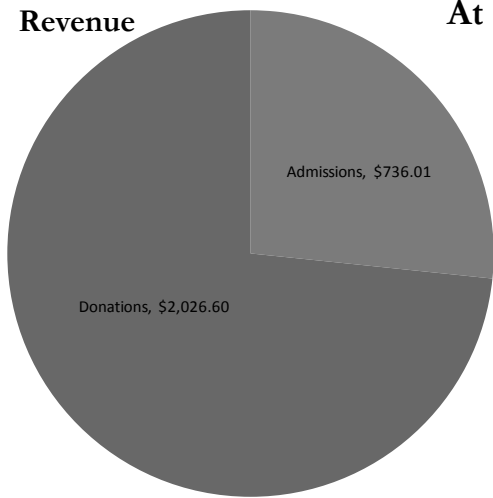
Hours: May and September  
Sat. & Sun. 10:00 am - 5:00pm  
June - August  
Tues. - Sun. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



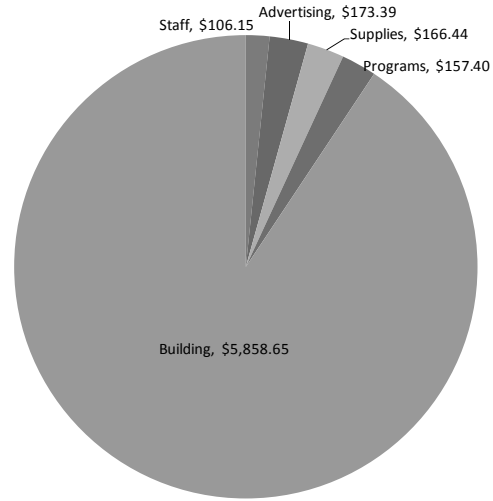


E. St. Julien Cox House

At a Glance



Expense



The Cox House committee started the year without a site manager. In March, we welcomed 3 new members to our committee-Susan Stenson, Jennifer Baxa, and Steve Baxa. Steve agreed to be our board liaison.

In April the board cut back the open hours to Friday-Sundays, 1:00-4:00 only. Admission charge was raised to \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 7-17 years old, and younger children free. An intern, Maggie Gleason was hired for site manager.

Maggie Gleason started her internship on May 23rd and ended it at the end of July. Jessica Becker manned the house until the end of August. The committee had hoped to have a manager on hand to help with the plant sale, planning programming and the Christmas open house. The committee prepared the house for the opening. Ben hired a cleaning lady to do the heavy work.

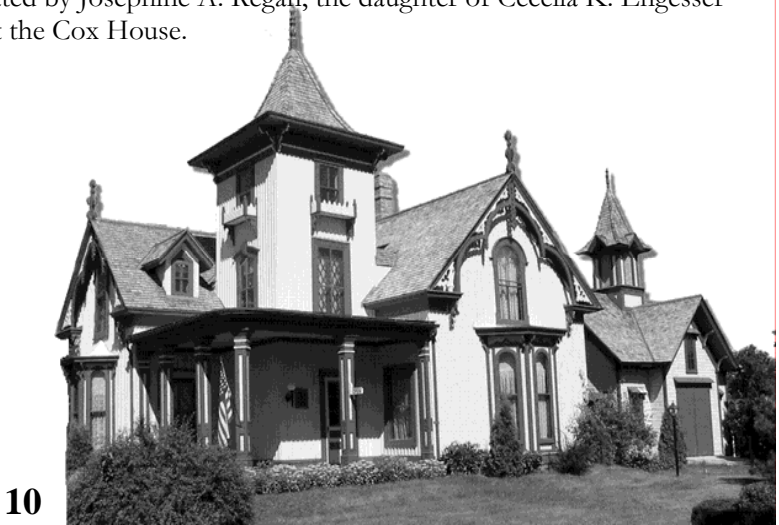
Events: May 16th: Annual Heritage Plant Sale. 8:30-2:00 pm on the Cox House lawn. We took in a total of \$1,595. We had about 30 plant donors and 30 volunteers. May 23rd-25th: A display of fans and house tours. Opening weekend. May 25th: A program about fans arranged by Ben Leonard. Low attendance. Guests were welcomed by Maggie Gleason. Fans were important during the Victorian era because dining was often done at long tables where it was hard to carry on a conversation and guests could communicate with the language of fans. June 20th: An Afternoon of Parlour Music at the E. St. Julien Cox House. Marilyn Robertz did an excellent job planning and carrying out this wonderful program. About 25 guests and the performers all enjoyed the Victorian style music and most participated in a sing-a-long. Cookies and lemonade were served in the garden. June 28th: American Girl Tea Party. Maggie Gleason planned and carried out this very special event. About 25 guests attended. The girls brought their own American Girl Dolls to the tea party. Fancy tea food was served and appropriate items were added to the Victorian décor. Maggie is an excellent hostess. Sept. 4th-6th: Cox House Yard Sale. This was an antique & miscellaneous yard sale located on the lawn of the Cox House. This was a joint event with local antique dealers, private dealers, and the Cox House Committee. The house was open for tours. The Cox House took in \$533.35. This money will go toward the Cox House gardens and house. Dec. 5th & 6th, Dec. 12th & 13th: A Victorian Christmas at the Cox House, an annual event. This year the Questers chose the theme of “Doll Houses.” Seven different styles of houses were on display. Total attendance was 238 people for the two weekends, 243 children and chaperons for the school tours, and a family tour for 12 people made the total attendance 493 people. Total revenues was \$414. Members and school children were free. 21 volunteers served as hosts and 20 musicians provided the music for the two weekends. This was a very successful and enjoyable event.

**Acquisitions:** A painting of the Cox House was donated to the Nicollet County Historical Society for use at the Cox House by the father of Jenny Powers. Jenny is the great, great granddaughter of Judge Cox. It was painted in 1970 by Lillian Gault’s daughter (Jenny’s aunt). It is an example of folk art and shows where the carriage house was originally standing and the later screen porch. It is now displayed at the Cox House. A unique 1860 rocking chair was donated by Josephine A. Regan, the daughter of Cecelia K. Engesser Fay and granddaughter of Joseph Engesser. The chair is on display at the Cox House.

Barb Olmanson, Secretary for the Cox House Committee

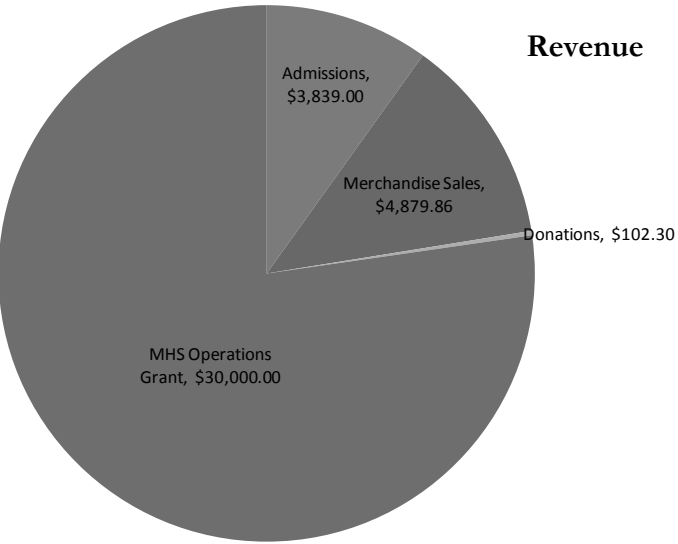
500 N. Washington Avenue, St. Peter, MN  
56082  
(507) 934-4309  
cox@nchsmn.org

Hours: June - August  
Thurs. - Sat. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Fort Ridgely

72404 County Road 30, Fairfax, MN 55332  
(507) 426-7888  
ridgely@nchsmn.org



The staff at Fort Ridgely Historic Site sends you warm winter greetings. During the season when the staff is at the commissary, we will comment on how did the soldiers and their families survive on the MN prairie? For soldiers and other residents that lived at the military post we think of how they had to endure the summer months with the heat and bugs or in the winter with the snow and bitter winds. As staff on a one to one basis or to visiting groups, we try to share what life would have been like during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century at a remote military fort. To enhance and help boost our attendance, we have independent vendors share history or nature related programs at the site.

In 2009 the Military Encampment and Roger Breckenridge in June, and Gary Revier in August shared their knowledge of military life for soldiers during the era that Fort Ridgely would have been an active site. The kite fly during the Military Encampment was a crowd pleaser and is always wonderful to see the huge kites dance and bend above the Fort Ridgely parade ground.

The Y.E.S. (Youth Entertainment Saturday) was a staff developed program for the Labor Day weekend. The activities were geared for youth but adults were good sports and also participated. Visitors made fresh butter, made pressed flower bookmarks and tried their hand at some old-fashioned games. The activities will be incorporated as part of the 2010 season on a regular basis.

Ron Bouldan and Roger Breckenridge have agreed to return to the commissary to share new programs with visitors at the site. Ron will join us on June 6, 2010 for Open House Sunday and Roger’s date is yet to be announced.

To help save budget money, the Military Encampment weekend has been cancelled for the 2010 season. Hopefully it will be reinstated in the future.

As always the Fort Ridgely staff send you an invitation to visit our site and take a cruise along the MN Scenic Byway to Fort Ridgely Park and Historic Site. Bring a picnic meal-golf clubs, hiking boots or enjoy a slice of MN history in your own backyard.

Nancy Zempel, Fort Ridgely Historic Site Manager

