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#### The First Professional Historians at MNHS

WILLIAM CONVERY

Director of research and a MacMillan Fellow for Strategic Initiatives at MNHS, William Convery traces the history of research at the MNHS through the careers of three professional historians employed by the Society: Solon J. Buck, Grace Lee Nute, and Theodore C. Blegen.

### An Invitation

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#### Presenting 25 Objects that Speak to 175 Years of MNHS History

CECILY MARCUS

For this 175th anniversary milestone, five of MNHS's curators took up an impossible challenge: Choose five objects that reflect the breadth, depth, diversity, and surprise of Minnesota history and all of its people from MNHS's collections of more than one million books, artifacts, images, and objects. Director of collections Cecily Marcus describes the challenge.



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# CONTRIBUTORS

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**Jennifer Huebscher** is the curator of photography and moving images at the Minnesota Historical Society and has worked extensively with the sound and visual collections at MNHS since 2008. She holds a BA from St. Olaf College and an MLIS from Dominican University.

**Angelica J. Maier**, curator of 3D objects at MNHS, believes in the power of objects to spark curiosity and foster connection to the past, present, and future. She has published in *Archives of American Art Journal* and *Humanities*.

**Cecily Marcus**, director of collections, has been at MNHS since 2021, following twelve years as a curator at the University of Minnesota Libraries Archives and Special Collections. She holds a BA from Cornell University and a PhD in cultural studies and comparative literature from the University of Minnesota.

**Katy J. Mollerud** is a Midwest archaeologist and curator of archaeology at the Minnesota Historical Society. She holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

**David Stevens** has been interpreting history at MNHS sites and museums for 28 years. He joined Mill City Museum as program specialist in 2001, helping to launch the museum in 2003. He has been site manager there since 2017.

**Spencer Wigmore, PhD**, is curator of fine art collections at the MNHS. Before MNHS, he was an associate curator at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. A graduate of Carleton College, Wigmore earned his doctorate in art history at the University of Delaware.

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KENT WHITWORTH

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KATY J. MOLLERUD

A spotlight on the St. Croix Dentate Stamped ceramic vessel, one of the most significant artifacts in the MNHS archaeology collections.

**LandMark** 132  
DAVID STEVENS

Rescued from ruin in the aftermath of a fire in 1991, the Washburn–Crosby A Mill was opened as Mill City Museum in 2003.

**Preserving, Sharing, Connecting**  
(INSIDE BACK COVER)

Tom H. Swain, age 103, has been a member of the MNHS for 68 years and has supported or been involved with the Society for over one-third of the organization's history.



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### About the cover

Selections from 25 objects chosen to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Minnesota Historical Society. Images clockwise from top left: Fragment of Minnesota First Volunteer Regiment Battle Flag; Letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald to the St. Paul Public Library; Butter-Carton Dress Worn at the Minnesota State Fair; First African American Troops to Leave St. Paul in World War I. (MNHS COLLECTIONS)

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