



NEWS AND NOTES

■ This past summer, to celebrate our 175th anniversary, we held a statewide History Hunt featuring a list of 175 tasks located all across the state. Participants explored our state's history from Grand Portage to Lake Benton and everywhere in between, taking photos with road-side statues, visiting MNHS sites, and answering trivia questions connected to MNopedia articles. While hundreds of people took part, 13 participants completed all 175 tasks—an impressive feat! Congratulations!

- Julie Bates (Metro)
- Joy Decker (Howard Lake)
- Maddie Dowdell & Starr Kerr (Litchfield)
- Trudy Gunderson (Eden Prairie)
- Laura Jensen (St. Louis Park)
- Jennifer Manion (Isanti)
- Bonnie Olmanson (St. Cloud)
- Sandra Oprenchak (Plymouth)
- Janelle, Troy, and Hayley Payment (Princeton)
- Brigid Sandager (Scandia)
- George Wahl (Lakeville)

■ The cake has been cut and a round of “Happy Birthday” sung to mark the Minnesota Historical Society’s 175th birthday.

The 175th Annual Meeting was held Tuesday (November 12). Hundreds of attendees packed into the Minnesota History Center and more watched virtually, a stark difference from the first annual meeting held on New Year’s Day in 1850 with fewer than 100 members.

The evening began with the business meeting, in which Executive Council President Judge Peter M. Reyes Jr. shared examples of the MNHS strategic plan in action over the past year, and Kent Whitworth shared upcoming initiatives that align with our mission.



Solon J. Buck Award winner Drew Ross (left) and Theodore C. Blegen Award winner Abigail Venuso pose with their awards at the MNHS Annual Meeting. (PHOTO BY LAUREN B. PHOTOGRAPHY)

The Solon J. Buck Award, which is presented to the best article in Minnesota History magazine from 2023, was awarded to Drew Ross, for his article, “White Supremacy on Parade: The Fight to Stop The Birth of a Nation in the Twin Cities.” And the Theodore C. Blegen Award, which goes to the best Minnesota History article written by a staff member, went to Abigail Venuso for her article, “A New Exhibit Expands the Stories at Split Rock Lighthouse.”

Six people were elected to a first three-year term on the MNHS Executive Council:


- Jesse Bethke Gomez
- Dustin B. Heckman
- Bridget A. Larson-Lindner

- John Pacheco Jr.
- Daniel W. Shogren
- Dr. Kyle R. Ward

Three individuals were elected to life-long terms on the Honorary Council:

- Phyllis Goff
- Barbara Sommer
- Bill Stoeri

The program portion of the annual meeting provided a high-level overview of the Minnesota Historical Society’s 175 years by focusing on the people, places, and things in our history. Many colleagues from across the organization contributed to make this a memorable evening for our members, donors, and other guests.

 **Contact us** Comments, questions about Minnesota History? Send them to 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906 or mnhistmag@mnhs.org. We’d love to hear from you! Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



LOOKING BACK

From the article archives of *Minnesota History*



1924 • 100 Years Ago

Such are some of the available sources of Red River History, nearly all in manuscript form. You who are proud of this unique history will do well to preserve its sources—by presenting to your local or state historical society any diaries, letters, account books, or other manuscripts which relate in any way to the region. It is from such documents that authoritative history is made. Few regions in America have a more interesting or picturesque history and few offer more possibilities for the discovery of manuscripts that will open up wholly new chapters of history. —Grace Lee Nute, “Red River Valley History,” Vol. 5, No. 8, Winter 1924, p. 572.

1949 • 75 Years Ago

When men and women of good will are gathered hereabouts to celebrate the one-thousandth anniversary of the Minnesota Historical Society, they will still be trying to solve the basic problem I have been talking about. But they will have new tools and techniques and will be meeting their problems on higher planes. —Laurence M. Gould, “Minnesota Today and Tomorrow,” Vol. 30, No. 4, Winter 1949, pp. 341–342.

1974 • 50 Years Ago

Pioneer organist Alfred M. Shuey, who became one of Minnesota’s most prominent musicians and the writer of over fifty pieces of more serious music, made his debut during this decade with the “Minne-ha-ha Falls Waltz” (1870). Critic John K. Sherman called it one of his “youthful indiscretions”. —James Taylor Dunn, “A Century of Song: Popular Music in Minnesota,” Vol. 44, No. 4, Winter 1974, p. 126.

1999 • 25 Years Ago

Most Minnesotans also own seasonal play shoes: ski boots (cross country or downhill or both) and, increasingly, in-line skates. If Sarah Christie Stevens ice skated or skied or roller-skated, she attached runners or blades or wheels to her boots. If we’re lucky, our ice skates are made by Reidell, the specialists just across the street from Red Wing Shoes, and our in-line skates by Rollerblade—the brand name—in Minneapolis. —Annette Atkins, “Walk a Century in My Shoes: Minnesota 1900–2000,” Vol. 56, No. 8, Winter 1999, p. 426.

Find these and all articles published in *Minnesota History* since 1915 at mnhs.org/mnhistory.



NEW PODCAST

MINNESOTA UNRAVELED



PULLING ON THE THREADS OF MINNESOTA HISTORY

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Minnesota Unraveled pulls on the threads of the past to reveal new perspectives and expand our knowledge of the history we share. Host Dr. Chantel Rodríguez and her guests invite listeners to think like historians and recognize that learning about other people’s lives in the past can be a powerful way to reveal our place in the present.

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