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INSIDE

Expanded conservation outreach . . . 2
Four new books 4, 5
Humanities Commission grants . . . 6

New Exhibit Focuses on Scott County "Citizen Soldier" Veterans

Veterans from the Civil War era to the present peace-keeping operations in Bosnia are represented in the new exhibit at the Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), *A Call to Arms: Honoring the Veterans of Scott County*. The exhibit opened on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 1999, recalling the words of the Congressional resolution of June 4, 1926, that authorized the event: "...it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date [11th of November 1918] should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding." Armistice Day, as it was originally called, was made a legal holiday in 1938, and in 1954 was made inclusive of veterans of all wars.

Veterans and their families donated and loaned letters, documents, photographs, uniforms and other memorabilia to SCHS for the exhibit, which will be on display at least through December 2000. The opening on Nov. 11 drew more than 60 people.

Cori Wegener, SCHS curator of collections and herself a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, organized the exhibit. She contacted veterans and their families, attended garage sales and sought and



Courtesy Scott County Historical Society

Pictured is a section of the Scott County Historical Society exhibit, A Call to Arms: Honoring the Veterans of Scott County. From left to right, these three displays address the Korean War, World War II and World War I. Note the continuity among poster styles.

received help from the Scott County Veterans Services Office. She also compiled a list of Scott County soldiers killed in action over the past 140 years; the list is on display in the exhibit.

A complete, very rare World War I uniform, including cap, jacket, pants and gas mask, was donated to SCHS for the exhibit by the daughter of Arthur Roehl, who was 24 years old when he served in Europe with the American Expeditionary Forces. The World War II uniforms of Earl Dols of Shakopee, who fought in North Africa and France, and of Gene Schmidt, who fought with the Marines in the Pacific, are on display. Schmidt took remarkable combat photographs of troops dug in on the beach of Peleliu, which was a particularly hard-fought battle in the South Pacific; some of the photographs are included in the exhibit.

Financial support for the exhibit was provided by the Shakopee American Legion, the Shakopee Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Belle Plaine American Legion and the Belle Plaine Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For further information, contact SCHS, 235 S. Fuller St., Shakopee, MN 55379; call 612/445-0378, fax 612/445-4154 or e-mail histor@co.scott.mn.us.

Mark Your Calendar: Field Workshops in 2000

Four workshops for members and staff of county and local historical societies around the state will be conducted this spring. They will address topics such as making exhibit mounts, the legal status of 501 (c) 3 organizations, using the World Wide Web to advantage, how to work with the media, and planning for long-range giving. A flyer inserted in this issue gives further details and a registration form..

The places and dates are:

Pipestone	March 31	Moorhead	April 28
Winona	May 4	Cloquet	May 19



Neilson Grant Enables Additional Conservation Outreach to Northwestern Minnesota

The Conservation Outreach Program of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) was created in 1998 to provide assistance to individuals and staff of cultural institutions throughout Minnesota in the preservation of artifacts, books, documents and other items of material culture. A \$50,000 grant to MHS from the George W. Neilson Foundation will enable this conservation program to expand and intensify its services in northwestern Minnesota during the next few years.

Robert Herskovitz, chief conservator for MHS, said, "I am delighted MHS received this grant from the Neilson Foundation. It provides much-needed financial resources that will enable MHS to assist more institutions and members of the public in the northwest portion of Minnesota with preservation of their family treasures and collections. This is a very exciting program; I have already scheduled the first series of workshops for this coming April."

For the purposes of this grant, northwestern Minnesota is roughly defined as the area within a line drawn from Breckenridge east to Brainerd and then north to International Falls. Approximately 70 historical societies, museums, libraries and archives are located in the 20 counties in this area, and traveling long distances and over-night stays are burdensome to residents of this region. The grant support will enable the outreach program to minimize participants' travel by delivering each of its programs at more than one location.

The topics to be selected will be chosen for their broad interest and application both to the public and institutional staff members. Offerings will be guided by priorities identified in a survey of cultural institutions in Minnesota that the outreach program conducted in 1998 and by suggestions from the public.

A preliminary list of topics includes:

- preserving your family treasures;

- care and preservation of photographs, books, paper and textiles;
- methods and materials for storage of all types of collections;
- low-cost environmental monitoring and control;
- mount-making for the display of artifacts, books and documents; and
- construction of simple, low-cost mannequins.

Workshops for the general public will be approximately two hours in length; those for staff of institutions will each be approximately one day in length. Participants will receive practical, hands-on training, using methods that have been developed for use by individuals and in institutions with limited resources.



MHS file photo

After each workshop for institutions, participants will have a product to take away with them. For example, participants at a workshop on mount-making will leave with one or more items from their collection in an exhibit mount that they will have made for those particular artifacts. In

the mannequin workshop, they would build a mannequin properly fitted to an article of clothing from their own collection.

Staff in smaller institutions often are unable to implement techniques they have learned or to purchase the proper materials, because they lack sufficient funds. Part of the grant will be used to create a modest fund to which workshop participants can apply for assistance in purchasing proper storage materials or supplies to build additional mounts or mannequins. The simple application process will be designed to enable MHS staff to ensure that techniques and materials are being applied appropriately and that funds are being used on priority collections. In other words, the grant will enable the Conservation Outreach Program to provide training and follow-up with implementation funds at the local level.

Participants in a previous MHS workshop on preserving heirloom textiles are shown here preparing storage boxes and lining them with acid-free paper. This workshop was held in the Minnesota History Center's MacMillan Education Center.



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota Announces 1999 Historic Preservation Awards

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM), Minnesota's only statewide, private nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation, announced 12 recipients of Minnesota Preservation Awards during its annual meeting in Minneapolis in November. The awards recognize extraordinary contributions to and achievements in the preservation of historic resources in Minnesota. Two "Tip of the Hat" awards were also announced. A committee of preservation experts, advocates and observers from the Preservation Alliance made the final selections from a list of nominations. Below is a brief list of the award winners, in alphabetical order; for fuller descriptions of the recipients, contact PAM at the address and phone number given below.

Four awards were made for projects in St. Peter's recovery from the 1998 tornado.

Judy and Mark Ahlstrom (owners, Schumacher House);

Citizens of St. Peter (community effort);

Nancy and Daniel Jordet (owners, Stone House, Gorman Park neighborhood);

Park Row LLC, owners, and others (restoration of Nicollet Hotel).

The other awards were:

Marlene De Boef, Pine Island (career achievement; leader in restoration of Washington County Courthouse);

City of Little Falls and Heritage Preservation Commission of Little Falls (comprehensive

community revitalization);

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and others (renovation of 1890s Superintendent's Building, Loring Park, Minneapolis);

City of St. Cloud and others (restoration of the Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud);

Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church and others (interior restoration, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis);

Hibbing community and school board. (stewardship of Hibbing High School, built in 1923);

Kay and Roy Huddle, owners (restoration of Huddle's Resort (1922), Leech Lake, Whipholt);

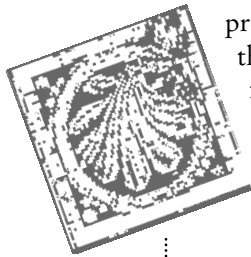
Saga Hill Preservation Society and others (community stewardship, Saga Hill historic landscape, Orono).

"Tip of the Hat" Awards (Honorable Mention)

The Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission and BP Amoco in Stillwater. (For joining to achieve compatibility between a contemporary service station and mini-mart in a historic district.)

Reporters Mark Olson and Unsie Zuege of the Chaska Herald, Chaska. (For their three-part series on historic preservation as a community value.)

PAM now has more than 1,100 members; it is located at International Market Square, Suite 54, 275 Market Street, Minneapolis, Minn., 55405-1621. Call 612/341-8140, or visit its web site, www.mnpreservation.org.



The logo of the
Preservation
Alliance of
Minnesota.

New Photographic History Exhibit at MHS

Minnesota 2000: A Photo Documentary for the Future, the collective result of the work of 12 Minnesota photographers, opened at the Minnesota History Center museum on Jan. 9. The photographers each worked on a different theme about the people of the state of Minnesota at the present time. The exhibit, in a sense, provides a snapshot of life in Minnesota that will be useful for future residents and researchers and for present-day visitors interested in comparing the present day with times past. Not all the pictures taken by the photographers are in the exhibit; many more are in MHS collections.

Dan Spock, head of the museums department at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), stated that the exhibit "captures fascinating views, both commonplace and unique, with a clarity all the more evocative for the startling familiarity of the images. This is truly the collective face of Minnesota at the end of a century." Bonnie Wilson, Sound and Visuals Collections curator

for the Minnesota Historical Society, was the curator for the exhibit. For further information, call MHS at 651/296-6126 or visit its web site at www.mnhs.org.

In June, the Minnesota Historical Society Press will publish *Minnesota in Our Time: A Photographic Portrait*, a collection of images by the same 12 photographers.

Minnesota

a photo documentary for the future



Lake Superior Logging: New Book Tells Schroeder Story

Former Senator Eugene McCarthy captures the scope of *Cutting Across Time: Logging, Rafting and Milling the Forests of Lake Superior* in a foreword. He writes that this book “reports on an aspect of the economic development and to some extent the exploitation of the resources of the upper midwest (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan) for more than 75 years, from 1850 to 1927. It tells of the initiatives of one businessman, John Schroeder, and the men—the lumberjacks, horse drivers, tug men, cooks, bookkeepers—who operated his enterprises. Common men doing the customary work of their times, like men of any other time, building their lives, and a country, from the things at hand.”

Author Mary T. Bell puts close descriptions of the workers’ lives and the techniques of logging and rafting in chronological order. The Schroeder company’s mills began at the mouth of what was known as Cross River on Minnesota’s North Shore, so-named for Father Baraga’s providential landing in 1846, where the town of Schroeder now stands.

Later the logging work moved to the Apostle Islands, and the main mill to Ashland, Wis.

The text is accompanied by numerous historical photographs, maps, newspaper vignettes and anecdotes, and statistics. (For example, a 1940 publication, “Lumber Industry and Its Workers” is

quoted as stating, “If all the white pine cut between 1776 and 1940 in this country was piled on a city block, the pile would reach about 400 miles high, roughly 75 mountains the height of Mt. Everest.” This figure is given as “two quadrillion, four hundred

trillion board feet.”) Watercolors on the cover and before each chapter by artist Lee Weiss, and exceptionally clear illustrations of gear, tools and bunkhouse life by Dale Mann, add to the book’s visual appeal.

Originally published by the Schroeder Area Historical Society, it is now published by Nodin Press, 525 North Third Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401; call 612/333-6300; cost: \$29.95.



MHS Collections

Right: This photo of a Schroeder Lumber Company barn in Cook County was taken in 1981.

Expanded Edition of Preservation Manual Available in Print

The third, expanded, edition of *Preservation of Library & Archival Materials: A Manual* is now available in hardcover. The manual is published by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, Mass., and edited by Sheryl Ogden, head of the conservation department at the Minnesota Historical Society. It comprises 50 individual technical leaflets, 42 from the first two editions and eight new ones. The new ones include leaflets concerning digital technologies, preservation

assessment and planning, fire detection, and collections security.

The manual is also available online at www.nedcc.org/plam3/manhome.htm, and can also be ordered, using an order form from the web site, by writing NEDCC, Attn: Kim O’Leary, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810-1494. Call 978/470-1010 or fax 978/475-6021; the cost of \$50 includes UPS ground shipping and handling.



Nature's Stories: Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Area Preserves

There are 129 dedicated scientific and natural areas (SNAs) in Minnesota that provide sanctuaries for rare plant and animal communities, some of which are in fact the last representatives of their kind in Minnesota. The preserves, managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), can be found in all areas of the state.

Well-known Minnesota author Paul Gruchow has visited many of these SNAs over the years. He wrote essays about them for the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* in 1994-96; 12 of his essays have now been published by the DNR in *Worlds within a World*. The essay sites span the state. Essay titles include "Goat Prairie Patchwork," about Mound Prairie SNA; "Ancient River," about Ripley Esker SNA; and "A Waterlogged Desert," about Lost Lake Peatland SNA.

When Gruchow visited the Lutsen SNA on the North Shore in early April 1999, his guide was Paul Scherer, who had donated 240 acres to the state as part of that preserve's 780 acres. Scherer has worn out three pairs of snowshoes on his winter walks, and is intimately familiar with every aspect of the woods.

That afternoon, they found parallel tracks of a pine marten and a hare, and Scherer said, "If it were only earlier in the day, we might follow those tracks

and have another story to tell." Gruchow recalled a book he had been reading about the Vienna woods (this essay is titled "Tales from the Lutsen Woods"), which probably resemble the woods along the North Shore. The book opened with a line by poet W.H. Auden: "A culture is not better than its woods," which came back to him with Scherer's remarks. He wrote,

"I had come to see a woods, and Scherer had shown me not the woods, but the stories that the forest tells. And what is a culture if not an accumulation of stories, like the duff that collects on a forest floor? And what is the worth of a culture if it does not treasure those stories and pass them down from generation to the next, as they have been treasured and passed down in the Lutsen woods?"

In addition to Gruchow's essays and photographs by 11 nature photographers, *Worlds within a World* includes field notes by St. Paul writer Richel Burkey-Harris. The book is available at Minnesota's Bookstore, 117 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155, for \$29.58 (which includes tax and shipping and handling). To order, call 1-800-657-3757 or 651/297-3000.



Do-It-Yourself History-making: NEH Millennium Project

My History Is America's History, recently published by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in partnership with the White House Millennium Council, offers a list of 15 things "you can do to save America's stories," each accompanied with how-to descriptions, examples, resources and illustrations.

Also included are introductory discussions about "Saving Your Family Treasures," lists of resources, and places to visit.

The guidebook has been distributed to public libraries nationwide. It can be downloaded or ordered from the interactive project website, www.myhistory.org; a printed copy can be ordered (while supplies last) by calling toll-free 1-877-634-4478 or by writing My History, Pueblo, CO 81009. The book is free, with a \$3.75 postage and handling charge.

15 things you can do to save America's stories.

1. Keep a journal.
2. Record family oral histories.
3. Play detective with photographs.
4. Discover clues in family papers.
5. Uncover history in the attic.
6. Explore your home's history.
7. Climb the family tree.
8. Find your family's place in American history.
9. Write your own story.
10. Family fun (quilts, recipe collections, etc.).
11. Share your story (via the project web site, donate to libraries, etc.).
12. Visit places in your community where stories are told.
13. Contact historical organizations, libraries, etc.
14. Teach American history through family history.
15. Join your hometown experts (e.g., local historical organizations).



Minnesota Humanities Commission: Grants & Teacher Programs

Grants

Among the grants recently made by the Minnesota Humanities Commission, several may be of interest to *Interpreter* readers.

Grants in the category of "Humanities Organization Network Grants" support ongoing humanities work by staffed organizations. Thirty grants of \$4,000 each were awarded, including grants to:

L'Association des Francais du Nord (AFRAN), Red Lake Falls;
Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, St. Paul;
Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, Moorhead;
Heritage Village, Mountain Lake;
Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, Colledgeville;
Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, Minneapolis;
New York Mills Regional Cultural Center, New York Mills;
North Shore Commercial Fishing Museum, Tofto;
Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield;
Polish Cultural Institute, Winona;
Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

In the category of "Humanities Projects," 11 organizations received grants for a variety of public programs in the humanities, ranging from \$3,000 to \$75.00. Among the recipients are:

Stearns History Museum, St. Cloud;
Chisago County Historical Society, Lindstrom;
Minnesota Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, Minneapolis.

Grants in other categories included nine to individual scholars in the category of "Works in Progress," four to organizations for "Ethnic and Cultural Heritage Network Grants" category, five to teacher membership organizations in the category of "Humanities Education Network Grants."

For more details about grants and programs, contact MHC at 987 East Ivy Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106-2046; 651/774-0105; fax, 651/774-0205; or visit its web site: www.thinkmhc.org.

Teacher Programs

Professional Development Seminars

MHC holds professional development seminars for Minnesota K-12 teachers at its Humanities Education Center, a full-service conference center near Lake Phalen in St. Paul. Fees include books, materials, meals, and overnight lodgings in private rooms with attached bath. The seminars are taught by knowledgeable and accessible scholars or researchers. Fees vary, and graduate credit at Hamline University is also available for an additional fee. All seminars link to one or more Minnesota graduation standards.

1- and 2-day seminars, Winter & Spring
Literature from the Black Arts Movement; Tuesday, Feb. 29 - Wednesday, March 1

Fairy Tales from France; Monday & Tuesday, March 13-14

Teaching Character Education: A Literary Approach; Monday & Tuesday, March 20-21.

Week-long and 3-day seminars, Summer
The History and Nature of Science; Monday-Friday, June 26-30

Teaching Diverse Perspectives and Current Events: National Issues Forum Public Policy Institute; Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 3-5.

Teaching World Religions; Monday-Friday, Aug. 14-18.

Core Knowledge: Spring & Summer Programs

(Fees vary)

MHC is the Minnesota Regional Center for Core Knowledge, a K-12 curriculum that leads students through rigorous, cumulative, multicultural content.

Discussion Group: *The Schools We Need* (by E.D.

Hirsch, Jr., founder of Core Knowledge); Feb. 22, May 2, July 11 (4:15-6:15 p.m.).

Using Core Knowledge to Teach State Standards; April 28 (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.).

Implementing Core Knowledge, held twice: June 21-23 and Aug. 21-23 (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.).

Summer Unit-writing Institute: Monday, July 31-Friday Aug. 4 (8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.).

Core Knowledge Preschool Institute: July 6-7 (8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Core Knowledge Consultant Training: May 5-6.



MHC's new logo, taken from the carving over the main entrance to the Humanities Education Center. (Previously, the building had been the school and library of the Gillette Children's Hospital.) The inscription, *NECEDE MALIS*, means "Yield not to misfortune."



STAFF NEWS: POSITIONS OPEN

AASLH: Program Officer

The American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) is seeking a second program officer for its Nashville headquarters. Responsibilities of the position include coordinating regional workshops, Internet workshops, targeted audience programs and other programs being developed. A bachelor's degree is required; graduate degree, or comparable work experience, in museum studies, education, public history or related field is preferred. Candidate should have excellent skills in written and oral communication; ability to work well with committees and volunteers; familiarity with the Internet and other computer technologies; experience in educational programming; willingness to travel, be innovative and a self-starter; have appreciation for and understanding of the field of state and local history. Mail applications with resume, references, cover letter and salary history to AASLH, 1717 Church St., Nashville, TN 37203-2991. For information, call 615/320-3203.

AASLH logo.

Scandia Museums, Washington County: Site Manager

The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) is seeking a part-time manager for the the Hay Lake School Museum and Johannes Erickson Log Cabin near Scandia. Both buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is open to the public on weekends May through October and to school groups for day-long "turn of the century" experiences. The site manager will care for and interpret the museum collections, train and supervise volunteers, conduct tours, handle publicity and develop museum programs. Strong communication, administrative and organizational skills are required. Fewer hours are required during the winter months; salary is negotiable. Write the WCHS Search Committee, P.O. Box 167, Stillwater, MN 55082-0167, or call Nancy Goodman at 651/439-3094.

Rice County Historical Society: Historian or Marketer Positions

The Rice County Historical Society is seeking applications for two part-time positions as historian or marketer. Education or comparable experience is preferred. For an application, contact the Rice County Historical Society, 1814 2nd Ave. NW, Faribault, MN 55021, or call 507/332-2009. Applications must be received by March 1, 2000.

CONFERENCES

Midwest Open Air Museums Conference in March

The Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC) will hold a conference in Springfield, Ill., on March 23-25. Hosted by the Abraham Lincoln New Salem State Historic Site, the conference will cover a wide range of topics related to the management of living history organizations. MOMCC is the regional affiliate of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums.

Full conference registration is \$65/person, plus additional charges for workshops on Thursday, March 23. For information, contact Shirley Willoughby at 765/778-3511 or write to her at 8273 West State Road 38, Lapel, IN 46051; or visit the MOMCC web site at www.momcc.org.

Women Historians of the Midwest to Hold 5th Conference

The theme of the Fifth Women's West Conference in Pullman, Wash., July 27-29, will be "Gender, Race, Class and Region in the North American West." The program organizers want to explore several key questions connected to the idea of a "women's west," such as women and place; how social relationships and regional conditions are connected; and how race, class, gender and sexuality shape a region's identity.

The conference is sponsored by the Washington State University history department, the Pettyjohn Endowment and the Coalition for Western Women's History. For more information, contact the Women's West Conference, History Department, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4030, or consult the Women's West website: www.wsu.edu/~womenwst/home.html.



THIS WAY TO AN EXHIBIT

Thoughts from Paul Martin

Editor's note: Paul Martin is director of exhibit development at the Science Museum of Minnesota. In an interview in *Science Museum of Minnesota*, a special insert in *Minnesota Monthly* prepared in November 1999 in anticipation of the grand opening of the new museum on Dec. 11, he offered some comments about his approach to exhibit-making. The following remarks are taken from that interview. Martin was head of the exhibits department at the Minnesota Historical Society from 1990 to 1996.



Q: How did the new exhibits evolve from this knowledge?

A: Making exhibits is a messy business, which is good. It's very creative. If we have an idea for something we think will work as an exhibit, we'll do a quick mock-up of it to see if visitors get it. We try out concepts and ideas and see how they react to them, and then we develop them from there. A lot of

times, for our interactive stuff, our prototypers will work with us to try something else. Once it gets to the point where we can put it out on the floor and it can survive, we'll do that, and see if it's doing what it needs to do. If it is working, then we'll take it back in and package it before we finally put it out on the floor as a finished exhibit.

Q: So visitors to the new Human Body Gallery and the Mississippi River Gallery are looking at your finished project?

A. When we open an exhibit, it's just the beginning. It's like a birthday, not just a deadline for us. Good long-term exhibits need to grow and change; they're the ones that you can come back to over and over and have a different experience with the same stuff. We try to develop exhibits that have enough depth and complexity that you can really learn from the exhibit over time.

The Minnesota History *Interpreter* is published by the Historic Preservation, Field Services and Grants Department of the Minnesota Historical Society, and distributed to Minnesota's county and local historical societies and heritage preservation commissions.

Readers are invited to submit information for publication. To be considered, items must reach the editor by the 18th of the month, two months before publication (example: the deadline for the October issue is August 18). Send to: *Interpreter* Editor, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; 651/296-8196 or jim.smith@mnhs.org.

Send address changes to David Nystuen, 651/296-5460; e-mail: david.nystuen@mnhs.org.

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