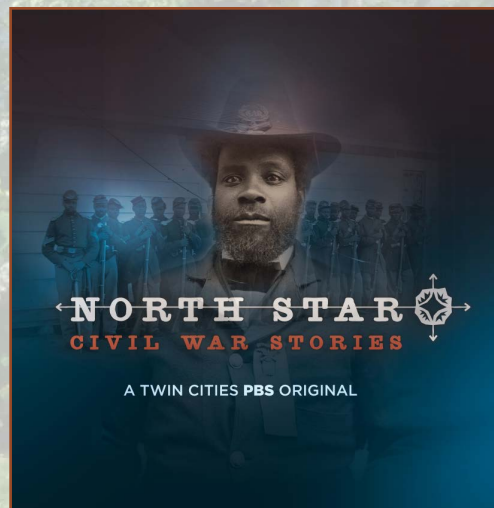
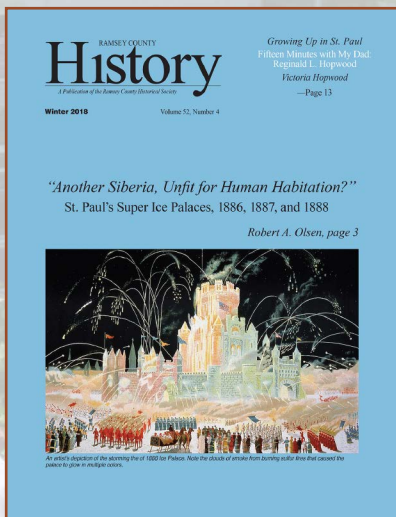


# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**T**HE MISSION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:  
*Preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future*

**R.C.H.S.**  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Ramsey County Historical Society,

Every now and again I am asked what I'm most proud of at the Ramsey County Historical Society, and every time the person asking that question is a bit surprised by my answer. Of course I'm proud of the work we do to educate tens of thousands of students and adults through Gibbs Farm, *Investigate MN!*, and *History Revealed* programs. I'm also proud that *Ramsey County History* magazine is considered to be one of the leading premiere history publications in the country, that we have formally adopted an Equity & Inclusion statement that aligns with the values we live every day (see back cover), that we have been entrusted with preserving and making accessible to the public thousands of new documents and artifacts, and that 30,000 viewers tuned into TPT Channel 2 for the premiere airings of *North Star: Civil War Stories*. But none of those are my answer. Year in and year out, the thing I'm most proud of is that RCHS has the trust and support of so many dedicated and passionate people. Every single success story at RCHS is the story of volunteers committing their time and expertise, of partners helping advance our understanding of history, of talented and dedicated staff, and of our members, donors, and friends whose financial support makes everything else possible. If you are reading this, you are one of these people, and I am honored to know you.

As we approach our 70th year of operations in 2019, I invite you to explore more of what we have to offer. New this year at Gibbs Farm are adult tours, cooking classes, and additional weekend programs. County-wide, *History Revealed* tours and lectures are being presented three to four times per month and we are now also giving tours of the Union Depot and Ramsey County Courthouse.

On behalf of everyone at RCHS, thank you for including this fine organization in your life and in your philanthropic plans.

Warmest Regards,

*Chad P. Roberts, President*

## Ramsey County Historical Society Board of Directors 2018-2019

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Mari Oyanagi Eggum – Second Vice Chair  
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2017-2018**

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President  
Chad P. Roberts

**VOLUNTEERS IN 2017-2018**

We would like to thank the following volunteers for their outstanding service to RCHS in 2017-2018.

Boy Scout Troop 297  
Dakota Wicohan  
Dahkota Iapi  
Okhodakichiye  
U. S. Navy Reserves  
Thompson Reuters

Johannes R. Allert  
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Charley Bathke  
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Caylia DiCamilo  
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Erica Hollingsworth  
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Chris Hughes  
Kerri Hutchinson  
Pat Jarvis  
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Dennis Nyberg  
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Stephan Osman  
David Page  
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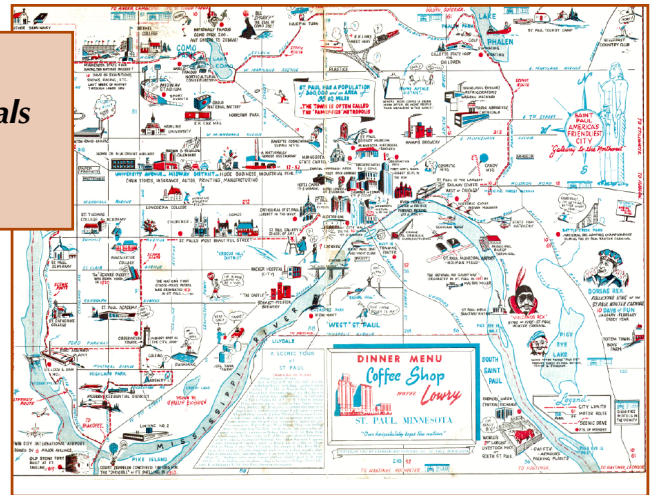


# IN 2017-2018



**20,000** people visited Gibbs Farm including 15,000 students and 2,500 educators

**1,430** researchers assisted with access to 592 linear feet of archival materials (about 2.4 million pieces of paper) and 8,269 images now available online



**Over 150 Volunteers** assisted with visitors and programs, day camps, collections, publications, presentations and tours, and with the Gibbs Farm site for over 4,747 hours



**1,025** participants in *History Revealed* programs

# RECOGNIZING OUR DONORS

## SUPPORT BY INDIVIDUALS

Thank you to all our generous members and supporters. *Loyalty Circle*\* members have supported RCHS for more than 10 years. Designated with an asterisk (\*) on the lists. *The Ethel Stewart Heritage Society* recognizes donors who have provided for RCHS in their wills with a planned gift, or with cumulative contributions of \$10,000 or more. Members of the Ethel Stewart Heritage Society are acknowledged in **BOLD** type.

### Legends Society Members

The Legends Society recognizes those who have donated \$1,000 and above in the past year. There are four Legends Society Circles.

### *J.J. Hill Empire Builder Society* *Gifts \$10,000 and Above*

**Charlton Dietz** through The Dietz Family Fund\*

**Roy Dorn**

**William & Bonita B. Frels** through the Frels Family Foundation\*

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**Carl & Janet Kuhrmeyer** through Kuhrmeyer Family Foundation of The Saint Paul Foundation\*

**Richard & Nancy Nicholson** through Richard and Nancy Nicholson Fund of the Nicholson Family Foundation\*

### *Frank B. Kellogg Society* *Gifts between \$5,000 and \$9,999*

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**Kaemmer (d)** through the Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of the HRK Foundation\*

### *Rosalie Wahl Society* *Gifts between \$2,500 and \$4,999*

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### *Jonathan Carver Society* *Gifts between \$1,000 and \$2,499*

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Mari Oyanagi Eggum & Tom Eggum

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**Jennifer Gross**\*

Katherine Hern

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### Builders Circles Members

The Builders Circles recognizes those who have donated between \$100-\$999 in the past year. There are three Builders Circles.

### *Seth & Mary Eastman Circle* *Gifts between \$500 and \$999*

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*Continued on page 6*

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*Gifts between \$100 and \$249*

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**Elias Drake Circle**

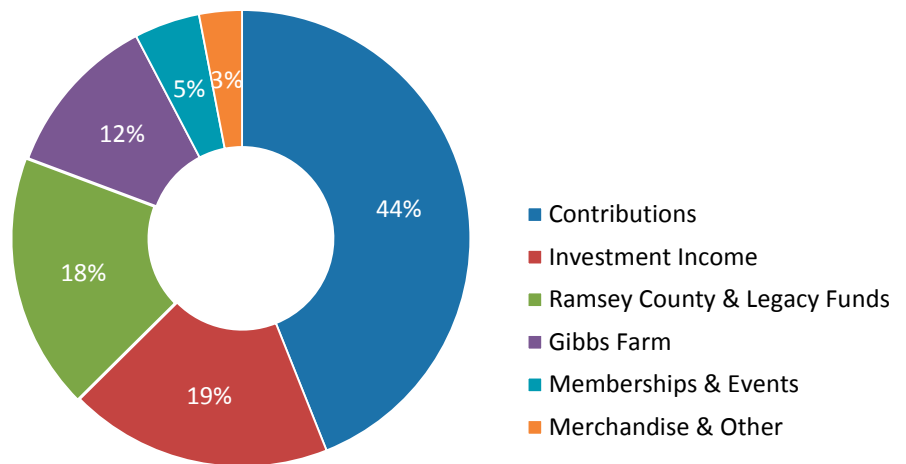
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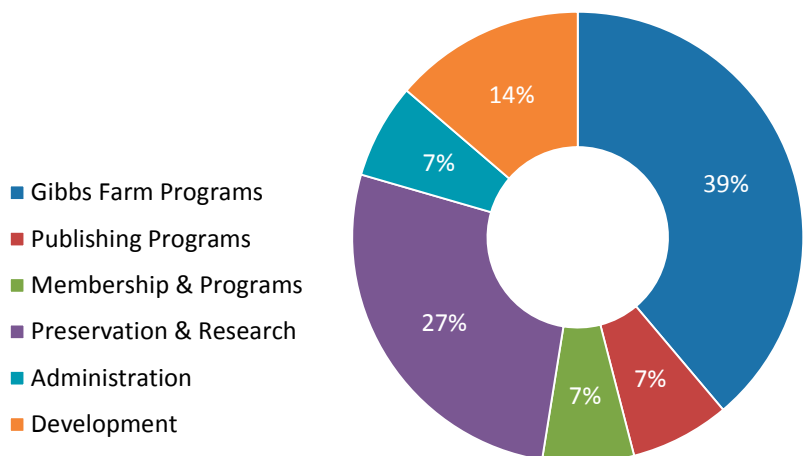
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**FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 REVENUE**



**FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 EXPENSES**



## MEMORIALS & GIFTS OF APPRECIATION

*Thank you for the gifts in memory or honor of the following individuals:*

In honor of our grandchildren: *Ingrid, Emilia, Payton, Cormac, and Nick* - D. Ward & Shotsy Johnson

In honor of *Mollie Spillman* - James & Gail LaFave

In memory of *Jennifer Easton* - Priscilla Farnham

In memory of *Elaine Fuller* -

Priscilla Farnham            Char & Tim Kohner  
Nora Meyers                Brian & Julia Nordling  
Peter & Diane Resch

In memory of *Howard Guthmann* -

Anonymous                 Tom & Liz Boyd  
Sue Cammack                Richard Cisek  
John & Sharon Diedrich     Joanne A. Englund  
Priscilla Farnham            Lillian Gerber  
Highland Park Woman's Club   Judy Johnson  
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Monta & Gary Thomasson  
Roger & Margaret Sorensen Ttee  
Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

In memory of *Virginia Brainard Kunz* - Paul & Susan Clabo

In memory of *Peter Wilhoit* -

Joanne A. Englund            Chad P. Roberts  
Paul Verret

In memory of *Nancy Zuber* - Elizabeth Guthmann

## GIBBS FARM IN 2017-2018

*Informing Our Present,  
Inspiring Our Future*

Gibbs Farm reached 20,000 visitors last year including 15,000 school children from 29 school districts in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. These children learned about Dakota and pioneer life in the 1800s through field trips to the site and outreach programs. Gibbs Farm field trips and outreaches are unique in that they offer students a hands-on experience focused on the early Minnesota pioneer Jane Gibbs, her family, and her relationship with the Dakota of Cloud Man's Village (located at present day Bde Maka Ska).

Gibbs Farm also offered five hands-on summer day camps this past year. These were attended by over 600 children ages 4-13. This fall we will be offering an expanded MEA camp where children will get a chance to be history and nature detectives.

We introduced Family Friendly Saturday programs (including a Victorian tea party and butter churning) this year and are expanding this program for next year. A partnership with the Good Acre resulted in the first ever evening, adult-only event at Gibbs Farm. Chef Yia Vang provided a night of open fire cooking for over 40 guests.

As always, a huge thank you to our amazing staff, volunteers and friends in the Dakota community for making Gibbs Farm a fun and educational destination!

This year we had 93 individual volunteers at Gibbs Farm including 44 youth interns. Volunteers rebuilt stairs, prepared garden beds, constructed a goat playground, fixed fencing, sewed bonnets, built benches and improved paths. MN Master Naturalist volunteers created program materials as part of the Dakota Medicine Garden Rejuvenation project.

Intern Hannah Bergstedt assisted Youth & Outreach Programs Manager Janie Bender plan and implement the brand new Victorian Ladies Camp. Three volunteer days brought new volunteers to the site, as they helped staff close, open and prepare Gibbs Farm for spring planting.





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# COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITS & RESEARCH

## *Preserving Our Past, Informing Our Present*

### *The Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center*

The Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center provides access to 592 linear feet of archival and photographic collections, about 2.4 million pieces of paper. These collections include St. Paul Building Permits, Sanborn Insurance Plat Maps, and St. Paul City Directories.

Last year RCHS staff assisted 1,430 researchers and made 8,269 images from its photo collection available online. More photographs are being added every few months, see <http://rchs.pastperfectonline.com> to view.

Collections are supported by members and the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Fund of RCHS.

### *Acquisitions*

RCHS collects and cares for artifact, archival, library, and photograph collections, including materials donated by 68 donors last year. Some recent additions of note include materials from the Fort Road Federation, Riverfront Corporation, St. Paul Development Corporation, Mounds Midway Nursing Museum, and 2004 St. Paul Winter Carnival Vulcan Fertiliious.

### *Preservation*

RCHS continues to improve the preservation of collections entrusted to it, including an increasing number of digital media collections. A good example this past year was the acquisition of the Tellstar News collection of 215 umatic tapes that RCHS is digitizing to better preserve their content and to make them more readily available to the public.

Tellstar News was founded in St. Paul by Readus Fletcher, who produced and presented news programs for 8 years through 1994. The programs explored race relations and inequality, Native American rights, economics, law, religion, politics, war, revolution, homelessness, international relations, and the environment. These programs were broadcast on stations throughout the United States and Canada. Some of those interviewed included: author Alex Hailey, Senator Eugene McCarthy,

the Honorable Harold Stassen, the Honorable Lawrence Cohen, Cesar Chavez, Dennis Banks, Dick Gregory, Vernon Bellecourt, and the Honorable Alan Page. Once these tapes are digitized, they will be cataloged and available for research, beginning in the spring of 2019.

### *2017-2018 Donations to the RCHS Collections*

RCHS thanks the following organizations and individuals for their donations to the RCHS object and archive collections.

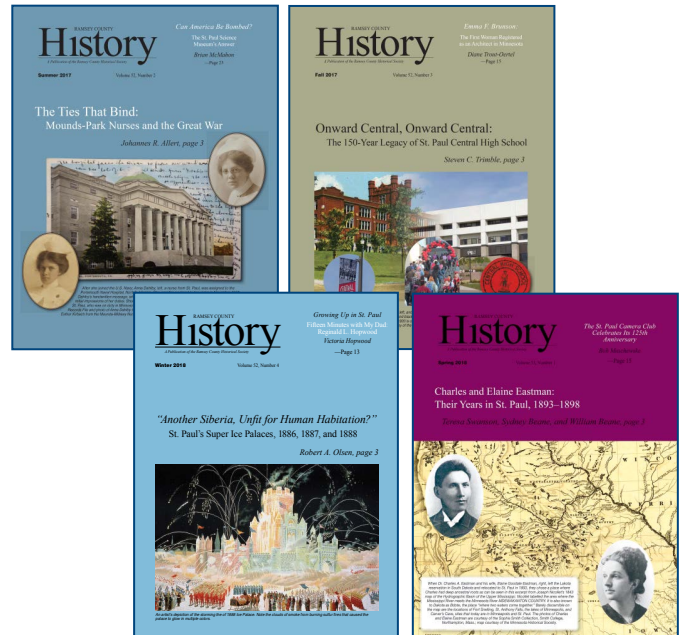
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## PUBLISHING

### *Informing Our Present, Inspiring Our Future*

For 54 years, the award-winning *Ramsey County History* magazine has published articles that inform and inspire, and this year has continued that tradition of excellence. Major articles have ranged from the dedicated women of the Mounds-Park Nursing School who valiantly served their country in the U.S. Army and the Red Cross during World War I, to the history of the Highland Spring Water Company in St. Paul. We also published a fascinating history of St. Paul Central High School in conjunction with its sesquicentennial and a biographical profile of ground-breaking Minnesota architect Emma F. Brunson.

Our Winter issue included a compelling remembrance of Reginald L. Hopwood, a leader in the Rondo community, and a special look at the Super Ice Palaces in the 1880s that were built for the first three St. Paul Winter Carnivals. The lives of Charles and Elaine Eastman, particularly their years living in St. Paul in the 1890s, received in-depth treatment. We also helped the St. Paul Camera Club to celebrate its 125th anniversary with an account of its early years and printed some of its members' award-winning photographs. We finished the year with



an account of what St. Paul did to save the Old Federal Courts Building and Post Office and turn that architectural marvel into today's Landmark Center.

RGHS extends its thanks to all the talented authors who contributed to our magazine in the past year. For links to past Ramsey County History magazines and articles, please visit our website at [www.rchs.com/publishing](http://www.rchs.com/publishing).

### *North Star: Civil War Stories*

Ramsey County Historical Society was proud to partner with TPT-TwinCities Public Television to produce a ground-breaking new documentary, *North Star: Civil War Stories*, uncovering hidden details of African-American men from Minnesota involved in the Civil War. The documentary was first broadcast on TPT in February 2018, and garnered well over 30,000 viewers in its premier airings.

*North Star: Civil War Stories* brought to light the hidden histories of four unsung heroes, both during and after the Civil War, using emerging original research and scholarship from a group of well respected and knowledgeable historians. Although discovering many of the details and records of these patriots' involvement was challenging, the film provided a look at the unique contributions that these men made to the Union and their new state of Minnesota.

Created for not only the broadcast viewing audience, but also with educators and classroom audiences in mind, the documentary is available on DVD, and was distributed for free for use in schools. *North Star: Civil War Stories* is available for viewing online or on DVD. See the webpage at <https://www.rchs.com/news/northstar/> for more information on the DVD and a link to the online version.



# FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you to the Foundations, Corporations and Organizations that supported RCHS in 2017-2018.

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Funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



Projects were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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Samantha Bossman, Development Officer  
Kassie Bradshaw-Kmitch, Courthouse Tour Coordinator  
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## EQUITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

To help RCHS better achieve its mission, vision, and live its values, an Equity and Inclusion Task Force will be formed that will address the following by June 1, 2019:

1. Learn more from our community regarding equity and inclusion efforts and practices with the goal of helping inform RCHS policies and procedures.
2. Discuss, debate, and prepare a recommendation as to the role of RCHS in addressing issues of discrimination, exclusion, and racism.
3. Define language to be used by RCHS when discussing equity and inclusion to ensure all stakeholders are effectively communicating.
4. Identify ways in which RCHS can become more inclusive.
5. Identify ways in which unintentional and institutional bias can be identified and addressed.
6. Assess current RCHS policies and procedures for bias.
7. Explore any other avenues of inquiry it deems appropriate to address this topic and form recommendations to the Board of Directors.



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