

**Updated Statement of Program Service Accomplishments
Morrison County Historical Society
January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019**

The Morrison County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing Morrison County history. It owns and operates The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum. In meeting its mission in 2019, the organization engaged in the following activities:

Received an Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy) grant of \$86,800 to install mobile shelving in the Weyerhaeuser Museum's Archives. MCHS matched this grant with an estimated \$10,000 in labor and archival supplies. The project meant completely emptying the Archives, repainting, having the shelving installed, and replacing all archival materials. Part of the project was dedicated to hiring an archival contractor to sort and rehouse 8 large collections of material.

Launched a capital campaign to raise funds for the museum's Capacity Improvement Projects to maintain and improve the Weyerhaeuser Museum building and the museum's grounds. Storm windows at the museum were reglazed and repainted. Further research was conducted on repairing or replacing exterior doors.

MCHS took part in the Council of Minnesota Archaeology Conference at St. Cloud State University, during which the life and work of Minnesota archaeologist Doug Birk was celebrated and MCHS was recognized for its contribution and partnership with SCSU on the Little Elk Heritage Preserve (LEHP) collection. During the conference, Jan Warner, former MCHS executive director gave a presentation. The permanent loan agreement between MCHS and SCSU in regards to the LEHP collection was formalized in 2019.

MCHS created a new series of events called "Exploring History & Culture in Central Minnesota" that brings together 4 central Minnesota historical societies, Morrison, Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns, to collaborate on programming related to specific cultures within the region and state. The 2019 series brought programming from the Somali Museum of Minnesota to the 4 history organizations in February.

Created the exhibit "The Story Behind the Tat: Tattoo Art in Central Minnesota," a year-long event that featured images of contributors' tattoos along with the stories behind each of these tattoos. The exhibit also featured information on numerous tattoo artists and shops within central Minnesota. Videos were made of some of the interviews of tattoo artists and posted to YouTube.

MCHS entered into a partnership with Rethos: Places Reimagined (formerly Preservation Alliance of Minnesota) to serve as their Central Minnesota Education Coordinator, which involves arranging classes to teach historic preservation skills within the counties of Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, and Benton.

The Beckwith Organ that was donated to the Weyerhaeuser Museum was restored, making the instrument once again operational.

Published 4 newsletters, featuring articles such as "Those Aren't Our Townships!" "New Deal-Era Public Work Projects, Long-Lasting or Not?" "The Senpai-Kohai of Tattoo Apprenticeships," "What Can A Photo Album Tell Us?" "Census 2020 – Be Counted!" "Making Judgments," "The Story Behind the Tat – Stories from the Exhibit" "Maps We Didn't Know We Had," "Strands of Remembrance: Hairwork and Victorian Sentimentalism," and "Rethos – Our New Gig (But Not Totally New)."

Published an exhibit guide for "The Story Behind the Tat: Tattoo Art in Central Minnesota."

In partnership with the Charles A. Lindbergh House & Museum and Charles A. Lindbergh State Park, MCHS hosted the annual Candlelight Hike on January 5, 2019. There were 649 visitors at the Weyerhaeuser Museum for this event.

Hosted a number of special events, including “Tattoo as a Call to Ancestors” discussion, Plant Sale, walking tour of the Little Falls Ravine, “Painting at the Museum” class, Smuda Zoo exhibit at the Morrison County Fair, presentation by Denis Gardner of the State Historic Preservation Office on the National Register and the renovation of the State Capitol, book talk on the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls by Sr. Elise Saggau, an annual meeting program at the Morrison County Courthouse featuring Mitch Bender discussing the history of tattoo, a voter registration event, and November New Member Month.

Continued work on improving museum systems and processes, including updating the organization’s Personnel Policy Guidelines and adopting an employee scheduling app.

Maintained an active online presence via our blog/website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Grew the MCHS collections through donations from members and friends.

Assisted visitors with county history research and taking self-guided tours of the museum.

Provided guided tours to various groups, including regional school children.

Mary Warner, MCHS executive director, was elected to the board of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and was a member of the State Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places. She was appointed to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) Sustainable Building Group to find ways to reduce construction and demolition materials in landfills. She presented a session on succession planning at the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museum’s annual conference.

Ann Marie Johnson, MCHS preservationist, led the organization and logistics of the State Historic Preservation Conference held in St. Cloud in September 2019. She is serving on a subcommittee of the MPCA’s Sustainable Building Group.

Camille Warzecha, MCHS board president, is serving on a committee of the City of Little Falls to plan for additional signage in the city.

Number of members in 2019: 363
Number of collections donors: 32
Number of researchers: 160
Number of visitors: 3,306
Number of website visitors: 69,500