On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers, our gratitude grows stronger each year because of your support and belief in this 168-year-old organization. Together we can continue to carry out our mission of using the power of history to transform lives—by collecting, preserving, sharing, and connecting our state’s history for the benefit of all.

I’m as excited about the accomplishments of 2017 as I am about the opportunities for 2018. In particular for 2017, I am proud of the WW1 America exhibit; the AmVets Post #5: Photography by Xavier Tavera exhibit; the Penumbra Theatre at 40: Art, Race and a Nation on Stage exhibit; and the creation of a Native American Initiatives team, charged with developing a vision and strategies for our Native American programs and services. In June, we also formed a partnership (wi’wahokichiyapi) with the new Dakota Community Council to ensure that Dakota history, narratives and homeland are honored and sustained with lasting opportunities for Dakota people to tell their own stories. And to share their own history. For 2018, I’m excited about the return of The 1968 Exhibit, the Somalis + Minnesota exhibit, and beginning the development of an exhibit on First Avenue, the heart and pulse of the Minnesota music scene since the 1970s, scheduled to open in April 2019.

We are living in a time of significant social change, and the power of history provides facts, relevance, understanding, and perspective that help us to navigate a better path for our future and that of future generations. Our work and your support are all the more important and relevant today. I have to believe that the founding members and early supporters of the Minnesota Historical Society felt similar challenges about an ever-changing, ever-growing state and world, and thus established the foundation for the mission and work that we continue—collecting, preserving, sharing, and connecting all of Minnesota’s history. With your continuing support, we are building on that foundation for the next generation of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and so on, to ensure that the power of history continues to help all of us learn from the past and chart a better future.

My warmest and humble thanks,

Phyllis Goff, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

FROM THE DIRECTOR AND CEO

MNHS has proudly served Minnesotans for 168 years, preserving elements of our past and drawing upon this rich trove of cultural resources to provide context for the world in which we live and the lives we lead.

Some of our most gratifying work is reflected in the smiles and seriousness of young people discovering “new” knowledge and relating it to their lives. We are pleased to help more than 300,000 students statewide through field trips, History Day, the Northern Lights social studies curriculum, and History Live. Our commitment to education is the vibrant center of who we are.

At the newly reopened Oliver Kelley Farm and the restored Minnesota State Capitol, and through dynamic exhibits like WW1 America and The 1968 Exhibit, refreshed and returning in December, MNHS is helping audiences make connections with their lives today.

The wide range of historical and educational services MNHS provides are essential in a time when sources and facts are increasingly questioned and we urgently seek to make sense of the flood of issues competing for our attention. In the years immediately ahead, guided by a set of mission-based strategic priorities, we’ll strive to help our growing and more diverse audiences access, learn, share, and reach for perspective.

Internally we’ll focus on initiatives to build the infrastructure and capacity to deliver our services more effectively and efficiently. Doing the right things well and, in turn, being valued by growing audiences are the best paths for a sustainable future for MNHS.

At Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote, we are working with others to tell more of its many rich and sometimes difficult stories and to revitalize visitor facilities and amenities. This is important work as the fort’s bicentennial approaches in 2020.

Minnesota’s state history model is the product of partnership and broad support from many generations across a rural/urban landscape and from many backgrounds. We love to tell our stories!

Thank you for being a part of MNHS. Thank you for making what we do meaningful for so many people. Thank you for using the power of history to inform, enrich, and transform lives.

Thank you,

D. Stephen Elliott, Director and CEO
FISCAL YEAR 2017 AT A GLANCE

1,086,126 GUESTS visited MNHS historic sites and museums

27,000 STUDENTS AT 204 SCHOOLS participated in National History Day in Minnesota

1,721 items added to collections

1,086,126 GUESTS visited MNHS historic sites and museums

229,160 students and chaperones visited on field trips

2.5 million people visited our website MNHS.org

2,500 volunteers and interns contributed 55,800 hours

298,500 students and chaperones participated in National History Day in Minnesota

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund provided $6.1 million through 253 grants awarded across Minnesota

MNHS Press sold 103,107 print and ebooks

Gale Family Library at the History Center welcomed 28,257 researchers

We have 23,747 member households

We engaged with 208,238 VISITORS on MNHS social media platforms

2.5 million people visited our website MNHS.org 5 million times

MNHS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

› MINNESOTA’S HISTORICAL RESOURCES
Sharing access to meaningful places, programs, resources, events, services, and exhibits

› EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE
Providing context and connecting the present with the past

› INCLUSION & DIVERSITY
Welcoming and serving all communities

› SUSTAINABILITY & STEWARDSHIP
Ensuring valued services now and for future generations

#MyHistoryMatters
Follow MNHS on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, to see what Minnesotans are saying about why their history matters.

OLIVER KELLEY FARM
The Oliver Kelley Farm celebrated a grand opening weekend May 6-7 with new spaces and programs that tell a broader story of agricultural history, from the 1860s to modern day. Highlights include:
• New visitor center and farm support buildings; and new and enhanced field trips, public programs, and exhibits
• MNHS partnered with more than two dozen agricultural groups to develop programs
• Overall attendance was 34,518, up 33%, which included 16,009 field trip visitors, up 13%

MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL
The Minnesota State Capitol reopened Jan. 3, following the largest restoration effort since it first opened in 1905. Highlights include:
• Fully restored Senate and House of Representatives chambers and Supreme Court courtroom
• Restored and repaired exterior marble
• Restored fine art paintings, stencil work, and murals, and repaired and regilded Quadriga
• Almost 40,000 square feet of new public spaces, including meeting rooms, open work areas, and exhibit galleries
• New information center and classrooms, which will welcome students and visitors of all ages
• Reinstalled:
  › Six Civil War paintings in the Governor’s Reception Room
  › Governors’ portraits with added interpretation throughout the building
  › Father Hennepin Discovering the Falls of St. Anthony and The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux paintings with added interpretation on the third floor

VISITATION
2017 saw a dramatic increase in overall visitation, due in part to the opening of the revitalized Oliver Kelley Farm and the newly restored Minnesota State Capitol:
• 1,086,126 visitors, up 11%
• 229,160 field trip visitors, up 21%
• 23,747 member households
• 2.5 million unique visitors to mnhs.org 5 million times
• 208,000 followers engaged on MNHS social media platforms, up 74%

MINNESOTA’S HISTORICAL RESOURCES
Sharing access to meaningful places, programs, resources, events, services, and exhibits

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EXHIBITS
The History Center engaged visitors with three dynamic new exhibits:
• Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame
• Penumbra Theatre at 40: Art, Race and a Nation on Stage
• WWI America
The exhibit earned a National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman’s Special Award, and a challenge grant from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the St. Paul Foundation. Related programs included a WWI America mural, painted by local artist David Geister (pictured left).

MNHS PRESS
• 103,107 print and ebooks sold, up 8%
• Bestsellers:
  › A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota, edited by Sun Yung Shin, now in its seventh printing
  › Heyday: 35 Years of Music in Minneapolis, photos by Daniel Corrigan and text by Danny Sigelman
• Award winners:
  › The Big Marsh: The Story of a Lost Landscape, by Cheri Register
  › They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota, by Frank White
  › The Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation, by Virginia Wright-Peterson
• 223,673 different users viewed 556,091 pages on MNopedia, the encyclopedia of Minnesota history
• Minnesota History magazine delighted 24,000 members with compelling articles on the state’s history, including editions featuring WWI America and the renovated Minnesota State Capitol
COLLECTIONS

The Native American Artist-in-Residence program was renewed for another three years, thanks to a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Two new artists were selected and two encouragement grants were given:

• Randilynn Boucher, Dakota and Diné, beadwork and textiles, artist-in-residence (pictured below)
• April Stone, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, baskets made of ash bark, artist-in-residence
• Molina Parker, Oglala Lakota, beadwork, encouragement grant
• Jeremy Red Eagle, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, traditional games, bow and arrow making, encouragement grant

Additions to the MNHS collections include:

Oral history projects
• Somalis in Minnesota
• Oromo in Minnesota
• African Americans who organized Ebony Fashion Fair events in Minnesota
• African American cabin and resort owners on Lake Adney in Crow Wing County

Highlights of 1,721 new items added to the collection
• Contraband from the Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, including a toothbrush shank (pictured below) and improvised tattoo gun
• Animatronic figures of Cinderella, Pinocchio, and Harry Potter’s Severus Snape from Macy’s holiday shows (pictured right), following the closing of the 115-year-old downtown Minneapolis store
• Fort Snelling regimental order book, 1826-27
• Minnesota-related Civil War artifacts and images donated by local collector Wayne Jorgenson
• Prince’s handwritten lyrics for the unreleased song, “I hope we work it out,” with risqué doodles
• 60 rare maps of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest from the mid-19th century, donated by Joe Sitter

• An Ojibwe language phrase book created by Jesuit missionaries living with the Ojibwe community on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron (pictured above)
• Photograph by H. Larson of the Minneapolis Colored Keystones baseball team from 1908, which shows the team’s lineup
• 44 large-scale, color portraits by Xavier Tavera for his AMVETS Post #5 series

DIGITAL PRESERVATION & ACCESS

Highlights include:
• Launched the Swedish American Newspapers web portal, supported by a grant from the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation (pictured right)
• Digitized 385,000 pages from state newspapers for the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub, which was redesigned to support enhanced access
• Received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support participation in the National Digital Newspaper program

ARCHAEOLOGY

MNHS started planning archaeological investigations at Historic Fort Snelling in an effort to identify significant archaeological resources that might be affected by the current revitalization project. In addition, staff completed an inventory of artifacts excavated from the site more than 35 years ago. The inventory includes approximately 132,000 digital records.

GALER FAMILY LIBRARY

• Welcomed 28,257 researchers
• Launched an improved “Minnesota People Records Search” with more robust date searching, alternative search suggestions, and access to new records, including recently digitized World War I Gold Star Roll records
• Awarded eight Legacy Research Fellowships to researchers uncovering Minnesota history, including the story of the Jefferson Highway and Romashn immigration in Minnesota
EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

New and returning programs helped students and lifelong learners connect with the past in meaningful ways:

- 229,160 students and chaperones visited MNHS historic sites and museums on field trips
- 22,606 students across Minnesota benefited from bus subsidies through the Legacy Field Trip Support Fund
- 8,774 students from greater Minnesota benefited from bus and accommodation subsidies through the MacMillan Field Trip Transportation Grant
- Northern Lights student textbook served 55,000 students, 77% of Minnesota’s 6th graders
- Seventh primary source packet published, World War 1: American Experiences of War
- Four new field trip experiences launched at the Oliver Kelley Farm
- Received a $225,000 grant from the Library of Congress to deliver workshops and resources on embedding digitized primary sources into inquiry-based instruction
- Held Minnesota History Whatever: A Gathering of Historians conference, the first state history conference in 25 years

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

Providing context and connecting the present with the past

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

More than 27,000 Minnesota students participated in National History Day at school, regional, and state levels. Awards include:

- National History Day competition in Washington, D.C.
  - Ingrid Mundt, Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet School, St. Paul, National Champion for her research paper on Margaret Sanger
  - Twelve projects earned medals or were honored as national finalists
- Evan DuFresne, North Lakes Academy Charter School, Forest Lake, and teacher Jeremy Miller, Cambridge-Isanti High School, each won a research and travel award for their work with World War II heroes
- Kaylee Kipfmuller, Natalie Norquist, and Carissa Frazey won the MNHS award for Best Use of MNHS Collections
NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVES
This year, MNHS created a Native American Initiatives department with Joe Horse Capture as director, and Gale Fellows Mattie Harper, PhD, and Kate Beane, PhD, as program and outreach managers. The department was created to help develop and implement a vision and strategy for Native American programs and services in collaboration with Native American communities throughout the state and beyond.

DEPARTMENT OF INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
In August, 2016, MNHS became the only institution of its kind to have a Chief Inclusion Officer, Chris Taylor. Taylor has led the Department of Inclusion and Community Engagement since 2014. Department highlights include:

Community outreach
• Attended 11 community events with first-time appearances at the Augsburg University powwow, Cherish the Children powwow, Twin Cities Pride, and Fiesta Latina
• Hosted 33 college fellows and 28 teen interns through programs that offer career-building opportunities for traditionally underrepresented communities and tribal sovereign nations (Summer Tech teen interns, pictured left)
• Created a new internship designed for Somali youth called Wariyaa, which loosely translates to “reporter.” The program drew national attention in the New York Times for its work helping students build connections with the larger Twin Cities community

MNHS programs for diverse audiences
• US Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor met with 100 Latino students at the History Center to answer questions and provide encouragement as part of the Hispanic Bar Association’s Minnesota Legal Experience program
• Large crowds attended a program at the History Center marking the 75th anniversary of Japanese American incarceration during World War II
• At the James J. Hill House, Vision Resources partnered with MNHS to pilot a new “touch tour” for people with low and no vision
• Family day programs welcomed guests for Indigenous People’s Day, Day of the Dead, Native American Family Day, Hmong American Day, and the Somali independence week program, Xasuuso (Remember) 1960, at the History Center

INCLUSION & DIVERSITY
Welcoming and serving all communities
SUSTAINABILITY & STEWARDSHIP
Ensuring valued services now and for future generations

HISTORIC FORT SNELLING
To commemorate the fort’s bicentennial in 2020, MNHS is undertaking a major revitalization effort to reintroduce this dramatic area to Minnesotans and history lovers worldwide.

Visitor experiences:
• New signs indicated that the fort is located at Bdote, the area surrounding the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and a sacred place for the Dakota
• Two compelling exhibits were shown: Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now, and Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation’s Armed Forces
• National Medal of Honor luncheon with 150 medal winners and their families held at Historic Fort Snelling

Legislative support:
• In FY17, MNHS received $4 million from the Minnesota state legislature for design work
• If the remaining $30 million is appropriated in the 2018 legislative session, MNHS will be on track to open the site in time for the fort’s 2020 bicentennial
• MNHS is committed to raising an additional $12 million to complement the state support

Dakota partnership:
• MNHS entered into a partnership with the Dakota Community Council to ensure that Dakota history, narratives, and homeland are honored and sustained at Historic Fort Snelling and the other MNHS historic sites and museums located on land within the area outlined in the first US treaty with the Dakota in 1805
• In May, more than 200 Dakota community members and allies came together to share community knowledge, teachings, and stories at the Dakhóta Wówicakhe Wóyakapi Omníciye, or Dakota Truth-Telling Gathering
STATEWIDE PRESERVATION

Grants, Legacy Funding, and Tax Incentives:
- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed eight Minnesota Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit applications which generated just more than $65 million in economic activity for Minnesota. For every dollar of tax credit, $8.78 is generated in economic activity in the state.
- Through a state appropriation, MNHS provided $79,000 in capital preservation project grants, and through a federal appropriation from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, SHPO awarded $126,084 in Certified Local Government grants.
- The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) provided more than $6.1 million through 253 grants awarded across Minnesota.

Asset Preservation:
- At the History Center, which turned 25 years old in 2017, projects included repairing the plaza terrace, exterior walls, and cooling towers, which will provide greater energy efficiency ( pictured above).
- At Mill City Museum, a significant project was started to stabilize and repair crumbling stone in the Ruin Courtyard.
- Additional preservation work was completed at Split Rock Lighthouse and the Forest History Center.

Local History Services:
- Gov. Mark Dayton proclaimed September 2016 “Local Heritage Preservation Month,” marking the 100th anniversary of MNHS Local History Services and the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

16 properties were added to the National Register:
- District No. 50 School, Milford, Brown County
- Oféyawahe/Pilot Knob, Mendota Heights, Dakota County
- Lanesboro Historic District (Boundary Increase), Lanesboro, Fillmore County
- Lake Street Sash and Door Company, Minneapolis, Hennepin County
- Northstar Center, Minneapolis, Hennepin County
- Grain Belt Beer Sign, Minneapolis, Hennepin County ( pictured on back cover)
- Osseo Water Tower, Osseo, Hennepin County
- Consolidated School District No. 22, Helga Township, Hubbard County
- Nobles County War Memorial Building, Worthington, Nobles County
- Fergus Falls State Hospital (Boundary Increase), Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County
- Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company Building, St. Paul, Ramsey County
- St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company Shops Historic District (Revised Boundary), St. Paul, Ramsey County
- Chisholm Commercial Historic District, Chisholm, St. Louis County
- Bridge No. L6113, Duluth, St. Louis County
- Bridge No. LB515, Duluth, St. Louis County
- Olcott Park Electric Fountain and Rock Garden, Virginia, St. Louis County

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At the 2017 legislative session MNHS received:
- $43.6 million for operations, an operating adjustment of $1.5 million for the upcoming biennium, and a one-time appropriation of $1.5 million for the biennium to fund digital preservation and access.
- $2.5 million in asset preservation, which supports preservation and maintenance needs across the MNHS statewide network of historic sites.
- $4 million to fund design work for the revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling, the state’s first National Historic Landmark.
- $28 million from the Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to support programs that help preserve and share Minnesota history.

The legislature also called for a program evaluation and transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to the Department of Administration, effective March 1, 2018. The governor and some members of the legislature felt that the function provided by SHPO belonged in the executive branch of state government, where it is housed in other states.
As a nonprofit, we serve the people of Minnesota. Our annual budget of about $60 million comes from three sources that work together to bring the public vibrant, crucial programs, and services: private funding, earned revenue, and public funding, including significant funding from the State of Minnesota.

Public funds, including funding from the state's general fund, provide a foundation of support and enable us to leverage non-public funds to create a nationally recognized history program. Typically, two thirds of our operating funds come from the State of Minnesota. We deliver functions designated by law, such as preserving historic landmarks and resources, managing critical records and collections, and operating cultural destinations important to tourism. State support also includes capital funding to preserve historic buildings and construct new ones, as well as Legacy Amendment (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund) support for new, statewide history programs, including significant funding from the State of Minnesota. We deliver functions designated by law, such as preserving historic landmarks and resources, managing critical records and collections, and operating cultural destinations important to tourism. State support also includes capital funding to preserve historic buildings and construct new ones, as well as Legacy Amendment (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund) support for new, statewide history programs, including significant funding from the State of Minnesota.

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The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the people of Minnesota, who, through appropriations made by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, have supported MNHS in its mission. Appropriations from the state’s general fund as well as the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund/Legacy Amendment are helping Minnesotans across the state to better understand our past.

ENDOWMENT AND SPECIAL PROJECT DONORS $10,000+

$100,000+ Raymond Richer, Roger and Michele Pitre
$500,000+ Betty and Whitney MacMillan
$250,000+ Mark and Mary Davi, Stanley J. and Kevin Hubbard, Art and Martha Kaemmer, Thomas H. Nat & Gregory and Cynthia Page

$150,000+ Jim and Ram Davi, Martin and Esther Kallberg, Michel and Barbara Nelson

$125,000+ Mary Coupland, Jim and Sharon Hale, Janis Larson

$100,000+ Suzonne Blu, Priscilla Brewer, Susan and Edwin McCarthy, Eleanor and Frederick Winston

$50,000+ Peter and Margaret Ankeny, Peter W. and Sally A. Anson, Anneke Alden and Tom Joyce, Kathleen Blatz, Kirk and Jack Donellan, Janet N. Jones, Jean and Mark Larson, Tom Rosen, Paul and Carolyn Vernet

$10,000+ Anonymous, Candace Amplatz, Nina and John** Arcbach, Charles and Margaret Amason

Terry and Sharon Averett, Thelma Broder, Patricia and Butch Buschette, Peter K. Butler, Dr. George and Joan Fischer, Friends of Lake Elizabeth, Rythyl and Robert** Goff, Gerald and Petria Heimbach, Charles and Hope Lee, Tom and Mary Gerry Lee, Monica Little and Mark Aebi, Robert W. Maynard**, Harry G. McKeen, Jr., Evelyn Miller, Richard and Nancy Nicholson, Curtis and Marion Simpson, Robert J. Sietsma, Margaret and Lee Skold, Lee and Louise Sundet, Macve Wahl, John and Annette Whaley

** Deceased

Sit family members at the Minnesotans’ Military Appreciation Fund “Say Thanks Day” at Fort Snelling, Aug. 2017

Stories from a turbulent era—100 years ago

WW1 AMERICA

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:
The Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation.

Thank you to all additional donors to the WW1 America exhibit whose gifts were matched by the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation. WW1 America Challenge Grant, including:

MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:
American Legion Post #33
Peter and Sally Anson
Carol and Conley Brooks
Katherine D. Doer
Vicke and St For
tK.A.H.R. Foundation
In memory of Eileen and Kenneth Kamman
Nan Owen and John Lavander
Irene Dhi
Dan Doig and Susan Meyer
Whaley Foundation
Sarah R. Winton
Rufus R. and Elizabeth Winton

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:
American Legion Brooklyn Center Post #630
American Legion Charles Birk Post #44
American Legion Clarence Clutter Post #529
American Legion Lonsdale Post #586
American Legion Lowell Stander Post #601
American Legion Merrick Post #683
American Legion Post #134
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VFV Brooky - Edmon Post #724
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VFV Fred Babcock Post #3535
VFV George R. Wolff Post #425
VFV Jeep Zimmer Post #7782
VFV Post #250
VFV Post #648
VFV Pilot Lake Post #2628
VFV Rosemount Post #6343
VFV Sgt. John Rice Post #316
VFV Waconia Post #545

Thank you to our Opening Day sponsor, Xcel Energy, for generously providing free opening day admission to veterans, active duty, and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

This exhibit was created by the Minnesota Historical Society in partnership with the National Constitution Center, the National World War I Museum, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

This exhibit was supported by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency.

The exhibit has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA

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Thank you to all additional donors to the WW1 America exhibit whose gifts were matched by the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation. WW1 America Challenge Grant, including:

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Thank you to our Opening Day sponsor, Xcel Energy, for generously providing free opening day admission to veterans, active duty, and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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Sit family members at the Minnesotans’ Military Appreciation Fund “Say Thanks Day” at Fort Snelling, Aug. 2017

Stories from a turbulent era—100 years ago

WW1 AMERICA

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Grain Belt Beer Sign, one of 16 properties added to the National Register of Historic Places.