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Minnesota Historical Society awards Stephen Gross, associate professor of history, a Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant

Summary: The grant will support a collaboration among UMM, the Pope County Historical Society, and Walden Township.

(September 30, 2010)-Without a concerted effort, our state’s historic and cultural treasures are in danger of being lost to time. The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant in the amount of $6,269 to Stephen Gross, associate professor of history. The grant will support the “Walden Township Historical Records Survey” project, a collaboration among UMM, the Pope County Historical Society, and Walden Township.

The project involves conducting an intensive records survey of historical materials, held locally and in St. Paul in both public and private hands, for Walden Township. The project will create a model for identifying unexamined and neglected sources on a local level. Results will be shared as a report and in the form of an annotated bibliography. It is envisioned that this will be the first phase of a larger project of collecting, organizing, and synthesizing materials for that township’s history.

“It is a real honor to receive this grant from the Minnesota Historical Society,” says Gross, “and we are excited to forge this partnership with the Pope County Historical Society and Walden Township. We hope that this records survey will be the first step in collecting a wide array of historical materials and will help lay the groundwork for challenging future research. We think that the results of our work will prove interesting and important to local residents, family historians, and UMM students.”

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants

The MHS will award a total of $6.75 million in Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants to nonprofit and educational organizations, government units, and tribes during the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years for projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state. The MHS is a nonprofit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. The MHS collects, preserves, and tells the story of Minnesota’s past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs, and book publishing.

“It is wonderful to see so many communities and local organizations benefitting from the Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants,” said Britta Bloomberg, deputy state historic preservation officer. “Minnesotans should be proud of the unprecedented opportunities these grants provide for organizations to preserve and share our history and cultural heritage. The impact of projects supported by Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants will be felt throughout the state for many years to come.”

This project has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. The grant is administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.
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