

Also, in 2012 the Duluth Children's Museum moved completely out of the building to its own facility in West Duluth. This left many spaces formerly occupied by this organization empty and up for acquisition by other Participating Member Organizations, including the Society. At the end of the year, this process of re-allocation of space had not been completed. However, the Society did obtain verbal assurance of increased space in the mezzanine (second floor) level, where it plans to expand exhibit space. This includes the Immigrant Waiting Room, originally created as a partnership with the Duluth Children's Museum and now being renovated with help from a grant received by IUUDC for this purpose. As visitors to the building continue to express interest in viewing the Immigrant Waiting Room, this is an exciting development.

Education through Artifact Collection Preservation and Display

Artifact Accessions and Cataloguing

During 2012, 84 non-VMH artifacts were accessioned by the Society. 87 VMH artifacts were accessioned, for a total of 171 new accessions. These were provided by 39 donors. 79 new objects were catalogued in the database, which now contains a total of 8,033 objects accessioned and 6,038 donor records.

In addition, 1,336 objects, including 62 large, rolled textiles, i.e. quilts, coverlets, were rolled and hung properly to prevent damage; 555 photos were added to the artifact database, 4 exhibits were created and/or facilitated using the Society's collections; and 35 framed veterans' related photos/artworks were hung on an art rack in storage.

Archival Activity - Veterans' Memorial Hall - Albert J. Amatuzio Research Center

In late 2012 agreement was reached with representatives of the Albert J. Amatuzio family on the details of their \$25,000 donation/naming rights for the Veterans' Memorial Hall archival research center, located in the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center. (All other Society archival material is kept at the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center.) The research center will organize, safely hold for posterity, and make readily available to researchers (often family members) information about local veterans and their military units and activities. The donor, Albert J. Amatuzio, was an outstanding pilot in the Air Force and Air Guard. He also served previously in the U.S. Naval Air Corps and the Merchant Marines. This extensive multi-service background makes the naming of the research center especially appropriate and consistent with the Society's mission with respect to its Veterans' Memorial Hall program.

The donation makes possible the purchase of needed materials and the employment of a temporary, part-time archival assistant in 2013.

In 2012, 265 items related to veterans' history were donated to the VMH program, such as photo albums, personal memoirs and newspaper clippings. These were donated by 16 individual donors.

Northeast Minnesota Historical Center – University of Minnesota Duluth

Society owned archival collections are processed, stored, preserved and made available in a state of the art archival facility, the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center (NEMHC) under the supervision of the University of Minnesota, Duluth Library Director, following professional archival policies and procedures.

The Society and UMD signed a new agreement, effective January 1, 2012, governing the operating relationship between the NEMHC and the Society.

Website and Social Media Activity

The Society maintains two websites and two Facebook pages: main website at www.thehistorypeople.org and Veterans' Memorial Hall at www.vets-hall.org.

The Society's main website was visited 6,397 times in 2012, with 5,537 visitors and 9,557 page views. The Society's main Facebook page had 234 likes and 12,045 total reach.

The Society's VMH program's website had 12,816 unique visitors and 47,107 page views in 2012. The Society's VMH program's Facebook page had 452 likes and 15,017 total reach.

Grants Awarded

In October, St. Louis County Historical Society was awarded a Minnesota Legacy Fund grant for \$150,000 through the Minnesota State Historical Society, to fund the long awaited opening of its Ojibwe Gallery. The gallery will include a rotating selection of the Society's collection of Eastman Johnson art work from the mid-1800's and of its collection of Ojibwe artifacts. In addition, the Depot Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant for this project. An architect, John Gerzina of DSGW, has been selected and accepted by MHS as well as the Society. DSGW will be responsible, with Society and MHS approval, for hiring of sub-contractors to perform all aspects of the necessary work.

The Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation also awarded \$10,500 to the Society for an oral history project, for a contractor to transcribe the service biographies of (primarily) WWII veterans and make the finished product available online and in print form. An MHS grant for \$4,850 was also awarded for a contractor to perform all phases of work to complete another oral history project on the B Company Marines and their Korean War service.

In 2012 the Wildey-Mitchell Foundation also awarded the Society a grant of \$7,500 to help fund a needed technology update (computer equipment).