

the Great Hall. It consisted of unique and interesting military artifacts selected by the intern from all conflicts represented in the Society's collection.

Minnesota Historical Society Traveling Exhibit

Uncle Sam's New Deal came to the St. Louis County Historical Society March through April 2012. It was on exhibit in the Great Hall, along with a local complement on WPA art (*Uncle Sam's New Deal: Northland Edition*) commissioned and produced in the county. This featured the work of some better known regional artists, such as Birnie Quick, and Axel Schar, who painted *Ore Dock* (descriptive title), below. The Society was the last stop in the statewide tour of the main exhibit.



Axel Schar's *Ore Docks*

Case Exhibits/Small Scope Exhibits

Many exhibits are developed that remain within a small enough scope to be appropriately placed within one of the Society's newly constructed maple display cases. One such exhibit was *Little Women*, a selection of female figures from the Society's larger collection of small, carved wooden figures, collected by Joseph Priley, over his lifetime and eventually donated by his widow. (Priley was a prominent Duluthian who served as a St. Louis County Commissioner from 1959 - 1974.) This exhibit went up in February, in a corner of the Fesler Gallery and stayed throughout the year.

Also, the Society is periodically approached by other organizations with concepts for collaboration, such as occurred with the Girl Scouts' Historic Collection, which went into the "small" Fesler Gallery in September.

The "small" Fesler Gallery also was the exhibit site for *Quilts*, from May through August. The earliest quilt displayed was from the American Revolutionary War era.

Education through Programs

Lunch with the History People

In 2012 the Society held a variety of mid-day educational lectures under the "Lunch with the History People" program. They ranged from "The Vermilion Lake Indian School",



Students at Lake Vermillion Indian School, subject of Dr. Linda Grover's Lunch with the History People presentation

presented by Dr. Linda Grover, Professor American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth, writer and enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, to "Mysterious Creatures of Minnesota - from Aliens to Sea Serpents" by Chad Lewis, independent investigator of the paranormal and fantastic in this region. Other titles included: "Early Days of the West End/Lincoln Park" by Wendy

Grethen; "Sisterhood of the Hennepin Chalice, by Jack Salmela; "Iron and Steel in WWII: The Arsenal of Democracy" by Pam Brunfelt; "Six Miles from St. Paul: The Family and Society of Sarah Jane Sibley" by David Grabitske of Minnesota Historical Society and "Haunted Minnesota" by Adam Nori, an evening presentation in the Great Hall.

The Veterans' Memorial Hall program also held four "History in a Pint" early evening programs at Carmody Pub in Duluth in 2012 and one WWII veterans' round table at American Legion Post 71. A Civil War Re-enactor, a Vietnam Navy veteran, who is also the Society's current president, a "Flying Tiger" and the program's curator, Dan Hartman, were the presenters.

What's it Worth?

The Society also offered a program called "What's it Worth?" in October, an evening expanded version of "Antiques Appraisal", an ongoing monthly free appraisal service for the community, now given by Dan Sershon and Dennis Mager, both professional appraisers who donate their time. "What's it Worth?" also featured educational mini-workshops on various topics such as what makes an item valuable, insurance issues, care of the objects and tips on how to sell them.



Appraisers Dan Sershon and Dennis Mager with guests at Appraisers Dan Sershon and Dennis Mager with guests at "What's it Worth?"

Education through the Printed Word

Spring edition 2012 featured the history of the historic Duluth Union Depot (now

known as the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center), home of the Society and some early railroading history surrounding it.

Fall edition 2012 featured the life of nationally recognized painter Eastman Johnson, who created the Society's collection of his Ojibwe-themed art work (paintings and charcoal drawings) created during Johnson's stay here at the "Head of the Lakes".

The Woman Today also featured an article written by Society staff on the summer activities and museum offerings of the Society's six Iron Range affiliated historical organizations. The circulation of this magazine is 25,000.

Education through Partnership

Events and Projects

WDSE Documentary: *Rare Finds*

The Society's Eastman Johnson extensive collection of Ojibwe themed art work created in 1856 – 1857 was featured in this documentary, which premiered on November 26, 2012 on PBS television on WDSE-WRPT. The film's producers also toured Minnesota's Arrowhead region to explore nine other historical treasures for this documentary which brought local history to life.

Several staff members and a volunteer from the Society also helped the station with its pledge drive on November 26 and they were gratified to help bring in a substantial number of pledges in the effort to sustain quality educational programming in our area.



Strap dress from the Society's Ojibwe Artifact Collection, acknowledged as the garment worn in Johnson's *Minnehaha*, also owned by the Society, and featured in *Rare Finds*.

Culture & Cuisine

The result of planning that began early in 2012 culminated the evening of October 11 in an event called "Culture and Cuisine: Italian American Culture and Heritage in Duluth and St. Louis County". Society staff worked with members of the Italian American Club of Duluth to produce an event featuring authentic Italian cuisine, an Italian men's singing group, I'Cantatori from the Iron Range, two well-known Duluth speakers (Judge John DeSanto on his own family's history beginning in Italy and into settling in Duluth and Tony Dierckins, local historian, on Italian American immigration and experiences in America and Duluth); an opportunity for local Italian Americans to display for the evening family memorabilia of

historic value; a silent auction benefiting the club and generally a good time for nearly 250 people who attended, filling the Great Hall to capacity.



Treasurer Clyde Rogers, President Dwight Nelson, Executive Director JoAnne Coombe and Vice President Jill Dupont at Italian American Culture & Cuisine

Viking Yule Event

The Society also partnered with the Friends of the Leif Erickson Viking Ship Restoration Project in December, helping this group with hosting an event, building public awareness and financial support for its efforts to keep a valuable artifact

intact and available to the public.

Honor Flight Northland

During 2012, "Honor Flight Northland" activities continued and accelerated. Three more Honor Flights took place and two more booklets based on the participants in these flights were produced by VMH staff. At the end of 2012, 495 WWII veterans had participated in Honor Flight Northland flights.

These stories are also added to the growing Veterans' Memorial Hall bank of veterans' stories available online at www.vets-hall.org.

Partnership through Affiliation with Iron Range Historical Organizations

The Society's formal relationship with its six Iron Range based affiliates continued in 2012. This relationship was established by the Board of Commissioners of St. Louis County in 1984 as Resolution 809 and continues to thrive and grow. The affiliates include: Ely-Winton Historical Society, Hibbing Historical Society, Minnesota Museum of Mining (Chisholm), Sisu Heritage, Inc. (Embarrass), Tower-Soudan Historical Society and Virginia Area Historical Society. Each affiliate appoints one of its board members to also serve on the Society's Board of Governors. The relationship includes financial appropriation of