

St. Louis County Historical Society 2015 Annual Report

Mission Statement

The general nature and purpose of the Society shall be the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history and prehistory of St. Louis County and the State of Minnesota. In addition to collecting and preserving objects of material culture and historical research material, the Society shall maintain and operate a museum and materially participate in the collections of a historical research center adequate to serve the region encompassing St. Louis County and northeastern Minnesota.

The mission of the Society directly complements the broader mission of St. Louis County government "to provide its people those services mandated and/or expected by its citizens so as to provide a good quality of life."

Education through Exhibits

Eli's Farm – Mezzanine Level

Eli's Farm, an exhibit aimed at children and focused on the lives of immigrant children is located adjacent to the *Immigrant Room*. A Finnish dove-tailed cornered house, at "child-sized" scale, is the highlight of this exhibit, which was completed in 2015. SunFundays, a series of complementary activity programs produced in conjunction with the Nordic Center, were held on four Sunday afternoons over the summer. A vegetable garden where children can "harvest" vegetables and a chicken coop for gathering "eggs" are some of the play opportunities which enhance this exhibit. The child-size cabin was modeled after the Eli Wirtanen Farm house in Markham, Minnesota.



Eli's Farm seen from the front entrance (l) and "Eli's Birthday", a SunFunday program (r)