

Albert Amatuzio. A temporary, part-time employee has been working throughout the year, creating and entering information onto a database that is fully searchable and that accurately reflects what is in each individual veteran's file. This database now accounts for the records of 5,107 individuals, 60 groups and 23 miscellaneous veteran related subjects. (These are the three main categories.) This staff member also worked organizing boxes of archival material which correspond to the database.

The purpose of this effort is to make readily available to researchers information about local veterans and their military units and activities. Many of these researchers are family members of the veterans. However, the information will also be useful to other types of researchers, searching for meaning in the amassed store of information collected and safely preserved for posterity.

In 2013, 80 biographies were added to the Research Center's files and added to the website. 93 other new archival accessions were added to the Research Center in 2013.

Lloyd K. Johnson Grant Funded Veterans' Oral History Project

The work funded by this grant, awarded in 2012, was completed in 2013. The result is a collection of 14 extensive oral histories, recorded via interviews performed by former VMH Program Curator Dan Hartman in 2010 and 2011 and transcribed by Society staff in 2013. These have been added to the AJARC in 2013 and put online via the VMH website (www.vets-hall.org), where they are accessible to the public.

The veterans interviewed served in the WWII and Vietnam eras; most were combat veterans. Their lives before, during and after their military service were covered, in varying degrees of detail. The originally recorded DVDs are also available for researchers to watch.

Artifact Accessions and Cataloguing

During 2013, 62 non-VMH artifacts were accessioned by the Society. 9 VMH artifacts were accessioned by the Society, for a total of 71 new artifact accessions in 2013. The total of these two categories (formally accessioned VMH and non-VMH) were provided by 55 donors in 2013.

1,630 VMH artifacts were inventoried, properly wrapped and tagged.

The database now contains a total of 8,819 artifact entries accessioned and 6,093 donors recorded for those accessioned.

In addition, 2,388 photos were added to the Past Perfect artifact database and 1,862 artifacts were updated on the artifact database

Kathryn A. Martin Archives and Special Collections, University of Minnesota Duluth (formerly Northeast Minnesota Historical Center)

Society owned archival collections are processed, stored, preserved and made available to the public for research in a state of the art archival facility, now called the Kathryn A. Martin Archives and Special Collections, within the University of Minnesota Duluth's Library building, and under the supervision of UMD's Library Director, following professional archival policies and procedures.

The most recent agreement, effective January 1, 2012, governs the operating relationship between the Archives and the Society. An advisory committee (originally termed the NEMHC Advisory Committee and not yet renamed) provides guidance. This committee has UMD appointees and Society appointees: library staff, Society board, University administration and "community" appointments made by both parties.

In 2013 a major collection (the Paine/Williams families' papers) was added to the Society's collections in the Kathryn A. Martin Archives and Special Collections at UMD. This collection filled 10 linear feet.

Educational Resources Embedded within the Board of Governors

In 2013 former Vice President Jill Dupont became President of the Society. Dupont is the Chair of the History and Politics Department at the College of St. Scholastica. Jim Schwarzbauer became Vice President; he is a former instructor at the Hermantown High School and currently an adjunct professor at UMD, who has also taught at Lake Superior College. Jim's social studies methods class at UMD was asked to submit essays for consideration in the award of the Mike Colalillo Medal of Honor Scholarship award for 2013. They did submit essays, and one of the members of the class (Aaron Donais) won the award. The board also includes as its representatives from the world of formal education Robert Evans, former Philosophy Department Professor at UMD, Linda Grover, current Professor of American Indian Studies at UMD, and Tom Buck, Adjunct Professor at St. Scholastica's Department of Computers and Information Systems. Richard Hanson, Tower-Soudan Historical Society Representative to the Board of Governors, is also a retired teacher, who taught math and art in middle school grades six through eight.

Education through Website and Social Media Activity

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

As of December 31, 2013, the Society's main website was visited by 5,640 "unique visitors", 6,588 visits and had 9,458 page views. The Society's Facebook page had 391 "likes" and 19,477 "total reach."

At the end of the year, the Society's VMH program's website had 11,291 unique visitor, 13,415 visits and 46,345 page views. The VMH Facebook page had 524 likes and 23,319 "total reach."

The Society's Veterans' Memorial Hall website is a primary vehicle for the dissemination of knowledge about veterans' history as thousands of veterans' individual stories have been and continue to be entered online through it. 75 of these stories were added to the website in 2013; 130 basic biographies were additionally added to the VMH database for later addition to this website.

Education through Publications

The Society continued to publish *Rootprints*, its newsletter, which contains one lengthy feature article per issue, along with several mid-length articles and regular columns and features. This publication is mailed to its members and given to Depot visitors and others. 725 copies were printed for the Spring/summer 2013 edition and 650 copies were printed for the Fall/Winter 2013 edition.

220 booklets were created, printed and distributed of WWII Stories from Flight 6 of Honor Flight Northland and 220 booklets for Flight 5, in 2013.



Tamburitza band shown on cover of Fall/Winter 2013 *Rootprints*, with article about Society's traveling exhibits program