

How we started...

On May 11 1897, one hundred territorial pioneers gathered at the Merchants Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota and formed the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers. To be eligible, one had to be a male resident of Minnesota before the State's admission to the Union on May 11, 1858. All ladies who were residents before Statehood and the wives of all members, qualified for honorary membership. By 1899, over one thousand people had joined.

One of their initial goals was to establish a permanent headquarters. In 1900, they started building the first Pioneer log cabin on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds in St. Paul. In 1907, the State Fair Board granted them use of Institute Hall to display their portraits of the early settlers. By 1957, the Log Cabin and Portrait Hall had to be demolished but were replaced with the current Log Cabin. Pioneer Portrait Hall has since been converted by the Fair for another use but the Log Cabin is still our home.

Come and visit us at the Fair.

We continue today remembering and preserving the memories of our territorial ancestors who made this state what it is today.

If you have further questions and are interested in joining this great organization, please contact us through the information on this brochure.



State Flower

A brightly-colored orchid that has one or sometimes two blossoms on a single stem. White petals sit on top of a white pouch (slipper) streaked with pink. Hairy oval leaves clasp the stem.

The lady's slipper flowers from early June to mid-July. It flowers best in bright sunlight, although it will grow in semi-shaded areas. In its first year, this orchid grows only as tall as a pencil point. Each year, the lady's slipper may produce a half-million seeds, which are as fine as flour dust. This flower has a long life span; some may be 100 years old.

The lady's slipper grows in spruce and tamarack bogs, swamps, wet meadows, wet prairies, and cool, damp woods. It may be found anywhere in Minnesota where these habitats exist.

The MTP Seal is the Territorial Seal of Minnesota. It was designed by Seth Eastman and depicts an Indian riding towards the sun with the Falls of St. Anthony behind him. The farmer is plowing the field with his axe and gun nearby. This seal was approved by Governor Ramsey and the Territorial Legislature in 1849.



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MISSION STATEMENT

- ◇ To cultivate fraternal & social relations among members;
- ◇ Secure and establish a record of the names and history of the Minnesota territorial pioneers.
- ◇ Preserve portraits, artifacts and records of the pioneers.
- ◇ To encourage the study of Minnesota history.

Who May Join..

Any descendant and/or spouse and children whose ancestors settled in Minnesota prior to Statehood May 11, 1858.

Minnesota territory is defined as extending west to the east shore of the Missouri River and White Earth Rivers in what is now North and South Dakota.

Included with each application must be a brief family history, a family tree, tracing from yourself back to the original settler and copies of documentations proving your ancestry was here.



Minnesota State Flag



The description of our original flag is as follows:

The background is of white silk and the reverse side is of blue silk, bordered with bullion fringe. In the center is the state seal, wreathed with white moccasin flowers, on a blue background. The red ribbon of the seal bearing the motto is continued throughout the wreath, entwining the blossoms and floating carelessly over the lower portion of the flag. It bears, in gold, the dates of 1819, the time of settlement in Minnesota, and 1893. Above, also in gold, is the date 1858, the time of the admission of Minnesota to the Union. Below the design, in gold letters is wrought "Minnesota". Grouped around the seal are nineteen stars with the North Star, significant of the North Star State, in a group of 3 at the top. The nineteen stars represent Minnesota being the 19th state admitted to the Union after the original 13. In 1958, our current flag was approved.

Our state seal was designed by Seth Eastman and depicted an Indian riding toward the sunset and a farmer plowing with his ax & gun. The state motto is:

L'etoile Du Nord

meaning:

Star of the North



Fun Facts

Bird: Common Loon

Muffin: Blueberry

Butterfly: Monarch

Rock: Lake Superior

Agate

Photograph: "Grace"

Grain: Wild Rice

Tree: Norway Pine

Drink: Milk

Song: "Hail Minnesota"

Mushroom: Morel

Fruit: Honey Crisp Apple

Fish: Walleye Pike



The Minnesota Territorial Pioneers is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization that is dependent upon member dues, their donations and the general public donations. Any donations made to us are tax deductible. All funds go directly towards the MTP operations.

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