



## 2014 Report to the City of Bloomington

The **Pond Dakota Heritage Society's** purpose is the discovery, preservation, promotion, enjoyment, and sharing of historical knowledge about the Dakota Indians and early white settlements in Minnesota during the 1800s.

The members and friends of the Pond Dakota Heritage Society are particularly interested in:

- Christian missionaries to the Dakota Indians, including Samuel and Gideon Pond
- Native American history and culture
- the contrasting cultural and religious viewpoints of whites and Native Americans
- the natural history of the Minnesota River Valley
- the U.S. Dakota War of 1862
- settlements in Minnesota during the 1800s -1880s

The **Pond Dakota Heritage Society** sponsors programs, lectures, and events for all ages throughout the year. Many of these activities are held at the Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota, which is owned and maintained by the City of Bloomington. The centerpiece of the park is the historic 1856 Gideon and Agnes Pond House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and sits on the bluff overlooking the Minnesota River. Tours of the house are available on Sunday afternoons. Interpretive signs are located throughout the park describing the life and times of Gideon and Samuel Pond, the Dakota people, and the missionaries who worked with the Dakota people during the mid-nineteenth century.

**Pond Dakota Heritage Society** was organized in 1994 by the Bloomington Historical Society and other advocates for the Pond mission site. Originally called the Gideon Pond Heritage Society, the name was changed to Pond Dakota Heritage Society in 2007 to reflect the significance of the relationship between Gideon Pond and the Dakota community. The Society is incorporated in the State of Minnesota as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

## PROGRAMMING

The Pond Dakota Heritage Society (PDHS) sponsored the following events on Sunday afternoons at the Pond House (except September).

January	The Thirty-ninth Man	Dale Swanson	23
February	Conspiracy: Who Really Killed Lincoln?	Dean Urdahl	19
March	The Dakota Diaspora	John Isch	27
April	Seeing Through Clothes	Thomas Shaw	11
May	Recovery in the Aftermath of U.S./Dakota War	Mary Bakeman	39
June	Alexander Ramsey and the Dakota Bounty	Colette Routel	31
July	Aftermath of US/Dakota War and Exile of Dakota	Franky Jackson	30
August	The Power of Stories and Memory	Barb Sommer	10
September	Closed for River Rendezvous		
October	Rediscovering the Pond Dakota Quilt	Jean Bellefeuille	15
November	Medicine Wheel: Honoring Grandmothers	Fern Cloud	30
December	Edward and Mary Frances Pond	Jeff Williamson	11

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PDHS volunteers participated in the following events and activities sponsored by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department:

- WinterFest
- Maple Sugaring
- South Loop Kickoff at the Mall of America
- Sousa Concert
- Dakota Language Camp
- Dakota Interpretive Area Committee
- Dakota Day with the Gibbs Museum
- River Rendezvous
- Pond House Christmas Party

Re-enactors portraying Gideon and Agnes Pond participated in the following events:

- WinterFest
- South Loop Kickoff at the Mall of America
- Sousa Concert
- River Rendezvous
- Pond House Christmas Party

A new theme for open house Sundays was initiated on February 23, 2014. *Agnes' Sewing Circle* was created to increase attendance and attract a new audience to the Pond House. At least once per quarter, the Agnes Hopkins Pond re-enactor hosts guests for conversation in the parlor. Guests are encouraged, but not required, to bring knitting, crocheting, embroidery, darning, or other small projects. Beverages and homemade cookies are served. All ages are welcome. House tours are provided at 2 PM and 3:30 PM. Attendance steadily increased in 2014. The most recent event included six men and seven women.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The number of members has increased by 145% since PDHS was incorporated in 2007 (Figure 1). The increase from 2011 to 2012 was due in part to the visibility PDHS received in 2012 through its programming at the Pond House commemorating the 150th anniversary of the U.S./Dakota War of 1862. In addition, PDHS contributed to the related exhibit at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS).

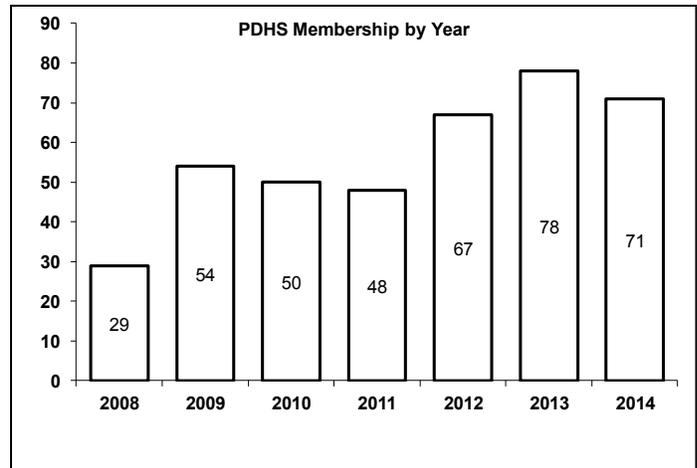


Figure 1

Revenue from memberships has increased from \$530 in 2007 to \$2,920 in 2014 (450%).

Two additional membership categories – Sustaining (\$100 - \$499) and Benefactor (\$500+) were instituted in 2013 to increase revenue without increasing dues for the Individual (\$20) and Household (\$30) categories.

Figure 2 illustrated the success of this strategy. In 2013, an additional \$450 was received as Sustaining memberships. In 2014, \$850 was received as Sustaining memberships and \$500 in the Benefactor category.

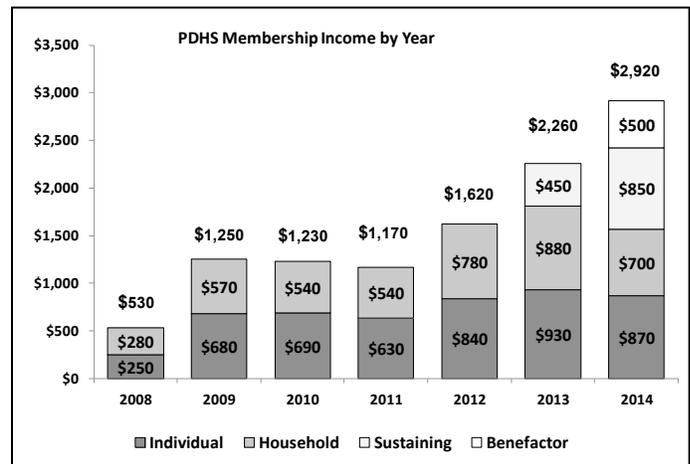


Figure 2

**FINANCES**

Since 2009, the PDHS treasurer has used QuickBooks to manage financial activity. In 2012, PDHS created a Financial Policies Manual and implemented written procedures for managing revenues and expenses. Beginning with the fiscal year 2011, PDHS has engaged an accountant employed by [MAP for Non-Profits](#) to conduct an annual financial assessment which is reviewed and approved by the Board and members. The 2014 Financial Assessment will be presented to the members on April 19, 2015.

The primary source of revenue for PDHS is memberships. In addition, PDHS participates in Minnesota’s Give to the Max Day, held annually in November. In 2014, PDHS received \$225 from seven donors which was matched by an anonymous donor.

PDHS receives several gifts-in-kind from the City of Bloomington. In addition to the use of the Pond House, the City also allows the PDHS Board to meet monthly in the Bailiff Conference

Room at the Civic Plaza. The City also pays for the printing of the newsletter copies distributed at the Pond House and postage for approximately 100 paper copies. PDHS received \$416 in cash from the donation box in the Pond House in 2014. These monies are used to purchase supplies used at the Pond House such as napkins, plates, tea, etc.

The primary expense for PDHS is honorariums paid to the monthly speakers. PDHS provides financial support to the Dakota Language Camp conducted by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. In 2014, PDHS provided \$680 in scholarships funded largely through the generosity of an anonymous donor.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

PDHS maintains two Facebook pages – the [Pond Dakota Heritage Society](#) and the [Gideon and Agnes Pond House \(GAPH\)](#). The later was a page created by an unknown person as a landmark site. PDHS was granted permission to maintain the site by Facebook in 2012. Events and activities sponsored by PDHS and the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department are posted on both sites. As of December 31, 2014, the PDHS site had 99 likes and the GAPH site had 74 likes. The majority of the followers of these pages are not members so Facebook is clearly reaching a niche audience.

In October 2014, PDHS contracted with [CuriousWorksCreative](#) in Shakopee, Minnesota to create a logo and website. The new logo appears on the first page of this document. The website is under construction with a planned launch of May 2015. The website will promote PDHS and City of Bloomington activities held at the Pond Dakota Mission Park and other venues.

PDHS volunteer Patricia Mees and Jay Ludwig published four editions of the *PDHS Review* newsletter in 2014. The newsletter is distributed via email to 750 addresses and via postal mail on paper to approximately 100 addresses.

## **OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Jerry Regan, a friend of PDHS who lives in Colorado, donated a bronze sculpture of Chief Shakpe and Rev. Samuel Pond hands to PDHS in August 2014. The sculpture is now on display in the Pond House. Mr. Regan received the sculpture as a gift for his contributions to the life-sized, full-body sculpture of Chief Shakpe and Rev. Samuel Pond commissioned for the Shakopee High School foyer.

Author Walt Bachman had a five stop book tour through south-central Minnesota in the fall promoting *Northern Slave, Black Dakota: The Life and Times of Joseph Godfrey*. The book was published by Pond Dakota Press, a division of the Pond Dakota Heritage Society in 2013.

## **BOARD ACTIVITIES**

The PDHS Bylaws were updated in November by the members to remove three consecutive year term limit on president and vice president. These two positions will continue to stand for

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re-election every year as do other board members. A Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Policy was implemented for all board members.

**2014 Board Members**

President - Sheila Strobel Smith

Vice-President - Jeff Williamson Secretary - Candy Williamson

Treasurer - Jay Ludwig

Members at Large - Larry Granger, Vonda Kelly, Patricia Mees

**2015 Board members**

President - Sheila Strobel Smith

Vice-President – Stephen Osman

Secretary – Rod Myers

Treasurer - Jay Ludwig

Members at Large - Larry Granger, Vonda Kelly, Jeff Williamson, Candy Williamson