Roll of Members of the Minnesota Historical Society

On October 29, 1945, the following 1,599 individuals and institutions were enrolled as members of the Minnesota Historical Society or as subscribers to its publications. The membership list includes 1 honorary, 18 corresponding, 254 institutional, and 1,326 active members. The latter are further classified as 586 life, 16 sustaining, and 724 annual members. On the present list, the types of membership are indicated by the following symbols: (A) for annual, (C) for corresponding, (H) for honorary, (I) for institutional, (L) for life, and (S) for sustaining.

The arrangement of the list is by counties and communities for Minnesota; after that are listed other states and foreign countries in which members reside, followed by their names and places of residence. Under each community, state, or nation, individuals and institutions are listed alphabetically. It is interesting to observe that the members here listed reside in 80 of Minnesota's 87 counties, in 39 other states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, and 4 foreign countries. In only 7 Minnesota counties—Benton, Grant, Kanabec, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Sherburne, and Wilkin—does the society lack members entirely. The society has members in every state of the Union except Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, Utah, and Virginia. The states, other than Minnesota, in which the society has the largest numbers of members are California with 27, New York with 24, and Illinois with 22.

The members resident in Minnesota—1,372 in all—amount to 4.9 for each ten thousand of population as recorded in the census of 1940. Ramsey County has the highest proportion of members to population, 13.3 for each ten thousand. Washington comes next with 7.9, and it is followed by Hennepin with 7.6, Olmsted with 7.0, and St. Louis with 3.9. The society has 434 members in Hennepin County, 411 in Ramsey, 82 in St. Louis, 30 in Olmsted, and 21 in Washington.
Membership is open to all who are interested in Minnesota and its history. Anyone can become an active member by paying the first installment of dues. Annual members pay $3.00 a year, sustaining members $10.00 a year, and the life membership fee is $50.00. Anyone who has paid dues as a sustaining member for six successive years or as an annual member for twenty successive years is enrolled as a life member. The contribution of $1,000.00 or more to the permanent fund of the society or annual contributions of $50.00 or more entitle the contributor to be enrolled as a patron. Life members who make annual contributions of $5.00 or more but less than $50.00 are designated as contributing-life members.

Institutional membership is open to any club, society, or institution in the state, as well as to schools and libraries. Annual institutional members pay $3.00 a year, sustaining institutional $10.00 a year, and the fee for permanent institutional membership is $100.00. Active members and delegates representing institutional members may vote at meetings of the society. Honorary and corresponding members are elected by the executive council of the society.

The society presents with pride this list of its members, many of whom have given evidence of their interest in its progress and activities over periods of years and decades. That in the future every member will avail himself of the advantages of membership and will use to the fullest the rich resources of the society is the hope of its officers and of the chairman of its membership committee, Mr. Ralph J. Mather. They hope also that in 1946 the society’s membership will not only be greatly enlarged, but that it will be extended into every county in Minnesota and every state in the Union. Additions to the membership roll, arranged by counties, will be published in the quarterly issues of this magazine throughout the coming year.