

## 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.

## History: The Minnesota Territorial Seal



Adopted in 1849, the Territorial Seal of Minnesota was designed by Seth Eastman and depicts an Indian riding towards the sun with the Falls of St. Anthony

behind him, as a Pioneer plows a field with his axe and gun nearby.

**Fun Fact:** when cast, the design was accidentally reversed, leading to the sun setting in the east instead of the west. The seal's Latin motto was also misspelled. Today we use the territorial seal as our group's corporate seal.



## Our 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.

## Come and Visit Us at the State Fair

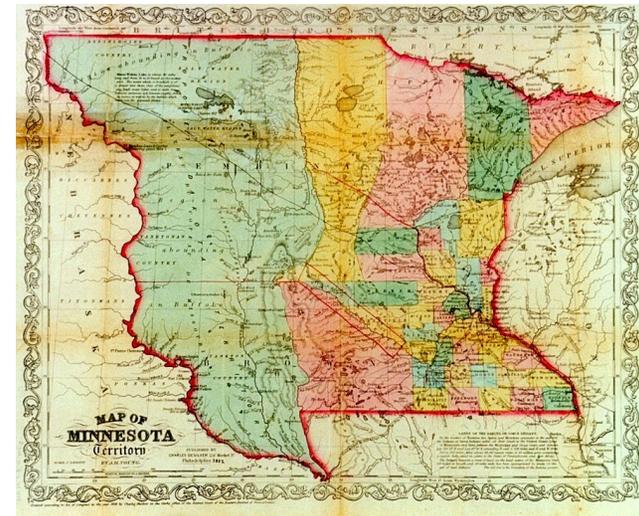
We continue today remembering and preserving the memories of our territorial ancestors who made this state what it has become today.

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



# The Minnesota Territorial Pioneers

Preserving and Promoting Awareness  
of the Heritage and History of  
Territorial Minnesota Through  
Educational Outreach



[www.mnterritorialpioneers.org](http://www.mnterritorialpioneers.org)

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# The Minnesota Territorial Pioneers

Established May 11, 1897 — Incorporated 1924

## Our Mission

To preserve and promote awareness of the heritage and history of territorial Minnesota through educational outreach.

## Fun Fact: Minnesota's Original Flag

The description of our original state 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 1957, the design for our current flag was approved, simplifying the overall design while still preserving the symbolism.

## Who May Join

Any descendant and/or spouse and children whose ancestors settled in Minnesota Territory prior to Statehood on May 11, 1858, is eligible for membership.



To apply, applicants submit a brief family history/family tree, tracing back from themselves to the original settler, including documents or copies of documents proving their ancestor was here during the territorial era. The 1857 Territorial Census (accessible online at the Minnesota Historical Society), is just one of many possible sources for those documents.

For more information, and to download application forms, please visit our website: [www.mnterritorialpioneers.org](http://www.mnterritorialpioneers.org).

## Help Us Preserve the History of the Pioneers Who Made Minnesota

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization that is dependent upon member dues, their donations, and the generous financial support of the general public. Donations are tax deductible and go directly towards the support of the MTP, including the operations of our Log Cabin at the state fair, educational outreach programs, and the safe archiving and storage of pioneer artifacts entrusted to our care, including our pioneer portrait collection.



OLD MTP LOG CABIN, MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## Minnesota Symbols

**State Bird: Common Loon**



State Muffin: Blueberry

State Gemstone: Lake Superior Agate

**State Butterfly: Monarch**



State Photograph: "Grace"

State Grain: Wild Rice

State Tree: Norway Pine

State Drink: Milk



**State Mushroom: Morel**

State Song: "Hail Minnesota"

State Fish: Walleye Pike

State Soil: Lester



**State Fruit: Honey Crisp Apple**

State Sport: Ice Hockey



THE MTP LOG CABIN TODAY, MINNESOTA STATE FAIR