



Minnesota's State Seal and Flag
September 12, 2023

Precursors



The Seal of the
Northwest Territory,
1797

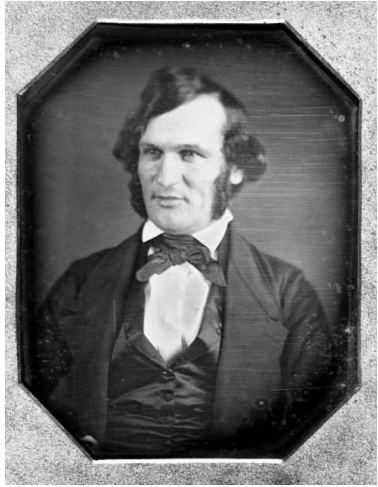


The Great Seal of Indiana,
1816



The Great Seal of
Wisconsin Territory, ca. 1838

A Territorial Seal



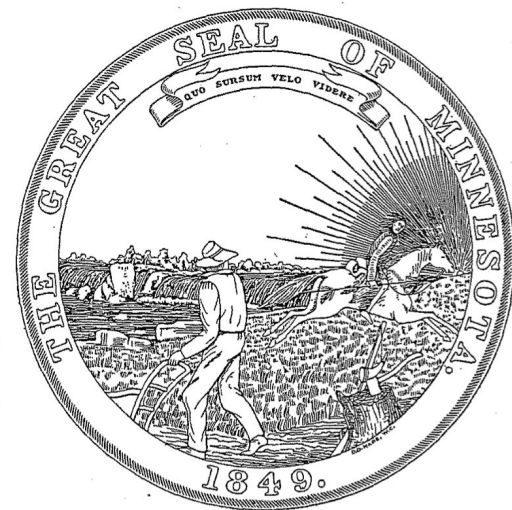
Territorial Governor
Alexander Ramsey
(1849-1853)



Henry H. Sibley, Territorial
Delegate (1849-1853) and
Minnesota Governor
(1858-1859)



James Abert to Seth Eastman to Henry Sibley



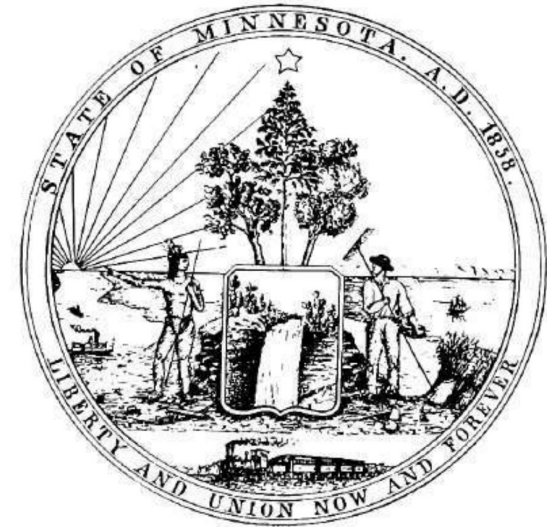
Minnesota State Seal, 1858 (Alternative Designs)



Official Design,
L. Buechner, C.F. Lowe
and R. Sweeney, 1858



Henry Sibley Design, 1858



Alternative Design,
L. Buechner, 1858

Minnesota's State Flag, 1893

**First Minnesota
State Flag,
Amelia Hyde Center,
Pauline Fjeld,
Thomane Fjeld, 1893**



**The Minnesota Women's
Auxiliary Board to the
Chicago World's Fair**



1957 Flag Redesign



Minnesota State Flag, ca 1960



Official State Seal Criticized by Rights Unit

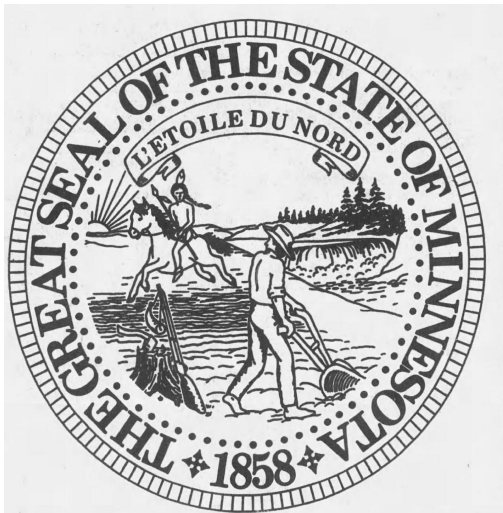
The Minnesota State Seal, which depicts a pioneer farmer watching an Indian ride by on horseback, should be redesigned because "it illustrates a dark part of our history," the state human rights board has declared.

The board, an advisory body to the state Human Rights Department, passed a resolution recommending "a modern state seal which will demonstrate and promote Minnesota's current attributes and its potential for future development."

Board members said the human rights department has received many complaints about the seal. Those who have complained indicate that the seal depicts warfare between the early white settlers and the Indians and "places the Indian in a derogatory light," board members said.

Minneapolis Star, 11-21-1968

1983 Seal Revisions



Minnesota's new state seal

A new state seal, designed by Jacki Bradham, right, a state employee, was unveiled Thursday. Seem familiar? Well, it's pretty much the same as the one adopted after Minnesota became a state in 1858. Subtle variations had cropped up over the years, so the redesign was ordered last spring by the Legislature. Among the changes: the plowman is now barefoot; the Indian looks toward the settler (to avoid the impression that the Indian is fleeing), and a pine forest was added (at right, above St. Anthony Falls) to symbolize the state tree.



Minnesota Star Tribune,
11-11-1983



MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

For a full list of primary and secondary sources, please refer to:

Convery, William. "Minnesota State Flag." *MNopedia*

(<https://www.mnopedia.org/thing/minnesota-state-flag#:~:text=The%20design%20of%20the%20Minnesota,sate%20admitted%20into%20the%20union>). 12 September 2023; 6 July 2023.

Convery, William. "Minnesota State Seal." *MNopedia* (forthcoming in September 2023).

