

F A L L 2 0 1 5

COTTONWOOD

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“Saluting the Civil War” by Doug Ohman

Members and guest are invited to attend the 114th Annual Meeting. Our featured speaker will be Doug Ohman, photographer and storyteller. Doug has photographed and researched hundreds of grave markers as a way to remember those from Minnesota that served in this tragic but most interesting chapter in American history.



He will also share photographs of Civil War monuments still found in the state. As a special addition, Doug will take us to several national battlefields where the boys from Minnesota courageously served.

A short business meeting will begin the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. followed by our speaker. Refreshments provided include assorted sandwiches, homemade bars and coffee. Don't forget the door prizes!

**Cottonwood County Historical Society
114th Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 1, 2015
2:00 p.m. at the museum**

“Festival of Trees” December 1-23, 2015

The *Festival of Trees* opens December 1st in the Remick Gallery. We encourage businesses, clubs and individuals to decorate a tree in the theme of their choice. Visitors vote for their favorite tree throughout the month of December. If you would like to decorate a tree or have questions, please contact the museum at 831-1134 or e-mail us at cchs@windomnet.com



SPECIAL EVENT

SINGING FOR THE COWS!

"Homesteading a Dream"

by Deborah Jean Templin



Join us for a lively show of farm stories, songs and historic photographs about a dairy century farm family. This one woman show includes singing and reminiscing about three generations of farmers. It is written and performed by New York City actress Deborah Jean Templin, a Minnesota native. After the performance, a reception will follow in the BARC library with cake and ice cream. Bring a friend for a great afternoon!

Sunday, November 8

2:00 p.m. at BARC

\$10 – Adult; \$5 Youth (12 and under)

*Co-sponsored by the museum and the Sons of Norway Stavanger Lodge
Funded in part by a grant from the Robert & Helen Remick Charitable Foundation Trust*

IN THE REMICK GALLERY

"Horses of Many Colors"

by Deborah Meyer

September 20- November 21, 2015

The current exhibit in the Remick Gallery entitled *Horses of Many Colors* by Deborah Meyer continues through November 21, 2015. A 1972 Windom graduate, Deborah showcases her artistic talent in this exhibit with watercolors of horses. These images come in all colors of the rainbow, capturing the gentle nature of her subject matter. The exhibit is one of our smaller shows with 17 works of art.



If you are planning a visit to the gallery, our hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Coming in January ...

"2016 Photo Show...Give it your best shot!"

We are looking for local photographers to participate in the upcoming photo show. Think cemetery...think details...think Cottonwood County! Where can your camera take you? Here are a few suggestions:

- Any cemetery in Cottonwood County
- Signage at any cemetery
- Gravestones
- Up-close details of the above

The Details...

Pick up a registration form at the museum. We ask for two 8" x 10" images of the same photo. One will be in the photo show and one will become part of the photograph collection at the museum. Maximum of one entry per photographer may be brought to the museum until January 10, 2016. No matting, framing or mounting of the photo! The goal of the show is to promote Cottonwood County and our local photographers.

FUND-RAISER

Scents of Christmas:

A Museum Fund-raiser

The museum is selling evergreen decorations for the upcoming holiday season. These items are made at the Hacker's Tree Farm in Sleepy Eye and include the following:

- Wreaths - 24" dia. - \$20
- Designer Wreaths – 26" dia - \$36
- Garlands made of Balsam Fir 25 ft. roll - \$25
- Mantle Piece - \$15
- Balsam Fir Door Swag - \$15
- Spruce tips (bundle of 10) - \$25
- Spruce tips w/mixed greens in 12" pot - \$30
- Candy Cane - \$25
- 12" unbreakable ornament w/fresh greens - \$30



Other items are available upon request. You may order from October 1 – November 2 with payment due when you order. Items may be picked up November 23-25 at the museum. If you have any questions or would like to place an order call us at 831-1134. Proceeds will go toward museum upgrades and repairs.

Chocolate & Bling
December 3, 2015
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.



Ladies it is time to bring out the bling and get ready for another *Fun & Fabulous* night! The evening will begin with the silent auction as well as direct sales of items off the *Jewelry Tree*. Enjoy a fabulous meal and even more fabulous desserts before the live auction with Donna Gravely donating her services as auctioneer and Lorri Cole as her assistant. Ten fabulous women will decorate the tables in holiday flair. A new addition will be a photo booth. Friends can gather for fabulous photographs taken by Jessica Bak for \$1.00 each. Tickets for this event will go on sale on November 16 at the museum. The cost for this event is \$15. Get your tickets early....only 80 available!

New Ornament Arriving in December

The museum has started an ornament series that is beginning with those sites on the National Register of Historic Places. The first ornament had the image of the Cottonwood County Courthouse, which was built in 1904 and added to the National Register in 1977. The second ornament will showcase the Westbrook Depot. It is now the Westbrook Heritage House Museum and has been on the National Register since 1986. These make great Christmas gifts!

CIVIL WAR

Albert Woolson: Last Surviving Civil War Veteran



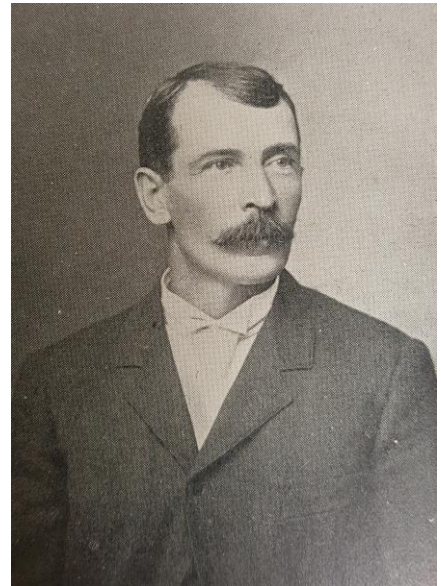
Albert Woolson enlisted as a drummer boy in Company C, 1st MN Heavy Artillery Regiment on 10 October 1864. The Regiment was sent to Tennessee to defend Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain while General Sherman was marching through Georgia. Woolson gave his age as 17 when he joined the army. However, in the 1850 census, it indicates he was born in 1849, which would make him only 15 years old.

His early years began in Antwerp, New York. He claimed to have been born on 10 Feb of 1847. While Albert and his mother were living in New York, Albert's father, Willard Woolson joined the 4th Minnesota Infantry on 9 Nov 1861 and was discharged for disability on 19 July 1862. "Wikipedia" claims that Willard Woolson was wounded in the Battle of Shiloh and was transported to an Army Hospital in Windom, MN where he eventually died of his wounds. Albert and his mother moved to Windom to be with him. However, there was no Windom, MN until 1870. Other Woolson accounts have them living in the Janesville, MN area near Mankato.

In 1895, he and his wife Sarah Sloper, moved to Windom. His photograph is seen in the 1896 Cottonwood County Plat book as the "Superintendent of the Windom Waterworks and Electric Light Plant." In the 1903 Breck School Catalogue (when it was still in Wilder), Woolson is listed under faculty and taught Band, Music and Mechanical Engineering. This man of many talents also organized a drum & bugle corps which marched on Memorial Day and at other G.A.R. functions.

In the 1900 census, five of the seven Woolson children are still living at home in Windom including Edgar, Albert Jr. who served in the Spanish American War, Josephine who graduated from Windom High School in 1899 and Nellie who was 25 years old and would marry local druggist Fred Tilford. In 1901 his wife dies unexpectedly and is buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Windom. In 1910 Edgar and Nellie both die and are buried in Lakeview also.

In 1904, Woolson marries his second wife, 20 year old Anna Haugen. She is the daughter of Torkel Haugen who lived on "Norwegian Hill" on the east side of Windom. Most of the Haugen family moved to Duluth where Albert



& Anna Woolson moved as well. One of Anna's nephews continued to live in Windom, Telgard Haugen. His son, Howard, is a Windom name with the family still living in the area. In Duluth, Albert and Anna had three daughters. Albert out-lives Anna as she dies in 1949 while he lives to a ripe old age of 106 or 109 depending on the birth date one uses and dies in 1956. If ever in Duluth, a bronze monument of Albert Woolson can be visited... "*The Last Union Survivor.*"



Note: Since historians and the media did not pay much attention to Albert Woolson until he was in his late 90s, Woolson's recollections scarcely mention his 10 years in Windom. However, one can see he was engaged in the community and many of his family members are buried here.

Written by Lowell Tjentland, local historian. Sources include Ancestry.com and the Cottonwood County Historical Society Research Library.

FALL RECAP

FALL FUNDRAISER

The Cottonwood County Annual Fall Fund-raiser was a great success...around 210 meals were served on September 14. Thank you to all the museum supporters who came to the event and to our volunteers who make it happen! A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for supplying the "Live Generously" t-shirts and \$250 to help cover expenses.



FALL CRAFT SHOW

The museum attended the Windom Craft Show on October 3 at the Community Center to promote new items in the Book Store, upcoming events and fund-raisers. We sold ornaments, the museum cookbook and over \$100 of greenery. It was a great day of promoting the museum.



DONATIONS

General Fund Donations

Donations made between August 1 – October 6, 2015

Dorothy Fundahn in memory of Mildred Crowell; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Roxie Grandprey; Wig & Wanda Turner in memory of Ray Diemer; Carol Kissner; Lucille Nelson in memory of Ray Diemer; Linda Fransen in memory of Ray Diemer; Lucille Nelson; David Caauwe; Tom & Karen Wickie in memory of Ray Diemer; David & Donna Sippel; Lee & Sandy Peterson in memory of Ray Diemer; Loy Storey in memory of Bud Carlson; Silliman Trust; Doug & Priscilla Jacobson in memory of Ray Diemer; Lowell & Nancy Tjentland in memory of Ray Diemer; Arlene Burbank; Robert & Tamara McMenimen; Larry & Becky Stevens in memory of Ray Diemer; Phyllis Miller in memory of Ray Diemer; Loy Storey in memory of Gladys Hemiller; Virgil & Janet Meier.

CCHS Membership

CCHS Welcomes New Annual Members:

Dorothy Fundahn; Adrian Lee

CCHS Welcomes New Annual Patron Member:

Paul Buhler

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

Judy Kielty; Pattie Holmes; Herman & Lylas Eigenberg; Vay & Arleen Rodman; Zola Wood; Diane Potter; LaVern & Carol Christianson; Aaron Backman; Sharon Evers; Don & Jean Hoppe; Roxanne Potter; Dallas & Joan Giese

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewal:

Roselyn Friesen

COTTONWOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HAPPY FALL

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Marget Floyd:	Interpreter/Greeter
Paul Buhler:	Researcher/Greeter
Jessica Bak:	Social Media Specialist



At the Museum - 2015

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